## DON'T MISS AN ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 6.

# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

4 SHEVAT, 5783

JANUARY 26, 2023

VOL. 101, NO. 18

### Memphis Jewish Federation Launches Israel at 75 Programming Calendar

Familiarizing Jewish Memphians to the land, people and culture of Israel is a major priority for Memphis Jewish Federation, and anniversaries are a great opportunity to do it in a big way. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and to mark this significant milestone, Federation is rolling out a series of programs to celebrate Israel at 75.

"I'm excited about the slate of events we have, from small niche events to huge blow-outs reaching every corner of the community, and all so much in between," said Jeri Moskovitz, Federation's Israel at 75 Coordinator. "I'm sure there will be something to pique the interest of everyone in Jewish Memphis, but even more than that, I'm certain that the year we have planned will bring Israel closer to Memphis in meaningful ways for everyone."

Israel has been infused into events already on the community calendar such as adding sufganiyot (Israeli-style donuts) at Jewish Foundation of Memphis' Latkes and Vodka event in December and serving Israeli cuisine at Federation's Women's Impact Luncheon in January.

In the upcoming months there will

also be events specifically designed to highlight Israel. Two of those events are scheduled when representatives from Israel's sister city, Shoham, visit in early February. On Feb 7, there is a Continuing Legal Education (CLE)-approved event for lawyers and professional advisors at Raymond James at 4 p.m. with Shoham criminologist Dr. Ronit Peled-Laskov. A well-educated and captivating speaker, Dr. Peled-Laskov will present on how Israel deals with the rehabilitation of criminals, as compared to the approach taken in the United States. Moderated by U.S. District Court Judge Sheryl Lipman, the program is open to the entire community. Please RSVP your attendance to Carrie Richardson at crichardson@jcpmemphis.org.

Also, on February 7 at 7 p.m., all Memphis Jewish teens are invited to an Israel at 75 birthday party at Beth Sholom Synagogue where Amir Sela from Shoham will lead a conversation about Israeli pop culture and music. The celebration will include birthday cake, of course. Please RSVP to crichardson@ jcpmemphis.org.

On February 26, the Morris and Mollye Fogelman International Film Festival at the MJCC will feature the Israeli film, "Who are the Marcuses," followed by a discussion with Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel and Paula Jacobson. The film delves into the lives of Holocaust refugees Lottie and Howard Marcus, who in 2016 left Ben-Gurion University of the Negev over a half billion dollars, the largest single charitable donation to the State of Israel in its history. The gift begged the questions: who are the Marcuses and where did they come up with this money? This documentary answers both those questions and examines the impact this gift has had on Israel's vital water technology.

The community is in for a treat when on March 23, our own Alan Harkavy returns to Memphis for a "Conversation with Alan Harkavy: His Journey from Memphis to Israel." Moderated by Karen and Jody Franklin, who have personally experienced touring Israel with Alan, the evening will include Israeli wine, stories and pictures.

The spring will bring additional events to celebrate our beloved Israel including a PJ Library birthday party, Israel at 75 Shabbat at the congregations, and a Lag B'Omer field day collaboration between the local Jewish Day Schools.

Jeri suggests you go ahead and mark



your calendars for the adult community-wide celebration of Israel's 75th Birthday on May 18. "The goal of the night, in the spirit of the vastly successful 'Taste of Israel,' will be to transform Memphis Botanic Garden to make you feel as if you have traveled to Israel without having to board a plane! Attendees will "travel" to different areas of the venue and visit different sites, sounds, textures and flavors of Israel, whether it be music, food, wine, and even a shuk," Jeri explained.

"Jeri and all the committees she is working with have planned a fabulous calendar of programs with something for everyone to celebrate this historic milestone in Jewish history," said Federation Executive Vice President Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein.

For more information on any of these events, please contact jmoskovitz@jcpmemphis.org. **HW** 

### In Tel Aviv, 80,000 Israelis Protest Netanyahu Government's Plan to Weaken Supreme Court



#### By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – Tens of thousands of Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv's Habima Square last Saturday to protest their new government's plans to significantly decrease the power of the country's Supreme Court.

or parliament, members of Israel's farright governing coalition have already advanced pieces of legislation that would allow a majority of lawmakers to override Supreme Court decisions. Supporters say the proposals amount to an overdue check on a Court that has drifted leftward over time and struck down too many proposals from the Knesset's conservative and right-wing flanks. Critics are calling the proposed

Thousands of Israelis protest against the current Israeli government in Tel Aviv's Habima Square, Jan. 14, 2023. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

Authorities reported that as many as 80,000 protesters braved a rainstorm in Tel Aviv, while smaller protests took place in other cities across the country, including outside of the president's residence in Jerusalem.

In their first weeks in the Knesset,

(See Tel Aviv Page 3)



### Wedding Bands for Him

Our collection of beautiful wedding bands includes famous designer rings as well as our own exclusive designs From classic to embellished with diamonds, shown in white, rose, or yellow gold, and in platinum

# $\mathbf{M} \stackrel{\mathbf{E}}{=} \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{K} \\$

474 Perkins Extended

mednikow.com

### **From Alter Boy to Rabbi** Rabbi Devlin will share his story at Chabad TGIS Dinner.



Rabbi Matisyahu Devlin

Chabad of Memphis is pleased to announce an upcoming weekend of inspiration Feb. 3 and 4 with scholar-in-residence Rabbi Matisyahu Devlin. Rabbi Devlin will present his riveting life story on Friday evening at the TGIS Dinner at Chabad.

He will speak again on Saturday afternoon at the Kiddush Lunch addressing timely themes and making Judaism practical.

Rabbi Devlin resides with his wife

and children in Miami. He is a veteran educator and a seasoned international speaker.

Originally hailing from south central Pennsylvania, Rabbi Matisyahu Devlin was raised as a devout Catholic. The son of a Catholic father and Jewish mother, Rabbi Devlin attended Catholic school and mass on Sundays with his 10 brothers and sisters. Judaism at home was scant, so their identity rested firmly on their Catholic heritage and upbringing. Rabbi Devlin himself was very active in his parish as an altar boy, choir member, and lector.

At the tender age of 18, after getting into trouble at school and with the law, Rabbi Devlin found himself in New York City attempting a fresh start. A fateful midnight meeting with a stranger in a Manhattan coffee shop would change his life forever.

All are welcome to join us for the TGIS Dinner on Friday, Feb. 3 at Chabad for the rest of the story. Limited seating is available so reserve your spot for the dinner at your earliest convenience, reservations need to be made by Wednesday, Feb. 1 at www.JewishMemphis. com/TGIS or by calling Chabad at 901-754-0404. **HW** 

### Another Successful Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service Annual Food Drive



Members of Bornblum Jewish Community School's Kindergarten class collected and donated items to the Peggy E. & L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Kosher Food Pantry drive.

Dear Community Members, In November, Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service kicked off our annual Thanksgiving to

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

#### Established September, 1925 By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

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

#### Office: 901.763.2215 Direct: 901.827.7244

#### info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman Advertising Sales Director

> Toni Nieman Office Manager

Rebecca Miller Social Media Director Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger Editor and Publisher Emeritus

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at

> Memphis, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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

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

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

Advertising For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or info@hebrewwatchman.com

Simchas Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, engagement, anniversaries info@hebrewwatchman.com

Obituaries 901.763.2215 info@hebrewwatchman.com

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

#### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must give permission for any material contained herein to be copied or reproduced in any manner without express permission of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. The publication of any advertisement in this edition does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers' product, kashrut or services by this publication. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the publishers be held responsible for any 1/26/2023 errors.

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. January 27, 2023 / 5 Shevat, 5783......5:05 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. January 28, 2023 / 6 Shevat, 5783.......6:03 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Bo

.....

New Year's food drive for the Peggy E. & L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Kosher Food and Baby Pantry. I want to thank you all for your very generous donations! In just 40 days, Fogelman JFS received 1,987 items.

