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Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Bornblum Installs Louise Sklar Musical Garden



Louise and Jerry Sklar

There’s music in the air at Bornblum Jewish Community School thanks to a generous gift from long-time supporters Louise and Jerry Sklar. The new Louise Sklar Musical Garden, located outside next to the school’s playground, features a collection of outdoor musical instruments for students to play.

The idea for a musical garden came from Bornblum’s Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jill Cross. “Incorporating interactive musical instruments into a playground fosters creativity, self-expression, and cognitive development while enhancing students’ musical abilities,” she said. “Our new music garden also encourages physical activity and social engagement, allowing students to develop motor skills and practice peer cooperation.”

According to Bornblum’s Director

of Institutional Advancement Scott Ostrow, “When Jerry contacted me and told me he wanted to do something special at the school in honor of Louise’s 80th birthday, I knew the musical garden was a perfect choice.”

Since opening a few weeks ago, the Louise Sklar Musical Garden has quickly become a center of play and exploration for students at lunch and recess times. The garden features a set of six colorful bongos, three musical flowers that play 12 different notes, and a glockenspiel. Bornblum’s music teacher, Christopher Smith has already brought classes to the garden to explore the instruments and do lessons in rhythm.

Recently, the Sklars paid a visit to Bornblum to see the musical garden. According to Jerry Sklar, “When we were there, children walked out there



and started playing on the musical flower. The good feelings we had were enhanced. Having children engaged with the garden – that’s a success.”

The Sklars were so moved by the space that they have already decided to add another instrument. Over the summer, the school will install a Penta Post Chime Set, which is a vertical five-chime instrument that allows multiple

children to play. “At Bornblum, we are constantly looking for tools and opportunities to deliver top-quality education in unique and creative ways, said Ostrow. “Of course, these tools take money to implement. We are so happy when our supporters, like Louise and Jerry, mark special occasions in their lives with gifts to the school.” [HW](#)

U.S. Conditions Israel-Saudi Talks on Halt to Judicial Reform



U.S. President Joe Biden boards Air Force One for Saudi Arabia at Ben-Gurion Airport, July 15, 2022. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

(JNS) — The White House is demanding that Israel shelve its judicial reform plans in exchange for American support for a normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia, according to Israeli media reports.

Washington, along with Riyadh, is also conditioning advancement of the talks on restarting long-dormant negotiations with the Palestinians, according to Channel 12.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Wednesday told Israeli media that the raft of bills designed to overhaul the country’s legal system would return to the Knesset after the passage of the state budget, and President Isaac Herzog continues to host negotiations between the coalition and opposition on a political compromise.

Israeli lawmaker Danny Danon, chairman of World Likud and former ambassador to the United Nations, criti-

cized the U.S. demands. “We respect our friends in the U.S., but Israel’s policy will be determined by us. Normalizing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia is a regional interest, but we must not advance our relations in the wake of an ultimatum,” he said. Abraham Accords partner Bahrain has been brokering telephone diplomacy between Jerusalem and Riyadh, coordinating a recent call between Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss normalization. Prince Mohammed said at the 2023 Arab League Summit in Jeddah that the Palestinians remain the “central issue of the Arab countries and is at the top of the kingdom’s priorities.” “We will not delay in providing assistance to the Palestinian people in

(See **Reform** Page 2)

Thousands Visit Joseph's Tomb in Nablus; IDF Forces Come Under Attack



Hundreds of Jewish men pray at the Joseph's Tomb compound in Nablus on June 10, 2013. Credit: Yaakov Naumi/Flash90

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – Thousands of Jewish worshippers took part in the monthly pilgrimage to Joseph's Tomb in the Palestinian Authority-controlled town of Nablus (Shechem) on [May 16], making it the largest delegation to the holy site since the onset of the pandemic.

Among those in attendance were Shas Party Knesset members Erez Malul and Avraham Betzalel and Shomron Regional Council head Yossi Dagan, as well as several prominent rabbis, mayors and security officials.

The visit came just over a year after Arab vandals set fire to the structure, smashing parts of the tomb itself and causing other damage.

During [the] visit, local Arabs fired on Israeli troops guarding the delegation, in addition to throwing rocks and firebombs at them. The Israeli forces returned fire, and a number of hits were reported, according to the Israeli military. Several arrests were also made, and weapons seized. There were no reports of injuries to Israeli forces.

Elliott Cahan, director of development North America for the Elon Moreh Hesder Yeshiva, which overlooks Shechem, told JNS that some of his students participated in the delegation.

"It's absurd that shooting in or near the Joseph's Tomb compound has become the new normal," said Cahan. "In the past, this would not have happened. In the eight years that I have worked here in Elon Moreh, I don't recall this much shooting," he added.

"It's extremely important that we continue to exercise our right for freedom of worship at Joseph's Tomb, which was

explicitly agreed to under the Oslo Accords. We have to continue to visit and can't be afraid," he said.

Palestinian Arabs have desecrated the site numerous times over the years, with perhaps the worst damage taking place during the Second Intifada in 2000, after Israel pulled out of the area following a deadly terrorist attack there in October of that year.

Israelis started visiting again in 2004 following the IDF's "Operation Defensive Shield," albeit on a limited basis. Visits, typically on or near the beginning of the new Hebrew month, or during Jewish holidays, take place in the middle of the night, with visitors arriving in bulletproof buses accompanied by full IDF escorts.

During [the] visit, Shomron Regional Council head Dagan said that the current state of affairs at the site could not continue.

"We arrived here with the masses in order to pray at this holy site, but also to tell the government that the situation in which Jews are forced to arrive here in the middle of the night can't continue. This is one of the holiest sites in all of Judaism, and even under the terrible Oslo Accords, Joseph's Tomb, and the road to get here, is supposed to be under Israeli control," he said.

