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Beth Sholom Elects New Officers, Board Members at Annual Meeting



Beth Sholom’s 2023-2024 Board Members pose for a group photo at the synagogue’s annual meeting May 21. Seated in front, left to right: Keri Unowsky, President-Elect; Naomi Katz, President; and Illysa Wertheimer, Immediate Past President. Second row: Wendy Kleinman, Dana Bernstein, Susan Levko, Ariel Figueroa, Rachel Phelps and Noah Sabin. Back row: Mitch Hodus, Richard Rossen, Sarah Siegel, Michelle Glazer and Lisa Levko

Capping a successful year of growth, renown guest speakers and novel programs, Beth Sholom Synagogue elected and installed new officers and board members at its annual meeting on May 21. Naomi Katz, who continues as president, thanked board officers and members who stepped down and welcomed

new leaders to help guide the shul. To illustrate how evolving leadership benefits the community, Katz quoted from a passage in Pirkei Avot. “Rabbi Tarfon said: the day is short, and the work is plentiful, it is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it; if you have studied much Torah,

you shall be given much reward.” Katz continued, “This message holds true for the people who care about Beth Sholom, our spiritual home, community and family. We thank those who have worked hard and accomplished much for the shul. Now, new people will pick up where others have left off as there is more to be done.”

The board’s new officers are Dana Bernstein, VP of Programming, who succeeds Lindsey Rossen; Sandy Friedman, Treasurer and Secretary, who succeeds Kevin Bernstein, and Christine Scheinberg, VP of Personnel, who succeeds Mitch Hodus.

The congregation elected four new board members: Sandy Friedman, Richard Rossen, Christine Scheinberg and Sarah Siegel. Katz thanked departing board members Abraham Bendayan, Kevin Bernstein, Mark Geller, Larissa Kay, Mindy Lipson and Lindsey Rossen for their service.

Continuing on the board are Jeannie Ashford, Diana Bresinger, Leslie Epstein, Ariel Figueroa, Michelle Glazer, Amy Hertz, Mitch Hodus, Wendy Kleinman, Liza Levko, Susan Levko, Noah Sabin, Keri Unowsky and Illysa Wertheimer. **HW**

Kamala Harris to Celebrate U.S.-Israel ‘Unshakeable Bond’ at Embassy Event

(JNS) – U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris will celebrate the “unshakeable” U.S.-Israel bond and will “reaffirm the United States’ ironclad commitment to Israel’s security” in a June 6 talk, an unnamed White House official told “Axios.”

The vice president is expected to deliver the speech at the National Building Museum, several blocks away from the U.S. Capitol and the White House, at an Israeli embassy celebration of the Jewish state’s 75th anniversary.

Previous vice presidents, including Joe Biden, now U.S. president, and Mike Pence, have attended the event in the past, “Axios” reported.

Harris and Biden have criticized Israeli judicial reform, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has yet to receive a White House invitation since returning to head the government. **HW**

Parents Kvell as Beth Sholom Religious School Year Ends



Julee Levine, Beth Sholom director of education (center), marks the last day of religious school with students.

Parents came to celebrate and *kvell* as the Beth Sholom Religious School year ended on May 18. Students, parents and teachers spoke about the students’ progress, and how the coursework had strengthened the students’ Jewish identity and reinforced their Jewish values. “I am so proud of all our students who have demonstrated such beautiful growth and learning over this year,” said Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the spiritual leader of Beth Sholom. Referring to Beth Sholom Director of Education Julee Levine, Rabbi Sarit continued, “I am so grateful to Julee and to her staff for carrying out such a

wonderful year with our students.” Levine said, “It was a very successful school year because the students were more than just physically in class – they were truly present. We heard from both the students and their parents that the students enjoyed coming to class, and that the students feel they are important members of our community, which they are.” One reason students liked coming to school is that they got to both “Be and Do Jewish,” as Levine calls it. They engaged in experiential learning that was woven throughout the curriculum. For example, K-6 students began each new month by



Proud parents joined T3 students to celebrate the last class of the school year.

introducing a *Middah* (value), which would be a topic of discussion for the next four weeks. Students also worked on a scroll whose panels illustrated the students, teacher, and each Middah. At Chanukkah, the students created a Hanukiyah whose flames represented other ways the students bring light.

