

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE
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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 29 NISSAN, 5783 APRIL 20, 2023 VOL. 101, NO. 30

'Israel Must Prepare to Confront Iran,' Says Former NSC Chief



From left: Israel Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi visit the IAF control center, Jan. 25, 2023. Credit: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

(JNS) – War with Iran is increasingly probable, and therefore Jerusalem needs to prepare to attack the Islamic Republic even without U.S. support, the former head of Israel’s National Security Council warned last Thursday.

“War is much closer than peace, and Iran is more self-confident after forging [detente] agreements with Arab countries. The world is changing and the probability of circumstances deteriorating is greater than ever,” Yaakov Amidror said in an interview with Radio 103

FM.

“We must prepare for war, and it is possible that Israel will arrive at a juncture whereby it will have to attack Iran without America’s help,” he added.

Amidror chaired the NSC from 2011 to 2013 under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and previously headed the Israel Defense Forces’ Military Intelligence Directorate.

“America is no longer the same America it once was, and the Iranians have noticed this. The United States

has more complex issues to deal with than the Middle East, and the rest of the world sees Israel differently from the way it used to,” said Amidror.

“The Iranians are pressing hard to create turmoil,” he continued. “We haven’t seen anything quite like this before. Things have reached the boiling point and even if we have not yet seen the volcano erupt, that does not mean that things are not bubbling inside.”

Tensions continue to simmer following an explosion of terrorism this month emanating from Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and throughout Judea and Samaria and other parts of Israel.

The IDF [week before last] struck Hamas assets in Southern Lebanon after the Palestinian terrorist group fired 34 rockets towards northern Israel. Last Sunday, the military struck targets in Syria in response to six rockets fired towards the Golan Heights.

On March 15, a terrorist who infiltrated from Lebanon planted a roadside bomb in northern Israel that severely wounded a motorist. The perpetrator was killed by Israeli forces while attempting to return to Lebanon, according to authorities. Shareef ad-Din, 21, from the Israeli Arab town of Salem, was wounded when the explosive device detonated around 6 a.m. The bomb was planted behind a barrier by the side of the road near the Megiddo Junction,

some 18 miles southeast of Haifa.

Last Friday, an Italian tourist was killed and seven other foreigners were wounded in a car-ramming attack in central Tel Aviv. The terrorist, identified as Arab Israeli Yousef Abu Jaber, 45, from Kafr Qasim, 12 miles east of Tel Aviv, drove his vehicle into a crowd on a busy seaside promenade in the heart of the city.

That, in turn, followed a shooting on April 7 that killed sisters Maia Dee, 20, and Rina Dee, 15. Their mother, Lucy, 48, succumbed last Monday to wounds sustained in the act of terror.

Violence has also erupted atop the Temple Mount as Muslims mark[ed] Ramadan. Israeli police earlier this month arrested more than 350 rioters who had barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Muslims who had smuggled fireworks, clubs and stones into the mosque blocked the doors from inside using iron rods, closets and other objects. They also chanted inciting slogans, threw stones and shot fireworks at police.

In response, Israel has called up IDF and Border Police reserve troops to help secure the country and in anticipation of a possible escalation in violence. The Cabinet also barred Jews from ascending the Temple Mount for the final 10 days of Ramadan, which ends on April 21. **HW**

Iran Exploited Syrian Earthquake to Smuggle Weapons, Military Equipment



Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces and Iranian Red Crescent removing debris and providing aid to the people in the Syrian city of Aleppo, February, 23, 2023. Credit: Salem Mohammadi via Wikimedia Commons

(JNS) – Tehran took advantage of the earthquake that devastated parts of Syria and Turkey in early February, killing tens of thousands, to smuggle weapons and military equipment, according to “Reuters.”

The news agency cited Western, Israeli, Iranian and Syrian sources who said that Iran used the humanitarian re-

lief that poured into Syria after the Feb. 6 quake, the worst natural disaster in the region in a century according to the World Health Organization, as cover.

“Under the guise of shipments of earthquake aid to Syria, Israel has seen significant movements of military equipment from Iran, mainly transported in parts,” an Israeli defense official told “Reuters.”

The aim of the shipments was to strengthen Iran’s defenses against Israel in Syria and bolster the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, the sources said.

According to the sources, for seven weeks after the quake, Iran sent hundreds of supply flights to Aleppo, Damascus and Latakia airports under the guise of humanitarian aid. The supplies included advanced communications equipment, radar batteries and spare parts for a planned upgrade of Syria’s air defense systems.

Israel has been targeting Iranian assets in Syria for years, although rarely publicly. The regional sources said that upon learning of Iranian shipments to Syria, Israel quickly began targeted strikes.

These strikes have increased in recent weeks; on April 9 the Israel Defense Forces responded to six rockets fired towards the Golan Heights by hitting Syrian military sites as well as the launchers used in the attack.

“The IDF sees the State of Syria responsible for all activities occurring within its territory and will not allow any attempts to violate Israeli sovereignty,” the army said. **HW**

One Israeli Killed, Dozens Injured as Tour Bus Crashes in South Korea

(JNS) – An Israeli woman was killed and nearly three dozen others were injured last Thursday when their tour bus crashed in Chungju, South Korea, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry confirmed that a bus carrying 33 Israeli tourists had overturned, adding that diplomatic representatives had visited the scene of the crash and were dispatched to hospitals.

At least seven people were seriously hurt in the incident.

Local police opened an investigation and questioned the driver.

South Korea has increasingly become a travel destination for Israelis. The two countries ratified a free trade agreement in September, Israel’s first with an Asian country.

Israel exports about \$1.5 billion in goods and services to South Korea each year and imports around \$2 billion’s worth. **HW**

Memphis BBYO



BBYO teens gathered for their annual outdoor pool clean up at the MJCC to get it ready to open Memorial Day weekend. It is important that BBYO gives back to their Memphis Jewish community.

This year, our 8th graders also participated in the cleanup activities. After all their hard work, the teens enjoyed treats from the Kona Ice Truck! It was a great day of giving back our time to the community and MJCC. **HW**



Carolina Hurricanes Sign Jewish Goalie Yaniv Perets

(JNS) – Two Jewish players helped propel Quinnipiac University in Connecticut to a championship on April 8 in the Frozen Four – the ice-hockey equivalent of the Final Four. The winning goal, which came 10 seconds into overtime, came on a pass from the Jewish forward Sam Lipkin.

Quinnipiac’s goalie, Yaniv Perets – who recently signed an entry-level NHL contract with the Carolina Hurricanes – is also Jewish. Perets, 23, is a native of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec, and according to the Quinnipiac website, is the son of Joshua and Nancy Perets, and one of five brothers (Adam, Igal, Ben and Tal).

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

Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher
Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Office Manager
Rebecca Miller
Social Media Director
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus
Barbara B. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 21, 2023 / 30 Nissan, 5783.....7:19 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. April 22, 2023 / 1 Iyar, 5783 8:17 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion: Tazria-Metzora



Yaniv Perets

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Recognizing our Amazing Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service Volunteers!