"We, on behalf of the People of Israel, expect the Israeli government to act with strength and valor, and bring back the Od Yosef Chai Yeshiva [housed at Joseph's Tomb from 1982-2000], bring back the army here full-time, and raise the Israeli flag to show everyone – ourselves and our enemies – that we are not

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afraid," he continued.

"Precisely at this time when [hostile] forces are trying to create a division in our nation, we are choosing to connect to Joseph the Righteous, who was a unifier, who knew how to forgive and who knew how to unite the People of Israel, and the entire world," he concluded.

MK Betzalel said, "We're very happy to be here at this holy site ... We hope that everyone from the nation of Israel can come here, at any hour of any day, as he chooses, in an orderly fashion, in order to pray here at the tomb of Joseph the Righteous." HW

Reform...

(Continued From Page 1)

recovering their lands, restoring their legitimate rights and establishing an independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital," said the crown prince.

Saudi Arabia is also reportedly laying out a series of demands for the United States in exchange for normalization with Israel, including a compromise on arms deals halted by the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden, a defense alliance with the United States and a full nuclear program.

"In general, we support Israel's integration in the Middle East region, including normalization with Saudi Arabia," said U.S. State Department Spokesperson Ned Price, without specifically commenting on the Israel-Saudi negotiation reports, which he said Washington was aware of. HW

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Jewish Middle School Teacher in Wisconsin Arrested for Threatening Students Over Swastika Drawings

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A Jewish teacher at a public middle school in Wisconsin was arrested last week for threatening his students with gun violence after discovering a piece of paper with swastikas in class.

David Schroeder was arrested a week ago Friday and charged last Monday with a felony count of making terrorist threats, according to the court record. Schroeder is a seventh-grade math teacher in Grafton, a town north of Milwaukee, and has been placed on leave.

A student in Schroeder’s class told local news outlets that Schroeder became angry after a student found a scrap of paper with swastikas on it. Earlier in the week, Schroeder had reportedly found a notebook with more of the Nazi symbols. The student said the teacher “went on a ramble about how that’s bad and that’s a disgrace to his people,” and “started mentioning the N-word.”

Soon, Schroeder reportedly started threatening his students, saying he owned 17 guns and was “not afraid to use them,” adding that “all Jews have guns.” He further said he would send his daughter to the students’ houses “with a baseball bat,” the student said. The teacher also allegedly threatened to “go scorched earth” on the students, and said, “I wish pain on all of you and your families.”

The school told law enforcement that Schroeder wrote a statement admitting to making the comments. He wrote that he had made the comments out of anger.

The incident represents an unusual reaction to swastikas being found in school settings, a relatively common experience in U.S. schools that often triggers intervention by local Jewish leaders or representatives of the Anti-Defamation League. The civil rights

group documented 232 incidents of antisemitic vandalism in non-Jewish K-12 schools last year, up from 152 in 2021.

The Grafton police chief, Jeff Caponera, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his department was investigating both Schroeder’s behavior and the swastika drawings that prompted it.

“The behavior on both sides is unacceptable, and we need to make sure this doesn’t become a recurring pattern,” Caponera said. But he added that because the swastikas were not specifically directed at any individual, they “don’t represent a hate crime,” which limits how police can respond to the person who drew them.

Police have yet to determine who is responsible for the swastikas, but Grafton School District Superintendent Jeff Nelson suggested that they were the work of a student.

Nelson told JTA that the school is “continuing to work with the police to find the student or students responsible for drawing the swastika drawings.” He sent letters to families over the weekend informing them of the incident, notifying them of an investigation by the school and calling Schroeder’s behavior “inappropriate and unprofessional.” A separate joint letter from Nelson and Caponera said increased police presence would be placed at the school this week.

The criminal complaint against Schroeder added that he had already been under investigation for other “inappropriate behavior towards students,” and that the principal had previously decided not to renew his contract, although police did not have any further details about his past behavior.

Schroeder was released last Monday on a \$10,000 bail posting. He was ordered to surrender all his firearms, stay at least 500 feet away from the school and refrain from contact with all district students except for his own children. His preliminary hearing is set for June 22.

Though Schroeder had reportedly told his students he owned 17 weapons, he turned over only 15 to the authorities, Caponera said.

Caponera added that his own son is Jewish, as is his son’s mother, and that he would likely have a strong reaction if he were to discover swastikas in a classroom.

“I take offense to that. And I understand where the teacher is coming from,” he said. “But at the end of the day I also understand that the teacher has the responsibility to act appropriately in situations like this.” **HW**

Israel to Invest \$40 Million in North American Jewish Day Schools

By Jackie Hajdenberg, Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Citing “a major crisis in Jewish education,” Israel’s Diaspora ministry plans to pour about \$40 million into training educators at Jewish schools in the United States and Canada.

Amichai Chikli, Israel’s minister of Diaspora affairs, announced the initiative, called “Aleph Bet” after the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. He hopes enrollment will increase at Jewish day schools, fearing that “we are losing large parts of the Jewish people,” and said the initiative would “focus on training teachers for Jewish education and Israel studies as well as principals for Jewish day schools,” according to the “Jerusalem Post.”

Chikli did not elaborate on how his ministry would spend the allocation of NIS 150 million, nor did he detail when funds could start making their way into North American Jewish schools. His office did not respond to a request for comment. Israel’s governing coalition plans to approve a state budget, ahead of a May 29 deadline.

North American Jewish schools have received varying levels of Israeli government support for years, according to Paul Bernstein, CEO of Prizmah, a non-profit supporting Jewish day schools. He said staff members of day schools were optimistic about the additional funding despite lacking details about where it would go.

“There’s quite a lot of chatter. People are excited by the fact that the State of Israel really sees the importance of Diaspora education and is recognizing that the strength of the Diaspora is integral to [a] strong Israel and strong relationships,” Bernstein said. “Irrespective of all that’s going on in the world, that is a very positive and important long-term development.”