Students in T3 (Teen, Torah, Talmud), the highly popular teen program for students in middle and high school, tackled weighty subjects, including antisemitism. “Our students began to understand both the challenge that modern antisemitism presents and the role they can play in being upstanders and advocates,” Levine said. “The teens became

more willing to take risks to stand up for others, correct misinformation, and speak about their personal, lived experiences as Jews.” Aubrey Maday, 10, said the give-and-take between students and teachers meant the most to her. “Ms. Julee asked questions about something important, and others said what they thought in a respectful way. Or someone asked a question, and Ms. Julee answered it in an easily understandable way. Sometimes someone added to it. I will always remember what I learned from these conversations.” Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year will open shortly. For more information, visit bsholom.org. **HW**

My Teen Israel Experience



Yosef Vanderwalde with family at the Kotel

Editor's Note: Reprinted with corrected essay from 5/25/23 edition.

Yosef Vanderwalde, son of Drs. Lindi and Ari Vanderwalde, is a junior at the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his Mach Hach Ba'Aretz Israel trip last summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online.

To learn more and apply, please go to: www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund.

By Yosef Vanderwalde

Before this year, I never recognized Israel as anything more than a vacation destination. I've been to Israel with my family twice before: once when I was six and once when I was 10. I wasn't old enough to appreciate all that Israel had to offer that America could not. This visit was very different. I went on a program called Mach Hach Ba'Aretz for five weeks and had the time of my life and grew a new appreciation for the Land of Israel.

I arrived in Israel after a very long flight, was greeted by my old summer camp friends, and then met the people on my bus who I would be spending the next month in Israel. After driving to our hotel in Jerusalem to put our bags down, we headed to the bus again to take the short trip to the Western Wall. I had visited the Wall before, but this time I felt an incredible connection with the city and the people around me, and

I was excited to experience Israel again. Mach Hach Ba'Aretz is a touring program, we went from the Golan Heights in the north to the Red Sea in the south and from the beaches of the Mediterranean in the east to the Dead Sea in the west. We really covered a lot of ground. We went to many cities, including Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tzfat, Tiberius, Eilat and so many more. Along the way we became friends with other Jewish teens from different countries such as England, France and Belarus. My counselors were all amazing Americans who made aliyah to Israel after high school and it was very nice to get to know them and learn what made them love Israel. While on my trip, I learned about what it is like to live in Israel. I really enjoyed being able to eat basically wherever I wanted because there were so many kosher options. It was nice to be in an environment where there were Jews always surrounding me. Sometimes in America, I don't want to wear a Kippah because I am worried that someone will have a problem with me, but in Israel I was able to express my Judaism with everyone around me.

To conclude, I had an amazing time in Israel. I traveled throughout the entire country and was able to appreciate it as a young adult. Also, I saw what it was like to live in Israel as a Jew and enjoy all the delicious kosher foods. Lastly, I made tons of friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. I love the Land of Israel and all that it has to offer, and maybe one day I will be able to move there.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my Mach Hach Ba'Aretz trip possible. **HW**

CORRECTION

In the 6/1/23 edition in the article: **Bornblum Celebrates 29th Annual Commencement**

Omer Zalman is the son of Adi Rotem-Chernoff (Brian) and Roy Zalman **HW**

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6/8/2023



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. June 9, 2023 / 20 Sivan, 5783.....7:55 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. June 10, 2023 / 21 Sivan, 5783..... 8:58 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Behaalotecha



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Protester with Israeli Flag Storms Stage at Roger Waters Concert in Frankfurt

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – A man rushed the stage and unfurled an Israeli flag at a Roger Waters concert in Frankfurt last Sunday in protest of the former Pink Floyd frontman’s continued criticism of Israel.

Video circulating on social media showed a group of fans chanting “Am Yisrael Chai” (“The people of Israel live”) while the protester makes it to the main stage, where he lasts a few seconds before security guards chase him away.

Since at least last week, Berlin police have been investigating Waters over a costume he has been wearing at concerts for years that includes a long black trench coat with a red armband. Some say the outfit is reminiscent of a Nazi officer uniform and a glorification of the Third Reich, which is outlawed in Germany.

A Berlin police spokesman said last Friday that the findings of their investigations would come over the next three months.

Waters, one of the leaders of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel, has come under intense scrutiny during his current tour, after the cities of Frankfurt and Munich unsuccessfully attempted to block him from performing.

Representatives from those cities, along with German-Jewish communal leaders and several Jewish organizations around the world, argue that Waters’ criticism of Israel crosses the line into antisemitism. The screen at Waters concerts frequently shows a pig-shaped balloon emblazoned with the logo of an Israeli armaments firm.

Before Waters’ show last Sunday, local Jewish groups and politicians gathered for a protest outside the venue hosting the performance, the Festhalle. In November 1938, around 3,000 Jews were taken to the building, where many were beaten before being sent to concentration camps.

