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MARCH 2, 2023

VOL. 101, NO. 23

Memphis Jewish Federation's Shoham Delegation Trip Strengthens Sister City in Israel Partnership



Judge Sheryl Lipman, JAFI Shoham Partnership Director Amir Sela, Shoham Partnership Chair Arela Koter and Shoham Criminologist Dr. Ronit Peled-Laskov at the February 7, 2023 CLE program co-sponsored with the Memphis Bar Association.

By Melinda Lejman

A dynamic delegation from Shoham, Memphis' sister city in Israel, visited Memphis in early February bringing Israeli professional expertise, culture and warmth to both the Jewish and broader Memphis community. The five-day visit was part of the five-year-old Memphis-Shoham Partnership Together program, which facilitates meaningful connections between Israelis and Jews worldwide through people-to-people relationships.

Comprised of noted clinical crimi-

nologist and Ashkelon College professor Dr. Ronit Peled-Laskov, Shoham Partnership Chair Arela Koter and JAFI Shoham Partnership Director Amir Sela, the delegation's visit was coordinated by Keri Unowsky, Memphis Partnership chair and committee members Marci Hirsch and Liz Rudnick. Visitors enjoyed home hospitality from Keri and Dan Unowsky, Marci and Geoffrey Hirsch and Michal and Patrick Almalem. Community member Carolyn Schrier helped with showing our visi-

tors around.

While in Memphis, Dr. Ronit Peled-Laskov engaged four professional audiences on the topic of "Lessons from the Israeli Criminal Justice System on Reform and Recidivism: How International Approaches of Criminal Reform Might be Applied in the United States."

One such event was co-sponsored by the Memphis Bar Association and was attended by a diverse group of attorneys, members of Jewish Foundation of Memphis' Professional Advisory Group (PAG), a state judge, Federation and Foundation leadership and others interested in the topic. The CLE-accredited program was moderated by Judge Sheryl Lipman, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

"I was actually very interested in the discussion regarding vocational training programs in Israeli jails... It's curious that Israel discovered something that the U.S. used to do well and no longer does," noted attorney Greg Siskind of Siskind Susser, PC. "I was also struck by what Ronit said about jails being a place where people come out even more hardened criminals. I'm afraid we have that problem here in Tennessee... I'm glad to hear Israel thinks so much about this. I wish we would follow that example."

At another continuing education program sponsored by The University of Memphis' Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research,

Dr. Peled-Laskov elaborated on how from its founding, Israel has always taken a more rehabilitative approach to criminal justice.

Other professional meetings included the District Attorney's office and one with Sherie Rosenblatt, an educator in the county's prison system.

Memphis teens were treated to a fabulous experience with Amir Sela, who doubles as an Israeli Pop Culture expert. Hosted by Beth Sholom Synagogue, teens learned about Israeli society through the lens of Israeli pop music.

"Learning about Israel away from a historical context was an amazing opportunity," said Elijah Schaffzin, a 14-year-old freshman at University High School and a member of the Stand With Us Teen Leadership Council. "We delved into the rich and multicultural stories of several Israelis through music and, in doing so, we experienced the unique and beautiful diversity of Israel."

To better understand the Memphis Jewish community while strengthening the partnership between the two cities, delegates visited some of our synagogues, the Memphis Jewish Community Center and our two day schools who have twinning relationships with schools in Shoham.

"The Shoham team visit to Bornblum was great!" shared Michal Al-

(See **Shoham** Page 2)

Comedy Star and Beloved Rabbi, Michael "Ziggy" Danziger, Returns to Memphis to Headline Temple Israel Purim Comedy Show

Temple Israel hosts community Purim Carnival and Concert, Megillah Reading, and 21+ Comedy Show on March 5 and 6



Rabbi Michael "Ziggy" Danziger

Rabbi Michael "Ziggy" Danziger, Senior Rabbi of The Temple, a Reform congregation in Nashville, is returning to his hometown for a special Purim stand-up comedy show on Monday evening, March 6 at Temple Israel.

Immediately following an all-ages Megillah reading from 6:30-7 p.m. in

Temple Israel's Danziger Chapel, a 21+ Purim Comedy Club will kick off in the Ettelson-Wax Social Hall at 7 p.m. Dinner and drinks will be provided during the show. Don't forget to sign up for babysitting so you can stay after the Megillah reading and enjoy the laughs!

"It is a mitzvah to laugh on Purim," said Temple Israel Senior Rabbi Micah Greenstein, "so we figured that the 'Funniest Jew in the Deep South,' Memphis' own Ziggy, would be the perfect source for comedy and community this year."

Rabbi "Ziggy" Danziger's self-described "funnier-than-it-is-prestigious" title took him to comedy performance venues beyond the region. Now, as Danziger has assumed the pulpit of The Temple in Nashville, the proximity posed a fantastic opportunity to welcome back a beloved lifelong member of Temple Israel.

Dinner tickets may be purchased, and childcare may be reserved at the top of our calendar page, timemphis.org/calendar.

In addition, Temple Israel's family Purim programming is open to the full community on Sunday, March 5.

A Purim Carnival, open to the community, will begin at 11:30 a.m. in Scheidt Hall. Games, prizes, and entertainment will include: Lollipop Tree, Lucky Ducks, Cupcake Walk, Corn Hole, Tic Tac Toe, Haman Knock Out, Mask Decorating, Ring Toss, Inflatable Rock Wall Slide, an Inflatable Toddler PlayLand, a Photobooth, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Laser Tag, Virtual Reality, Just Dance Competition, Tap Attack, and Candy Art.