It is because of this type of generosity that we are able to serve those individuals in need of assistance. Each week we have the privilege of providing pantry bags with shelf stable food for our clients. In 2022, Fogelman JFS distributed over 2,000 pantry bags. We are only able to provide this service due to donations like yours!

Thank you for partnering with Fogelman JFS to meet the needs of so many. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from the Peggy E. & L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Kosher Food and Baby Pantry please never hesitate to reach out. We are here to help and only a phone call away, 901-767-8511.

Sincerely,

Rashki Osina, LCSW, Fogelman JFS Director of Social Services **HW** 

### LET ME SELL YOUR HOME!

Brian was able to discern very quickly what kind of house we were looking for and then narrow and focus our search. Brian answered all our questions with great patience. He was willing to give advice and make suggestions. I especially appreciated his willingness to tell us when he felt we were moving in directions that would take us away from our vision for our new home. He went above and beyond what I expected and eased us through the negotiation and closing process. It was clear that he wanted us to love our new home.

SATISFIED CUSTOMER

Brian Lurie Broker, GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

> Cell: 901.315.2298 Office: 901.260.4780

Blurie2003@gmail.com BestRealEstateAgentinMemphis.com www.BluffCityBuilders.com

CRYE-LEIKE, REALTORS® MOVING? PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! 901.763.2215 info@hebrewwatchman.com

BRIT-MILAH RITUAL CIRCUMCISIONS



Certified Mohel Pediatrician Recommended Over 20 Years of Experience

Member of the American Board of Ritual Circumcision

Mohel@JewishMemphis.com 901-754-0404

Official Real Estate Agent of The Memphis Tigers

#### Tel Aviv...

(Continued From Page 1)

changes a blow to Israel's record as a full-fledged democracy.

"I feel like we are living in the beginnings of a dystopian state," one Tel Aviv resident at the protest told 'The Times of Israel.' "I am seeing the end of democracy and I feel personally threatened."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who partnered with controversial far-right figures such as National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to form his ruling coalition, supports the proposed legislation. He has for years been dogged by multiple corruption cases and in 2019 became the first sitting Israeli prime minister to be indicted.

Chief Justice Esther Hayut called the proposed laws "an unbridled attack on the judicial system" this week.

The swelling protest movement that culminated in the rallies has been driven by left-wing activists, according to reports, but centrist figures - including former Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who previously sat in a coalition with Netanyahu - also called for mass protests last week and made appearances last Saturday to show their support.

"If you continue the way you are going, the responsibility for the civil war brewing in Israeli society will be on you," Gantz said in a televised interview earlier last week.

The rhetoric on both sides intensified as Ben-Gvir ordered police to use water cannons to disperse protesters and banned the display of Palestinian flags at protests, equating them to terrorist symbols. Zvika Fogel, a member of Ben-Gvir's party, said that Gantz, previous Prime Minister Yair Lapid and two other centrist opposition leaders "should be arrested and put in handcuffs" for encouraging the protests. HW

### Herzog Discusses Deepening Relations with U.S. in Meeting with Sullivan

(JNS) - Israeli President Isaac Herzog hosted U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Jerusalem last Wednesday evening to discuss bilateral relations and efforts to deepen the partnership between the countries.

The two men held an expanded meeting along with their respective teams and then spoke privately.

"We welcome the national security advisor of the United States, Jake Sullivan, a great friend of Israel and a big expert on world affairs and security and Middle Eastern affairs. You are coming at the right time, as we meet so many challenges together. I welcome you wholeheartedly to our country," said Herzog.

Sullivan extended regards on behalf of U.S. President Joe Biden, who "remembers fondly [Herzog's] visit to the Oval [Office] and looks forward to welcoming [him] back soon, and also to coming back to Israel after his very successful trip last year."

Herzog met with Biden at the White House in October, describing his invitation to Washington as "an expression of true friendship."

"You are a true friend of Israel, Mr. President. The United States is our closest and strongest historical ally," Herzog told Biden in remarks to the press ahead of their tête-à-tête.

During Biden's visit to the Jewish state in July, Herzog presented him with Israel's Presidential Medal of Honor.

Sullivan said last week that the Iranian nuclear threat would be a "substantial topic of conversation" during his visit.

'We'll have the opportunity to engage deeply with the new Israeli government on the threat posed by Iran. And I think we share the same fundamental objectives. And we will work through any differences we have on tactics, the same way that we have over the course of the past two years," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last Tuesday that Tehran had "killed" the opportunity to quickly revive the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"With regard to the JCPOA, the Iranians killed the opportunity to come back to that agreement swiftly many months ago. There was an opportunity on the table that they rejected, an opportunity that was approved by all who were involved - the Europeans, the United States, Russia and China even at the time. And so, the JCPOA has not been on the agenda as a practical matter for many months now. It's not our focus," said Blinken.

He added that the Islamic Republic was making "very significant" progress on its nuclear program.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is scheduled to meet with Sullivan, met last Wednesday with a visiting bipartisan U.S. Senate delegation and presented evidence regarding the Iranian threat and how it can be combated by fielding a credible military option and using economic and diplomatic pressure. HW

### **Baron Hirsch** Synagogue Kol Rena So-**Shuls January** Luncheon Welcomes the Arrival of 2023

The January 3, 2023, Baron Hirsch So-Shuls Luncheon was a good time for all who attended.

In honor of Elvis Presley's January birthdate, singer Michael Dougherty performed many beloved Elvis songs, as well as other golden oldie favorites. He also invited audience members to tell their own Elvis remembrances, and many luncheon attendees were happy to share their precious memories with the crowd. Many thanks to Creative Aging for arranging for Mr. Dougherty to perform and share his talents at the luncheon.

In addition to great music and personal stories, the luncheon crowd of more than 50 people enjoyed delicious spaghetti and homemade meatballs, salad, and garlic bread. The pineapple and cherry "dump cake" was a sweet way to end the meal, before the Bingo games began.

It was also Zak Shayne's first day as the new Baron Hirsch kitchen manager. Luckily, Mr. Shayne arrived from Seattle, Washington, ready to roll up his sleeves and join several luncheon volunteers, as the group made dozens of meatballs, spaghetti, garlic toast and cake for the pleasure of all who attended. He even substituted as the Bingo caller, while Alvin Steinberg was enjoying a vacation with his wife, Emily.

It was a great way to celebrate the arrival of the new year, 2023!

The next Baron Hirsch So-Shuls luncheon will be at noon on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Davy Ray Bennett, a classically trained singer and songwriter, will be the featured entertainer, provided by Creative Aging. Mr. Bennett's musical skills range from jazz and blues to country and rock 'n' roll, so his talent is certain to please most any music lover.

The luncheon menu will be baked chicken, peas and carrots, roasted potatoes, and mixed fruit for dessert. And of course, Bingo will complete the day's events.

The \$3 per person cost includes the luncheon, the entertainment, and the Bingo game. The fun, friends, and companionship are free!

If you are 64+ years old and want to



### How many homes has your agent sold in the last 10 years?

If you're thinking of selling your home in East Memphis, I always tell people to talk to 2-3 real estate Brokers but make sure that I am one of them! My highly successful Strategic Marketing Program produces **RESULTS** for my clients and a call or email to me can be beneficial to vour bottom line. Remember...

### When you want the job DONE, call Shel-DONE!





Sheldon Rosengarten,



Marx-Bensdorf REALTORS

\*Awarded by the National Association of Realtors

**REALTOR Emeritus\*** 

for 40 Years of Service.

