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THE

Hebrew  Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Women Across the Jewish Community Come Together to Celebrate Impact and Honor Women of Strength



A sold-out crowd of 256 Memphis Jewish women (and a few men) gathered on Tuesday, January 10 for Memphis Jewish Federation’s Women’s Impact Event, supporting Federation’s Annual Community Campaign and celebrating Women of Strength Ricki Krupp and Alla Olswanger Lubin.

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The event was a showcase of Women of Strength through a Federation lens, featuring second-generation jeweler,

third-generation Holocaust survivor, mother of four, and Brooklyn-based entrepreneur Freida Rothman as keynote speaker, and a touching spotlight on local Women of Strength Ricki Krupp and Alla Olswanger-Lubin. It was a celebration of Jewish philanthropy with women of every age represented and every segment of our Jewish community present, followed by an exclusive shopping op-

portunity with sales of Freida’s jewelry a portion of which will support Federation’s Annual Community Campaign.

“With the new year just beginning, we think about gratitude, about lessons we’ve learned. Personally, I have reflected on this amazing community I moved to five years ago, the friends and relationships I’ve built, and the great experiences my children and family have

been lucky to have in this community,” said Jaclyn Marshall, who along with Debbie Rosenthal, Jody Shutzberg, and Jessica Sukholdolsky served as a co-chair of the event.

“Look around this room,” she continued. “It’s because of women like you and your support of Federation that our community continues to thrive, and that we’re able to meet every need in our community.”

The narrative of women-driven impact threaded through the whole event, from the very name of the program all the way down to the signs identifying each guest’s table, which flashed words like ‘dependable’ and ‘tenacious.’ Beth Sholom synagogue’s Rabbi Sarit Horwitz led the group in Hamotzi and spoke about women’s roles at the vanguard of community activism. Through a web-based platform, guests contributed to a colorful word cloud, adding adjectives and nouns to a growing cluster of terms like ‘volunteering’ and ‘tzedakah’ that will become a permanent art piece in the Federation offices.

“Our Federation exists to fulfill two main purposes; to maintain a strong, cohesive local infrastructure, which in turn ensures the continuity and wellbeing of the community, and to support Jews in

(See **Women** Page 3)

U.S. and Israel Must ‘Stand Together’ on Iran, Netanyahu Tells AIPAC Conference



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Credit: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the AIPAC Political Leadership Forum through a video call from his office in the Knesset last Monday, speaking about the importance of U.S.-Israel cooperation on Iran in the pro-Israel lobbying group’s first major conference since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The time has come for Israel and the United States, along with other countries, to stand together, and I look forward to discussing this with President

Biden and his team,” said Netanyahu. “Today, more people agree on the issue than ever before.”

Netanyahu was met with a standing ovation from conference attendees, including 1,000 pro-Israel activists and senior AIPAC management.

The prime minister said that people around the globe are now seeing the Iranian regime’s internal repression of its citizens. Demonstrations are taking place across the country following the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian

woman Mahsa Amini in the custody of the regime’s morality police. Amini was arrested for not wearing her hijab in accordance with government standards.

“So now, because of the brave men and women of Iran, the entire world sees what we’ve been talking about, that this is a terrible, repressive, terrorist regime,” said Netanyahu.

He also said that he is working to expand the “circle of peace,” describing diplomatic efforts between Israel and its Arab neighbors. **HW**



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My Teen Israel Story



Sarah Blen, daughter of Alison and Scott Blen, is a junior at St. Mary’s Episcopal School. Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of her NFTY Jacobs Camp 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](http://www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund).

By Sarah Blen

My trip to Israel was incredible. We went all over the country and did so much. All the food was so good and was like nothing I have ever had before. In Jerusalem, the Old City was beautiful. I had always seen pictures online or in Sunday School but visiting was meaningful. We went to the Western Wall in Jerusalem on Shabbat and saw a lot of people praying. I especially enjoyed the things we did outside. Climbing through caves and digging in them was cool. In the desert, staying in the Bedouin tents was a fascinating experience, especially learning from the people in the tribes who lived there. My favorite constant was the hot tea we drank when we were in the desert during Sea to Sea. Sea to Sea was probably one of my favorite parts of the trip. The hike made me feel accomplished. Our guide taught us about the stars, cooking skills, and

(Left) Among scores of memorable experiences during her NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip last summer, Memphis teen Sarah Blen visited the Old City of Jerusalem. Her trip was made possible in part with support from a Teen Israel Experience Grant from Memphis Jewish Federation.

about the plants that were around us. I will never look at sage the same way again. I had a really good time cooking with my friends in the middle of nowhere. We started by swimming in the sea of Galilee and ended by biking to the Mediterranean Sea. It took about 4 days, and we hiked on rocks and water for miles. I appreciated the free time we had in the shuks and markets. Although they were complex and easy to get lost in, there were so many different things you could buy and eat there. Most of the people who worked in the markets were very familiar with the teen trips to Israel, so they were patient with us when we did not know how to communicate. Although it was not necessarily Jewish, I loved seeing the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The art there was breathtaking, and I left with many questions. Snorkeling in the Red Sea was also fun, and I saw many cool fish. I think going to Israel with my camp friends made the trip more meaningful. While we also made good friends with the other camps staying with us, I am glad my camp partnered with NFTY for the trip. I always look forward to seeing my camp friends every year, so this was the best. I found visiting the Druze people interesting as well. The food was good there and I honestly did not know that the culture existed, so it was nice to learn about them. Even the hotels with their leaky ceilings were fun experiences! I recommend this trip to anyone who already loves their URJ and wants to see the Holy Land. Ultimately, my trip was the most fun I have ever had with the best people ever. I could without a doubt see myself visiting Israel again. Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip possible. [HW](#)

THE Hebrew Watchman

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. January 20, 2023 / 27 Tevet, 5783.....4:58 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. January 21, 2023 / 21 Tevet, 5783..... 5:57 p.m.  
Weekly Torah Portion: Va’eira

Meta’s Oversight Board Tells Company to Allow ‘Death to Khamenei’ Posts



(Left) Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Credit: Wikimedia Commons

(JNS) – The Meta Oversight Board reversed the company’s decision to remove a Facebook post criticizing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that featured the term “death to Khamenei,” ruling that it did

not breach a regulation against violent threats. The board, which is funded by Meta but functions independently, ruled that the phrase is frequently used to indicate “down with Khamenei” in reference to the Iranian leader, who has led a deadly crackdown on widespread protests in recent months, reported “Reuters.”