Protesters read aloud the names of Jews who were later rounded up on Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass,” that many point to as the start of the Holocaust, in 1939. Frankfurt Mayor Mike Josef said, “Hatred of Jews is to be condemned everywhere in our city,” according to the German dpa news agency.

Waters has also enraged critics by juxtaposing the names Anne Frank and Shireen Abu Akleh on the screen at his recent concerts. Abu Akleh was killed on an assignment in the West Bank last year, and the Israeli military apologized early this month for her death, after admitting that she was likely hit by fire from an Israeli soldier during a raid.

The Polish city of Krakow canceled a Waters concert last year, after the British rocker came out in support of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. **HW**

Estate Planning The Overlooked Element of Estate Planning – Legacy Planning

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

“Remember the days of old; reflect upon the years of [other] generations. Ask your father, and he will tell you; your elders, and they will inform you.” (Deuteronomy 32:7)

Throughout previous articles, we have focused primarily on the importance of estate planning in general and, specifically, we covered various topics as relates to protecting and planning for medical and financial issues that arise throughout one’s life. When it comes to an effective estate plan, however, aside from all the financial and medical decisions one ought to make and plan for proactively, there is an entire other area of planning that is overlooked by many individuals, couples and, even, many estate planning firms – the area of legacy planning.

What do we mean by legacy planning? Legacy can be defined as “the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person’s life.” Thus, in terms of estate planning, in our opinion, it is important to address not only the financial and medical aspects of one’s life but also the intangible elements that form the foundation of one’s legacy. Legacy in this context applies to an individual or couple’s family history, traditions, values, life lessons and personal stories. These nontraditional assets are invaluable treasures that with proper planning are preserved and passed down for generations. Without such a plan in place,



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children may remember certain details of their parents’ family history, traditions and values but once the next generation comes along – the grandchildren generation – if one’s legacy is not captured and passed down, it becomes fragmented and, most often, lost altogether. Thus, in our opinion, an effective estate plan goes beyond distributing traditional assets and wealth and involves preserving and transmitting perhaps one’s most valuable asset – one’s legacy.

There are several advantages to an effective legacy plan. Here are some of them:

1. By documenting and capturing one’s family history, one provides future generations with a sense of identity, pride and wisdom. In this manner, preserving one’s family history enables future generations to understand their roots and forge connections with their ancestors.
 2. By capturing one’s traditions and life stories, one fosters a sense of belonging, one strengthens family ties, and one instills pride in their heritage. By learning about ancestors’ triumphs, challenges and traditions, descendants gain a deeper appreciation of their family’s journey and the values that shaped it.
 3. When one dies with an effective legacy plan in place, family members inherit a narrative and record to assist with the grieving process and the loss of a loved one. At the time of death, a legacy plan enables the family to have something to look back on to learn more about the person they loved and lost.
- In our experience, every family has unique stories, traditions, values and experiences that are worth preserving. As discussed herein, these personal narratives provide meaningful insight into the past and offer lessons for the family to work with and grow from for the future. Documenting these nontraditional assets ensures that they are safeguarded for future generations to cherish. A well-preserved legacy informs, inspires, educates and guides younger members of one’s family by encapsulating the wisdom gained from the experiences of previous generations. **HW**

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Brooks Breaks Ground on Memphis’ New Art Museum Downtown



Front Street view. Credit: Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

A new chapter in Memphis’ cultural history began on June 1, as ground was broken on the site of the city’s new art museum: a full city block at the corner of Front Street between Monroe and Union Avenues.

The new 122,000-square-foot building, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, will be the purpose-built home for the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, which arrives at this downtown site overlooking the Mississippi after more than a century in Overton Park. Architect of record is archimania and Grinder Taber Grinder is the general contractor for the project.

The facility will feature nearly 50 percent more gallery space, which will

be used to exhibit Memphis’ growing permanent art collection, as well as new spaces for education and artmaking for all ages.

In addition to a restaurant and a gift shop highlighting Memphis makers and artists, the home for Memphis’ new art museum will include 600 percent more art-filled public spaces than the current facility. The heart of the museum is the community courtyard, which at 10,000 square feet is the size of two full NBA courts. The rooftop provides visitors with another expansive greenspace: an art park in the sky, complete with an event pavilion. Both the courtyard and the rooftop will be open to the public without museum admission.

“This marks a transformative moment, not only for the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, but for all of Memphis,” Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Executive Director Zoe Kahr said. “This is a project that will redefine the visual arts in the Mid-South for generations.”

