



THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Israeli Music and Cuisine to be Highlighted at Shuk, Rattle and Roll on May 17



DJ Jewel

As anticipation builds for *Shuk, Rattle and Roll* – Memphis’ community-wide celebration of Israel’s 75th anniversary – Memphis Jewish Federation continues to finalize plans for the adult-only event,

to be held on May 17 at Memphis Botanic Garden at 6:30 p.m. The music for this fun, casual, yet meaningful event, will include performances by local favorite Jason Caplan

and visiting Israeli-born DJ Jewel. Jason Caplan’s Naqshon’s Leap is a Memphis band that plays original unity music with funk, soul and Memphis-inspired sound. Its songs have the goal of fulfilling a mission to celebrate One God, One Human Family and creating bridges between people of all backgrounds. Naqshon’s Leap features Jewish, Christian, Bahai and Sikh musicians in its performances. The band is comprised of guitarist Jason Caplan, percussionist William Ruiz, vocalist Gilbert Smith, bass guitarist Cecil McDaniel, keyboardist Raishene Webb, vocalist Eric Pierce, saxophonist Stephen Wachtel and drummer Terry Saffold.

Following a communal toast to Israel involving all celebrants, the party will continue with DJ Jewel taking over the room. Julie Fiss, a/k/a DJ Jewel, was born in Israel, where she grew up loving music. Raised in Israel, she served in the IDF and moved to New York when she was 27. Although her life’s dream was to be a DJ, she did not pursue that dream until she was 34. She had a mentor who helped her, but she bought all of her own equipment, and booked all of her own

events, to pursue this dream. To this day, she is the only Israeli female DJ in New York. She has worked all over the United States and Israel. Most recently, she headlined the AIC (Israeli- American Council) Summit 2023 in Texas where she DJ’d five times in three days. In addition, she is a mom to three young daughters!

Julie is super excited to meet and party with the Memphis community. She added, “I am going to bring the best music and best energy to celebrate our beautiful country and make this night unforgettable.”

While listening to great music, attendees will dine on Israel’s favorites including falafel, hummus, babaganoush, shwarma, bourekas, rugelach and bakka. The open bars will be flowing with beer, Israeli wine and specialty cocktails. The planners are busy coming up with items for the Shuk experience. Guests will fill their market bags as they exit the event with goodies and an appreciation of Israel’s impact on their lives.

Get your tickets and see sponsorship opportunities for *Shuk, Rattle and Roll* at www.jcpmemphis.org/israel75 **HW**

Chabad to Host Lag Ba’omer BBQ and Unity Concert for the Memphis Jewish Community



Rogers Park Band to perform at the Chabad Lag Ba’omer BBQ and Unity Concert

Chabad will be hosting a community-wide Lag Ba’omer BBQ and Unity Concert on Tuesday May 9. Lag Ba’Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer Count – which this year corresponds to Tuesday, May 9 – is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, traditionally celebrated with outings, cookouts, bonfires and other joyous outdoor events all over the world.

“It will be a fun event for the whole

family, we will have a delicious BBQ dinner with all the trimmings including colorful Snow Cones, Cotton Candy and much more,” said Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Tennessee. “In addition to the food there will be inflatables and giant slides.” “The highlight of the event will be a Unity Concert by the Rogers Park Band,” said Director of Chabad Rabbi Levi Klein. “This is a Jewish Hakhel

year – the year following a sabbatical year – where in temple times all Jews used to unite together in the holy Temple in Jerusalem. The Hakhel Year is an opportune time to promote Jewish Unity and Gatherings. So, we at Chabad decided to bring the Rogers Park Band for a Unity Concert to bring our whole Jewish community together for a day of fun, entertainment and celebration with good food.”

Rogers Park is an award-winning Chassidic pop/folk band led by the duo Yoseph Peysin and Mordy Kurtz named after the neighborhood in Chicago where they grew up. Their performance is a heartwarming and uplifting experience that weaves together original songs, hilarious parodies, traditional songs, jokes and a healthy dose of mystical Hassidic Niggunim. This combination of music and masterful storytelling has enthralled audiences and festivals and garnered rave reviews all across America – from Florida and California to North Carolina and New York. The band will include local Memphis musicians as well.

The event is being held in cooperation with both local Jewish day schools, Margolin Hebrew Academy and Bornblum Jewish Community School. The concert is dedicated in memory of Mrs.

Lag Ba’Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer Count, is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, traditionally celebrated with outings, cookouts, bonfires and other joyous outdoor events all over the world.

Ronna Newburger of blessed memory by her family. Ronna was a Jewish communal leader who personified the value of Jewish Unity.

The event takes place at The Chabad Center for Jewish Life campus at 2570 Kirby Parkway and starts at 5 p.m. The cost is only \$15 for adults, \$12 for children (with a Family Max of \$70) and includes the concert, food and activities.

Advance Reservations should be made by Sunday, May 7 by visiting www.JewishMemphis.com/BBQ or calling Chabad at 901-754-0404.

“Come join us and bring your friends,” Rivky concluded. “It will be lots of fun.” **HW**

My Teen Israel Experience



Ellie and friends at an archeological dig
By Ellie Royal

Ellie Royal, daughter of Leigh and Craig Royal, 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.

This past summer, I had the best opportunity to visit Israel on a NFTY in Israel program. NFTY in Israel is a program where you are able to see Israel with your URJ camp. I visited Israel with all my camp friends from Henry S. Jacobs camp, which made the trip even more special. Traveling to Israel with lifelong best friends was the most incredible experience. Along with being with your own camp friends, each camp is paired up with another URJ camp, therefore you also have the opportunity to make new friends from different regions of the United States.

Before going to Israel, I had no idea what to expect. I knew Israel was an important place to my religion and culture, however, I had no idea how just important it really is. I learned many different things during my trip, such as the history of Jewish people and the history of Israel, different aspects of Judaism, and we got to visit some of Judaism's most holy places. In my opinion, the

most memorable religious site we saw was the Western Wall. One of my favorite memories from the whole trip was spending the first Shabbat in Jerusalem in front of the Western Wall. We did Shabbat services, sang camp songs, and learned about the Western Wall and why it is so important. I loved being able to take in the feeling of being at the holiest Jewish site in the world with all my best friends.

Another one of my favorite things in Israel was our three-day excursion to the desert. We slept in the Bedouin tents one night and slept at campsites the other two nights. During our time spent in the desert, we floated in the Dead Sea, rode camels, and went on scenic hikes. The funny memories I made in the desert are memories I will never forget.