“In the context of the post, and the broader social, political and linguistic situation in Iran, ‘marg bar Khamenei’ should be understood as ‘down with.’ It is a rhetorical, political slogan, not a credible threat,” the board wrote. The social media corporation prohibits its language inciting “serious violence,” but it seeks to prevent overreach by limiting enforcement to credible threats, creating ambiguity about when and how the law applies. [HW](#)

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# Anshei Prepares to Join Baron Hirsch with Formal Agreement

By Shoshana Cenker

At the beginning of January, Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation’s (ASBEE) members approved a plan to join sister synagogue, Baron Hirsch Congregation (BH). Following the decision, an email was sent to ASBEE’s congregation from president Dr. Joe Weinstein. It read, in part:

*“Deciding to end ASBEE’s history as a stand-alone congregation was a bittersweet decision. The Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth name will live on in a number of ways in our new combined shul. Also, importantly, we will continue to operate as a Cemetery and Charitable Trust charged with the perpetual care of the Anshei Sphard and Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemeteries as well as conducting acts of Tzedakah to perpetuate the ASBEE name in our community.*

*But most importantly, we believe our action will create a combined, dynamic Modern Orthodox congregation that will continue to serve our community for generations to come.*

*Our legal counsel will be working with Baron Hirsch to finalize the documents to formalize our agreement, and*

*we’ll be working on the bylaws for the cemetery and charitable trust.”*

ASBEE will continue to daven as a Nusach Sphard minyan for the next year led by Rabbi Joel Finkelstein and Cantor Aryeh Samberg.

“We are busy working with BH leadership on a formal written agreement,” explained Anshei president Dr. Joe Weinstein after the announcement. “We feel that the combination of our synagogues will foster continued growth of the entire Jewish community for many years.”

ASBEE’s congregation will be updated as progress continues on the agreement.

“While we recognize the emotional reality this plays for so many ASBEE members, Baron Hirsch is excited about the new opportunity this presents in bringing people together in our community,” added BH president Marc Lennon. “The arrangement has plans to bring out some of the legacy components that ASBEE has represented for the Memphis and larger Jewish community, which we hope will keep people excited and engaged as ASBEE joins Baron Hirsch.” **HW**

## Women... (Continued From Page 1)

need all over the world,” said Federation Past President Laurie Cooper, who introduced honorees Ricki Krupp and Alla Olswanger-Lubin.

“Ricki Krupp and her fantastic Ricki’s Cookie Corner & Bakery provide a constant presence that we all rely on,” said Laurie. “With her challah, Ricki is helping establish and maintain Jewish rituals and the Torah values of observing Shabbat and holidays at our family tables for all Jewish families, be they Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox. Not only does she enhance Jewish life in Memphis, she has also put us on the Jewish food map by shipping to customers all across the country.”

“When I moved back to Memphis many years ago, I kept hearing about this incredible woman who had moved here in my absence, Alla Olswanger-Lubin,” Laurie continued. “She had to hide her Jewish identity as a child in Ukraine, but today in Memphis, her children and grandchildren walk freely, and proudly say that they are Jewish, which means everything to her. (Because Federation supported her move to Memphis), Alla made a conscious decision to give back to the system that helped her establish a wonderful Jewish life in Memphis.”

After brief remarks touching on Federation’s ability to zoom out for big-picture snapshots of urgent community need and respond with comprehensive strategy, Campaign Director Judy Lansky introduced Elisheva Massel, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), one of Federation’s key global allies in its work.

“All of you have literally enabled miracles this year and over many, many years,” Elisheva said after a short vid-

eo documenting JDCs ongoing work in war-torn Ukraine. “For the past 30 years, JDC has been working in this region, together with Federation, focusing on saving Jewish lives and building Jewish life. The infrastructure we’ve built there has allowed us to act quickly and effectively in times of crisis, and this is due in no small part to each and every one of you.”

For the keynote program of the afternoon, Jaclyn Marshall again came to the stage to welcome guest speaker Freida Rothman who she described as “an incredible woman, known internationally as a jewelry designer who channels her passion, strength, and resolve inherited from four Holocaust survivor grandparents into her iconic work.”

Responding to questions, Freida discussed her leap-of-faith in launching her jewelry brand with inspiration coming from her beloved borough of Brooklyn. She has used her jewelry brand, now carried in high-end retail stores such as Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom, to empower her teenage daughters to find their own professional and philanthropic path, and to preserve her family’s Holocaust stories for the betterment of society.

“When I introduce myself, I almost always feel compelled to include that dark history in my identity,” said Freida. “Hi. I’m Freida Rothman, jewelry designer and granddaughter of four Holocaust survivors.’ I feel compelled to speak truth to their stories at every opportunity, to do my part to ensure history never repeats itself.”

Wrapping her segment, Freida challenged the women of Jewish Memphis to be conscious and intentional in their acts of tzedakah and community-building. She emphasized the role women have in activating their family’s philanthropy in a way that suits the unique realities of any given family at any given point in time.

To close the program, Laura Linder, President & CEO of Jewish Community Partners, which manages Memphis Jewish Federation, thanked the speakers, award winners, attendees, and those who couldn’t attend but do their part to sustain this community.

“Here today are 256 women who individually and as part of their families contribute more than \$1.5 million to Federation’s Annual Community Campaign, each and every year. Your gifts, as you’ve heard this afternoon, do so much for so many,” said Laura. “Together, our impact is astounding. I hope you leave this event having a deeper appreciation for the special community we live in, and a renewed commitment to doing your part to make it even stronger.”

Jaclyn Marshall, Debbie Rosenthal, Jody Shutzberg, and Jessica Sukhldolsky Co-Chaired the event. The Host Committee included Maureen Baum, Suzanne Baum, Marion Bessoff, Ellee Breit, Jill Buring, Hallie Charney, Bari Eiseman, Jackie Evans, Janis Finnan, Karen Franklin, Marlene Gerson, Shayna Giles, Myrna Halpern, Elana Kahane, Karen Karmel, Justin Katz, Lisa Kaufman, Karen Koplon, Barb Lansky, Danielle Lazarov, Debbie B. Lazarov, Emily Lennon, Aviva Lewis, Betsy Libby, Sharon Lubin, Lisa Menuskin, Lindsey Reef, Shelley Robbins, Hillary Samuels, Sophie Samuels, Stacy Siegler, Lisa Silver, Audrey Siskind, Jill Steinberg, and Kathy Wexler. **HW**

## OBITUARIES

The Hebrew Watchman provides obituaries with a photo as a service to the Jewish community at no charge.

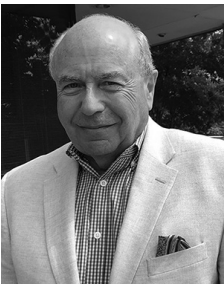
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# Steven Spielberg on ‘Fabelmans’ Golden Globe: My Mom is ‘Up There Kvelling’

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Steven Spielberg said he was the sixth-happiest person in the world after he won best director at this year’s Golden Globes awards for “The Fabelmans,” his autobiographical film about his Jewish family.

“I think ... there’s five people happier than I am,” he said in his acceptance speech, which he said he had not prepared in advance out of superstition. “There’s my sister, Anne, my sister, Sue, my sister, Nancy, my dad, Arnold, and my mom. She is up there kvelling about this right now.”

“Kvell” is the Yiddish word meaning to feel quiet pride in the accomplishment of others – and it’s closely associated with Jewish mothers who are proud of their children. Spielberg’s mother, Leah Adler, was the owner of a popular kosher restaurant in Los Angeles who died in 2017. His father, Arnold, who helped him make his first movie, died in 2020 at 103.

“The Fabelmans,” which also won best picture among dramas, tells the story of a child who falls in love with filmmaking and laces his family’s Jewish identity into the storytelling. The character based on Adler is played by Michele Williams, a non-Jewish actor who is raising her children Jewish, while Paul Dano plays the character based on Arnold Spielberg.