Life Member, Multi-Million Dollar Club Memphis Area Association of Realtors Office 901.682.1868 • Cell 901.483.0546 shelrose@memphisrelocate.com

join us, please make your reservation by calling 901-683-7485 or email Gwen@ BARONHIRSCH.org by Friday, January 28, 2023. We hope to see you there! HW



### A Serial Flasher Crashed a Live Chat with Orthodox Women. Now its Influencer Organizer is Sleuthing Him Out.

#### By Jacob Henry

(New York Jewish Week) – A Brooklyn-based Orthodox activist wants her community to be the last one targeted by a possible serial flasher who crashed an online chat she was leading last week.

Adina Miles-Sash, who is known to her 61,000 followers as Flatbush Girl, also says her community's reaction to the flashing incident underscores the changes needed if women are to feel respected and secure.

In the past, Miles-Sash has battled for women's representation in Orthodox media, where their faces are frequently blurred or omitted; advocated for Orthodox victims of sexual assault, and joined an Orthodox women's ambulance corps that fought for its right to operate. So after a man exposed himself to more than 3,000 viewers on an Instagram chat she was hosting with Shifra, a support group for Jewish women with unplanned pregnancies, she knew just how to spring into action.

She gathered information about other online sessions that had been infiltrated by a flasher in an apparently identical space and pose – even finding one featuring "Bachelor" contestant Chelsea Vaughn. She contacted both the NYPD and FBI, concerned that the presence of minors among the viewers elevated the disturbance into a more significant crime.

She even floated hiring a forensic analyst to try to piece together other clues from the limited view captured on tape – though she moved away from the idea after posting that it would require a \$15,000 retainer just to subpoena Instagram to find the flasher's IP address and when the majority of her followers said they would not donate to cover the costs.

Last Tuesday night, she revealed a breakthrough: screenshots from a third event interrupted by what appeared to be the same man. This time, the host was Daryl-Ann Denner, a Christian influencer in Southern California with 1.3 million Instagram followers.

"I'm assembling soooo much evidence you have no idea," Miles-Sash told someone who messaged her with praise about her detective work, according to a screenshot she shared.

For Miles-Sash, the incident and its aftermath suggest both the strength and the challenges of the tight-knit online Orthodox community.

"I just really hope we can crack this case as a COMMUNITY cause he has done this to NUMEROUS other groups but he messed with the wrong crowd!!!" she messaged the fan.

But she also has been vocal about how the reaction to the initial interruption from some quarters of Orthodox social media had disappointed her. A handful of commenters blamed her for the interruption, citing what they said were her transgressions of mainstream Orthodox norms, and some even suggested that she had fabricated the incident to draw attention to her favored issues.

"Sorry, but u had this coming," said one message that Miles-Sash shared with her followers. (Miles-Sash did not post the names of the accounts that sent the messages she shared.) "U knew eventually things like this would pop up. Esp the fact that you talk about sex and bisexuals on ur platform."

"You definitely set that up on purpose to try and make men look bad," read another direct message that Miles-Sash received, sent from an account whose profile picture showed a man praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. "We'll expose you for exposing the young and innocent to such horrible acts."

Miles-Sash and her allies also said they expected more denunciation of the incident from rabbinic figures and other Orthodox leaders.

"Here's a presumably Orthodox guy who's literally naked and swinging himself in front of a camera," said Shoshana Keats-Jaskoll, an American-Israeli activist on Orthodox women's issues. "And instead of the Orthodox world screaming that is not OK, they're actually accusing Adina of having set the whole thing up."

Miles-Sash reserved particular scorn

### FOR RENT AUDUBON SQUARE CONDOMINIUMS

#### 2 Bd. 2 Ba. Ground Floor, Totally Remodeled \$1850 per month

for Laibel Weiner, the host of the Orthodox comedy podcast MisLaibeled, who joked about the size of the man's "shlong" on his Instagram page the day after the event. Many comments on that post condemned Weiner's comments, including YeahThat'sKosher, a popular food blog in the Orthodox community.

"There is nothing humorous about this," the comment said. "Get your priorities in check."

Weiner said later in the week that he continued to find the whole situation humorous – but that he also valued Miles-Sash's advocacy.

"There are times in life where jokes surrounding bad things that occur can be funny. I think this is one of those situations," Weiner said. "That's my personal opinion. I appreciate that Flatbush Girl has been able to use her platform to bring attention and awareness to important issues in our community. It doesn't matter what her opinion is on a particular matter, I am glad she has the opportunity to share what she feels is right."

Many of Miles-Sash's followers expressed support all along, and particularly after she criticized the response from within Orthodoxy, some produced videos denouncing attacks on women, which she shared.

"Please know that you are in the eyes of so many women a true warrior," wrote Melissa Chapman, an Instagram influencer with over 100,000 followers. Using a Hebrew name for God, she added, "May Hashem continue to give you the strength and fortitude to continue doing the life changing work you are so committed to doing."

Whether the flasher targeted an Orthodox women's event in particular and whether the flasher has any connection to the community is unclear. He used the name of a friend of Miles-Sash to enter the Instagram chat – but he had done the same thing in previous interruptions, she said. Nothing in the limited view of the man's room indicated a Jewish identity.

To some, the incident was a reminder of lessons learned during the pandemic's pivot to online events: Be wary of Zoombombing, as it takes only a single bad actor to derail thousands of people's experience.

"I tried to kick him off the screen as fast as I could, but even within that full five or six seconds, a lot of damage was done," Miles-Sash said.

Others are left reflecting on the potential of the Instagram pulpit, which Orthodox women have wielded to fight racism and antisemitism, share medical information and build businesses. "These women have more followers than any rebbe," Keats-Jaskoll said. "If Jewish leadership was smart, they would harness the power, passion and potential of Jewish women to improve the community." **HW** 

### Washington Trusts Netanyahu and Wants to Work with His Government, Says U.S. Ambassador



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides.

#### Credit: Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90.

(JNS) – U.S. Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides stated last Wednesday that he has faith in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and plans to work with his government.

"At the end of the day, we want to work with this democratically elected government. As Netanyahu said many times, he is very much in charge, and he has his hands on the wheel, and we will work with him to make sure that we keep that car on the road," Nides told "Ynet."

The United States still wants to "keep the vision of a two-state solution alive, which means we focus on taking care of the Palestinian people without compromising the security of Israel," said Nides.

"Our position is very clear, we don't support legalizing any outposts or settlement growth, which will cause us to lose the two-state solution," he said. "We have been very clear. We want to keep things calm; that's our goal, we got Israel's back, and we will work with this government to make sure that occurs," he added.

Regarding a possible normalization agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Nides replied that it was possible, but difficult.

"There is nothing that would make us happier, if, at some point, Saudi Arabia will normalize ties with Israel. It would be great for both countries and the security in the region," he told "Ynet."

"I don't think we're there yet. Obviously, it's a priority, and we will work to achieve that goal, but I'm under no illusion; this is complicated, and this is hard, but we will work collectively to achieve this in the future," he said. Nides also revealed that he has yet to speak with Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. "I'm sure I'll speak with him. I don't boycott anybody; at some point, I'll end up speaking with every member of the government," he stated. **HW** 

Includes covered parking, pool and tennis courts contact belklazmer@gmail.com or 901.734.7372

### **SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- **Driver**—Courteous and reliable person to take you anywhere you need to go in Memphis and surrounding areas: Dr's appointments, Shopping, Errands, Airport. Available weekdays and weekends.
- House Sitting and Dog Sitting—

Responsible adult available to stay with your dogs while you are away. I love dogs!

Contact Rick Danzig: 901-337-6009



#### CULTURE

### Hitler is Alive and in Hiding in Final Season of "Hunters," Amazon's Series about Jews Killing Nazis



Logan Lerman and Jerrika Hinton in the second season of Amazon's "Hunters." Credit: Courtesy of Prime Video

#### **By** Andrew Lapin

Spoilers for the first and second seasons of "Hunters" follow.

(JTA) – When Amazon Prime released the first season of "Hunters" in 2020, it advertised its Nazi-hunting TV show as "Inspired By True Events."