The announcement comes at a time of tension between Israel’s right-wing governing coalition and North American Jewish communities. A chorus of U.S. Jewish leaders has criticized the government’s proposed overhaul of Israel’s judiciary, and last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled a speech at a signature conference of North American Jews in Tel Aviv in the face of anti-government protests. Chikli, who assumed his role in January, has defended the judicial overhaul while acting as an ambassador of sorts to an often skeptical audience of Diaspora Jews.

Chikli, whose father is a Jewish educator in Mexico, had previously indicated that he sees Jewish day schools abroad as an important destination for Israeli aid. He has said repeatedly that children who do not attend Jewish day schools are at risk of being lost to the Jewish people.

“We are in the midst of a crisis where it is possible to lose an entire generation of Jews,” he said during the funding announcement.

Early in his tenure, Chikli floated the idea of working with philanthropists to subsidize day school tuition in the Diaspora. More recently, he has signaled that covering tuition – which can range from several thousand dollars at haredi Orthodox yeshivas to more than \$40,000 a year – is less of a priority.

“Jewish education in private schools is very expensive, and at times out of range for the average family,” he told Hamodia, a haredi publication, in April. “This is where we step up to the plate. This isn’t to say we’re giving out free scholarships ... but we invest, as noted earlier, in the teachers, in the school systems, to ensure Jewish education, and continuity of Jewish generations. We want to raise the pride of Jewish studies teachers.”

Attending a Jewish school is widely considered a strong predictor of lasting Jewish identity, although that may be because parents who prioritize Jewish identity are more likely to send their children to Jewish day school. Enrollment in Jewish schools in North American Jewish schools is growing, largely because of the growth of Orthodox communities, where the vast majority of children attend private Jewish schools.

Outside of those communities, most North American Jewish children do not attend Jewish day schools. But the pandemic saw Conservative, Reform and nondenominational day schools grow as well, according to a survey by Prizmah, following more than a decade of decline. The survey found that schools have maintained those enrollment gains even as the pandemic has ended.

Meanwhile, Hebrew schools and other supplemental Jewish schools have shrunk by nearly half since 2006, according to a recent report by the Jewish Education Project. Chikli did not specify whether any of the new funding could go to such schools.

Chikli’s father, Eitan Chikli, is the rector of the Hebraic University in Mexico City, which receives some funding from his son’s ministry. Previously, he was the longtime director general of Israel’s TALi Education Fund, which promotes pluralistic Jewish education in Israeli schools and also produces materials for use in Jewish schools abroad.

The elder Chikli told the “Jerusalem Post” in January that he would not discuss the funding his university receives with his son, who he said is fastidious about avoiding conflicts of interest. But he said that teacher training was an urgent problem for Jewish schools.

“The biggest problem Jewish people in the Diaspora face today is Jewish education and lack of a high level of teachers for Judaic studies,” Eitan Chikli said in January. “The most difficult problem is that there is no new generation of proper teachers for Hebrew and Judaism.” **HW**


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Russia Extends Pretrial Detention of Journalist Evan Gershkovich Until August

By Jackie Hajdenberg
(JTA) – A Russian court extended the pretrial detention of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich until at least Aug. 30.
Gershkovich, 31, the American son of Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union, was arrested on an allegation of espionage on March 29 during a reporting trip to the city of Yekaterinburg – claims that he, the United States government and the “Wall Street Journal” deny. His pretrial detention was initially scheduled to end on May 29 before it was extended last Tuesday.

Legal experts and American diplomats expected that Gershkovich’s detention could last for months, according to the Wall Street Journal.
Last Tuesday’s court hearing was not announced in advance and was held behind closed doors. Russian authorities have not provided evidence to support their charges that Gershkovich allegedly obtained classified information on “the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex.”
The U.S. government has declared Gershkovich to be wrongfully detained and demanded his immediate release from Lefortovo prison, where he has been held since his arrest in March.
“Today our colleague, and distinguished journalist, Evan Gershkovich appeared for a pretrial hearing in a Moscow court,” the “Wall Street Journal” said in a statement. “While we expected there would be no change to Evan’s wrongful detention, we are deeply disappointed. The accusations are demonstrably false, and we continue to demand his immediate release.”
The U.S. ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy, was granted consular access to Gershkovich in April but the U.S. was

denied consular access two other times, according to U.S. officials. His parents, Ella Milman and Mikhail Gershkovich, who live in New Jersey, waited for more than an hour outside the courtroom before being allowed in last Tuesday for their first sighting of their son since his arrest more than 50 days ago, according to the “New York Times.”
“We hope he is doing great and that he can be as strong as his mother,” Mikhail Gershkovich said.
Gershkovich is the first American journalist arrested on espionage charges in Russia since the end of the Cold War. His case has attracted support from Jews across the U.S. and the world – some of whom have advocated for his freedom by reviving practices used in the movement to free Jews in the Soviet Union. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in a Russian penal colony.
Gershkovich is one of multiple Jews imprisoned by Russia on security charges. Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Russian Jewish dissident, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for treason in April. And earlier this month, the Russian Jewish theater director Evgenia Berkovich was imprisoned on the accusation that one of her plays justified terrorism. She is the granddaughter of Nina Katerly, a Russian writer and human rights activist.
“Zhenya obviously is not a prisoner of Zion,” Alexander Smukler, a former refusenik and prominent Russian-American Jewish activist, told the “Jewish Standard,” a New Jersey publication, referring to Berkovich. “She was not arrested for her Zionist ideas. But she is Jewish.”
He added, “I am calling on the Jewish leadership around the world to stand up for Zhenya Berkovich.” [HW](#)



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Bornblum Celebrates 29th Annual Commencement



2023 Bornblum eighth-grade graduates

Bornblum Jewish Community School celebrated its 29th Annual Commencement on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

“I’ve been here since the inception of the school in 1988, and it is hard to believe that our graduates this year are the 29th graduating class from Bornblum,” said Assistant Head of School and Student Services Director Sally Baer.