During the awards ceremony, host Jerrod Carmichael joked that he watched “The Fabelmans” with Kanye West “and it changed everything for him” – alluding to the rapper’s months-long antisemitic tirade that has cost him millions in sponsorships and led to him becoming a show-business pariah. Addressing Spielberg, Carmichael said, “That’s how good you are. You changed Kanye West’s mind.” (In response, Spielberg clasped his hands in mock prayer.)

Elsewhere, Spielberg was thanked from the stage even by actors who did not appear in his film: “Everything Everywhere All At Once” star Ke Huy Quan, who won best supporting actor in a comedy, thanked the director for giving him his first big break in “Indiana

Jones and the Temple of Doom” at the age of 12.

“I like very much the sort of easy way that Jewishness lives in this movie. It’s a very profound part of Steven’s identity, and of the Fablemans’ identity,” Spielberg’s collaborator, the Jewish writer Tony Kushner, said at a September film festival before the movie’s wide release. “But it’s a movie that’s about Jewish people, rather than entirely or exclusively about Jewishness or antisemitism or something. So it’s not a problem, it’s who they are.”

The film has been a critical darling but Spielberg’s worst-ever performance at the box office, where it is unlikely to bring in anywhere close to the \$40 million spent to make it. (Many theater releases are struggling in a climate where audiences are accustomed to watching movies at home.)

Spielberg’s attendance at the ceremony was notable because many actors and directors boycotted last year’s pared-down event over years of scandal at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which hands out the awards. The group was criticized over conflicts of interest by its members and for including few Black members; it says it has addressed both issues.

Also winning at this year’s Golden Globes was Jewish actress Julia Garner for her Netflix show “Ozark” and Justin Hurwitz, who was named best original score for “Babylon.” The Jewish songwriter has won all four of the Golden Globes for which he has been nominated, all for work with the filmmaker Damien Chazelle, his college roommate. Chazelle attended Hebrew school at a New Jersey synagogue and traveled to Israel with his classmates despite being raised by Catholic parents.

Ukraine’s Jewish president Volodymyr Zelensky also made a special pre-taped appearance at the Globes, thanking Hollywood for supporting Ukraine in its ongoing war with Russia and making a reference to the awards ceremony’s origins in 1943 in the waning years of World War II. **HW**

# Israeli Researchers Uncover Earliest Silver Used as Currency in Levant



Silver pieces dating back 3,600 years are the earliest evidence of currency being used in trade in the Levant. Credit: Lena Cooperschmidt/Israel Antiquities Authority.

(JNS) – Israeli archaeologists announced last Sunday the discovery of the earliest evidence of silver used as currency in the Levant, an area including present-day Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and most of Turkey.

It is believed the silver relics, known as *hacksilver*, a German term indicating they were cut to specific weights, originated in ancient Anatolia.

The silver hoards were unearthed during excavations in Israel’s Shiloh,

Megiddo and Gezer, as well as Tel el-‘Ajjul in the Gaza Strip, and date back more than 3,600 years – to the Middle Bronze Age – or about 500 years before prior estimates, according to researchers from the University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

To identify their source, an isotopic test was performed, and the results compared to the composition of ores of known origin, as well as to other silver objects.

That the pieces of silver were unpolished – suggesting that they were not used as jewelry or ornamental objects – and generally found together wrapped in cloth and kept in pottery, indicates they were used as a form of payment.

The discovery shows that cities across the Middle East engaged in more extensive trade than previously thought, paying for large purchases such as for land with silver.

One shekel is believed to have been equal to approximately 16 grams of silver.

The findings were published in the “Journal of Archaeological Science.” **HW**

# Senior Adult Classes are Returning to the MJCC!

Starting on Monday, January 9, Conversational Spanish will again be taught by Barbara Mansberg. Barbara has taught at the MJCC for many years and is returning to teach this popular course. It is taught on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. in room #1 of the MJCC. Come join Barbara and learn a new language or touch up your previous knowledge. Course number is 8960.

Beginning Bridge Lessons will return on Thursday, January 19 taught by Debbie Jackson. Learn to play the world’s greatest game. This class will teach you all the basics you need to start playing bridge like a pro! The class will be on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Course number is 8958.

Starting on Monday, February 6 at 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Mah Jongg will again

be taught by Melanie Mann. Melanie has been teaching Mah Jongg for many years at the MJCC, as well as other places around town. Whether you are a beginner or relearning, Melanie can teach you this very popular game. A new Mah Jongg card is included in the class fee. Course number is 8959.

The cost is the same for all courses: \$80 per course for nonmembers of the MJCC and only \$72 per course for members. Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. They can also be made by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org).

Reservations are limited so please make your reservations before they are sold out. **HW**

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# Nikki Haley Slams Biden for Clumsy Immigration-Holocaust Comparison

(JNS) – Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, a vocal defender of the Jewish state, recently rebutted an absurd Holocaust parallel drawn by President Joe Biden.

When asked by a reporter whether immigration was a basic human right, Biden responded, “Well, I think it is a human right if your family is being persecuted, if you’re being dealt with in a way – like I thought it was a human right for you know, Jews in Germany to be able to go and escape and get help where they could. But the other side of this is, there’s also, the people in this country have basic rights that are here – basic fundamental rights. We assure the people coming have been checked out, they’re not criminals, they’re not a problem, that they’re background checked.”

Haley, the former governor of South Carolina and now a leader in the polls for president in 2024, fired back at Biden on Twitter: “No. The systematic and targeted murder of 6 million Jews in Nazi death camps is not the same. You’re a disgrace. Don’t belittle the Holocaust to score political points.”

Ben Shapiro, the editor emeritus of “The Daily Wire” and host of the top-rated “The Ben Shapiro Show,” similarly called out Biden’s strange comparison alongside his seemingly contradictory recent policy decisions, then warned of their possible outcome: “Biden is simultaneously likening refugees from Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Nicaragua to refugees from the Holocaust, and then saying that he’s going to radically cut their entry avenues. He’s absolutely incoherent, which means that the wave of illegal migration will continue.”

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) also challenged the statement, saying “Biden just compared illegal aliens – lawbreakers who have been found to be terrorists, drug dealers, and bad actors – to Jews fleeing Germany during the Holocaust. Not even remotely the same situation. This kind of mindset prevents us from legitimately securing our border.”

Conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation asked incredulously, “Did Joe Biden seriously just compare German Jews fleeing the Holocaust to illegal aliens filing illegitimate asylum claims?”

Former Trump administration senior adviser Stephen Miller, currently found-

er and president of America First Legal, which is suing the Biden administration for violating the Taylor Force Act in funding Palestinian terror, noted that the president’s remarks also insulted Latin American nations and agreed with Shaprio’s warning of increased law-breaking at the U.S. southern border: “Comparing Haitians leaving Haiti or Nicaraguans leaving Nicaragua to Jews fleeing violent extermination from Nazi Germany is both an outrageous minimization of the Holocaust and a vile slander of Latin American nations. Biden will say or do anything to expand illegal immigration.”