Another one of my favorite parts of the trip was Sea to Sea. Sea to Sea is a three-day hike from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean Sea. Going into Sea to Sea, many of my friends and I were nervous. We felt unprepared to hike all day, cook our own food in the woods, and sleep under the stars. Although Sea to Sea was not necessarily an educational aspect of the trip, I felt as though it was the most influential part of the trip. I found it made me get out of my comfort zone and taught me things I would never learn if I didn't choose to do it. I learned to trust people when navigating through the trails, and I learned as well that I really enjoy hiking – specifically hiking with all of my friends on beautiful trails in Israel.

All in all, my experience in Israel was easily the best experience of my

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 28, 2023 / 7 Iyar, 5783 7:25 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. April 29, 2023 / 8 Iyar, 5783 8:24 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Acharei-Kedoshim

life. I learned so many things not just about my faith, but also about myself. I made memories with all my best friends that will last a lifetime. I am so beyond grateful for the opportunity we had when visiting Israel, and I hope to visit Israel again soon.

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

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Bornblum Jewish Community School Inducts New Members into National Junior Honor Society

BJCS Chapter of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held induction of new members on March 24 at Kabbalat Shabbat in front of parents and the student body.

New inductees for 2023 included sixth graders Avi Cantora, Jacob Phelps, Max Siegeman, Dov VanderWalde and Orli VanderWalde; as well as eighth grader Liam Estrano.

Chapter Advisor Deanna McAlexander, President Ben Bernstein, Vice President Yaheli Zalman, Treasurer Dotan Weiss, Secretary Sophie Rossen and Board Member at Large Nava Vanderwalde, presided over the induction ceremony. Each of the chapter officers spoke about one of the five characteristics that make up the core values of the organization: scholarship, service, citizenship, leadership and character.

Activities sponsored by Bornblum's NJHS chapter this school year include a speakers' panel featuring a Fedex pilot, a pediatrician, a lawyer and a non-profit manager. Students also collected tote bags and plastic food storage bags for the Lisieux Community, supporting Memphis women experiencing homelessness. Finally, NJHS members held study sessions before semester exams.

"We are very proud to have an active chapter of the National Junior Honor Society here at Bornblum and to have such a wonderful advisor, Mrs. Deanna McAlexander. We look forward to our newest members contributing to another successful year," said Bornblum Head of School Daniel R. Weiss. **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, May 1
"Straight from Israel!"
Speaker: Maayan Naor, Israeli Shli-cha at the Memphis Jewish Community Center

Maayan's talks are always a hit! Please come learn about some of the current events in Israel.

Wednesday, May 3
Flip Wilson Videos
We will show videos in the Board Room featuring Comedian Flip Wilson as his character "Geraldine!" They will include appearances from other stars such as Lucille Ball, Joe Namath and others. If you like to laugh come enjoy this very inventive comedian. This will follow our regular daily lunch.

Monday, May 8
"The Mystery of Lag B'Omer!"
Speaker: Rabbi Levi Klein, Director of Chabad Lubavich of Tennessee is always enjoyed by the group. Please come enjoy and learn.

Wednesday, May 10
MAY DAY Bingo!! Special Prizes and an Extra Special Game! There is no charge.
Please come 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 MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

Barcelona Synagogue Defaced with Anti-Israel Graffiti

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – The Great Synagogue of Barcelona was hit with anti-Israel graffiti ahead of Yom Hashoah, or Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The graffiti found last Monday read: "Free Palestine from the river to the sea. Solidarity with the Palestinian people." Vandals also left letters nearby that said Israel commits "genocide against the Palestinian people" and criticized "Catalan elites" for supporting Israel.

Jewish groups around the world criticized the graffiti and said the fact that



Anti-Israel graffiti seen on a synagogue in Barcelona, April 17, 2023. Credit: Comunidad Judía de Barcelona

pro-Palestinian activists targeted a synagogue shows that anti-Zionism is antisemitic, a contention that is disputed.

"Outrageous! We utterly condemn the antisemitic graffiti on the facade of Barcelona's synagogue," the European Jewish Congress tweeted. "This graffiti is yet more evidence that anti-Zionism is antisemitism."

Pinchas Goldschmidt, the head of the Conference of European Rabbis, connected the graffiti to Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau's decision in February to give up its twin city designation with Tel Aviv – an act he argued has "put the city's Jewish community in real danger."

"Every additional case of vandalism and bloodshed as a result of this unfortunate choice will be on her hands," said Goldschmidt, the former chief rabbi of Moscow who fled Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, in a statement.

Colau had said that Israel is guilty of "apartheid," as well as "flagrant and systematic violation of human rights." The Barcelona-Tel Aviv twin city relationship had begun in 1998.

Madrid Mayor José Luís Martínez-Almeida offered to twin his city with Tel Aviv the day after Colau's announcement.

Some see the phrase "from the river to the sea" as a call to violence for Palestinians. The slogan was coined by the Palestine Liberation Organization beginning with its founding in 1964, claiming a Palestinian state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and rejecting control by Israel of any land in the region, including areas controlled by Israel prior to 1967. It later became a popular political slogan used by Palestinians who reject compromise with Israel, including the terror group Hamas, which calls for the destruction of Israel.

Israel observed Yom Hashoah last week from Monday evening through Tuesday evening. **HW**

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Funding Announced for Jewish Climate Action

In time for Earth Day (April 22, 2023), Adamah (the new name of merged organizations Hazon-Pearlstone) was thrilled to announce the launch of its \$1,000,000+ Climate Action Fund. The Fund includes both interest-free loans and matching grants to support Jewish community organizations in undertaking climate solutions that will reduce organizational greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently the Fund includes the following funding programs:

- Climate Grant Fund (National), providing matching grants of up to \$10,000 per organization per year.
- Climate Grant Fund (Orange County), providing matching grants of up to \$10,000 (or up to \$36,000 for solar panel installations) for organizations in Orange County, Ca.
- Climate Loan Fund (National), providing interest-free loans of up to \$100,000.
- Climate Loan Fund (Baltimore), providing interest-free loans of up to \$170,000. This fund is open to all not-for-profit organizations within Baltimore.

Adamah plans to add additional regional grant and loan funding programs in the coming months.