Graduates this year included: Benjamin Bernstein, son of Kevin (Dana) Bernstein and Ginger Kennedy (Michael Ditullio); Omer Zalman, son of Sara-Lee and Assad Elazar; Liam Estrano, son of Miriam and Carlos Estrano; Markos McCargo, son of Emily Wise; Ron Sharabi, son of Maya and Amir Sharabi; and Dotan Weiss, son of Jessica and Dr. Daniel R. Weiss.

The graduates took the stage, energized from their recent two-week journey to Israel, and gave individual speeches in English and Hebrew on the theme of “My Bornblum Story.”

Graduate Liam Estrano shared with the crowd his sentiments upon graduating. “I’ve enjoyed going here, and I’m sad to leave but excited to start life as a high schooler. I will miss you all. Thank you for teaching me, caring for me, and helping me. That is my Bornblum story.”

“Bornblum Jewish Community School is truly a community institution in Memphis. So many of our graduates end up as leaders in Memphis and other Jewish communities. This is because our students not only get an outstanding general and Jewish studies education,

but because at Bornblum, they develop a deep connection to Judaism and the Jewish people,” said Bornblum’s Head of School Daniel R. Weiss. “Our students graduate well-prepared for the next steps in their educational careers in high school and beyond.”

In addition to their diplomas, graduates received a Koran Tanakh that they can take with them as they continue their Jewish learning after Bornblum. The graduation also featured a video presentation created by Mr. Amir Sharabi, Bornblum’s Technology director and parent of one of the graduates, showing pictures and video clips from the students’ years at Bornblum, as well as videos from the students’ teachers offering life advice to the graduates.

Graduate Dotan Weiss, who graduated with a special Distinction in Science received the annual Evelyn and Jerome Makowsky Leadership Award. This award is given to the Bornblum student who displays exceptional leadership during their time at Bornblum.

“Dotan stepped up for so many leadership opportunities during his time at Bornblum. He was the gabbai and led Torah readings, was treasurer of the school’s chapter of National Junior Honor Society, served as eighth grade class representative on Student Council, and was a leader for younger students in Mishpacha Manhigut (leadership),” said Mrs. Charna Schubert, Bornblum teacher and middle school coordinator.

Graduation was attended not only by the graduates and faculty of Bornblum, but also by students in fourth through

seventh grade, parents, grandparents, community supporters and many friends and well-wishers on Zoom from around the United States and Israel. Also in attendance were six of the community rabbis: Rabbi Jeff Dreifus from Temple Israel, Rabbi Joel Finkelstein of Baron Hirsch Congregation, Rabbi Sarit Horwitz from Beth Sholom Synagogue, Rabbi/Cantor David Julian from Congregation Or Chadash, Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad Lubavich of Memphis, and Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch Congregation.

“We are so grateful to the community rabbis who came to graduation. We are a school that educates children from all across the entire Jewish community, and it means so much to our students and their parents when they see their rabbis supporting them at our school,” according to Dr. Weiss.”

The graduation ended with a charge to the graduates from long-time Bornblum Middle School teacher, Mrs. Deanna McAlexander. Each graduate then presented their parents with a red rose of appreciation, followed by a reception for graduates and guests.

Asked what graduation means to him as the Head of School, Dr. Weiss said, “Our eighth-grade graduation is always bittersweet. We lose a terrific group of students and leaders in our school, yet when we sit through our graduation ceremony and hear the speeches from our graduates, we take note of what the Bornblum experience has meant to them, what they have learned, and what they will take with them to their next schools and beyond.” [HW](#)



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Knesset Passes 2023-24 State Budget

The 2023 budget is 484 billion shekels (\$132 billion) and the 2024 budget is 514 billion shekels (\$140 billion).

(JNS) – Israel’s Knesset passed the state budget for 2023-24 last Wednesday in its final two readings by a vote of 64-55, with all coalition members in favor and all opposition lawmakers against.

Also passed in the early morning hours on May 24, after a 35-hour debate, was the Arrangements Law. The government-sponsored legislation, presented to the Knesset each year alongside the budget, incorporates government bills and legislative amendments required for the government to fulfill its economic policy.

The 2023 budget is 484 billion shekels (\$132 billion) and the 2024 budget is 514 billion shekels (\$140 billion).

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich hailed the 2023-2024 budget as “excellent.”

“It is biased towards growth, infrastructure, encouraging capital investments in high-tech, in agriculture, a huge investment in the healthcare system that has been neglected for years, a huge investment in governance and the security system, a huge investment in higher education and in the education system at all levels,” he said.

“The Israeli economy is a strong economy. Our economy is one of the best and most stable economies in the world,” he added.


With the passing of the budget, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition beat the May 29 deadline that would have automatically dissolved the government and sent Israel to its sixth election in just over four years.


Two major obstacles to the budget’s passage were removed last Monday when agreements were reached with United Torah Judaism and Otzma Yehudit.

Under the UTJ deal, the Agudat Yisrael faction will receive up to 250 million shekels (\$68 million) for stipends to its yeshivah students, with the money coming from surplus coalition funds.

According to the terms of the deal with Otzma Yehudit, an extra 250 million shekels (\$68.3 million) is to be allocated for the Negev and Galilee next year, with the money coming from the surpluses of other ministries. If there are no surplus funds, then retroactive budget cuts to the ministries will take effect.

“We won the elections, we passed a budget. We are continuing for four good years,” tweeted Netanyahu after the final vote. In comments to Israeli media, he said that judicial reform was next on the agenda. **HW**





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Trusts – Not Just for Estate Taxes

Provided by Mike Stein

Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or

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In the past, trusts were often used to avoid estate taxes, but that purpose has become less important for most people with current high exemption amounts (\$12.92 million in 2023, \$25.84 million for a married couple). However, some states have estate taxes or inheritance taxes with lower exclusion amounts, and a properly constructed trust can serve many other purposes for families of more modest means.

A trust might help avoid the time-consuming and costly probate process, maintain control of a legacy for your heirs, provide for a dependent with special needs, or make a substantial contribution to your favorite charitable organization.

