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475+ Attend 61st Annual Yom HaShoah Event



Memphis City Mayor Jim Strickland with mother-daughter Yom HaShoah co-chairs Dorothy Kelman Goldwin and Michelle Goldwin Kaufman and Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris.

By Shoshana Cenker

On Monday, April 17, more than 475 attendees packed the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Belz Social Hall for Memphis Jewish Federation's 61st Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration. The Tennessee Holocaust Commission sponsored this year's keynote speaker, child survivor Tova Friedman, for Courage & Hope: The Holocaust Through the Eyes of a Child.

Laura Linder, Jewish Community Partners president and CEO, opened the moving program, which was followed by a beautifully harmonized rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by Temple Israel teens. Then, second-generation survivor Dorothy Goldwin and her daughter, Michelle Goldwin Kaufman, co-chairs of the Memphis Holocaust

Photos by Paige Miller

Committee, offered powerful remarks, part of which highlighted the importance of sharing family history knowledge from generation to generation.

Next, as third- and fourth-generation survivors, my three children and I had the honor of reading local survivors' bios as they lit the memorial candelabra with the help of third-generation survivor Adam Exelbierd. Diane Zelickman Cohen, Memphis Symphony Orchestra assistant principal first violinist, then played a lovely musical reflection, setting the mood for Tova's presentation.

The audience was captivated as Tova Friedman took the stage with a commanding and engaging presence, sharing startling stats: Before the war – there were 15,000 Jews in her Polish home-



Third-generationation survivor Adam Exelbierd assists survivor Jack Cohen in lighting the memorial candelabra.

town of Tomaszow Mazowiecki; 5,000 of them were children – after the war, just 200 were left; only five children. Of her 150 family members, Tova and her parents were the only ones to survive. "Killing was an art," Tova noted. "I represent a whole town. ... Today, Poland is one giant place of graves."

Living in her town's ghetto as a toddler, Tova was 5 years old when she and her parents were sent to a Nazi labor camp. It's believed that she's one of the youngest people to survive the Holocaust. Tova credits her mother for not shielding her from reality. When Tova asked if the bodies she saw were dead people, her mom told her yes. "My mother communicated well with me. I learned to listen to her," she said, "And I never cried out loud – that would give away your hiding place."

Sadly, her grandparents were shot dead into a grave that her father was forced to dig. Her favorite uncle was shot, among many others - rabbis, teachers, and doctors were killed first - all most often without clothes on. "Shooting was so common, I thought being Jewish meant you had to die," she told the engrossed crowd, which included Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris. "The Nazis killed the elderly to destroy families – killing the spirit and glue that holds families together.... They were ordered to undress before they were killed because clothes make you a human - it's easier to kill naked people, there's no humanity."

Tova remembers seeing kids disap-

(See Yom HaShoah Page 2)

Beth Sholom Women's Retreat Offers Relaxation and Nourishment of Body and Soul

By Deanna McAlexander

Throughout the Torah, at different pivotal moments, God calls to our ancestors, and they respond "*Hineini*, I am here." Last weekend, 60 women gathered to share community, share study of Torah, share food, and share their talents and support with one other.

Conceived of, planned, and led by Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the Beth Sholom Women's Retreat gave women from across Memphis the opportunity to connect, stretch themselves spiritually and physically, relax, and nourish their bodies and souls. The event was held at Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center in Moscow, less than an hour east of Memphis, a setting that encouraged interaction with nature and with fellow attendees.

Sharing her hopes for the retreat, Rabbi Horwitz said, "I envisioned a weekend when women could come together and devote time to themselves, their community, and their deepening sense women to take time to focus on themselves and have an immersive Shabbat experience. They have to intentionally carve out time, away from responsibilities. We tend to fill our time being productive; what might we gain when we can set that aside? I wanted them to have a space where people might experience Torah learning, experience davening, and experience community in ways they don't often get to."

Her hopes were realized, judging by reactions shared by those who were there.

"I am feeling refreshed, inspired and connected thanks to the Beth Sholom Women's Retreat this past weekend," said Julie Levy. "Spending time in the woods being surrounded by nature, beautiful words of Torah, and the amazing women of Jewish Memphis is just the salve my tired, wounded soul has needed. Thank you, Rabbi Sarit, and your amazing committee for providing this wonderful weekend. This was real



Everyone received a sweatshirt that bore the retreat's theme, "Hineini." The jackets helped create a sense of group and kept everyone warm around the Havdalah bonfire on Saturday night.

chicken soup for the soul!"

That appreciation was echoed by Laura Linder: "Rabbi Sarit created a magical experience. One of the most amazing components of the experience was the wide age range of women who participated. There were women in their 30s all the way up to their 80s! Over the course of the weekend, we became one community. Having the opportunity to unplug for a weekend was invaluable.

(See Retreat Page 7)

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Yom HaShoah... (Continued From Page 1)



Lodz Ghetto survivor Sam Weinreich, age 103, sang the "Ghetto Song." He and his wife, Frieda (99), are both survivors.



First-, second-, third- and fourth-generation survivors lit the memorial candelabra

pear and realizing that people were being moved from location to location, sometimes in secret, in the middle of the night. "Breaking up a family," she said, "breaks their spirit."

Tova was almost 6 when she and her mother were forced into a packed cattle car and sent to Auschwitz II, also known as Birkenau extermination camp, while her father was sent to Dachau. "We were on that train for 36 hours, with terrible smells and screaming," Tova said. "When we arrived at the concentration camp, I asked my mom what the smell was. She told me it was burning bodies."

Somehow, Tova managed to stay alive - despite being sent to the crematorium (her mother screaming as she watched her go; for unknown reasons, Tova's group was sent back to their barracks); despite only being allowed to go to the bathroom twice per day (you'd be shot for more); despite falling into a toilet; and despite starving ("a hunger that words cannot describe").