Adamah's Climate Action Fund is open to members of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of the climate crisis and commit to take action. In 2022, Adamah launched the Coalition in partnership with 20 founding partners who represent major national and international umbrella organizations of Jewish life (including Jewish Federations of North America, Jewish Funders Network, Hillel International and JCC Association of North America). Since publicly launch-

ing the Coalition six months ago, over 190 Jewish community organizations across North America have signed on, committing to develop organizational climate action plans that will focus on both reducing their institutional emissions and mobilizing their broader Jewish networks to engage in climate action.

There is no cost to join the Coalition. Any Jewish organization in North America is eligible for membership.

The launch of Adamah's Climate Action Fund is timely. Not only did we celebrate Earth Day this month, but just last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, released its latest report, making devastatingly clear the urgency around climate action. Through the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, Adamah is coordinating a collective Jewish response to the climate crisis – and the launch of the Climate Action Fund will help propel organizations to implement the kinds of climate solutions necessary to make a meaningful impact and demonstrate Jewish leadership on this crucial issue.

“This coalition represents an unprecedented mobilization of the Jewish world towards meaningful Jewish climate action, at pace and at scale,” says Jakir Manela, CEO of Adamah. “Our Action team supports our coalition members with great expertise in emissions reductions, and with the launch of our Climate Action Funds, there’s simply no reason why Jewish leaders everywhere can’t join this effort to secure a livable future for our children.”

For more information about Adamah, the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition and the Climate Action Fund, visit adamah.org/coalition. **HW**

Politician Who Called Herself 'Mother of the Politically Incorrect' Offered Israel's Top Diplomatic Post in NYC

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – She once said that she was “proud to be racist” and has called herself the “mother of the politically incorrect.” She once had a video removed from TikTok for inappropriate speech. And she may be Israel’s next top diplomat in New York City.

May Golan, an Israeli government minister and ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been offered Israel's consul general job in New York, a coveted position that is the country's highest post in the largest city in the United States, according to Israeli press reports. Golan would replace Asaf Zamir, a centrist politician who resigned last month in protest of Netanyahu's proposed judicial overhaul, which would sap much of the power of the Israeli Supreme Court.

Golan, 36, has long been a vociferous advocate for curbing the court's power and is one of the most outspoken right-wing voices in Israel's parliament, the Knesset. Speculation that Netanyahu sought to ship Golan to New York to remove a firebrand supporter of the judicial overhaul from the Knesset prompted a denial from his Likud Party.

“The offer was made to Golan because of her excellent public diplomacy skills in English,” the Likud statement said, according to Haaretz. “Contrary to some claims, the offer has nothing to do with Justice Minister Levin,” the architect of the overhaul. Golan does not appear to have commented publicly on the offer as of last Wednesday night.

Last week, according to her social media, Golan was in New York, where she posted a video criticizing a Holocaust exhibit at the United Nations. She also visited the grave of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the late leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement and posted a photo of herself posing next to his headstone.

Golan first made her name as an activist in her home neighborhood of south

Tel Aviv, where she was a leader of a movement against the city's population of African asylum seekers, whom she has repeatedly accused of crimes including rape. She has said the neighborhood is "occupied" by asylum seekers and has sought to pass a law allowing Israel to expel them from the country. (She says her "racist" comment, made about a decade ago, was taken out of context and was meant to demonstrate how her opponents misuse the term. She has also identified as a target of racism because she is Mizrahi, or a Jew of Middle Eastern descent.)

In 2016, she went on Fox News to advocate against the African asylum seekers she termed “Muslim infiltrators” in Israel and to support the immigration policy of then-U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump.

“The word ‘racist’ has just lost all meaning to me,” Golan said on Sean Hannity’s talk show. “I can see here what’s going on with Donald Trump. They’re calling him racist just for wanting to protect the borders of his country. Well, this is the same thing in Israel. I think I, and the rest of the people of Israel, have the right to protect their homes, and its borders.”

Golan first ran for Knesset in 2013 with the defunct far-right Otzma L'Yisrael, or Power for Israel, party. She entered Knesset in 2019 as a member of Netanyahu's Likud Party and became a minister without a specific portfolio in the current right-wing coalition. Last year, when she was a member of the parliamentary opposition, the video platform TikTok removed a video of a speech of hers in which she blamed the Israeli Supreme Court's decisions for the rape of a 22-year-old woman in Tel Aviv.

In that speech, she called the Supreme Court “the most dangerous dictatorship that there is in this fake democracy that we live in” and added, “Because of you, there won’t be a Jewish state here.” **HW**

Jewish Federations 'Deeply Troubled' by Federal Judge Ruling on Mifepristone

(JNS) – The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) released a short video on April 9 proclaiming its opposition to a federal judge’s ruling two days prior to overturning the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s approval of the “abortion pill” mifepristone.

JFNA stated it was “deeply troubled” by the court ruling and said the FDA has deemed the drug to be “extremely safe and effective for over two decades.” The judge’s ruling “is counter to our policy priority that reproductive health should be protected and that everyone should be able to follow their personal religious beliefs on these matters without government interference.”

Matthew Kacsmaryk, a district court judge who then-President Donald Trump appointed, ruled that the FDA violated federal standards in 2000 when it approved the drug, which is used to cause abortions during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Less than an hour later, Thomas Rice, another district court judge, ruled that the FDA could not restrict mifepristone

in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

By April 14, Samuel Alito Jr., a Supreme Court associate justice, ordered that Kacsmarky's ruling be "administratively stayed" until 11:59 p.m. EST on April 19, though late last Wednesday afternoon, the stay was extended to Friday, April 21.

According to the Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Study – conducted in 2007 and 2014, with responses from 35,000 Americans – 83% of self-identified Jews said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 15% of Jews said it should be illegal in all or most cases.

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year, JFNA stated it was “extremely concerned about the medical risks this decision poses.”

Despite a preponderance of American Jews that believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, JNFA leadership issued a “joint statement” in a different context on March 15, stating that “the essence of democracy is both majority rule and protection of minority rights.” **HW**

Food for Thinking: Beth Sholom Snacks ‘Fuel’ Coleman Discovery School TCAP Test Takers



A school staff member (left) greets Vera Feldman (right), who brought a carload of fruit snacks for students.

Beth Sholom’s Mindy Lipson (at right), Kroger team members, and school staff unload boxes of snacks at Coleman Discovery School on April 12.



Students, teachers and school administrators are put to the test each spring when the state administers the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) exams. To help their students perform at their best, administrators at the K-8 Coleman Discovery School in Raleigh reached out to the Tikkun Olam committee at Beth Sholom. The school wanted to provide snacks to every test taker – all 479 of them – during the 12-day testing period. In other words, thousands of snacks!

