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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 27 IYAR, 5783 MAY 18, 2023 VOL. 101, NO. 34

Memphis Lion of Judah Spring Reception: Celebrating a Year of Accomplishments



Lions Alla Olswanger-Lubin and Cindy Finestone with Plough Towers President Laurie Scheidt

The Memphis Lion of Judah Spring Recognition Reception and Lion Behind the Pin Rollout occurred Thursday, May 4 at Plough Towers, sponsored by Federation Corporate Partner Kelman-Lazarov, Inc. Lion of Judah is a national women’s philanthropic group associated with Jewish Federation of North America.

Memphis Lions came together to celebrate a year of accomplishments and to honor new Lions Maureen Baum, Elle Breit, Leslie Freedman, Danielle Lazarov, Randa Rosenblum and Mindy Wagerman.

Recognized for extraordinary service were past Lion of Judah Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Awardees Laurie Cooper, Marlene Gerson, Mimi Grossman of blessed memory, Sue Ann Lipsey, Alla Olswanger-Lubin, Syl Marks of blessed memory, Diane Mendelson, Mary Lynn Perl and Louise Sklar.

Memphis Lion of Judah also honored Debbie B. Lazarov and Shelley Robbins, the outgoing chairs, who led the philanthropic group for the past three years navigating COVID-19 and continuing to engage members in new, innovative ways.

Lions remembered three Forever Lions, Evelyn Graber, Dale Kelman and Hedi Ward, who passed away but set up endowments to continue their legacies, and nine other Forever Lions were also recognized by their family and friends.

Lastly, Marlene Gerson, Debbie B. Lazarov and Shelley Robbins presented the new Memphis-made Lion Behind the Pin program, which is rolling out nationally with 15,000 kits being shipped across the country and to Canada and Mexico. This initiative was created to support all Lions in creating a legacy by sharing each Lion’s story and inspiring future generations. **HW**



Outgoing chairs Debbie B. Lazarov and Shelley Robbins



New Lions of Judah Danielle Lazarov, Ellee Breit, Marlene Baum, Mindy Wagerman and Leslie Freedman

Jewish Foundation of Memphis B’nai Tzedek Teens Present 2023 Communal Grants



B’nai Tzedek Teens



Eve and Lucy Pai present to Temple Israel

On Monday evening May 8, dozens gathered to celebrate 20 years of Jewish teen philanthropy in the Memphis Jewish community. In addition to recognizing the 76 teens who make up the B’nai Tzedek program and their commitment to tzedakah on both an individual and community level, 10 grants were awarded to Memphis Jewish communal organizations to support programming. With an overall total of \$10,000 in

grants, teens voted to allocate money to programs such as The Great Sandwich Make at Baron Hirsch, Creative Aging at Plough Towers, a new Diverse Abilities sports program at the Memphis JCC, Senior Hot Meals through the Memphis Jewish Federation and many more.

As teen leader Ethan VanderWalde reflected, “B’nai Tzedek is such a unique experience, in that we get to choose where the money goes, and control the entire allocation process. This year we had a lot of debate over the amount of funds to give to different applicants, but in the end, we agreed on a set amount, and everyone was happy to be able to support and fund all of these amazing programs throughout the Memphis community.”

Teen leader Eliza Herman also voiced her support. “I love the unique opportunity that B’nai Tzedek presents to us and getting to go through the process with other Jewish teens from the city.

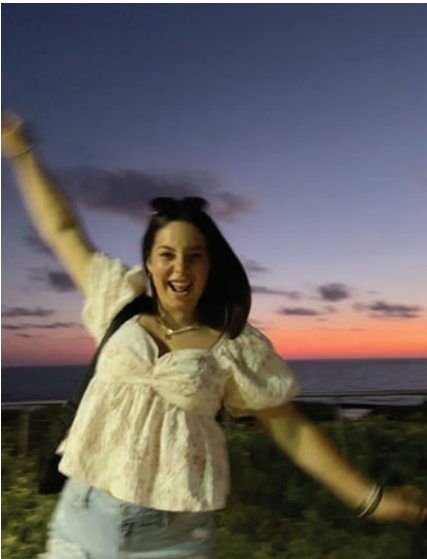
I am so grateful to be able to help the amazing non-profits in Memphis.”

Thank you to all the teens, parents and community members who came together to laud the work that B’nai Tzedek accomplishes within Memphis! If you would like to learn more about B’nai Tzedek and the impact it can have on your teen, please contact Carolyn Schrier at cschrier@jcpmemphis.org **HW**



Ilan Lennon and Ethan VanderWalde present to Baron Hirsch

My Teen Israel Experience



Sydney Shanker in Netanya

Sydney Shanker, daughter of Jill and Scott Shanker, 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 BBYO Passport Israel summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online. To learn more and apply, please go to: www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund.

By Sydney Shanker

This past summer, I traveled through Israel with a BBYO Passport trip called Israel Journey. I made so many friends and experienced the best country in the world. I have always loved Israel, but going on this trip really showed me how much of an amazing experience this would be for me. I saw different parts of Israel from people living on the border with Gaza, to the graffiti in Tel Aviv, to the Bahai Gardens in Haifa. Three of my favorite places throughout the country included Tsfat, hiking Masada, and walking through the Old City of Jerusalem.

I remember getting on the bus to go to Tsfat. I honestly didn’t think that I would connect to it as much as I did. We started our journey in Tsfat by hearing from an artist named Avraham Lowenthal who taught us about the Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). I had heard of the Kabbalah before, but I never truly understood it. Mr. Lowenthal told us that following the beliefs of the Kabbalah, people believe that a child’s name is not a coincidence. My Hebrew name is

Mira Simcha, simcha meaning happy. I have always believed that my Hebrew name fits my personality but now know that it is also connected to my Judaism. After we left the artist’s colony, we took a tour of Tsfat looking over the beautiful views and the old architecture of the synagogues and temples throughout the city. Not to mention, I had the best falafel of my life. Tsfat was a place that I felt connected to, and I hope one day I am able to go back.

Hiking Masada felt daunting, but I was excited. I remember riding the cable car up when I was 8 watching my dad hike the snake path. We woke up at 4 a.m. to leave the Bedouin tents and take a bus to Masada to go hike up to see the sunrise. We took the Roman Ramp up, and the feeling I had when I reached the top was a feeling I will never forget. On Masada, I felt most connected to my friends and my Judaism. I watched my friends become Bat Mitzvah and we all said a prayer. Then we walked around for a few minutes touring King Herod’s Palace, the synagogues, and the bath houses on Masada. After a few minutes we descended by the snake path, which was a lot harder than I imagined. We pushed through the pain, sang some Taylor Swift, and enjoyed breakfast at the bottom of the mountain. I have never slept better than I did that night.

The Old City of Jerusalem has always been a special place in my heart. I have always loved the Kotel, and getting to go back and experience the center of my Judaism was such an amazing feeling. It was so amazing getting to experience the tradition and culture surrounding Judaism that I am not usually exposed to. Before we left for the Kotel on our last Shabbat, we walked around the Jewish Quarter for a few minutes. Although everything was closed, it was amazing getting to see people walking in and out of the Quarter headed to the Wall. After writing our notes and saying our Shabbat prayers, we headed over to the Wall. That night we ate dinner at Beit Shmuel, or “House of Samuel.” It turns out that this was the exact place where my cousins had their B’nai Mitzvah in 2014 on my first trip to Israel. It was a full circle moment for me and the next time I go back I’ll have to visit Beit Shmuel again. My time in Israel is one that I will never forget, and I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity.