One notable commentator who retweeted Haley’s remarks was Nile Gardiner, a former aide to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and currently a foreign policy analyst who contributes columns to the “Telegraph.” He said, “Disgraceful comments from Joe Biden. This man is without shame.”

Others online shared Haley’s sentiments, adding their own often intense social media provocations and insults toward the president, a characteristic of the free speech ethos new Twitter owner Elon Musk has vigorously promoted on the platform. Musk recently praised the official Israel Twitter account’s wit and began providing Starlink internet access to activists in Iran, and during a 2018 visit to the Jewish state proclaimed his sympathies saying, “Paid respects to Masada earlier today. Live free or die.”

The often-caustic comments of those sharing Haley’s remarks included “I’ll be glad when we finally get this senile old man out of office...,” “What is this moral and mental blockade in politicians that compels them to compare everything to the Holocaust? And NO! Mr. President. It’s NOT the same,” “It’s nothing like Nazi Germany, you twit!” “This man is evil” and “At long last sir...remain silent. You speak and leave no doubt about competency.”

One account holder describing herself as a “Conservative Jew and Politically Conservative. #ZionistJew,” who featured three Israeli flags in her handle, retweeted Haley and declared: “To all of the liberal Jews who voted for this person, he didn’t like Jews and he still doesn’t. He is not our friend. WAKE UP.” **HW**

## Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League Resumes on February 6



David Ross takes the plunge in the 2022 Polar Baer Plunge to benefit Special Olympics

On Monday, February 6 the Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League will be resuming.

The league was founded by David and Jane (o.b.m) Ross in September of 1999. The league gives the opportunity for any athletes with intellectual disabilities to participate in a sport and also enjoy social interaction with their friends.

The athletes will bowl at the Cordova Bowling Center where they will be bowling each Monday at 3 p.m. until May 1.

David and Rose Ross are looking for volunteers who would like to attend and support these athletes. Volunteers may be high school students or adults (especially those that are retired and looking for activities).

If interested, please call David at 901-483-4017 or email davidross5147@gmail.com.

In addition, for the 14th year, David will be participating in the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge, which will be held this year on Saturday, February 4. Funds raised from this event support Special Olympics programs such as the King Pins Bowling League.

If you would like to support David, you may do so at his website: <https://www.classy.org/fundraising/4314610> or you may mail a check payable to Special Olympics at 985 Village Oak Cove, Memphis TN 38120. **HW**

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## IDF Arrests 16 Terror Suspects, Including Lions' Den Member

(JNS) – Israeli forces last Tuesday morning arrested a member of the Lions' Den terrorist group during an operation in Nablus.

Troops detained Palestinian Wasim Zaher Estitiyeh, 26, a member of the terror organization who perpetrated recent shooting attacks in the area, the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

Gunfire was heard in the area although the troops apparently did not come under direct attack, the army said.

The security forces arrested an addi-

tional 15 Palestinians in counter-terrorism raids across Judea and Samaria.

During a raid in Ya'bad, 12 miles west of Jenin, Palestinians targeted troops with an explosive device, and in Anata, 2.5 miles northeast of Jerusalem's Old City, riot dispersal methods were used as Palestinians threw Molotov cocktails at soldiers.

The Palestinians were arrested over suspected involvement in terrorist activities and are being questioned by the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency).

In 2022, Judea and Samaria saw one of its most violent years in the last 15, with 285 terrorist shooting attacks compared to 61 in 2021, according to an IDF report.

The defense establishment is deeply disturbed by the Palestinian Authority's lack of sovereignty in areas of Samaria such as Jenin and Nablus, which became centers of terrorism this year, the document continued.

Thirty-one Israelis – 24 of them civilians – were murdered by terrorists in 2022, compared to four in 2021. **HW**



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# Beth Sholom Hosts Sarah Hurwitz, a Jewish Author and Former White House Speechwriter, as a Scholar in Residence Feb.3-5



Sarah Hurwitz' Jewish journey began while serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. Credit: Courtesy Sarah Hurwitz

Sarah Hurwitz, a former White House speechwriter, whose Jewish journey has inspired many Jews to find new meaning in their Jewish heritage, will spend Shabbat as a Scholar in Residence at Beth Sholom Synagogue from Friday night February 3 through Sunday morning February 5.

All are invited to join in Friday night and Saturday services at the synagogue to hear Hurwitz speak and share about her own journey.

In her bestselling book, "Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)," Hurwitz describes how she, as an adult, reconnected with Judaism and its strong, moral, and spiritual foundation. Her book explains why Jewish ethics, life cycle rituals, and spiritual practices are as relevant today as they have been for 4,000 years.

"Hurwitz models what it means to be empowered in our own Jewish journeys, and her own story is such an inspiration," says Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the spiritual leader of Beth Sholom. "She is a serious learner of Jewish texts and ideas, and I'm so grateful that we as a community will have the opportunity to learn from her and with her."

In her book, Hurwitz writes that she is as surprised as anyone at how her deep dive into Jewish texts, ideas, and rituals changed her life. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Hurwitz had a thriving political speechwriting career. After working with Hillary Clinton on her presidential campaign in 2008, Hurwitz became a speechwriter first for President Barak Obama and then became head speechwriter for Michelle Obama during their time in the

White House.

A self-described religious school drop-out, Hurwitz says her involvement in Judaism was limited to attending High Holiday services and Passover seders. But a break-up with a romantic partner left her feeling lonely and empty. On a whim, she enrolled in an adult introduction to Judaism class. She says she was "blown away by what she found: beautiful rituals, helpful guidance on living an ethical life, and conceptions of God beyond a bearded man in the sky." That led to years on a Jewish journey that included Jewish meditation retreats, conversations with rabbis of all denominations, reading hundreds of Jewish texts, and countless other experiences. She poured what she learned into her book.

Now recognized by "The Forward" as one of the most influential Jewish-Americans, Hurwitz will participate in three discussions at Beth Sholom.

On Friday, February 3, following a 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner (paid registration is required), she will talk about her "Jewish Journey in the White House."

On Shabbat, February 4, she will discuss "The Power of Your Words: Finding Your Most Authentic, Influential Voice," during kiddush lunch following 9:15 a.m. morning services.

On Sunday, February 5, she will participate in a 10 a.m. Fireside Chat in an exclusive program for Beth Sholom Legacy Donors and Sustainers.

Hurwitz's Scholar in Residence Shabbat is made possible by the Hallie Cohen and Cindy Sotto Scholar-in-Resident Fund and the legacy of Mimi Grossman z"l.

