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Memphis Jewish Federation and Fogelman Jewish Family Service Partner to Launch 'BeWell' Memphis



'BeWell' Memphis Team: Rebecca Fray, Rashki Osina, Kayla Salomon and Emily Davis

By Melinda Lejman

For most families, the term “first-aid” likely conjures images of a kit filled with Band-Aids and antibacterial ointment used to treat skinned knees and minor cuts. But when it comes to navigating the more complex challenges of teen mental health issues, where do parents and their children turn? Thanks to a grant from Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), Memphis Jewish Federation (Federation) will now partner with Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (Fogleman JFS)

to launch *BeWell Memphis* and train facilitators to provide teen wellness strategies in the community. The \$16,000 grant is part of JFNA’s *BeWell: Helping Teens and Young Adults Thrive* initiative in partnership with the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and is a response to national trends indicating teen wellness issues post-COVID. Recent statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health indicated that almost half of teens between the ages of 13-18 live with a mental dis-

order. Data collected by Federation via a parent and teen survey further indicated the need for mental health intervention. Of the teens surveyed, 78.9 percent reported experiencing excessive worrying, fear, and anxiety and 68 percent reported sadness or depression. Parents noted the difficulty of finding appropriate and affordable mental health services and the need for access to programming geared toward teens and families. Grant Beeber, a member of the Teen Wellness Task Force formed by Federation earlier this year, volunteered to go through the mental health first aid training. “I learned a lot regarding mental health disorders, stigma, challenges, and how to communicate with your peers,” shared Grant. “It really was eye-opening to me how much information is really behind this, and I think when more people in our community experience it, we will all benefit.” The Teen Wellness Task Force, co-chaired by Rashki Osina, Fogelman JFS Director of Social Services, and Kayla Salomon, social worker with the Shelby County schools and BBYO advisor, was born out of Federation’s Needs Assessment and Planning Collaborative formed in early 2022. The purpose of the Collaborative is to establish a data-driven process that collects accurate and useful data to help determine com-

munity needs and necessary financial resources. Based on information and national trends exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, teen wellness was one of the early specific task forces formed as a result of the Collaborative. “A Federation collaborative can bring together all of the different agencies in the community and we have already seen huge success with the Senior Collaborative,” shared Susanne Landau, chair of the Needs Assessment and Planning Collaborative. “I think this is a role that Federation plays very well. One of the powerful things about this initiative and the other collaboratives is knowing that the issue really touches everyone.” The *BeWell* grant awarded from JFNA will be used to train facilitators in Youth Mental Health First Aid and Teen (Peer-to-Peer) Mental Health First Aid, including Emily Davis, LMSW, and Rebecca Fray, LPC-MHSP, both therapists at Fogelman JFS, as well as Teen Wellness co-chair Kayla Salomon. Once facilitators are trained in the First Aid programs, they will begin offering workshops to teens, parents, and teen professionals on how to recognize symptoms and signs in teens and encourage teens to seek help. “People forget that mental health is health,” says Kayla. “You know, if you

(See **BeWell** Page 2)

New Executive Director Leads Baron Hirsch Congregation



Robert and Havah Schneider Credit: Rivka Braverman

By Shoshana Center

There’s a changing of the guard at Baron Hirsch Congregation (BH), with Robert Schneider now officially at the helm of the shul that was founded more than 150 years ago. His new role

as executive director began in mid-December, with previous exec dir., David Fleischhacker, leaving the position he’s held for 20 years to make Aliyah with his wife, Chany. Since the Fleischhack-

ers aren’t leaving until mid-February, David has graciously helped Robert acclimate to his new responsibilities. “Already, Robert has been instrumental in helping us review and renew several vendor contracts, he’s taken the lead in dealing with facility issues, and is becoming familiar with our finances and all the business aspects of the congregation,” said David. “Robert has had the opportunity to meet many members and has been involved in planning upcoming smachot, kiddushes, and shul events. He’s an excellent addition to the first-class staff we have built at Baron Hirsch. He will be an asset to both our professional staff and lay leadership in achieving great things for the congregation.” Robert and his family moved to Memphis 10 years ago. He has an extensive professional background in IT, operations, and facilities management, with a bachelor’s in management information systems from Yeshiva University. He’s pulling from his prior work experiences –especially his previous position as IT and property director at the Memphis

Jewish Community Center (MJCC), which he held for 10 years – and applying it to BH. “Many of my duties at the MJCC have prepared me well for the BH executive director position. It was so gratifying in my MJCC role to use my skills for the community in a meaningful way,” noted Robert. “I really enjoyed making personal connections with MJCC members, lay leaders, board members and colleagues, and I look forward to similar interactions at BH. I hope to continue that special connection by working within this great community.” As Robert learns the ins and outs of BH, he’s working on evaluating the shul’s technology to determine the system’s best features, what can be updated, and how he can support the unique needs of Baron Hirsch while staying in budget. “Having nonprofit experience,” added Robert, “has given me a helpful outlook in finding opportunities to enhance the shul, which is a pillar of Jewish Memphis.”

(See **Baron Hirsch** Page 2)

BeWell...