As the carnival concludes, a Purim Concert will take place from 1:15-2 p.m., chronicling the story of Purim through favorite hits!

Sunday, March 5
Family Purim Carnival +
Concert
11:30 AM-1:30 PM | Family
Purim Carnival
1:15-2 PM | Purim Concert

Monday, March 6
Megillah Reading + Temple
Israel Purim Comedy Club
with Ziggy Danziger

6:30 - 7 PM | All-ages Megillah reading in the Danziger Chapel

7-8:30 PM | 21+ Temple Israel Purim Comedy Club with Ziggy Danziger in the Ettelson-Wax Social Hall

Shoham...

(Continued From Page 1)



Shoham Delegation with community teens at Beth Sholom Synagogue.

malem, Jewish Studies principal at Bornblum Jewish Community School. "They joined our students for Shacharit prayer... and they loved seeing our school, past years' projects, and students in action... They spent some time talking to our middle school students... It was a meaningful meeting, and we can't wait to visit Shoham with our 8th graders in April."

To gain a glimpse into Memphis' rich social justice history, delegates toured the Temple Israel Museum's newest exhibit, "Righteous Among Men: Rabbi James A. Wax, A Life Dedicated to Social Justice," and visited the Civil Rights Museum enjoying a private tour with Rabbi Micah Greenstein, senior rabbi of Temple Israel.

"We were so thrilled to have Amir, Arela, and Ronit here with us in Memphis. The Memphis-Shoham Partnership is all about fostering connections between our two communities, and there is no better way to foster those connections than by meeting with our fellow Partnership members in person," shared Keri Unowsky, Memphis chair of the Memphis-Shoham Partnership committee... While the visit had many highlights... the best part was the close friendships we gained. We miss them terribly already!"

Federation's Israel@75 Coordinator Jeri Moskovitz assisted with the planning of the visit and noted that "Our three Shoham visitors were an inspiration to all of us, bringing so much love and spirit to our community." For more information on upcoming Israel@75 events, reach out to Jeri at jmoskovitz@ jcpmemphis.org. HW

BBYO International Convention Delegates Meet Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff



Delegates meet with Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff

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info@hebrewwatchman.com

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. March 3, 2023 / 10 Adar, 57835:39 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. March 4, 2023 / 11 Adar, 5783 6:35 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Tetzaveh

BBYO's International Convention was held last weekend in Dallas, Texas, with more than 3,300 teens from 44

The incredible weekend was filled with amazing speakers, performers and making new Jewish friends!

Lea Thomas, current 75th Regional maz/giz from Memphis, had the opportunity to interview Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. She is passionate about her Judaism, advocating for Israel and

"It was one of the best experiences in my life," said Lea. "It was amazing to be in a room filled with teen leaders pursing their dreams and being a proud Jew. HW



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OF THE MEMPHIS TIGERS

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ADL Condemns Neo-Nazi **Protests of Broadway Play** about Antisemitic Lynching

(JNS) – With a book by Alfred Uhry, and lyrics and music by Jason Robert Brown, the 1998 musical "Parade" tells the tragic story of Jewish factory manager Leo Frank, who was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for the rumored rape and the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan in Atlanta in 1913. Two years later, the 31-year-old's sentence was later commuted to life in prison, but an armed mob lynched him instead. (Frank was officially pardoned in 1986.)

Form followed content last Tuesday in New York City.

The same group that the trial shaped, the Anti-Defamation League, released a statement last Wednesday condemning "a small group of neo-Nazis," who protested outside a premiere performance of the play on Broadway last Tuesday.

The group was also reported to have handed out antisemitic literature.

"The vile antisemitism on full display

"The irony should not be lost on anyone," said the group's CEO Jonathan Greenblatt.

outside the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre last night during a premiere performance of 'Parade' underscores the importance of telling Leo Frank's story," stated Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the ADL.

He added that "the irony should not be lost on anyone that these antisemitic extremists decided to protest a play that details the true story of the lynching of an innocent Jewish man by an antisemitic mob, and used it as an opportunity to spread conspiracy theories and hate."

The show had an earlier run at an off-Broaday stage in November and garnered some attention in the press for its handling of antisemitism. HW

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 March 6

Speaker: Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, Director for the Center of Jewish Life and Learning, will talk about Purim!! Rabbi Abe's talks are always interesting and draw a nice audience. Purim, which literally means "lots" and is sometimes known as the Feast of Lots, is the Jewish holiday in which Jews commemorate being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian Empire. Come hear the rabbi's take on this interesting Jewish holiday!

Wednesday March 8

Speaker: Rabbi Sarit Horowitz from Beth Sholom Synagogue, will discuss "Concealed and Revealed!" Please come join us.

Monday March 13

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch. His topic is "Moses introduces himself to G-d!" Come hear this dynamic rabbi.

Wednesday March 15 Monthly Luncheon featuring The **Beverly Brothers**

The Beverly Brothers perform harmony-based songs ranging from classic country to classic rock and roll favorites. This two-guitar duo always delivers a spirited, high-energy show that invites and incites audience. The Beverly Brothers are part of Creative Aging's great cadre of entertainers. In addition, guests will enjoy a performance by children from the MJCC Early Childhood program who will sing a few songs.

Join us for the entertainment and enjoy a good kosher lunch all for \$5. The Luncheon and The Beverly Brothers start at noon on the March 15. Reservations can be made by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810 or emailing Steve Kaplan at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. and can be made by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220, stevekaplan@ jccmemphis.org or by calling the front desk at 901.761.0810. HW

Richard Belzer, Eminently Recognizable Jewish Comedian and Character Actor, Dies at 78

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) - Richard Belzer wasn't just a hard-boiled Jew who rose from a troubled childhood to the top of his field - he played one on TV.