The Tikkun Olam Committee rose to the challenge. Vera Feldman and Mindy Lipson led the effort with help from Sheila Cohen and Susan Levko. The team amassed more than 5,700 individual nutritious snacks donated by Costco, Kroger, Wayne’s Candy Co., and Trader Joe’s, and additional snacks purchased by the committee.

“It makes my heart happy to help,” explained Feldman. “I am thrilled to be part of a caring group of Beth Sholom volunteers. Together, we were able to help Coleman Discovery School students focus and concentrate on their TCAP tests. Such work is a blessing to me, my synagogue, my community and especially the wonderful, deserving students.”

The Beth Sholom Tikkun Olam committee has provided vital support to Coleman Discovery School for years by collecting school supplies and warm winter coats for students. Each December, the community sets up a festive Holiday Gift Shop to allow students to “shop” for gifts for a loved one in their family.

For more information about the Tikkun Olam committee and to donate to help it support Coleman Discovery School, visit bsholom.org. [HW](#)



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Disaster Relief Volunteers Margie and Harold Delivered Meals to Wynne, Ark.



Margie Steinberg (far left)

Margie and Harold Steinberg recently volunteered with World Central Kitchen to deliver warm lunches. The Steinbergs are no strangers to disaster relief. They



Harold Steinberg (second from left)

deployed to Vilonia, Ark. in 2014 following a destructive tornado there. They have also worked with the Knights of Columbus in Holly Springs, Miss. and made two trips to Baton Rouge, La., following severe flooding in that city to muck and gut houses. Harold grew up in Wynne and is a longtime member of the B’nai B’rith International Disaster Relief Committee. He and his wife live in Germantown, Tenn. **HW**

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Credit Suisse is Impeding Probe into Nazi Bank Accounts, U.S. Lawmakers Say



A Credit Suisse building is seen in Geneva, Switzerland, April 4, 2023. Credit: Lian Yi/Xinhua via Getty Images

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – The U.S. Senate Budget Committee has accused Credit Suisse of impeding an investigation into former accounts at the bank that were held by Nazis, including many who fled to South American countries after World War II.

Last Tuesday, the committee released two reports, one by an independent ombudsman the bank had hired to oversee the investigation and one by a forensic research team. The bank fired the ombudsman, American lawyer Neil Barofsky, in November, months into his investigation.

“Credit Suisse’s decision to stop its review midstream has left many questions unanswered, including questions about the thoroughness of its prior investigative efforts, the extent to which it served Nazi interests and the bank’s role in servicing Nazis fleeing justice after the war,” Barofsky wrote in his findings, according to reports.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, the Senate committee’s ranking Republican, added in a statement last Tuesday: “When it comes to investigating Nazi matters, righteous justice demands that we must leave no stone unturned. Credit Suisse has thus far failed to meet that standard.”

Jewish organizations have long claimed that in addition to playing a key role in financially supporting Nazi Germany, Credit Suisse has held onto money looted from Jews long after the war. In 1999, the Swiss bank paid Jewish groups and Holocaust survivors a settlement of \$1.25 billion in restitution for withholding money from Jews who had tried to withdraw their funds.

In 2020, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an antisemitism watchdog named after a famed Nazi hunter, reported that an Argentine investigator had found evidence that thousands of Nazis who fled to Argentina had kept accounts at Credit Suisse for decades, some with looted funds. The bank then opened an internal investigation.

Earlier this year, Grassley said that he had “received credible allegations of potential wrongdoing related to Credit Suisse’s internal investigation, including specifically the questionable removal of Mr. Barofsky in late 2022.”

“[T]he information we’ve obtained shows the bank established an unnecessarily rigid and narrow scope, and refused to follow new leads uncovered during the course of the review,” Grassley said in a statement.

According to the Associated Press, the forensic firm AlixPartners’ report showed that 21 Credit Suisse accounts had connections to Nazis, including multiple SS officers, on the Wiesenthal Center 2020 list. The “New York

Times” reported that Barofsky, who was hired by the bank in February, had not found any accounts definitively linked to Nazis that were still open at the time of his firing, but he wrote that he was in November still looking into accounts not included in the 1990s report that he believed could have held Nazi money.

The bank said in a statement that the new reports confirm “existing research

on Credit Suisse’s history published in the context of the 1999 Global Settlement that provided binding closure for the Swiss banks regarding all issues relating to World War II.”

The probe will continue in some form, as the Senate committee noted that the bank “committed to further investigate its apparent role in supporting Nazis fleeing from justice after WWII.”

Thousands of Nazis fled Europe to havens in Latin America after the war, most notably to countries such as Ar-

gentina and Brazil but also to others such as Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru.

Switzerland had long claimed full neutrality during World War II, but the 1990s investigations into banks and other wartime financial dealings with Nazi Germany shattered that reputation. The country’s financial system, it was revealed, had laundered gold and other stolen goods through the war and resisted pushes in its immediate aftermath to pay restitution to Jewish victims of the Nazis. [HW](#)



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When Should Young Adults Start Investing for Retirement?

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

As young adults embark on their first real job, get married, or start a family, retirement might be the last thing on their minds. Even so, they might want to make it a financial priority. In preparing for retirement, the best time to start investing is now – for two key reasons: compounding and tax management.

Power of Compound Returns
A quick internet search reveals that Albert Einstein once called compounding “the most powerful force in the universe,” “the eighth wonder of the world,” or “the greatest invention in human history.” Although the validity of these quotes is debatable, Einstein would not have been far off in his assessments.

Compounding happens when returns earned on investments are reinvested in the account and earn returns themselves. Over time, the process can gain significant momentum.

For example, say an investor puts \$1,000 in an investment that earns 5%, or \$50, in year one, which gets reinvested, bringing the total to \$1,050. In year two, that money earns another 5%, or \$52.50, resulting in a total of \$1,102.50. Year three brings another 5%, or \$55.13, totaling \$1,157.63. Each year, the earnings

grow a little bit more. Over the long term, the results can snowball (see chart).

Tax Management
Another reason to start investing for retirement now is to benefit from tax-advantaged workplace retirement plans and IRAs.

Lower taxes now. Contributions to a traditional 401(k) and similar plans are deducted from a paycheck before taxes, so contributing can result in a lower current tax bill. And depending on a taxpayer’s income, filing status, and coverage by a workplace plan, contributions to a traditional IRA may result in an income tax deduction.