"I've had many miracles in my life, maybe because I am a witness," she noted. "I am the voice of the 1.5 million

As the Russians approached, Nazis began ramping up the killings. It was chaos until Tova and her mother were liberated from Birkenau on Jan. 27, 1945. "In Yiddish, my mother said, 'They're gone," referring to the Nazis.

Tova's father survived Dachau, reuniting with Tova and her mother the following year. After several years with tuberculosis in a German sanatorium and Displaced Persons camps, Tova and her parents arrived in the U.S. when she was 12.

Tova earned a BA in psychology and a master's in Black literature. She and her husband, Maier Friedman, immigrated to Israel, living there for over 10 years where she taught at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Returning to the U.S., she earned her master's in social work, becoming the director of Jewish Family Service of Somerset and Warren Counties in New Jersey for over 20 years, where she still works as a therapist. She wrote her memoir, "The Daughter of Auschwitz." Tova's blessed with four children and eight grandchildren.

"When I speak, I remember the 1.5 million kids who aren't here - it's as

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Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 5, 2023 / 14 lyar, 5783	7:30 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. May 6, 2023 / 15 Iyar, 5783	8:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Emor

When kids watch my stories on TikTok, they ask questions. It gives me hope," Tova concluded. "It's not just my story to tell - multiply it by 1.5 million."

The Commemoration program ended with several meaningful, compelling moments. Lodz Ghetto survivor Sam Weinreich sang the "Ghetto Song," second-generation survivor siblings David Winestone, Shelby Baum, and Rebecca Gerber recited Tehillim and Kaddish in memory of their father, Ted Winestone (OBM), Cantor Ricky Kampf chanted El Maleh Rachamim, and Rabbi Akiva Males offered a closing benediction, continue sharing her story.

Tova's bravery and resiliency remind us of the importance of transmitting the legacy of the Holocaust to the next generation. To those we've lost and those proudly living with us, we will never forget the 6 million. Never again.

Winners of the 14th Annual Holocaust Art and Essay Contest were 1st place essay, Nadav Lowell, 11th grader, Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys; 1st place art Kayla Lam, 7th grader, Colonial Middle School. You may view the winning entries on pages 4 - 5 and at jewishscenemagazine.com The TN Holocaust Commission selected Mr. Jordan Bernardini as the 2023 Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator Award winner. Mr. Bernardini is a Facing History & Ourselves teacher at Germantown High School and a member of the Facing History's New Committee Fellowship. HW

children who died."

if I'm putting a stone on their graves.

asking G-d to grant Tova strength to

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My Israel Story



David Petersen in Israel

Imagine a life of wandering, and then on a 10-day trip, you find your way, and everything clicks! Picture finding and connecting with that spark! Realizing a connection to a peoplehood, a land, a nation-state, and cultivating a deep relationship with other Jewish men, all in only 10-days. If you can join a Momentum Men's trip, jump on it! The first words out of your mouth should be, "Where do I sign, and when do we leave!"

My backstory started in 2009; my wife and I had just completed our conversions to Judaism. It was a fantastic time and a process that brought us exceptionally close. The process involved a great deal of study, reading, classes, meetings, and soul-searching. So naturally, I ate up all the knowledge and excitedly absorbed the experiences of the conversion rituals. On top of things, I had a great career direction; we were still newlyweds, with a wide social circle and solid congregation life.

As a Jew by choice, I spent the better part of the last decade putting aspects of my newfound religion at the forefront of my daily life, such as life-long learning, Tzedakah, Torah study, Tikkun Olam, community building, and more, helping to mature my identity. We infused our home with Judaism, created lifelong friendships, involved ourselves in the community and our congregation, and entrenched the values in our children's lives. And there still seemed to be something missing, but what was it? It was Israel and the need to develop a connection to the land of our peoplehood, ancestry, a place riddled with triumphs and tragedy.

I went on the Men's Momentum trip with no expectations, landing in Tel Aviv with an open mind and heart. We had 150 men from across the U.S. and Israel on three buses setting out on an adventure. We saw fantastic historical sites connected to the beauty and rich history of the land, building a brotherhood along the way - a brotherhood of men that transcended the spectrum of Jewish denominations. We connected with Israeli soldiers and talked about fatherhood, politics, shuls, relationships, and lighter topics, such as our favorite beers. We spent our evenings in the Shuk or hotel lounge, chatting about life, our families, and journeys.

I know my words haven't done this experience justice, but how can one capture something so powerful? For me, Israel is the link that sews the individual facets of my Judaism together. Living a Jewish life in the Diaspora takes time and effort. You often have to blaze your trail, but not in the Holy Land. In such a place, being Jewish is the norm; no matter your religious observances, there's nothing more beautiful than the peaceful silence during Jerusalem on Shabbat. I thought my conversion was complete with my dunk in the mikvah. Yet, on the Bar Mitzvah anniversary of my journey, I feel a new completeness and connection that took 13 years to come full circle. And while my journey is far from over, I feel ready to start a new chapter.

I'll close with this, don't put off your trip to Israel; before you know it, there's a decade of excuses standing in your way. Make the call and commit. Life is too short to wait until things slow down. The most precious gift we have is life. Make sure it's one worth living: full of fellowship, spiritual connection, positive relationships, challenges, and peace.

David Petersen is a career Naval Officer, HR Professional, and community volunteer. As Bluff City transplants, he and his family are affectionately involved in the Memphis Jewish community. Last fall, David joined a Jewish men's group of travelers as part of the inaugural MoMENtum Men's Israel Trip offered through Memphis Jewish Federation. **HW**

Egg Cream & the New York Jewish Food Experience

Get ready to indulge in the flavorful New York Jewish food experience at the upcoming event, "Egg Cream & The New York Jewish Food Experience," on Sunday, May 7, from 2-3:30 p.m. CT at the Memphis Jewish Community Center presented by the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South Sumner Levine Speaker Series. Don't miss this immersive and memorable event!