To date, more than 75 percent of the \$180 million project goal has been raised.

“The excitement around this project is incredible.” Kahr said “Memphians invested \$100 million in their new art museum before seeing a single rendering. Tennesseans committed another \$35 million to their oldest and largest art museum before construction began. Today, together, as we break ground on Memphis’ art museum, I know the excitement has only just begun.”

The groundbreaking comes amongst a flurry of activity in Memphis’ thriving downtown precinct. The newly renovated Cossitt Library reopened to the public this May. That same May, ground was broken on the National Civil Rights Museum’s Legacy Building, while the extensive redesign of Tom Lee Park will open in September. A new \$40 million downtown mobility center is set to open in July, adding hundreds of spaces of parking capacity near Beale Street and Riverfront Drive.

The museum campus will include a new pedestrian plaza shared by the museum and Cossitt Library as well as connecting the Bluff Walk, currently terminating behind Cossitt Library, and the River Walk on Union Avenue.

“Today’s groundbreaking is one more sign of the strong growth and private investments in our city,” Mayor Jim Strickland said. “Memphis’ new art museum is a civic asset that will become the front porch for our city and a magnet for tourism.”

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art expects to complete construction of the new facility by the end of 2025, with the building likely to open in early 2026. Visit brooksmuseum.org for additional information and updates.

Unlike most museums, which often close as they transition to a new space, the doors at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art will remain open in Overton Park until the new building officially opens in early 2026.

“The exhibition Black American Portraits is opening on August 17 with some truly remarkable programs for the whole family.” Kahr said. “Memphis’ art museum is very much open in Overton Park, and we’re thrilled to continue bringing incredible programing, exhibitions, and special events to our current home in Midtown.” **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.

Monday, June 12
Team Trivia Pursuit

Featuring music, movies, T.V. and personalities from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Prizes for the winning team and consolation prizes for the team that comes in second. This is always a lot of fun and can be very challenging. Come test your knowledge!

Wednesday, June 14
Special Program: Jason Caplan with Universal Language Room

Jason teaches fundamentals of music that all seniors can participate in with no prior music experience needed. By the end of the session, everyone is making music as a group! It is an enlightening and enjoyable program. Reservations are not required.

Monday, June 19
25 Life Hacks for Seniors!
Presented by Steve Kaplan
This presentation, with handouts, will offer many tips to make daily living easier.

Wednesday, June 21
“Mad Libs for Adults!”
This is always enjoyable game is a fun time for all!

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

Watchdog Group: Antisemitic Attacker’s Plea Deal ‘Slap on the Wrist’

(JNS) – A New York man has pleaded guilty to assaulting a Jewish man wearing an Israeli military hoodie last December.

Suleiman Othman of Staten Island, N.Y., will spend two months in jail and serve three years of probation, which Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said “should send a message that this kind of intolerance has serious consequences.”

The watchdog group StopAntisemitism sees things differently.

The organization is “extremely troubled” that a repeat offender is getting such a light sentence, it stated. “These slap-on-the-wrist punishments serve only to make New York City’s Jews less

Suleiman Othman, who punched a Jewish man in New York City, will serve just two months in prison.

safe by emboldening those who would do them harm.”

The group also called on the city’s criminal justice leaders to “hold antisemites accountable rather than handing them sweetheart deals.”

On Dec. 26, 2021, Suleiman Othman, then 28, punched Blake Zavadsky, then 21, twice and threw an iced coffee at him. He insisted that Zavadsky take off his Israeli sweatshirt and said: “Why do you support those dirty Jews?” **HW**

Taylor Swift’s Rumored Boyfriend, Matty Healy, Once Gave a Hitler Salute on Stage and Posted a ‘List of Jews’ to Instagram



Matty Healy performs with The 1975 in Santiago, Chile, March 19, 2023. Credit: Marcelo Hernandez/Getty Images

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – These have been a wild few years for Matty Healy, the outspoken lead singer of the English pop rock band The 1975.

His group has released a string of acclaimed albums that went to the top of the British charts. But at the same time, Healy has cultivated a reputation as an offensive provocateur due to a series of statements and actions that have an-

gered Jews and other minorities.

Now he is back in the headlines as the rumored new boyfriend of pop megastar Taylor Swift, and many diehard Swift fans – known as “Swifties” – are not happy. In describing their anger about the pairing, some Swifties are calling Healy “antisemitic,” in addition to Islamophobic, racist and other negative labels.