(Continued From Page 1)

have diabetes, you get medication for that. If you break a bone, you go to the doctor. [Mental health] is not embarrassing. And for us to be able to put a little bit of a Jewish twist on it makes it different from what you could normally get in the city.”

Although mental illness and mental health are becoming less stigmatized, it may not be a top priority for people to address, especially among teens with busy schedules. “We’re trying to break through that barrier by providing these courses that are nationally known and evidence-based, where each participant gets a certificate after completing the course,” says Rashki. “And we are going to provide community service hours for the teens that come. So yes, we’re trying to teach, but also break through the stigma and these barriers that have been put up and have been very hard to break through.”

“A lot of times, teens are going to each other as the first line of defense,” adds therapist Emily Davis. “The course is empowering for teens to know what to look for among their friends as well. So, they can be an advocate for their friends and accepting of help.”

There is also an adult component for adults who work with teens to learn to spot things that might need to be addressed and provide resources that don’t necessarily require a professional.

“It makes everything way more accessible, and decreases the need to go to multiple people or find a good therapist,” shares therapist Rebecca Fray. “It’s more about, ‘Have you tried self-care? What do you do to feel better? Here’s what I do to feel better.’ And it becomes more of a conversation and an exchange of information, as opposed to lessons learned from adults to kids.”

Mental Health First Aid trainings will be available at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Please check the Fogelman JFS website for details on open classes and opportunities. The first class, open only to teen professionals who work in the Memphis Jewish community, will



Susanne Landau, Chair, Federation’s Needs Assessment & Planning Collaborative

take place on February 15. Private trainings with an on-site facilitator are available for organizations for a small fee.

In addition to programming, per the grant requirements, Federation’s Teen Wellness Task Force will evolve into a Memphis Resiliency Roundtable modeled after JFNA’s national Resiliency Roundtable. The Memphis one will include representatives from all Jewish youth groups, schools, and synagogues, as well as community members passionate about this issue.

“I’m very excited that we were awarded a grant of \$16,000, and we’ll use that money to train facilitators and empower teens and parents with the knowledge and strategies gained from the first aid courses,” shares Cindy Finestone, chair of Memphis Jewish Federation. “From there, with the help of Fogelman Jewish Family Service, we hope to gather feedback to see what’s resonating with our teens and what’s resonating with adults, and then follow up and offer additional programs to reverse some of the trends that we’re seeing.”

To learn more about *BeWell Memphis*, schedule an organizational on-site training, or to hear about other mental health services offered by Fogelman JFS, please contact Rashki Osina at rosina@jccmemphis.org. **HW**

My Teen Israel Experience

Steve Blen, son of Alison and Scott Blen, is a junior at Memphis University School. Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip last summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online.

To learn more and apply, please go to: www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund.

By Steve Blen

I have gone to camp every summer since I was 8 years old, and I have been with the same people for all of these years. I will never forget this past summer learning and having fun in Israel with my lifelong friends from Jacobs Camp. Rabbi Jeff Dreifus flew to Israel with my group and was with us for the first Shabbat at the Western Wall in Je-

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2/2/2023



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. February 3, 2023 / 12 Shevat, 57835:12 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. February 4, 2023 / 13 Shevat, 5783 6:10 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Beshalach



Steve Blen enjoying his NFTY experience in Israel

rusalem. We took a picture with him and the Memphis kids on my trip.

My favorite part of the trip was the “Sea to Sea” excursion. We slept under the stars for four nights and met people from many other Jewish summer camps. We hiked in the desert, sat around campfires at night and saw beautiful scenery every day. I still keep in touch with some of the people I met. I especially enjoyed the visits with Arab families and hearing about what their life was like. These meetings gave me the opportunity to see things from their perspective and the chance to expand my world view. We also met people in the IDF and heard about their experiences. I was surprised to learn that they were not much older than me and impressed by their bravery.

I also enjoyed normal days where we just hung out in Israel playing volleyball with kids on the beach and visiting families in their homes.

I saw my first cousin, Sydney Ellen, who was interning in Tel Aviv, and I ran into my sister, Stella, in a flea market, while she was traveling on a BBYO trip. My twin sister, Sarah, was on the same trip as me. It was very special to be so far away, and be with Rabbi Dreifus from Memphis, members of my family and my camp friends.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip possible. **HW**



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Baron Hirsch...
(Continued From Page 1)

Robert and the BH team are looking into updating the membership software to improve the experience of how members digitally interact with the shul, including for programs and event registration, so it's more modern and accessible. There will also be a new social media push, updated weekly newsletters, and the website will be refreshed with details about prayer times, events, programs, and learning opportunities. Robert is also involved in the shul's hiring of Rabbi Lichter's assistant.

"I am truly excited about the addition of Robert to Baron Hirsch in his role as executive director," said Rabbi Ian Lichter, BH's senior rabbi. "Robert has already distinguished himself as hard-working, detail-oriented, and motivated to bring innovation to the synagogue. Robert's thoughtful and targeted vision, coupled with his affinity for people and balanced humility, will allow him to excel in this position. His passion adds to the vibrancy that is taking place currently at Baron Hirsch Congregation!"