A highlight of the program will be a 16-minute documentary entitled "Egg Cream." This delightful film showcases the iconic New York City drink that has been a staple for generations. The documentary provides a glimpse into the history of the Egg Cream and explores how it became a beloved symbol of Jewish American culture. As you watch the film, you'll gain a newfound appreciation for this classic beverage and the role it has played in New York's culinary scene.

Following the screening, you'll be treated to a panel discussion featuring Rivky Klein and Enid Weiser, two former New Yorkers who have a deep appreciation for New York's rich food culture. They'll share their memories of growing up in New York and their experiences with Jewish cuisine. Their stories are sure to be both informative and entertaining, providing a unique perspective on the city's food scene.

Moderating the panel discussion will be Barrie Weiser, also a former New Yorker, who also will share his food-related memories of growing up there.

After the panel discussion, the fun New York-inspired Jewish food tasting will begin. You'll get to sample a variety of sweet and savory foods that are sure to delight your taste buds. And, of course, no New York food experience would be complete without the famous Egg Cream drink. This sweet and refreshing beverage will be available for you to try, and you'll quickly understand why it has been a favorite of New Yorkers for so many years. "Egg Cream & The New York Jewish Food Experience" promises to be a unique and unforgettable event that celebrates the rich history and culture of New York's Jewish cuisine. From the documentary to the panel discussion and food tasting, this event has something for everyone. So come and hear about fond memories of New York Jewish food and then taste the sweet and savory flavors of New York's Jewish food culture. This event is free and open to the public, but please register to attend at https://tinyurl.com/EggCreamRSVP. The post-event recording will be available on jhsmem.org. HW

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Memphis Jewish Federation's 14th Annual Holocaust Art & Essay Contest Winners

"Courage and Hope: The Holocaust Through the Eyes of a Child" was the theme of the 2023 contest. Middle school students in grades 6-8 were invited to submit artwork, and high school students in grades 9-12 were invited to submit essays.

Cash prizes for the top winners were made possible by the Kaethe Mela Family Memorial Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Kaethe, her husband, Paul, and their 17-year-old daughter, Doris, were murdered in Auschwitz.

Students were invited to consider how children use courage and hope during the horror. How did children survive in hiding and in camps? How were children affected by their loss of education and childhood? How did children resist? Could a child's imagination take them to a beautiful place and away from the harsh

1st Place Holocaust Essay Nadav Lowell, 11th grade Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys

According to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1,350,000 Jewish children were killed in the Holocaust, leaving only 150,000 surviving. Those that survived did not escape unscathed; many witnessed horrific deaths and horrible crimes. Children were forced to grow up fast and become self-reliant if they wanted to survive.

Most of the ways Jewish children survived were hazardous. Many children hid in bunkers, attics, or other hideaways, in constant fear of discovery. Some lived in the forest. Some children were sent to live with family and friends, and a lucky few were brought to England (via "Kindertransport"). A great many parents gave their children to the church, even knowing their children might be converted. Some parents encouraged children to hide their Jewish identity.

Given all of the above, I wonder what

2nd Place Tied Holocaust Essay:

Phoebe Jo Fuerst, 8th grade Honors English White Station Middle School Lea Thomas, 12th grade St. Mary's Episcopal School



.....

.....

reality of living through the Holocaust? There were 52 art entries from 11 diverse schools including Bornblum Jewish Community School, Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville, Colonial Middle School, Hutchison School for Girls, Margolin Hebrew Academy, Memphis University School, Riverdale K-8 School, St. Agnes Academy, St. George's Independent School, University of Memphis Middle School and

White Station Middle School. The art contest was judged by Carol Buchman, local artist and art teacher at Grace St. Lukes' School, along with Iris Harkavy, local artist. Essays were judged by Rachel Shankman, former executive director, Facing History and Ourselves-Memphis Office and Dr. Dan Unowsky, department chair of history at the University of Memphis.

inner qualities and practices kept children alive, resilient, and even identified as Jewish, especially considering limited Jewish education. How did Jewish youth, after witnessing so many horrors and so much tragedy, stay true to their faith and their people?

To help me answer these questions, I turn to the writings of the Jewish youth, carefully collected and maintained by the Yad Vashem archives and others. For example, we have letters written by Hearshc Pollock, Chiya Marla, Jacob Marcus, and dozens more. Heartbreakingly, many of these were written not only to their own families but to neighboring Poles, community rabbis, and others, begging and pleading for interventions to save and protect their loved ones. These letters show me how these children-maintained hopes and dreams, and care for others, even while suffering and struggling themselves. HW

1st Place Art Winner, Kayla Lam, 7th grade, Colonial Middle School

My artwork demonstrates the hope, courage, and resilience of Anne Frank, Elzbieta Strassburger, and Tova Friedman - three children who experienced the Holocaust. Even though their outcomes were different, they fought hard, persevered, and kept their spirits high during this time. Anne Frank, Elzbieta Strassburger, and Tova Friedman are holding items symbolizing something that gave them hope and comfort. Anne Frank held her diary, where she confided her feelings and thoughts that comforted her until the end. Elzbieta Strassburger holds her doll; this signifies the beginning of her hope and her reunion of her family. Tova Friedman is holding a picture of her mother – the one she trusted, listened to, and relied on to keep her safe and hidden to escape the concentration camps. Anne Frank is shaded in black and white to show her unfortunate death during the Holocaust. In contrast, Elzbieta and Tova are shaded using color to show their survival. There is barbed wire, broken bricks, and cobblestones in the background to show the brutal circumstances during the Holocaust and their captivity. The clouds symbolize the dark, terrifying days and the rainbow shows the hope and light that would come. The doves in the background symbolize hope, freedom, and peace. I tried to capture the hope, courage, resilience, and bravery some children maintained during the Holocaust, which was a violent and terrifying era. HW