“The fundamental ongoing communication of human value takes place when one person spends a piece of his or her life – some unique and irreplaceable amount of time – in relationship and service to the other.”
~ Rabbi Yitz Greenberg

April is Volunteer Recognition Month. Now, while we experience the delights of spring, is a wonderful time to recognize the joy that our incredible volunteers bring to others through Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving-kindness).

Our dedicated and generous volunteers at the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (Fogelman JFS) at MJCC bring that joy in a variety of ways:

- Some help with activities of our revitalized and growing Inclusion and Diverse Abilities group for Jewish community members with disabilities. Programs include classes (like cooking) to build independence, and fun activities to engage in Jewish culture in a supportive setting.
- Some drive Jewish seniors and those with disabilities to appointments and activities (to supplement our paid Shabbat Shalom service).
- Some help Jewish seniors with needed shopping activities.
- Some help community members with simple household chores like putting up a curtain rod.
- Some make weekly deliveries of kosher meals, food pantry items and fruit to Jewish seniors. Last year, these volunteers helped us get more than 9500 meals and an increasing number of pan-

try bags to community members.

- Some shop for kosher food items for our food pantry at the local food bank.
- Some visit or make regular telephone calls to isolated Jewish seniors.
- Some help make monthly special Shabbat experiences at local senior living facilities.
- Some do a combination of several different volunteer tasks!

We are also very grateful for the special community partnership with the Tikkun Olam Committee of Beth Shalom Synagogue. Their volunteers generously provide thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and produce every week throughout the year to community members in our kosher meals and food pantry programs.

THANK YOU to each and every one of our Fogelman JFS Volunteers for your continued dedication and generosity. Each of you is precious to us, and we are so grateful that you have chosen to share your time and talents with us. Truly, we could not do what we do without you!

We’d love to invite new volunteers to join our Fogelman JFS volunteer team. We know that everyone is busy. Most of our current volunteers also volunteer in other areas, may also be working and

have family responsibilities – so we try to communicate openly with our volunteers about what is needed each week and what time and resources it will take. We know volunteering is a “commitment” – of time, energy, sometimes gasoline – but mostly, yourself. YOU make an impact. YOU make a difference!

Special areas of volunteer need for 2023:

- Transportation and shopping assistance are crucially important in a community that is so car-dependent, and where many seniors can no longer drive. Drivers and shoppers also help Jewish seniors maintain a sense of independence while helping with these challenging daily tasks.
 - Also, our Inclusion program is growing! This program served 60 people in 2022 and we need more volunteers to help with activities and to drive participants to Fogelman JFS/MJCC for programs.
- Sound interesting? We invite you to become part of the amazing Fogelman JFS volunteer service team! For more information about the Fogelman JFS Volunteer Program, contact Audrey May, Fogelman JFS Intake, Referral and Volunteer Coordinator, at 901-767-8511 or amay@jccmemphis.org. We look forward to having you join us! **HW**

MHA 73rd Annual Scholarship Banquet

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, the Margolin Hebrew Academy will hold its 73rd Annual Scholarship Banquet at Baron Hirsch Synagogue. The evening will honor some of the school’s most dedicated and ardent supporters. Sarah Bracha and Jonathan Wogan will be the evening’s Guests of Honor and Michelle Katz will receive the Eishet Chesed Award. The program will also introduce a new award – a special Legacy Tribute – which will recognize Evelyn and Marlin Graber for their indelible contributions throughout the school’s storied history. The event, which is chaired by Aviva and Richard Lewis and Rashki and Zac Kaplan, promises to be a uniquely special and meaningful evening.

The Banquet is a critically important fundraiser for the school. The funds raised allow MHA-FYOS to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for its students. Please consider submitting an ad for publication in the Ad Journal, either to show appreciation to our honorees, to congratulate a graduate for completing kindergarten, eighth grade or 12th grade, to memorialize a loved one or to advertise your business.

It’s been an incredible year at the Margolin Hebrew Academy. Nights of Torah, Celebrations of Learning, S.T.E.M. Expo, sports, and clubs such as Model UN and Student Newspaper are only a few of the added highlights in an MHA student’s career. Within the next month, the school will gather for the annual Yom Ha’atzmaut Parade and the kindergarten, eighth grade, and 12th grade graduations. The Banquet will be an incredible culmination of another successful school year.

Tickets and sponsorships for the dinner and advertisements in the Banquet Journal may be purchased at www.mhafyos.org/journal. **HW**

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Why Can't I Just Have a Will?

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

A Will is the most famous Estate Planning document. Due to its notoriety and coupled with a general lack of education in the area of Estate Planning, many Memphians assume incorrectly that a Will-based Estate Plan is enough to protect one's self, one's family and one's assets. As we've alluded to in previous articles, in most cases a Will is not the ideal Estate Plan because it is not comprehensive or thorough enough to achieve an individual's or couple's goals. Here are some of the important pros and cons of Will-based Estate Plans in Tennessee:

Cons:

- 1. Probate Court:** One of the most important disadvantages to a Will-based Estate Plan is that when one dies in Tennessee with a Will-based Estate Plan, the Will and the individual's Estate must go through a Probate Court case. Probate Court can be a lengthy and expensive process and can tie up assets for months or even years. This can be especially problematic if one's heirs will rely on the decedent's assets to pay for expenses or bills. Importantly, Probate Court is avoidable with Trust-based Estate Plans.
- 2. Public record:** When one's Will goes through Probate Court, the Will and the Estate forever become a matter of public record. This means that at all times anyone can access who inherited the decedent's assets, any creditors against the decedent's estate to whom the decedent owed money before he or she died, any individual's the decedent intentionally disinherited, etc...
- 3. Limited protection:** A Will-based Estate Plan does not provide as much protection as other types of plans. For example, if one becomes incapacitated and is alive but no longer able to manage his or her assets or medical decisions, Wills



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do not provide guidance or protection.

4. Taxes: Will-based plans are often not the most tax-efficient Estate Plans. Depending on the size of one's Estate, other types of plans, such as a Trust-based plans, are better suited to reduce tax liability.

Pros:

- 1. Asset Distribution Control:** After a Probate Court case, in Tennessee, Will-based plans enable one to have control over how the individual's remaining assets are ultimately distributed. To do so, the individual must execute a valid Will as set forth in the applicable statutes and lay out who is to benefit from the individual's Estate and the amounts and percentages each beneficiary is to inherit.
 - 2. Simplicity:** A Will-based Estate Plan is generally simpler than other types of Estate Plans.
 - 3. Cost:** Compared to other types of Estate Plans, Will-based plans are often less expensive on the front end to establish.
- As set forth above, there are certain pros to Will-based plans in Tennessee and such plans are certainly better than no plan whatsoever, however as established briefly herein, in addition to other cons, in Tennessee, Wills do have to go through the Probate Court process when the individual who executed the Will dies. In other words, although the Will is the most commonly known Estate Plan, to many people's surprise, it is usually not the ideal Estate Plan. **HW**

Al Jaffee, Influential 'Mad Magazine' Cartoonist, Dies at 102



Cartoonist Al Jaffee 2016 New York Comic Con at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York. Credit: Luigi Novi via Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – Al Jaffee, born Abraham Jaffee in 1921 in Savannah, Ga., died in New York City on April 10.