For more information and to register for events, please visit bsholom.org. **HW**

## Beth Sholom Welcomes Sarah Hurwitz


Former White House speech writer and best-selling Jewish author

**Friday, 2/3**  
6PM Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner  
**A Jewish Journey in the White House**


**Shabbat, 2/4**  
9:15AM Shabbat Davening  
Kiddush Lunch  
**The Power of Your Words: Finding Your Most Authentic, Influential Voice**

**Sunday, 2/5**  
10AM Fireside Chat with Sarah  
exclusive program for Beth Sholom Legacy Donors and Sustainers  
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# Laura Kaplan Paller Brings Talent, Experience, and a Legacy of Community Impact as VP of Finance & Operations for Jewish Community Partners



**In October 2022, Laura Kaplan Paller, pictured here with husband Jeffrey and daughters Sadie, 2 ½, and Emma, 8 months, stepped into the role of Vice President of Finance & Operations Jewish Community Partners, the managing organization of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation. She will manage resources shared between Foundation and Federation, like finance, HR, marketing, investments, and more. Credit: Amy Dale.**

A native Memphian has returned to her roots in the community she loves. Laura Kaplan Paller is Jewish Community Partner’s (JCP) new VP of Finance & Operations, the role she began this past October.

“I oversee the day-to-day operational and financial management of JCP,” she explained.

After graduating with a business degree in risk management and insurance from the University of Georgia, Laura lived and worked in New York City for Marsh and McLennan. The next step in her career took her to Birmingham, Alabama, where she served as Regional

Director of Operations for an optometry group.

But Memphis came calling, literally. When a recruiter reached out about a position in Memphis, Laura’s father, Michael, encouraged her to consider. When Laura was offered the role of Director of Operations for University Clinical Health, she once again became a Memphian, this time by choice. During her five years in that position, she began thinking more and more about deepening her connections in the Jewish community. A spontaneous phone call to Laura Linder, JCP’s President & CEO paved the way to the start of her career as a Jewish professional in her hometown. Jewish Community Partners is the managing organization of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation.

“I’m a founding member of Memphis B’nai Tzedek, the Jewish Foundation of Memphis Teen Philanthropy Program, and I’ve been on Foundation’s board since 2020 as a representative for Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth,” Kaplan Paller said. “I had sworn I would never move back, but I love this community. Jewish Memphis has such unique qualities for a community our size. Coming to JCP feels like home, like a warm hug.”

Laura’s role consists of managing all shared resources – think finance, HR, marketing, technology, facilities, investments, compliance, and risk management.

“We are so thrilled that Laura has joined our team as Vice President of Finance & Operations. She brings incredible management and operations experience, but most importantly, she is deeply committed to our Jewish community and passionate about our work,” said Linder. “My personal relationship with her goes back decades to when she was a student in B’nai Tzedek. I’d like to think those early years of engagement in philanthropy had an impact on her ca-

reer choice.”

“I want my kids to grow up with the same feeling of community – all the support they’ll ever a need, because people always step up here – and I want to be part of that, too,” Laura said. Married in 2019 to Jeffrey Paller, the happy couple has two children – Sadie is 2½ years old and Emma is 8 months. “My parents have been so involved in the Jewish community, it’s ingrained in us. It’s amazing to have the opportunity to continue the legacy my parents have shown for community involvement.”

“Laura’s previous work experience and insight as a former board member of Jewish Foundation of Memphis are great assets for our organizations and made her the right person for this position,” said Cindy Finestone, Chair of Memphis Jewish Federation. “She clearly understands our organizations, opportunities, and challenges, and I’m excited for her to be part of our professional staff. I also loved the fact that she was an alumni advisor of Foundation’s B’nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy program.”

“I’m very excited about the addition of Laura to the team,” said Jason Solomon, Jewish Foundation of Memphis Board Chair. “Her professional experience and passion for our Jewish community make her a perfect fit for JCP. I look forward to seeing her role grow in the organization. Additionally, with two Laura’s in the boardroom, I’d like to be the first to publicly lobby for the nickname ‘LP!’”

Laura can be reached at: [lkaplan@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:lkaplan@jcpmemphis.org) or 901.767.7119. [HW](#)

# U.K. Probing Uranium Bound for Iranians in Britain



**Uranium. Credit: MLS/Shutterstock**

(JNS) – British counter-terrorism forces have opened an investigation after confiscating an undeclared shipment of uranium at Heathrow airport on Dec. 29 bound for Iranian nationals in the United Kingdom, authorities announced last Wednesday.

The undeclared nuclear material originated from Pakistan and arrived in the hold of a passenger flight from Oman, according to reports.

The package was detected by scanners at the London airport and contained potentially lethal amounts of uranium. It was then transferred to a freight shed, in the process triggering alarms and causing security personnel to converge on the scene and isolate the unregistered shipment in a dedicated radioactive room.

Police have reportedly homed in on an Iran-based firm with premises in the United Kingdom, where the uranium was destined for unidentified Iranians.

Authorities have not ruled out the possibility that the uranium could have been used to build a so-called dirty bomb, a type of improvised nuclear device, said the reports.

No arrests have been made. [HW](#)



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# Retirement Savings in a Volatile Market

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

If you worry about your retirement investments during market downturns, you're not alone. Unfortunately, emotions are often the enemy of sound investing. Here are some points to help you stay clear-headed during periods of market volatility.

### Markets Rebound

Historically, even the worst bear market has bounced back and eventually gone on to reach new highs. In fact, since 1970, bear markets have lasted an average of 14 months.

### A Chance to Buy Low

If you're investing a set amount of money on a regular basis, such as in a retirement plan account, you're buying fewer shares when prices are high and more shares when prices are low – one of the basic tenets of investing wisely.

Systematic investing involves making continuous investments on a regular basis, regardless of fluctuating share prices. Although this strategy does not ensure a profit or prevent a loss, you must be financially able to continue making purchases through extended periods of high and low price levels.

### Retiree Strategies

The risk of experiencing poor investment returns just before or in the early years of retirement is a significant factor that can affect a nest egg's long-term sustainability. Fortunately, some strategies can help mitigate this risk.

For example, consider a tiered invest-

ment strategy, in which you divide your portfolio into tiers representing your short-, medium-, and long-term needs for income and growth.

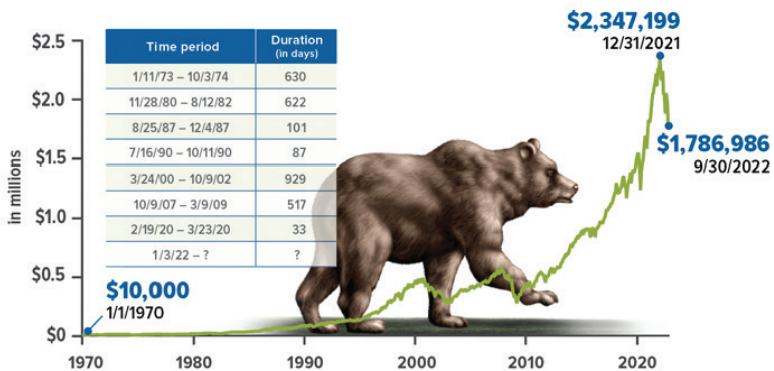
The short-term tier(s) could contain the amount you need for about two to five years, invested in assets designed to preserve value. The medium-term tier(s) could hold investments that strive to provide income for perhaps three to 10 years, balanced with some growth potential. The longer-term tier(s) could hold higher-risk, higher-growth-potential assets that you wouldn't need for at least 10 years. Generally, this tier is intended to feed the shorter-term tiers and fuel the strategy over the course of your retirement.

Another possible strategy is using a portion of your retirement savings to purchase an immediate annuity, which offers a predictable retirement income stream you could pair with Social Security and any other steady income sources to cover your fixed expenses.