Legal Control of Assets

A trust is a legal arrangement under which one person or institution controls property given by another person for the benefit of a third party. The person giving the property is referred to as the trustor (or grantor), the person controlling the property is the trustee, and the person for whom the trust operates is the beneficiary. With some trusts, you can name yourself as the trustor, the trustee, and the beneficiary.

Although you may be hesitant to give up control of your assets, in some cases

it might be worthwhile to choose an independent trustee who would be subject to strict legal requirements in administering the trust.

Testamentary vs. Living Trusts

A **testamentary trust** becomes effective upon your death and is usually established by your last will and testament. It enables you to control the distribution of your estate (often used to name a trustee for assets left to minor children), but it does not avoid probate. You can change or revoke a testamentary trust during your lifetime.

A **living trust** takes effect during your lifetime. When you set up a living trust, you transfer the title of all the assets you wish to place in the trust from you as an individual to the trust. Technically, you no longer own the transferred assets. If you name yourself as trustee, you maintain full control of the assets and can sell or give them away as you see fit. However, this option may negate any estate tax benefits.

Living trusts can be **revocable** or **irrevocable**. A revocable trust can be dissolved or amended at any time while the grantor is still alive. An irrevocable trust, on the other hand, is generally difficult to modify or revoke.

Comparing Features

Even if you have a trust, you should have a will to control assets not captured in the trust and/or to appoint a guardian for minor children. You might also need a will to establish a testamentary trust.

Features (Applies only to assets included in a will or a trust)	Will	Testamentary trust	Living trust	
			Revocable	Irrevocable
Control distribution of assets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appoint guardian for minor-age children	Yes	No	No	No
Avoid probate	No	No	Yes	Yes
Avoid estate taxes	No	No	No	Yes*
Protect assets from lawsuits and creditors	No	Yes*	No	Yes*

*Depends on structure and situation

Special-Purpose Trusts

Trusts, whether testamentary or living, can be established for a variety of specific purposes. Here are three of the most common.

Charitable trust – Enables you to provide a charitable organization with a regular income for a set period or a lump sum at the end of the period.

Incentive trust – Makes the transfer of assets to heirs contingent on their meeting goals or expectations, such as attaining higher education or starting a family.

Supplemental or special-needs trust – Can help provide for a disabled child and may ensure that the child qualifies for government assistance programs.

While trusts offer numerous advantages, they incur up-front costs and often have ongoing administrative fees. The use of trusts involves a complex web of tax rules and regulations. You should consider the counsel of experienced estate planning, legal, and tax professionals before implementing trust strategies.

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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White House Gets Praise and Blasted for Definitions of ‘Antisemitism’ in New Report

By Lauren Markoe

This originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

The White House tread carefully on its definition of antisemitism.

In the weeks before the Biden administration released the nation’s first comprehensive plan to combat antisemitism last Thursday, Jewish groups jockeyed over the definition to the point that even they worried the debate would overshadow the substance of the report itself.

The definition used in the plan, a response to rising antisemitism in the U.S. and the product of more than six months of conversations with more than 1,000 Jewish leaders, mattered to many American Jews.

In the end, the Biden administration appeared to adopt no definition wholesale, giving credence to several. Many, not all, on one side of the debate – the more stridently pro-Israel side – claimed victory.

Mainstream Jewish organizations had pushed for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association’s definition, which includes examples that characterize much strong criticism of Israel as antisemitic. “No other definitions work,” Anti-Defamation CEO Jonathan Greenblatt had tweeted.

That didn’t sit well with many progressive Jews and Jewish groups, who feel IHRA stifles legitimate criticism of the Jewish state and focuses too much of the fight against antisemitism on rooting out anti-Zionism.

Though neither side in the debate got to see a full-throated endorsement of any definition, the Biden administration came much closer to embracing the IRHA definition than any other, and Greenblatt declared victory on Twitter

last Thursday morning:

“It’s also noteworthy that the plan adopts the @TheIHRA definition of #antisemitism, which is critical for identifying and combating the many forms of antisemitism.”

But Matt Brooks, the head of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said that, despite initial reports that the strategic plan would embrace IHRA, it didn’t. Instead, he wrote, the administration attempted a “last-minute straddle – undermining the IHRA definition by promoting it alongside an alternative definition that says applying double standards and singling out the Jewish state for criticism is not antisemitic.”

“The decision seriously weakens the White House strategy,” he added.

Then there was the take of Jeremy Ben-Ami, who heads “J Street,” which calls itself “the political home of pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans” and often stands to the left of the ADL: “We’re glad that the White House recognized that codifying any one specific, sweeping definition of antisemitism as the sole standard for use in enforcing domestic law and policy could do more harm than good,” Ben-Ami wrote.

“The Progressive Israel Network” issued a similar statement, expressing gratitude that “the administration did not focus its strategy solely on the problematic International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and did not seek to formally codify this definition into US law.”

Careful wording

The White House addresses the definition of antisemitism in a three-sen-

tence paragraph in the 60-page report.

“There are several definitions of antisemitism, which serve as valuable tools to raise awareness and increase understanding of antisemitism,” the report states in its first section. It gives a nod to the IHRA definition as “the most prominent” and notes that the U.S. has “embraced” it. (The State Department and many state and local governments have, but the Education Department in January chose not to.)

The report then refers to other definitions. The “Administration welcomes and appreciates the Nexus Document and notes other such efforts.” (Nexus definition refers to an IHRA-like definition, somewhat tempered on the issue of Israel though.)

The definition favored by many left-leaning Jews, The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, gets no specific mention in the White House plan. The report follows its brief treatment of definitions with what could be a signal to get past the debate. “The focus of this national strategy is on actions to counter antisemitism.”

Supporters of the IHRA definition may also feel vindicated by other language in the plan.