Tax-deferred compounding. IRAs and workplace plans like 401(k)s compound on a tax-deferred basis, which means investors don’t have to pay taxes on contributions and earnings until they withdraw the money. This helps drive compounding potential through the years.

Future tax-free income. Roth contributions to both workplace accounts and IRAs offer no immediate tax benefit, but earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis and qualified distributions are tax-free. A qualified distribution is one made after the Roth account has been held for five years and the account holder reaches age 59½, dies, or becomes disabled.

These hypothetical examples of mathematical compounding are used for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect the performance of any specific investments. Fees, expenses, and taxes are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. Investments offering the potential for higher rates of return also involve a higher degree of investment risk. Actual results will vary.

Saver’s Credit. In 2022, single taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes up to \$34,000 (\$66,000 if married filing jointly) may qualify for an income tax credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married joint filers) for eligible retirement account contributions. Unlike a deduction, which helps reduce the amount of income subject to taxes, a credit is applied directly to the amount of taxes owed.

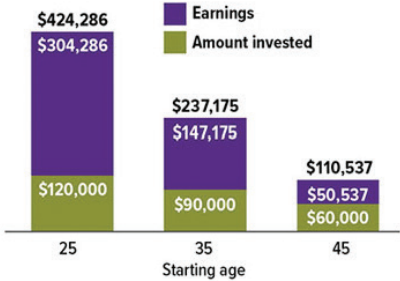
Avoiding penalties. Keep in mind that withdrawals from pre-tax retirement accounts prior to age 59½ and nonqualified withdrawals from Roth accounts are subject to a 10% penalty on top of ordinary income taxes.

Additional Fuel for the Fire
Workplace plans that offer employer matching or profit-sharing contributions can further fuel the tax-advantaged compounding potential. Investors should consider taking full advantage of company matching contributions, if offered. With the power of compounding and the many tax advantages, it often makes sense to make retirement investing a high priority at any age.

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A Head Start Can Be a Strong All
This chart illustrates how much an investor could accumulate by age 65 by investing \$3,000 a year starting at age 25, 35, or 45 and earning a 6% annual rate of return, compounded annually.



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Washington Post ‘Confuses Facts’ Equating Reality of Jewish Temples, Muhammad Ascension

By Menachem Wecker

(JNS) – An article that appeared in “The Washington Post” just before Passover seems to equate the historical reality of the Jewish Temples in Jerusalem and that of the Muslim prophet Muhammad’s miraculous “night journey” to heaven.

“In Jewish tradition, the Temple Mount is the site where the First and Second Temples once stood. For Muslims, it [sic] known as the Noble Sanctuary, the place where the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven,” wrote Louisa Loveluck, Niha Masih and Miriam Berger. “The night of violence at the al-Aqsa compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, adds fuel to an already combustible situation.”

An earlier version of the story had noted: “In Jewish tradition, it is the site where the faith’s First and Second Temples once stood. For Muslims, it is the place from which the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.”

Professors with relevant expertise told JNS that there is no debate in the scholarly community about the reality of the two Jewish Temples, whereas the question about whether Muhammad was a prophet who took a miraculous heavenly journey is not seen as a matter of fact, particularly for those who are not believing Muslims.

“There is zero debate that two temples stood in that place in scholarly literature. Mohammed’s ascent ‘happens’ from there only because it is the Temple site,” Lawrence Schiffman, professor of Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University, told JNS.

“The story about Muhammad going on a miraculous horse all the way from Arabia to Jerusalem and ascending to heaven is a religious belief. It’s like saying that Jacob prayed there,” he said.

The locations of the Herodian Temple, and the Hasmonean Temple before it, “can be proven archaeologically, and is a hard fact,” said Schiffman, adding that numerous Islamic sources prior to the modern period recognized that fact. (In more recent years, some Palestinian leaders have denied long-standing Jewish presence in Israel.)

“They are trying to be neutral, but that confuses the facts,” Schiffman said of the “Post.”

‘Literary sources, however, are ample’

Steven Fine, professor of Jewish history at Yeshiva University and director of its Center for Israel Studies, and a founding editor of the Jewish art and visual culture journal “Images,” agreed.

“It is an historical fact that the Jewish temples were built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Archaeological evidence for the Temple rebuilt after the return from the Babylonian captivity and continuing until 66 C.E. is not contested,” he told JNS.

There is scarce archaeological evidence of the First Temple, which is associated with King Solomon, since Herod rebuilt and expanded the Temple Mound in the year 20 or 19 BCE, “and also because Muslim authorities do not allow scientific excavation of the site,” said Fine.

“Literary sources, however, are ample,” he said. “No historian doubts the presence of an Israelite Temple on Mount Zion in biblical times.”

Based on the Koran and later Muslim tradition, it is true that to Muslims, the site known as the Noble Sanctuary is where the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, according to Fine. “The claim regarding Muhammad is a matter

of faith.”

Washington’s paper of record has had prior difficulty with its reporting on the sacred site in Jerusalem.

“An earlier version of this article misidentified the Jewish temple built by King Solomon. Solomon built the First Temple, not the Second,” the “Post” stated in a May 23, 2013. “The article also incorrectly referred to Herod as the builder of the Second Temple. Although the temple is sometimes called Herod’s Temple in honor of his expansion of it, the original construction occurred centuries earlier.”

In 2006, the “Post” appeared to suggest the opposite of its recent story. A discovery “strengthens Jewish ties to the site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary. The site of ancient Jewish temples contains Islam’s al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock and is revered as the place where the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven,” it reported.

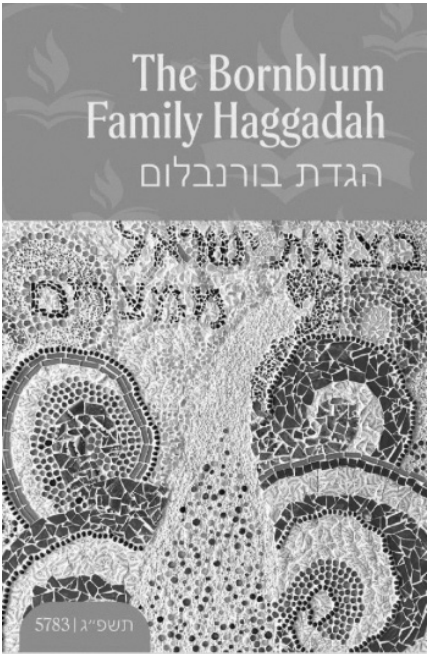
It also suggested that the Jewish Temples were a fact in 1986, 1989 – in an article that notes that what was Judaism’s “holiest shrine” and that “in the centuries since then,” it has “become Islam’s third-holiest site, where Moslems believe Mohammed ascended to heaven” – 2002 and 2013.