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

THE Hebrew Watchman

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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 & Subscriptions

Rebecca Miller Schudel
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. May 19, 2023 / 28 Iyar, 57837:41 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. May 20, 2023 / 29 Iyar, 5783 8:43 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Bamidbar

Bat Mitzvah

Maggie Olswanger celebrated her bat mitzvah on April 29, 2023, at Temple Israel in Memphis.

Maggie is in the 7th grade at Hutchison where she is involved in the Center for Creative Dance.

She was elected to the JYG Board as the Membership Vice President for the upcoming school year.

Maggie is the daughter of Jon Olswanger, Lindsey Chase and Troy Seals; sister to Drew Seals, and the granddaughter of Susan and Barry Chase, Alla Olswanger-Lubin and Nathan Lubin. **HW**



Maggie Olswanger

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Birthright Sees 40% Decrease in Summer Trips Due to Rising Travel Costs



A Birthright Israel trip in 2022. Credit: Courtesy

(JNS) – Last Monday, the day after nonagenarian philanthropist Charles Bronfman said, “Next year, we will raise a glass and say ‘Mazal tov!’ because the (Netanyahu) government won’t be,” Birthright Israel, which he funds, announced that it will send 40% fewer young people to Israel in 2023 compared to last year.

The program, which is nearly 30 years old, pointed to increased inflation and travel costs for the drop.

This year, Birthright will bring 12,658 young Americans and Canadians on free, 10-day educational trips to Israel between mid-May and September. Last summer, that number was 18,358.

“The inflation that has hit much of the global economy and the rising costs

of travel post-COVID have driven up Birthright Israel’s expenses,” stated Birthright Israel CEO Gidi Mark. “Without offsetting donations, thousands of applicants in the future will be denied the chance, as were thousands this summer, to experience a Birthright Israel trip. We feel terrible about that, but we had no choice.”

Birthright currently has a waiting list of 20,000 young Jews, he added.

According to reports, Bronfman, who will turn 92 in June, predicted at the 2023 Charles Bronfman Prize ceremony on May 7 that the current Israeli government would fall in months. “Netanyahu tricked voters,” he said. “In (his administration) are people who aren’t fit to be in any government in the world.” **HW**

Rep. George Santos, Who Falsely Claimed to Be Jewish, Arrested on Federal Criminal Charges



Congressman George Santos attends a rally at New York criminal court during an appearance by Former President Donald Trump. Credit: Lev Radin/Getty Images

By Jacob Henry

(New York Jewish Week) — New York Republican Rep. George Santos, who spread a series of falsehoods about being Jewish and other parts of his life story, was arrested last Wednesday on federal criminal charges on Long Island.

The indictment said that Santos — who has also gone by other names, including the last name Devolder — used donations to a fraudulent political fund for personal expenses, such as buying designer clothes and paying off his credit cards.

He was also accused of lying about his finances on congressional disclosure forms and receiving \$24,000 in pandemic-era unemployment benefits while still employed at an investment firm. According to a financial disclosure form, Santos reported earning \$750,000 a year from a family company, the Devolder Organization, but the charges unsealed last Wednesday allege that Santos never

received that sum, nor the other millions in dividends he said came from the firm.

In total, Santos was charged with 13 counts, including wire fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds and making materially false statements to the House of Representatives.

Breon Peace, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said in a statement that this indictment “seeks to hold Santos accountable for various alleged fraudulent schemes and brazen misrepresentation.

“Taken together, the allegations in the indictment charge Santos with relying on repeated dishonesty and deception to ascend to the halls of Congress and enrich himself,” Peace said. “He used political contributions to line his pockets, unlawfully applied for unemployment benefits that should have gone to New Yorkers who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic and lied to the House of Representatives.”

Santos made a court appearance last Wednesday. He also faces an inquiry by the House Ethics Committee as well as charges in Brazil.

After being elected to Congress in a Republican sweep of Long Island last November, Santos has drawn attention for allegedly lying about large parts of his education, resume and family history. Exposés about Santos cast doubt on a range of his claims, regarding everything from his purported career on Wall Street to his management of an animal welfare charity.

On the campaign trail, Santos repeatedly claimed to be Jewish. But reporting by a number of outlets, including the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, uncovered evidence that he has no Jewish ancestry. In response, Santos falsely said that he never claimed to be Jewish, calling himself “Jew-ish.”

Some Republican members of Congress, in New York and elsewhere, have called on Santos to resign, as have local Republican leaders in his district. But House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, signaled last Wednesday that Santos would be allowed to continue serving.

Anna Kaplan, a Jewish former Democratic state senator from Santos’ district, recently announced that she will run for his seat in next year’s election. **HW**

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ESTATE PLANNING Why Create An Estate Plan?

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

As we have attempted to establish throughout our previous articles, estate planning applies to everyone, the old and young, wealthy and less wealthy, in different ways and at different times throughout an individual’s life. One does not have to be a multi-millionaire to benefit from an estate plan. Estate planning certainly applies to anyone who owns a home, has children or grandchildren, has been divorced, owns a business, or expects to receive an inheritance.

That being said, here are seven (7) examples of what a proper estate plan can achieve:

- 1. INCAPACITY: Proper planning enables one to control and designate who will manage the individual’s or couple’s affairs in the event of, God forbid, disability or death. When one fails to do so, a Probate Judge will decide for the individual and one never knows who a court will appoint.
- 2. LONG TERM CARE: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to plan for long-term care and long-term care expenses. Nursing homes today can cost as much as \$115,000 per year or more. Thus, a long-term stay can even impoverish wealthy families. With proper planning, however, one can shelter assets and keep most if not all of the family’s wealth intact. Because over two thirds of those who reach the age of sixty-five (65) will be placed in a nursing home for some period of time, in many cases, Long-Term Care planning is essential to preserving the individual or couple’s assets.
- 3. PROBATE COURT: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to avoid Probate Court during the individual’s lifetime and when one passes away. As mentioned in previous articles, Probate Court is public, expensive, time-consuming and, whenever possible, should almost always be avoided.
- 4. CREDITOR PROTECTION: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to protect assets inherited by heirs from lawsuits, divorces and other poten-

tial claims.

5. INCENTIVE PLANNING: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to impose discipline upon and incentivize children and/or grandchildren who may not be capable or experienced in managing money. Proper planning ensures that children and/or grandchildren spend their inheritance wisely and receive their inheritance in the right ways and at the right times throughout their lives. Otherwise, children and grandchildren will receive their inheritance in one lump sum as soon as they reach the age of eighteen (18), which, in our experience, is typically before they are mature enough to do so. Proper planning shields inheritance from inexperience and mismanagement by including specific conditions, incentives and rewards in the estate plan.

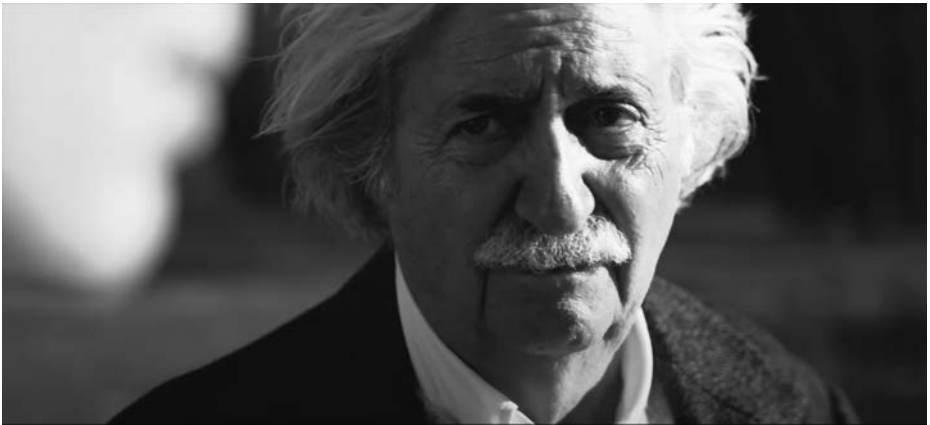
6. SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to provide for Special Needs children and grandchildren. Special considerations and planning are needed to avoid the loss of governmental benefits for Special Needs individuals and beneficiaries.