The son of Lithuanian Jewish immigrants, Jaffee later legally changed his name to Allan. He went by Al, reportedly, amid rising antisemitism during World War II.

In 1955, Jaffee began freelancing for "Mad Magazine" – then just three years old – and he continued to contribute until he retired at age 99 in 2020. He had the longest career of a cartoonist, according to the Guinness World Records.

Jaffee is most associated with the "fold-in," which he created and debuted in 1964. It was originally to be a one-off, but the feature, which mocked the foldout in "Playboy," became a staple. Readers would see one image unfolded, and when they folded the page back, they would discover another, hidden image that riffed on the unfolded one.

He also created "Mad's" "Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions" feature and worked with such Jewish comics legends as Stan Lee (born Stanley Martin Lieber) and Will Eisner. He also illustrated "The Shpy," a Jewish-themed adventure in a Chabad children's publication, starting in 1984.

In 2007, Jaffee won the National Cartoonists Association's highest honor. **HW**

Plough Towers: VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!



Plough Towers Day of Caring

By Harleen Tague

National Volunteer Week is April 17-21; but at Plough Towers volunteering is not a week but a way of life. As a HUD-sponsored facility in the Memphis Jewish community of giving and learning, Plough is the recipient of an amazing group of community individuals and also has a large number of residents giving their time to help Plough continue to be the close community it has become. Thank you!

On April 19, 2023, a program will be presented for all those who make a difference and for whom we all appreciate. Thank you to Audrey Johnson, our long-time volunteer coordinator.

• For all those that volunteer their time for the benefit of residents and the continued existence of Plough. Thank you to the executive and board members!

• For Memphis Jewish Federation and all the Jewish synagogues: Anshei Sphard, Baron Hirsch, Beth Sholom, Chabad, Or Chadash, Temple Israel, Torah Mitzion and Young Isra-el, rabbis and volunteers. Thank you!

• For all the youth groups: BBYO, B'nai Tzdek, Margolin Hebrew Academy, Bornblum Jewish Community School, Hillels of Memphis, Temple Israel Scout Troop 25. Thank you!


• For all those community members that provide Book Club, Bingo, health services, exercise and all other activities; the list is endless, and so are our THANK YOUS!


Plough welcomes all family, friends and community to be a part of the Plough Community. For more information on activities and events please go to ploughtowers.org. **HW**



Temple Israel's Troop 25 cleans up the flower beds at Plough Towers

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Israel is a Miracle



Joshua Less, raised in Memphis, is currently pursuing a master's in Jewish Education at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. In his free time, Josh enjoys hiking, running, reading and playing drums. Josh is passionate about Jewish history, culture and text; and he hopes to share it with the next generation.

By Josh Less

We often hear that miracles do not exist, or that miracles are rare. Jewish philosophy contends that miracles exist all around us, we just need to be attuned to seeing them. In 1948, nothing short of a miracle occurred with the establishment of the State of Israel.

Israel is a miracle. The State of Israel is the fulfillment of a dream. It is the restoration of a people to their ancient homeland. It is a place of refuge for any Jew in dire straits. It was a place for thousands of Jewish refugees coming out of the flames of the Holocaust to settle, to be free and to be accepted as Jewish. It is melting pot of global Jewry, a land where one can experience the synthesis of numerous Jewish cultures. Whether it be Ethiopian, Yemenite, Moroccan, Mexican, American, French or South African, Jews from all over the world have come together to create and sustain a Jewish state. Israel is a source of pride. It has managed to survive, and even to thrive, in a hostile neighborhood. It has created a flourishing hi-tech ecosystem and improved the world by its ability to innovate. Israel is a story of hope and determination. It is a place that survives against all odds. Israel is a lesson to all peoples who are in exile or persecuted; that these states of being can be overcome. Israel is a place where one can experience the land that produced the most influential text in hu-

man history, the Bible. Israel is home to sights of religious and spiritual significance to Jews and other faiths. It is the place where the vitality of these sights speaks to one's soul, to one's inner being and core. Israel is the land where the baker, the sanitation worker or the taxi driver will teach words of Torah or wish you a "Shabbat Shalom." Israel is the land where new archaeological discoveries are being made constantly, continuing to draw connections between the Jewish people and the land. Israel is a place of contention and strife. It is a state constantly fighting to retain its survival and it is a state that acts in imperfect ways to its residents. It is a beacon of hope and democracy in the Middle East, and a state that must continue to be proactive in solving its conflict with the Palestinians. Israel is a place where many problems persist, but a place Jews should look upon with pride. Israel is a place where a Jew need not live their life constantly looking over their shoulder. Israel is the place where one can hear the holy language of Hebrew spoken all around them. Israel is where a Jew can live Jewishly to the fullest, in rhythm with the Jewish calendar, and near to the places dear the Jewish soul. Israel is home.

Israel is a miracle. Josh's story is part of a series being compiled by Memphis Jewish Federation in honor of Israel's 75th birthday. **HW**

'Nothing Less than a Terrorist Attack': Israeli Fans Come Under Siege at Basketball Game in Greece



Hapoel Jerusalem head coach Oded Kattash seen during the Basketball champions league match between Hapoel Jerusalem and BC AEK Athens, in Jerusalem Arena, October 23, 2019. Credit: Flash90.

(JNS) – Israeli fans of the Hapoel Jerusalem Basketball Club came under attack from AEK Basketball Club fans at the latter's home stadium in Athens last Wednesday.

Fans documented and posted to social media clashes between fans, riot police attempting to restore order and large chunks of what appeared to be cement that AEK fans had thrown down on Israeli fans in the lower stands.

The AEK fans also launched fireworks at the Israelis and shouted antisemitic epithets, according to reports.

In addition, an Israeli flag was burned, and a large banner declared, "The capital of Palestine is Jerusalem."

Many Hezbollah and Palestinian flags were also on display.

A Hapoel Jerusalem official told "Channel 12" news that some fans were lightly injured.

The Israeli club posted several messages to Twitter, calling the incident "nothing less than a terrorist attack on Israeli fans, who came in droves to support their team, as they have been doing for years."

"In view of the events, at halftime we checked all the possible options. Taking out the Hapoel fans was an option that

was ruled out outright due to the fact that Greek fans surrounded the hall, and there was a real danger of a severe attack outside the hall.

"Stopping the game was also a possibility that was seriously considered by the team's management, but the security personnel and the police warned that this decision could lead to complete chaos and a violent pogrom that would endanger human life.

"Therefore, it was decided, for the sake of maintaining the safety of all Hapoel fans, to continue the game, along with a promise from the police that another violent incident will lead to the removal of all fans, on both sides, from the hall.

"Hapoel cherishes and stands by every fan who came to support the team in such difficult conditions, and we regret the traumatic experience our dedicated fans had to go through. The club will not let these events pass over in silence," the club said in a statement.

The game played to its conclusion. AEK defeated Hapoel Jerusalem 94:78.

