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## Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 25 SHEVAT, 5783 FEBRUARY 16, 2023 VOL. 101, NO. 21

## IDF Delegation Lands in Earthquake-Stricken Turkey to Set Up Field Hospital



Members of an Israel Defense Forces delegation search for survivors in earthquake-ravaged Turkey, Feb. 7, 2023. Credit: Israeli Foreign Ministry.

(JNS) –An Israel Defense Forces delegation arrived in Turkey last Wednesday morning to set up a field hospital in the wake of the massive earthquakes last week that have so far claimed the lives of more than [28,000 at the time of this printing] people there and in neighboring Syria.

The delegation comprises more than 230 medical and emergency response experts and was sent as part of the IDF's "Operation Olive Branches" humanitarian effort in Turkey.

The delegation is being led by Col.

Elad Edri, head of the Home Front Command Search and Rescue Brigade.

The team will also assist a 150-member Home Front Command delegation that started operating on the ground in Turkey last Tuesday.

United Hatzalah of Israel has also sent a delegation of 25 first responders to Turkey.

Maj. Gen. Rafi Milo, head of the Home Front Command, defined the overall mission as providing immediate assistance through life-saving efforts.

"This will include quickly mapping

out the sites hit by the earthquake. In parallel, the delegation is preparing to provide medical assistance to individuals rescued from the sites hit by the earthquake," said the IDF.

The military said last Wednesday morning that during overnight operations it had rescued a young Turkish woman from under the rubble.

At least three other people have since been saved by the Israeli humanitarian delegation.

In recent years, the IDF Home Front Command has developed a system that can generate a situational picture of very large areas, which links together first responders, the government, the Home Front Command's rescue teams and local authorities.

Parts of the system have already been used to save lives abroad. Home Front Command crews that traveled overseas to take part in international rescue missions have used it to help coordinate activities all over the world, from Japan, Nepal, Mexico, Brazil to closer to home in Cyprus. The system is able to display more than 250 layers of data and show the real-time locations of emergency responders.

The IDF has led 31 search and rescue delegations abroad over the past 40 years.

A massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake

ripped through Turkey and Syria early last Monday, toppling buildings and causing shockwaves felt across the region, including Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Israel.

The quake struck just after 4 a.m. local time, 23 kilometers (14.3 miles) east of Nurdagi, Gaziantep Province, at a depth of 17.9 kilometers (11.1 miles) and was followed just over 10 minutes later by a 6.7 magnitude aftershock, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Just before 1 p.m. local time, a 7.5 magnitude quake struck 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) southeast of Ekinözü, Turkey, at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), said the USGS.

The USGS has since recorded dozens of aftershocks of greater than 4.0 magnitude, which along with harsh winter weather have made recovery efforts more difficult.

Emergency medical services in Turkey and Syria said that the death toll was expected to rise in both countries as potentially thousands of people remained trapped under collapsed structures.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog spoke last Monday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and asked him to relay encouragement to the entire Turk-

(See Earthquake Page 2)

## 2 Jewish Community Leaders Missing in Antakya, Turkish City Devastated by Earthquakes

By David I. Klein

ISTANBUL (JTA) – After initially sounding the-all clear in the hours after a devastating earthquake last Monday, the Turkish Jewish community now says that two prominent members remain missing in Antakya, a city near the Syrian border with a long Jewish history.

The leader of the Jewish community of Antakya, Saul Cenudioğlu, and his wife, Fortuna, have been missing since their apartment building collapsed in the first of two quakes last Monday morning, according to Cenudioğlu's niece, Ela.

Ela Cenudioğlu described her uncle as "a visionary leader committed to the Jewish community and the values it represents." She said he had, since his birth in 1941, lived in Antakya, where the family operated a textile business.

Saul "did everything in his capacity to have the small Jewish community of Antakya thrive and connect with the rest of the communities in Turkey and the world," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I deeply hope that he and

his wife (who has always been a mother to me) come out of this safely, for all I wish is to see his kind smile and hug him again."

A grim toll is continuing to mount in Turkey, where the official death toll has already exceeded [28,000 at the time of printing]. More than 1,200 buildings were destroyed in Antakya's province alone and over 6,000 are estimated to have been destroyed across southern Turkey, and rescue teams are racing against time to identify people who might be buried alive under the rubble.

Saul's brother, Azur Cenudioğlu, was in Antakya during the quake but managed to get out safely, according to "Ynet." About his brother and sister-in-law, he said, "I am going back there to look for them and fear I may not find them alive."

Antakya's 100-year-old synagogue was also heavily damaged. Video circulated on social media showing community members retrieving Torah scrolls

that appeared to be damaged.

Jews have been present in the city, known in antiquity as Antioch, for millennia, since its founding under the Selucid empire. The city was governed by Antiochus, the villain of the Hanukkah story; is frequently mentioned in the Talmud; and was a major center of Jewish scholarship in ancient times. Once closely associated with the larger Jewish community of neighboring Aleppo, the city's Jewish population had dwindled to just 14 in recent years.

Now, Turkish Jews say, it's unlikely that any will remain.

"The end of a 2500-year-old love story," the Turkish Jewish Community's president, Ishak Ibrahimzade wrote on Twitter.

"Along with our historical Antakya Synagogue, 2500 years of Jewish life came to an end with this great pain...," the Turkish Jewish community tweeted with a picture of the synagogue's Torah scrolls being removed from a severely

damaged room.

Israeli aid workers from a variety of organizations have landed in Turkey and plan to assist in search, rescue and recovery in the devastated southeastern portion of the country. Many expect to be in the region for weeks to come.

"We're headed to Gaziantep with emergency relief supplies including water filters, water filtration systems, hygiene kits, mental health and resilience kits," IsraAid's spokesperson told JTA. "In the first two weeks we'll assess the needs on the ground, and explore a wider range, longer term response."

An immediate concern is providing safe shelter for those who were displaced by the quakes.