“Jewish students and educators are targeted for derision and exclusion on college campuses, often because of their real or perceived views about the State of Israel,” the report states early on, in a section on framing the challenge of antisemitism. It concludes: “When Jews are targeted because of their beliefs or their identity, when Israel is singled out because of anti-Jewish hatred, that is antisemitism. And that is unacceptable.” **HW**

OBITUARIES

Judith Eve Pinstein Cohen

Judith Eve Pinstein Cohen (Bambi) passed away on May 23, 2023, two days shy of her 79th birthday.

She was the beautiful daughter of Arthur and Elfriede Borger Pinstein, the sister of Lydia Pinstein Saller, the wife of Harold M. Cohen, and the mother of three wonderful children: Scott, Michael and Danielle (Dani).

Judy was born on May 25, 1944, in Ramat Gan, Israel. She and her mother flew to the United States in a military aircraft. They made their home in Memphis. Judy’s husband, Hal, served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Hawaii, where their daughter, Dani, was born in 1972.

Known for her intellect, her cooking skills, and her love of animals, Judy was a beautiful person inside and out. She always thought of others before herself. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

To cherish Judy’s memory are her husband, children, and sister, her daughter-in-law, Melissa, her niece, Wendi and her husband, Rob, and their sons, Andrew and Joshua (Judy’s great-nephews), her nephew, David, cousins Michelle and her husband, Lee; Marc and his wife, Dora, Linda and her husband, Myles, dozens of Pinstein cousins in Memphis, and her precious dogs, Lily and Duncan.

Donations in Judy’s name can be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum or to Autism Speaks.

The time has come for Judy to fly. **HW**

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After Twitter Snafu, Desantis Announces Presidential Campaign



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis speaks at Florida International University. Credit: Hunter Crenian/Shutterstock

(JNS) – The same instincts that drove Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to make unorthodox decisions during the pandemic also motivated him to announce his candidacy for president on Twitter on May 24. “Do you go with the crowd, or do you look at the data yourself and choose to cut against the grain?” he said.

The Republican’s robust, aggressive social-media team that often takes snipes at reporters has not escaped the notice of the media. He was slated to announce his candidacy for president at 6 p.m. Eastern on May 24. But the Twitter Spaces event – what John Podhoretz, editor of “Commentary,” said earlier in the day on a podcast was to be the DeSantis version of Donald Trump de-

scending the Trump Tower golden escalator in 2015 – hit several snags.

As more than half a million people appeared to listen in, they were met with dead air or occasional comments cutting in like “We’re just trying to get it going because there are so many people.” When the online event finally began – with Twitter boss Elon Musk instead hosting it through the handle of technology entrepreneur David Sacks, who was to be the moderator – DeSantis was congratulated for “breaking the Internet.”

“I am running for president of the United States to lead our great American comeback,” the candidate finally managed to say to what was then a little more than 100,000 live listeners.

DeSantis said he would respect U.S. borders, fight “woke” bias, take on drug cartels that are “poisoning” the public with fentanyl, reverse progressive ideology in the military and re-establish integrity in institutions.

“We must return normalcy to our communities,” he said.

Governing is about delivering results, which he has done in Florida, “the nation’s fastest-growing state,” he continued. “Our results in Florida have been second to none.”

“We will never surrender to the woke mob, and we will leave woke ideology in the dustbin of history,” said DeSantis.

In addition to Sacks and Musk, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of Stanford Medicine, who rose to national prominence during the pandemic for opposing lockdowns and mask mandates, also spoke during an ensuing conversation, as did Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.).

Israel’s right to exist

DeSantis, 44, who was re-elected governor of Florida last November by nearly 20 percentage points, has a reputation for being pro-Israel and sensitive to rising antisemitism. On a visit to Israel – his fourth – in April, he signed a “public nuisances” bill, making it a felony to harass others based on their “wearing or displaying of any indicia relating to any religious or ethnic heritage.”

“We must reject those who reject Israel’s right to exist,” he said on the trip. Jewish claims to the historic lands go “back thousands and thousands of years,” he added. “There’s never been a Palestinian Arab entity.”

He also urged the Biden administration to refrain from intervening in Israeli judicial reform. “You’re a smart country. You can figure it out. We shouldn’t butt into these important issues,” he said.

In March, the governor signed a bill establishing a state school voucher program. “Florida is just an example of what can be accomplished across the country,” Rabbi A.D. Motzen, Agudah’s national director of government affairs, said at the time. Earlier in the year, DeSantis proposed allocating \$5 million to secure Jewish day schools.

Last year, DeSantis said that Judea and Samaria are “disputed,” not “occupied.” In 2019, he tweeted that he rejects “attempts to target Israel for disfavored treatment and will enforce the anti-BDS provisions vigorously. This whole enterprise of targeting Israel for economic harm is such a fraud and merely a cover for antisemitism.”

BDS is “dead on arrival” in Florida, he added.

The native of Jacksonville, Fla., a Harvard Law School alumnus, is married to Casey DeSantis. They have three children. DeSantis is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served at Guantanamo Bay and in Iraq. DeSantis has also worked as a federal prosecutor, and he served in Congress from 2013 to 2018.

DeSantis, who has drawn criticism for a public spat with Disney, and who signed the Parental Rights in Education Act in 2022 that opponents dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay Bill” – is polling behind former President Donald Trump but ahead of the other Republican candidates. **HW**

Jew-Hatred Struts the Stage in Berlin



Musician Roger Waters during his show at Engenhão Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2006. Credit: A.PAES/Shutterstock

By Melanie Phillips

(JNS) – The unspeakable performance by Roger Waters in Berlin last week crossed a number of new red lines, even for him.

The former Pink Floyd guitarist has long been infamous for his venomous attacks on Israel and antisemitic remarks. Few, though, could ever have imagined that he would be allowed to stage the obscene performance he put on at Berlin’s Mercedes-Benz arena.

As described on the German website Bell Tower, Waters displayed the names of people supposedly killed because of their identity. In an odious comparison, Anne Frank, who was indeed murdered because she was a Jew, was displayed as equivalent to Shireen Abu Akleh, the Al Jazeera journalist who was shot dead while covering clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in Jenin.