Belzer, who died last Sunday at 78, was a familiar face because of his longstanding roles on "Homicide: Life on the Streets," "Law and Order: SVU" and other TV shows. In each of those series, he played a presumptively Jewish detective named John Munch whose biography overlapped significantly with Belzer's own.

Belzer was born in 1944 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and had what he described as a difficult childhood. His mother was abusive; his father and brother would both die by suicide. (Another family member would wind up successful: his cousin Henry Winkler, the actor.) He joined the Army but was discharged after less than a year.

Belzer later tried to break through as an actor and comedian in New York City, but even though he became acquainted with leaders in the comedy community, his career did not take off until he was almost 50, when he landed the first of what would be hundreds of appearances as Munch, a wry, conspiracy-obsessed detective.

Belzer's Jewish identity was rarely a central part of his public persona even as it was embedded into his casting and characters. An exception came - twice when he drew criticism for making a Nazi salute as part of a joke.

"I'm a Jewish comedian, and there's this new thing out, it's called satire, irony and historical reference," he said in response to criticism from the Anti-Defamation League in 2012. "To say that a Jew can't do that gesture as [an] homage to [Charlie] Chaplin's masterpiece 'The Great Dictator' is like Muslim extremists killing a cartoonist for disparaging Mohammed in his art."

Belzer died at his home in the south of France, where he first bought a house with settlement money after being dropped on the head by professional wrestler Hulk Hogan. A friend who announced his death said he had suffered from many physical ailments in recent years. HW

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Jewish Progressive Groups Call Out 'Massive Attack' on Israeli Democracy in New York City Rally



Hundreds protest the proposed Israeli court reform outside the Israeli consulate in New York City on Feb. 21, 2022. Credit: Gili Getz

By Jacob Henry

(New York Jewish Week) – American Jewish progressive organizations drew hundreds of New Yorkers out in the rain opposite the Israeli Consulate in Manhattan last Tuesday to show support for democracy in Israel and protest its government's proposed court reform.

Hundreds of thousands of people across Israel have turned out to weekly protests opposing the plan, and smaller groups of Israel expatriates have held satellite protests abroad. Last Tuesday's protest was different, organized and largely attended by American Jewish groups that support progressive policies in Israel.

"We are here because there is a massive attack on democracy that's devised by extremist politicians who are corrupting Judaism to turn Israel into a fascist theocracy," Rabbi Jill Jacobs, CEO of T'ruah, the liberal rabbinic human rights group that co-hosted the demonstration, said at the event as attendees

sought shelter under umbrellas. "We are here to say that is not our Judaism, and that is not our Israel."

The court reform plan advanced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Net-anyahu's right-wing government would give the governing coalition near total control over the appointment of Supreme Court judges, and would enable a bare majority of lawmakers to override Supreme Court decisions, among other changes. Parts of the plan passed a key legal hurdle earlier last Tuesday.

Last Tuesday's rally was hosted by the Progressive Israel Network, a coalition of liberal Jewish groups including T'ruah, J Street, the New York Jewish Agenda, Ameinu, the Jewish Labor Committee, the New Israel Fund and others

Some of those groups now find themselves in the unusual position of advocating for a stance held by a majority of Jewish Israelis. Some of the co-hosts, for example, opposed President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem, which most Jewish Israelis supported, or supported the Iran nuclear agreement, which most Jewish Israelis opposed. Not so with the court reform: The groups at the rally, and the majority of Israeli Jews, have said they oppose the plan.

"The majority of Israelis are speaking out and I hope that changes will occur," said Matt Nosanchuk, the outgoing executive director of the New York Jewish Agenda. "Even if these reforms pass, that doesn't mean we stop protesting. We will keep finding ways for them to be reversed."

Jacobs told the "New York Jewish Week" that stopping the court reform should also be important to people who support Palestinian rights.

"This will enable this government to move forward some truly terrible moves that will have an even greater effect on the human rights of both Palestinians living under occupation and Israeli Jews," she said.

Israel's control of the West Bank was mentioned at the rally. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, who is Jewish, called in his speech for "an end to the occupation" and said the Democratic party "cannot continue to toe the AIPAC line," a reference to the influential pro-Israel lobby that assertively defends Israeli policy and counters criticism of Israel.

"We cannot continue to write a blank check to an increasingly authoritarian regime," Lander said.

Jonathan Kopp, a J Street board member, said democratic values shared by Israel and the United States are "under assault by this right-wing government." "Just as President [Joe] Biden has

made protecting American democracy here [a priority], we urge him to directly confront Netanyahu's extremist plans, which would subvert democracy in the service of settlements, demolitions and occupation," he said.

Some participants at the rally said they wished its message went further. Eva Borgwardt, the political director of IfNotNow, a Jewish organization that opposes Israel's occupation of the West Bank, said advocacy for Palestinian rights felt lacking at the rally, at a time that "could actually be a moment for the American progressive movement to coalesce."

"I think that there weren't a lot of signs about apartheid at this protest," Borgwardt said, who was holding a sign that said "No Democracy With Apartheid." Prominent human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have said Israel is guilty of apartheid in its treatment of the Palestinians. Israel vociferously rejects the comparison to South Africa's former system of racial segregation.

"Especially with the current government, it's becoming even more of a problem," Borgwardt added. "We have to unify around the problem if we're going to be powerful enough to actually achieve a solution."