"We woke up at 4 a.m. and the house was shaking," Azur told "Ynet." "We left in our pajamas and slippers and were unable to take anything with us. Our prayer shawls and tefillin are all buried under the rubble and we are left with nothing." HW

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### Bornblum to Hold Dueling Pianos Gala and Cash/Car Raffle

On Saturday night March 4 someone will become \$20,000 richer as Bornblum Jewish Community School holds its second-ever Cash/Car Raffle. The winner will be drawn that night at the end of its Dueling Pianos Gala.

Bornblum is known for putting on memorable gala evenings. Returning for the first time since Covid, the Dueling Pianos Gala will feature two well-known local musicians, Adam Levin of Heart Memphis Music and Joe Boogie, who will treat the crowd to an evening of popular music set in a fun and sophisticated night club atmosphere.

"Dueling Pianos shows are so much fun," says Jaclyn Marshall, co-chair of the event. "The crowd is always into the music, singing and dancing along, and we're excited to have two of Memphis' most well-known and talented musicians for the night."

In a charitable twist, the Dueling Pianos event gives Bornblum supporters the chance to "tip" to have their choice

of song played. The bigger the "tip" the more likely the musicians are to play a song. All "tips" will benefit the school and its many vital programs.

The evening will also feature dueling cocktails, great appetizers and desserts, and a student upcycled musical art auction. According to Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, "Classes have each used a wide variety of old instruments and reimagined them as functional art pieces." These art pieces will be available for purchase through a silent auction at the event.

The finale of the evening will be the drawing of the winner of the Cash/Car Raffle. The lucky winner will have their choice of a 2023 Subaru Crosstrek or \$20,000 cash. Tickets are \$50 each and winners do not have to be present to win. The raffle and gala are sponsored by Whitmor, Inc.

Tickets for the Cash/Car Raffle and the Dueling Pianos Gala can be purchased online at bornblum.org/donate. **HW** 



#### Earthquake...

(Continued From Page 1)

ish people following the disaster.

Erdoğan thanked Herzog for his good wishes and for the rescue mission and underscored that this assistance will greatly aid the many forces that have been operating on the ground for many hours already, Herzog's office said. Erdoğan also emphasized his gratitude for Israel's stand alongside its friend in this difficult hour.

Earlier last Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel received a request to provide humanitarian equipment to assist Syrians injured in the earthquake in Syria, adding, "I have instructed that this be done as well."

Hebrew media reports said the request was passed on by Russia, adding that Israel would send medicines, tents, blankets and other equipment to the Assad regime. "Ynet" cited a senior political source as saying that Jerusalem would also agree to treat injured Syrians if asked to do so.

However, the Syrian "Al-Watan" newspaper said Damascus denied Israeli reports about a request for help from Israel. **HW** 

### Hebrew Watchman

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#### **Memphis Candlelighting Time**

Weekly Torah Portion: Mishpatim

#### Nazi-Era 'Resistance Fighter' Exposed as Concentration Camp Guard

(JNS) – Irmgard Kroymann (1921-2005) was renowned as a heroine who was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in the Gross-Rosen concentration camp in Lower Silesia. Following the Second World War, she became a trade union leader known as a vigorous defender of women's rights and a fighter against antisemitism.

For her bravery, Germany decorated Kroymann with its highest honors including the Grand Cross of Merit, the Order of Merit of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

But according to historian Anne Prior, Kroymann's account of her life during the war was a pack of lies. Prior revealed her findings last month in her essay published in German journalist and Holocaust historian Götz Aly's "Our National Socialism" anthology.

"Unlike West Germany, documents in East Germany were archived meticulously and when the regime collapsed in 1989 an entire wealth of information was suddenly made available," Prior told the "Jewish Chronicle."

The archive included Kroymann's work files and her job application to work at the Nazi camp. At the same time, Kroymann revealed to journalists in West Germany that she had applied for financial compensation while claiming she was a victim of the Third Reich.

"Kroymann lied to herself and the public about her true role during the Nazi years," said Christoph Heubner of the International Auschwitz Committee, who shared Prior's shock upon learning of the findings. **HW** 



#### February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and **Inclusion Month**

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Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAA-IM) was founded in 2009 with the goal to raise awareness and acceptance of Jewish people with disabilities. Fogelman JFS Inclusion and Diverse Abilities program offers 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, cooking and yoga classes, movies, bowling, professional sporting events, community service activities, and fine arts events. Fogelman JFS provides advocacy support to those with legal or social difficulties, as well as compassionate case management services to families with children of all ages. One month of awareness is NOT enough; come check out the display during the month of February in the MJCC lobby on how you can make a person living with a disability feel included in Jewish life all 12 months of the year! **HW** 

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#### Was this Ohio Magistrate Fired for Being Jewish? A Federal Jury Said Yes.

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – An Ohio woman who alleged six years ago that she had been fired because she was an observant Jew has won \$1.1 million in damages after a federal jury sided with her.

Kimberly Edelstein had been working as a magistrate in Butler County, Ohio, when she asked her supervisor – a judge - for eight days off during the fall High Holidays, according to the lawsuit she filed in 2017.

"Holy cow, eight days!" Common Pleas Judge Greg Stephens yelled back at her, according to the lawsuit. She was fired four days later and claims the judge and two prosecutors named in the lawsuit disparaged her to other employers, making it difficult for her to find work.

Her lawsuit spun through the court system where she once worked for the next several years. Judges dismissed Edelstein's claims against one prosecutor and ruled against her appeal of the case against the other. But they allowed her religious discrimination claim against Judge Stephens to go forward to a jury trial, saying there was evidence that could find the judge's dismissal "at least in part" motivated by Edelstein's desire to observe the Jewish holidays.

The trial against Judge Stephens began Jan. 23 and included testimony from a rabbi. The jury returned its verdict late last Friday, taking less than a day to deliberate.

"The jury's finding is an important reminder that the law provides protections to those seeking accommodations for religious beliefs and practices," Rabbi

Ari Ballaban, director of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a statement. "Neither employers nor government institutions may retaliate against Jews (or other religious minorities) for seeking to exercise their protected religious rights."