The AEK team's Twitter account did not mention the behavior of its fans in a post celebrating the victory. **HW**

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The Final Season of ‘Mrs. Maisel’ Undermines TV Norms. It Saves the Show



As always, the show is full of great New York City scenery, like Midge skating at Rockefeller Center. Courtesy of Amazon Studios

By Mira Fox

This originally appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission. Editor’s note: Spoiler alert.

Midge Maisel has always struggled with her identity. She’s a dutiful-ish mother and talented homemaker, but also a standup comic who roasts her family each night. She’s charming, lovable, peppy and independent, but also pushy and prone to tantrums and mean jabs. She loved being married, but also felt trapped by being a wife.

Just like its heroine, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” has struggled with its identity as a show. At first, it was a somewhat overwritten but ultimately charming romp through New York Jewish history – Lenny Bruce, the Catskills, Zabar’s and the Upper West Side. But in later seasons, the show got grittier; Midge got less likable, and the show took on big issues like racism, homophobia and the sexism Midge faced trying to make it in show business in the mid-20th century. It didn’t always quite stick the landing.

The writers seem to have learned their lesson. In its fifth and final season, “Mrs. Maisel” is returning to its roots: kitsch, costumes and witty standup monologues. The result? The show’s best season in years.

Many episodes feel like drawn-out

excuses for the writers to stretch their show-biz muscles – which I loved, although your mileage may vary. In one, Midge is hawking waste disposal services at an industrial expo dominated by a lengthy song-and-dance number about trash, complete with a singing trash heap and tap-dancing garbage men with garbage can lids as

shoes. And there’s another, separate musical number in the same episode – this one selling kitchen appliances – meaning about half of the episode’s runtime is in song. (I have no idea if expos in the 1960s actually involved theatrical performances, but I hope they did; I found the whole thing quite delightful.)

Of course, it’s all a little goofy, but it’s hard to mind too much. After all, the show has never excelled at realism. “Mrs. Maisel” has always been best as a heavily stylized piece of nostalgia, and the final season really leans in. Bouncing between the 1960s, where the show left off last season, and visions of the future, we’re treated to all eras of costumes and references – and even some pretty funny photoshop, leveraged to write Midge into various historical events.

We see Ethan and Esther, Midge’s kids, all grown up; Ethan has moved to a kibbutz in Israel, and Esther is a scientist. (Both, of course, struggle with their relationship with their larger-than-life mother; a scene of an adult Esther on her therapist’s couch opens the season.) Midge’s ex-husband Joel and manager Susie get lengthy episodes that flip-flop between their past and future selves.

The storylines can get a little confusing – some are presented entirely out of order, while other arcs arise and are

resolved so fast you almost miss them – but by the end of the season, you know where everyone stands.

Most shows today, in our era of prestige TV, end on an open note, leaving viewers with something to chew on. “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” does not do that; by the second episode, you know the answer to the show’s long-dangled question of whether or not Midge is ever going to really make it. And the rest of the season is devoted to wrapping up every storyline in a perfect little bow.

(The first two episodes also efficiently dispatch several characters from previous seasons that the writers have apparently decided are not worth keeping around.)

It’s a surprising choice, perhaps, to resolve the series’ main source of narrative suspense so early in the season. And the neatness of the endings might feel a little too pat. But it’s a choice that frees the show to move away from the overly serious topics that created stum-

bling blocks in the past several seasons. The show’s clumsy handling of race regarding Black crooner Shy Baldwin, for example, and Midge’s sneering at other women in her pursuit of feminism, were all painful to watch.

And when the show leans into its heavily stylized nature, it also manages to sidestep its worst faults. Its Jewishness has always lacked depth and leaned on stereotypes played for laughs. But in a show where realism isn’t the point and everything is kitsch, that doesn’t seem so problematic. The same goes for its discussions of feminism and homophobia. The presentation of women’s struggle for equity, in particular, gains an unexpected nuance and realism in the final season.

But that’s not the point; the show is about fun: lovable characters, great costumes and fast patter in every scene. And if some social commentary slips in on the side? All the better. **HW**



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Avron Fogelman Threw the Ceremonial First Pitch at FedExPark Avron Fogelman Field



Long-time Memphis philanthropist and avid baseball supporter Avron Fogelman threw the ceremonial first pitch at FedExPark Avron Fogelman Field before the Tigers took on defending national champion Ole Miss on April 11. Credit: Matt Smith, Memphis Athletics



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The Inflation Experience Is Painful – and Personal

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors • Questions for Mike?
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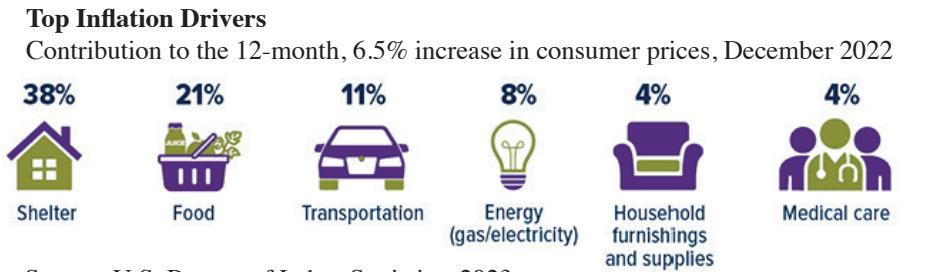
Inflation is a sustained increase in prices that reduces the purchasing power of your money over time. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation peaked at an annual rate of 9.1% in June 2022, the fastest pace since 1981, before ticking down to 6.5% in December.¹

The CPI tracks changes in the cost of a market basket of goods and services purchased by consumers. Items are sorted into more than 200 categories that are weighted according to their “relative importance,” a ratio that represents how consumers divide up their spending, on average. Basic needs such as shelter (33%), food (14%), energy (8%), transportation (8%), and medical care (7%) account for more than two-thirds of consumer expenditures.

The recent bout of inflation has been driven in large part by steep price increases for essentials, which means it’s hitting many U.S. households where it hurts. Even so, some consumers feel the sting of inflation more than others.

The extent to which you experience inflation depends a lot on your spending patterns, which are influenced by where you live as well as your age, income, family size, and lifestyle. In effect, your personal inflation rate could be significantly higher or lower than the average headline inflation rate captured in the CPI. Consider the following examples.

• In December 2022, the 12-month increase in the cost of shelter was 7.5%.² Shelter carries the most weight of any category in the CPI, which made fast-rising home prices and rents a top driver of inflation in 2022. However, a homeowner with a fixed mortgage is generally insulated from these rising costs and might even benefit financially from home-equity gains. Meanwhile, a first-time homebuyer, or a renter who signs a new lease, is likely to feel the full impact of these hefty price increases.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023

• Gasoline surged 59.9% during the 12 months ended in June 2022, before falling in the second half of the year.³ Individuals who rarely drive, possibly because they are retired or work remotely, might have been able to shrug off the price spike caused by the Russia-Ukraine war. But for drivers with long commutes, filling up the gas tank regularly might have put a sizable dent in their household’s finances, in some cases forcing them to cut back on other purchases.