Shaul Franco, 38, an Israeli who has lived in New York for three and half years, said he came to the rally because "things have been going in a very bad trajectory for so long." Franco added that he's not sure if he will go back to Israel "anytime soon."

"We want to see a much stronger pushback from the [American] president," Franco said. "But I don't count on them doing Israel's job." **HW**

4.4 Magnitude Earthquake off Lebanese Coast Rattles Israel

(JNS) – A 4.4 magnitude earthquake centered off the coast of Lebanon in the Eastern Mediterranean was felt in Israel early last Wednesday morning.

There were no reports of injuries or damages in the Jewish state.

The quake struck 73 kilometers northwest of Sidon, Lebanon at a depth of 10.0 kilometers, according to the U.S.

Geological Survey.

Last Monday, several people were killed and more than 200 injured in Turkey by a 6.4-magnitude earthquake centered in the country's Hatay province that was also felt in Lebanon and Israel.

Turkey is still reeling from a pair of massive earthquakes on Feb. 6 that, together with hundreds of aftershocks,

left more than 40,000 people dead in what the World Health Organization has called the region's worst natural disaster in a century.

Two additional quakes hit the Middle East around the same time, both of which were also felt in Israel, according to the Geological Survey of Israel.

In response to the deadly Feb. 6 quakes, the Israel Defense Forces launched "Operation Olive Branches" to Turkey, which rescued 19 people from the rubble. The Israeli military's 400-plus-strong delegation was supported by emergency medical specialists from the defense and health ministries, fire and rescue services, Magen David Adom, United Hatzalah and ZAKA, among others.

Israel has scrambled to improve its earthquake preparedness in the wake of the Turkey disaster, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu directing National Security Council head Tzachi Hanegbi to "update and reiterate the steps we need to take."

The Knesset Internal Affairs and Environment Committee called for an emergency meeting, and State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman urged the government not to delay, saying the wave of deadly earthquakes in the region should be viewed as a warning.

Experts have stressed that Israel's current state of earthquake readiness is concerning. A 2018 report by the previous comptroller estimated that a major earthquake could result in 7,000 casualties and leave 170,000 people homeless. A report from last year found that 600,000 buildings in the country do not meet the standard for earthquake resistance.

Israel is located along the Great Rift Valley, an active geological fault line presenting several significant hazards for the area, including frequent minor earthquakes and the potential for more serious seismic events. **HW**

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Temple Scout Pack 25 Kick Starts Season with Pinewood Derby Races and a Trip to the Fire Station





On Sunday, Feb. 12, Temple Israel Cub Scout Pack 25 held its Pinewood Derby at Temple Israel.

Members of the pack and their families had lunch, where Rabbi Micah Greenstein helped by opening the event with "the blessing of the cars."

The scouts ran their cars in multiple heats down the Captain Robert Secher Memorial Track, which was donated in Captain Secher's memory after he died in Iraq in 2006.

The multiple heats allowed each car a chance to run on every lane two times.

Then previous cub scouts Matthew Engelberg, Alden Zoblotsky and Dylan Spiegel raced their older cars down the track in a grudge match.

Everyone was declared a winner and trophies were awarded.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, the pack visited Germantown Fire Station #3 on Farmington Rd. where the scouts learned all about the fire trucks and safety in case they had a fire at home.

For information about Pack 25 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts future events contact Dr. Mark Clemons at 901-483-6408 or markpclem@aol.com HW

UK Security Minister Confirms Iran 'Mapped' Jewish Targets



Tom Tugendhat Credit: Chris McAndrew

(JNS) – In a speech last Monday in Parliament, U.K. Security Minister Tom Tugendhat confirmed last week's "Jewish Chronicle" report that the Iranian government was "mapping" Jewish leaders.

"Between 2020 and 2022, Iran tried to collect intelligence on Israeli and U.K.-based Jewish individuals," said Tugendhat before the House of Commons. "We believe this information was a preparation for future lethal operations."

The minister addressed the Iranian plot during a speech about Iranian threats facing British journalists. Just last week, authorities arrested a man who was later charged with a terrorism offense near an Iranian international media outlet's offices, noted Tugendhat.

He added that since 2022, authorities have foiled 15 credible Iranian threats to kill or kidnap people in the United Kingdom. **HW**







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My Teen Israel Experience



Lily Hirsch at the Haas Promenade the first day in Jerusalem

Lily Hirsch, daughter of Marci and Geoffrey Hirsch, is a junior at St. Mary's Episcopal School. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of her NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip last summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online. To learn more and apply, please go to: www.jcpmemphis.org/ lemsky-endowment-fund.

By Lily Hirsch

During my NFTY Jacobs Camp trip to Israel, I was frequently surprised and comforted by the prevalence of Judaism. Every new place I visited, I thought "I wish I could spend more time here." I've never been surrounded by so many Jewish people and seen so many people openly practicing Judaism. This experience was definitely unique and special to me

The most memorable part of my time in Israel was the two-night camping trip in the desert. I spent each night in a different part of the desert and slept under the stars. Going into this trip, it was the part I was least excited about. Once I got to the desert, I immediately loved the scenery and knew I would love spending time there. I really enjoyed sleeping under the stars at night and waking up to the sunrise in the morning. It was amazing to see these incredible views.

On the last week of my Israel trip, six Israeli teens joined us and traveled around with our group.

It was so interesting to hear about their lives and compare our experiences. It was also fun to have people my age showing me some of their favorite things about their country. On the last day of their stay with the group, I ate lunch at one of their houses. It was exciting to see where my new friends lived and to have the opportunity to experience a traditional home-cooked Israeli meal

Sharing these experiences with the camp friends I have grown up with was the most special part of the trip. I don't know if my connection to Judaism grew stronger during the trip, but I am so happy to have a connection to Israel and to have a better understanding of the Jewish community beyond my home.