The jury's finding comes amid growing attention to workplace antisemitism. A recent nonscientific survey found that a significant portion of hiring managers said they are less likely to advance candidates who are Jewish; while the survey had flaws, it ignited a conversation about whether workplace antisemitism could be rising alongside other expressions of antisemitism in the United States.

Edelstein's case has cost Butler County, located outside Cincinnati, at least \$100,000 in legal fees to date, according to local reports, and more than 200 documents have been filed. It may not be totally over.

"We strongly believe that the evidence didn't support the verdict and we're considering options," an attorney representing Judge Stephens told the "Journal-News," a local paper.

Edelstein's case had been met with some skepticism from the local legal community. She "had a very poor reputation around the courthouse," Daniel Phillips, a Jewish former assistant prosecuting attorney in Butler County, wrote in a 2019 letter to Cincinnati's Jewish newspaper, the "American Israelite."

"Many people advised Judge Stephens to terminate her when he took office. He rejected that advice and gave her a clean slate and an opportunity to succeed," Phillips wrote at the time. "When she failed to act in [a] professional manner and produce quality work, he fired her. Because of her failures she is now besmirching three good men with the taint of racism. That is shameful." Phillips was elected to the position of county juvenile court judge last year.

Court filings show that Edelstein accused Stephens, who is also a Baptist pastor, of "extreme Christian" beliefs and of following a doctrine with an "attitude toward Jews," and also said that his court had made fun of her description of Passover preparations.

In 2019, as her lawsuit was making its way through the courts, Edelstein told the "Cincinnati Enquirer" she had experienced suicidal thoughts after being unable to find work. She applied for nearly 200 jobs in the aftermath of her firing but didn't get any of them, she said, adding that she had resorted to using food pantries to feed her family. Court documents showed that Jewish Vocational Services, a local nonprofit, was reluctant to help her for fear of litigation.

"I've lost my career and I didn't do anything to deserve this," she told the "Enquirer." She also reportedly told friends she wished she wasn't Jewish and stopped going to synagogue. Subsequent posts on her Facebook page indicate she has continued to observe at least some Jewish practices.

Edelstein did manage to briefly land one legal job, in a courthouse near Bowling Green, but lied to her bosses about being fired from her previous job and was forced to resign months later.

Edelstein has mostly represented herself in these proceedings. She briefly retained the services of a local attorney who left the case after five weeks, telling the judge that "the client does not cooperate with counsel." HW

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### Illinois Taxpayers Footing \$1 Million Bill for Group Inspired by Antisemitic Nation of Islam



Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan speaks about the Kyrie Irving and Kanye West antisemitism scandals, Nov. 10, 2022.

Source: The Collective 9/ YouTube.

#### By Bradley Martin

(JNS) – Throughout its nearly 95year history, the Nation of Islam has been "notorious for its antisemitism, homophobia and anti-white bigotry," the Southern Poverty Law Center notes.

The Chicago-headquartered religious group has "a consistent record of antisemitism and bigotry," and its leader Louis Farrakhan has said contemporary Jews are "not really Jews but are in fact Satan" and "the enemy of God and the enemy of the righteous," among many antisemitic statements, the Anti-Defamation League adds.

The sixth most-populous U.S. state

and its Jewish governor appear to have missed the memo. In 2021 and 2022, Illinois shelled out half a million dollars to the Nation of Islam, and it is slated to fund the hate group another half a million this year. This support in taxpayer monies comes at a time when antisemitic incidents in the U.S. have hit an alltime high.

Chicago has had its share recently of synagogue desecrations, vandalism and violent attacks against Jews, and Gov. J.B. Pritzker and other Jewish state lawmakers have been targets of antisemitism.

Yet a report by Focus on Western Islamism – a project of the Middle East Forum – revealed that Illinois is paying out substantial amounts of money to a group that is inspired by the Nation of Islam.

Susannah Johnston, an investigative reporter for the one-year-old site, which Daniel Pipes publishes, found via public records that the Build Illinois Bond Fund – established by the state in the mid-'80s to promote economic development – gave \$500,000 to the Coalition for the Remembrance of Elijah Muhammad (CROE) in 2021 and 2022. The state intends to give another \$500,000 to that group this year.

Muhammad, who died in 1975 and was a disciple of Nation of Islam founder Fard Muhammad, has his own hateful track record. The Nation of Islam leader, who appointed Farrakhan, "promoted the idea that white people were created by an evil Black scientist and that Black

people are the superior race," according to the ADL.

A man who answered the phone at the Coalition for the Remembrance of Elijah Muhammad but did not give his name said the coalition is "the archives for the Nation of Islam."

Per the CROE website, Halif Muhammad, its co-founder and secretary, joined the Nation of Islam in 1968. Of Shahid Muslim, its co-founder and director and a Nation of Islam first lieutenant, the CROE website states, "Ask Shahid a question about the Nation of Islam under the Messenger and it will spark a passionate and loving monologue of a time gone by." By "messenger," it means Elijah Muhammad.

The Southern Poverty Law Center notes that Elijah Muhammad "invited American Nazi Party boss George Lincoln Rockwell to the NOI's 1962 Saviours' Day Convention. Rockwell spoke at the event, christening Elijah Muhammad 'the Adolf Hitler of the black man.'" Muhammad preached that Jews are greedy and that they killed Jesus, per the SPLC.

Johnston told JNS that the Illinois governor's office and state legislators have chosen to ignore the facts presented to them.

"It's very concerning that the Illinois government is financially supporting a group with such deep-rooted antisemitic and racist beliefs," she said. "Illinoisans should hold their representatives accountable."

So why is the state funding antisemit-

ic groups in already-dangerous times? The governor's office did not respond to phone and email requests for comment from JNS. Reached by email, the Jewish United Fund, Chicago's Jewish Federation, declined to comment.

Leonard Matanky, a rabbi and the dean of the modern Orthodox high school Ida Crown Jewish Academy in Skokie, near Chicago, was unaware he and fellow Illinois residents were paying \$1 million to a group that is aligned ideologically with the Nation of Islam.