An immediate annuity is an insurance-based contract in which you pay the issuer a single lump sum in exchange for the issuer's guarantee of regular income payments for a fixed period or the rest of your life. While there are some exceptions, you typically receive fixed payments with little or no variation in the amount or timing. When purchasing a fixed annuity, you relinquish control over the amount you invest.

### Bear Markets Eventually End

A bear market is generally defined as a loss of at least 20% from a recent high. From 1970 to 2021, there were seven bear markets, the longest lasting less than three years. A new bear market began in January 2022. Despite these down periods, a hypothetical \$10,000 investment in the S&P 500 in 1970 would have grown to more than \$2.3 million by the end of 2021 and was still worth almost \$1.8 million after the first nine months of the 2022 bear market.



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices and Refinitiv, 2022, for the period 1/1/1970 to 9/30/2022. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index that is considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

### A Financial Professional Can Help

If volatile markets prompt you to question your retirement investing strategy, your financial professional can be an objective third party to help ease your worries and evaluate possible portfolio shifts.

All investments are subject to market fluctuation, risk, and loss of principal. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investments seeking to achieve higher returns also involve a higher degree of risk. There is no assurance that working with a financial professional will improve investment results.

Generally, annuity contracts have fees and expenses, limitations, exclusions, holding periods, termination provisions, and terms for keeping the annuity in force. Most annuities have surrender charges that are assessed if the contract owner surrenders the annuity. Withdrawals of annuity earnings are taxed as ordinary income. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty. Any annuity guarantees are contingent on the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

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## MyHeritage Publishes 1.7 Million-Record Israeli Immigration List

(JNS) – Online genealogy platform MyHeritage announced last Sunday the publication of a database comprising 1.7 million records, covering immigration to Israel from 1919. The company called it “the Israeli equivalent of the famous ‘Ellis Island’ immigration database for the United States.”

For more than a year, MyHeritage indexed thousands of public-domain images from the Israel State Archives, linking them to surviving records of those who immigrated to Israel by ship and by plane starting in 1919.

MyHeritage said it's the first organization to create a searchable index for the collection and link it with the scanned images.

The collection is available to search for free and without having to sign up to the company's website, to make it easily accessible for those researching their Jewish roots in Israel.

The records in the collection include the name of the immigrant, the names of

relatives who immigrated with them, the country of origin, the name of the ship they arrived on, the date of arrival, the names of parents, the names of relatives who were expecting them in Israel, and their destination city in Israel.

Historians have defined several waves of aliyah between 1882 and the beginning of World War II. The collection starts with the Third Aliyah period (1919-1923). The first two waves took place from 1882 to 1918 under Ottoman rule and are not covered in this collection.

The collection was created from scanned books stored by the Israel State Archives, with lists of immigrants arranged in chronological order according to the arrival dates of the ships or planes.

The records also included the arrival of tourists to Israel, or the return of Israeli residents from trips abroad. Pedestrian arrivals are also listed; those who came in through border crossings in the north or south. [HW](#)

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# Ancient Ostrich Eggs Found in Israel Shed Light on Early Humans



Fragments of ostrich eggs discovered near an ancient campsite in Israel’s Negev Desert. Credit: Emil Aladjem/Israel Antiquities Authority.

(JNS) – The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) recently uncovered a number of ostrich eggs dating back thousands of years during an excavation near an ancient fire pit in the Negev desert.

“We found a campsite, which extends over about 200 square meters, that was used by the desert nomads since prehistoric times. At the site we found burnt stones, flint and stone tools as well as pottery sherds, but the truly special find is this collection of ostrich eggs,” said IAA excavation director Lauren Davis.

“Although the nomads did not build permanent structures at this site, the finds allow us to feel their presence in the desert. These campsites were quickly covered over by the dunes and were re-exposed with the sand movement over hundreds and thousands of years. This fact explains the exceptional preservation of the eggs, allowing us a glimpse into the lives of the nomads who roamed the desert in ancient times,” she added.

Ostriches were common in the region from early prehistoric periods until they became extinct in the wild during the 19th century. Their eggs have been found in archaeological sites from several periods, reflecting their importance

as a raw material.

“We find ostrich eggs in archaeological sites in funerary contexts, and as luxury items and water canteens. Naturally, they were used as a source of food: one ostrich egg has the nutritional value of about 25 normal chicken eggs!” said IAA researcher Dr. Amir Gorzalczany.

“There is sometimes even evidence of decorating and incising on ostrich eggs, showing their use as decorative items. It is interesting that whilst ostrich eggs are not uncommon in excavations, the bones of the large bird are not found. This may indicate that in the ancient world, people avoided tackling the ostrich and were content with collecting their eggs,” he added.

For her part, Davis noted that the proximity of the group of eggs to the fire pit indicated that they were collected and thus likely used as food.

“After the excavation we will reconstruct the eggs, just like a puzzle. The whole egg may tell us the species, and exactly what they were used for. As far as I’m concerned, every eggshell is worth its weight in gold! I am really looking forward to the research in the labs. The best is yet ahead!” said Davis. HW

## OBITUARIES

### Bradley William Hanover

Bradley (Brad) William Hanover, of Memphis, Tennessee, died by tragic accident at his home at the age of 70 on January 11, 2023. Brad was the beloved oldest child of J. Alan Hanover, Esq., and Helen Hanover (both deceased), the endlessly proud and loving father of Brett Hanover and Brendan Hanover and her husband, Stefan Pienkowski, the cherished brother of Barry Hanover and his wife, Allison Richards, Jody Becker and her husband, Daniel Becker, MD, and John Hanover, Esq. and his wife, Mary Wells, and the adored uncle of Michael Hanover, Keith and David Becker, and Jacob and Sydney Hanover and Cassidy Wells.

Brad was looking forward to the arrival of his first grandchild in March. He is also survived by his children’s mother, Gayle Woloshin, and his many lifelong friends. Brad will forever be remembered for his love for his children, his unbreakable bond with his family, and his endearing charm, wit, and joy for life, which he generously shared with everyone he met. He brought laughter and lightness to the lives of his family and friends, a gift that could not be repaid or replaced. He was also immensely proud of his family’s 120-year legacy in Memphis, particularly in politics and law.

Brad attended both White Station High School and the University of Oklahoma, earning a degree in Business Administration in 1974. He worked in the liquor business, and then for many years owned and operated, alongside his mother, Hanover Travel located in Midtown Memphis, the neighborhood where he happily lived for most of his life. The memorial services were held at Temple Israel Cemetery on Friday, January 13, 2023. HW



### Rosabelle “Ricky” Epstein Sacks

Rosabelle “Ricky” Epstein Sacks, aged 98, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on November 22, 2022, surrounded by her daughters. Beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she is survived by daughters, Sandra Mislow (Sam z”l), Eileen Silberstein (Milton), all of Atlanta, and Gail Kirschner (Allen) of Maale Adumim, Israel: grandchildren Julie Abes (David), Brad Mislow, Jill Cohen (Gideon), Rachel Weber (Harry), Marc Silberstein (Lisa Rosenberger), Judith Hetzroni (Oren), Ira Kirschner (Sam Golino), and Elana Ihilevich (David) and 12 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Joe Louis Sacks, and six brothers.