2nd Place Art Winner, Lucy Underwood, 8th grade, Riverdale K-8 School

The purpose of my artwork is to show what kids had to go through during the heart wrenching times of the Holocaust. The Jewish children were torn apart from their families and were not able to receive the same luxuries and opportunities as other kids. The top right corner has a young Jewish girl who is looking into a different reality. The point of this feature was to show what many children had to create in their minds to push through the challenging realities they were living. **HW**



3rd Place Art Winner, Willem Dorros, 8th grade, Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville

When I was 11 years old, I saw a play put on by a high school in Chicago. It was about the children at the Terezin Camp in the Czech Republic. The play detailed the horrific things done during the holocaust, yet showed how the children were joyful and full of hope and love. I took home with me a book filled with poems from the children in Terezin: "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." The book is full of drawings and writings from children, many who were younger than me and who were persecuted just for being alive. In April of 2019, I went to the Netherlands with my family and visited the location of the Vught concentration camp and walked through the memorials. While I was there, I heard the story of a woman who had to leave her special fur coat upon arrival at the camp. It was taken from her, and she wanted to know when she would be able to get her coat back. She never saw it again. I wanted to trim the edge of this painting with fur in honor of this woman because by coming back to share this story, in a small way, I can help to spread the reminder of her life. The butterfly represents hope, because in our worst moments, there is always something to look to and to help us keep on going. I chose to leave some of the edges of her clothing rough and imperfect to represent the harsh realities of life in the camps. Her tears represent all the sadness and suffering during this terrible time. The girl looks like my little sister, Emmanuelle, may look like a young teenager as she represents someone's sister, child, granddaughter, and friend. She is looking up because she believes that someday there will be an end to all the evil. HW

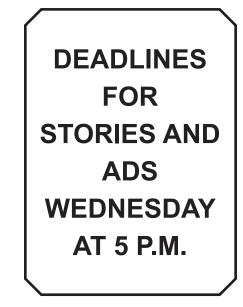
Honorable Mentions

Lulu King-Wilson, 8th grade University of Memphis Middle School

Yaheli Zalman, 7th grade Bornblum Jewish Day School

Keirstin Neal, 8th grade, University of Memphis Middle School

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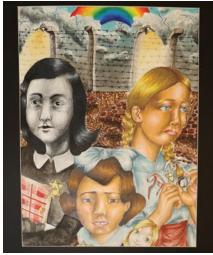
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1st Place Art Winner, Kayla Lam, 7th grade, Colonial Middle School





3rd Place Art Winner, Willem Dorros, 8th grade, Christ Presbyterian Academy, Nashville



Lulu King-Wilson, 8th grade University of Memphis Middle School



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Egg Cream & the New York Jewish Food Experience

Sunday, May 7, 2-3:30 pm CT **Memphis Jewish Community Center**

Enjoy the 16-minute documentary, Egg Cream, followed by a panel discussion featuring Rivky Klein and Enid Weiser, moderated by Barrie Weiser. Enid, Barrie, and Rivky all grew up in NYC, and they will share their memories of their New York food experiences. After that, everyone will be invited to a fun New York-inspired Jewish food tasting, including the Egg Cream drink as well as sweet and savory foods.

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Yaheli Zalman, 7th grade Bornblum Jewish Day School



Keirstin Neal, 8th grade, University of Memphis Middle School

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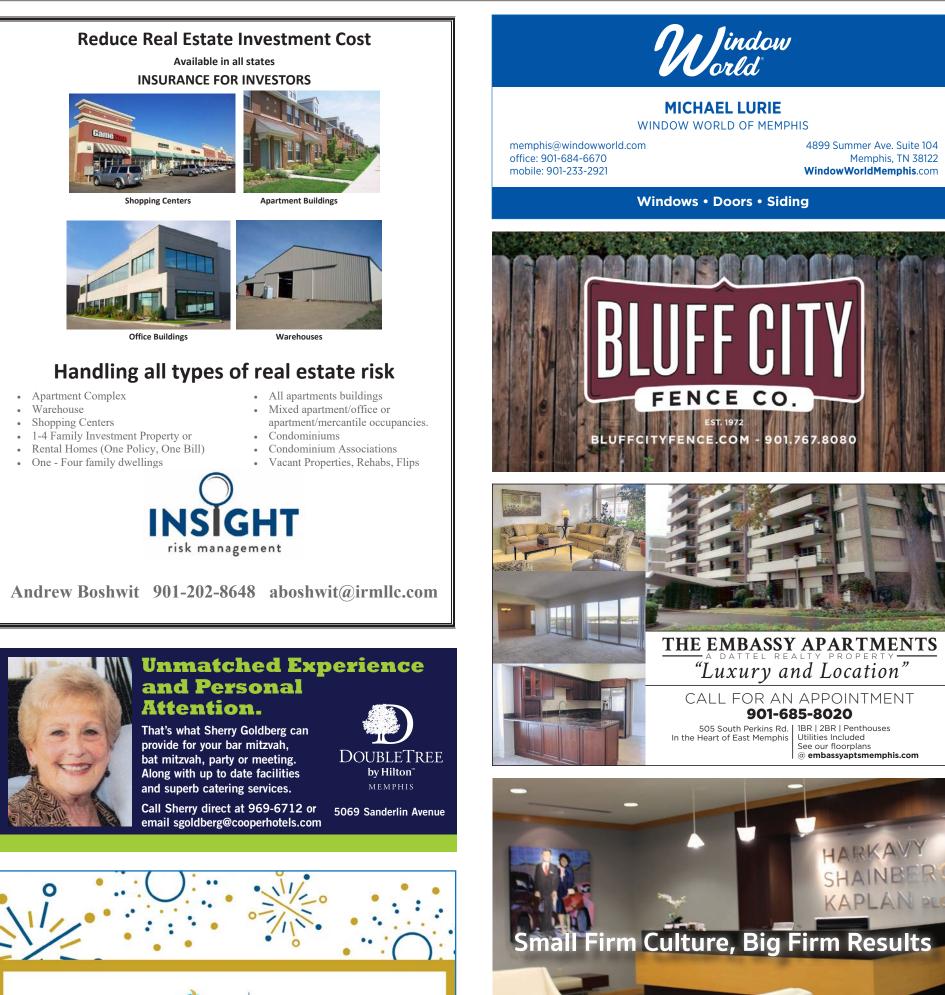
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Retreat...