At a concert days before International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January, Healy gave what appeared to be a Nazi salute, an act that quickly went viral. He made the gesture while singing the line “Thank you, Kanye, very cool” – a quote from a 2018 tweet by Donald Trump praising rapper Kanye West – in the song “Love It If We Made It.” The gesture could have been a mocking reference to West’s series of antisemitic statements last year, which included praising Hitler.

But many fans maintained that Healy should have avoided the gesture, which could have been seen by viewers who were unfamiliar with its context. Some

began calling him antisemitic.

“Satire or not, this is irresponsible and super lame to do on stage in front of a crowd of people,” one Twitter user wrote, according to “The Independent.”

Days later, Healy confused fans by posting an Instagram story, without context, with a screenshot of a Wikipedia article titled “Lists of Jews.” The article links to other Wikipedia articles that list famous Jews in Hollywood, politics and more.

Social media users were critical of the post, pointing to the fact that it could have been a reference to the Nazis’ policy of maintaining lists of Jews during World War II.

(Healy has also criticized U.S. Republicans for invoking Holocaust comparisons in the context of their opposition to abortion rights.)

These were far from the first controversies surrounding Healy, a fervent atheist who nonetheless admits he has a “Messiah” complex. After a 2019 interview, fans called him Islamophobic for referencing Islam and then saying, “I

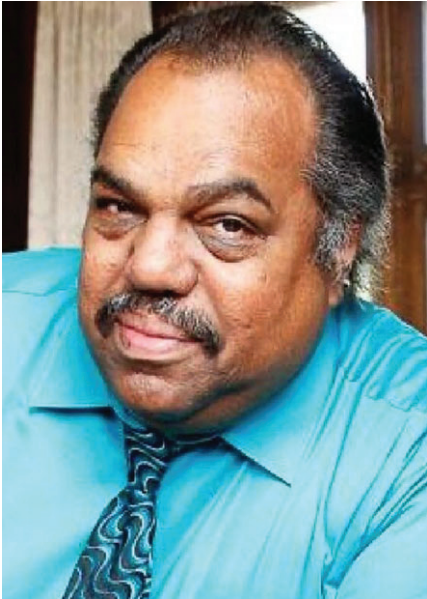
have to get up every day and read something abhorrent that’s happened in the name of religion.” In a podcast appearance in February, he mocked Japanese people and the ethnicity of Ice Spice, an American rapper with African American and Dominican ancestry (whom he called “Inuit”). In light of her connection to Healy, Swift is now drawing scrutiny for collaborating with Ice Spice.

Healy’s charged statements about porn and his treatment of women fans – some of whom he has approached and kissed on his band’s recent tour – have also drawn condemnation.

In an open letter to the pop star last week, a group of Swift fans wrote that Healy’s past comments have hurt members of the “Jewish, Black, Chinese, Hawaiian, Inuit, LGBTQ+ communities, as well as women.”

Another thing that many Swifties point out: Healy was years ago also rumored to be dating Swift but denied rumors by saying that being her boyfriend “would have been emasculating for me.” **HW**

FAIR and ULR Host Engaging Open Dialogue and Musical Event at U of M



Daryl Davis

By Shoshana Cener

Two uplifting, peace-promoting organizations – FAIR and ULR – are coming together for a powerful event on June 11, at the University of Memphis. The collaborative event at Harris Hall is packed with special guests, musical performances, and audience participation.

FAIR, the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism, is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and liberties for all Americans, and promoting a common culture based on fairness, understanding and humanity. FAIR’s Daryl Davis is the event’s featured guest.

Daryl is an international recording artist, author, actor and lead of The Dar-

yl Davis Band. He’s considered to be one of the greatest blues, boogie-woogie, and rock ’n’ roll pianists of all time, having played with The Legendary Blues Band (formerly the Muddy Waters band) and Chuck Berry. As a race relations expert, Daryl has received acclaim for his book, “Klan-Destine Relationships” and documentary “Accidental Courtesy.”

Daryl’s also the recipient of numerous awards including the Elliott-Black Award, the MLK Award, and the Bridge Builder Award, among others. Filled with exciting encounters and sometimes amusing anecdotes, Daryl’s impassioned lectures empower audience members to confront their own prejudices and overcome their fears. Using open dialogue, part of Daryl’s extraordinary work has involved interviewing hundreds of KKK members and other white supremacists and influencing many of them to renounce their racist ideology and leave hate groups.

“We should be anti-racism, not anti-racist, when we refer to the person as opposed to a state of being. We don’t want to be against the person, but against their belief system, which is racism. Rather than expound upon what we are against, we prefer to promote what we are for,” explained Daryl. “We, at FAIR, are pro-human. We understand that one’s perception is one’s reality. Even if it’s not real, it is still their reality, and you cannot change it. Where many others fail is when they try to force their own reality upon someone

else. At FAIR, we prefer to offer better perceptions. When they resonate with our offered perception, they will change their own reality because their perception becomes their reality.”