• Food prices rose 10.4% over the same 12-month period, a trend that clearly affects everyone.⁴ But rising food costs tend to put more pressure on the budgets of lower-income households because they spend a greater share of their income on necessities and typically have smaller financial cushions. Plus, shoppers can’t easily switch to lower-cost options if they are already relying on them.⁵

1–4) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023
5) Federal Reserve, 2022

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Evan Gershkovich, Judy Blume Among 10 Jews on “Time’s” 2023 ‘Most Influential’ List

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – The journalist who was arrested in Russia last month and the Biden administration’s antisemitism envoy are among the 10 Jewish members of “Time” magazine’s “100 most influential people of 2023.”

The magazine’s annual list, released last Thursday, includes politicians, business titans, artists and innovators from around the world, from President Joe Biden to a YouTube sensation with 145 million subscribers. Each entry is accompanied by a short essay by another prominent figure. Here are the Jews who made the cut.

Sam Altman is the tech entrepreneur who is CEO and co-founder of the OpenAI artificial intelligence laboratory. In 2016, the entrepreneur Peter Thiel told the “New Yorker” that Altman is “culturally very Jewish – an optimist yet a survivalist, with a sense that things can always go deeply wrong, and that there’s no single place in the world where you’re deeply at home.”

Judy Blume is the children’s author whose books deal frankly with puberty and other challenges of growing up. A film adaptation of her 1970 novel “Are

You There God? It’s Me, Margaret” – one of the first mainstream treatments of interfaith families – is opening in theaters this month.

Doja Cat is a rapper and performance artist who burst onto the scene in 2020, when she won MTV’s best new artist award. The daughter of an Ashkenazi Jewish mother and a Black South African father, she is renowned for blending genres.

Nathan Fielder is a comedian and performance artist whose genre-defying 2022 series “The Rehearsal” tackled antisemitism, Holocaust denial and interfaith parenting. It also featured a Portland, Oregon, Hebrew tutor.

Neil Gaiman is a science-fiction writer whose comic book series “The Sandman” was recently made into a Netflix series. Raised by a Jewish family that dabbled in Scientology, he was also an early critic of the Tennessee school district that banned the Holocaust memoir “Maus” last year.

Evan Gershkovich is a “Wall Street Journal” reporter who was detained in Russian in March on spying charges that the State Department has called part of

Russia’s “ongoing war against the truth.” The American child of Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union, Gershkovich was the subject of an awareness campaign urged during this month’s Passover celebrations.

Bob Iger returned to being the CEO of Disney last year. “His return as CEO in 2022 ushered in a new era of transformation and creative excellence” for the entertainment company, General Motors CEO and Disney board member Mary Barra wrote in “Time.” He received the 2019 Humanitarian Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, warning that “Hitler would have loved social media.”

Deborah Lipstadt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2022 as the State Department’s Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. A well-known academic specializing in the history of antisemitism and Holocaust denial, she welcomed “Time’s” recognition by tweeting, “Receiving this award advances my ongoing fight to stamp out antisemitism and all forms of hate.”

Natasha Lyonne is the writer, director and actress whose popular series

on Netflix, “Russian Doll,” used sci-fi conventions to explore identity, trauma and the intergenerational effects of the Holocaust. In his “Time” essay, actor and director Taika Waititi, who is also Jewish, called Lyonne “the coolest person in the room.”

Janet Yellen is the first woman to hold the role of U.S. treasury secretary. Born to Polish Jewish immigrant parents, she has featured in antisemitic conspiracy theories about “globalist” control of financial institutions.

A handful of other people on the list have Jewish backgrounds. The actor and businesswoman Drew Barrymore, recognized by the comedian Jimmy Fallon for being “a true role model,” is married to a Jewish man, raising a Jewish child and said she has “embraced Judaism,” though she has not announced a conversion. Lea Michele, who last year took over the lead role in “Funny Girl” on Broadway, has a Jewish father but does not identify as Jewish. And the skier Mikaela Shifrin has a Jewish grandfather but, according to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, is “not connected to the Jewish community.” [HW](#)

Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Slams Public Passover Prayers



The Passover prayer service held in Dizengoff Square, Tel Aviv, April 11, 2023. Credit: Rosh Yehudi.

(JNS) – Reuven Ladianski, deputy mayor of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, said he intended to “bring to justice” the organizers of an April 11 prayer service held during Passover in the city’s Dizengoff Square.

“Dizengoff Square has become a site of prayer with gender separation between women and men. Outrage! Here, in Tel Aviv’s downtown, they placed a partition to separate men and women,” Ladianski posted to Facebook last Tuesday.

“After checking, I found that permission had not been given for this by the Tel Aviv municipality,” he added.

The event, organized by two groups, Rosh Yehudi and the Association of Community Rabbis, was titled “Hallel Prayer in the Square – for Brotherhood and Redemption.” Hallel is a traditional prayer said during the morning service during holidays.

“This is an initiative of out-of-town elements that were joined by other characters,” Ladianski wrote. “I demanded that the municipal inspectors come to the place, remove the partitions and confiscate them. I also demanded that the organizers be fined and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible.

“It is not OK that no municipal officials, such as inspectors, city patrol units or cameras recognized ahead of time the early preparation for the event such as taking down chairs, tables, plac-

ing partitions, etc. This could have been prevented,” he added.

Ladianski, chairman of the Alive – Green Seculars Party, which promotes a secular and environmental agenda and is running for reelection in city council elections this October to keep his seat, added in his message:

“I intend to lead a secular-green front that will take care of protecting the interests of Tel Aviv and you, the resident throughout the term, a period of five years. I have the energy, determination and experience to keep Tel Aviv secular and liberal: without religious coercion, without gender segregation and without religion.”

A segment last Thursday on “Channel 14” posed the question of whether Ladianski was acting in a discriminatory manner in his criticism of the religious service, noting he ignored public Muslim prayers held in Tel Aviv during Ramadan a year ago, which also included separation between men and women.

Rabbi Ariel Goren of the Kiryat Hatanei Pras Nobel neighborhood in Rishon Letzion, appearing on the program, took issue with Ladianski’s characterization of the prayer as an “outside event.”

“For those who don’t know, there are 600 synagogues in Tel Aviv. There are tens of thousands of religious people. The public who came to the prayers was for the most part Tel Avivians,” **HW**

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Hires Longtime Assistant to Classical Music’s New International Pariah

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – A former personal assistant of a confidante of Russian President Vladimir Putin is the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra’s new head of artistic operations.

Alisa Meves served as personal assistant to the famed Russian conductor Valery Gergiev for some three decades. Over the past year, the classical music world has largely shunned Gergiev for his unabashed cheerleading for Putin.

The Munich Philharmonic fired Gergiev last year for refusing to condemn the Russian invasion, and concert halls in Vienna, Rotterdam and New York have booted him.

In an unusual coincidence, Lahav Shani, a young, talented musician who has conducted the Israeli Philharmonic and is currently its music director, announced that he will join the very German orchestra that fired Gergiev as its chief conductor in the 2026-27 season.