A lifelong Memphian and member of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, she managed the Hadassah Thrift Shop as if it were her very own business. Shortly after Joe’s death, she was a sales associate extraordinaire for 20 years at Catherine’s, where he had been the CFO. She loved playing Mah Jong and enjoyed the role of resident social director at the Embassy Apartments where she lived for 16 years. But she will be best known for being a devoted wife, fantastic mother, and loyal friend.

The family wishes to thank Weinstein Hospice and her caregivers, Lucy Leitman, Dee Banks, and Yolanda Reed.

Funeral services were held on Friday, November 25, 2022, at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Memphis.

Donations can be made to the charity of your choice. HW

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# 2023 Genesis Prize Awarded to Jewish Activists Working to Uphold Ukraine’s Independence and Alleviate the Suffering of the People of Ukraine

Jerusalem and New York, January 11, 2023 – The past 11 months have been unlike any previous period in the 10-year history of the Genesis Prize. We have witnessed war, destruction, and human suffering on a scale unseen since World War II. Tens of thousands of people have lost their lives; millions abandoned their homes, jobs, schools, and families. As countries neighboring Ukraine became inundated with refugees and faced disruptions to their energy supply, the economic fallout from the war has been felt throughout the world, impacting tens of millions of lives far beyond the conflict zone.

But we have also witnessed human kindness, compassion, and activism on an unprecedented scale. Across the world, thousands of individuals and organizations were moved to action – making a moral choice to volunteer, donate money, shelter refugees, and engage in political advocacy.

Recognizing the extraordinary nature of events dominating the past 11 months, The Genesis Prize Selection Committee has decided to depart from the usual custom of awarding the Prize to a single Jewish individual. Instead, the Committee has elected to announce a collective award to Jewish activists and NGOs who were inspired by the brave citizens of Ukraine and their courageous president, Volodymyr Zelensky, and chose to act on their Jewish values by standing up for freedom, human dignity, and justice.

### Resolution of The Genesis Prize Selection Committee:

The Genesis Prize Selection Committee bestows the 2023 Genesis Prize upon

all Jewish activists and NGOs working to support the Ukrainian people in their quest for freedom, independence, and dignity. In doing so, the Committee calls on others – Jews and non-Jews – to get involved in the effort to aid Ukraine’s struggle for independence and help overcome the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the war.

Throughout 2023, The Genesis Prize Foundation will be shining a spotlight on individuals and non- governmental organizations working to support Ukraine. We will share with the global Jewish community their important contributions and encourage others to become involved. Our Foundation will also continue to make grants to NGOs dedicated to alleviating the suffering in Ukraine, as we have done since the beginning of the war.

~ Natan Sharansky, Trustee

~ Stan Polovets, Founder and Chairman

Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, who received the 2022 Genesis Prize for his leadership in developing the COVID-19 vaccine, said: “Jewish tradition teaches us about the sanctity of human life and the importance of repairing the world. As last year’s Laureate, I am honored to pass the torch of the Genesis Prize to such an inspiring group of Jewish activists and organizations committed to saving and improving the lives of brave Ukrainian citizens.”

Founder and Chairman of The Genesis Prize Foundation Stan Polovets said: “This year we have witnessed countless Jewish activists, volunteers and organizations rise to the challenges posed by the brutal war in Ukraine. The 2023 Genesis Prize honors those who have



Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer



Stan Polovets, Founder and Chairman of The Genesis Prize Foundation

put their energy, passion, resources, and time into the quest to help Ukraine; those who have selflessly taken on the toil of alleviating Ukraine’s humanitarian crisis and helping its citizens in their fight

for freedom, dignity, and independence. Rather than focus on past achievements, the 2023 Prize honors those currently engaged in good work – and encourages others to join this effort.”

Trustee of The Genesis Prize Foundation and Chairman of the Genesis Prize Advisory Board Natan Sharansky said: “It gives me great pride to see so many Jewish individuals and organizations around the world working to help Ukraine. This conflict is a clear-cut battle between good and evil, and it is imperative that we, as Jews, take a clear moral stand. This year’s award celebrates those who have made this principled choice and are acting on it.”

Sharansky added: “International support is critical to making sure Ukraine prevails in this fight. And it is also critical for Jews to continue contributing to this effort, so that we remain true to our foundational values of standing up for freedom, human dignity, and justice.” **HW**



Natan Sharansky, Trustee of The Genesis Prize Foundation and Chairman of the Genesis Prize Advisory Board

# Manhattan DA Offers Antisemitic NYC Attacker Plea Deal with Minimal Jail Time



Waseem Awawdeh. Credit: Canary Mission. By Bradley Martin

(JNS) – In the wake of rising attacks against Jews in New York City, a violent antisemitic attacker could be back on the streets in six months’ time.

According to the Canary Mission watchdog, Waseem Awawdeh has been offered a plea deal by the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. Awawdeh was charged with a hate crime for attacking a yarmulke-wearing Jewish man who was heading to a pro-Israel rally in May 2021.

“If I could do it again, I would do it again,” Awawdeh declared to one of his jailers, according to a prosecutor at Awawdeh’s arraignment in Manhattan Criminal Court. The original charges against Awawdeh carried a sentence of upwards of 10 years in prison. Under the terms of the plea deal, his sentence would be reduced to six months.

“It is outrageous that the office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is willing to let Awawdeh, who is violent and unrepentant, back on

the streets of New York after only six months,” Canary Mission said in a statement. “With skyrocketing attacks on Jews in New York –close to 200 documented cases since 2018, there have been only two convictions that resulted in prison sentences.”

“We have only one question: Why?” Canary Mission asked.

### Plea deal reduces Awawdeh’s charges

According to statistics from the New York Police Department, there were 45 reported antisemitic hate crimes in the city last month, for an average of one every 16 hours. This represents a 125% increase over the same period last year. Anti-Jewish attacks made up 60% of all hate crimes in the city in November, far more than against any other minority group.

Awawdeh was originally charged with assault as a hate crime, gang assault, menacing aggravated harassment as a hate crime and criminal possession of a weapon.

Under a plea deal, Canary Mission

explains, the charge would be reduced to a violent class D felony, which in New York usually results in a three-to-seven-year sentence for a person found guilty at trial. However, Awawdeh is being offered six months in prison if he pleads guilty to these lesser charges and forgoes a trial.

### Awawdeh’s antisemitic hate crimes

Awawdeh is accused of violently attacking Joseph Borgen, who was on his way to a pro-Israel rally on May 20, 2021, near Manhattan’s Times Square.

“They hit me with fists, kicked me, hit me with crutches, hit me with signs.... They were saying, You dirty Jew, f\*\*\* Israel, go back to your country,” Borgen said in an interview with the New York “Daily News” after the attack.

Borgen also reported that he was maced and pepper-sprayed and suffered a concussion in the attack.

The same day, Awawdeh was part of a mob that attacked another Israel supporter. Awawdeh raised and swung his crutch wildly at the man, while fellow pro-Palestinian protester Ahmad Othman sucker-punched him and knocked him to the ground.