"If such a thing has occurred, I would be very concerned," he told JNS. "The hate speech by Farrakhan is clearly beyond the pale, and the Nation of Islam, as a result, has always been a concern for our community."

Were Farrakhan's followers to act on his teachings, they would exacerbate an already-deteriorating situation with rising U.S. antisemitism.

At Congregation KINS of West Rogers Park, where Matanky has held the pulpit since 1994, there has been vandalism, including broken windows.

"There is no synagogue in this state where the doors are unlocked," he said. "This is not the case for Muslim or Christian places of worship, even if they are right next to a Jewish house of worship."

The only way to combat antisemitism effectively in Illinois, and the rest of the country, is via education and working with communities, according to Matanky.

"There needs to be a strong message that antisemitic attacks are not tolerated." he said. **HW** 

## Actor Josh Gad Shares Personal Story of Grandfather's Holocaust Survival for Nonprofit If You Heard What I Heard

(JNS) Los Angeles-based nonprofit, If You Heard What I Heard, is proud to announce the release of Josh Gad's interview as part of its digital storytelling collection to preserve Holocaust memory and make it relatable for today. Gad's

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\$10.95 AVAILABLE AT LULU.COM interview is one of 40 interviews in total and is the nonprofit's first celebrity interview since launching in April 2021.

"To be able to share my grandfather's story of survival during the Holocaust at a time where we're seeing so much antisemitism, I hope those watching will gain a better understanding of the dangers of antisemitism, and how important it is that we all stand up to it," said Gad. About participating in If You Heard What I Heard, Gad continued, "The work being done by If You Heard What I Heard is critical to ensuring we, as a society, make sure the world will never forget stories like the harrowing ones my grandparents shared with me."

Of working with Gad, Founder and Executive Director, Carolyn Siegel shared, "Josh is an exceptional storyteller, and he's able to bring the audience into his grandfather's experience in an immersive way. You really come away from his interview with care and empathy for who his grandfather was, what he survived, and inspired by the

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reverence Josh has for his grandparents in regards to the resilience with which they rebuilt their lives." She continued, "Working with Josh has been a meaningful experience from the start. Our goal is to make sure the world will never forget about the Holocaust, and having his presence, dedication, and passion for sharing his grandfather's story helps us in achieving that goal. I'm honored Josh trusted If You Heard What I Heard with sharing his grandfather's story, and

Josh's important takeaways for all of us for today."

Self-filmed on iPhone by Gad, Siegel collaborated with professional filmmaker Steven Hentges to edit the footage, ensuring the audience would be both captivated and inspired by Josh's words.

As of today, the public can get a glimpse into Gad's personal history and relationship with his grandparents by watching his interview exclusively at www.ifyouheardwhatiheard.com. **HW** 

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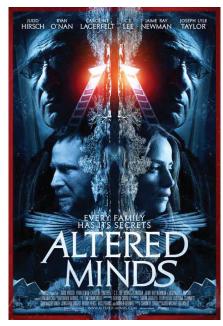
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## Critically Acclaimed Psychological Thriller Altered Minds, Starring Celebrated Academy Award-Nominated Actor Judd Hirsch (The Fabelmans), Available Now on Most Top Streaming Platforms



(JNS) – Legendary, Oscar-nominated actor Judd Hirsh is certainly having a career resurgence with his recent Oscar best supporting actor nomination for his work in Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans." The renowned actor was first nominated for the golden statue for his work in "Ordinary People," directed by Robert Redford, in 1980. With the increased interest in his work, Hirsch's lead role in filmmaker Michael Wechsler's award-winning, critically acclaimed psychological thriller "Altered Minds" should not be overlooked.

"Many consider Judd's lead performance in "Altered Minds" as one of the best performances of his illustrious career," explains Wechsler. "However, due to the film's limited promotional budget, his stellar work did not receive the recognition it truly deserved."

In "Altered Minds," Hirsch stars in the central role of Dr. Shellner, a Nobel Prize-winning psychiatrist and father of five, who was rumored to have worked for the CIA during the Cold War and is accused by one of his own children of conducting experiments in MKUltra mind control. (\*during the 1960s and 70s there were reports of the U.S. government conducting mind-altering

# Jewish Women's Archive: Rising Voices Fellowship Calling for Applications

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Know a teen writer passionate about Judaism, feminism, and social justice? JWA is accepting applications for the 2023-2024 Rising Voices Fellowship! The Rising Voices Fellowship is a lead-ship development program for Jewish

ership development program for Jewish young women\* in grades 10–12 with a passion for writing and an interest in Judaism, feminism, and social justice who want to participate in a community that centers the experiences of Jewish women.

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As we seek to build a pluralistic and representative community of Rising Voices Fellows, we strongly encourage applications from LGBTQ+ teens, teens of color, teens with disabilities, and Mizrahi and Sephardi teens. HW

experiments on its citizens – acts where the lines of science fiction and reality became blurred.) During a family reunion, Dr. Shellner's adopted son, Tommy, (played by Ryan O'Nan), makes the stunning accusation that his father, who is dying of cancer, conducted psychological experiments on himself and his siblings. Is the good doctor a monster?

Is the family's house a torture chamber? Are Tommy's visions fragments of his own mental instability or is it PTSD left over from his childhood? A night of revelations ensues, which brings forth truth, disbelief, grief and introspection, defining the mask of a loving father against the backdrop of a winter storm.

"I'm thrilled that new generations of

film lovers are discovering Judd Hirsch and his outstanding work over the years," comments Wechsler. "Judd was born to play Dr. Shellner in 'Altered Minds,' and I hope more people will discover his work in the film. I'm hoping this Oscar noise can lead more of his fans to my film, as well a to one of my favorites, 'Running on Empty,' in which he also stars." HW



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#### Beth Sholom Lehrhaus Presents 'Jews on Trial: The Ritter Ritual Murder Case' Feb. 21



Dr. Daniel Unowsky's talk, "Jews on Trial: The Ritter Ritual Murder Case," takes place at Beth Sholom, February 21 at 7pm.