(Continued From Page 1)



Rabbi Sarit Horwitz leads the group in an opening exercise on Friday afternoon to get to know each other

There was time for personal reflection, group conversation, lots of laughter and even a few tears!"

Upon arriving at the camp, participants were greeted, shown their cabins, and presented with snacks and cozy hooded sweatshirts that bore the retreat's theme, "*Hineini*." The jackets helped create a sense of group and kept everyone warm around the Havdalah bonfire on Saturday night.

The weekend's programming offered something for everyone. Spiritually, from candle lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat, to Shabbat services and Torah study of Parshat Tazria-Metzora, and concluding with a meditative shacharit service, the complete cycle of sacred time was observed and celebrated. Socially, friends old and new could be creative with ceramics and origami, stretch their legs on hikes, stretch their bodies with yoga, or play mahjong and board games in casual groups.

Dana Bernstein enjoyed the range of activities offered. "While making new connections and getting out of my comfort zone were two things that I benefited from during the weekend, I have to say that the most memorable for me was the yoga outside, with a perfect temperature and under a tree that had leaves moving gently in the breeze, with the sun on the leaves and a pristinely beautiful blue sky!"

The retreat was successful because it was truly a collaborative experience, with many women planning, preparing, executing, and organizing. Beth Sholom president Naomi Katz offered her thanks, saying, "I am grateful to Rabbi Sarit and the many dedicated Beth Sholom volunteers who contributed their time and talents to make this spiritual, educational, and social retreat such a huge success. Through exercises and discussion, text study and prayer, Rabbi Sarit empowered and challenged us to think about the ways we each count and contribute to the many aspects of our lives. I am especially proud that



Dana Agranov, on guitar, at a bonfire on Saturday evening. Beth Sholom opened this gathering to all women in the Jewish community and that so many new connections were made."

Vera Feldman shared her response: "Rabbi Sarit did an amazing job of creating a truly safe, joyful, and uplifting space. It is my belief that everyone there felt free to fully express the depths of their own beliefs, relationships, and emotions. The exceptional level of friendship, true care, and concern for one another was extraordinary."

Following the Women's Retreat and basking in the glow of warm feelings, Rabbi Horwitz reflected on the realization for her initial goals. "I feel such gratification that people showed up with open hearts. They were so sharing of themselves. They trusted me from the beginning, but then they also trusted each other. Together, we felt safe and held, we celebrated our triumphs and common challenges. Everyone has the Torah of their own life, and these women shared that with one another. They were all present with one another, answering the eternal human call for connection, "Hineini, I am here." HW

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings



MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheons at the J

To RSVP: Call (901) 761-0810 *Reservations are required by noon the day prior.*

Join us on Wednesday May 17, for our big Monthly Luncheon!

Entertainment provided by Creative Aging will feature Deborah Swiney and accompanist.

Deborah Swiney has earned the title of a true chanteuse and is one of our most requested acts. Throughout her performance, you will enjoy a trip back to Harlem to experience the iconic era of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn; you'll dance across the Great American Songbook; and you will even take a flight to Rio where you could close your eyes and imagine relaxing on a Copacabana or Ipanema beach. Being a Memphis native, you might even get a splash of blues.

Deborah's affinity for music started at an early age with piano lessons and being active in music, whether in church or in school. Growing up in a musical family, music had no borders. Deborah has worked as a backup vocalist with the legendary Al Green and performed on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Today Show, at Carnegie Hall and has toured internationally. More recently, she released the highly praised co-pro-Memphis best Memphis best duced debut album, I Remember Rio, a Brazilian-inspired album with "Memphis-soul seasoning" (All about Jazz). Transcending the standard definition of a jazz songstress, her melodic and sultry approach to Bossa Nova and other Brazilian stylings are natural without betraying her Bluff City roots.

Please come and enjoy a nice kosher lunch and this terrific vocalist all for \$5.00! The luncheon and Deborah Swiney start at noon on May 17.

This will be our last Monthly Luncheon until August.

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

Seniors, come join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@ jccmemphis.org, or call the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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Time for a Spring Cleanup: Organizing Your Financial Records

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

The arrival of spring is always a good time to dust off the cobwebs that have built up in your home during the winter. It's also a good time to clean out and organize your financial records so you can quickly locate something if you need it.

Keep Only What You Need

If you keep paperwork because you "might need it someday," your home office and file cabinets are likely overflowing and cluttered with nonessential documents. One key to organizing your financial records is to keep only what you absolutely need for as long as you need it.

Tax records. Keep all personal tax records for three years after filing your return or two years after the taxes were paid, whichever is later. (Different rules apply to business taxes.) If you underreported gross income by more than 25% (not a wise decision), keep the records for six years, and for seven years if you claimed a deduction for worthless securities or bad debt. It might be helpful to keep your actual tax returns, W-2 forms, and other income statements until you begin receiving Social Security benefits.