7. LIMIT FIGHTING WITHIN THE FAMILY: Sadly, in our experience, once money is involved in an estate, beneficiaries and heirs often fight over their inheritance, which often leads to lengthy and expensive estate litigation. Proper planning enables individuals and couples to prevent or discourage such fights and challenges and can even work to bring the family together at the time of death or incapacity. **HW**



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In ‘Oppenheimer’ Trailer, the Atomic Bomb is Born – and Einstein Weeps



Albert Einstein (Tom Conti) in a scene from the trailer for the film “Oppenheimer,” about the creation of the atomic bomb. (Screenshot via Universal Pictures)

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – “Oppenheimer,” the hotly anticipated Christopher Nolan biopic about the Jewish nuclear physicist who developed the atomic bomb, will include another familiar Jewish face when it opens this summer: Albert Einstein.

A new trailer for the drama, released last week, includes a brief glimpse of the scientist’s unmistakable visage, as rendered by the Oscar-nominated Scottish character actor Tom Conti. Under-scoring the gravity of the bomb’s development, this Einstein has foregone his usual cheery demeanor and is instead wearing a grave frown.

It seems appropriate for the film, which tracks J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) as he and the other members of the Manhattan Project race to develop the bomb by constructing the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico in the mid-1940s. Oppenheimer and his team of scientists tested the weapon there before it was eventually dropped on the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the waning days of World War II, killing more than 110,000 people.

As the legend goes, the scientist initially heralded the bomb’s successful test run by quoting from the Hindu text Bhagavad Gita: “I am become Death, destroyer of worlds.” He would eventually come to regret his creation, telling President Harry Truman he had blood on his hands.

Einstein’s role in the bomb’s development is often overstated, yet still

notable. According to the American Museum of Natural History, when the physicist and Jewish refugee of Nazi Germany learned that German scientists had succeeded in splitting the uranium atom in 1938, he urged then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to speed up development of nuclear weapons in the United States. His fear was that the Nazis might develop the bomb first, in part building on his own scientific equations. Einstein was later barred from participating in the actual Manhattan Project as his left-leaning politics were enough to deem him a security risk.

As soon as the bomb was dropped on Japan, Einstein reportedly was devastated and came to regret even his small role in pushing Roosevelt to develop it.

Several other Jewish figures from the atomic age will make appearances in the historical drama, including one-time U.S. Atomic Energy Commission chair Lewis Strauss (played by Robert Downey Jr.), Manhattan Project physicist Richard Feynman (Jack Quaid), hydrogen bomb developer Edward Teller (Benny Safdie) and nuclear physicist Isidor Isaac Rabi (David Krumholtz).

“Oppenheimer” will open in theaters on July 21. Nolan, a filmmaker known for his grandiose style in blockbusters like “The Dark Knight” and “Inception,” shot the entire film in large-format IMAX cameras to add to its epic scale. It will be his second WWII history, after 2017’s “Dunkirk.” **HW**



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Turning the Page: Why A Shul Rabbi Authored a Jewish Children’s Book

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Around two years ago, I started working on a Jewish children’s book project that had been on my back burner for quite a while. It’s based on a delightful Shabbos story that my father would tell me and my siblings when we were little. After many unexpected delays, my wife, Layala, and I recently received our initial copies of “Shabbos With Our Chocolate Moose.” It’s currently available at menuchapublishers.com, Amazon.com, and Jewish bookstores around the country. In order to explain the story behind this book, I submitted the following answers to some of the questions I have received.

Q: What can you tell us about your childhood Shabbos memories?

A: I have priceless youthful Shabbos recollections. Those memories begin with preparing for Shabbos. I still remember what my responsibilities were, and how we’d all work as a team to get our home ready for Shabbos. I can close my eyes and smell the incredible scents of my mother cooking, baking, and preparing her fantastic homemade Shabbos delicacies. Every couple of weeks, my father would barbecue chicken (with a savory homemade sauce) for us to enjoy on Shabbos as well. (He even found a way to do that in the midst of Cleveland’s snowy winters!) We sang Zemiros (Shabbos songs) and enjoyed special conversations while gathered around our dining room table. At some point, when I was little, I’d leave the table to play or read in the back room – but would hurry back for my mother’s desserts. That’s where this book steps in.

I still smile as I recall lying down on the carpet beneath the living room lamp after the Shabbos night meal to read the Jewish Press newspaper’s cartoons

about the Golem of Prague, and the tales of Shlomo HaMelech (King Solomon). I remember resting there on my little (full) belly fascinated and trying to stay awake as sleep would inevitably overwhelm me. At some point, my father would pick me up, and carry me upstairs to my bed, say the Shema with me, and tuck me in for the night.

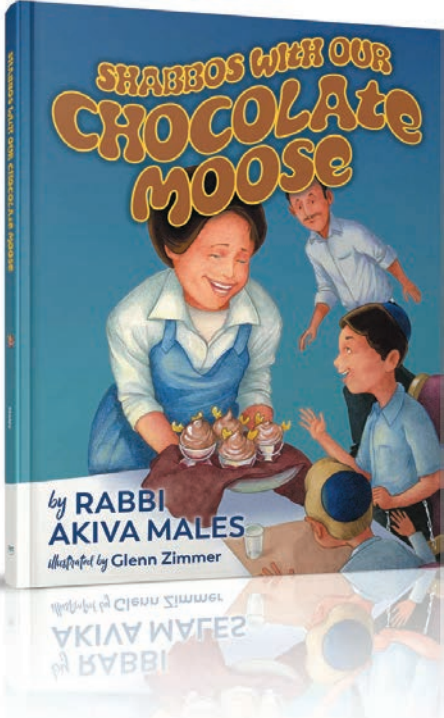
Those are just some of my warm childhood Shabbos memories.

Q: What was your goal in writing this Jewish children’s book?

A: Thank G-d, there are many children in our Shul and community, and I see this as another way to try and communicate and build relationships with them. Additionally, I hope this book will bring lots of smiles to kids around the world – many of whom are part of our family! It’s based on a delightful story that my father would tell me and my siblings when we were little. I’d like to think this book will enable many parents (and grandparents) to create and share joyous Shabbos memories with their children (and grandchildren)!

Q: What lesson do you hope readers will take away from this book?

A: Good question. I hope this book will ignite kids’ imaginations, make them smile, and that this enjoyable book will enhance their Shabbos experiences. However, I also hope this book makes an impression on the parents and grandparents reading this book to the children in their lives. Just look at the impression my father’s fun story made on me and my siblings! We’re still smiling when we think about it! Every parent / grandparent can create special, warm, and long-lasting memories that their children will treasure. This doesn’t require taking kids on trips to exotic locales or gifting them the hottest new electronic



gadgets. By simply sharing our time, attention, and love (which are commodities everyone has) with the kids in our lives, we each have the potential to create meaningful and enriching memories that will stand the test of time.