For centuries, Jews were accused of engaging in ritual murder to obtain the blood of non-Jews for religious purposes. In the decades around 1900, this seemingly medieval accusation was given a new sheen of legitimacy by modern court systems that would be recognized by anyone today. In these cases, Jews in central and eastern Europe were put on trial for ritual murder, prosecutors presented forensic evidence, police testimony, and "expert" witnesses.

Professor Daniel Unowsky will explain how blood-libel trials fueled increasing antisemitism when he presents "Jews on Trial: The Ritter Ritual Murder Case" as part of Beth Sholom Synagogue's popular Lehrhaus lecture series on Tuesday, February 21 at 7 p.m.

Professor Unowsky will give brief overview of the history of Blood Libel/ Ritual Murder accusations and the reemergence of such charges in the late 19th century. He will then focus on one case in particular, the Ritter Affair in the Habsburg province of Galicia in the 1880s. The outlandish accusation at the center of this case - that Moshe and Gittel Ritter had murdered a Christian woman in accordance with alleged Jewish religious requirements - was filtered through the Austro-Hungarian justice system. An increasingly literate society devoured news about the Ritter trials and appeals. Politicians used the Ritter case for partisan purposes.

A member of Beth Sholom Synagogue, Professor Unowsky currently serves as the Chair of the Department of History at University of Memphis. He received his PhD in Central and Eastern European History from Columbia University and has published four books as author and co-editor, including two books on antisemitism and violence in central and eastern Europe in the modern period. He also serves as editor of the "Austrian History Yearbook," the major English language academic journal devoted to the history of the Habsburg/post-Habsburg lands.

Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom takes its inspiration from The Free Jewish House of Learning, the school for Jewish studies and adult education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt in 1920. Lectures in this series are free and open to the general public. For more information, visit bsholom.org. **HW** 

### Judicial Reform Opponents Call for Nationwide Strike on Monday



Thousands of Israelis rally in Tel Aviv against the government's proposed judicial reforms, Jan. 21, 2023. Credit: Gili Yaari/Flash90.

(JNS) – Organizers of [last] Saturday night's mass protests against the Netanyahu government's planned judicial reform called for a nationwide strike during a press conference last Tuesday.

"We call on the citizens to notify the workplaces today that they will not work on Monday and go out into the streets. This is the most important struggle for the state – the struggle for Israel's independence as a Jewish and democratic state," the organizers said.

Former Minister of Defense and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. (res.) Moshe Ya'alon, one of the protest leaders, asked that business owners allow their employees to go out and protest on Monday.

"Rule of the majority is not the tyranny of the majority in any democracy," he said.

"The current government intends to

crush the judiciary because of the personal entanglements of the prime minister, ministers and Knesset members who were convicted of violations of the law, Ya'alon said. "That's why I define them as a criminal and illegal government, with a black flag flying over it."

The organizers chose Monday because that's when the first vote in the Knesset plenum concerning judicial reform will take place.

"This is the day when the first laws of the dictatorship are supposed to be passed, and we call on citizens to go up to Jerusalem to demonstrate in front of the Knesset starting at noon," the organizers said in a statement.

"[Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's plan to underhandedly pass the laws of his dictatorship will run up against the people of Israel, more determined than ever to preserve their independence," they said.

MK Simcha Rothman, the chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee overseeing the government's judicial reform plan, returned from the U.S. recently confident that he had allayed concerns from allies about the repercussions proposed to Israel's judicial system.

"All democratic countries elect their judges in a democratic manner, except Israel," Rothman, from the Religious Zionism Party, said. "If [what the government is proposing in terms of judicial selection] means we don't have an independent judiciary, then that means no democratic country in the world would have one either."

"We are trying to undo what a group of oligarchs, who sat in one room, decided with zero public debate," he continued. "To tell us we're not listening to anyone – that's not true. We are solving a problem that was made by people doing exactly that."

Reform advocates argue that the Supreme Court has no right to overturn Knesset laws. In 1995, then-Supreme Court President Aharon Barak announced a "constitutional revolution." Barak based his decision on two Basic Laws (basic laws are considered to have greater legal stature than regular laws) passed in the early 1990s – Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. Barak declared they were "the supreme law of the land and constitute part of Israel's constitution." He has since become the bête noire of reform advocates, described as a kind of "evil genius."

Reform advocates point out that law-makers who voted on those basic laws didn't know they were creating a constitution at the time, noting that Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation passed by a vote of 32 to 21 towards the end of the 12th Knesset when lawmakers' attention was already turned to the next election. **HW** 



### BBYO Tikkun Olam Project at Dixon Gallery & Gardens



On Sunday, February 5 the Jewish community gathered for a special Tu B'Shevat event at Dixon Gallery & Gardens.

BBYO teens celebrated the holiday of the trees by volunteering at the event. They helped create tree trunk necklaces, decorated pots to plant a seed and more! Stella Blenn, a current BBG, "loves this Jewish holiday and was so excited to give the trees a birthday party!"

Tikkun olam is important part of being a BBYO member and giving back to our Jewish community means a lot to each of the participants.

Many more projects are scheduled for this semester! **HW** 







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#### Talk About These Money Matters Before the Wedding

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 predictions come to pass, 2022 will be the biggest year for weddings since 1984, with the culmination of many postponed or delayed celebrations in addition to regularly scheduled events. There are expected to be about 2.5 million weddings in the United States in 2022, according to the Wedding Report, an industry trade group, up from 1.9 million in 2021. There were roughly 2.1 million weddings each year between 2009 and 2019, before the pandemic-shortened wedding season of 2020 (1.3 million).1

If you are engaged to be married, or might be soon, it's important to consider how this change in your relationship (and legal status) will affect your finances. Discussing the following topics well in advance may keep surprises and disagreements from disrupting your newlywed bliss.

**Share debt stories.** Many Americans bring college debt into their marriages, and some individuals have had bankruptcies or other severe credit challenges. Taking a close look at both credit reports may help resolve debt and credit issues before they spiral out of control.