Financial statements. You generally have 60 days to dispute charges with banks and credit cards, so you could discard statements after two months. If you receive an annual statement, throw out monthly statements once you receive the annual statement. If your statements include tax information (e.g., you use credit-card statements to track deductions), follow the guidelines for tax records.

Retirement account statements. Keep quarterly statements until vou receive your annual statement; keep annual statements until you close the account. Keep records of nondeductible IRA contributions indefinitely to prove you paid taxes on the funds.

Real estate and investment records. Keep at least until you sell the asset. If the sale is reported on your tax return, follow the rules for tax records. Utility bills can be discarded once the next bill is received showing the previous paid bill, unless you deduct utilities, such as for a home office.

Loan documents. Keep documents and proof of payment until the loan is paid off. After that, keep proof of final payment.

Insurance policies. Keep policy and payment documents as long as the policy is in force.

Auto records. Keep registration and title information until the car is sold. If you deduct auto expenses, keep mileage logs and receipts with your tax records. You might keep maintenance records for reference and to document services to a new buyer.

Medical records. Keep records indefinitely for surgeries, major illnesses, lab tests, and vaccinations. Keep payment records until you have proof of a zero balance. If you deduct medical expenses, keep receipts with your tax records.

These are general guidelines, and your personal circumstances may warrant keeping these documents for shorter or longer periods of time.

Personal Document Locator

A personal document locator is a detailed list of your personal and financial information that can assist others in the event of your death or disability. Typically, a personal document locator will include the following:







and passwords

ional service providers

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Securely Store Your Records

You can choose to keep hard copies of your financial records or store them digitally. You usually do not need to keep hard copies of documents and records that can be found online or duplicated elsewhere. Important documents such as birth certificates and other proof of identity should be stored in a safe place, such as a fire-resistant file cabinet or safe-deposit box. You can save or scan other documents on your computer, or store them on a portable drive, or use a cloud storage service that encrypts your uploaded information and stores it remotely.

ey, tax prepa

professional)

An easy way to prevent documents from piling up is to remember the phrase "out with the old, in with the new." For example, if you still receive paper copies of financial records, discard your old records as soon as you receive the new ones (using the aforementioned guidelines). Make sure to dispose of them properly by shredding documents that contain sensitive personal information, Social Security numbers, or financial account numbers. Finally, review your records regularly to make sure that your filing system remains organized.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2023 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

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Let's Connect

Happy Birthday to Israel on its 75th Anniversary of Independence.



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Jewish Future Pledge Launches Jewish Youth Pledge Initiative to Unite and Inspire The Next **Generation of Jewish Leaders**

Innovative Time-Capsule Approach Empowers Young Adults to Connect with their Heritage Fostering a Lasting Commitment to Jewish Values and Community

ATLANTA (April 26, 2023) - The Jewish Future Pledge (JFP) proudly unveiled the launch of The Jewish Youth Pledge (JYP), a pioneering effort to strengthen ties between Jewish youth organizations and their alums. This innovative approach, which incorporates self-reflective letters stored in a time capsule, has already captured hearts and minds during its soft launch phase. With the official launch of the Jewish Youth Pledge, JFP's mission is to redefine how Jewish youth and alums connect, engaging them in meaningful conversations and inspiring a renewed dedication to their shared heritage.

The Jewish Youth Pledge asks Jewish teens and young adults from around the world to commit to being active, contributing members of the Jewish community. As part of JYP, Jewish youth and college organizations run a program in which youth aged 13-24 write letters to their future selves, envisioning the role of Jewish values in their lives. Stored in the Jewish Youth Pledge Time Capsule, participants receive a text reminder every two years and a letter copy at the 5th, 10th, 15th, and 20th anniversaries, revisiting their values and commitments to the Jewish world.

Letters start out with the powerful prompt:

I hereby pledge to act today and throughout my lifetime to strengthen the Jewish people and Israel. I make this commitment because I have a responsibility to ensure that my generation writes the next chapter of the Jewish story and remains a strong link in the chain of generations.

"The Jewish Youth Pledge is a powerful vehicle for equipping our next generation with the essential tools and resources to nurture their Jewish identity and actively shape the community's future. By taking the pledge, Jewish youth can embrace the rich history and values and unite with a vibrant community of like-minded individuals who share the same commitment to the continuity of the Jewish people," said Jewish Future Pledge Founder Mike Leven.

During its soft launch, JYP has met with great success from both participants and partner organizations, securing more than 13,200 pledges to date, and forging partnerships with more than 45 youth programs across the United States, Canada and Israel.

to 'remind themselves of the strong sense of comfort' that Judaism has brought to their lives. They write committing themselves to attend synagogue, make time for Shabbat dinners, and devote themselves to making the world a better place. In the midst of the rise of antisemitism and assimilation, their pledges bring hope to the continuation of our way of life.'

The Jewish Youth Pledge has gained support from prominent Jewish organizations, including Taglit-Birthright Israel, BBYO, NCSY, Masa Israel Journey, JNF, Young Judaea, AEPi, BU Hillel, and the Union of Reform Judaism. Leven says the initiative welcomes new partners now that it has launched.

"The Jewish Youth Pledge and digital time capsule are powerful tools to remind people that the profound Jewish moments of their youth can be guideposts for their adult lives," stated BBYO CEO Matt Grossman. "Organizations like BBYO stay relevant in their memories as we encourage them to build meaningful Jewish lives."

Eli West recently took the Jewish Youth Pledge citing the desire to hone his pride and the responsibility he feels for the Jewish world and Israel.