The ways that cultural institutions in Tel Aviv, Munich, Vienna, Rotterdam and New York have handled musicians with ties to Putin appear to underscore major differences in how artistic communities in different countries respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But answers were not forthcoming from the

Tel Aviv institution.

The Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra denied several JNS requests to interview Meves. It said she will be unavailable until May as she adapts to her new assignment. The orchestra also rejected several JNS requests to speak with any relevant representative of the cultural organization to discuss Meves’s hiring.

When JNS sought comment from the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the nonprofit that supports the orchestra referred questions to the orchestra.

Meves’s responsibilities remain unclear, but artistic administrators typically handle a wide range of roles, which can include selecting performance and musical themes, hiring directors, producers, set designers and crew, and producing, directing and choreographing. They also often have a hand in marketing, fundraising and weighing in on other important decisions that affect the organization.

Gergiev, the legendary longtime artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, served as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra from 2007 to 2015

Man Arrested in Massive Intelligence Leak Case Allegedly Railed Against Jews in Online Rant



Dighton police cars block Maple Street in North Dighton, Mass., half a mile from the house where Airman Jack Teixeira was arrested for sharing classified documents, April 13, 2023. Credit: Kylie Cooper for The Washington Post/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Jack Teixeira, the National Guard airman arrested on charges of leaking a large trove of U.S. intelligence documents, reportedly recorded himself making antisemitic and racist slurs before opening fire on a target.

“The Washington Post” first reported the video of the antisemitic rant, which was shared with members of the chat group where Teixeira allegedly shared sensitive intelligence. Teixeira, 21, was the suspected administrator of the group, and the FBI arrested him yesterday at his Massachusetts home.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the influential Republican congresswoman from Georgia who has drawn fire from Jewish groups for remarks described as insensitive and antisemitic, has come to Teixeira’s defense. She tweeted that “Teixeira is white, male, christian, and antiwar. That makes him an enemy to the Biden regime.”

Greene appeared to be an outlier in her embrace of Teixeira, even in her own party. “No, it makes him an enemy to America. Leaking classified documents, especially this sensitive in nature, is a crime and he should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” Mike Lawler, a New York Republican, replied to Greene on Twitter. “His conduct is indefensible and should be universally condemned.”

The “Post” was the first news outlet to track the leaks to a Discord group of about 25 gamers allegedly led by

Teixeira. At the time of that report, last Wednesday, the “Post” did not know his name – only his handle, “OG” – but interviewed other gamers in the group who identified him as the person delivering the rant and disseminating classified material.

The “Post” account describes a video Teixeira shared in which he is at a shooting range. He “yells a series of racial and antisemitic slurs into the camera, then fires several rounds at a target,” the account said. It did not further detail what slurs he used.

In a follow-up report last Thursday, the “Post” named Teixeira and quoted a friend who said he was a “devout Catholic” who often spoke of God in the chats. He also reportedly referred to government raids on far-right compounds in the 1990s, events that have spurred extremist antigovernment anger.

The documents Teixeira allegedly leaked exposed weaknesses on both sides in Russia’s war against Ukraine. They are seen as damaging because of the extent to which they expose U.S. intelligence gathering means. They also include an allegation that leaders of Israel’s Mossad intelligence service encouraged antigovernment protests this year, which the Israeli government denies. A member of Teixeira’s group chat allegedly leaked them to a much larger group, which is how some Russian Telegram users got hold of them and spread them further. **HW**

before becoming Munich Philharmonic chief conductor.

His support for Putin, including a campaign ad in which Gergiev praised Putin’s ability to instill fear, never seemed to come with costs for Gergiev.

But on the eve of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last year, Milan Mayor Beppe Sala announced that Gergiev’s run leading performances of Tchaikovsky’s “Queen of Spades” at La Scala would end prematurely unless he denounced Russia’s actions.

Gergiev held his ground, and similar ultimatums followed elsewhere. He was largely cast out from the classical music world seemingly overnight, now relegated to leading performances in Russia and China.

Meves hasn’t publicly shared Gergiev’s political views, but she still came to Tel Aviv with his baggage – rightly or wrongly.

“Musicians should be judged on artistic merit, not politics,” David Goldman, a classical music critic who has written on Jewish philosophy and culture, told JNS.

He cited the circumstances around Russian soprano Anna Netrebko, whom Gergiev discovered. New York’s Metropolitan Opera canceled several of her

performances last year after she refused to condemn Putin’s actions. The Met claimed the refusal was a violation of its conduct clause. An arbitrator later ordered it to pay her \$200,000 for the 13 scratched appearances.

Netrebko later condemned the war but would not denounce Putin by name. The Met declined to reinstate her.

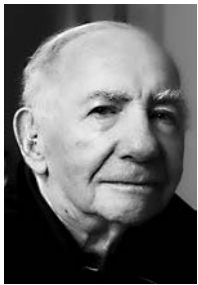
“We already saw what happened between the Metropolitan Opera and Netrebko. The Met took an extreme position, requiring Netrebko to denounce Putin in order to perform. I hope the Israelis will be more sensible,” said Goldman.

“Israel has maintained good relations with Russia, and Russia has given the Israeli Air Force a relatively free hand in Syria. Israel has also declined to sell weapons to Ukraine. The Israelis know their own requirements better than I do,” he said.

Another classical music critic, Norman Lebrecht, wrote on the Slipped Disc, a classical music website, that Meves will keep Gergiev “in the loop” at the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra “and possibly try to find him a way back in.”

Wrote Lebrecht: “This could be interesting.” **HW**

Pesach Visitation



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

Ted Roberts

Did your rabbi ever tell you the tale of the 36 Tzadiks who secretly circulate in our world? They look like me and you but inside, they glow with righteousness. To put it plainly, they are the spies of G-d; and their mission is surveillance of the human heartscape. Every Pesach they take the ethical pulse of Humanity. Then they report to the Creator. This determines the fate of the world the following year. If all is ethically well; the harvest is bountiful, the S&P 500 index zooms, the Winter is mild, and the Summers are balmy. Except for death and taxes, bliss reigns.

But the Berg family at 2822 Mendel Circle in Fairlawn, New Jersey, had no time for rabbinic tales. They were busy planning their Passover. They would have a guest this year, they decided – some homeless stranger. A real Mitzvah it would be.

The next morning found Sarah Berg dialing around to several Jewish agencies until she found her man. Sure, they had a candidate. A young, rootless fel-

low passing through town.

What a glorious Passover it would be, thought Sarah. A sumptuous meal, the Seder ceremony, and the added Mitzvah of the indigent guest. Just as the Hagaddah says; “let all who are hungry come and eat.” But so much preparation and post-meal cleanup. She cringed at the thought of dirty dishes piled in the sink, crusted with the remains of five courses. She’d get a maid. A small luxury.

Now, it’s Seder night. The doorbell rings. It’s him, the guest. He’s in torn jeans, plaid shirt, and a Bull’s sports cap.

But the Bergs welcome him into their home with smiles. Uncomfortably, they make small talk as the stranger sits stiffly at the table. They proceed with the Seder, but he seems to have no understanding of the service. Nor is he interested in Daniel Berg’s Passover anecdotes directed at both him and the children. “When do we eat?” he says as they pass the matzoh and moror sandwiches around the table.