Dressed in a Waffen SS uniform under fascist-style banners hanging from the roof, Waters pretended to fire on the audience with a dummy rifle. When he exchanged this for a keffiyeh in an unsubtle reference to Israel and the Palestinian Arabs, the giant LED screen flashed up: “F*** bombing people in their homes. F*** the occupation. You can’t have occupation and human rights.”

In a speech bubble displayed on that screen, a fragment of dialogue channeled Jewish conspiracy theory by suggesting that the world was controlled by a cabal of wealthy individuals who were secretly pulling all the strings.

This diabolical spectacle of Jew-hatred received a standing ovation from the audience. And this happened in Berlin, the very epicenter of the Shoah.

Many who visit Berlin speak about the “impressive” or “moving” Holo-

caust memorial there. The fact that Waters could nevertheless stage this obscenity in that very city shows how thinking has become badly skewed.

There is now an unprecedented amount of Holocaust memorializing and education in the West. Yet the Shoah is nevertheless routinely misappropriated, trivialized and demeaned.

Words like “Nazi,” “fascism” and “holocaust” are now used to describe a dizzying range of presumed social ills. Meanwhile, verbal and physical attacks on Jews are becoming ever more frequent and brazen.

There are several reasons for this frightening trend. But Holocaust memorializing has itself played an unwitting part.

The demonization of the Jews is, of course, the never-ending hatred, as is the corresponding impulse to deny Jewish suffering. At the core of the form it takes today lies moral relativism – the replacement of objective truth by personal opinion, feelings and emotion. Relativism means no one’s values or status can be higher or lower than anyone else’s.

There can be no hierarchy of suffering. So Jews can never be allowed to make the justifiable claim that the Jewish people are unique, or that antisemitism is unique, or that the Nazi genocide of the Jews was unique.

Of course, this so-called equal status merely produces an inverted hierarchy in which good and bad, truth and lies, victim and victimizer are reversed.

That’s one reason why, in the minds of progressives for whom relativism is a kind of faith, Israel is an oppressor and its Palestinian attackers are its victims.

That’s why such progressives can’t acknowledge that the fate of Israeli

victims of Palestinian terrorism is in a different moral universe from the fate of the Palestinians.

That’s why CNN chief international anchor Christiane Amanpour misrepresented the point-blank murder of Lucy Dee and her daughters by Palestinian terrorists in the disputed territories of Judea and Samaria as a “shootout;” and why Amanpour’s belated and lame attempt at an apology, altering “shootout” to the scarcely less distorted “shooting,” merely compounded the offense.

It’s why Waters so disgustingly equated Anne Frank with Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed not because she was a Palestinian-American but because she had put herself in harm’s way by standing in the middle of a fire fight.

And unfortunately, this most immoral equivalence has now become embedded into much Holocaust education and memorializing, which equate the genocide of the Jews with “other genocides.”

In his book “The End of the Holocaust,” Alvin Rosenfeld observed that the Anne Frank story has been reframed to articulate the need to overcome racism and homophobia, prevent mass murder and promote tolerance and kindness.

Jews like Anne Frank, however, were wiped out not because of a lack of tolerance or kindness or through prejudice but because of a derangement beyond comprehension directed at the Jewish people.

In “Mosaic” in 2016, Edward Rothstein wrote that Holocaust museums flinched from emphasizing the uniqueness of Jewish suffering. No such museum, he observed, could seemingly be complete without invoking other 20th-century genocides in Rwanda, Darfur or Cambodia.

If we are all guilty, though, then no one is guilty. More balefully still, if everyone can be a Nazi so, too, can the Jews. Holocaust universalism has thus led directly to the demonization of Israel by people claiming to be anti-racist.

In Britain, this is one reason why there have been strenuous objections to the Holocaust memorial and education center that the government wants to construct in a small park next to the Houses of Parliament. The project has been derailed by the late discovery of a planning law that forbids any such construction in this park, a law that the government is determined to overturn.

Aside from environmental objections, significant concerns have long been expressed that the message to be delivered by this center will relativize and thus devalue the Holocaust. These objections have been brushed aside by the govern-

ment and the project’s backers in the Jewish community leadership.

However, the government itself has now given the game away by acknowledging that the main purpose of this center is not to commemorate the genocide of the Jews. As Housing Minister Baroness Scott disclosed earlier this month, its aim is to ensure that the story of what happened in the Holocaust “resonates with the public.”

And how will it do that? By denying the unique nature of the Jewish genocide. “The content will also address genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur,” she said.

This drew a furious response from one of the leading opponents of the project, Baroness Deech, who said it would “demote the Shoah.”

Deech, who is Jewish and whose late father, historian Josef Fraenkel, fled the Nazis, said: “It would prompt generalities about hate and intolerance and would drain the presentation of the Shoah from its antisemitic origins dating back thousands of years.”

She went on: “They are going to put forward the message that if you see something bad going on, you must not be a bystander. If it’s just ‘don’t be a bystander,’ I don’t see how that helps people understand antisemitism and the plight of the Jews.”

Deech was backed by Gary Mond, chairman of the National Jewish Assembly, who said: “The main concern is that there must be no dilution to the principle that the Holocaust was totally unique and incomparable.”

But that message will be utterly diluted by this proposed memorial.

The government is being egged on by Jewish community leaders who refuse to get the point. Instead, they have bullied objectors to the project and vilified them as antisemites, despite the fact that a number of them are Jews.

These leaders are thus weaponizing antisemitism to drive through a project that will instrumentalize antisemitism, in order to deliver a message that will betray the memory of Jews murdered in the Shoah by diminishing their unique fate.

Universalizing the Holocaust has happened for two reasons. The non-Jewish world wants to share the protected moral status of being victims of the greatest crime in history by claiming other evils are just as bad. Diaspora Jews, desperate not to be viewed as different, are terrified of asserting Jewish uniqueness, even over this.