At the same demonstration, Awawdeh also spat on a female police officer who was attempting to maintain a barricade separating the pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel demonstrators.

That same day, Awawdeh was filmed standing with other pro-Palestinian protesters on the back of a pickup truck driving a convoy through Manhattan’s heavily Jewish Diamond District. After fellow protester Mohammed Othman threw a firework at a passerby, Awawdeh could be seen waving his crutch in a celebratory manner.

The firework burned a woman; she required hospitalization. As police and passerby tended to the victim, Awawdeh and other anti-Israel protesters, some walking by and some in cars, shouted abuse.

Awawdeh later returned to the scene of the crime on foot. While running from the police, he fell and was arrested for his attack on Borgen.

Three days later, Awawdeh was released after posting \$10,000 bail. He was greeted by friends, who shouted, “Raise your head up! ...You a f\*\*kin’ Hero!!”

Awawdeh’s friends then hoisted him onto their shoulders as he held his crutch. His friends chanted, “Free, free Palestine!” while Awawdeh responded in kind and pumped his arms in triumph.

### Awawdeh’s connections to a dangerous NYC anti-Israel group

Awawdeh has led anti-Israel chants at rallies organized by Within Our Lifetime, a radical anti-Israel activist group in New York City known for its violent street protests. Within Our Lifetime states on its website, “We defend the right of Palestinians as colonized people to resist the Zionist occupation by any means necessary.”

Another Within Our Lifetime activist identified by Canary Mission, Saadah Masoud, pleaded guilty in November 2022 to being part of a conspiracy to commit violent hate crimes against Jews in April 2022, June 2021 and May 2021. At anti-Israel rallies in New York City, Masoud has repeatedly assaulted Israel supporters, had multiple violent altercations with police and been arrested for assault and robbery. He is scheduled to be sentenced on March 3. **HW**

January 20 - February 19

# Mid-South Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition

Presented by the Brooks Museum League



Adele Ferguson, 'Pax', 2022 Best Senior Portfolio Award



Open in Overton Park  
[BrooksMuseum.org](https://BrooksMuseum.org)

“God, Goats and Pickup Trucks: Visions of Maurice Schmidt’s Texas” Art Exhibit to Open at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience



“Torah Reading” Maurice Schmidt, 1986. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts.

NEW ORLEANS, January 9, 2023 – A new Special Exhibition featuring the works of Texan and Jewish artist Maurice Schmidt will open at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE) on January 26, 2023, and run through May 31, 2023.

Titled “God, Goats and Pickup Trucks: Maurice Schmidt’s Visions of Texas,” the exhibition features 23 artworks, including paintings, sketches, prints and sculpture, colorfully depicting scenes both rural and religious, created over Schmidt’s long career. A centerpiece of the exhibition will be the painting, “Herdsman are we, both we and thy fathers,” a large oil on canvas

work that is being donated to MSJE by Schmidt.

Schmidt states that his work, though often illustrating pastoral, workaday scenes such as cows grazing in fields and farmhands transporting livestock, is always in reference to the divine. “There are holy spaces between the soil and the tractor above, between trees and their shade,” the artist has said, noting, “Art that would praise God must touch the human heart.”

Several of the works on display portray more explicitly religious and Jewish subject matter, such as a stark Biblical print entitled “Daniel in the Lion’s Den,” and a vibrant painting of three

men draped in prayer shawls, carrying Torahs.

“This is the first collection of fine art paintings that we’ve exhibited,” said Kenneth Hoffman, MSJE Executive Director. “It gives us another way to explore Southernness, Jewishness, identity and community – this time through the lens of one man’s creativity and talent.”

Schmidt was born into a Jewish family in 1936 and grew up in New Braunfels, Texas. He studied art at the University of Texas at Austin and at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and taught in the Art Department at Texas A&M University for over 40 years. His work has been shown throughout the U.S. and internationally,

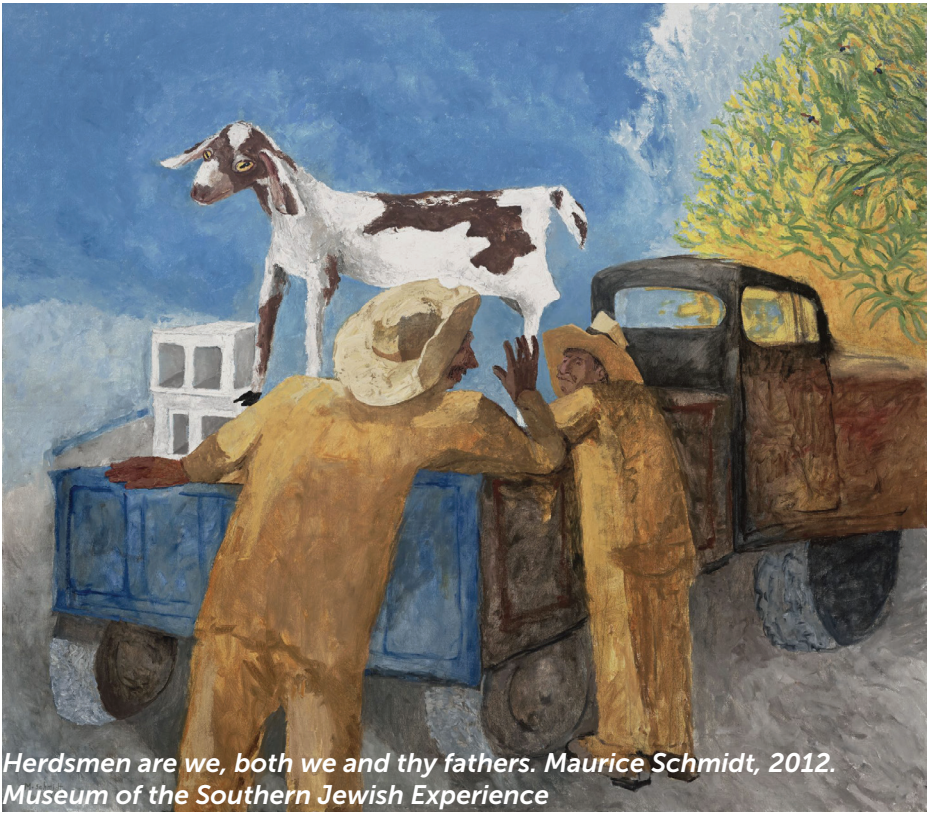
including in an exhibition in Tel Aviv.

The museum will present several public programs and art activities while this exhibition is on view. For more information, see the MJSE website.

The Maurice Schmidt collection is on loan to MSJE from the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts in Texas.

**About The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience:**

The Museum of The Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans explores the many ways the Jews in the American South influenced and were influenced by the distinct cultural heritage of their new homes. Through exhibits, collections and programs focused on the unique and remarkable history of Southern Jews, the Museum encourages new understanding and appreciation for identity, diversity, and acceptance. Visit [www.msje.org](http://www.msje.org) for more information or follow the Museum on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. [HW](#)



Herdsman are we, both we and thy fathers. Maurice Schmidt, 2012. Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience

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