The guest eats steadily as the family participates enthusiastically in the service. They talk of ancient miracles as he enthusiastically devours the brisket and roast chicken. The children swing their heads from the derelict to their parents in silent wonder at the sullen guest.

In the middle of this tension there is a horrible crash of china from the kitchen. The floor is littered with the shards of Sarah Berg’s wedding china; a gift from her

mother, who had died two months before.

The elderly maid had slipped and upset the card table holding the dirty dishes. She stared down at her clumsy handiwork. A silent tear ran down the old lady’s cheek as Sarah looked at her mother’s heirloom, now splintered china, all over the kitchen floor. A great sadness seized her heart. The failed holiday, the memory of her mother, this incompetent human being who couldn’t even clear the table without disaster. But she swallowed the lump in her throat when she saw the remorseful tears in the eyes of the old lady.

“That’s OK, that’s OK.” She patted the shoulder of her Passover helper as the maid swept the remains of Sarah’s mother’s Lenox china into a brown paper grocery sack.

Sarah returned to the table determined to crown the evening with ceremony appropriate to the holiday. Fitfully, they resumed the singing. And soon, mercifully, the evening came to an end. The maid, still red-eyed, was paid handsomely, in deference to the holiday, and sent home early with a plastic bag full of roast chicken. The kids – sleepy, irritable, and appalled by the rude guest – were ordered upstairs to bed.

The family went upstairs to an uneasy sleep where Sarah’s dreams were strangely lighted by the bright tearful eyes of the clumsy maid. A miserable night.

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

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Ah, but what a golden year followed for the Berg family: and the world they inhabited. A warm wind blew over the face of the Earth and unlocked the cold heart of humanity. The Earth smiled and her harvests were plentiful. The S&P 500 index zoomed, and the Winter was mild, and the Summer was balmy.

And all for the price of a pat on the shoulder, a plastic bag full of leftover chicken, and a set of dishes. Who would suspect that a Tzadik’s duties included sweeping the kitchen floor.

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

Chabad Students Lead Seders in 66 Countries, Including Peru, Thailand and Nepal

(JNS) – In Cusco, Peru, they had to make their own kosher wine for Passover from scratch. In Manang, Nepal, they drove 20 hours through snowy mountains in a jeep packed with food and gear for the seders. And after 40 hours to get from New York to Pai, Thailand, they found their hired help was a no-show since it was a local holiday.

These are some of the more colorful Passover experiences of some 800 Chabad yeshivah students – the largest number to date – who traveled to 66 countries and 26 U.S. states to help those who would otherwise have no seder.

In Pai, where the help did not show, 250 people attended a seder – the first one held in the town, Rabbi Mendy Kot-

larsky, executive director of Merkos 302, told JNS. He added that 70 rabbinical students were assigned to assist 10,000 people attending seders in Thailand.

The Passover liturgy in the Haggadah describes the four sons – the wise, the wicked, the simple and the one unable to ask – but the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, famous-

ly called for adherents to reach out to the fifth son, who isn’t even at the seder.

“Most organizations would focus on places with a larger population of local Jews or where it is more practical to organize logistically,” said Kotlarsky. “This project focuses on ensuring that no Jew is left behind on Passover, no matter where.” **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Human Rights and Geopolitics

By Howard Weisband

A cousin in the U.S. recently sent me an opinion piece for comment. While I’ve responded to him directly, I thought to share those comments with you in this column.

The op-ed appeared in the “Forward” on April 5, 2023, and is titled “Why is Israel increasingly aligning itself with dictators? The current Israeli government appears to be prioritizing its relationships with autocracies over respect for human rights.”

The author is Sarah Teich, an international human rights lawyer based in Toronto, Canada. She has a distinguished resume, which includes an M.A. in Counter-Terrorism earned at Reichman University in Israel.

After criticizing Israeli policies toward Russia, Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan and China, Teich concludes her article by writing: “As the world becomes increasingly divided between democracies and autocracies, Israel will need to pick a side. As a country that prides itself on being both a Jewish and democratic state, the choice is obvious.”

Well, frankly, Israel’s choice is not so obvious.

First, I would recommend that Teich read (maybe reread?) a superb article by Elliott Abrams in the February issue of “Commentary,” “Jewish Hysterics and Israel’s New Government.” A particularly pinpointed pull quote is as follows:

“As Yossi Shain has put it, “the hope that a state, which must always operate under *raison d’état*, might successfully operate by universal and non-territorial principles was doomed to failure – especially in the jungle that is the Middle East.” (Yossi Shain is a former Member of Knesset and a Professor of Political Science at Tel Aviv University.)

What Shain is saying is that Israel exists in a very (understated) unfriendly geopolitical neighborhood. While multiple examples of Israel’s basic beliefs and actions in support of human rights can easily be cited, not all universal values can necessarily be actualized all the time in every instance.

If only Israel’s borders were like those of Canada and the United States....

Does Teich really need examples of the difference? She no doubt is reading daily media reports from Israel. An excellent analyst with the “Jerusalem Post” is Seth Frantzman. On April 9 he wrote the following description under the headline: “Iran kickstarts multi-front Middle East war against Israel:”

“A week of attacks on Israel, including rockets fired from Lebanon, Gaza and Syria, represents the manifestation of an Iranian strategy to confront Israel with multiple threats on different fronts. Although different groups may be behind the attacks from those places, these groups are likely all linked to Iran. The

groups involved include Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and others that may go by different or new names, but which are proxies of Tehran.

“Iran has long sought to bring its conflict with Israel to the Jewish state’s borders. Its backing of Hezbollah and Hamas was key to that strategy over the decades.

“When one looks at the larger picture, the Iranian octopus of partners and groups is seeking to threaten Israel from multiple areas. This is also unprecedented in terms of the rocket fire from Lebanon and Syria over such a small period of time. In general, peace has prevailed along the Lebanese border since 2006. Now Iran is showing it can heat up any border using various groups whenever it wants to.”

Teich criticizes, among her other examples, Israel’s policy toward Russia following Putin’s tragic (my adjective) initiation of war and invasion of Ukraine. Then she writes: “Beyond this, Putin’s Russia has strengthened ties with the Iranian regime. Supporting Russia risks directly emboldening the ayatollahs, who terrorize not only their own civilians, but innocent people around the world.”

Does she not realize the importance to Israel of Netanyahu’s earlier pragmatic and necessary outreach to Putin to forge an understanding with him in Moscow

immediately following the increased presence of Russian bases and troops in Syria?

Now with Iran’s seemingly strengthened evil relationships, funding, and armament of terrorist organizations sitting on Israel’s borders and even inside Israel, that pragmatically achieved understanding – while maintaining Israel’s diplomatic relations with Russia – may be even more significant to the existential well-being of Israel.