The 2013 article quotes an Arab Israeli parliamentarian who insisted “There is no such thing as the Temple Mount! ... It does not exist. It is not there.”

A 2016 “Post” article, which states that “Jews call it the Temple Mount, believed to be where the first and second temples once stood,” again questions the history of the Temples.

Asked if the “Post” recently changed its policy to express skepticism towards the scholarly consensus that the two Jewish Temples are historical facts, a spokesperson for the paper did not immediately respond. **HW**

Bornblum Publishes First-Ever Family Haggadah



Students and faculty at Bornblum Jewish Community School have published the school’s first-ever Bornblum Family Haggadah. The publication includes the full text of the Haggadah plus student commentaries and projects interpreting the text and events of the Passover story.

“This Haggadah is the culmination of a year of integrated learning between our general and Jewish studies classes. Together with their teachers, students got the chance to learn about the Haggadah text and to apply all different school subjects to better understand the lessons of the Haggadah,” said Michal Almalem, Jewish Studies Principal.

The Haggadah includes creative interpretations of the Passover story like Matzah Math, where students in math classes calculated the number of matzahs it would take to feed the Is-

raelites on their journey out of Egypt. The Haggadah also features Amazon reviews of the various symbols of the seder, like Matzah and Marror and artistic interpretation of the story of the seder created by students.

Student writings and art found in the Haggadah include a wide range of responses about the 10 Plagues, the concept of evil and the inspiration of freedom. “Our goal was to challenge students in all grade levels, to personalize and interpret the lessons of the Haggadah,” added Almalem. “After all, that is the central mission of the seder, to help each person feel that he or she came out of Egypt.”

Bornblum chose to create a Haggadah since the school’s theme for the year is stories. “This is the central story of the Jewish people’s freedom, and it seemed like the perfect year to use the Haggadah text as the basis for exploring our Jewish story,” said Daniel R. Weiss, Head of School. “I have wanted to create a school Haggadah for many years at various schools. But this is the first year that the opportunity presented itself, and I am so proud of all of our teachers and students. They have created an incredible book that has meaningful content and is beautifully and professionally designed!”

Each student and each teacher received a complimentary copy of the Haggadah for use at their personal seder. “The feedback from parents has been incredible. Everyone is so impressed with quality of the student work and the beauty of the book,” said Almalem. Additional copies of the Haggadah were available to parents and community members for \$20 each. **HW**

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Warsaw Ghetto Uprising’s 80th Anniversary Marked with Daffodils, 3 Presidents and an 11th Commandment Against ‘Indifference’



A few hundred politicians, Jewish leaders and others marked the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising at the Ghetto Heroes Monument in Warsaw, April 19, 2023.
Credit: Artur Widak/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

By Dinah Spritzer

WARSAW (JTA) – Exactly 80 years ago, a few hundred ragtag, half-starved Jews emerged from sewers in Warsaw to battle Nazis – and held them off for nearly a month rather than surrender themselves and their Jewish brethren to the Treblinka and Majdanek death camps.

Last Wednesday, thousands of Poles and international visitors, including Polish President Andrzej Duda, Israeli President Issac Herzog and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, marked the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in a stirring Holocaust commemoration festooned with daffodils, the emergent symbol of the largest Jewish rebellion against the Nazis during World War II.

“As German federal president, I stand before you today and bow to the courageous fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto,” Steinmeier told a few hundred politicians, Jewish leaders and others at the Ghetto Heroes Monument, marking the first time a German president has joined in the annual commemoration. “I stand before you today and ask for your forgiveness for the crimes committed here by Germans.”

This was also the first time leaders from all three countries came together for the official uprising ceremony to commemorate the fighters, none of whom are alive today. The last surviving fighter, Simcha Rathajzer-Rotem, also known as Kazik, died in December 2018. A handful of Warsaw Ghetto survivors who were not old enough to join the fighting remain, according to Holocaust scholars.

In another first, the three heads of state attended a commemorative service led by Poland’s Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich at Warsaw’s Nozyk Synagogue. By the end of the ceremony, which was conducted mostly in Hebrew and featured Polish-Jewish children singing the Polish and Israeli national anthems, many attendees had tears in their eyes.

“I just thought, the leaders are here, this is something we should do, it’s part of building relationships and collective memory that partnerships are built on,” Schudrich told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Earlier in the day, Polish President Duda called the fighters “the heroes of the Jews all over the world” and “the heroes of Poland and the Poles.”

Herzog, a day after Yom Hashoah, Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, praised the fighters for sparking hope during one of humanity’s most tragic

times. “In a world falling apart, in the shadow of death, under conditions of humiliation, famine, and forced labor, in the ghettos... they succeeded – mothers, fathers, children, grandfathers, and grandmothers – in upholding human morality, mutual responsibility, faith and basic humanity,” he said.

Last Wednesday’s diplomatic tribute, which also included speeches by World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder and Marian Turski, a Lodz Ghetto survivor whose so-called 11th commandment – “Thou shalt not be indifferent” – became the slogan for programming by the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews around the commemoration.

Eleven years ago, POLIN commissioned Jewish artist Helena Czernek to design a simple paper flower daffodil that has since been worn on the uprising’s anniversary to raise awareness of the day. The pin design was inspired by a commander of the uprising, Marek Edelman, who died in 2009. Each year he would receive a bouquet of daffodils to mark the anniversary date from an anonymous sender, and he would in turn place them on the city’s Monument to the Ghetto Heroes – a large sculpture standing at the site of the uprising’s first battle.

The daffodil marker has since changed the landscape of Holocaust memory in Poland, according to POLIN museum spokeswoman Marta Dziewulska.

“Our research shows that since we began our educational programs around this event, including handing out the daffodils, the rise in general public knowledge about the uprising has been enormous,” said Dziewulska.

This year, thanks in part to financial support from Lauder, a billionaire heir to the Estee Lauder fortune and a major Republican donor, the daffodil campaign reached far more people than ever, both in Poland and beyond. Throughout the center of Warsaw, the paper daffodil was ubiquitous among pedestrians and cafe dwellers across generations. All crew members on LOT Polish airline flights wore them.