Discuss banking and bill paying. Working together to prepare a preliminary household budget may help you start off on the right foot. If you decide not to pool all your income and assets, make sure you clearly define what belongs to each of you separately and what you will share. Some married couples use a joint account for living expens-

es and separate accounts for personal spending.

Look closely at company health plans. You may need to coordinate two sets of workplace benefits, so keep in mind that many companies apply a surcharge to encourage a worker's spouse to use other available coverage. Compare the costs and benefits of having both of you on the same plan versus keeping your individual coverage with each employer.

Anticipate joint income taxes. Most married couples pay more total tax when they file separately than when they file jointly. But there are rare occasions when filing separate returns could result in a lower combined tax liability or provide another benefit. For example, if you or your fiancée have federal student loans, filing separately might help you qualify for a lower monthly payment under an income-based repayment plan. But you could also lose certain tax credits and pay more income tax, so it's important to weigh your options carefully.

Combining your incomes could land you in a higher (or lower) tax bracket. To avoid owing money at tax time, you may want to use the estimating tool on the IRS website (irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator) to check and adjust your employer withholding. If it turns out that you will receive a larger refund, you might reduce your withholding and put that money to better use (such as paying off debt or boosting savings).

#### Paying for the Party

The national average cost of a wedding in 2021 was about \$28,000, a figure that includes the rehearsal dinner, ceremony, and a reception with 105 guests – but not the engagement ring (which averaged \$6,000) or the honeymoon. Of course, the average price tag varied greatly by location, from \$16,000 in Oklahoma to \$47,000 in New Jersey. With inflation soaring, many couples are facing significantly higher costs, and greater competition for in-demand vendors, in 2022.











\$1,800

\$2,300



Source: The Knot, 2022

**Consider a prenuptial agreement.** A prenup is a written contract that states how assets will be owned during the marriage and divided in the event of divorce. A prenup may be unnecessary if the engaged couple are both young and have comparable wealth levels. But if either partner owns (or expects to inherit) substantial assets – or has significant debts – crafting a premarital agreement may be worthwhile.

Prenups are commonly used to help protect the financial interests of children from a previous marriage or to account for other special circumstances. If a couple intends to pay off one partner's student loans together early in the marriage, an agreement might credit the other spouse for that help in the event of a divorce. Similarly, if one partner expects to support a spouse through professional school (law or medical), an agreement may stipulate how he or she will share fairly in the professional's future income.

You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax and/or legal professional.

1) The New York Times, February 10, 2022

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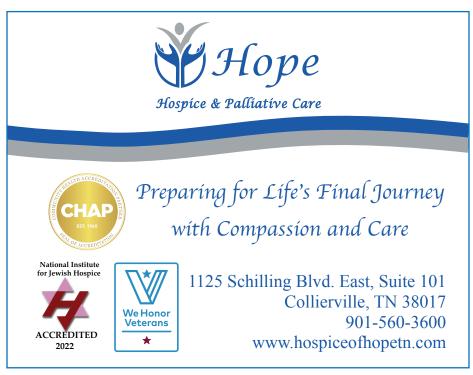
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#### Burt Bacharach, Sophisticated Jewish Hitmaker of the '60s and '70s, Dies at 94



Composer Burt Bacharach (left) and lyricist Hal David hold Oscars they won for "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" from "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," at the Academy Awards, April 7, 1970.
Credit: Bettmann/Getty Images

#### By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – Songwriter Burt Bacharach, who with his longtime lyricist Hal David turned out a string of hits in the 1960s and '70s – including "Alfie" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head" – died last Wednesday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 94.

Bacharach and David, both Jewish New Yorkers, also wrote a host of songs that made Dionne Warwick a megastar, such as "Walk on By," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" and "I Say a Little Prayer."

The duo came to fame while working in the Brill Building – a Midtown Manhattan mecca for music publishing that housed a slew of Jewish songwriters, including the teams of Carole King and Gerry Goffin and Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. But unlike their peers, who wrote for the burgeoning teen market, their songs were marked by a certain elegance and romance that drew more on the Great American Songbook and Broadway than rock 'n' roll.

Fittingly, the pair collaborated with Broadway producer David Merrick on the 1968 musical "Promises, Promises," which yielded two hits, including the title tune and "I'll Never Fall in Love Again." That show too had a strong Jewish pedigree: The book by the legendary playwright Neil Simon was based on the 1960 film "The Apartment," written by Billy Wilder and I. A. L. Diamond.

Bacharach grew up in Forest Hills, Queens; his father was a journalist and his mother an amateur musician. He recalled in his 2013 autobiography, "Anyone Who Had a Heart," written with Robert Greenfield, that "no one in my family ever went to synagogue or paid much attention to being Jewish."

And yet Jonathan Freedman, author of "Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity," told the "New York Jewish Week" in 2013 that what made Bacharach's music Jewish was his "wild play with time signatures; he is to time signatures what [George] Gershwin is to chord changes." He called Bacharach "really audacious and experimental," an example of what he sees Jewish artists doing as they "enter popular forms and make them their own."

Bacharach was also the first composer to be featured in the experimental jazz musician John Zorn's late-1990s "Great Jewish Music" series; in the CD's jacket notes, Zorn thanks him for not changing his name and points out that Bacharach is "one of the great geniuses of American popular music – and he's a Jew."

In the 1970s Bacharach split with David and Warwick and entered into a new collaboration – and third of four

marriages – with lyricist Carole Bayer Sager, another Jewish New Yorker. Their best-known song was the AIDS fund-raising anthem "That's What Friends Are For."

Bacharach remained busy nearly to the end of his life, with his later activity including collaborations with the rock star Elvis Costello. He won seven Grammy awards in all, the latest in 2006 for his pop instrumental album "At This Time." In 1983, at the height of the British "New Wave" in rock, a synth-pop version of the then 20-year-old Bacharach-David song "(There's) Always Something There to Remind Me" by Naked Eyes climbed into the Billboard Top Ten.