FAIR’s important mission aligns with Jason Caplan’s Universal Language Room program, which is funded by The Bridge Institute. Jason founded The Bridge Institute to support activities that create a bridge between individuals through teaching music as the Universal Language and making melodic permutation the foundation of peaceful, collaborative dialogue.

To encourage building bridges and communication through music, Jason created ULR. It’s a warm environment that promotes interpersonal communication and making connections through improvisational music.

After the June 11 event’s co-hosts, WKNO’s Felicia Peat and I, interview Daryl in what will undoubtedly be an incredible, eye-opening conversation, Jason will lead the crowd of attendees, along with The Bridge Institute’s board, in an interactive Universal Language Room session.

Jason will guide melodic call-and-response statements, enabling participants to communicate with each other through melody, rhythm and meditation. No musical background needed! This powerful openness and creativity promote inclusivity, belonging, a sense of calm and overall well-being. ULR has even gone mainstream, with successful programs in Richmond, Va., San Francisco, New Jersey, Miami and New York City.

“If there was a think tank for ULR, FAIR is it! I was really impressed by FAIR’s mission and reached out to collaborate. FAIR values people on what they do and how they act – not how they look or what a reformed person has done in his/her past,” explained Jason. “I’ve followed Daryl Davis’ incredible activism work – he’s spoken with the Klan’s grand wizard and Klansmen and successfully encouraged many of them to leave their robes at home and move on with peace and tolerance by pulling out their humanity through open dialogue. Daryl is truly inspiring. We are so happy to partner with FAIR and the University of Memphis, which has been terrific to work with, to combat hate and racism through an exciting, engaging program of open dialogue.”

Following the event’s ULR session, Jason’s diverse band, Naqshon’s Leap, will rock the house with a live performance, with Daryl on keys. The band’s goal is to unite all, through its mission of One G-d, One Human Family. Plus, event guests can expect a couple other exciting international surprises during the June 11 program.

The event is free, with a suggested \$10 donation to FAIR or ULR. Register: <https://bit.ly/41zv6RR>

Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships are available, starting at \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively. And please consider taking FAIR’s Pro-Human Pledge for fairness, understanding, and humanity at www.fairforall.org/petitions/the-fair-pledge **HW**



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Holocaust Survivors Foundation to Adidas: Donate Yeezy Sales to Survivors

(JNS) – The German shoe and apparel company Adidas has gone back and forth on what to do with some \$1 billion in shoes associated with “Ye” (Kanye West), following the musician’s antisemitic statements.

First, Adidas was not going to sell the merchandise, and then it announced that it would sell the shoes but donate some of the sales to the Anti-Defamation League and other groups that counter antisemitism and racism.

The Holocaust Survivors’ Foundation-USA has a different recommendation for Adidas: Donate profits to Holocaust survivors, many of whom are suffering in poverty.

In a letter to the company, David Schaecter, president of the foundation, noted the German company’s connections to the Nazis. (Company founders were members of the Nazi Party, with which the company collaborated.)

“The most significant step Adidas can take today to meaningfully address the consequences of its history would be to devote significant resources to assist indigent Holocaust survivors in need,” wrote Schaecter.


He noted “reports that Adidas executives were personally aware of but tolerated West’s antisemitic views and diatribes long before the 2022 explosion.” **HW**


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Memphians Celebrated Israel at Festive Shuk, Rattle & Roll Event



Board members of Memphis Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Jewish Community Partners

By Shoshana Cenker

A diverse and cheerful Jewish Memphis crowd of 400+ people schmoozed, drank, and dined as they celebrated Israel’s 75th birthday at Memphis Jewish Federation’s Shuk, Rattle & Roll event at Memphis Botanic Garden on May 17.

Laura Linder, president and CEO of Jewish Community Partners, which manages Memphis Jewish Federation, greeted the crowd with opening remarks. Then local rabbis and heads of school led a powerful communal Unity Proclamation toast for the State of Israel, which was established on May 14, 1948.

The festive party featured music by Jason Caplan’s band, Naqshon’s Leap, with special guest Boo Mitchell, Grammy award-winning producer, and an incredible group of talented musicians.

Later in the evening, Israeli-New Yorker Julie Fiss, known as DJ Jewel, spun records, bringing the spirit of Israel to Memphis as partygoers boogied on the dance floor with light-up wands and headbands.