"I grew up with immense Jewish pride, and this has profoundly shaped the way I embrace the responsibility I have to my people and my land, Eretz Yisrael," West shared. "As I've gotten older, my focus has shifted from Israeli history to the Jewish youth, American Jewry, and our diaspora identity. I'm passionate about educating the next generation, preparing them to live proud Jewish lives in a secular world, and equipping them with the skills to combat antisemitism. The Jewish Youth Pledge inspires us to grow and evolve, continually reconnecting with our mission. Reading my letter two years later reminds me of my purpose and drive, continuing to fuel my dedication to making a difference in the Jewish world."

The Jewish Youth Pledge is an initiative of The Jewish Future Pledge, a global movement, which asks Jews and Jewish allies to make the moral commitment to include Jewish causes or The State of Israel in their estate planning. JYP was created to further the goals of The Jewish Future Pledge by inspiring and educating the next generation of Jewish community members.

Israeli Archaeologists Recover Artifact from 'The Battle of The 35'



Archaeologists discovered this brass compass from the massacre of 35 Israeli soldiers in 1948, April 24, 2023. Credit: Yuli Schwartz/Israel Antiquities Authority via TPS.

(JNS) – It's easy for archaeologists to detach themselves from ancient finds, but the discovery of a brass compass from a massacre of 35 Israeli soldiers in 1948 left two researchers feeling like they received a "punch in the stomach."

The Israel Antiquities Authority announced last Monday the discovery of the compass from what Israeli history calls "The Battle of the 35" during the War of Independence, known in Hebrew as the story of the Lamed Heh (35 in Hebrew alphabetic numerals).

The story of the compass begins on January 16, 1948, when a convoy of 38 men from the Haganah, the primary paramilitary organization of pre-state Israel, set out to deliver supplies to besieged Jewish communities in Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem. Three men returned early after one sprained an ankle and couldn't continue.

The convoy was detected by Arabs who cut off the convoy. After an all-day fight, the Jews ran out of ammunition. The Arabs killed and mutilated all 35 people in the convoy. The massacre and mutilation became known in Israeli history as "The Convoy of 35."

After the war, the bodies were recovered and reburied at the Mount Herzl Cemetery in Jerusalem.

The compass, as well as Bren-type machine gun pods, were discovered behind a rock at the top of Battle Hill, which apparently served as a shelter for one of the

fighters. Forensic research performed at the Israel Police laboratories concluded that the glass of the compass shattered when it was hit by a bullet.

According to the researchers, the compass belonged to either the platoon's commander, Capt. Danny Mass, or to one of two scouts, Yitzhak Halevi or Yitzhak Zevuloni.

"This study is a kind of punch in the stomach," said Eyal Marko of the Antiquities Authority, who discovered the compass with Rafael Lewis from Ashkelon Academic College and the University of Haifa.

"It is unlike any archaeological research we have done. Even if the events we studied from the distant past included evidence of destruction and severe acts of violence, the study at Battle Hill is different," Marko said.

"Although 75 years have already passed since the fall of the 35, here, there are faces and names. There is an almost personal acquaintance with each of the characters. You wonder what happened to the warriors. Or did the compass - which has bullet marks on it - pierce the heart of whoever held it in his pocket or hand? You do the work as scientifically as possible, but it is very difficult to detach yourself from the emotional aspect."

For the past two years, Marko and Lewis have been conducting an archaeological study of Battle Hill. The two men met while serving in an Israel Defense Forces reserve unit tasked with finding missing soldiers. Marko and Lewis employed archaeological methods to search for soldiers whose place of burial is unknown.

In August 1949, a group of former soldiers from the Haganah's Palmach elite fighting force founded Kibbutz Netiv HaLamed-Heh near the convoy's route. HW

Happy Birthday Israel We are Happy to Join The Memphis Jewish Community in celebrating Israel's 75th Birthday

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"We've seen a profound effect of the participants as evidence by their letters," added Leven. "Participants write

For more information about The Jewish Youth Pledge and to take the pledge, visit, www.jewishyouthpledge.org. HW

For more information, call 1-800-647-1055

Happy Birthday Israel



We are happy to join the Memphis Jewish Community in saluting Israel on its 75th year of Independence.



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Masa Israel Hosts Largest English Yom HaZikaron Ceremony in the World



Ofer Gutman, CEO of Masa Israel Journey and Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives.

JERUSALEM – (April 24) Masa Israel Journey, a leader in Jewish and Israel programming, held their 15th annual Yom HaZikaron ceremony at Yad L'Shiryon in Latrun, Israel. The theme of this year's ceremony was "Forever Connected," and with over 7,000 attendees, and hundreds of thousands of viewers across the globe, it was the largest English ceremony in the world. The ceremony was also translated to Spanish, French and Russian.

Jewish leaders including Mark Wilf, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, and Steven Lowy AM, Chairman of the World Board of Trustees of Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, joined Masa Fellows and alumni, bereaved families, board members, Jewish Federation delegates, and community members to commemorate the lives of fallen Israeli soldiers and Jewish victims of terror originally from France, the U.S., Russia, Ukraine and Argentina. In addition, Hakeem Jeffries Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives, and 12 members of the House of Representatives laid a wreath in memory of the fallen.

This year, Israel's milestone 75th anniversary is an important reminder that we are forever connected through our history and the safety and continued survival of our country. The ceremony was live streamed to global audiences and included speeches from Yossi Fuchs, Israeli Cabinet Secretary; Major General (res.) Doron Almog, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Julie Platt, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federations of North America; and Ofer Gutman, CEO of Masa Israel Journey. David Koschitzky, Immediate Past Chair of Keren Hayesod's World Board of Trustees, led the Yizkor prayer.

Stories of the following were incuded:

• Joyce Fienberg z"l, a victim of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh who spent her life as child development researcher and left behind two children and six grandchildren.

• Second Lieutenant Carmi Elan z"l, a Los Angeles born pilot who died at the young age of 19 due to injuries he received during a training accident.