Thank you to the Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky's Endowment Fund for helping make this journey possible for me. **HW**





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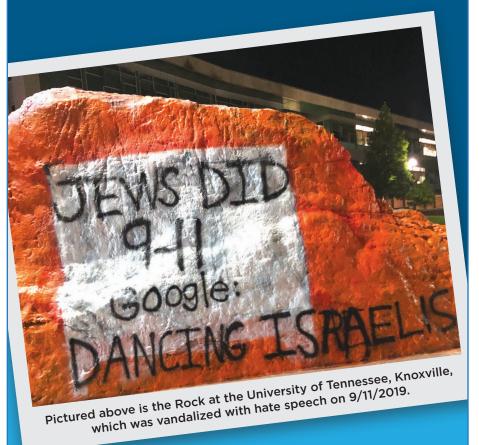
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Is It Time to Buy an Electric Full Circle Moment Made Vehicle?

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director • Investments Wells Fargo Advisors

Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com

fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

Record-breaking fuel prices may have you thinking about buying an electric vehicle sooner rather than later. All electric vehicles (EVs) or plugin electric vehicles (PEVs), as they're also called, run on electric energy stored in a rechargeable battery rather than on fuel. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) that can run on either type of power are also popular. The market is evolving quickly: 126 additional hybrid and EV models were introduced between 2020 and 2021, and U.S. sales nearly doubled.1

Cost and Battery Range

Saving money at the pump and benefiting the environment will generally cost more upfront, in part because of high battery and production costs. Prices are likely to rise in the short term, too, as demand and raw material costs increase. However, maintenance costs may be lower because EVs have fewer moving parts. And the more you drive, the more your energy savings could add up.

Tax credits or incentives may help offset the cost of purchasing a new electric or hybrid vehicle. Starting in 2023, an updated tax credit of up to \$7,500 will be available for the purchase of new clean vehicles, including some EVs and PHEVs. There is also a new tax credit of up to \$4,000 for some pre-owned EVs purchased from a dealer.

Check on credit availability before you buy, because not all vehicles will qualify, and you may not be eligible to claim the credit (income limits apply). Tax credits and other incentives may also be offered at the state or local level. You can find more information about tax credits and incentives at fueleconomy.

A special concern for EV shoppers is battery range. Fortunately, most EVs can easily handle daily driving, with typical driving ranges of 150 to 400 miles on a single charge.² Vehicles can charge at home via a standard outlet, but you may opt to pay an electrician to install a high-powered charger to greatly increase charging speed (incentives or rebates may help offset the cost). You'll also want to consider the availability of public charging stations; networks are expanding rapidly, but are still not found everywhere.

Get in Line

Like their gas-powered counterparts, EVs come in many makes and models, including cars, crossovers, sports utility vehicles, and trucks. To find your favorites, read reviews and test drive if possible. Once you're serious about buying, one way to ensure you're in line to purchase the model you want is to get on a manufacturer's waiting list, though there may be a fee. Wait times will likely fall as more manufacturers ramp up production and new models are introduced. So, if you decide not to buy an EV now or can't find one in stock, you should have plenty of opportunity to buy one not too far down the road.

1–2) U.S. Department of Energy, 2022

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with Love and Dinstuhl's



Larry and Judy Moss with the 1973 Dinstuhl's chocolate box she saved from his engagement proposal.

By Shoshana Cenker

"Life is full circle." "No one knows what tomorrow brings." "Timing is everything." Certainly you've heard those quotes about the journey of life. A Memphis couple is living those expressions with a timely, remarkable experience. Let's back up to where it started for Larry and Judy Moss.

It's 1973. The first year the Memphis newspaper, "The Commercial Appeal," (CA) began accepting ads for publication. Larry and Judy were students at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis). The CA was running a packed page of Valentine's Day messages, and Larry decided to run an ad too. Not just any ad – a marriage proposal. Yes, you read that right.

(See Moss Page 9)



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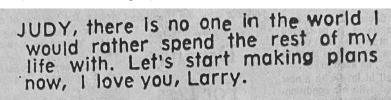
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Moss...

(Continued From Page 8)



An Ad That Brought Positive Results

Judy's Fiance Was 'Different' From The Start

By NICKII ELROD WHEN JUDY POLLACK described her fiance, Larry Arnold Moss as a "very dif-ferent person," she said it

"On Valentine Day, Larry called and suggested I read the want ads in The Com-mercial Appeal," said the Memphis State University student. "When I did, I found out he had proposed to ne in the personals column. Ie said he felt like telling ne world about it.

"I didn't find any way to so dramatic in my reply ough," the bride-elect nough," the bride-elect dmitted, looking at the six-looter she will marry Aug. 19 at Baron Hirsch Syna-gogue, "I just said yes,"

About three years ago, Miss Pollock moved from Michigan to Memphis with her parents, Mr. and Mrs Edward Pollack of 1815 Bryn Mawr Circle in Germantown. She met Larry, also a student at MSU, shortly hereafter, although she conesses with a degree of mbarrassment, that she oesn't remember the meet-

But he remembers. "I alady had decided I wanted meet that girl," he recall-



From the 1973 Commercial Appeal

He calls Judy at 6:30 a.m. asking if she's read the CA yet. She hadn't. So Larry tells Judy to check out page 34: the obituaries. "Larry has a great sense of humor," Judy said with a smile. He then tells her to turn the page to 36, and

she quickly begins scanning all five columns of ad after ad, finally finding Larry's, which read: "JUDY, there is no one in the world I would rather spend my life with. Let's start making plans now, I love you, Larry."