Running such a large congregation and building is no small feat, requiring a team effort. "When I first accepted the position, meetings with David began immediately. Now, going through the processes with David is solidifying what we've talked about. When something new or a task that I need to take ownership of comes up, David and I meet to work through it together. I'm so grateful for all the time and mentorship he's provided me. He's been extremely helpful and such an incredible resource for the community – it's bittersweet to see him go," said Robert. "Rabbi Lichter has been fantastic, too, giving me a warm welcome. He's friendly and so great for our community, I'm excited to be working with him. And of course, Gwen Moody, Cantor Ricky Kampf, youth directors Dina and Eitan Selter, and the wonderful BH staff have been so helpful as I've transitioned into the position. I'm looking forward to forming partnerships with everyone. Gwen has been tremendous – she's a great asset to me and the shul, everyone has such a nice connec-

tion with her. And our maintenance staff is amazing, doing anything that's needed, working hard to ensure the shul is running how it should be."

"Finding someone who could fill the executive director role following David was not going to be easy," said Marc Lennon, BH president. "Robert exemplifies the role through this commitment to cause, a deep humility, and an eagerness to learn the different aspects of the role, which makes working with him a pleasure."

"I'm very excited about working with Robert. He's already made a huge impact to the office in the short period of time he's been here," added Gwen, BH's executive assistant. "I look forward to helping him provide our members with the most effective and efficient service."

Robert and his family were drawn to Memphis because of our wonderful Jewish community, easy commutes, and the city being a great place to raise their children. Wife, Dr. Havah Schneider, is a clinical psychologist and Deputy Chief of Mental Health Service at the Memphis VA, kids Dani 11, Talia 9, and Kayla 7 attend Margolin Hebrew Academy.

"Memphis has been great for our family," Robert said happily. "I'm so grateful for my years at the MJCC, learning so many skills and using my experience to benefit the community. Baron Hirsch has so much to offer, and I'm excited to be part of the BH team to help ensure a strong Jewish community in Memphis for years to come. And please come introduce yourself to me at shul! If you'd like to share ideas or thoughts about BH, or ways you'd like to be involved with the shul, please reach out!"

Robert can be reached at robert@baronhirsch.org or 901.683.7485. **HW**

Baron Hirsch
Hires New
Kitchen
Manager/
Head
Mashgiach



Zak Shayne

By Shoshana Calker

Someone's in the kitchen with... Zak Shayne. He's the new kitchen manager and head mashgiach at Baron Hirsch Congregation (BH). Zak and his wife, Chana Ahuva, recently moved to Memphis from Englewood, New Jersey.

He's now overseeing all operations in the kitchen, including prep for kid-dushes and shul events, helping with smachot and all private events, maintaining kashrut standards, and keeping the kitchens well maintained and clean.

"My wife and I have been very excited to join the Memphis Jewish community. This position as Baron Hirsch's kitchen manager is such a great opportunity for both of us, not only professionally and socially, but also to serve a community that has always been very dear to my family and me," said Zak. "I feel very lucky to be a part of this particular team and thankful for former executive director David Fleischhacker and his guidance. Community members have been so welcoming and expressed so much excitement as I begin this role, I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone and doing everything I can to add to the community."

Zak grew up in Seattle and later attended Yeshiva University (YU). He served in several positions for Yachad Summer Programs, most recently as program director. With a strong interest in food service, he worked for several years at Golan Heights Restaurant, a popular Israeli grill on YU's campus. He was also the assistant director for the Makor Experience, a program for special needs students at YU.

"Zak and I are in the trenches together, learning new things and getting organized. We're looking at the current food offerings that people are happy with, thinking about new plans for food service, and adding new kitchen volunteers," said Robert Schneider, BH's new executive director. "There's good new energy here that's inspiring creativity. Zak has taken on full ownership of mashgiach work and making sure food plans are correctly handled. Please say hello and welcome Zak to the community when you see him at shul."

If you'd like to be involved in BH's volunteer corps of members who can help prepare for various events, please contact Zak: zak@baronhirsch.org or 901-683-7485. **HW**

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First Birthright Group of Ukrainian Jews Since the War's Start Arrives in Israel on Miriam Adelson's Private Jet



Dr. Miriam Adelson and Gidi Mark with the group, right after landing at Ben Gurion International Airport. Credit: Courtesy of Birthright Israel.

Jerusalem (January 24, 2023) – The first Birthright Israel group of Ukrainian Jews since the start of the war reached Israel last night, bringing 24 participants on the organization's 10-day educational experience in the Jewish state for young Diaspora residents. They arrived on a special flight arranged by Dr. Miriam Adelson, who accompanied them.

Fifteen of the participants had reached Warsaw, from where the Israel-bound flight departed, from Kiev, Odessa, Kharkiv and Dniepro, all cities that have come under Russian attack. The nine other participants had already left Ukraine during the war and live in Germany and Poland. This is the first time that most of the 15 have left Ukraine

since the war broke out 11 months ago.

Adelson, Birthright Israel's largest donor, heard about this special Birthright group and decided to fly on her private jet to Poland from Austin, Texas, to escort the group to Israel.

The participants will be able to disconnect from the war for a short time thanks to their Birthright tour throughout Israel, from the Golan Heights to the Negev. Some will remain in Israel for a few weeks to participate in Birthright's follow-up program, Onward Israel.