For the first time, the daffodils were also distributed to 150,000 people in 100 Jewish communities around the world. More than 3,000 volunteers gave out 450,000 paper daffodils in six cities across Poland, and over 7,000 schools, libraries and cultural institutions participated in the museum’s daffodil campaign, which includes films and educational materials about the uprising.

Krystyna Budnicka, who was 11 at

the time of the uprising, told journalists about her story last Monday. The fighters of the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB) were armed with home-made grenades and Molotov cocktails. In the end, roughly 13,000 Jews were burnt alive or suffocated as the Nazis burnt down the ghetto to quell the rebellion, sending the remaining some 50,000 Jews to be murdered further east.

Budnicka told the Polish newspaper “Gazeta Wyborcza” that “as the ghetto was burning, the underground was like a bread oven.”

But Budnicka and some of her 10 immediate family members, none of whom survived the Holocaust, had one advantage. Her brothers and father were observant Jews who happened to be carpenters. They had constructed a bunker to lead to the sewers so that eventually, at least she and her brother, who later died of typhus, were able to make it out.

Budnicka was later taken in by a Catholic orphanage while the war was still raging and hid her Jewish identity, changing her last name from Kuczer to Budnicka. Until the 1990s, she told almost no one of her travels. But today she is the ambassador of POLIN Museum.

Her recollection of life at the time is limited, except that she had hope for survival. The fighters slept during the day in bunkers the Nazis couldn’t easily find, and came out of the sewers to fight at night. She remembers hunger, being the only girl among many boys and dreaming about what bread tasted like, a distant memory.

Many decades later, after the end of the Communist dictatorship, a “Children of the Holocaust” association was formed in Poland. For the first time, Budnicka and many others started telling their stories out loud, and at schools.

“Now I feel that I have to do it,” she told “Gazeta Wyborcza.” “When I mention my loved ones at meetings, it’s like I’m erecting a monument to my family. They live then. I see them. It’s in order: my mother Cyrla, father Josef Lejzor, brothers Izaak, Boruch, Szaja, Chaim, Rafał.”

Budnicka is not the only Warsaw Ghetto survivor to ask the world to remember what she endured. Helena Birnbaum, 93, who also survived by hiding in a bunker, participated in this year’s March of the Living – an annual Holocaust remembrance event that brings thousands of participants from around the world to Auschwitz-Birkenau. She told reporters at the march last Tuesday why she flew all the way to Poland from Israel to talk about her ordeal.

“The importance of knowing about the Holocaust is to know the person in all situations, on the brink of death,” she said. “The importance of knowing that the Holocaust was life within death and not everyone died at once. The individual stories matter.”

The act of international unity in display at the official uprising ceremony comes at a time when Poland’s right-wing government continues to espouse a nationalist narrative that international scholars say downplays Polish antisemitism and violence towards Jews before, during and after World War II. Multiple Polish laws connected to Holocaust rhetoric and restitution payments caused diplomatic tensions between Poland and Israel for years, and the two only resumed more full relations last month. The rapprochement came after Israel’s foreign minister announced the resump-

“When the sirens went off today in honor of the uprising, I heard people around me saying on the street, ‘what is this for, are we being invaded?’”

tion of Israeli student trips to Holocaust sites in Poland, which now could include sites that explain Nazi violence against non-Jewish Poles.

Six years ago, some Polish Jews who rejected their government’s patriotic narrative launched their own uprising commemoration, which has grown from a group of hundreds to nearly a thousand. During the alternative commemoration last Wednesday, which featured Yiddish songs sung by school children and recitations of poetry by Polish-Jewish authors, participants laid paper and real daffodils at Warsaw Ghetto monuments such as Umschlagplatz, where the Nazis deported 350,000 Jews by train to Treblinka.

Patrycja Dolowy, director of Warsaw’s Jewish community center, was an early supporter of what she called a grassroots alternative to the pomp and circumstance of the government’s ceremony, only a few hundred feet away.

“Jews were sentenced to death in the center of their own city and the majority of people outside the ghetto were doing nothing about this,” said Dolowy, who believes government focus on heroism should not erase inquiry into less heroic actions by Poles.

“If Jews were not treated before the war as strangers, it would have been much easier for everyone, Jews and non-Jews, to rise together and resist,” she theorized.

The counter-commemoration reflects the contrasting attitudes in Poland towards honoring Jewish and Holocaust memory. In 2017, the government passed a law that assured public schools taught history from a heroic, patriotic perspective, and in 2018 made it illegal to insult the Polish nation’s Holocaust record, condemning scholars who dared delve into historical Polish aggression against Jews.

Jerzy Warman, 76, a Polish-born Jew participating in the non-governmental commemoration whose parents survived the Warsaw Ghetto, said the Polish government wants to turn the uprising commemoration into an event where “they can do a roll call of Poles who they say helped the Jews.”