Next came a gorgeous engagement ring along with a giant, 7-lb., heartshaped, lace-accented box of Dinstuhl's chocolates. "A reporter even took a picture of us with the box and ran a story about our engagement," Judy explained. "We couldn't believe it when we found the box (without the chocolate, of course) all these years later while going through some old storage boxes. The chocolate box is in pristine condition."

Just this past Feb. 14, the Mosses celebrated their proposal anniversary. They're 50th wedding anniversary is this August. It's not just that special chocolate box that the Mosses have held on to. Judy is a fierce scrapbooker saving wonderful mementos from their lives together. "She keeps everything!" Larry said. We're talking about invitations, receipts, ticket stubs, bowling scores. They also have countless celebrity autographs, costumes, and guitars, amounting to its own collection. Their house is like a museum, displaying all the knick-knacks, clothing, famous signatures - including every U.S. president – and photos with celebrities from their exciting experiences at numerous concerts, including Elvis in Vegas, the Grammy Awards, Oscars, Super Bowl, Tony Awards, and other exciting events.

Fast-forward to 2003, when the Mosses bought Dinstuhl's Fine Candy Company. Remember that huge box – of Dinstuhl's chocolate? They were now the owners of the very same chocolate company that Larry proposed to Judy with all those years ago. "Talk about full circle!" Judy said. "When we found that heart-shaped box and the newspaper clippings, wow!"

When the Mosses took ownership of Dinstuhl's, which was founded back in 1902, the first thing they did was make many of the treats kosher. (Thank you Mosses, from the collective Memphis Jewish community!) See, Dinstuhl's chocolates are unique and of very high quality. There's no paraffin wax, no preservatives. Every aspect is made by hand - the chocolate itself, the packaging, bagging, boxing, and labeling. "It's very labor intensive," Judy said.

"It's 100% old school - all done by hand," added Larry. Picture the hilarious "I Love Lucy" episode where she's desperately trying to keep up with chocolate production, as it speedily moves down a conveyer belt.

Dinstuhl's chocolate delights are different. Special. Worth the delectable calories. The Mosses say young kids come into the stores only wanting their chocolate because of Dinstuhl's quality and taste, they don't buy other brands. And generations come in often - customers share that their grandparents brought them to Dinstuhl's and now they're bringing their own grandkids there. Judy hopes to start chocolate factory tours again sometime soon, since they were shuttered due to the pandemic.

"With all the types of business we've been involved in or considered, chocolate was not one of them!" said Larry, who's a jovial delight. "Judy and our team members work hard!"

That work includes very busy holidays like Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, Halloween, and others. There's also the custom work they do - for a wealth management company, they designed special gold boxes with goldfoiled chocolate "nest eggs." They also provide sweet indulgences for the Kentucky Derby, basketballs for the Memphis Grizzlies, LA Lakers, and more.

Recently, the Mosses sold back some of their ownership to a Dinstuhl family member, "so the company stays in their family for future generations," and some to their daughter, Marissa, who works at the chocolate company.

"Working at a chocolate factory with fabulous candy and my daughter who puts a smile on my face every day... how could I not enjoy it!" Judy said happily. "This was obviously bashert (preordained/meant to be). Larry proposed 50 years ago with Dinstuhl's chocolates, we later bought the company, and now found the box. It's all just wonderful."

Jewish Classical **Education** Master's to Debut in Fall

(JNS) - The Tikvah Fund and the University of Dallas have teamed up on a master's degree in humanities with a concentration in Jewish classical education. The program, of Tikvah's Lobel Center for Jewish Classical Education, is designed for "teachers, educational leaders and anyone interested in Jewish classical education."

"Our aim is to form educated Jews with a true mastery of the classical arts of grammar, logic and rhetoric, and a deep understanding of Jewish, Western and American culture," the Lobel Center states on its website.

Jewish classical education inspires young Jews of any background to understand foundational Jewish ideas, stories and texts, notes the center. It also helps young Jews understand how Jewish ideas shaped America and the West.

"We want to draw Jewish students and Jewish families into this renaissance of learning," it states.

The master's degree program will launch this fall with both full-time and part-time students. **HW**

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OBITUARIES



Al Herbert Thomas

Al Herbert Thomas, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and a legendary Memphis attorney, passed away on January 12, 2023, after a brief stay at Baptist Hospital for complications resulting from Covid.

"Uncle Bubba," as he was affectionately called by both his extended family and friends, was born on May 26, 1931, to Rena (Bredowsky) and Nathan Thomas. His mother gave him the name in honor of the two contestants who had competed for the 1928 U.S. presidency, Al Smith and Herbert Hoover. He grew up on Thomas Street in North Memphis, living above the dry goods store of his parents, along with the family of his aunt and uncle, Sarah and Phillip Belz, and their close friends, Sam and Jennie Angel. Al was known as an adventurous youth, both working in his parents' store and managing some countertop coin "arcade style" games and weight scales that he placed throughout other popular Memphis stores. Al was such an entrepreneur that he even opened and ran a restaurant at the age of 15 next to his parents' store. Al went to Guthrie Elementary and Humes Junior High and graduated from Humes High School in 1949, where he was active in the Color Guard, manager of the Football Team and contributed to the newspaper.

While in high school, at the age of 16, he met the love of his life, Bettie Epstein, from Chattanooga, at a Young Judea/BBYO convention. One month after his 19th birthday and one month before hers, they married on June 19, 1950, in Chattanooga, on what he often told his family was the hottest day in Chattanooga history, in the Orthodox shul without air condition!