Bacharach would eventually reunite with Warwick and with David. In 2012, 40 years after they were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and shortly before David died at age 91, Bacharach and David received the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song – named for the Jewish composer to whom Bacharach had long been compared. HW

#### **OBITUARIES**

Selby Barrach



It is with great sadness that we inform the community of the death of Selby Barrach on January 25, 2023. He leaves his wife, Teri Barrach, his children Brian Barrach (Andrea), Michael Barrach, Craig Barrach (Roxane) and Brandon Ryan, as well as three grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, Max and Janie Barrach, and sister Noreen Freiden.

A private service was held in Ocala, Florida.

Messages of condolences may be sent to: barrachfamily@gmail.com **HW** 

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#### Lee Rose Harmel Malkin



Lee Rose (Lee) Harmel Malkin, aged 78, passed away from medical complications of a recent illness at Baptist East Hospital on February 4. She married Arthur (Tim) Malkin on December 6, 1964, and they shared a wonderful and happy life together.

Lee was born to parents Albert and Jane Harmel in Youngstown, Ohio, on November 26, 1944, the middle of three siblings. The family moved to Memphis in 1950. Lee loved sports, especially basketball, spending hours playing with her brothers.

Upon graduation from East High School, she attended the University of Missouri before returning home to attend the Art Academy of Memphis. After meeting Tim and a brief courtship, they were married 10 days after her 20th birthday. While raising their three children, Lee was active in the Jewish community. She was instrumental in helping with the Russian Jewish resettlement program through the Jewish Federation, enjoyed directing and performing in various shows at the Jewish Community Center and led adult missions to Israel with Tim. With a passion for singing, Lee sang not only in the choir at Temple Israel, but also in the Synagogue choir when Tim and she moved to Surprise, Arizona, for over decade. She was an avid reader and loved most of all spending time with her family, especially her eight grandchildren who knew her as "Marmi." Lee will be remembered lovingly by her family and friends for her warm and friendly demeanor, gentleness of spirit and dedication to her community.

Lee was preceded in death by her parents, Jane and Albert Harmel, and her brothers, Paul Harmel and Robert Harmel. She is survived by her husband, Tim, her children, Laura Malkin Tanenbaum (Alan), Arthur Malkin (Andrea), Amy Malkin Filderman and Lee Filderman. She also leaves eight grandchildren (Jacob and Grant Malkin; Rachel, Claire and Josh Tanenbaum; Matthew, Hannah and Emma Filderman).

The funeral was held at Temple Israel Cemetery on February 7, 2023.

Messages of condolence may be sent to: malkinfamilylove@gmail.com

Donations in Lee's honor can be made to Temple Israel, Memphis Jewish Home or Plough Towers. **HW** 

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## From Mel Brooks to Elaine May to Ethan Coen: Producer Julian Schlossberg Writes Memoir about Working with Jewish Stars Over 6 Decades



Julian Schlossberg, center, is shown with Elaine May and Alan Arkin. Schlossberg's memoir looks back at all the celebrities he met – many of them Jewish – during his career as a prolific producer. Credit: Courtesy of Julian Schlossberg

#### By Stephen Silver

(JTA) – On a couple of occasions in Julian Schlossberg's early life, he found himself in parts of the United States where some people he talked to had never met a Jewish person. The first was a stint in the Army, the second was while selling movies to rural television stations

But over the next six decades – once Schlossberg embarked on a long and successful career that included stops as a Hollywood studio executive with Paramount Pictures and later as a prolific distributor of movies and producer of off-Broadway and Broadway shows – he was rarely the only Jew in the room ever again.

Schlossberg tells those stories and many more in his new memoir "Try Not to Hold It Against Me: A Producer's Life" (Beaufort Books). He writes about how he went from a child in the Bronx to an influential show business figure who mingled and worked with countless movie stars, having enjoyed a long career that shows no signs of being over at age 81.

Schlossberg was born in 1941, and grew up in what he describes as a middle class family, in a Bronx neighborhood that at the time was heavily Jewish and Irish. His father, Louis, played semi-

pro baseball, but as Schlossberg writes in the book, turned down the chance to play for a team in Kansas City in part because "there were almost no Jews in baseball." Instead, Louis spent most of his professional life working in Manhattan's Garment District.

The family lived near the Kingsbridge Armory, then likely the largest of its kind in the world, which hosted conventions, car shows and rodeos that came through the city at the time. Those rodeos, in fact, were Schlossberg's introduction to showbiz.

"I would go as a kid and just revel in the fact that I was meeting these incredible stars," he said.

Meeting stars would eventually become commonplace. Before and after his time in the Army in the early 1960s, Schlossberg worked as a cab driver, a busboy, a waiter, a counselor, a typist and more while taking college classes at night. He got a job at the ABC in 1964 and worked his way up the company's ranks

"I had decided, as a very young man, that since I didn't have a law degree or a dental degree or a medical degree, I was going to learn every aspect of show business that I could," he said. "I didn't know what it was going to do, but I knew that knowledge was power, and that if I had knowledge, maybe I'd get some power."

He would live out that goal, working in just about every area of entertainment, from radio to movie distribution to theater producing. (He goes back and forth on which one he likes best.)

In the 1970s, he hosted an AM radio show called "Movie Talk," for which he interviewed hundreds of movie stars. WMCA station executives wanted Schlossberg to use a different stage name, to sound less Jewish.

"They didn't want it to be 'a Jewish name,' and I said, 'Wait a second – if I'm going to be on the air in New York City, I can't be a Jew?' So they gave in, and I kept my name," he said. "You kind of want to remember the times you did stand up, I guess. Not that it was a giant standing up, but I would have not done the show if they had asked me to change my name, because it made no sense to me."

Speaking of Jews, Schlossberg has worked with a virtual who's-who of famous Jewish entertainers over the years, from Neil Simon to Lillian Hellman to Sid Caesar to Mike Nichols to Peter Falk to Ethan Coen. And the ones he didn't work with, he hung out with socially. Barbra Streisand invited him to a famous birthday party (that ended up taking place at Liza Minnelli's house), and Mel Brooks has always greeted him as "Schloss Berg," as if his name were two words.