Q: Do you have any ideas for future kids’ books?

A: I do indeed! I have many wonderful memories of my childhood Shul experiences. I’ve started thinking about how some of those can be turned into meaningful Jewish children’s books. Now I just need to find the time to bring those ideas to fruition!

Rabbi Akiva Males serves as the Rabbi of Young Israel of Memphis. He also teaches Torah at the Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South. He can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org [HW](https://www.yiom.org)

Israeli Forces Arrest 25 PIJ Terrorists in Judea and Samaria

(JNS) – IDF soldiers arrested 25 Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists in Judea and Samaria over the past several days, the military revealed last Thursday.

The arrests were part of “Operation Shield and Arrow” launched against PIJ in the Gaza Strip.

Several of those detained had been recruited by Tarek Azaldin, a senior PIJ operative who was killed in a targeted Israel Air Force strike in Gaza last Tuesday morning, the military said.

Azaldin had moved up the ranks of the organization in recent years and was entrusted with coordinating PIJ’s terrorist activities in Judea and Samaria as well as transferring funds from Gaza to Judea and Samaria, according to the IDF.

He recently planned and directed multiple attacks against Israeli civilians, the military said. He was also in charge of distributing the group’s propaganda in Israel to encourage terrorist attacks on civilians.

Azaldin had been incarcerated in Israel on a 25-year sentence due to his involvement in suicide and IED (improvised explosive device) attacks in the early 2000s. He was released in 2011 as part of the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal with Hamas.

He originally came from A’arbe in Samaria.

Since the fighting began last Tuesday, PIJ has fired more than 550 rockets towards Israel, to which the IDF has responded with over 150 strikes against terror assets in Gaza. [HW](https://www.hrw.org)

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 22
“Ask the Rabbi”

Rabbi Yosef Braha from Memphis Kollel will answer questions. Please bring any questions, large or small that you have!

Wednesday, May 24
“Preparing for Shavuot”

Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, Director of the Center for Jewish Living and Learning at MJCC, will talk on “Preparing for Shavuot.” Rabbi Abe, always brings an unusual perspective to all his talks. Reservations are needed for the lunch only.

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day! No Program. MJCC Memorial Day Hours are 8am-5:45pm.
Wednesday, May 31
Best of Jackie Mason Videos!

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](https://www.hrw.org)

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Memphis Hosts Delta Region BBYO Spring Convention



Delta Region BBYO held their Spring Convention at the end of April in Memphis.

More than 70 teens joined us from all over the region to part take in a fun and exciting weekend. We celebrated Shabbat and heard from some amazing speakers that taught us how to give back to our Memphis community thru Tikkun Olam. We celebrated our seniors and region with what we accomplished this

year. Saturday night featured a silent disco, games, karaoke and more!

On Sunday, the AZA and BBG’s elected a brand-new Regional Board for 2023-2024. It was exciting that our 8th graders were able to join this year and really loved the opportunity of participating in elections and Spring Convention.

While BBYO is taking a break over the summer, we are very excited to see what the fall brings! [HW](#)



Another Successful Hillels of Memphis Yiddishe Cup



On Sunday, April 23 Hillels of Memphis hosted its 15th annual Yiddishe Cup Mini-Golf tournament. Hillel students, Advisory Council members and community members enjoyed putting and chatting in the gorgeous spring weather. Congratulations to this year’s winners Karleigh Ring, Aaron Bardos, Tahlee Yichye and Seth Wanderman. Thank you so much to our sponsors and volunteers that helped make this event a huge success!

IDF Kills ‘Most Senior’ Palestinian Islamic Jihad Figure in Gaza Strip

(JNS) – An Israeli airstrike killed Iyad al-Hassani – also spelled Iyad Al-hassani – the “most senior” Palestinian Islamic Jihad figure in the Gaza Strip, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces, confirmed on Twitter last Friday night in Israel.

This is the sixth Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader killed since the start of “Operation Shield and Arrow.”

“Al-Hassani was appointed two days ago to replace Khalil Bahitini, and now two days later, he is no longer with us,” Hagari wrote in Hebrew.

“We continue as long as necessary to attack those who plan to shoot us, and we are strong in defense,” he added. He noted that the targeting of al-Hasani was a joint IDF and Shin Bet operation and shared video footage of the strike. [HW](#)

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OBITUARIES

Herman “Bubba” Silberstein

Herman “Bubba” Silberstein, formerly of Memphis, passed away at his home in Houston, Texas, on May 4, 2023, at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his sister, Frances Silberstein Evensky. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Maxine Silberstein, his children, Brent and Steffani Silberstein, his niece Lorraine Wolf (Bert) and his nephew Eddie Denaburg (Vicki), and many grand-nieces and -nephews along with cousins and close friends.

Bubba was born on September 12, 1936, to parents Johanna (Sussman) and Melvin Silberstein of Dyersburg, Tenn., where he and Frances lived for their elementary school years. They moved to Memphis to offer Bubba and Frances a good Jewish and secular education and social life.

Bubba went to Snowden and Central High School in Memphis before attending the University of Alabama.

In 1956, Bubba began his retail career at Foley’s Department Store in Houston. Seven years later he joined Walter Pye’s, a well-known family-owned retail store, in Houston and remained there for 27 years. In 1994 Bubba established his own fundraising consultant firm in Houston, The Silberstein Group. His strong personal and business relationships made this career move into fundraising consultant successful and rewarding, while continuing to help others reach their goals.

Bubba served on the Board of Directors and as president of the Rubenstein

Jewish Community Center, chairman of the State Israel Bonds, and board member of Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. He also served on numerous fundraising committees throughout Houston, on a pro bono basis, generously lending his experience to their non-profit fundraising campaigns.

On January 15, 2023, Bubba and Maxine were honored with the distinguished Lamplighter Award by the Aishel House for their dedication and support.

Bubba was a member of Congregation Beth Yeshurun in Houston, Anshei Sphard Beth -El Emeth Congregation of Memphis, and a frequent minyan participant at the Aishel House in Houston. Bubba maintained a close relationship with his Memphis friends and relatives along with his many Silberstein and Sussman cousins from all over and never missed an opportunity to plan a reunion. He will be dearly missed by all.

Services were held at the Bender Memorial Chapel at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

The Family requests contributions in memory of Bubba can be made to the following organizations: Aishel House, 1955 University Boulevard, Houston, TX, 77030, AishelHouse.org; JB Greenfield Chapel at Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut Houston, TX 77096, Bethyeshurun.org;

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood Boulevard, Houston, TX 77096, Erjcchouston.org. [HW](#)

Rochelle Lynne Rosen Perlman

Rochelle Lynne Rosen Perlman died peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 81, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease.

Rochelle was born in Houston, Texas, on May 30, 1941, to Helen and Edward Rosen of blessed memory. She grew up in Memphis, graduated from Central High School in 1959 and received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Memphis State University in 1963. She went on to become a beloved sixth grade teacher at Berclair Elementary.

At the age of 22, Rochelle married Frank Perlman on August 4. They would have celebrated 60 years of marriage this year. The two are proud parents of daughter Susan Cohen and son-in-law Neil Cohen, and granddaughters Ellen and Emily Cohen.