"Every Birthright group in Israel is a very exciting thing, but this group is extra-special. I met the participants when they landed and realized how much strength and optimism each of them has," said Gidi Mark, CEO of Birthright



Israel. "I know that that their Birthright Israel experience will strengthen each of them and give them the power to persevere during the terrible situation Ukraine is going through."

"We are grateful to Lynne and Howard Halpern and Andrea and Mike Leven of Boca Raton, Fla., who support this group and an additional group planned to arrive in March from Ukraine," said Birthright Israel Foundation's President & CEO, Izzy Tapoohi. "Birthright Israel Foundation supporters are committed to building connections to Israel and Judaism for all young Jewish adults."

About Birthright Israel:

Birthright Israel is the largest educational tourism organization in the world. Founded 23 years ago with the dream of providing every Jewish young adult

with the transformational experience of a trip to Israel, Birthright offers multiple short- and mid-length programs in Israel for Jewish young adults. More than 800,000 young Jewish adults from 68 countries have received the gift of a 10-day educational tour in Israel with Birthright Israel, introducing them to the country's ancient roots and modern wonders. Additionally, more than 10,000 people have attended internships, academic studies, and fellowships through Onward Israel, and over 1,000 Jewish young adults have attended the highly selective Excel Fellowship and are now part of the global Birthright Israel Excel Fellows community. Birthright Israel has a steadfast partnership with the government of Israel, donors and Jewish communities from around the world. **HW**

A London Museum is Seeking David Bowie's Dress for an Exhibit on Jews in the UK Fashion Industry



David Bowie, shown with his wife, Angie, at home in Kent, England, in 1971, is wearing a dress that he famously wore on the cover of his "The Man Who Sold the World" album. Credit: Peter Stone/Mirrorpix/Getty Images

By David I. Klein

(JTA) – David Bowie, Greta Garbo and Sean Connery were not Jewish. But some of the garments they made famous – Bowie's dresses, Garbo's hats and the tuxedo Connery donned as James Bond – all had Jewish creators.

A London museum is trying to gather

some of those pieces of clothing for an exhibit on the impact that London's immigrant communities had on the British fashion industry.

The Museum of London Docklands documents the city's history as a port town, telling the stories of those who

arrived on the River Thames, from African slaves brought through the Atlantic slave trade to the masses of Jewish immigrants who came in the late 1800 fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe.

Like their co-religionists who arrived in New York, many of those Jews found themselves in the garment industry after immigrating.

"Jewish people were working at all levels of the fashion industry in London throughout the twentieth century but the extent of their contribution has been widely unrecognised," Fashion Curator Lucie Whitmore said in a statement from the museum. "Jewish makers established the ready to wear industry, worked their way into the highest levels of London fashion and dominated Carnaby Street in the swinging sixties. Many of these designers were internationally famous – favoured by the rich and famous and highly respected for their creativity, skill, and originality. It's a contribution that deserves to be recognised."

Starting in October and running until April 2024, the museum will host an ex-

hibit titled, "Fashion City: How Jewish Londoners Shaped Global Style."

To fill out the collection, however, they have put out a public call for help in gathering notable artifacts created by Jewish designers such as Mr Fish (born Michael Fish), Cecil Gee, Otto Lucas, the Rahvis sisters and Madame Isobel (Isobel Spevak Harris). The statement states the museum is looking for "menswear pieces...worn by famous names such as David Bowie, Mick Jagger, Muhammad Ali and Michael Caine," along with "members of The Beatles," by March 1.

Fish produced some of Britain's most iconic 1960s and 70s fashion designs, such as the wide kipper tie. Cecil Gee began his career in the 1930s and designed the "Demob Suit" – short for demobilization – which was granted to British soldiers by the army after their release from World War II service. Rae-monde and Dora Rahvis were two South Africa-born Jewish sisters who after emigrating to London became some of the first prominent costume designers in the British film industry. **HW**

Palestinians Celebrate Jerusalem Attack Across Judea and Samaria, Gaza

(JNS) – Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip held celebrations last Friday night after seven people were killed in a terrorist shooting attack at a synagogue in Jerusalem's Neve Ya'akov neighborhood.

Israeli and Palestinian media reported festivities in Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority, as well as in Nablus, Jenin and Hebron.

There were also celebrations close

to where the attack took place in the Israeli capital.

Video posted to social media showed Palestinians setting off fireworks, engaging in celebratory gunfire and honking horns, and crowds chanting in support of the killing of Jews.

Crowds also gathered throughout the Gaza Strip, where candy and other sweets were distributed to children.

Hamas praised the attack as an "ap-

propriate response" to alleged Israeli crimes. Palestinian Islamic Jihad also hailed the massacre.

Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi ordered the reinforcement of troops in Judea and Samaria in preparation for a possible escalation in the wake of the Palestinian terrorist attack.

Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai similarly ordered the alert lev-

el in the capital raised to the highest level.

The moves were announced after a security assessment led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited the scene of the attack.

"Our hearts go out to the families of the wounded and dead. We have assessed the situation and decided on some immediate actions. We will act decisively," he said. **HW**

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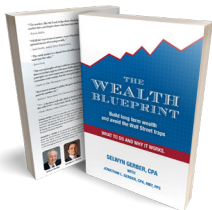
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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.

Monday, February 6 Field Trip

Join us for a Free Ice Cream Social at TCBY! Thanks to an anonymous donor, the seniors will enjoy their choice of whatever flavor plus toppings they want. It will be a nice social get together. Sign up for lunch and join us on the bus going to TCBY!

Wednesday, February 8 “The Trees and Us!”

Speaker Rabbi Jeff Dreifus of Temple Israel is always a delight to hear and is very much enjoyed by all.

Monday, February 13 “G-D Introduces Himself to the World!”

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch
Come hear this dynamic rabbi who has already made an impact on the local Jewish community as the new head rabbi at Baron Hirsch.

Wednesday, February 15 Monthly Luncheon!

This event will feature Gary Abbott, vocalist. Gary Abbott will delight the audience with old-time rock-n-roll and the sounds that made Memphis music famous! His performance is certain to delight. Gary comes from Creative Aging’s great cadre of entertainers. Come enjoy this terrific vocalist and enjoy a delicious Kosher lunch all for \$5. The Luncheon and Gary start at noon on Feb. 15. Reservations can be made by calling the front desk at 901.761.0810 or



Gary Abbott

emailing Steve Kaplan at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org.

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IDF, Israel Police Raise Alert Level after Jerusalem Synagogue Massacre

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi has ordered the reinforcement of troops in Judea and Samaria in preparation for a possible escalation in the wake of the deadly Palestinian terrorist attack last Friday night in Jerusalem.

Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai similarly ordered the alert level raised to the highest level in the capital after seven people were killed in a shooting attack at a synagogue in the northern Neve Ya’akov neighborhood.

“This is one of the most heinous terrorist attacks that we have seen in recent years, and a significant rise in the level of terror,” said Israel Police International Spokesman Dean Elsdunne.

The moves were announced after a security assessment led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited the scene of the attack.

“Our hearts go out to the families of the wounded and dead. We have assessed the situation and decided on some immediate actions. We will act decisively,” said Netanyahu.

“The Security Cabinet will convene tomorrow after Shabbat is over. I call on citizens not to take the law into their own hands; for this we have the army and police that receive instructions from the government,” added the premier.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant cut short his personal trip to the United States to return to Israel and likewise convened a meeting with the heads of national security services.

“This is a serious and sad attack on Shabbat evening, targeting civilians. I am sending condolences to the families of the murdered and wishing a speedy recovery to the injured,” he said. “The security establishment under my leadership will act hard and without compromise against terrorism and will reach all those involved in the attack.” **HW**



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Teens & Young Adults
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a **new family foundation,**
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towards the
community needs list



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to better serve Jewish
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TOP 22 of 2022



**Strengthened
Lion of Judah:**
brought **14 women** to
International Conference,
secured **6 new LOJ endowments**
& welcomed **5 new Lions**



**90-day
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relationships with law
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The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubled the standard deduction beginning in 2018 and indexed it annually for inflation through 2025 (\$12,950 for single taxpayers and \$25,900 for joint filers in 2022; \$13,850 and \$27,700 in 2023). The result was a dramatic reduction in the number of filers who itemize – from 30.6% of all returns in 2017 to 9.5% in 2020.¹

As the number of itemizers fell, so did the amount individuals gave to charities as a percentage of total annual contributions. According to Giving USA, the total amount dropped below 70% for the first time ever in 2018 and remained there through 2021.²

Although the primary motivation for charitable giving usually comes from a desire to give back, an associated tax break can be a strong supporting factor. If you are an IRA owner who is 70½ or older, you may be pleased to learn that you can give to charity without itemizing and still get a tax break through what’s known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

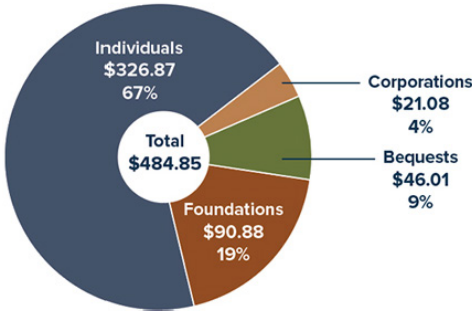
How a QCD Works

Generally, distributions from traditional IRAs are subject to federal income tax, unless an exception applies. QCDs, however, are excluded from income and therefore won’t affect your tax obligation. Moreover, once you reach age 72, a QCD can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD), which otherwise could substantially increase your taxable income for any given year.

To make a QCD, you would direct your IRA trustee to issue a check made out to a qualified public charity. You may contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA; if you’re married, your spouse may also contribute up to \$100,000 from his or her IRA.

A QCD must be an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA. If you’ve made non-deductible IRA contributions, then each distribution normally carries with it a pro-rata amount of taxable and nontaxable dollars. If you have multiple IRAs, they are aggregated to determine the calculation. With QCDs, the pro-rata rule is ignored, and taxable dollars are treated as distributed first.

Charitable Giving by Source, 2021 (in billions)



Source: Giving USA, 2022 (total may not equal 100% due to rounding)

QCDs come with a few caveats:

- If you have a checkbook IRA, you may also write a check directly to the charity; however, the contribution will count as a QCD for the year in which it is cashed, not the year it is written. This is particularly worth noting for donations made late in the year.
- You can take a QCD from SEP and SIMPLE IRAs, but only if they’re “inactive,” i.e., have not received any contributions in the same year.
- You cannot deduct a QCD as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return.
- As of 2019, individuals age 70½ and older can continue contributing to their IRAs as long as they have earned income (generally, work-related earnings). However, if you make deductible contributions after age 70½, the amount of any QCD made at any point in the future will be taxable up to the value of those contributions.

Private foundations, donor-advised funds, supporting organizations (as defined by the IRS), charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts are ineligible to receive QCDs.

- 1) IRS, 2022 (most recent full-year data)
- 2) Giving USA, 2022

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Tlaib Erects Palestinian Flag in Capitol Hill Office, Accuses Israel of ‘Apartheid’

(JNS) – Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib last Wednesday doubled down on her claim that Israel is an “apartheid” state and suggested that Jerusalem was trying to eliminate Palestinians.

Tlaib tweeted a picture of herself standing next to a Palestinian flag that she had placed in her office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

“Palestinians may be banned from flying their flag under an apartheid government, but we can still proudly do it at my office. I’m proud to be a Palestinian American and I want the Palestinian people to know that not all Americans support apartheid. No one can erase our existence,” wrote Tlaib.

The post was an apparent response to Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir’s crackdown on the celebration and promotion of terrorism by Arab Israelis.

Ben-Gvir earlier this month directed police to enforce a ban on the flying of Palestinian flags in solidarity with terrorist groups.

“We will fight terrorism and the encouragement of terrorism with all our might,” he said.

The decision came in the wake of the homecoming ceremony in the Arab village of ‘Ara for Karim Younis, who was released from prison after completing a 40-year sentence for murder. Younis was convicted along with his cousin in 1983 for killing Israel Defense Forces Cpl. Avraham Bromberg.

After Karim was released from jail, he visited his mother’s grave, saying, “I am prepared to sacrifice another 40 years for the freedom of our people. My consolation is that today prisoners are united

against the barbarity of the occupation.”

The compound where the homecoming was held was decorated with P.L.O. flags, and Younis himself also carried one.

Despite Tlaib’s claim, flying the P.L.O. flag in public is not on its own a criminal offense in Israel. However, police have the authority to take them down if they are displayed in solidarity with or sympathy for a terror group, or if there is a high probability that leaving the flag up will result in a public disturbance.

In September, Tlaib stated in an interview with the “Al Jazeera” network that she does not see how a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can work. She further claimed that Israel has an “apartheid system” and that U.S. policies towards it must change.

According to a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute, Tlaib said she disagrees with the left-wing lobby J Street because it “wants a two-state solution, and I always say that it is up to the Israelis and the Palestinians to decide what their fate and determination is, and they are more moving towards a one-state [solution].”

Tlaib in May introduced a resolution calling for U.S. recognition of the Palestinian *nakba*, a term meaning “catastrophe” that is typically used by Palestinians to refer to the establishment of the State of Israel.

“The nakba is well-documented and continues to play out today. We must acknowledge that the humanity of Palestinians is being denied when folks refuse to acknowledge the war crimes and human-rights violations in apartheid Israel,” she said. **HW**

OBITUARIES

Jacqueline Halperin Kantor (Jacque)

Jacqueline Halperin Kantor, age 100, died on January 23, 2023. Although it is difficult to describe someone whom you loved your whole life, I will proudly tell you about my rather shy mom.

Mom (Jacqueline Halperin Kantor, known as Jacque) was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. Her family lived on the top floor of an apartment building, on South Shore Drive, that overlooked Lake Michigan. Her father was typically on the road. He was a partner and editor with the entertainment publishing company, Variety, managed talent, and was the Midwest representative for USO Camp Shows. He was also the chairman of the Amusement Division of the Chicago Commission on National Defense. His wife, May Torgatsch, was a devoted housewife and mother. Mom had a younger sister who is predeceased, Bernie Mosow.

Mom was partially raised by a nanny (Nana) and proudly claimed that she was a tomboy. She loved fishing, killing snakes, and shooting a bow and arrow. She always said that her father had wanted a son so he raised her, in part, the way that he would have raised a son.

Mom attended Ohio State University where she was in a sorority but quit school during World War II. On November 17, 1942, she married the love of her life, Philip Kantor, at Fort Benning, Ga. Having met on a blind date planned by a cousin, Mom and Dad shared 75 wonderful years together.

Following World War II, Mom and Dad made their home in Clarksdale, Miss., and then Memphis, Tenn. Mom devoted her life as an involved and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She loved family, and they always came first. In Clarksdale, she was also very involved with Temple Beth Israel. She had several close friends, most of whom also moved to Memphis. The entire family, for years, vacationed at Sanibel Island, Fla., primarily because of Mom’s contagious love of seashells; we all mastered the “Sanibel Stoop.” There was nothing more important to Mom than being with



our family.

When I was a young child, I remember that she played golf regularly and was on a bowling league that won several trophies. For several years, she played Maj Jong with friends regularly. And as a teen, I realized that she was exceptional at crossword puzzles; Mom enjoyed them her whole life. She was a wonderful home cook and had artistic talent such as painting ceramics. She also loved holiday decorations and even won home decorating contests! Mom was from a generation of social etiquette, and made sure that Hal, Judith and I knew how to do things that were valued and respected many years ago.

Mom and Dad had 3 children: Hal Halperin Kantor, Judith (Roger) Stone, and Linda Goodwin-Parkinson (John); 8 grandchildren: Lori (Brian), Jonathan (Axa), Chris (Kim), Eric (Tricia), Hillary (Larry), Ginnifer (Josh), Melissa (Nate), Josi (Daniel); and 10 great-grandchildren: Becca, Scarlett, Nick, David, Oliver, Hugo, Graham, Harrison, Callum, and Griffin.

Dad is predeceased (2018). Mom leaves her loving family, cherished friend, Muriel Forman, and devoted caregivers.

Contact Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery for more information. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a children’s charity of your choice. (Written by Linda Goodwin-Parkinson, daughter) **HW**

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Regional Universities and Colleges Awarding Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Scholarships to Young Artists

In the words of Artist Romero Britto, “Art is too important not to share.” The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and the Brooks Museum League are now well into the sixth decade of a unique partnership focused on giving talented young artists in our region opportunities to share their work: The Mid-South Scholastic Art Awards.

The Mid-South Scholastic Art Awards honor exemplary artworks by regional students in grades 7 through 12 by recognizing their outstanding achievements in a competitive annual exhibition and providing cash prizes and scholarship opportunities. Students in public and private schools in Northeast Arkansas, West Tennessee, and North Mississippi, as well as students who are homeschooled, are eligible to participate.

This year’s exhibition, which opened January 20, 2023, features the winning artworks by the Mid-South region’s public, private, and independently schooled youth. The competition garnered 3,018 entries from 1,412 students across the Mid-South, to whom judges awarded 240 gold keys, 252 silver keys, and 545 honorable mentions.

This year, the competition’s panel of judges consisted of: Josh Breeden, Ivy-Jade Edwards, Paige Ellens, Frank

Estrada, David Horan, Rose Marr, Lacy Mitcham Veteo, Andrea Morales, Gree-ly Myatt, Dorothy Northern and Kate Roberts.

The students will be honored at a special award ceremony at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art on Saturday, February 11. This event will be open to the entering students, their families, and their teachers.

“The creativity on display is so inspiring and this year’s exhibition should make art lovers everywhere very excited about the future,” says Director of Education and Interpretation at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Kathy Dumlao. “This is truly ‘the state championship of art,’ so to speak.”

Several regional universities are recognizing the remarkable talent of the competition’s participants with scholarship offers totaling tens of thousands of dollars: University of Memphis is offering eight scholarships at \$40,000 a year, comprising a total award of \$320,000; Arkansas State University is awarding \$2,000; Nashville’s Nossi College of Art is offering \$4,400 to all seniors who won a silver or gold key – approximately 95 students; and Memphis’ Christian Brothers University is offering scholarships ranging from \$12,000 to \$19,000.

The Brooks Museum League is giving an additional \$12,000 in cash prizes and scholarships, thanks to the generosity of its members and variety of local donors including artist Derek Fordjour – the recipient of a National Scholastic Award for lifetime achievement and recent addition to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Board of Directors.

“It is an honor to work with these remarkable young artists,” says Memphis Brooks Memphis of Art Executive Director Zoe Kahr. “We can’t wait to see what these outstanding talents achieve next in their careers.”

The Mid-South Scholastic Region is one of 100 regions throughout the United States, and includes Northeast Arkansas, West Tennessee, and North Mississippi. It is part of the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, which is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. Previous award-winners from the Mid-South Scholastic Region include Tommy Kha whose “Eye is Another” opened on January 27 at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art as well as Nykesha Cole, Shelby County Arts Liaison for the Arts. Memphis’ art museum holds multiple works by former National Gold Medal

winners Andy Warhol and Red Grooms. ABOUT THE BROOKS MUSEUM LEAGUE. The Brooks Museum League is a non-profit volunteer organization that has supported the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art since 1933. The League provides an avenue for volunteers to learn more about art and support the oldest museum in the state of Tennessee. For more information, visit brooksmuseumleaguememphis.org.

ABOUT THE MEMPHIS BROOKS MUSEUM OF ART. Located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in historic Overton Park, the Brooks is one of the leading art museums in the American South. Over 9,000 works make up the Brooks Museum’s permanent collection including ancient works from Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. In 2025, the Brooks Museum intends to open its new home: a state-of-the-art, 112,000-square-foot facility on the banks of the Memphis riverfront. For more information on the current programming and future plans for Brooks, call 901-544-6200 or visit brooksmuseum.org. **HW**

White Supremacist Nick Fuentes Returns to Twitter with a Spree of Antisemitic Comments

By *Philissa Cramer*

(JTA) – The white supremacist and far-right provocateur Nick Fuentes was reinstated to Twitter last Tuesday and returned to the social media platform with a volley of antisemitic posts and comments, including praise for Hitler.

Fuentes is a Holocaust denier who first gained prominence after participating in the white supremacist “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville in 2017 and was banned from Twitter in July 2021, amid the platform’s crackdown on far-right extremists, particularly in the wake of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. He burst back onto the public stage in November, when he and Ye, the artist formerly known as Kanye West, had dinner with former President Donald Trump shortly after Ye embarked on an antisemitic spree on social media and in interviews.

Fuentes’ reinstatement comes as Elon Musk, who acquired Twitter last year, restores the accounts of many people

who had been banned for advancing far-right extremist ideas on the platform. A coterie of far-right figures, including the Jewish Republican Laura Loomer and Andrew Anglin, founder of the neo-Nazi Daily Stormer website, had publicly lobbied for Fuentes’ reinstatement after their own accounts were restored.

Fuentes made clear upon his return to Twitter last Tuesday that he planned to pick up where he left off, posting a series of comments reflecting the brand of antisemitism that he has continued spreading in spaces that have provided refuge for far-right extremists after Twitter and Facebook cracked down on them. (Ye, too, returned to Twitter with an allusion to his criticism over antisemitism.)

Fuentes posted a gif in which the logo of Ye’s 2024 presidential bid, which he is managing, morphs into a sign that says “DEFCON 3,” a reference to Ye’s vow to go “death con 3 on Jewish

people” that prompted his first Twitter ban last year. Fuentes then held a Twitter Spaces live chat that 14,000 people attended at least part of, during which he said he backed Ye’s comments and praised Hitler multiple times. He also reportedly said that regaining his audience on Twitter would allow him to “go to war” with the Jews.

He subsequently posted a tweet with two antisemitic catchphrases alongside emojis. Both of them – “Globalist American Empire” and “Zionist Occupied Government” – are catchphrases among white supremacists who believe that the U.S. government is controlled by Jews.

He then shared a Politico story from last Tuesday about how the Republican National Committee will vote this week on whether to condemn Ye, Fuentes and others for promoting antisemitism. A resolution drafted by the committee characterizes Fuentes as “laughingly

comparing Jews killed at concentration camps to baking cookies in an oven,” according to Politico’s report.

Fuentes’ tweets do not appear in Twitter searches, but his account is visible to anyone who seeks it out. He has nearly 150,000 followers on the platform. His posts last Tuesday received a mixture of critical and supportive replies.

Watchdog groups including the Anti-Defamation League have sharply criticized Musk for welcoming far-right extremists on Twitter. The CEO has personally responded to comments from some of those extremists questioning why more people are not seeing their posts, and last Sunday, the company’s new director of product management and a trusted Musk ally, Ella Crawford, tweeted, “The future of humanity depends on our ability to ensure that more conversations happen between people who disagree with each other.” **HW**

In The Netherlands, a Majority Do Not Know the Holocaust Affected their Country

By *David I. Klein*

(JTA) – A recent study of the Dutch population conducted by the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany showed an alarming lack of education around the Holocaust in the Netherlands.

For one, a majority of Dutch respondents, across all age groups, did not cite their own country as a place where the Holocaust took place, despite the fact that the Netherlands was the setting of the world’s most widely-read Holocaust memoirs – Anne Frank’s “The Diary of a Young Girl,” which has been translated into over 70 languages. About 75% of the country’s Jews were killed during the Holocaust, one of the highest rates in Europe.

The study, for which Schoen Cooperman Research surveyed 2,000 people across the country of over 17 million,

also found that a majority of respondents (54%) and a slightly larger share of those in the millennial and Gen Z generations (59%) did not know that the number of Jews murdered by the Nazis totaled 6 million. Many said the total was as little as 2 million or fewer.

“Survey after survey, we continue to witness a decline in Holocaust knowledge and awareness. Equally disturbing is the trend towards Holocaust denial and distortion,” said Gideon Taylor, the Claims Conference president, in a statement about the study released last Wednesday. “To address this trend, we must put a greater focus on Holocaust education in our schools globally.”

The Netherlands is not in a category of its own with such numbers. A study published last Tuesday by the American Jewish Committee found that a similar

proportion of Americans – 47% compared to 54% in the Netherlands – did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

However, researchers also found that the percentage of Dutch people who thought the Holocaust was a myth or greatly exaggerated (12%) was higher than in any other nation previously surveyed by the Claims Conference, an organization that advocates for and distributes restitution funds to Nazi victims and their descendants. Nearly a quarter of those in the younger generations believed it acceptable to hold neo-Nazi views.

“One of the more troubling trends we continue to see in these surveys is the rise in numbers of people who believe the Holocaust was a myth or that the number of Jews murdered is exagger-

ated,” said Greg Schneider, the Claims Conference’s executive vice president.

Despite those findings, a majority of Dutch respondents (77%) said that they felt that Holocaust education was increasingly necessary in the country.

“While many of the historical facts related to the Holocaust in the Netherlands are not known, I am encouraged by the number of respondents to this survey that believe Holocaust education is important,” said Emile Schrijver, the general director of Amsterdam’s Jewish Cultural Quarter and one of the people who conducted the survey. “We know that we can work together with educators to ensure the trends we see in Holocaust denial and distortion and the rise in antisemitism are countered by a robust curriculum of Holocaust education.” **HW**

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