• Officer Shirel Aboukarat z"l, a 19-year-old Border Police Officer who made Aliyah from France who was killed by two terrorists during an attack at a bus station in Hadera.

• Michael Ladygin z"l, a Russian native who made Aliyah and was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in Ariel in 2022, leaving behind a wife and two children.

• Captain Alexander (Sasha) Schwartzman z"l, an IDF soldier from Ukraine who refused evacuation after being injured, and eventually was killed by enemy fire, in battle to ensure his Fellow soldiers were treated first.

• Uriel Bar-Maimon Wolf z"l, a Border Guard Officer who made Aliyah from Argentina and fell during operational activities at the Erez checkpoint. Nine wreaths were laid by the be-



Vladimir Beliak, Member of Knesset; Tsega Melaku, Member of Knesset; Tod Elan, father of Second Lieutenant Carmi Elan z"l, and his granddaughter; Ofer Gutman, CEO of Masa Israel Journey; Yossi Fuchs, Israeli Cabinet Secretary; Stephanie Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy; Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives; Major General (res.) Doron Almog, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Mark Wilf, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

reaved families and members of the Israeli government and Knesset in honor of the stories shared.

"Carmi is our fourth son; our other three sons were also in the combat units. We are proud of our children and all their choices. Carmi had a giving personality. Throughout his whole life, he always felt responsible for those around him. I remember Carmi every day, not just today. He is always with us," said Tod Elan, father of Second Lieutenant Carmi Elan z"l.

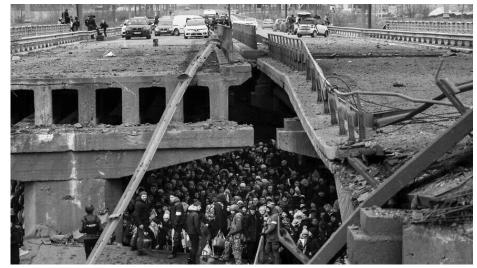
"The shared fate between Jews around the world and the State of Israel is molded by those who gave their lives in Israel's wars and also by the terrible sacrifice of the victims of terrorism and antisemitism around the world. Jews in all corners of the world are deeply connected by the commitment to carry on for the lives that were interrupted. It is this commitment to remember our shared history that united us to form the State of Israel so that we may all thrive together," said Major General (res.) Doron Almog, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

"Yom HaZikaron, our Day of Remembrance, is an essential part of Israel and the Jewish people. At Masa is it extremely important to us that we recognize we are a forever connected people, and we must reflect on our journey. It makes us who we are. We must honor our fallen and we must mourn our losses. The individual stories shared here tonight are connected by the values of love, determination, sacrifice and commitment. This ceremony is for us to focus on the heroes who gave their 'last full measure of devotion' – and they gave it to Israel. To the Jewish people," said Ofer Gutman, CEO of Masa Israel Journey.

For more information or to watch the recording, visit Masa's Facebook and YouTube.

Masa Israel Journey is the largest immersive, long-term educational experience for young adults ages 16-35. On its programs that range from two months to a year, Masa offers an authentic, unmediated, and challenging journey into Israeli society, culture, politics, and history – and acts as the largest provider for global Jewry to access the finest Israeli businesses, social enterprises, and academic institutions. Since its 2004 founding by The Jewish Agency and government of Israel, Masa has served over 190,000 young people from more than 60 countries. **HW**

U.S. Taps Munition Stockpiles in Israel to Help Ukraine



as the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

According to sources who spoke with "Israel Hayom," some of the munitions have been shipped out in recent months through the Port of Ashdod, mainly on Saturdays to avoid drawing media attenThe change in how the munitions are used is also part of the U.S. pivot towards China and Ukraine, which has seen Washington put less of an emphasis on the Middle East.

Former senior Israeli defense officials have noted that President Joe Biden's new set of priorities - including his cold shoulder extended to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by publicly saying he won't be invited to Washington anytime soon - have had direct consequences for Israel's strategic situation in the region. According to the officials, the administration's actions vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have allowed Iran to continue building up capabilities, resulting in Sunni states restoring ties with Tehran, and have made China a much more powerful player in the region. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit confirmed the above details. In response to a query submitted by "Israel Hayom," the IDF said that "U.S. equipment stored in Israel was handed over to the U.S. armed forces, in accordance with an American request." The Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry were not immediately available for comment. HW

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers take shelter under a bridge in Kyiv, March 5, 2022. Credit: Міністерство внутрішніх справ України via Wikimedia

By Shirit Avitan Cohen and Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – The volume of U.S. munitions stored in Israel has been dwindling due to the Ukraine war and it is unclear when it will be replenished, "Israel Hayom" has learned from Israeli sources.

Earlier this year, it was reported that the depots storing U.S. munitions in Israel had been partially tapped in order to help Ukraine fend off the Russian invasion. The depots are officially designated as U.S. military storage facilities and as such are considered to be on American soil under bilateral agreements with Israel. The understanding between Jerusalem and Washington over many decades has been that the munitions there would be earmarked for Israel in times of emergency, for example if the Jewish state faces a major attack along the scale tion. The shipments, which began under the premierships of Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid, continued until recent weeks. Israeli and foreign sources have told "Israel Hayom" the munitions had been drawn down because of the shortage of reserve stockpiles in the West in the wake of the continued fighting in Ukraine.

Change of priorities

An Israeli defense official said the White House had made the decision to shift the resources to another front but that given Israel's fragile security situation in recent weeks, this could have unanticipated effects. "These are Israel's reserve stockpiles for times of war," a former cabinet minister said. "The move has had a bigger implication in light of the threats on Israel in multiple theaters."

A U.S. official confirmed this, telling "Israel Hayom" that "it is still not clear when the reserves will be restocked."

The official added that this depends on the manufacturing pace in the U.S.

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