That was true only in the loosest possible sense of the term. Starring Al Pacino and Logan Lerman and produced by Jordan Peele, "Hunters" told a bloody, souped-up, almost entirely embellished story of a Jewish-led team of multiracial Nazi hunters in the 1970s trying to stop a "Fourth Reich" from rising in the United States.

The show was immediately controversial: Series creator David Weil, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, had to defend his show from the Auschwitz Memorial, which harshly criticized "Hunters" for – among other scenes – depicting a human chess game at Auschwitz that never took place.

Despite all that, "Hunters" still had some basis in reality. There were, in fact, a handful of Jewish Nazi hunters active across the Americas at that time, most famously Simon Wiesenthal (played in the series by Judd Hirsch), who did succeed in bringing several prominent Nazis to justice.Three years later, "Hunters" has, similarly, used the historical record as a mere suggestion for its second and final season, which debuted last Friday and tells an outrageous story about hunting Hitler himself. Here's how viewers can separate fact from fiction in season 2.

#### Hitler in Argentina

The end of the first season hinted that things were about to go seriously off the rails, as the "real" Hitler and Eva Braun were revealed to be happily alive and hiding out in Argentina - seemingly validating decades' worth of baseless conspiracy theories about the Nazi leader's supposed escape from his Berlin bunker in 1945. (Also throwing things for a loop: the reveal that Pacino's character, who had presented himself as the hero's Holocaust-survivor grandfather, was secretly the Nazi "butcher" they had been hunting in disguise, and the man they killed after a season-long hunt was the real survivor.) In the second season, the disbanded Hunters reunite in 1979 to follow Hitler's trail to Argentina, where many real-life Nazis did hide out. Meanwhile, in flashbacks to 1975. Pacino's Nazi "butcher" works furiously to cover his tracks as he poses as a successful Jewish businessman and philanthropist in the United States.

spiracy theories regarding Hitler's fate have proliferated, and a good number of them coalesce around the unsupported claim that he, like other top Nazi commanders, was ferreted out of Germany and into South America via a secret underground network. "Hunting Hitler," a recent top-rated History Channel docuseries, milked three seasons out of the idea.

But of course, there were Nazis who successfully escaped persecution at Nuremberg by fleeing to South America, and "Hunters" crafts its Hitler narrative on the scaffolding of their real-life stories. The most infamous case involved death camp commander Adolf Eichmann, who hid in Argentina until Mossad agents uncovered his location and kidnapped him in 1960's Operation Finale to stand trial in Jerusalem.

The Kreisky-Peter-Wiesenthal Affair In the universe of the show, the fake Meyer played by Pacino is friends with Wiesenthal, a seasoned Nazi hunter. When the two meet in 1975 in an early episode of the second season, Meyer congratulates Wiesenthal on his recent success in Austria.

This is a reference to a real-life 1975 political scandal, in which Wiesenthal and a team of researchers revealed the past Nazi activities of Austrian politico Friedrich Peter as the country's Jewish chancellor, Bruno Kriesky, prepared to offer Peter's right-wing party a role in

#### his ruling coalition.

Wiesenthal's actions led to a falling-out between him and Kriesky, who variously called him a "Jewish fascist" and a member of the Gestapo. But the Nazi hunters declared victory over having rooted out the S.S. past of a prominent postwar politician. (Peter's party never joined the coalition.)

'Reclaiming' Jewish-owned businesses in Europe

In an early scene of the second season, one of the disguised hunters walks into an Austrian candy shop in 1979 and innocently inquires how long the shopkeeper has owned it. The store has been in his family for generations, comes the reply.

But, the hunter muses, there is a strange indentation on the doorpost – almost like a mezuzah. Could the shop have, in fact, been Jewish-owned before the Nazis came to power?

It turns out the hunter is right, and the shopkeeper will pay dearly for his denials. Again, the general arc of this narrative starts with real history, as there are countless examples of Nazis having seized Jewish-owned properties and businesses and destroyed the records of Jewish ownership, making it nearly impossible for surviving Jews after the war to reclaim their properties.

Author Menachem Kaiser recently explored how Nazi property seizures altered his own family history in the nonfiction book "Plunder," which won the Sami Rohr prize for Jewish literature.

#### Frank Sinatra's Jewish activism

As part of Al Pacino's character's disguise as a Holocaust survivor in postwar America, he becomes an active philanthropist to Jewish causes. At one point, he can't help but brag that he convinced Frank Sinatra to make a hefty donation.

In fact, the famous crooner, despite not being Jewish himself, was a vocal and documented supporter of Jewish causes. He was presented with awards from Hebrew schools; visited Israel many times and helped build a youth center in Nazareth; owned a \$10,000 yarmulke; and even gave his son, Frank Sinatra Jr., the Jewish middle name of Emmanuel. After Sinatra's death, to avoid paparazzi, his body was hidden in a Los Angeles Jewish funeral home for decades. **HW** 



Camp Scholarship Application Now Online!

jcpmemphis.org/what-we-do/scholarships

Submit camp scholarship applications by February 14, 2023

Jewish Camp Scholarships are available to rising 4th grade students through 12th grade students who will be attending Jewish overnight camps under Jewish auspices.

For more information or questions, please contact Carolyn Pruitt at cpruitt@jcpmemphis.org or (901)-767-7100.





Hitler-survival conspiracy theories seem to, well, keep surviving. In the decades since the war's end, many con-

# Elevating the Human Spirit

#### Watch Them Thrive with In-Home Care

The specially trained caregivers at Comfort Keepers provide meaningful, in-home care so seniors can live independently. From providing companionship to caring for those with dementia, we're here to help your loved one thrive and give you peace of mind.

#### 901-207-8209

Home + Life + Care | ComfortKeepers.com Comfort Keepers of the Mid-South, 5668 S Rex Rd #200, Memphis, Tennessee 38119

 $^{\circ}$ © 2022 CK Franchising, Inc. An international network where most offices are independently owned and operated

#### In-Home Care Services

- Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- Respite care
- Safety solutions

### Temple Israel Girl Scouts to Bring Smiles to Fogelman JFS Special Needs Adults



The Brownies and Juniors of the Temple Israel sponsored Girl Scout Troop 13142 have been busy earning their Girl Scout Way badge this winter. The girls had to plan and carry out a project that focused on a way to make their community better. They decided to make goodie bags for Special Needs adults served by Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (FJFS). The girls decorated the bags with bright and cheerful drawings and then filled each one with items like cozy socks, crossword puzzle books, pens, travel toiletries, and hand sanitizer.

"The girls had a great time working together to make the goodie bags," said troop leader Jennifer Arbeit. "This was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to help others in the community and see how acts of kindness can make a difference."

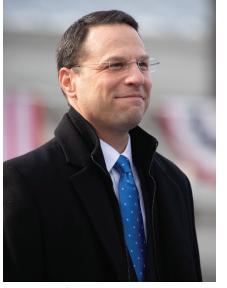
Fogelman JFS Inclusion and Diverse Abilities programs offer a variety of services to those living with developmental and acquired disabilities and their caregivers. Fogelman JFS has a longstanding social group that is designed to enhance independence and quality of life through activities including art, yoga class with Colleen, movies, bowling, professional sporting events, and others.

Fogelman Jewish Family Service also provides professional, affordable, and compassionate case management services to families with children of all ages. Fogelman JFS social workers work with families to feel empowered, maximize the quality of life, and help children reach their full potential.

The Temple Israel sponsored Girl Scout troop began last year and is open to all girls regardless of synagogue affiliation. Currently, there are Daisies (Kindergarten-1st grade), Brownies (2nd and 3rd grades), and Juniors (4th and 5th grades) enrolled in the program – and more are welcome! For more information, contact Edie Efron at edie.efron@ me.com. **HW** 



### Jewish Democrat Josh Shapiro Sworn in as Pennsylvania Governor



Attorney General of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro, Jan. 15, 2019. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – Jewish Democrat Josh Shapiro was sworn in last Tuesday as the 48th governor of Pennsylvania, taking the oath of office on a stack of three Hebrew Bibles.