One year later, after the birth of their first child, Anna Faye, Al began his two-year stint in the U.S. Army Reserve unit with several of his lifelong Memphis friends where he attained the rank of lieutenant Sergeant before his Honorable Discharge, which proudly adorned the wall of his home for the rest of his lifetime. Al and Bettie lived on base in a Winnebago and while he was stationed in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., their second child, Ricki, was born in 1952. His army experience led him to being stationed also in California and then in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

Upon completing his duty, he returned to Memphis to attend Memphis State University during the day and simultaneously the Southern Law School

at night, graduating with his law degree in 1956. He began his illustrious law career with the prestigious firm of Rosenfield, Borod, Fones, Bogatin. After a few years, he went out on his own, starting the law firm known as Thomas, Shainberg & Halliburton with his first cousin, Raymond Shainberg, and a law school classmate. At the age of only 32, he became part of the faculty of the law school at the request of the Dean, his lifelong mentor, Sam Margolin, while continuing to also devote time to his growing law practice, which had then become Thomas, Haliburton & Ballin. Al went on to practice law actively for more than 60 years, and

he became a legendary trial lawyer at the Memphis Bar. Professors at the law school would direct students who wanted to go into a career of litigation to watch Al Thomas perform in the courtroom because he was the best. Al was always happy to lend an ear to a young attorney and give advice to all those who sought it from him. And there were many that fit that category over his years of practice. He had a heart of gold, and he never let someone go without representation. Despite his success, his reputation and his willingness to represent anyone in need no matter their ability to pay was remarkable. After he decided to devote most of his practice to medical malpractice staring around 1990, he spent so much time studying medical textbooks that many of his lifelong physician friends often "joked" with tongue in cheek that Al knew more basic medicine that most of the physicians practicing in the Memphis area!

Al always had an interest in real estate and became quite a real estate developer. In the mid-to-late 1950s, he began a lifelong lasting friendship with the man who started Holiday Inns, Kemmons Wilson. The two of them, along with his friend, Irby Cooper, decided to build a Holiday Inn in Gatlinburg, Tenn. In the 1960s, 70s and 80s, Al built or owned many apartment projects, built and ran two more hotels in Gatlinburg, and owned office buildings and small shopping centers, and bought and converted the Claridge Hotel into a vibrant apartment/condo/office complex in the early 1980s after it had sat dormant for 15 years.

Charged with the duties of planning and managing the Gatlinburg Holiday Inn project, around 1956, Al also obtained a pilot's license so that he could make weekly trips to the Smokies to check on the hotel construction progress. By this time, Al and Bettie had been blessed with the birth of two sons, Aaron in 1954 and Ira in 1956. Al became an avid flyer and eventually obtained certification in both twin engine and instrument rating, and purchased his own plane with his first cousin, Paul Belz. Each summer, he would fly with his sons, or his related family members multiple times to St. Louis to see the Cardinals baseball games. He would also fly his kids to Camp Blue Star for summer camp session. Until his last days, Al never missed watching a Cardinals game if it was carried on local TV. When the Grizzlies moved to Memphis, Al became an ardent fan and would be glued to the TV any time the Grizzlies

were playing.

In addition to being a lawyer, Al was very active in the Jewish community, both locally and on a national and international level for more than 30 years. He served as president of the Memphis (now Margolin) Hebrew Academy in its early years of formation and helped shape it into the one of the leading Orthodox day schools in the South. He was sought after by many other cities in the South when the time came for them to start an Orthodox day school as the featured speaker and master MC for their fundraising dinners and drives. He served as president of his beloved Baron Hirsch Synagogue, where his bar mitzvah was held on Washington Street in 1944 and had served as a leader of the youth minyan. He served as both secretary and a trusted and revered board member of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Al was a tireless advocate for Jewish education, having never had a formal one himself. In addition to his service to the Hebrew Academy, when the time to begin a Yeshiva high school in Memphis arose, he gave countless hours to the fundraising and development of the Yeshiva of the South. Al had a brotherly love relationship with his first cousin, Jack Belz, and great affection of his Uncle Phillip Belz, both of whom always gave Al encouragement to achieve all that he set out to accomplish, and who were always there at his side to financially assist with the wellbeing of Al's favorite local institutions, the Academy and the Yeshiva.

Al and Bettie became Sabbath observant in 1960 yet only four years later, in May of 1964, at the New York Hilton, he was honored with the annual President's award by the Union of Jewish Orthodox Congregations of America (now Orthodox Union, or OU), for whom he served as a regional president for many years, as well as host for their biannual convention in 1970 and 1972, held at the Boca Raton Resort. In 1963, he began a lifelong relationship with Rabbi/ Doctor Joseph Kaminetsky, the head of Torah Umesorah, a 1950s "startup" that became the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools in America. In November of 1964, at the Hotel Pierre in New York City, Al was honored with the Torah Umesorah President's Award for "his devoted efforts on behalf of the Hebrew Day School movement." In 1968, he was again nationally honored by the OU, this time with induction into its Mogen Ha-Elef Honor Society for his "outstanding service to the American Jewish Community." In May of 1981, at the 28th National Dinner of the Torah Schools for Israel (aka Chinch Atzmai) at the New York Hilton, Al was honored with the Chasan Torah award "for his devotion to Torah in Israel." Yet a third time, in May of 1982, again at the New York Hilton, Al was honored by the OU with its National Distinguished Service Award, describing Al as "an outstanding individual whose exemplary service and devoted leadership to the cause of Torah and the Jewish people have raised him to a position of universal honor and esteem, a Defender of Zion, Builder of Torah, and a standard Bearer of the Jewish Tradition." In 1986, Al was again honored by Torah Umesorah at its annual national dinner with its Outstanding Community Achievement award.