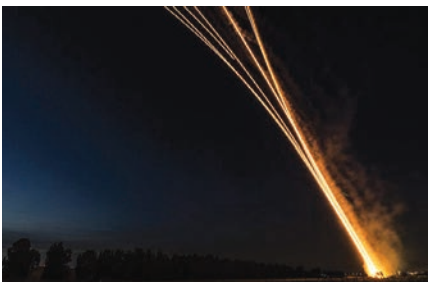
Rochelle enjoyed spending time with her friends and family and was an accomplished bridge player, earning the rank of Ruby Life Master. She loved taking her granddaughters shopping and enjoyed supporting the local theater community.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 14 at Temple Israel Cemetery & Levy Cooper Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, Temple Israel, the Lightman Bridge Center or the Alzheimer’s Association.

Rochelle leaves behind her husband, Frank, daughter Susan Cohen (Neil), granddaughters Ellen and Emily, sister Fredda Willins (Jerry), and beloved family. Her family would like to thank the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab for their care and support over the last several years. [HW](#)

Iron Dome Intercepted 91% of 937 Rockets Fired Upon Israel



The Iron Dome missile-defense system launches interception missiles as a barrage of rockets are fired towards southern Israel from Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, May 10, 2023. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

(JNS) – Palestinian Islamic Jihad has fired a total of 937 rockets at Israel since the beginning of “Operation Shield and Arrow” on May 9, with 761 crossing into Israel. Iron Dome intercepted 91% of the 296 rockets that threatened Israeli population centers, but on May 11, one hit the city of Rehovot in the center of the country and killed an Israeli man.

The numbers come from Israel’s Consulate General of New York.

The Israel Defense Forces confirmed that as of May 12, the attacks are ongoing. “As families in Israel gather together for Shabbat dinner, Islamic Jihad terror organization continues to fire barrages of rockets toward Israel,” the IDF tweeted.

“No country would ever tolerate rocket attacks on its citizens, neither does Israel,” tweeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “We have a duty to protect our people against terrorism.” [HW](#)



Bubba” Silberstein was honored on January 15, 2023, with the Aishel House Lamplighter Award in Houston. Aaron Wolf, Lorraine Wolf, Bubba Silberstein, Maxine Silberstein, Vicki Denaburg, Eddie Denaburg, Robb Kahn, Steffani Silberstein and Jeff Roth

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Retiring in a Down Market? Don't Panic

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

Market volatility makes most investors nervous, but a big downturn can be especially disturbing to those who are approaching retirement or newly retired. If you're in that position, it may help to keep these ideas in mind.

Retirement Is Long

During your working career, you may look at retirement as the end of the investment process, but your retirement could last 20 or 30 years or more. So even if the stock market is at rock bottom on the day you retire, your investments may have many years to pursue growth as the market recovers.

You might shift to a more conservative allocation as you near retirement, but you cannot be too conservative if you want to keep up with inflation. Whatever balance you choose, the equity portion of your portfolio can pursue market growth throughout retirement while bonds or similar investments provide income. In both cases, time is on your side.

Don't Stop Investing

Although a down market may be discouraging, it could be an opportunity to build your portfolio at discount prices. If you are contributing regularly to a workplace plan, IRA, or other investment account, you are practicing dollar-cost averaging. This may help smooth the effects of volatility and enable you to buy more shares when prices are down, putting your portfolio in a stronger position to grow when the market recovers. Re-investing any dividends, capital gains, and interest income may also add shares

to your portfolio at lower cost.

Sell Smart

The greatest challenge of retiring in a down market is that you may have to sell some investments at significantly reduced values, possibly at a loss. If you have been investing for many years, your investments might show substantial gains even with the downturn, but psychologically it's still difficult to sell them for less than their value when the market was up.

Keep in mind that stock market losses remain on paper until you sell. If you don't need money from your investments in the near term, you could wait for the market to recover before withdrawing funds. The SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 raised the required minimum distribution (RMD) starting age for traditional IRAs and most workplace retirement plans to 73, beginning in 2023 (for individuals who reach age 72 after December 31, 2022). The age will rise again in 2033 to 75. You generally can avoid taking RMDs from a workplace plan as long as you are still working for the company sponsoring the plan. Original Roth IRA owners are not subject to RMDs.

Bulls and Bears

Since 1970, there have been seven S&P 500 bear markets – defined as a loss of 20% or more from a recent high – and seven bull markets, a gain of 20% or more from the bear market low. Bull markets typically last longer than bears, and the gains during a bull market tend to be significantly higher than the losses during a bear market.

Timeline of S&P 500 bull and bear markets since 1970



Source: Yardeni Research, October 28, 2022. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged group of securities that is considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

If you do need money from your savings and investments, it might be better to spend down cash first, and then access funds from fixed-income investments, giving equities more time to recover. Deciding what and when to sell can be complicated, and you may benefit from professional advice. Although there is no assurance that working with a financial professional will improve investment results, a professional can evaluate your objectives and available resources and help you consider appropriate long-term financial strategies.

All investments are subject to market fluctuation, risk, and loss of principal. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. Asset allocation is a method used to help manage investment risk; it does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss. Dollar-cost averaging also does not ensure a profit or prevent a loss. Such plans involve continuous investments in securities regardless of fluctuating prices, so you should consider your financial ability to continue making purchases during periods of low and high price levels.

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International Fellowship of Christians and Jews Rushes Bomb Shelters to Ashkelon



A bomb shelter donated by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is unloaded in Ashkelon, May 10, 2023. Credit: Yossi Zeliger/IFCJ.

(JNS) – Last Wednesday, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) placed five bomb shelters in areas of Ashkelon identified by local authorities as lacking ample protection.

The locations included residential neighborhoods where homes had no shelters as well as commercial zones where people had no safe place to go when incoming Gazan rockets are detected.

The latest installation comes in addition to numerous other safety projects made possible by the IFCJ across Ashkelon, including a mobile command center donated earlier this year, which allows the municipal leadership to manage the city through these types of crises.

The IFCJ also purchased four protected vehicles that are used by local security officers to arrive quickly and safely to the scene of rocket attacks.

The newly placed shelters are part of an ongoing effort by the IFCJ, in coordination with the IDF Home Front Command, to ensure that the Israeli public is properly protected in the face of a growing array of threats.

In recent years, IFCJ has donated more than 400 such shelters throughout

Israel at a cost of over \$6.2 million. An additional \$16.2 million has been allocated towards the renovation and equipping of 2,500 existing shelters.

The IFCJ has invested more than \$69 million directly in homefront defense projects in areas of the country, primarily near the southern and northern borders, that face an ongoing threat from rocket and missile attacks.

“Strengthening our nation’s homefront defenses, particularly in these times of security crisis, has long been one of the primary objectives of the Fellowship. We see it as a central part of our mandate to be able to ensure that the people of Israel are provided the physical protection they need,” IFCJ President Yael Eckstein said.

“These shelters not only protect people in time of need but are a critical reflection of the spirit of solidarity that enables our donor community of hundreds of thousands around the world to know that they are partners in caring for the people of Israel. We are deeply appreciative of their support in allowing us to quickly and effectively implement life-saving solutions in these times of need,” she said. [HW](#)

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Gunman in Texas Mall Shooting Reportedly Posted Antisemitic Rhetoric on Social Media

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – The suspect in the shooting last Saturday at a mall in Texas appears to have posted antisemitic, anti-LGBTQ and misogynist messages to a social media account.

According to researchers at the Anti-Defamation League, as well as a report in NBC News, the gunman, a 33-year-old who killed eight people at an outlet mall in Allen, a suburb of Dallas, had an account at OK.RU, a Russian social media platform. On the account, he cited sites popular with white supremacists, such as 4chan, and white supremacist figures such as Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes. His posts repeated antisemitic conspiracies, using an abbreviation for the “Zionist occupied government” and claiming that Jews have “engineered society so that men cannot mate with a woman.”