The first was a family Bible; the second was provided by the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where a gunman killed 11 worshippers in 2018 in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history; and the third was carried by Herman Hershman of Philadelphia on D-Day in 1944, according to the "Associated Press."

Shapiro, who previously served as the state's attorney general, won the November gubernatorial race against Republican opponent State Senator Doug Mastriano.

Shapiro last Tuesday described Pennsylvania as "a place where we believe in opportunity, a place where we believe in real freedom."

He continued: "Now is the time to join together behind the unifying strength of three simple truths that have sustained our nation over the past two-and-a-half centuries: that above all else, beyond any momentary political differences, we value our freedom, we cherish our democracy, and we love this country."

The inauguration included a soldout concert with performances by rappers Wiz Khalifa and Meek Mill, singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson and rock group Mt. Joy.

Pennsylvania is the fifth-most populous state in the United States, and a major battleground in presidential elections. **HW** 

Subscribe Nov Intown \$36 THE HEBI		tate \$50		
901.763.2215 • info@hebrewwatchman.com				
Send Paper To				
Name				
Address				
City	St	Zip		
Phone				
Email				
If Gift, From				

Who's the one person you shouldn't travel without?

Your Travel Advisor

Debbie Rosenthal (901) 682-5600 drosenthal.dreamvacations.com drosenthal@dreamvacations.com



PARTNER BOLINE BOLINE BOLINE

### ALL MEMPHIS TEENS ARE INVITED

to Come and Meet

AMIR SELA Shoham Israeli Pop Culture Expert

### ISRAELI SOCIETY THROUGH THE LENS OF ISRAELI POP MUSIC

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7PM - 8PM Beth Sholom Synagogue

Please rsvp to Carrie Richardson at crichardson@jcpmemphis.org







### This Behind-the-Scenes Look at Disney's New Anne Frank TV Show is Incredible



Credit: National Geographic for Disney/Dusan Martincek

#### **By Lior Zaltzman**

*This originally appeared on Alma. com and is reprinted with permission.* 

A new National Geographic limited series, "A Small Light," is coming out this year, and it will explore the story of Anne Frank through the eyes of Miep Gies, Otto Frank's secretary.

Gies, who died in 2010, was in her early 20s when she started working for Frank. Along with her husband and some of Frank's other employees, she helped hide the Jewish Frank family, van Pels family and Dr. Fritz Pfeffer in the Secret Annex above his office between the summer of 1942 and 1944. She was the one who kept Anne Frank's diary safe after the families were captured by the Nazis.

We already got the first glimpse of the show earlier this month, which showed the families celebrating Hanukkah in hiding. But this weekend, National Geographic released a mesmerizing behindthe-scenes look of this star-studded show – in which Bel Powley plays Gies and Liev Schreiber plays Otto Frank. In the video, you can hear the show's creators – the director of the show's first three episodes, Susanna Fogel, and the show's executive producers and creators Joan Rater and Tony Phelan, as well as the show's stars, talk about the challenges of retelling this iconic, often-told story, and why it still feels so pertinent in 2023.

"It just felt like the right story at the right time," Schreiber, who spent Passover in Ukraine helping feed refugees, says in the video, adding that it's "a story that speaks so profoundly about compassion."

The video includes the scene in which Otto asks Gies to help hide him and his family. "You need to take your time to think it through," Liev as Otto tells her.

"No I don't," Miep replies emphatically, asking straight away what it is she needs to do.

We see Miep's life – full of music and dance, young love and youthful adventures – juxtaposed with this life-endangering, huge undertaking. As Powley says, the show balances this big historical moment with the personal. "Miep's marriage problems weren't going to wait until the war was over; experiencing growing from a girl to woman wasn't going to wait until the war was over," she explains.

The glimpses of the show feel so fresh and human – and full of cheeky humor, thanks to Powley's Miep and Billie Boulet's wonderfully sassy Anne.

We also get to see the terrors of Nazi-occupied Amsterdam – the drama and fear, violence and suspense, soldiers filling the streets, Nazi banners hung on buildings, signs of "Jews forbidden" and wire fences.

The show was shot in Paris, Prague and Amsterdam in the summer of 2022. Shooting around the Frank apartment helped the cast and team behind the show think about – and honor – the people whose stories they were trying to tell.

"Anne's story is still relevant today because racism and antisemitism is still happening in this world. Different formats but it's still happening," Boullet says in the video.

According to Fogel, the show's mission is to make people look at the world differently. As Phelan explains, "Miep's message was always: I am not special, you can do this as well, everybody has this in them to do something like this, to make a difference in someone's life."

"This is not the Anne Frank story you were taught in elementary school," Schreiber said at an event last week. "For me, it gives you a broader perspective on what it is to be Jewish."

There's no release date yet for the eight episodes of "A Small Light," but the limited series will find its way to Disney+ sometime this spring.

In the meantime, if you want more of Miep's story, you can read her memoir "Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family," or, if you want to introduce her to your children ahead of the show, try "Behind the Bookcase: Miep Gies, Anne Frank, and the Hiding Place." **HW** 









We Honor

Veterans

\*

Preparing for Life's Final Journey with Compassion and Care



CHAF

1125 Schilling Blvd. East, Suite 101 Collierville, TN 38017 901-560-3600 www.hospiceofhopetn.com



### HARKAVY SHAINBERG KAPLAN PLC

- Bankruptcy
- Corporate and Business Transactions
- Employment and Labor
- Estate Planning and Probate
- Health Care
- Land Use Planning and Zoning
- Landlord/Tenant Law
- Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Real Estate
- Closing | Leasing Lending | Foreclosure
- Taxation

6060 Poplar Avenue Suite 140 Memphis, TN 38119 901.761.1263 www.harkavyshainberg.com

### New Life for Your Old Insurance Policy

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

Life insurance can serve many valuable purposes. However, later in life - when your children have grown, you've retired, or you've paid off your mortgage - you may no longer think you need to keep your coverage, or perhaps your coverage has become too expensive. You might be tempted to abandon the policy or surrender your life insurance coverage, but there are other alternatives to consider.

#### Term vs. Perm

If you have term life insurance, you generally will receive nothing if you surrender the policy or let it lapse by not paying the premiums. However, depending on your age, your health status, and the time left in the term, you may be able to extend the coverage or convert the policy to a permanent policy. The rules for extension and conversion vary by policy and company.

On the other hand, if you own permanent life insurance, the policy may have a cash surrender value (CSV), which you can receive upon surrendering the insurance. If you surrender your cash-value life insurance policy, any gain resulting from the surrender (generally, the excess of your CSV over the cumulative amount of premium paid) will be subject to federal and possibly state income tax. Also, surrendering your policy prematurely may result in surrender charges, which can reduce your CSV.

#### **Exchange the Old Policy**

Another option is to exchange your existing permanent life insurance policy for either a new life insurance policy or another type of insurance product. Under the federal tax code, this is known as an IRC Section 1035 exchange.

The exchange must be made directly between the insurance company that issued the old policy and the company issuing the new policy or contract. The rules governing 1035 exchanges are complex, and you may incur surrender charges from your current life insurance policy. In addition, you may be subject to new sales, mortality, expense, and surrender charges for the new policy.

#### Why Buy Life Insurance?

Although life insurance has traditionally been viewed as a way to replace income after the death of a wage earner, consumers are more likely to give other reasons for purchasing coverage.

Top reasons Americans buy life insurance (multiple responses allowed)



#### Here are some options for a 1035 exchange.

Lower the premium. If the premium cost of your current life insurance policy is an issue, you may be able to lower the premium by reducing the death benefit, which would not require an exchange. Or you can try to exchange your current policy for a policy with a lower premium cost. However, it's possible that you may not qualify for a new policy because of your age, health problems, or other reasons.