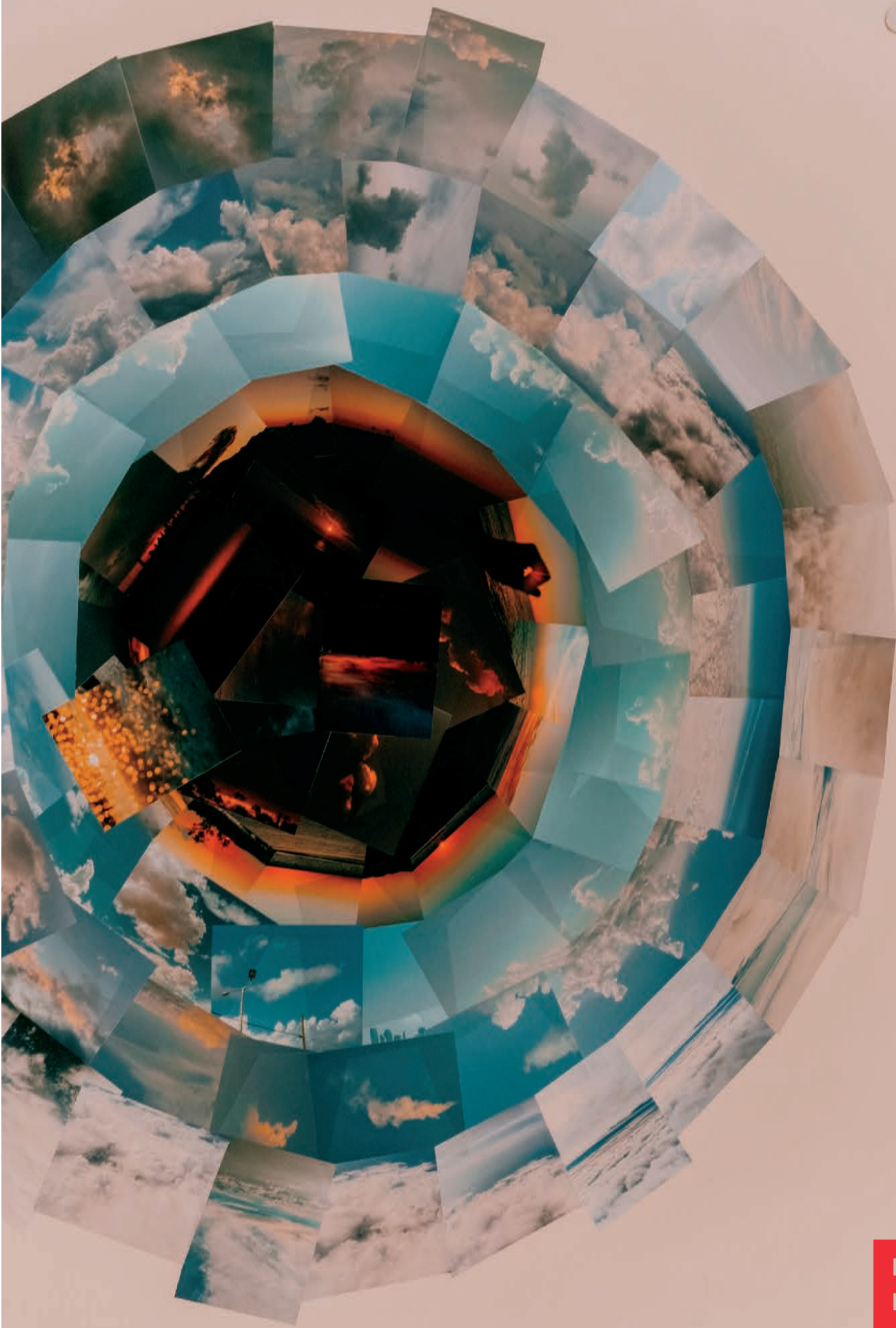
Israel has the deepest respect for, belief in, and support of human rights in Israel and worldwide, I can assure Sarah Teich. But at the same time, the State of Israel, the Jewish and democratic State of Israel, must continually evaluate and adjust its foreign policy in order to exist in the jungle of the Middle East.

Maybe the difference in large measure depends on what one calls Home: Israel or Canada.

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

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40th Annual Memphis in May Triathlon to Include Inaugural AquaBike Events at Shelby Farms May 13-14



Volunteer and happy biker at MIM Tri 2022

The 40th Annual Memphis in May Olympic Triathlon and Sprint Triathlon will include for the first time two new AquaBike events at Shelby Farms on May 13-14. AquaBike is a swim-bike race, eliminating the running segment. This trimmed down triathlon is for non-runners and athletes with chronic knee problems who seek a taste of competition over and above being on a relay team. These two new events are expected to draw large participation among athletes from 20 states who wish to try out a new event and participate with hundreds of area triathletes registered

for the 40th Anniversary celebration to vie for finisher medals and trophies presented to the first, second and third place winners in each age category up to age 80+ in all races. All events are produced and presented by P.R. Event Management of Memphis.

An Amateur Challenge with a \$5,000 prize purse will be paid to the top male and female athletes with the lowest total combined time who participate in both the Olympic and sprint triathlon races. An awards ceremony will be held on Sunday during a post-race party complete with an “Elvis” impersonator to

“shake, rattle and roll” with all runners as they cross the finish line.

Prior to the races, athletes can get a leg up on their competition at a FREE Triathlon Transition Clinic on Wednesday, April 26 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hook Point Brewing Company’s new Ready Room, 715 West Brookhaven Circle. Presented by P.R. Event Management the clinic is ideal for first-time triathletes or experienced triathletes looking to improve their individual performance. Dale Sanford, co-founder and coach of BPC Performance Coaching in Memphis, and Heather Nichols, also of BPC, will teach the free transition clinic.

Following the transition clinic will be an unveiling of the logo art for this year’s 40th anniversary of the Memphis in May Triathlon. The design was created by Memphis College of Art graduate Cornell Mahon, a Memphis painter, illustrator and graphic designer. The art celebrates Malaysia, the honored country for the 2023 Memphis in May Festival. Clinic participants are invited to stay for the unveiling and beer tastings. The public is also invited to attend.

Additionally, four open water swims are being offered prior to the races to help participants improve their performance before the events. Geared for swimmers who can already swim and are interested in becoming faster and more efficient, these open water swim

sessions are on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. beginning April 16 and repeated on April 23, April 30, and May 7. Cost to attend these swims is \$15 each session with proceeds to benefit Shelby Farms. Pam Routh, race director, and Dale Sanford and Heather Nichols, both with BPC Performance Coaching of Memphis, will help host the swims and offer training tips.

Register at:
<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/shelbyfarms/items/?flow=738185&full-items=yes>.

Packet Pick up for all event participants is Friday, May 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. Olympic distance ONLY packet pickup is from up 5:30 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 13. Sprint distance ONLY packet pickup is 12 p.m. noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14.

Community groups are needed to volunteer and assist with registration, packet pick up, water stops and other race activities. Groups who wish to include their organization for service projects should contact the race director. All volunteers will receive a T-shirt and wrist band for the hospitality tent so they can join in the after-race celebrations.

To register, or for information on sponsorships and volunteering for the event, visit pr-eventmanagement.net or contact Pam Routh at (901) 550-2114 or pamrunsaces@gmail.com. **HW**

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