“There was a wonderful broad sense of Jewish unity in support of Israel,” said Jason Caplan. “We really enjoyed playing some great music, with lyrics in Hebrew, Arabic and English, all of which enhanced the ambiance of the event. Our special guest, Boo Mitchell, had a great time. And we loved working with Jeri Moskowitz who coordinated the whole event.”

Attendees dined on tasty Israeli fare including falafel, hummus, babaganoush, shawarma, bourekas, rugelach, babka, and more, while enjoying wine



Audrey Siskind, Shelley Robbins and Maya Sharabi

and specialty cocktails, including the Jerusalem Julep, from the open bar. Thankfully, the weather was perfect for guests to mingle and eat outside on the Botanic Garden’s beautiful grounds.

Guests also had the opportunity to take home Israeli treats in a Shuk experience. Goodies included Dinstuhl’s chocolates in the shape of 75, dried fruits, spices, halvah, a recipe booklet, and other fun take-home delights. There was an Israeli-themed backdrop for people to take photos in front of, and a video slideshow of Memphians on trips to Israel played throughout the evening. Attendees also gathered to recite Hatikva together toward the end of the event.

Many people made this exciting

event possible: Jeri Moskowitz helmed the Israel at 75 planning committee – a group of dedicated volunteers who love Israel – as well as corporate and event sponsors, plus Amir Sharabi and Marcy Milman for their video expertise, Gaslight Liquor, Sarah Beth Cohen Wilcox for beautiful signage artwork, Heart and Soul Catering and Dingo Entertainment.

“I was so pleased by the entire community’s participation in honoring Israel’s 75th anniversary at Shuk, Rattle & Roll,” said Jeri Moskowitz, Memphis Jewish Federation’s Israel at 75 coordinator. “Even though it was a celebration of Israel, it brought our Memphis Jewish community together for a festive party, which hasn’t been done in years.” **HW**



Memphis rabbis and heads of school read a Unity Proclamation



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Bear Market Emotions: Strategy vs. Reaction

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

Market volatility is stressful for many investors, and 2022 offered plenty of stress tests. The bear market that began in early January sent stocks on a wild ride with far more downs than ups. The S&P 500 hit its low point for the year in mid-October, down more than 25% from its bull market high. The tech-heavy Nasdaq was hit even harder, falling almost 36%. The indexes were still down by about 20% and 35% respectively at the end of the year.¹

Resist Temptation
It can be tempting to sell when faced with falling stock values, but that may not be a wise decision. Stock losses only exist on paper until you sell, so selling at the wrong time might just lock in losses and cause you to miss out on gains when the market turns upward.

On the other hand, it's not always wise to invest too aggressively when prices are rising. While it's natural to feel some concern about "missing out," rushing into a "hot" investment may result in buying at an inflated price that doesn't reflect the true value of the asset.

Stay the Course
In any market situation, it's important to make investment decisions based on a consistent strategy rather than emotion. Consider this advice from famed investor and mutual fund industry pioneer John Bogle: "Stay the course. Regardless of what happens in the markets, stick to your investment program. Changing your strategy at the wrong time can be the single most devastating mistake you can make as an investor."²
This doesn't mean you should never

buy or sell investments. However, the investments you buy and sell should be based on a sound strategy – beginning with a diversified portfolio appropriate for your risk tolerance, financial goals, and time frame. A well-constructed portfolio can help carry you through market ups and downs, but you should also have a clear strategy for how to build your portfolio over time.

Steady as She Goes
One approach that might help steady your nerves is *dollar-cost averaging*, which involves investing a fixed amount on a regular basis, regardless of share prices and market conditions. Theoretically, when the share price falls, you would purchase more shares for the

same fixed investment. This may provide a greater opportunity to benefit when share prices rise and could result in a lower average cost per share over time. Reinvesting any dividends, capital gains, and interest income may also add shares to your portfolio at lower cost.

Long-Term Commitment
"Time in the market" is generally more effective than trying to time the market. An investor who remained fully invested in the U.S. stock market over the past 20 years would have received about 2.5 times the return of an investor who missed the best 10 months of market performance. Surprisingly, two of the 10 best months occurred in July and October of 2022.

If you are investing in a workplace retirement plan through regular payroll deductions, you are already practicing dollar-cost averaging. If you want to follow this strategy outside of the workplace, you may be able to set up automatic contributions to an IRA or other investment account. Or you could make manual investments on a regular basis, perhaps choosing a specific day of the month.