Create an income stream. You may be able to exchange the CSV of a permanent life insurance policy for an immediate annuity, which can provide a stream of income for a specific period of time or for the rest of your life. Each annuity payment will be apportioned between taxable gain and nontaxable return of capital. You should be aware that by exchanging the CSV for an annuity, you will be giving up the death benefit, and annuity contracts generally have fees and expenses, limitations, exclusions, and termination provisions. Also, any annuity guarantees are contingent on the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

Provide for long-term care. Another option is to exchange your life insurance policy for a tax-qualified long-term care insurance (LTCI) policy. Any taxable gain in the CSV is deferred in the long-term care policy, and benefits paid from the tax-qualified LTCI policy are received tax-free. Keep in mind that if an LTCI policy does not accept lump-sum premium payments, you would have to make several partial exchanges from the CSV of your existing life insurance policy to the LTCI policy provider to cover the annual premium cost. A complete statement of coverage, including exclusions, exceptions, and limitations, is found only in the policy. Carriers have the discretion to raise their rates and remove their products from the marketplace.

Whatever option you choose, it may be wise to leverage any cash value in your unwanted life insurance policy to meet other financial needs.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2022 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Investment and Insurance Products are:

Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested HW

### **Advisors**

### Plan upstream towards steady income downstream

A little planning today can make all the difference tomorrow. We can help you design a distribution strategy aimed at preserving your savings and helping to ensure your income stream flows throughout your retirement.

### 'The Images Will Stay with Me for the Rest of My Life': Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Photos Revealed



#### Mike Stein

WELLS

FARGO

Managing Director - Investments 6075 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN 38119 Direct: (901) 761-8151 michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com ttps://home.wellsfarqoadvisors.com/michael.stein

#### Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC Insured N	) Bank Guarantee	MAY Lose Value
--------------------	------------------	----------------

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. © 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0720-03330

#### Jews deported from the Warsaw Ghetto following the revolt of April-May 1943 (Z. L. Grzywaczewski / from the family archive of Maciej Grzywaczewski, POLIN Museum).

(JNS) - POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews revealed last Monday new-found images of the Nazis mercilessly putting down the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Revolt.

Captured in secret by a Polish firefighter while German forces set fire to the Jewish ghetto, the photographs were recently discovered by the photographer's son in a family member's attic.

The photographer, Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski, spent nearly four weeks in the ghetto (most likely between April 21 and May 15, 1943). In a diary he kept during the conflict, he wrote:

"The image of these people being dragged out of there [out of the bunkers - ZSK] will stay with me for the rest of

my life. Their faces[...with a deranged, absent look...figures staggering from hunger and dismay, filthy, ragged. Shot dead en masse; those still alive falling over the bodies of the ones who have already been annihilated."

The uprising lasted from April 19 (Passover eve) through May 16, 1943, and was the largest act of Jewish resistance against the Nazi regime during the Holocaust.

"The Germans sent the firefighters into the burning ghetto – their job was to ensure the fire did not spread to the houses on the 'Aryan' side. It was then that the 23-year-old firefighter took the photos," noted the museum, which is located on the site of the former ghetto. HW

### JScreen Announces the Fourth Annual Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week February 5 – 11 A Week of Powerful Events, Timely Information, and Resources to Raise Awareness of the Importance of Genetic Screening

Atlanta, GA-January 2023-JScreen, a national non-profit public health initiative dedicated to preventing genetic diseases, announces the fourth annual Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week (JGSAW), which takes place from February 5 through 11. Initiated in 2020 with organizational partners across the nation, JGSAW serves to educate the community about the importance of screening for genetic diseases and to raise awareness about testing resources. Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week was officially recognized in the morning orders by the Georgia State Legislature according to the Proclamation Declaring Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week. The goal for JGSAW is to continue to drive awareness about the importance of genetic testing to encourage more people to get screened and to gain the support of donors who make JScreen possible.

Now in its 10th year, JScreen makes genetic testing simple, accessible, and affordable with its easy-to-use at-home saliva kits. JScreen's reproductive test gives prospective parents a deep understanding of their genetic makeup and the risk of having a child with a genetic disease. If a couple's risk is elevated, genetic counselors privately address their results by phone or video teleconference and provide options to help them plan for the health of their future children. JScreen's cancer genetic test alerts a person to their risk for hereditary cancer. Anyone with positive results can take action for the prevention or early detection of many common cancers. By providing convenient at-home access to

cutting-edge genetic testing technology, patient education and genetic counseling services, JScreen strives to prevent devastating genetic diseases and ensure a healthy future for all.

"Our #1 goal is to ensure generations of healthy children and adults by preventing genetic diseases and hereditary cancer. The more people we educate and test, the closer we are to achieving our goal," says Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid, executive director of JScreen.

#### Why Genetic Testing Matters:

Eighty percent of babies with genetic diseases are born to parents with no known history of that disease. Through early genetic screening, potential parents can determine the risk of having a child with a genetic disease before pregnancy, giving them options for family planning and helping to ensure the health of their future children. Approximately 10% of cancers are hereditary, meaning they are related to genetic changes that are passed down in a family. Cancer genetic testing identifies people who are at risk so they can take action to prevent cancer or detect it at an early, treatable stage.

"While JScreen's roots are in the Jewish community, everyone can benefit from comprehensive genetic testing and counseling," said El-Mahdi Holly, State Representative of Georgia HD116. "For the fourth annual Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week, the goal is to ensure that everyone, no matter your race, religion, or background, has access to genetic testing and that all community members have the knowledge to take action, take control, and get screened." During JGSAW, JScreen is offering a \$72-off coupon code. People can register for testing at www.jscreen.org and use code JGSAW23 at checkout to re-

ceive the discount.

For more information about JScreen testing and to become a donor, please visit www.jscreen.org.

#### **Proclamation Declaring Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness** Week

Senate Resolution By: Michael Wilensky

#### **A RESOLUTION**

Designating the week of February 3rd as Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week in Georgia and other purposes.

WHEREAS everyone is a carrier for a number of genetic diseases, and there are certain genetic diseases that are more common in certain ethnicities.

WHEREAS, Jewish people are among the ethnic groups at high-risk for certain genetic diseases, some of which cause early death or severely debilitating symptoms. Non-Jewish people can also be carriers of these and other genetic diseases.

WHEREAS, genetic screening is recommended for any couple thinking of starting or expanding their family.

WHEREAS, carriers are healthy individuals who unknowingly have a mutation in a disease gene. They do not have symptoms, thus the only way they can know if they are a carrier is to get tested or to have an affected child.

WHEREAS, carrier couples have a twenty-five percent risk, with each pregnancy, of having a child affected by the genetic disease they both carry.

WHEREAS, many couples are only offered genetic testing once they are already pregnant and for a limited number of diseases. Educating the community about the importance of comprehensive pre-conception screening is essential to afford couples more options to plan ahead.

WHEREAS, Jewish people are also at higher risk to have mutations in genes (e.g. BRCA) that increase the risk for certain cancers, and knowing those risks can be lifesaving.