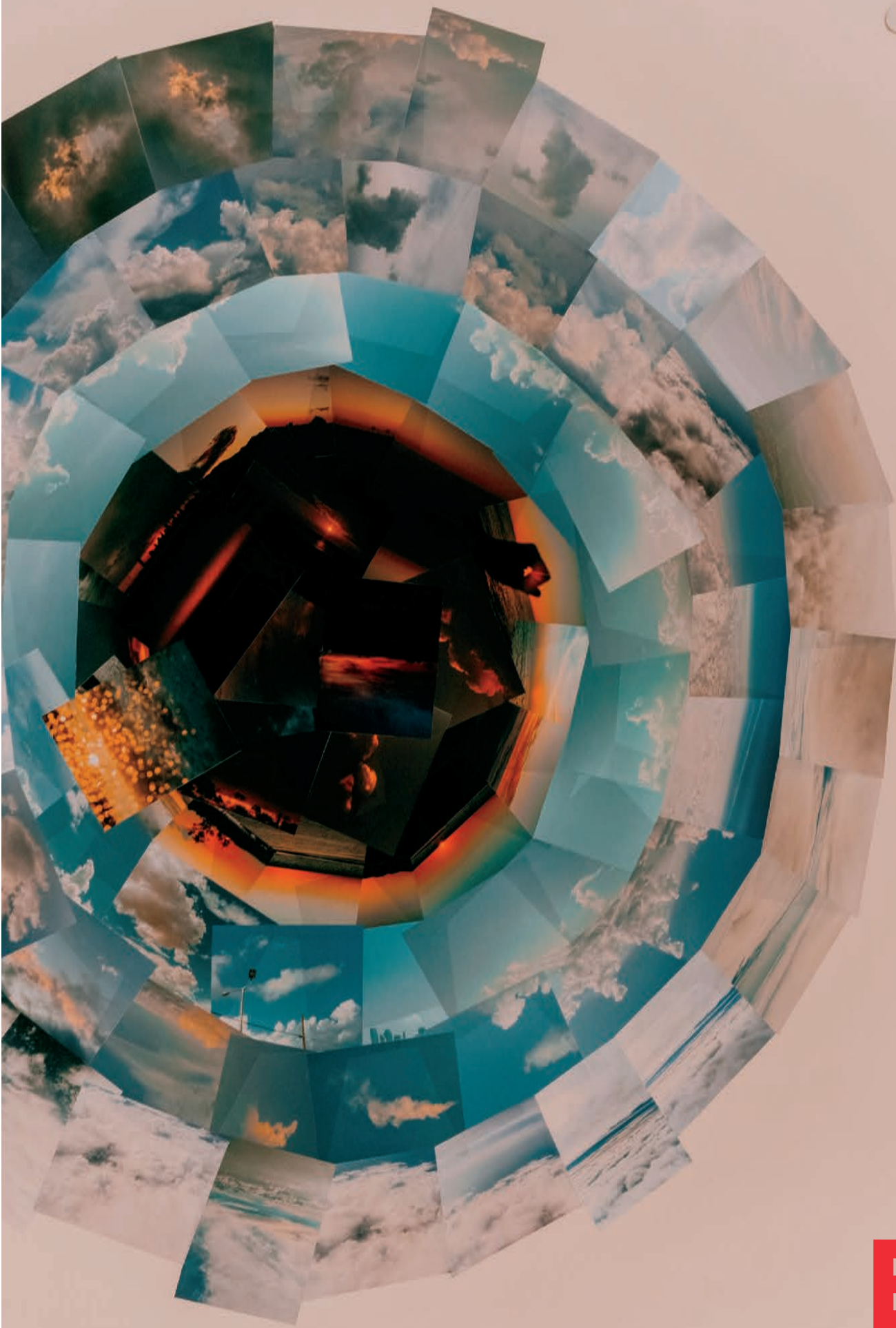
Warman noted that his father joined Edelman at the Warsaw Uprising, a major Polish resistance campaign that took place year after the Ghetto Uprising. “The Jews tried to join the Polish Home Army as a group but were rejected by them,” Warman recalled his father explaining.

Moshe Kis, 22, a Jewish political science student from Warsaw whose grandmother spent two years in the ghetto, echoed Warman’s view.

“So many people here still don’t understand their own history,” said Kis, who will immigrate to Israel next year. He added, fiddling with a daffodil over coffee, “when the sirens went off today in honor of the uprising, I heard people around me saying on the street, ‘what is this for, are we being invaded?’” **HW**

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Historic Flooding Complicates the Journey Home for Passover Vacationers in South Florida



By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Zachary Ottenstein didn’t expect to bond with his dad over chess and classic rock during his trip home from Florida at the end of Passover. But when Ottenstein switched his phone on after the holiday ended last night, it blew up: Fort Lauderdale was flooded and flights out of the airport – including their flight to New York – were canceled. The city was underwater after the rainiest day in its history. He consulted with his dad, Matthew: They had enjoyed their Passover week at a hotel, but they wanted to get home in time for Shabbat the following evening. “We really didn’t fancy staying another two days and finding a place to stay and food,” he said. Their story was not unique: Families from across the United States who

opt for Passover getaway packages in the Sunshine State found themselves stranded in Fort Lauderdale after the rains last Thursday. Travelers to the airport reported seeing the headlights of cars sitting deep in water, accumulating since about a month’s worth of rain fell in an hour last Wednesday. Traditionally observant Jews, who don’t drive or fly in planes on Shabbat, faced the prospect of either making it home before Friday at sundown, or spending at least two more days – until Saturday at nightfall – in the Fort Lauderdale area, without the institutional infrastructure that had enabled their Passover vacations. At first, the Ottensteins looked for other flights, expanding the radius outward from Fort Lauderdale with each search. Finally, they found a barely

workable option. “There were no flights really other than one flight out of Tampa that was going to Chicago and from there, there was a flight to New York,” Ottenstein said. They booked the flight, rented a car, left Fort Lauderdale at 10:30 p.m. and rolled into Tampa at 3 a.m. – right in time for the 5 a.m. flight to Chicago. Others opted to stay down south for Shabbat. Mendel Fayershteyn, a Chabad rabbi in the city, put out the word in the community that he was ready to assist any families stranded at the airport. As it turns out, there were a handful – about six or seven, he said in an interview – and he delivered kosher meals to them and found homes for them to stay in through Sunday, when the airport [was] expected to be back to capacity. One of the homes was his own – he decamped to his in-laws’ and handed the keys of his house to one of the airport families. The relief he administered to the stranded Jews, Fayershteyn said, was mostly psychological. “It was more like, people were panicking, it wasn’t like an emergency,” he said in an interview. “I would say it was more therapeutic just for the people to hear it’s going to be OK.” Fayershteyn learned to coordinate relief during years of hurricane seasons: He put that experience to use, gathered generators and kosher food, and helped people find shelter. He also helped re-

unite people with cars that had floated away in the flooding. “The main thing we were doing today is just helping people getting their cars back,” he said. As soon as Passover ended on Thursday night, Fayershteyn got the word out on Facebook that he was offering help to Shabbat-observant Jews. “Stay safe, and if you are in need of assistance please don’t hesitate to reach out,” the message said. “Hot Shabbat meals going out tomorrow for those that need, please DM us.” Ottenstein also took to Facebook, posting a selfie of himself and his dad in the car after midnight. “What do you do when Fort Lauderdale airport gets closed and you want to get home for shabbos?” he wrote. “Obviously you drive through the night to Tampa to make an early morning flight home.” Ottenstein, 24, a schoolteacher on Staten Island, and his dad, 60, a law librarian in suburban New Rochelle, filled the time up. “The world chess championships are going on and my dad’s been very into it. He can talk for hours about that type of thing,” he said. “And we bond a lot over music. My dad’s a big 60s, 70s classic rock kind of guy.” Zachary did the driving. “My dad doesn’t like driving at night,” he said. “No bathroom breaks, no stopping for food. The adrenaline kicked in. It was the kind of plan that was so crazy, it worked.” [HW](#)

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