Beginning in 1964, Al and Bettie began hosting an annual Torah retreat at the Gatlinburg Holiday Inn, usually during Thanksgiving weekend. All "profits" were earmarked for the benefit of the MHA, and in later years, the Yeshiva of the South. It ran continuously through 1985 and was attended by 250-

300 each year. Al was credited by both the OU and Torah Umesorah for creating and innovating in America the weekend Torah learning retreat for adults. This program became the model in future years by which all Orthodox Torah institutions ran their efforts to bring the world of Torah learning to adults across America. The multitude of such programs that are today run by tens of such organizations across the world owe their existence to this brainstorm idea of Al and Bettie Thomas of that small town in the South – Memphis, Tenn.

Al was an avid sportsman. He played tennis and golf and enjoyed bowling. Whatever he did, he gave it his all. Al was a strong advocate for and lover of Israel. He was always ahead of the game, having purchased an apartment in the famous Wolfson Tower in Jerusalem in 1982. Once two of his sons made Aliyah in the 1980s, he and Bettie visited Israel annually until after Bettie's death in 2012, when only a few years later, due to his health, he could no longer travel. Al was also known for his superior joke telling and would delight countless people with his tales.

Despite all of his accomplishments, whenever Al was interviewed and asked to tell his inner thoughts, he would without hesitating tell you that his greatest accomplishment was his large family. At his death, Al had seven children, 43 grandchildren, 90 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren for a total of 155 direct descendants with three more great-great and two more great-grandchildren on the way within the next five months. Many made yearly trips to visit their Zaidie, and it was these trips and his endless love for all of them that kept Al alive and rejuvenated over the last few years. Nothing lit up his eyes more than when he would speak how Hashem had blessed him with long life to be blessed to see great-great-grandchildren. Al was the greatest and most loving dad and grandparent anyone could ever hope for. He and Bettie were always taking their children and grandchildren on road trips to see numerous national parks, theme parks and doing fun activities like white water rafting and water skiing. Al would tell you he was next most proud that he was a devout and practicing, observant Jew. He was especially proud that he never missed a day of putting on his tefillin and praying three times a day, plus the nightly bedtime prayer so often ignored in the siddur by others, a trait he learned from his mother. He was always there for anyone in his family to give his sage advice and offer love and comfort with his twinkling eyes and his big smile.

Al was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, Donny and Jennie Lee Thomas, his brother and sister-in-law, Bernie and Celine Thomas, and his loving wife of 61 years, Bettie Epstein Thomas.

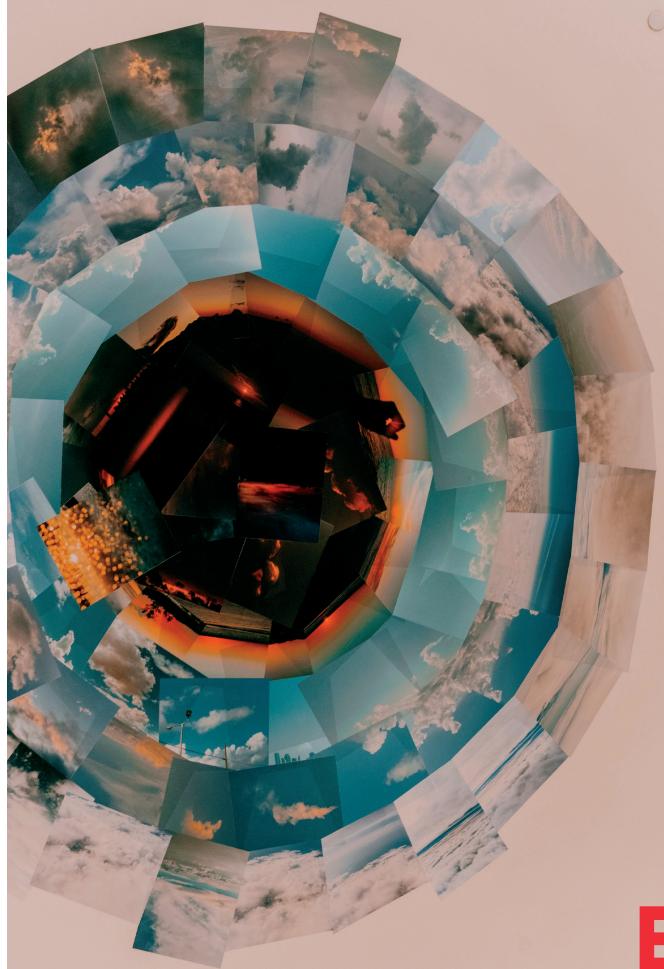
He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Myron and Myrna Thomas (Boca Raton, Fla.), and his children: Anna (Ephraim) Kotkes of New York, Ricki (Mike) Krupp of Memphis, Aaron Thomas of Israel, Ira (Wendy) Thomas of New York, Deena Thomas of Memphis, Beryl (Nava) Thomas of Israel and Josh Thomas (Dusten Levinson) of Memphis. He is also survived by his many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren who will continue to keep his legacy alive. Less than two weeks after his death, another great-grandson was born in Israel.

If desired, donations can be made preferably to the Memphis Baron Hirsch Synagogue and the Margolin Hebrew Academy/Yeshiva of the South. **HW**

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