WHEREAS, genetic screening is now easily accessible to those in Georgia and nationwide via at-home screening on saliva.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the week of February 3rd shall be set aside and officially designated as Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week in Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press. **HW** 

### Over 1,000 Entities Have Adopted the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism



(JNS) – As of the new year, a total of 1,116 global entities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism. According to the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), this includes 18 U.S. states that adopted the IHRA definition via legislative or executive actions in the course of 2022, bringing the total number to 30. IHRA adoptions by state

Courtesy of the CAM Antisemitism Research Center.

nition of Antisemitism transcends the political and ideological spec-

trum and unites entities and individuals of a broad swath of religious, national and cultural backgrounds," said CEO The Florida Democratic Party; and
Lufthansa Airlines.
An old evil

An old

"This significant phenomenon, which has gained momentum in recent years, pinpoints the Working Definition of Antisemitism as a major tool in the contemporary struggle against antisemitism," said Prof. Dina Porat, a CAM Advisory board member and the Alfred P. Slaner Chair for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University. "Its adoption by a host of varied entities reflects a wish to stand up against an old evil and newer ones, as part of a global effort to improve the international arena." have a crucial role to play in confronting antisemitism where it is most directly felt – on the streets of the communities where Jews live their day-to-day lives," Roytman-Dratwa noted.

The CEO of CAM went on to say that the business sector is an important area with "room for growth" in utilizing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

"The fallout from scandals involving celebrities such as Kanye West and Kyrie Irving underscored why companies must have the means to properly identify and react to expressions of antisemitism," she said. "Both West and Irving lost lucrative endorsement deals with the likes of Adidas and Nike over their antisemitic rhetoric and behavior. "Meanwhile, the ongoing explosion of online antisemitism, particularly on social media, highlights the need for major platforms to enact stricter policies for the detection, monitoring and removal of hateful content, as well as the banning of purveyors of bigotry like West." The Biden administration – which has said it "embraces" the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism – announced in December the creation of an inter-agency task force to develop a "national strategy to counter antisemitism." CAM is a global coalition engaging more than 600 partner organizations and nearly two million people from a diverse array of religious, political and cultural backgrounds in the common mission of fighting antisemitism. CAM acts collaboratively to build a better future, free of bigotry, for Jews and all humanity. HW

American cities such as Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., El Paso and Wichita have all adopted the definition, as have seven out of the 10 Canadian provinces (including British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswickand Saskatchewan).

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism was adopted in 2016 and has since become the most widely recognized barometer in the collective effort against Jew-hatred, serving as an essential tool to identify and delineate contemporary manifestations of this age-old bigotry. A diverse array of international organizations, national and local governments and corporations are now using it.

"Support for the IHRA Working Defi-

of CAM Sacha Roytman-Dratwa. "The surpassing of the 1,000 milestone since a previous report compiled by the Combat Antisemitism Movement is a telling indicator of the far-reaching impact and influence of the definition and its accompanying 11 explanatory examples of prejudiced and discriminatory behavior against Jews.

"While the rise in antisemitic incidents has been alarming, the tidal wave of global support for the Jewish people is undeniable and greatly encouraging," Roytman-Dratwa said.

The growing list of entities adopting the Working Definition of Antisemitism includes:

- The Philippines;
- Colombia;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Vancouver, British Columbia;
- Tuscany, Italy;
- The City University of New York;
- The University of Pittsburgh;

In December, CAM held a Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Athens, Greece, to foster a conversation among more than 50 municipal leaders from around the world, including New York City Mayor Eric Adams, on the most effective ways to deal with antisemitic bigotry and violence.

In a year that began with the hostage situation at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, and concluded with the Ye (formerly Kanye West) controversy, major North American cities are following in the footsteps of European capitals such as London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna in adopting the IHRA Working Definition.

The largest category for adoptions and endorsements in 2022 consisted of non-federal government entities, including municipalities, counties, and state and provincial governments, with 58 in total, including 32 in the U.S.

"Local authorities and law enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction

### Tu B'Shevat; The Fig Tree Speaks Up



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

#### **Ted Roberts**

A fable tells that on the second day of creation not only the animal kingdom, but the world of trees lined up before their Creator. They were to be named and receive their specifications; their appearance and characteristics, just like the animals. Some were pretty and would attract nesting birds. Some were ugly and dangerous like the thorn tree - some were majestic like the Cedars, whose destiny it was to support the temple. Some were tall – some were short. They were just like the races of man internally, the laws of divine physics operated – anatomically, they were the same inside, but outside they looked different.

They all lined up to be assigned a homeland where they would be comfortable. The Palm could not live and shiver in Northern latitudes, for example, and the Spruces needed snow and ice and a frigid North wind to survive.

All of the trees had one wish in common – they wanted to live in the Holy Land, the land given to G-d's chosen people. The Birch family, a large family with many aunts and uncles, were crushed with disappointment - their limbs drooped, their leaves wilted when they were told that they could not live on the coastal plains of Judea.

Then the same judgment was pronounced on the giant Redwoods. They wept like Willows when they were assigned to California. The angels groaned. Such a rich source of building material for the temple.

Every tree stood before the throne and received its mission and traits. Everyone agreed that the Oaks were blessed not with beauty, but with fertility. They, like the salmon, put forth tens of thousands of offspring. The lucky Maple was assigned wings to its seed so that one Maple on a mountainside could make Maples as far as ten miles away - and further. The wind delivered its children worldwide. G-d's design was infallible.

Other trees - not so reproductively blessed - were given beauty in the Spring. The Tulip Tree, the Cherry, the Magnolia; they all left happy and dispersed themselves, according to their assignment throughout the green, new world.

Finally, they all breathed a sigh of relief. Their missions were assigned. Their characteristics were stamped into their seed forever - just like the covenant was stamped into the seed of Abraham. But the Olive tree and the Fig tree, so small they were hidden behind a tall boulder, had been overlooked. "What about us," they cried. "What shall we do besides clutch the earth of the Holy Land with our finger-like roots?"

"You shall feed and shelter my people," pronounced the Lord. To the Olive tree he granted the flavorful olive, with its oil - full of health - that enhances the flavor of all food. To the lowly, humble Fig he gave the gift of sweetness. So sweet, in fact, that when he was offered the kingship of all the trees, he rejected it. He basically says I'd rather be sweet than king. (You don't believe me? Check Judges, Chapter 9.)

"Yes," said the Lord, "you shall nourish and shelter my chosen people. You shall thrive in the climate I have planned for the Holy Land."

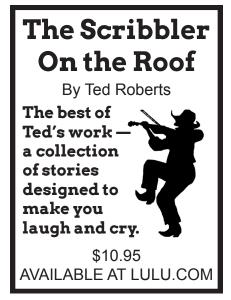
The Fig and Olive trees exulted in their life giving roles. But the Fig tree, proud and outspoken because he preserved the modesty of the newlyweds in the garden, spoke right up.

"Master of creation, maker of scrubby little trees like me and the giant Cypress that drains the swamps of your Holy Land, may I. .... "

"Yes, yes, what is it?" interrupted the Lord. Time was passing and HE had to finish all the rough edges of creation in six days so there could be a Shabbos. What good is a world without the Sabbath?

"Well," continued the stumpy little tree, "If you don't mind, could you write it down in your book - I mean the part about me feeding your chosen people. Such an honorable role should be clearly defined, should it not?"

The Lord nodded in agreement. And that's why if you go to the book of Micah, you'll see it clearly written, "Ev-



ery man shall sit under his Fig tree, and none shall make them afraid." He's talking about us 2,000 years ago.

"Now," spoke the Lord, "may we proceed with creation?"

After all, he still had to form the firmament; planets and constellations and galaxies. And the orbital mechanics to design so they wouldn't bump into each other. Remember, it was already the third day.

"Just one more thing," whispered the sweet, but bold bush who invented chutzpah, "how 'bout a holiday just for us trees?" His wish was granted. So, thanks to the Fig tree for Tu B'Shevat.

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

### Israel Insights From Underground to the High Ground

#### By Howard Weisband

It is most difficult to step away from politics in Israel... even as I write this column Israel's Supreme Court has ruled 10-1 that Aryeh Deri, head of the Shas party and a key part of the coalition, given his recent criminal convictions for tax fraud, cannot serve as a Government Minister "due to the appointment's unreasonableness" (following Israeli law) and the Shas Chairman's plea bargain in which he promised that he would not return to public life. The next days will determine how the Prime Minister, Deri himself, and the Shas party will react and do, and if the Government may be able to solve the crisis in order to stay in power. Stay tuned.