“An initial assessment of a massive social media trove, which ADL researchers can link to Garcia with a high degree of confidence, reveals a preoccupation with violence that manifests in a wide range of hate, including towards women and Jews,” read an assessment by the ADL’s Center on Extremism, using the shooter’s last name. The report cited Bellingcat, an investigative journalism site, in its research.

The shooter also posted photos of a jacket with a patch featuring the acronym for “Right Wing Death Squad,” a far-right term, as well as a shirtless photo

where he is shown with tattoos of a swastika and the logo of the Nazi Waffen-SS force. “Here’s what I think about your diversity you f...g loser’s [sic],” he wrote in the photo caption, according to the ADL, which added that at least one post included the phrase “Heil Hitler.”

His posts also included misogynistic and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. According to the ADL, he wrote that he was inspired by “Libs of TikTok,” an anti-LGBTQ social media account run by Chaya Raichik, an Orthodox Jew. Law enforcement officers are investigating the alleged shooter’s social media and have not publicly shared a motive for the shooting.

The mall shooting, in which the gunman was killed by police, comes a week after another mass shooting in Cleveland, Texas. It also comes roughly a year after another white supremacist shooter killed 10 people at a mall in Buffalo and, 10 days later, a gunman killed 21 people in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. According to the ADL, three-quarters of the people killed by extremists over the past decade were killed by right-wing shooters.

“As ADL has consistently documented, right-wing extremist violence poses the greatest extremist threat to America,” tweeted ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “The #AllenTexas shooter’s social media appears to underscore this clear and present danger.” **HW**

Raisi in Damascus: Israel’s Demise is ‘Very Close’

(JNS) – Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi met with Palestinian terrorist leaders in Damascus a week ago Thursday, calling for a united front against Israel and telling them that the demise of the “Zionist regime” is imminent.

The meeting took place on the second day of a two-day state visit to Syria, the first time that an Iranian president has visited the country after more than a decade of civil war (Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited Damascus in September 2010).

Terrorists in attendance included Syria-based Islamic Jihad leader Ziyad al-Nakhalah and senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya, who is based in the Gaza Strip.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also participated in the meeting.

“The issue of Palestine and the freedom of Quds [Jerusalem] is the most important issue of the World of Islam today, which should not be forgotten,” Raisi said, ac-

cording to a statement issued by his office.

Raisi said that a Palestinian state is a top priority of the regime in Tehran and claimed that Israel violated agreements with Muslim-majority nations and continues to violate the rights of Palestinians.

“Today more than ever, the unity and cohesion of the resistance forces, the region and the Islamic world is necessary to accelerate the defeat of the Zionist regime and the liberation of the Holy Quds and the sovereignty of the Palestinians over their destiny,” the Iranian leader continued.

“We consider the collapse of the Zionist regime, whose effects are visible, to be very close,” he said.

[The day before], Raisi met with his Syrian counterpart Bashar Assad, praising him for “achieving victory” in the civil war that has killed more than 500,000 Syrians and created the world’s largest refugee crisis by displacing millions. **HW**

IDF Kills Fifth Palestinian Islamic Jihad Leader

(JNS) – The Israel Air Force last Thursday killed a fifth Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist leader since the start of “Operation Shield and Arrow,” the IDF said in a statement.

Ahmed Abu-Deka, a senior member of the Islamic Jihad rocket launching force, was targeted. Four others were wounded in the strike on a house in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian media reports.

Abu-Deka was a deputy of Ali Ghalil, the commander of PIJ’s rocket force who was killed by Israeli forces early last Thursday along with two other Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza.

According to the IDF, Abu-Deka was responsible for rocket launches in recent days, specifically in the city of Sderot.

“Abu-Deka operated to advance, plan and execute rocket fire attacks towards Israel. He [also] took part in the bar-

rages of rockets fired towards Israeli civilians during operations ‘Guardian of the Walls’ [in May 2021] and ‘Breaking Dawn’ [in August 2022],” the IDF said.

A top IDF commander said that the military waited two days to kill Abu-Deka, as he had been using civilians as human shields.

“This morning we targeted the commander of Islamic Jihad’s missile array in Gaza. Now, just an hour ago, we targeted his deputy as well,” said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a visit to a military base.

“I have already said: Anyone who attempts to harm us—their blood will be spilled,” he added.

Israel carried out targeted killings of three PIJ leaders overnight last Monday, which started “Operation Shield and Arrow.” The three terrorists were identified by the IDF as Jahed Ahnam, Khalil Bahitini and Tarek Azaldin. **HW**

Sen. Sanders Hosts Rep. Tlaib’s ‘Nakba 75’ Event in Senate Office Building



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) at the fifth 2020 Democratic presidential primary debate in Atlanta on Nov. 20, 2020. Source: Screenshot.

(JNS) – After Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) canceled a “Nakba Day” event to be hosted at the U.S. Capitol, featuring a presentation by Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), the Senate wound up providing a new venue for it.

The event, called “Nakba 75 & the Palestinian People,” took place last Wednesday night with the sponsorship of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Hearing Room, located at the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) also attended.

During her speech, Tlaib said that the nakba, which means “catastrophe” in Arabic and refers to the establishment of the modern-day State of Israel, “never ended.”

“Each year, our country sends billions to explicitly maintain an apartheid state and support ethnic cleansing without a

second thought,” she continued.

The use of “apartheid” and “ethnic cleansing” falsehoods were similar to accusations Tlaib made on Twitter earlier this month and that earned the rebuke of Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan.

The nine sponsors of the event were Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU); Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action); Project48; Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN); US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR); American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR); Emgage Action; and Jewish Voice for Peace Action (JVP Action).

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) said he disapproved of the event, adding that “the Capitol grounds should not be used as a pedestal to legitimize antisemitic bigotry.” **HW**

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In ‘Jewish Matchmaking,’ a Diverse Set of Jews Experience Orthodox Dating Practices



Nakysa Osadchey from Kansas City, Missouri, is looking for someone who understands her multicultural background as a Black Reform Jew. (Netflix)

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – According to Jewish lore, God has been making matches since the creation of the world. Aleeza Ben Shalom has been at it only since 2007 – but the Jewish matchmaker is about to bring what she calls “the most important job in the world” to the masses.

As the host of “Jewish Matchmaking” on Netflix, Ben Shalom adapts the model of Orthodox arranged matches to Jewish singles from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, including secular, Reform and Conservative Jews from across the United States and Israel.

Formal matchmaking, known as shidduch dating and considered de rigueur in haredi Orthodox circles, has been depicted as oppressive and constricting on Netflix dramas such as “Shtisel” and “Unorthodox.” But Ben Shalom believes her basic approach to love and marriage makes sense for a wide array of people – and she’s out to prove it.

“I’m hoping that people will see that matchmaking and Judaism is not just something that’s old, but that’s timeless, that’s relevant,” Ben Shalom told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

“We can use this beautiful, ancient tradition of matchmaking and bring it to modern life, and help people to find love from any age, stage, any background. It doesn’t matter. It’s universal,” she said. “The wisdom that I share is from Judaism. It’s based in Torah, but it’s for the world. Anybody of any background, of any culture can watch this, can learn something from it and can implement it in their lives.”

Ben Shalom isn’t the first to make the case that matchmaking services can help a wide array of Jews find lasting love. Ventures such as YentaNet, a pluralistic matchmaking service that arose about a decade ago, and Tribe 12, a Jewish nonprofit working with young adults in Philadelphia where Ben Shalom got her start, have sought to pair Jewish singles who might be a good fit for each other.