Schlossberg's film production credits range from the 1994 British mystery "Widows' Peak," starring Natasha Richardson and Mia Farrow; to the 1980 "No Nukes" documentary that filmed an anti-nuclear weapons concert with the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Jackson Browne; to a revival of the long-buried version of Orson Welles' "Othello."

In 1995, Schlossberg worked with three prominent Jews on one off-Broadway production: a set of one-act plays performed together each night, called "Death Defying Acts," written by Woody Allen, David Mamet and Elaine May. Schlossberg later produced the Broadway adaptation of Allen's movie "Bullets Over Broadway," while May, whom Schlossberg likens to a sister, contributed the forward to his book.

"Elaine is, as I've written, the smartest person I've ever met, and probably one of the most talented if not the most talented, because there is nothing that she cannot do," Schlossberg said of the now 90-year-old Oscar, Tony and Grammy winner. "She's a great actress, she's a great writer, and she's a great director. And she's a hell of a friend."

At one point in his career, as he details in one chapter, Schlossberg crossed paths with another Jewish producer: Harvey Weinstein. When Weinstein was young, the now-disgraced serial sexual harasser approached Schlossberg and asked him to teach him the movie business. The two men worked together for a time, although eventually they fell out.

"I never in my wildest dreams thought he would hit the heights that he hit, or the depths that he sunk to. Never," Schlossberg said.

Another of Schlossberg's mentoring experiences ended on a more positive note. Mark S. Golub, a rabbi, came to Schlossberg for advice in the late 1990s on learning the theater business. Golub, who died late last month at 77, went on to become a prolific Broadway producer and the founding president of the Jewish Broadcasting Service channel.

It was a fruitful partnership: Golub learned about the industry, and Schlossberg absorbed lessons about Judaism.

"It was a very interesting combination, of somebody who certainly knew a great deal about Judaism, and myself, who was learning a lot by that time about [Judaism]," Schlossberg said. "It was interesting to me to be partners with a rabbi."

Schlossberg had several projects set to go at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, but when the industry shut down, he wrote his memoir instead. Now he's looking to rev up some of those projects. Next up on the docket is "Tales From the Guttenberg Bible," an autobiographical, four-character play written by and starring the Jewish actor Steve Guttenberg. It is now set for its world premiere in April, at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

"I think audiences will respond to it, because he's so kind and personable and living... a nice Jewish boy," Schlossberg said of Guttenberg. **HW** 

#### Israel Police Rabbi Calls for Citizens to Arm Themselves in Synagogues on Shabbat

(JNS) – The chief rabbi of the Israel Police penned an open letter last Tuesday to rabbis throughout Israel urging them to advise congregants to carry firearms on Shabbat, "Arutz 7" reported.

In his letter, Rabbi Rami Brachyahu said the measure was necessary following the Jan. 27 Palestinian terrorist attack that killed seven people at a synagogue in Jerusalem's Neve Yaakov neighborhood.

History has proven that religious neighborhoods and synagogues were a target for terrorists, wrote Brachyahu, according to the report.

"In deliberation with prominent rabbis and on the recommendation of relevant police authorities, I appeal to the rabbis of Israel to instruct their communities that everyone who has a license to carry a firearm should carry that firearm with them on Shabbat, especially during prayer times in the synagogues," he said.

He also said that synagogues should

maintain the ability to call authorities at any time in the event of an emergency.

"It is appropriate that every synagogue have a kosher cell phone [on the premises] that can be used to call the police if, God forbid, an emergency occurs. Halachically, in any event of concern for 'risk to life,' the police must be called, even on Shabbat," he said.

Jewish law, or halacha, generally prohibits the use of electronic devices on the Jewish day of rest, which occurs weekly from sundown on Friday to sundown of Saturday.

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir vowed last Tuesday to push through a fivefold increase in weapon permits in the wake of last month's deadly attack.

Ben-Gvir has directed the Firearms Licensing Department to increase the number of new permits issued from roughly 2,000 to 10,000 per month, according to a statement from his Otzma Yehudit Party. **HW** 

#### San Francisco Tries Alleged Chabad Center Shooter with Hate Crimes

(JNS) – The district attorney said this is "another deplorable example where our Jewish community has been targeted for who they are and what they believe."

The San Francisco district attorney has charged a local man with two felonies and hate crimes after he allegedly entered a Chabad center and began firing a weapon during a study session. The dramatic moments were captured in videos, which circulated widely in the news and on social media.

Authorities allege that on Feb. 1 at 7:20 p.m., 51-year-old Dmitri Valerie Mishin entered the Schneerson Center and began firing. They also allege he fired a weapon at a local theater the day before. He is charged with "making threats obstructing exercise of religion," disturbing a religious meeting and brandishing a replica firearm. Insofar as

there is a charge of obstructing religion, prosecutors also allege he committed hate crimes.

"This is another deplorable example where our Jewish community has been targeted for who they are and what they believe," Brooke Jenkins, San Francisco's district attorney, said in a statement. "There is no doubt that antisemitism is real, and we must stand with our Jewish community against it."

The DA's office will ensure there is "zero tolerance for hate" and "no safe haven for those who perpetrate these crimes."

The Vulnerable Victims Unit, which Jenkins established to prosecute cases where crimes have been committed against seniors, as well as hate crimes, will try the case.

If convicted of all charges, Mishin faces up to 10 years in prison. **HW** 

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#### Memphis Jewish Federation Momentum Reunion



Participants in Memphis Jewish Federation's four Momentum trips to Israel and their spouses gathered for a Momentum reunion with former Obama speechwriter and celebrated author Sarah Hurwitz at the home of Mary (Momentum 2022) and Corey Trotz. Hurwitz inspired the group through her recounting of her journey to connect with her Judaism culminating in her book, "Here All Along." The program opened with Beth Sholom's Rabbi Sarit Horwitz leading Havdalah and closed with JCP President & CEO Laura Linder leading attendees in "Od Yavoh Shalom Aleinu," a staple song of Momentum Israel trips.











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