Meanwhile, a depraved antisemite struts the stage in Berlin. **HW**

Palestinian Flag Causes Tension at Israel’s First U-20 World Cup Game



Jewish fans cheer on Israel’s under-20 soccer team at the Diego Maradona Stadium in La Plata, Argentina, May 21, 2023. Credit: Fede Peretti/ Israel Football Association

By Juan Melamed

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) – Around 4,000 Jewish Argentines showed up to cheer on Israel at their first appearance in a FIFA World Cup tournament in over 50 years, at times chanting songs in Spanish. But their festive mood changed after a Palestinian flag surfaced in the crowd – and after the Israeli team lost narrowly in the final minutes to Colombia.

Last Sunday, Israel lost 2-1 in the first match of the first round of the U-20 World Cup, which features the world’s best soccer talent under 20 years old. When Colombia scored its first goal, in the second half of the game – after a first half that was dominated by Israel – supporters in a Colombian fan section raised a Palestinian flag.

Almost immediately, nearby Israel supporters in the stands began shouting at the flag bearer, saying “This is not politics, this is soccer.” Police eventually intervened and expelled the Palestinian flag holders.

Some Israeli fans followed them on their way out of the stadium in La Plata, in Buenos Aires province.

Israel last appeared in the general World Cup in 1970 and scored one goal in a game against Sweden. In the 56th minute of last Sunday’s game, Dor Turgeman scored for Israel on a penalty kick.

Colombia answered with a penalty kick score and another goal at the very end of the game.

Nevertheless, the Israel Football As-

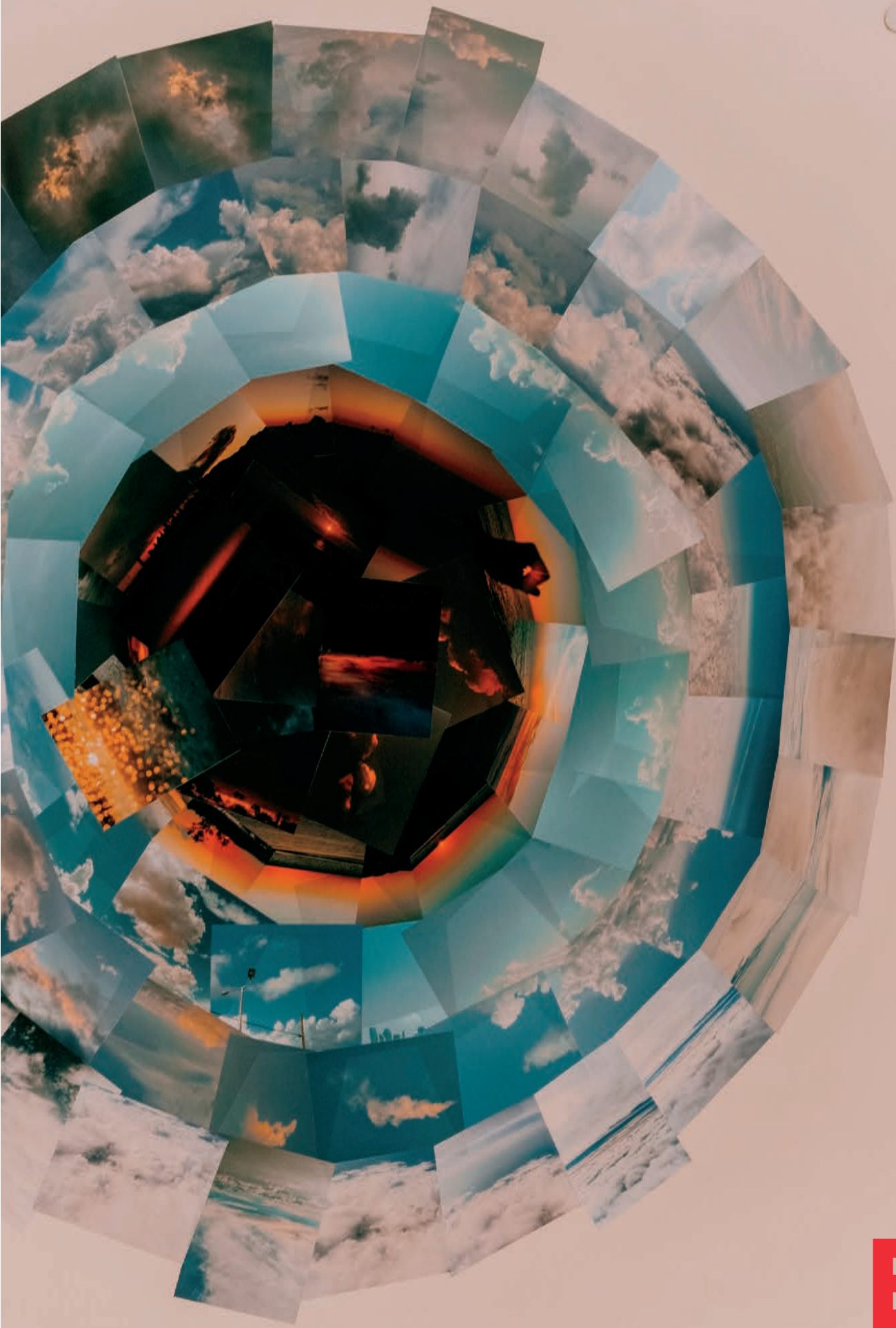
sociation thanked the “over 4,000 fans” who showed up to support the Israeli squad.

Former host country Indonesia had objected to Israel’s participation, arguing that it had agreed to host the tournament before knowing that Israel would qualify. In response, FIFA, the global soccer organization that runs the World Cup and its accompanying tournaments, stripped Indonesia of its hosting rights in March and moved the tournament to Argentina – a country home to over 200,000 Jews.

“We came here to win the trophy,” Israeli midfielder El Yam Kancepolsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week. **HW**

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