But the practice is most common in haredi Orthodox communities, where the norms around shidduch dating are well known and closely followed. Daters have a “shidduch resume” outlining their education, interests and family background; parents are involved in the process; and dating is intended to move quickly toward marriage. Dates typically take place in public spaces and couples are expected not to touch until they are married.

In formal Orthodox matchmaking, the shadchan, or matchmaker, is usually compensated by the parents, receiving around \$1,000 upon a couple’s engagement, although higher-end services may charge more. Some matchmakers may charge a smaller amount for the initial meeting with a client, while Ben Shalom’s company, Marriage Minded Men-

tor, charges \$50 to \$100 an hour on a sliding scale based on the client’s salary. (Sima Taparia, the star and host of “Indian Matchmaking,” the Netflix show that inspired “Jewish Matchmaking,” reportedly charges her clients around \$1,330 to \$8,000 for similar services.)

Matchmakers keep records of who in their communities is looking for a match, but they can also tap into networks of other matchmakers and databases of singles as they seek to pair their clients. “We don’t believe in competition, we believe in collaboration,” said Ben Shalom, who is currently based in Israel.

Ben Shalom grew up in a Conservative Jewish community where matchmaking was not the norm, and later became Orthodox. She knew her husband for three weeks before becoming engaged, then touched him for the first time during their wedding four months later.

She knows that most participants on “Jewish Matchmaking” are unlikely to follow those same restrictions. Still, she encourages them to at least try.

“I’m really trying to have you guys touch hearts,” Ben Shalom tells Harmonie Krieger, a marketing and brand consultant in her 40s, as she explains why she wants Krieger to abstain from physical contact for five dates. “You will gain clarity. If there’s no physical glue holding the relationship together, then there’s actually value-based glue that’s holding the relationship together.”

“I will accept the challenge,” Krieger says. “Maybe. Let’s see how it goes.”

Krieger is one of a number of non-Orthodox Jews who opted to be cast on “Jewish Matchmaking” after being unsatisfied with their own dating efforts. There’s Nakysa Osadchey, a Black Reform Jew who is desperate to get out of Kansas City, Missouri, where she hasn’t had luck finding a partner who understands her multicultural background. Living in Tel Aviv via Rome, Noah Del Monte, 24, is the youngest of the group, an Israeli army veteran and diplomat’s son who wants to transition from so-called “king of nightlife” to husband. In Los Angeles, Ori Basly, who works for his family’s wedding planning business, is looking for a blue-eyed, blonde-haired Israeli woman to fall in love with and bring home to his family.

The Jews cast on the show are all in different places in their lives, some grieving serious breakups or committed to specific religious identities, some picky about looks or hoping their partner will be OK with riding motorcycles. Some of them are looking for particular Jewish commitments to concepts such as tikkun olam, which means “repairing the world” and has come to represent a social justice imperative for many liberal Jews; others want to be sure they’re

matched only with people who share their approaches to observing Shabbat and keeping kosher.

Pamela Rae Schuller, a comedian whose material frequently centers on living with Tourette syndrome, a nervous system disorder, demurred when Ben Shalom first offered to set her up about seven years ago, after attending one of Schuller’s shows in Los Angeles.

“I was picking career first. And there are a lot of complicated feelings around dating and disability,” said Schuller, who stands 4 feet 6 inches tall and frequently barks because of her syndrome. “And I never even thought about a matchmaker.”

But in 2022, Ben Shalom reached out again, this time with a possible match, and a catch – it would be for a new Netflix show she was set to host. This time, Schuller was ready.

“I have this life that I really, really love. I’m just at the point where I’ve realized I’d like someone to start to share that with,” she said. “I’m not going into this looking for anyone to complete me.”

Getting back into dating and then appearing on the show, which Schuller hasn’t seen yet, was both scary and exciting, she says.

“I’m about to put myself out there. I think that’s scary for everyone, disability or otherwise,” Schuller said. “But I also want to see a world where we remember that every type of person dates.”

Plus, she added, “I love the idea that Netflix is willing to show diversity in Judaism, diversity in dating.”

Ensuring that she show accurately represented American Jews was the responsibility of Ronit Polin-Tarshish, an Orthodox filmmaker who worked as a consulting producer on “Jewish Matchmaking.” Her role was to ensure that Judaism was portrayed authentically. She also worked to help the Orthodox cast members feel more comfortable with their involvement on the show.

“Being Orthodox is who I am, and of course it infused every part of my work,” said Polin-Tarshish, who herself used a matchmaker to find her husband.

Multiple recent depictions of Orthodox Judaism in pop culture – including the Netflix reality show “My Unorthodox Life” – have drawn criticism from Orthodox voices for getting details of Orthodox observance wrong or seeming to encourage people to leave Orthodoxy.

Both “My Unorthodox Life” and “Unorthodox,” based on the Deborah Feldman memoir of the same name, depict formerly Orthodox women who left arranged marriages they described as oppressive.

Meanwhile, other depictions of Jews have been panned for botching details. Those include a grieving widow (herself not Jewish but mourning a Jewish husband) serving hamantaschen at the shiva in the 2014 film “This is Where I Leave You,” and a storyline on the Canadian show “Nurses” about an Orthodox man rejecting a bone graft from a non-Jew.

“So many times we watch shows as Jews, and we kind of gnash our teeth, and are like, ‘They got it wrong! They got a basic thing wrong!’” said Polin-Tarshish, who previously produced the first-ever feature-length film by Orthodox women and worked on another reality show about arranged marriages across cultures. “That was my whole job, to make sure that they got it right. And thank God, baruch Hashem, I think we really did.”

Asked if her involvement on “Jewish Matchmaking” has received any pushback, Ben Shalom said she had gotten questions about how she could know whether the showrunners will accurately represent who she is.

Ben Shalom said she was confident in the production based on what she saw on “Indian Matchmaking,” but also because she believed she could pull off the delicate balance needed to represent her own community and make for great entertainment.

“You have to be smart about how you share who you are with the world, and you have to be authentic, and you have to be real, and you have to be true,” she said. “And you have to do that on reality TV with strangers that you’ve just met, and you have to do an interview. So only because I saw it done beautifully before, I knew that I had the ability to do that as well.”

Polin-Tarshish is excited for viewers at home to identify with the cast of “Jewish Matchmaking,” and to even get frustrated by some of the cast members’ actions. But most importantly, she says she is excited to have real, three-dimensional Jewish characters on screen.

“They’re real people in every sense of the word,” Polin-Tarshish said. “There are characters you’re going to love, there are characters you might even love to hate. But that’s life.” **HW**

41% Increase in Antisemitic Incidents in a Single Year in California



The Goyim Defense League hung banners supporting Kanye “Ye” West’s comments about Jews over a Los Angeles bridge, Oct. 22, 2022. Source: Twitter.

(JNS) – While antisemitism rates have risen across the country in recent years, a new report from the Anti-Defamation League documents just how high of a jump California has seen.

In 2021, there were 367 antisemitic incidents. In 2022, the number rose to 518 – a 41.8% increase. The ADL also saw six extremist-related murders and one terrorist plot. The organization identified Patriot Front and the Goyim

Defense League as primarily responsible for a 91% increase in white supremacist flier distribution – rising from 155 to 296.