However, I would like to take a break from politics and share a very meaningful meeting and moment from last week, both for me personally and in our understanding of recent Jewish history and contemporary Jewish life.

1970. A group of young Jewish dissidents who were denied exit visas, plot to hijack an empty plane and escape the USSR. It started as a fantasy, Operation Wedding, as outrageous as it was simple: Under the disguise of a trip to a local family wedding, the "hijackers" would buy every ticket on a small 12-seater plane, so there would be no passengers but them, no innocents in harm's way. The group's pilot (a dissident himself) would take over the controls and fly the 16 runaways into the sky, over the Soviet border, on to Sweden, bound for Israel. Caught by the KGB a few steps from boarding, they were sentenced to years in the gulag....'

One of those dissidents, better known as Refuseniks, was Yosef Mendelevich. He spoke following our watching the documentary here in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Yosef Mendelevich was 22 in 1970, and an underground teacher and organizer of Jewish and Zionist activity in the Soviet Union. He dreamt of making Aliyah and the hijacking was his way to do so having been refused by Soviet authorities. Instead, he spent

11 years in the Soviet gulag until his release and his Aliyah in 1981 following a global campaign as part of the struggle to free Soviet Jewry, "Let My People Go!" Today he is a husband, father, and grandfather, and a teacher of Jewish studies at Machon Meir in Jerusalem, where he is able to take the high ground!

We in Memphis, often organized through Federation activity, were part of that struggle: community-wide, nationally, and internationally. I personally identified especially with Yosef Mendelevich given his underground Jewish teaching and outreach. Through those years as part of the global campaign, I wore a bracelet on my wrist with his name engraved on it. Ultimately, in Jerusalem as part of my responsibilities as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), I had the opportunity to work with both Natan Sharansky and Israel to spend a year of study in Jerusalem as a college graduate. Eventually we both fulfilled the traditional precept "Next Year in Jerusalem," and realized our respective dreams of living in Israel and raising our families in the Jewish State.

I recommend that you read Yosef Mendelevich's 2012 memoir "Unbroken Spirit: A Heroic Story Of Faith, Courage and Survival." In addition, there are several YouTube clips of his teaching and speaking that you might watch, and of course the documentary mentioned above, "Operation Wedding."

In summary, I can only add "Am Yisrael Chai"... The Jewish People Lives!

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

Kayla and I attended a showing of a recently produced documentary titled "Operation Wedding". (I recommend you watching it on YouTube.) Its description is as follows: "Leningrad, Yosef Mendelevich.

Yosef and I were born in the same year. Our paths to Israel and eventually Aliyah obviously were dramatically different. At 22, when he had been denied, arrested, and jailed, I freely travelled to

### Pentagon Transferring Arms Stationed in Israel to Ukraine – Report



IDF Artillery Corps near the border with Syria in the Golan Heights, Jan. 2, 2023. Credit: Ayal Margolin/Flash90.

(JNS) - The Pentagon is dipping into a store of American ammunition in Israel to help Ukraine replenish its dwindling supply of artillery shells, the "New York Times" reported last Tuesday.

"With stockpiles in the United States strained and American arms makers not yet able to keep up with the pace of Ukraine's battlefield operations, the Pentagon has turned to two alternative supplies of shells to bridge the gap: one in South Korea and the one in Israel," the "Times" reported, citing Israeli and American officials.

While intended for U.S. military use

in the Middle East, Israel is permitted to access the stockpile during emergencies.

"Artillery constitutes the backbone of ground combat firepower for both Ukraine and Russia, and the war's outcome may hinge on which side runs out of ammunition first, military analysts say," the "Times" reported.

Ukraine has largely expended its Soviet-era munitions and switched over to artillery donated by the U.S. and other western powers.

Israeli officials said that Jerusalem hasn't changed its policy of only providing Ukraine with humanitarian aid.

The stockpile of weapons and ammunition is normally reserved for the U.S. to use in Middle East conflicts.

"Based on a U.S. request, certain equipment was transferred to the U.S. D.O.D. [Department of Defense] from its stockpiles" in Israel, the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. 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

### StandWithUs Files Complaint Against George Washington U, Alleging Antisemitism



Students march against antisemitism at George Washington University, Nov. 2, 2021. Source: American Jewish Committee/Twitter.

(JNS) – The Israel education organization StandWithUs (SWU) has filed a complaint against George Washington University with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, alleging a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The complaint alleges "a pervasive, hostile, and discriminatory environment for Jewish and Israeli students within the Professional Psychology Program" at the university in the U.S. capital, the NGO announced last Thursday.

The complaint says Prof. Lara Sheehi, a facilitator of the program's mandatory diversity course, targeted Jewish and Israeli students in a pattern of persistent, discriminatory and retaliatory acts. It alleges that this denies students, on the basis of their identities, the right to equal educational opportunity and treatment.

"A professor singling out and target-

ing Jewish and Israeli students for adverse treatment because of their identity is textbook antisemitic discriminatory conduct," said StandWithUs CEO and co-founder Roz Rothstein.

SWU alleges that during the Fall 2022 semester, Sheehi repeatedly targeted Jewish and Israeli students in the program's diversity course by disparaging and attacking their identities and encouraging others in the program to do the same. In one particular instance, Sheehi invited and supported a guest lecturer who invoked age-old antisemitic tropes about Jews being dishonest and using their influence for nefarious purposes. The lecturer also expressed support for violence against Israeli ci-vilians.

When the students raised concerns about the antisemitic harassment they were experiencing, Sheehi denied that what the students experienced was antisemitism and accused the Jewish students of attacking other identity groups. StandWithUs says that Sheehi only treated Jewish and Israeli students in a discriminatory manner, depriving them of the opportunity to define their own identity.

#### **Retaliation against Jewish students**

Sheehi later retaliated against the Jewish students when they brought her disparaging and differential treatment to the attention of university administrations, by targeting the most vocal students among them and slandering their reputations to other faculty members in the department. Sheehi also subjected the students to baseless disciplinary proceedings, while the university took no steps to protect the students and their reputations from retaliation by the professor.

StandWithUs says that the university enabled the retaliatory punitive proceedings to proceed without any investigation into their merit.

"George Washington University has failed to provide adequate protection for the Jewish and Israeli students seeking redress from Professor Sheehi's persistent antisemitic bigotry in and out of the classroom," said Yael Lerman, founding director of the SWU Legal Department. "Instead, George Washington administrators disregarded the students' allegations and enabled a professor to retaliate against those students after they sought the administration's help in fighting discrimination.

"In doing so, the university has violated its obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and indicated that it permits institutionalized antisemitism against its Jewish and Israeli students," Lerman said.

The StandWithUs complaint outlines the following measures the university should undertake to remedy this situation:

1. Reverse all punitive and retaliatory measures taken against the Jewish students who expressed concern about a hostile education.

2. Offer those students an alternative professor or accommodation to fulfill program requirements that take them out of Sheehi's orbit and influence.

3. Open a full and immediate investigation into all student complaints about antisemitism by Sheehi and take all appropriate remedial action.

4. Institute mandatory bias and sensitivity training for all students, faculty and staff in the program.

5. Adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and require that members of the program utilize it when evaluating claims of antisemitism both in and out of the classroom.

"The hostile environment at the George Washington Professional Psychology Program and the failure of the administration to act to correct it are unacceptable," said Carly Gammill, founding director of the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism.

"Too often, when Jewish students raise concerns about antisemitism, they are subjected to gaslighting or false claims meant to cause self-doubt and deflect the bigotry at play. Jewish and Israeli students deserve the same level of respect and consideration as all other minority groups when they report cases of bigotry and discrimination," Gammill said. **HW** 



# 901.300.3938 MisterTree.com

Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates