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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Jewish Federation Names Chairs and Featured Speaker for 61st Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Mother-daughter team Dorothy Goldwin and Michelle Goldwin Kaufman will serve as co-chairs of the 61st Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

Memphis Jewish Federation has announced that the mother-daughter team of Dorothy Goldwin and Michelle Goldwin Kaufman will chair its 61st Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration, taking place this year on Monday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Belz Social Hall of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Dorothy is the daughter of Holocaust

Dorothy is the daughter of Holocaust survivors Mayer and Paula Kelman, of blessed memory.

No stranger to the planning of Yom HaShoah, Dorothy has been an active member of Federation's Holocaust Memorial Committee for decades including serving as chair of Yom HaShoah and as co-chair with her brother, Marty Kelman, in 2013 and 2014.

Dorothy is married to Dr. Robert Goldwin and has two daughters, Michelle Goldwin Kaufman, and Cara Goldwin Munekata along with four grandchildren, Max, Nora, Molly and Parker. Dorothy is currently on the board of Kavod-Ensuring Dignity for Holocaust Survivors and a past board member of Plough Towers and Bornblum Jewish Community School. Dorothy frequently visits West Clinic with her therapy dog, Leo.

"Serving as co-chair with my daughter, Michelle, is an honor and privilege," said Dorothy. "My mom and dad would be so proud knowing their legacy is being remembered. I have always felt so strongly about the need 'To Remember' and will always work to ensure that the memory of my family and the six million Jews who perished will be kept alive."

Michelle moved back to Memphis in 2020 with her husband, Jay Kaufman, and two children, Max and Nora. A clinical psychologist, Michelle is an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Memphis and sees therapy clients in private practice. In 2021, Michelle joined the newly formed Education subcommittee of Federation's Holocaust Memorial Committee in order to help provide Holocaust education in the broader Memphis community. "I can remember watching my mom and uncle co-chair when I was a child, and I'm so honored to now be serving as a co-chair for this important program," said Michelle.

"We are thankful for Dorothy and Michelle's leadership," said Executive Vice President of Memphis Jewish Federation Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein. "They are inspiring role models for their commitment to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust in our community."

The Holocaust Memorial Committee has selected Tova Friedman to be this year's keynote speaker. Tova is one of the youngest child survivors of Auschwitz and was liberated with her mother at the age of six.

Tova recently co-authored "The Daughter of Auschwitz," a powerful memoir telling her story of living and surviving the notorious death camp.

"I had the privilege of meeting many survivors when I was a child and hearing their stories directly," noted Michelle. "I am excited for our youth to have the opportunity to hear a Holocaust survivor speak in-person, an opportunity that cannot be taken for granted as time passes. We know that Tova will educate and inspire attendees of all ages with her resilience and her commitment to 'Never Forget.""

A moving and inspiring book about courage and hope, "The Daughter of Auschwitz" is on special display and available for purchase at Novel bookstore, 387 Perkins Extended. **HW**

'I'm Responsible': Netanyahu Defends Government Policies in CNN Interview



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks with CNN's Jake Tapper, Jan. 31. 2023. Credit: YouTube

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured "CNN's" Jake Tapper last Tuesday that he had "two hands on the wheel" of his government.

"I'm controlling the government, and I'm responsible for its policies, and the policies are sensible, and responsible, and continue to be that," Netanyahu told Tapper in a wide-ranging interview.

Pressed on the more extreme past statements of some of his coalition members, Netanyahu said, "Well, a lot of people say a lot of things when they're not in power. They sort of temper themselves when they get into power. And that's certainly the case here."

In response to a query regarding Justice Minister Yariv Levin's judicial reform package, which has led to mass protests in Israel, Netanyahu said that an "independent judiciary doesn't mean an unbridled judiciary.

"In order to secure freedom and democracy, you need the balance between three branches of government," Netanyahu said. "In Israel, that balance has been thrown askew and you have one branch, a huge branch, a tree trunk – the judiciary – basically overcoming, arrogating to itself, the powers of the legislative and the government," he continued.

Israel's Supreme Court justices "self-select," he noted, referring to the fact that judges hold veto power in Israel's Judicial Selection Committee.

"This is a system we have in Israel. And if I say to you, this is democracy, you'd say that's ridiculous. It's unacceptable," said Netanyahu.

The reform plan would change the way judges are appointed, giving the majority on the selection committee to elected officials, he explained. The jus-

(See Netanyahu Page 3)

My Teen Israel Experience



Memphian Ezra Davidovics (far left) with friends from NCSY Kollel at the Kotel.

Ezra Davidovics, son of Dr. Deena and Noam Davidovics, is a junior at the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his NCSY Kollel 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 Ezra Davidovics

Last summer I had the time of my life on NCSY Kollel. It was a completely spectacular experience, which I will never forget. The learning was meaningful, the rabbis inspiring, the trips amazing, the counselors fantastic, and the friendships I made along the way long lasting. While on Kollel, I could feel how much I was growing both in my learning and athleticism. I truly believe that if you are going to Israel for the summer, NCSY Kollel is the best and most worthwhile program to attend.

Kollel, which is in Moshav Beit Meir, a moshav near Jerusalem, is a program, which beautifully blends Torah learning and sports. It includes a rigorous schedule of six hours a day of learning, with world renowned rabbis, and an equally intense basketball league, which almost all of the participants are in. The program also has great "mini-tiyulim," (journeys) for those who don't want to be in the league or people with an offday from basketball, which are trips around Israel anywhere from malls to yeshiva campuses.

Every Tuesday during the program we went on big trips to amazing places throughout the Land of Israel. These trips helped me recognize the beauty of the land I call my second home and what it means to be Zionist. My favorite trip was when I went to go climb Har Yehoram and Har Yo'ash (mountains) in Eilat. This trip was physically challenging, as much of the climb was vertically up a cliff face, but also extremely rewarding once you finally get to the top. The climb down was also another two miles and took us three hours, but once we were finished with that it was still 10 a.m! After the mountain, we went on a boat and had water sports and swimming in the Red Sea. We spent a little time at the famous Ice Mall in Eilat but unfortunately not much there was kosher.

Other tiyulim were more educational, like the Gedolim (noted rabbis) tour. This tiyul was where we went from great rabbi's house to great rabbi's house in the city of Bnei Brak. It was very cool and inspiring to see all these holy people

Hebrew Watchman

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Amphis Candlelighting Time

Weekly Torah Portion: Yitro

and hear words of Torah from them. We were accompanied by our head counselor who knew the city well and could tell us exactly where to go.

Over the course of the program, through the use of free time and late nights, I managed to finish three quarters of the entire Gemara Maseches (Talmud Tractate) Rosh Hashanah. This was a goal that I took on early in the program and was a tall task indeed. With four days left until the day we were leaving, I was sitting with four dapim (pages) left. I rallied my chavrusa (learning partner), and we managed to finish them all before the final day, at a much faster pace than we were used to. This is what I consider my greatest accomplishment from this program as I worked the hardest for it. Overall, I would recommend NCSY Kollel to anyone and everyone as it was, in fact, the "Best Summer Ever."

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NCSY Kollel trip possible. **HW**



Brian Lurie Broker, Vice-President GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

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The MJCC Larisa and Ben **Baer February Senior Adult** Luncheon

Wednesday, February 15th at noon, the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon will feature wonderful entertainment! Vocalist Gary Abbott will serenade the seniors with ballads and old-time rockn-roll from the 50s and 60s, some of the sounds that made Memphis music famous. Gary has been performing for a long time and his Elvis Presley covers are audience favorites.

Come enjoy this delightful vocalist and a good kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, all for \$5.00. The luncheon and Gary start at noon on the 15th. Luncheon entertainment is provided by Creative Aging Midsouth. Reservations



Vocalist Gary Abbott

can be made by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810 or emailing Steve Kaplan at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. HW

Cub Scout Pack 25 Returns to **Temple Israel in February 2023**

Cub Scout Pack 25 officially returns to life in February 2023 after being dormant since the COVID pandemic began.

The Pack will begin the season with Scout Shabbot on Friday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. for services at Temple Israel.

The pack regularly meets every Sunday that Temple Israel Sunday School is in session from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Temple Israel Scout Room.

On Sunday, Feb. 12, at 12 p.m., the Pinewood Derby returns to the Temple Israel social hall with the cub scouts,

former cub scouts and parents racing their cars on the track given to the Pack in memory of Captain Robert Secher, who died in Iraq in 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cub Scouting is for boys and girls from kindergarten-5th grade.

Dr. Mark Clemons is the Cubmaster. Dr. Scott Weiskopf is the Webelos leader (4th & 5th grade). Mike Lejman is the Lion leader (K) and Robert Marlow is the Tiger Cub leader (1st grade) For more information contact Markpclem@ aol.com 901-483-6408. HW

Netanyahu...

(Continued From Page 1) tices would also be appointed in a public hearing, instead of behind closed doors as is the current situation, he added.

With regard to the so-called "override clause" in the reform package, that would enable the Knesset, with a majority of 61 members, to reverse Supreme Court decisions to overturn legislation, Netanyahu pointed out that Canada has exactly the same provision. In Britain, he added, the court isn't allowed to strike down any legislation passed by parliament.

"Is Canada not a democracy? Is Britain not a democracy?" he asked.

Tapper noted that strong supporters of Israel, such as attorney Alan Dershowitz, argue that the judicial reforms will make it harder to defend Israel on the international stage.

"I respectfully disagree," Netanyahu replied. "It brings Israel in line with most of the democracies of the world. Because Israel is right now an outlier. Israel has the most extreme judicial activism, that's gone off the rails. And we're trying to bring it back to where just about all the democracies are, both

in the selection of judges and in the balance between the various branches of government."

On the issue of settlements, Tapper said that there's some concern in the Biden administration about the expansion of settlements, and it's "worried about that bringing Israel on a path where peace is never going to be possible."

"Well, I totally disagree," Netanyahu said. "The Jewish people have been here for 3,500 years."

He said it's a mistake to get "hung up" on making peace with the Palestinians.

"For 25 years, the Palestinians – who don't want peace with Israel, who want to see a peace without Israel, who don't want a state next to Israel, but a state instead of Israel - they had an effective veto on Israel's expansion of the circle of peace around it," Netanyahu said.

"I went around them. I went directly to the Arab states, and forged a new concept of peace for peace, peace through strength. I forged four historic peace agreements, the Abraham Accords, which is twice the number of peace agreements that all my predecessors in 70 years got combined." HW

New York Times Blasted for 'Shameful' Coverage of Jerusalem Terrorist Attack

(JNS) - "The New York Times" has been blasted for its reporting on the recent terrorist attack in Jerusalem that killed seven Israelis and wounded three others - with critics saying the newspaper's headline, which incorrectly stated the attack occurred in "East Jerusalem," implies that the murders were justified because they took place over the Green Line (Israel's pre-1967 border).

"Here's "The New York Times" reporting that Jews were murdered and they had it coming," tweeted former head of speechwriting and Israel's Mission to the United Nations Aviva Klompas.

International human rights lawyer and CEO of the International Legal Forum Arsen Ostrovsky called that the coverage was "obscene."

International CEO and co-founder of StandWithUs Roz Rothstein condemned the NYT headline as shameful, while HonestReporting put out a statement criticizing the publication for its minimization and complicity with this terrorist attack on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"This is what we mean when we say the media is complicit," tweeted HonestReporting. "Shame on "The New York Times" for trying to minimize and excuse a terrorist attack that left 8 Jewish civilians dead, at their synagogue, on Int'l Holocaust Remembrance Day."

The paper inaccurately labeled the attack as taking place in an "East Jerusalem" synagogue.

"Breaking News: A gunman killed at least five people at an East Jerusalem synagogue after a deadly month in the occupied West Bank," tweeted the publication in its initial coverage of the terrorist attack. The terrorist attack took place in the Neve Ya'akov neighborhood, which is located on the northern border of Jerusalem, rather than beyond the Green Line in the eastern part of the city. "Shame on you," former Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon tweeted in response to "The New York Times" story. The article was also criticized by other members of Israel's diplomatic corps. "I strongly condemn "The New York Times" for gaslighting this terror attack by referring to it as east Jerusalem," tweeted Deputy Counsel General of Israel to the Southeast U.S. Alex Gandler. "This is Jerusalem, this is the quiet neighborhood [where] I grew up. I don't expect much from reporting based on ideology, but at least some sense of truth is needed." HW

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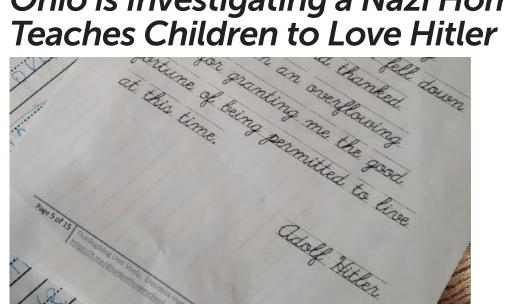
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Ohio is Investigating a Nazi Homeschooling Network that Teaches Children to Love Hitler



A lesson plan shared by the creator of the neo-Nazi group Dissident Homeschool Network, in which children learn cursive by copying a Hitler quote, Nov. 22, 2022. Credit: Screenshot via Telegram

(JTA) – Ohio's department of education is investigating a homeschooling network that claims public schools are run by "Zionist scum," teaches kids to say "Sieg Heil" in class and instructs fellow parents not to give their kids "Jewish media content."

These are the more than 2,500 members of the "Dissident Homeschool Network," a channel on the social network messaging app Telegram. The "dissidents" are a group of Nazi parents who share homeschooling lesson plans extolling the virtues of Hitler and white nationalism – while relying on a popular social media account run by a Jewish woman to provide ammunition for their hatred. The founders of the group were recently unmasked by a hate group monitor as a couple in rural Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

"There is absolutely no place for hatefilled, divisive and hurtful instruction in Ohio's schools, including our state's home-schooling community," Stephanie Siddens, the interim superintendent of public instruction at Ohio's education department, told "Vice News." "I emphatically and categorically denounce the racist, antisemitic and fascist ideology and materials being circulated."

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, along with Rep. Bob Latta, whose district encompasses Upper Sandusky, and Rep. Jim Jordan, all gave statements to "Vice News" condemning the group. But Ohio officials say that there is little to no homeschooling oversight from the state board of education. Although parents who homeschool are required to submit copies of their lesson plans to the state, a county official who oversees the area where the Lawrences live told "Huff-Post," "Parents who decide to home educate their child are responsible for choosing the curriculum and course of study."

"We are so deeply invested into making sure that [our] child becomes a wonderful Nazi," the founder of Dissident Homeschool Network, who goes by the pseudonym "Mrs. Saxon," recently said on a neo-Nazi podcast to promote the group. She has been identified by the Anonymous Comrades Collective, an anti-Nazi group, as well as "Vice News" and "HuffPost," as Katja Lawrence, a Dutch immigrant who currently lives in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

Lawrence is a recently naturalized U.S. citizen who frequently rails against other groups of immigrants on social media; her husband, Logan, is an insurance agent. The Lawrences are so enamored of Nazidom that Katja uploaded audio of her own kids performing Nazi salutes to her Telegram channel and baked a cake to celebrate Hitler's birthday.

The journalists and researchers who reported on Dissident Homeschool Network were able to track the couple down after they revealed that they owned a German shepherd named Blondi – also the name of Hitler's dog.

Launched in fall 2021, the Lawrences' homeschooling project is explicitly labeled as a means for neo-Nazi parents to indoctrinate their kids by keeping them away from public school. Lesson plans include teaching cursive by having students write out famous quotes from Hitler and American neo-Nazi George Lincoln Rockwell; building "math" classes around racist manipulations of urban crime statistics; and praising Confederate general Robert E. Lee as "a grand role model for young, white men." In idle chats, members of the group disparaged the Indiana Jones movies as "Jewish revenge porn."

The group also facilitates in-person meetings between like-minded parents and children. Relatives of the Lawrences told "HuffPost" they found their activities "disgusting" and "heartbreaking for their children."

Despite their near-constant stream of antisemitic invective, members of the Dissident Homeschool Network frequently share memes from the rightwing social media channel Libs of Tik-Tok, which is run by an Orthodox Jew. The account has gained national notoriety for its demonization of LGBTQ people as "groomers," as well as for its constant attacks on public education, a hot target for figures on the right who believe educators are indoctrinating children with "critical race theory" and "gender ideology."

That account's administrator Chaya Raichik, who has recently made her identity public, frequently advocates for parents to homeschool their children. Homeschooling has become a popular choice for conservatives, both for religious and ideological reasons, and lobbyists for the movement together with Republican lawmakers have made it easier for parents to homeschool their children with little to no oversight.

The "Dissident" group provides parents with instructions on how to teach Nazi material while avoiding scrutiny from the authorities. On the channel, Katja Lawrence frequently boasts about the size and strength of their Nazi parents' movement: "There is a huge network of people like us." **HW**

Nikki Haley will Run for President

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks at an emergency General Assembly meeting in United Nations headquarters in New York City to vote on Jerusalem's situation on Dec. 21, 2017. Credit: Amir Levy/FLASH90

By Faygie Holt

(JNS) – Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley will launch her presidential campaign on Feb. 15, the "Post and Courier" reported last night.

Citing people close to the former South Carolina governor, the Charleston daily reported that staffers are inviting supporters to attend a "special announcement" in Charleston in two weeks, when she will announce her plans to become the 2024 Republican presidential nominee.



about: being an outspoken defender of Israel at the United Nations, a stalwart opponent of Iran and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish community in the fight against antisemitism," he said.

As UN ambassador, Haley took part in the General Assembly's first-ever vote condemning Hamas for a terror attack against Israel. Prior to the vote, she admonished colleagues, telling them it could be either a "historic" day or simply "another" day. Haley has teased big news on Twitter for weeks. "It's time for a new generation. It's time for new leadership," she wrote in a Jan. 20 tweet pinned to the top of her feed. "It's time to take our country back. America is worth the fight – and we're just getting started."

That tweet includes a clip from a recent interview with "Fox News" Sean Hannity, filmed before a live audience. Asked about her presidential aspirations, Haley said: "As fun as it would be to announce right now ... we are leaning in. I mean look, it is time for a new generation. It is time for more leadership.

"It is time for the fact that we really start to take our country back. We cannot have another term of Joe Biden," she added. "We have to remember, too, that we have lost the last seven out of eight popular votes for president. It is time we get a Republican in there that can lead and that can win a general election." events in Canada.

At a speech in Montreal in December – which the Federation CJA, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and the Margaret and Sylvan Adams Family Foundation sponsored – she said that Washington must stand strongly and steadfastly with Israel for there to be Middle Eastern peace.

"A strong America prevents war. At the end of the day, it's about leadership and America has to demonstrate that leadership, including absolute support for its allies like Israel," she said.

She addressed antisemitism in an October address at the Canadian Friends of Jerusalem College of Technology's 50th anniversary.

"We have to call out antisemitism every time we see it," she told the audience of 500. "We have to speak up every time we see it. We have to humiliate those that do it every time they do it. And we have to remind leaders to speak up." **HW**

Sam Markstein, national political director at the Republican Jewish Coalition, told JNS that Haley is a long-time friend of the Jewish community and the RJC.

She has "a tremendous record of accomplishment on the issues we care More recently, she has expressed publicly the need to fight antisemitism and support Israel in the wake of antisemitic attacks worldwide and terror attacks in Israel.



Haley has addressed several Jewish groups in recent months, including two

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Estate Planning How in the World am I Going to Afford Long-Term Care?

By Benjamin I. Wachtel, Esq. and David L. Mendelson, Esq.

About seventy percent (70%) of Americans who reach the age of sixty-five (65) will need some type of longterm care during their lives. In Tennessee, the average cost of a nursing home varies depending on several factors such as location, quality of facility and level of care required. On average, the cost of a nursing home in Tennessee is around seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) per month for a private room and around six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) per month for a semi-private room. Thus, in Tennessee, the average annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is eightyfour thousand dollars (\$84,000.00), which amounts to four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000.00) over a five (5) year period and a whopping eight hundred forty thousand dollars (\$840,000.00) over a ten (10) year period. These daunting numbers leave many Memphians concerned about their ability to afford long-term care in the likely event they need it.

As with many areas involving estate planning, proper planning on the frontend as relates to financing long-term care often makes all of the difference on the backend once an individual actually needs to use some form of long-term care. Importantly, for individuals who are Medicaid eligible, Medicaid covers most, if not all, long-term care expenses.

Many of us are familiar in some form or another with Medicaid. Medicaid is a government-funded program that helps individuals pay for medical expenses including long-term care. However, the program has strict eligibility requirements, including financial limits on the assets and income of its beneficiaries. In Tennessee, for example, if an individual has more assets than the Medicaid limit, they are required to spend down their assets (get rid of them) before becoming eligible for Medicaid.

This is one area where proper planning on the frontend can serve to protect



the individual from spending all of his or her funds on long-term care and can enable individuals with assets to protect those assets from Medicaid spend-down requirements. To do so, many individuals and families in Tennessee establish a Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPT). A MAPT is a special type of trust that enables individuals to transfer assets into the trust, retain some control over those assets and still qualify for Medicaid when it comes time to pay long-term care expenses. By properly establishing and funding a MAPT, individuals can protect assets from Medicaid spend-down requirements and ensure those assets are preserved for the individual's family's benefit.

A MAPT trust agreement should specify how assets in the trust are to be managed and who is to benefit from the assets. One important aspect of a MAPT is that it must meet certain requirements to be considered a Medicaid-compliant trust. For example, the trust must be irrevocable, meaning that the individual who establishes the trust cannot change or revoke it.

In sum, many Memphians will need long-term care at some point and longterm care is expensive. A Medicaid Asset Protection Trust is often a valuable tool for individuals and families in Tennessee who want to protect their assets for their family and still enjoy the benefits of Medicaid when it comes to financing long-term care. We will further discuss Medicaid planning in future articles, but a key aspect of a MAPT is to ensure that the trust is structured correctly and complies with all applicable laws, eligibility requirements and regulations. HW



Malachy Bartkus (New Orleans, LA), Representative Tom Reynolds and Isabella Gadberry (Germantown, TN)

Officers of the University of Mississippi Hillel Isabella Gadberry of Germantown, Tenn., and Malachy Bartkus of New Orleans, La., were in-

vited to give the opening prayer to the Mississippi House of Representatives on National Holocaust Remembrance Day. HW



Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Memphis Jewish Federation arranged for Second Generation Holocaust survivor Ida Notowitz Eleazer to share her father, Max Notowitz's, z"l, harrowing and inspiring story of Holocaust survival to a packed gym of 500+ 6th-12th graders at St. George's Independent School.



Israel Blocked More than 1,000 Cyber Attacks in 2022

(JNS) - During the past year, Israel's cyber defense authorities repelled more than 1,000 attempted attacks that collectively had the potential to cripple the country's economy, according to the Jewish state's cybersecurity czar. At the Cybertech 2023 conference, Director General of the Israel National Cyber Directorate Gaby Portnoy gave a briefing on Israel's cyber activities and explained how they have become an integral part of protecting the country from external threats, particularly those emanating from Iran, "i24News" reported. "As in the worlds of counterterrorism and spy games, the general public is mostly unaware of the attacks that have been stopped. Our job is to prevent those attacks that, if successful, would result in millions of damage to the economy and the country," Portnoy said. In December, Israel participated in the inaugural Arab International Cybersecurity Exhibition and Conference in Manama, Bahr. HW





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Campers and staff enjoying Summer Camp 2022

With the last few months of the school year ahead, we are all wondering what to do with our kids this summer. Well look no further, the Memphis Jewish Community Center is opening its summer doors once again for Day Camp 2023. We have camps for ages 3 through 6th grade, and we offer something for everyone, including traditional camp, sports camps, and specialty camps. Some of our new camps this year include, but are not limited to, STEAM Camp and Maccabi Camp. We are so excited to have children back on our campus for summer camp 2023.

Registration is currently open for everyone!

For any questions regarding registration or camp in general please feel free to email daycamp@jccmemphis.org or give us a call at 901-761-0810. **HW**

MJCC is Hiring Summer Camp Staff

Is your child a rising Junior in high school or older? Are you looking for ways they can get involved in the Jewish community? How about working with children at the Memphis JCC?

We are currently accepting applications for all of our staff positions for Summer Camp 2023. We are hiring Junior Counselors, Senior Counselors, and Specialists to help make this summer unforgettable for our campers.

If your child is interested, please visit our website at jccmemphis.org/ daycamp and click "Join our Staff" to complete the application. For any questions, please reach out to Connor Fowkes, Associate Director of Youth, Camp and Family Services at cfowkes@jccmemphis.org or 901-295-5237. **HW**

DEADLINE FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAY AT 5PM WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR STORIES IN ADVANCE.



Plough Towers: L. O. V. E.



Plough Towers Executive Committee: Steve Baer, Treasurer; Leigh Hendry, Executive Director, Laurie Scheidt, President; Julie Boshwit, Secretary; Jason Salomon, Immediate Past President. Not pictured Harleen Tague.

By Harleen Tague

At Plough Towers the month of February is about LOVE – Laughter, Observance, Value (and of course Valentine) and Enjoyment. At Plough Towers so many more symbols of LOVE can be found: loyalty, openheartedness, virtue, eternally ongoing.

When walking through the doors of the Towers, one experiences these symbols of LOVE from the residents, friends, family, and especially those that support the positive environment of Plough.

At the end of January, the Board of Directors gathered for their 42nd Annual Meeting to focus on all the amazing happenings that make Plough Towers the positive and supportive environment it is. Led by President Laurie Scheidt, they shared statistics, projects that are

Russia Urges Israel Not to Arm Ukraine

(JNS) – Russia last Wednesday warned Israel against arming Ukraine, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated he was considering providing military assistance to Kyiv and was willing to mediate.

"We say that all countries that supply weapons [to Ukraine] should understand that we will consider these [weapons] to be legitimate targets for Russia's armed forces," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova, reported "AFP."

"Any attempts – implemented or even unrealized but announced for the supply of additional, new or some othcompleted and those that are on-going, as well as having a special guest speaker, Dr. Scott Morris of the Church Health Center and Rabbi Joel Finkelstein who gave a special HaMotzi Blessing. Not only do each of the board members value their loyalty to Plough residents, but they actively participate in activities that bring laughter and joy to residents.

Thank you to board members and volunteers for Monthly Support Group and Book Club, for helping residents with holiday observance, with group activities and games, and with an "openheartedness" that is ongoing.

To be a part of this amazing community, and to find activities that you would like to participate in, visit ploughtowers. org to view the activities listed for February and monthly. Family, and friends are always welcome. **HW**

er weapons – lead and will lead to an escalation of this crisis. And everyone should be aware of this," Zakharova said.

Washington has been cautious about which arms it provides Kyiv and from where the weaponry arrives. But speaking in Israel last Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Israeli counterparts that they should be doing more to support Ukraine from a security perspective.

Israel has yet to provide weapons directly to Ukraine. Doing so could risk undermining Israeli security, some commentators have argued. **HW**





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A Minnesota Synagogue Built an Ice Rink – and is Inaugurating it with a Klezmer Skate



The sun sets ahead of the Klezmer on Ice Festival's opening night, which features a free skate session at Temple of Aaron's ice rink. Credit: Marcus Rubenstein

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A forecasted low of -16 degrees in the Twin Cities last Thursday has the stage set perfectly for two frozen Jewish firsts — a Klezmer on Ice festival and a synagogue-run skating rink.

Such is life in Minnesota, where bone-chilling temperatures are no match for Jewish festivities.

"It kind of shows us the Minnesota-style of thinking about the winter where just because it's freezing cold outside, you don't have to stop doing everything," said Marcus Rubenstein, rabbi at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul.

"I used to be a rabbi in New York. They said you couldn't schedule any big events in the winter because no one would come in case it snowed," Rubenstein said. "But [here] sometimes it will snow 6, 7 inches and be -5, -10 degrees, and you'll have everybody come out. I mean people in their 80s, 90s to little kids. And they just put on their coats and go out and have fun."

Temple of Aaron, a Conservative

congregation of about 700 families, is inviting families to bundle up and have fun on what Rubenstein believes is the first-ever skating rink on a synagogue property. The rink, which can accommodate about 30 people at a time, was built by congregant Joel Paper and is being maintained by "Ice Captains" — synagogue members who clear it of snow and shovel off any extra ice that forms.

Last Thursday, skaters at the rink heard the kickoff performance of the klezmer festival, featuring Jewbalaya, a hybrid klezmer and New Orleans jazz band in which Rubenstein plays the trumpet.

But the music will be piped in from inside the synagogue — a concession, Rubenstein and others associated with the festival said, to the cold.

The prior week, musicians promoting Klezmer on Ice with a pre-festival performance alongside Lake Harriett, the (usually frozen-over) body of water at the heart of Minneapolis, ran into some technical challenges. Anticipating frigid temperatures, the musicians planned to play from a lakeside booth decorated like a boom box as part of a pop-art initiative called Art Shanty. But there was a wrinkle.

"We were supposed to have a sousaphone player who by the time they got their heavy big brass instrument into the box, the valves were frozen so they couldn't play," said Josh Rosard, an organizer of Klezmer on Ice. The performance went on without the sousaphone.

It's not just brass instruments that are vulnerable to cold snaps. Strings and woodwinds can quickly go out of tune in the cold, as metal contracts and wood begins to warp. Clarinets and violins, staples of the Eastern European Jewish music genre, just can't take it.

That's why most of the Klezmer on Ice events will take place indoors — including but not only at Temple of Aaron. On the schedule for the weekend-long festival are local and national performers Sarina Partridge, Tzipporah Johnson, Izzy Buckner, the Klezmommies and the band Midwood. There will also be a cabaret variety show; klezmer-infused Shabbat services; and a luminary Havdalah ceremony.

Rosard said he saw the event as a breakout moment for the Twin Cities' klezmer scene and, given the strong track record of longstanding klezmer festivals at spawning new acts, an opportunity.

"I'm really excited for what players in the community are going to take out of the workshops in particular and excited to see what may come out of it in the future," said Rosard, who grew up casually playing the accordion but got more seriously involved in the klezmer world during the pandemic. He met his Klezmer on Ice co-organizer, Jewish musician and folklorist Sarah Larsson, with whom he attended KlezCanada and the Portland Klezmer Festival.

Still, he acknowledged, "It's a little bit tongue in cheek to do something like this in the middle of February in Minnesota."

Rubenstein said his congregants are up for it. Temple of Aaron's new ice rink will be open not only during the klezmer festival's opening night but for skating sessions most Saturdays after Shabbat morning services and Hebrew school classes finish.

If the activity isn't exactly standard after-synagogue fare, it's perfectly permitted under the Conservative movement's interpretation of Jewish law. The movement, of which Temple of Aaron is a part, permits non-competitive ice skating on Shabbat, so long as no Shabbat rules are violated (such as driving to or from a rink or paying to rent skates), and the skating takes place within the boundaries of an eruv, or Jewish legal enclosure inside which certain objects can be carried on Shabbat.

Rubenstein said he was thinking about the activity in different terms as it relates to making Temple of Aaron a centerpiece of a St. Paul Shabbat.

"The kids are ice skating anyway," he added. "So why not ice skate at shul and come do it together with their Jewish friends and build community that way?"

Temperatures [were] supposed to rise over the course of the weekend, but the high on Friday [was expected to] be in the low single-digits. So for the klezmer performance that is supposed to take place at Lake Harriet, Rosard says, a plan is in place to avoid [the prior] weekend's snafus.

"We'll have the sousaphone player drive up as close as possible, then runslash-briskly walk straight into the performance shelter," he said. "We didn't quite have the urgency last time." **HW**

Oscar Frontrunner Film Smells of Antisemitism



emerge in the film, from stellar acting to wholesome messages. It is up for an Oscar for a reason.

The story follows a Chinese immigrant family in America. Evelyn plans to divorce her husband, Waymond Wang (Ke Huy Quan), but fears revealing to her father, Gong Gong (James Hong), that her daughter, Joy (Stephanie Hsu), has a girlfriend.

For those who need a refresher, Quan played Short Round in the 1984 film "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," and Hsu is Mei Lin in "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (2017). Hong was Bruce in the "Seinfeld" episode "The Chinese Restaurant" (1991). sport hot dogs, not fingers.

Is this intended to be social criticism of Americans who have lost their feelings? Nobody knows. (Or is it nobody nose?)

One conduit between worlds is referred to as a "bagel," and indeed it is bagel shaped, yet not composed of dough. Is this too a subliminal Jewish reference? One is at a loss to parse whether another scene, in which a character is hit with two large male sexual accouterments, is merely for shock value, or a mediation on the dangers of tox-

Actress Jenny Slate as "Big Nose" in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." Credit: Source Twitter.

By Alan Zeitlin

(JNS) – More than 80 years ago, Disney's "Pinocchio" won two Oscars. Another film with a hefty nose is a punditand bettings-site favorite for this year's Best Picture, although its proboscis has drawn criticism for antisemitism.

Early on in the film "Everything Everywhere All at Once," the main character, Evelyn Wang (Michelle Yeoh) calls Jenny Slate's character "Big Nose." The credits initially referred to the character as "Big Nose" but were changed for the digital release. "Big Nose" remains the character's name on imdb.com.

Slate is Jewish, and her role in the Best Picture frontrunner is akin to a Jewish American Princess. This comes through when "Big Nose" continues to talk on her Bluetooth device while picking up shirts at the cleaners, and when she feigns interest in a party. (She ends up attending, but it's about her attitude upon receiving the invite.)

Co-director and co-writer Dan Kwan told the British entertainment site Digital Spy that white people are called "big nose" in Chinese culture. "It's nothing to do with the Jewish people," he said.

Did Kwan not anticipate an American release for his film? One should have seen that coming even from the nosebleed seats.

"We're not proud of that name," his co-director and co-author Daniel Scheinert said in the same interview.

Even as one might thumb one's nose at the antisemitic implications of the character name, other laudable elements

Descent into a bizarro world

But all is not destined to go smoothly with Evelyn and Waymond's divorce. IRS inspector Deirdre Beaubeirdre (Jamie Lee Curtis) tells the two that they are in trouble, having erred in their financial filings. The film soon descends into a bizarro world.

Artfully choreographed fight scenes include one in which a character pushes a pipe through a computer keyboard – perhaps a nod to Luddites of yore?

The characters traverse other worlds, often after having acted in a strange manner, which raises the question of whether those unusual behaviors are pregnant with any metaphorical or other meaning or are they merely literal plot devices. In one scene, two rocks converse via subtitles. At times characters ic masculinity.

A major thrust of the movie appears to be that Hollywood has been marshaled to offer up a world with less homophobia, greater understanding of immigrant plight, and more appreciation of Asian Americans. These elements are worthy of praise.

When that comes with a healthy side of Jewish stereotype, in the form of a Jewish character called Big Nose, the plot thickens and takes on a more ominous tone.

Scheinert appears at least somewhat repentant, but Kwan might consider a 2017 "Scientific American" article about the complicity of some neurologists with Nazi racism. The article includes a 1940 photograph of a man's nose being measured to determine whether he was to be considered a Jew.

This is all to say that perhaps the Academy Awards will soon have to supplement its #OscarsSoWhite hashtag with #OscarsSoAntisemitic.ess **HW**

Fraudsters and Scammers Pocket Nearly \$6 Billion in 2021

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

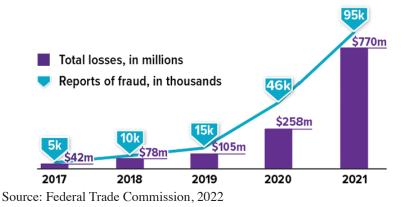
According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 2.8 million people lost \$5.8 billion to fraud in 2021, a 70% increase in losses over 2020. Imposter scams topped the list of fraud types, surpassing others by a huge financial margin, followed by online shopping scams.¹

Nearly 1 million consumers lost more than \$2.3 billion to imposter scams, with a median loss of \$1,000. Imposter scams happen when an individual posing as someone else – a friend, family member, or representative of a trusted company or organization - tries to convince a potential victim to hand over personal information or money. Examples include criminals who claim to be representatives from the IRS collecting taxes; distant relatives or friends in urgent need of cash; and fundraisers for charities. Often, fraudsters will ask the victim to forward a gift card or wire money. The FTC warns, "People who say you have to pay that way are always scammers."2

Online shopping was the second

most costly fraud category, with nearly \$400 million in losses.³ According to an AARP study, 29% of consumers age 50 and older have fallen victim to online shopping scams, which typically originate with a bogus website, mobile app, or social media advertisement. They often mimic actual retailers, offering brand-name goods at deep discounts that either never arrive or, when they do, are cheap knock-offs. Moreover, online shopping losses can be exacerbated through malware (malicious software) attacks that lead to identity theft. The AARP said warning signs of online shopping fraud include bargain-basement prices, unprofessional and error-laden websites, limited or suspicious contact information, and web addresses that include extra characters or don't end with .com or .net.4

Beware of Social Media Scammers Social media was more profitable to scammers in 2021 than any other method. People ages 18 to 39 were more than twice as likely as older adults to fall victim to social media scams.



For more information, visit consumer.gov, consumerfinance.gov, and aarp.org.

1-3) Federal Trade Commission, 2022

4) AARP, 2022

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Biden Preaches Unity at National Prayer Breakfast

(JNS) - Each time the young Joe Biden left his grandparents' home in Scranton, Pa., his grandfather, Finnegan, would yell, "Joey, keep the faith!" His grandmother had a more evangelical responsibility in mind for him. "No Joey," she'd say. "Spread it."

President Biden shared that and other personal anecdotes in his nearly 15-minute address at the National Prayer Breakfast on February 1 at the Capitol Visitors Center. An overflow crowd of 1,300 – which Biden jokingly invited in full to visit the House floor that day -

Biden allowed, but it is essential in trying times, such as amid the enormous loss of life during the pandemic and as "record bouts of extreme weather" are claiming lives and destroying homes, he said. "There's just enormous damage," he said, "and much violence in communities."

Biden preached seeing one another as fellow Americans, rather than as Democrats and Republicans. "Fellow human beings worthy of being treated with dignity and respect," he said. "We can join hands and get things done. We can redeem the soul of America."

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The president shared a quote often attributed to St. Augustine, that "singing is praying twice." He said he can only pray once, though.

His father, who played saxophone, would tell Biden, "Joey, I don't know where you come from," the president said to laughter. "He said, 'You have no lip. You can't play a reed instrument, number one. Number two, you have two left feet. Number three, you can't carry a tune in a wheelbarrow. But I still love you.'"

Biden said he was honored to continue the tradition of a president addressing the annual prayer breakfast, which dates back to former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He emphasized the message that human beings "are here on this Earth primarily to care for one another, look out for one another and love one another."

Loving one another is not always easy,

That soul, he said, is "embodied in the sacred proposition that we're all created equally in the image of God."

Citing scripture, Biden said that applying the commandments brings joy. "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy mind, and all thy soul," he said, apparently quoting from Matthew 22:37, or several other verses, although scripture states "all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy mind." (The New Testament references riff on the verse recited in the Shema.) Biden also quoted "Love thy neighbor as thyself," which he called the hardest one.

"At least it's hardest here," he said. "Didn't used to be as hard. I've been here a long time, but it seems to be getting harder. It's easy to say; it's hard to do."

His prayer, he told those assembled, is that everyone could "argue like hell with each other again but then still go to lunch together." HW

Bob Born, Jewish Maker of Peeps Marshmallow Candies, Dies at 98



A "Peeps Mobile" at the Just Born candy factory in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Credit: Andrew Silow-Carroll

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – Ira "Bob" Born, the son of the Russian Jewish immigrant who founded the company that makes Peeps candies, has died. He was 98.

Born was the former president of Just Born Quality Confections, the 100-yearold family-owned candy company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, that makes Mike and Ikes, jelly beans and Goldenberg Peanut Chews, but is probably best known for the marshmallow treats that are staples in Easter baskets.

Just Born's Jewish roots came as a surprise to this reporter, who in 2012 reported for the "New Jersey Jewish News" on the company's acquisition of Goldenberg Peanut Chews, a venerable Philadelphia brand that had recently dropped its kosher "pareve" certification. Ross Born, Bob's son and co-CEO of the company, explained the difficulty in sourcing ingredients for the candies and spoke about the family's commitment to Jewish causes in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. (Peanut Chews are kosher dairy; Peeps are not kosher.)

He also spoke about his father's innovations as head of the company, which the elder Born joined in 1945 after graduating from Lehigh University with a degree in engineering physics and service in the U.S. Navy. Born had been accepted to medical school but fell in love with the business.

After Just Born acquired a maker of marshmallow candies in 1953, Bob Born devised a way to greatly speed the process. At the Bethlehem factory, huge machines squirt armies of the chickshaped confections onto a conveyer belt, on which they glide past little guns that paint on the eyes.

Bob Born also cut down on waste when he figured out what to do with

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Mike and Ike candies that emerged misshapen in the manufacturing process: He remelted the candies, added a hot cinnamon flavor to mask their original taste, and repurposed them as Hot Tamales.

"That was his nature. He didn't say, 'No, we can't do something.' He said 'Well, we'll figure it out," Ross Born told the "Lehigh Valley News."

Bob Born was born on Sept. 29, 1924, in New York City. His father, Sam Born, had been a rabbinical student from Berdichev, Ukraine, before his family fled to Paris, where he learned the art of chocolate-making. After opening a factory and store in Brooklyn, Sam brought his brothers-in-law, Irv and Jack Shaffer, into the business. A nephew, David Shaffer, is currently board chair and co-CEO of Just Born.

Bob Born retired after almost 40 years at Just Born and moved to Florida, where he was chairman of a literacy program in an underserved community.

In addition to his talents as a candymaker, Born was a musician, woodworker, chess player and photographer, according to his son. In 2019, the city of Bethlehem declared Feb. 15 as "Bob Born Day."

Ross, a past president of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, told the local newspaper that his father will be remembered as a "real mensch" – Yiddish for a person of integrity and honor.

"He was a kind person, he was generous with his talents, sharing his abilities. He was very fair minded: he wanted to embrace differences rather than just tolerate them," Ross Born said.

The family asked that contributions be made to the American Technion Society, Israel Guide Dog Center or any literacy program. **HW**

DEADLINES FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAY AT 5 P.M.

OBITUARIES

William David Levy

William David "Bill" Levy passed away peacefully on January 29, 2023. He was born in Anniston, Alabama, on August 4, 1934, the only child of the late Sidney Levy and Ida Binder Levy. He grew up in LaFayette, Alabama, and graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in journalism. Ten years later, after marrying, serving in the U.S. Army, and becoming State Editor of the Columbus, Georgia, Enquirer, he resumed his education and received a Juris Doctor law degree from Memphis State University.

Bill met his wife, Marcia Fortas, on a blind date at a ZBT fraternity party at Bama. It was obviously a match made in heaven. They were married in 1956 right after his college graduation, and their marriage lasted until his death. Bill was drafted in 1957 and served his active duty with the 4th Armored Division in Furth, Germany. Upon receiving his law degree, he remained in Memphis, where he worked as a trial specialist for the National Labor Relations Board. He later went into private practice with the firms of Young and Perl and Baker Donelson.

Bill enjoyed traveling and watching Alabama football. But most of all, he doted on his three daughters and five grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; his daughters, Deborah Levy, Leslie Stallings (John Hattey), and Beth Levy (JP Partland); and his grandchildren, Shale Pagel, Britton Stallings, Brock Stallings, Oscar Partland and Madeleine Partland. After moving to the Village at Germantown, Bill could often be seen walking the halls, greeting his many friends along the way. He could also be found in the Village Bistro sipping hot chocolate or a root beer float.

Bill Levy will be remembered as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, journalist, lawyer and friend. He will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness and integrity, and above all, as the epitome of a gentleman.

A private burial and a memorial service was held on Thursday, February 2, 2023, in the chapel at Temple Israel in Memphis, Tennessee, 38120. **HW**

Vegas Suspect Tells Police 'Jews and Police' Were Out to Get Him

By Faygie Holt

(JNS) – A Las Vegas man has been arrested after allegedly making threats against the city's Chabad of Southern Nevada.

wrote. "Thankfully within hours the perpetrator was taken into custody. "By continuing to add in Torah and mitzvos while spreading positivity we will continue to light up Las Vegas and be a force for good," they added, using the Hebrew word for good deeds. In a video posted on Facebook, Stefanie Tuzman, president and CEO of the state's Jewish federation, said that "violent antisemitic attacks are becoming more common, and it's a devastating reminder that we are still being targeted simply for being Jewish." She noted that recent antisemitic incidents included the murder of Jews in Jerusalem on Shabbat and the attempted fire-bombing of a N.J. synagogue.

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Michael Sanchez, 37, allegedly called one of the Chabad rabbis last Sunday, threatening to "shoot up" the synagogue. The rabbi contacted law enforcement and provided Sanchez's phone number.

At his home, Sanchez confessed to authorities that he made the call, adding that "Jews and police were out to get him." Las Vegas police officers arrested him last Monday, and he is being held on \$20,000 bail.

"Unfortunately the news story going around is true," the Chabad of Southern Nevada posted on Facebook late last Tuesday night. "We were threatened this past Sunday by a troubled individual who spewed hatred towards us in particular and Jews as a whole."

"We would like to thank Metro and the FBI for taking these threats seriously, and making sure we are safe," they This is not the Las Vegas synagogue's first bout with antisemitism.

In May 2017, a man set fire to both a trash can inside the building and a car in the synagogue parking lot while the congregation conducted evening prayer services inside. That suspect was also quickly apprehended. **HW**

Heal A Single Soul – Your Own



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

By Ted Roberts

Save a single life, says Judaism, and you save the entire world. Similarly, you might say, heal yourself and you heal the world. Not easy – but at least not as incredible as Tikkun Olam, which implies the repair of the entire world.

The assignment is epic to say the least. But similar to the job description handed Moses at the burning bush. Where to start? It's like sweeping the sand off the beach or trying to brush the clouds from the skies with a broom. So many holes in humanity's ragged shirt – so little thread.

But again some say heal yourself – that's enough.

They tell the story of Dov Mendel, pious Rabbi of Vitesk and how he suffered, then understood his suffering. "I am my world," he said. "The Holy One, blessed be He, wants me to practice holiness before I cure the larger injustices that occur every weekend in the taverns, households, and streets of Vitesk. Something says to me that when I am whole, the world is whole."

Dov Mendel was the Rebbe of all Vitesk, including the southern section that lay across the river. Let me put it to you plainly. He had enough talent and good fortune for ten blessed souls. It was a custom at every bris to finish the blessings

with, "May he grow up to be as blessed as the Holy Man of Vitesk." This was a rabbi who the simple Jews of the district suspected of being, well, more than a Rebbe. May I say, perhaps, a modest Mosiach who was gathering his strength - purifying himself – before he made the big announcement - maybe this coming Yom Kippur. Though he could thunder from the bema when the occasion demanded, he was kind enough never to mention that there on the third row - six chairs from the center aisle - sat Labe Penchel who three Saturdays out of four enjoyed a tavern stool rather than a synagogue chair. He would never mention such a subject. This was not his style!!

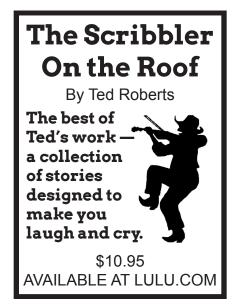
Not only that, his thunder was full of wisdom. He was a non-electronic google before Google. Name a subject - give a quote - and he would cite the biblical or Talmudic source; and finish the quotation as he reached in his pocket for a kopeck for a blind man. The line of folks around the Rebbe's house seeking blessings, advice, knowledge was longer than the procession around the Czar when he paraded through the district. And when it came to the mitzvot - well he never met one he didn't like. They said that on Shabbos the weeds didn't grow in his garden - same for the tomatoes. He built ethical fences that Talmudists never considered. For example, naturally he carried no money or handkerchief on the Sabbath. We all did that. But the Holy One of Vitesk wore no belt - it, too, was a weight to carry - forbidden work for the Shabbos. Besides, the buckle was made of brass, which - if you had a smelter - could be melted down into a 5-kopeck piece. Forbidden goods on the Sabbath. And the Almighty, although busy keeping Russia from eating up the Ottoman Empire, still had time to see that the rabbi's pants did not fall down.

But despite his recognition in both heavenly and human eyes, the spiritual leader of the district was not happy. It was that Tikkun Olam thing. So much wrong, so little time, so little power to repair it. Everywhere poverty and disease and pogroms ignited by the Czar. Everywhere misery feeding on man's basic inhumanity to man. Rebbe Mendel's small thimble of salve could not cure the world's wounds. Only the Lord G-d of Hosts, who had turned on and off the heart of Pharaoh like an oil lantern, could soften the heart of the Czar or bring rain or kill the typhus bacilli.

He turned on his narrow bed. He saw and heard the wretched of the world crowded into his bedroom. They stretched out their arms to him. They pitifully called his name. The rabbi awoke with a cry on his lips. "Too broken, too broken," he shouted into the dark.

In short, he surveyed his world and found its repair hopeless, much like we, today, who read blaring, despairing headlines of injustice, evil, and the imperfections of the human race supposedly made in the image of the Holy One.

Tikkun Olam? thought the Rebbe. Tikkun myself!! already a challenge, but like sweeping the kitchen floor instead of rebuilding the house. Carefully, they say, he reviewed the smallest details of his life and his relationship with those around him from his wife to the black and white cat that inconveniently napped on the kitchen table. His wife, his students, his holy books were his



universe – maybe the only universe. He identified his imperfections and then corrected them. At least, he made all as perfect as his G-d-given, imperfect heart allowed.

I would like to tell you that since the small world of Dov Mendel was brightened by his efforts, the universe in which his small planet orbited likewise glowed with righteousness. Sorry, such a miracle has not been reported since a Czar of the 18th Century banned Pogroms and ordered a conversion of the regal kitchens to kosher. But I can tell you in complete honesty that Dov Mendel found peace. And a small niche in a large, dark cave was illuminated. And though a thousand stars don't equal the light of the sun, nor do they bring morning - they are beautiful to behold. Maybe we should all try it. Heal yourself and you begin to heal the world.

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

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ISRAEL INSIGHTS Toward a Partnership of Civilizations

By Howard Weisband

Prior to Shabbat, and on Shabbat itself, we wish one another "Shabbat Shalom," or may we enjoy a "Shabbat of Peace." On the recent Shabbat of January 27-28, the Peace of Shabbat was cruelly and tragically twice shattered in Jerusalem by Palestinian terrorists who of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the Israeli Army, in the West Bank city of Jenin.

"Ynetnews" reported: "According to the IDF, the operation was launched to "apprehend a terror squad belonging to the Islamic Jihad terror organization," acting on intelligence provided by the Shin Bet security agency. The army said it "thwarted a major attack." Israeli security services learned that a major terrorist action inside Israel was being planned, and the IDF acted to arrest those responsible. The soldiers were attacked, a shootout occurred, eight terrorists and a civilian were killed. All of human life is to be considered sacred and is to be mourned. Yet there are realities as complex as they may be. The Israeli army took action as an army is ultimately designed to do, to act to protect its nation's citizens. The events I've described above of course are another brief page in a history of some three thousand-plus years of conflict, leading toward the establishment of the modern State of Israel almost 75 years ago.

Conflict has been the norm. War and terrorism. Borders have been disputed. The Middle East remains a troubled arena. Syria and Lebanon exist as failed states. Iran most directly threatens Israel, as well as Europe and the United States. The Oslo Accords of

rights activist living in Jericho. His piece is titled: "After massacre at Jerusalem synagogue, Palestinians must confront the violence in our culture;" and it concludes: "The Palestinian people's immersion in a culture of violence now spans generations. The corrupt Palestinian institutions must be completely abolished, and an entirely new framework envisioned so that a rising generation can mature and embrace the prospects of peace and prosperity." It won't happen in the immediate future. But if a new generation of leaders will be able to take the reigns and follow that advice in order to further develop the paradigm of the Abraham Accords, we will move from a clash of civilizations toward a partnership of civilizations in the Middle East. Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

gunned down Jews observing what they thought to be a peaceful Shabbat.

On Friday night, a 21-year-old terrorist killed seven Jews and injured others leaving synagogue prayers in Neve Yaakov. On Saturday morning, a 13-yearold terrorist shot and seriously wounded a father and son in the City of David just outside the Old City of Jerusalem.

Two young people who should have been taught to value life and help create a better society for themselves, for their community, and for all peoples. Instead, they thought better to kill, to take life.

As Jews mourned, videos showed countless Palestinians – not all – celebrating the deaths of Jews. In Gaza, Ramallah, and other Arab cities, they took to the streets with music, dancing, fireworks, and candies provided to children.

The supposed "trigger" this time that set these two individual acts of terror in motion was the action on the day prior One might read the tea leaves in a pessimistic manner. There has never been peace, a real peace, in this land.

1993 at first showed promise, but they have proven to be a failed formula for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

In a micro context, the Middle East may well be a part of what the late Samuel Huntington of Harvard University described in his 1996 classic "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order."

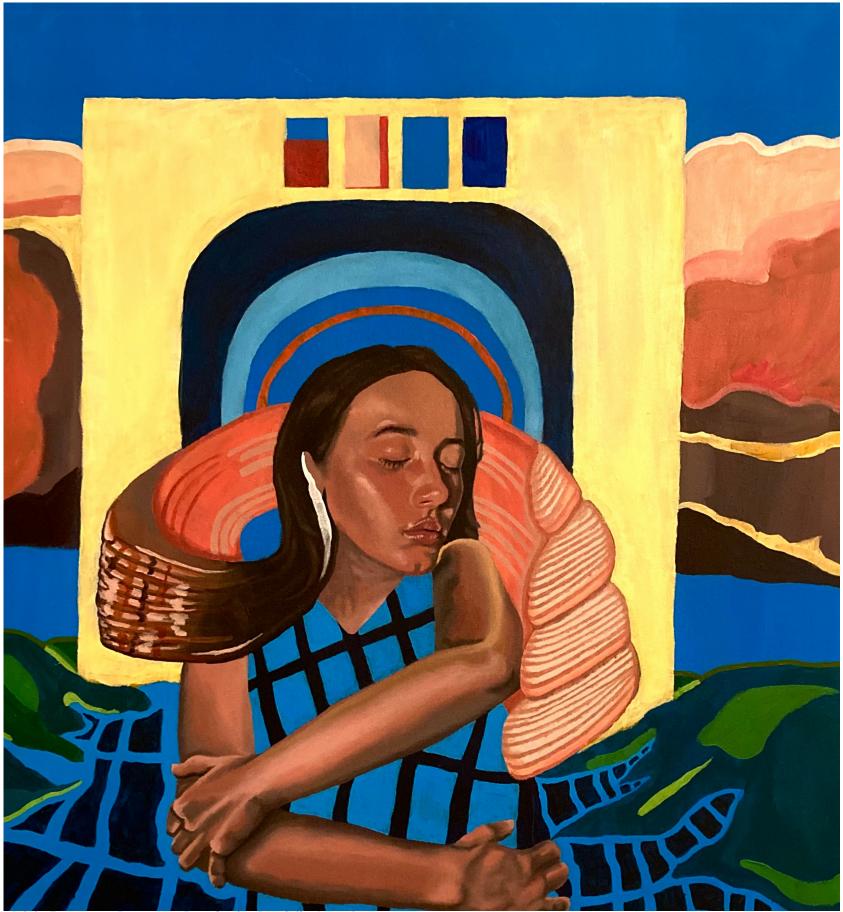
I prefer to be an optimist.

We have peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan that remain in place, and those treaties have been tested even when Israel has been at war with Iranian-backed terrorist organizations in Gaza and Lebanon. More recently of course, the Abraham Accords present a new paradigm for a structure of peace and stability in the Middle East.

There are voices of change. Among them is a must-read op-ed in the January 29 online edition of the "Forward" by Bassem Eid, a Palestinian human

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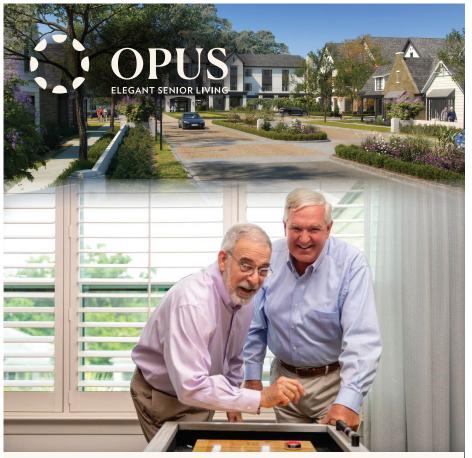
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