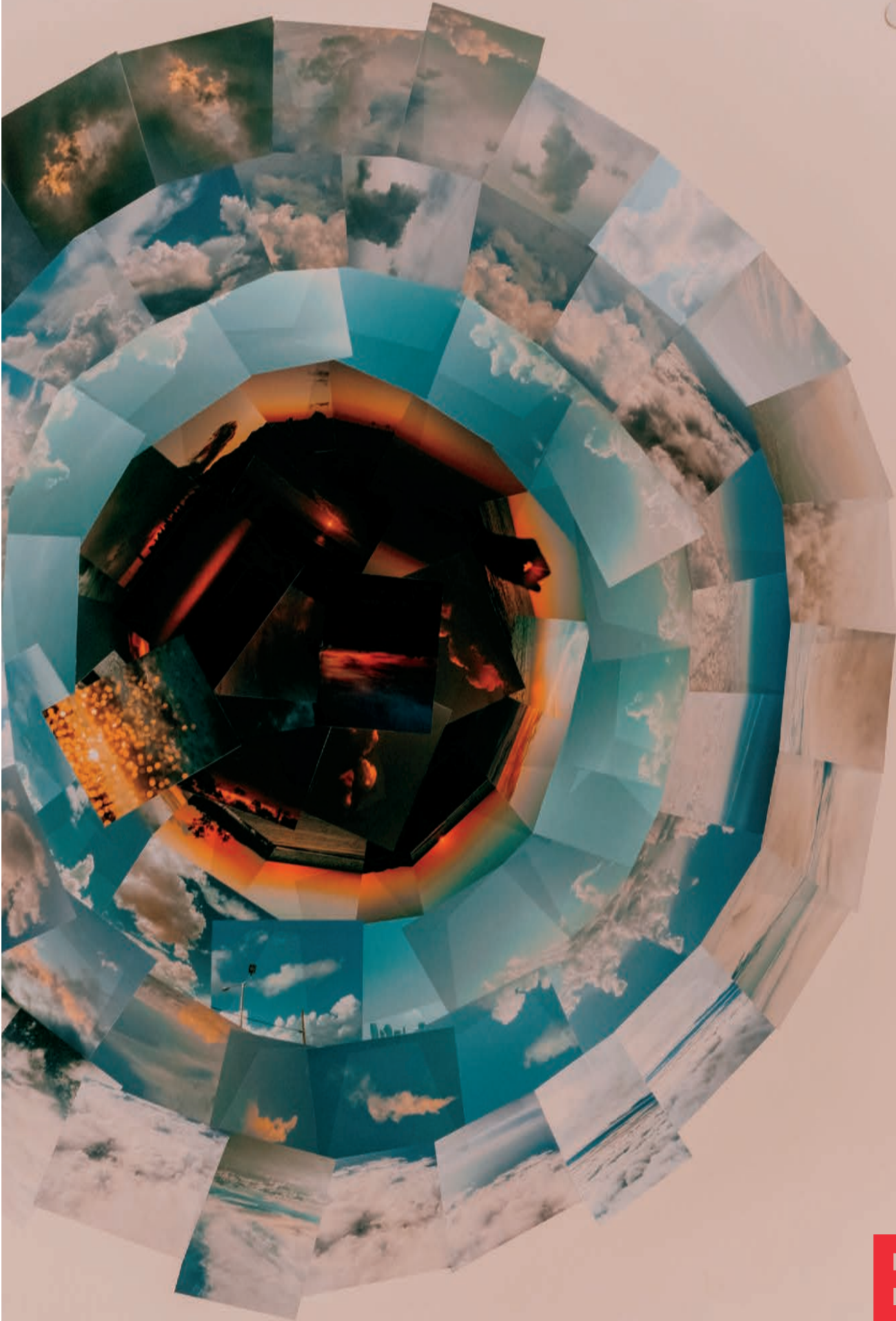
One of the most reported antisemitic events took place in October when the Goyim Defense League unfurled a banner over Interstate 405 – one of Los Angeles’ most trafficked roads – that read “Kanye is right about the jews [sic].”

On overall hate crimes in California, the ADL cites the FBI to reveal an increase of 33% from 2000-21: from 1,330 incidents to 1,765. The report further shows increases in alliances between white supremacist and other extremist groups.

In the three categories of incidents, the majority was vandalism with 327, up from 217 the previous year. Harassment rose less, from 135 in 2021 to 178 in 2022. The smallest category – assaults – actually saw a decrease from 2021 (15) to 2022 (13). **HW**

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Ice Cream Truck Outside Auschwitz Provokes Criticism



An ice cream stand sits outside of the former Auschwitz camp in Oswiecim, Poland. Credit: Dagmar Kopijasz of the Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – Barely 200 yards from the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, visitors can now purchase ice cream, prompting disgust from commemoration officials and local residents.

Since early May, an ice cream stand has sat some 200 meters (about 218 yards) from the camp’s red-brick “Death Gate,” where double rail tracks led directly to Nazi gas chambers. A photo of the stand circulated on social media this week, showing a kiosk with a pink logo reading “icelove,” along with signs advertising “ice cream” and “waffles” in

Polish.

Paweł Sawicki, a spokesman for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, called the ice cream stand “an example not only of aesthetic tastelessness, but also of disrespect for a nearby special historical site.”

But the trailer has set up shop outside the boundaries of the memorial’s legally protected zone.

“Unfortunately we have no influence over it,” Sawicki told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “We trust that the relevant authorities will solve this em-

barrassing problem.”

The largest Nazi extermination camp has been preserved in Brzezinka, outside the southern Polish town of Oświęcim, also known under German occupation as Auschwitz. At least 1.1 million people died at Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945, including about 1 million Jews. Some 83,000 Poles and about 21,000 Roma also perished at the camp.

The people living in Brzezinka know the history of their village well, said Dagmar Kopijasz of the locally based Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau. In 1941-42, the Germans completely displaced Brzezinka to create the camp zone.

“It’s obvious that the local residents are appalled by this ice cream stand and upset by the whole situation,” Kopijasz told the JTA. “Everyone says in one voice that this is no place to sell ice cream.”

Today the camp is a tourist hotspot, seeing more than 2 million visitors a year before COVID-19-related lockdowns. The Auschwitz Museum’s by-laws require visitors to “behave with due solemnity and respect,” adhering to a respectful dress code. They are not permitted to carry or eat food, talk on the phone or take photos in certain areas. The bylaws extend to speaking in any way that violates the memory of Auschwitz victims, denies Nazi crimes, defames the memorial site or encourages “hatred of any kind.”

Nonetheless, several tourists have

come under fire for perceived misbehavior. Alabama teenager Breanna Mitchell was lambasted for posting a grinning selfie at the death camp in 2014. That same year, an Israeli Facebook page with a title translated as “With My Besties in Auschwitz” collected real social media posts of Israeli teens posing with humorous faces and peace signs at the camp, going viral overnight before it was taken down.

Temperatures for visitors waiting in line in the summer can get hot, and in 2015, the museum attempted to cool people off with sprinklers – which were quickly criticized by some who found them reminiscent of the Nazi gas chambers presented to prisoners as showers.

Holocaust-themed selfie scandals have flared up around other memorials, too. Israeli-German writer Shahak Shapira created a website called “Yolocaust” to shame self-indulgent selfie-takers at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, imposing their photos over historical images of the Holocaust.

Local authorities in Oświęcim are investigating the ice cream stand’s location, according to Notes From Poland. Municipality Mayor Andrzej Skrzyp- iński announced that it was set up on private property, based on a contract between the owner of the land and the owner of the kiosk. However, it’s still unclear whether the operation is allowed under the local zoning plan, which requires approval from the governor of the province. [HW](#)



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