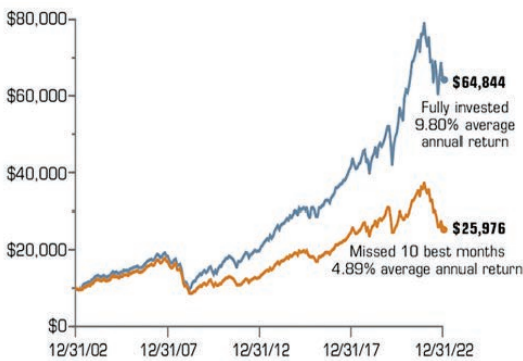
Dollar-cost averaging does not ensure a profit or prevent a loss, and it involves continuous investments in securities regardless of fluctuating prices. You should consider your financial ability to continue making purchases during periods of low and high price levels. However, dollar-cost averaging can be an effective way to accumulate shares to help meet long-term goals.

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful. Diversification is a method used to help manage investment risk; it does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.

1) S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite Index, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2023

2) MarketWatch, June 6, 2017
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Source: Refinitiv, 2023, S&P 500 Composite Total Return Index for the period 12/31/2002 to 12/31/2022. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged group of securities that is considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. This hypothetical example is used for illustrative purposes only and does not consider the impact of taxes, investment fees, or expenses, which would reduce the performance shown if included. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. Actual results will vary. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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Rabbi Finkelstein Surpasses 500,000 YouTube Video Hits



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Congratulations are in order for a pretty momentous occasion for Rabbi Joel Finkelstein: His YouTube videos have now exceeded 500,000 views. Here are more impressive stats: 2,500+ subscribers; nearly 1,000 videos; 14 years of posting videos.

Rabbi Finkelstein creates videos covering a range of interesting Jewish topics on his “Ten Minutes for Torah” YouTube channel. Parsha, Mary Hytken Dumont University lectures, holidays, Purim spiels (spoofs/parodies), how-tos, Yeshiva University’s YUTorah talks, and sermon reviews, as well as occasionally featuring guest speakers and creating videos from his Shabbos sermons.

“I usually post one to three videos per week,” explained Rabbi Finkelstein. “With great digital production experience, Jason Lefkowitz helps me produce better videos using high-quality equipment, and he edits and uploads them. And Jonathan Epstein with Running Pony has been helpful, too, creating professional intros and outros.”

The pandemic proved to be an interesting time for Rabbi’s video work. With lockdowns, video calls and videos became the main modes of communication for many. During the height of COVID, Rabbi created 150 videos from live Zooms and his own recordings. Some were filmed in the old Anshei

building’s sanctuary and chapel. Others were filmed outside of Anshei in the sukkah and even Rabbi’s own backyard.

He says his most popular videos are the “how-to” videos, like How to Blow the Shofar or How to Put on Tefillin, and he hopes to create more of those. He’s also planning on posting videos about the Book of Proverbs and davening. You can also find videos of guest cantors and singers, as well as Torah readers.

During Rabbi’s travels, he’ll sometimes randomly bump into people – Jews and non-Jews – who recognize him from his Ten Minutes for Torah channel. He once met a man who said his video shown in his class taught them how to shake a lulav. “I was in Yerushalayim and passed by an African group who asked me if I was the rabbi from Ten Minutes for Torah,” he shared. “Another time while I was in Jerusalem, an Asian convert told me she and her husband were big fans of my videos.”

There are positive comments galore about Rabbi’s videos:

- “Shalom my brother!! Thank you for your instructions. I have a shofar coming to Texas for my church. I look forward to sharing the rich Jewish history with them. We pray peace and blessings to all of Israel!!!”

- “This was really well done. I didn’t realize how much I didn’t already know. Thank you, Rabbi!”
- “Thank you for being so thorough in explaining this.”
- “Neither my family or I am Jewish (or religious at all), but I find the Jewish religion to be very interesting and beautiful. There is a kind of mystique and magnetism about Judaism that I find fascinating. Thank you for the small look into your life.”
- “A very clear and practical explanation. Thank you for posting.”
- “Baruch HaShem! Thank you Rabbi Finkelstein for a wonderful and clear example of how to blow Shofar!”

Rabbi Finkelstein and his family have been in Memphis since 1997, serving as the former ASBEE’s head rabbi for 25 years. As a board-certified chaplain, he works as the staff chaplain at Methodist-Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital.

If you have a video idea for Rabbi, who’s also the Rabbinic Scholar at Baron Hirsch Congregation, please message him: rabbij@baronhirsch.org

And check out his videos: youtube.com/@TenMinutesTorah/featured

Mazel Tov, Rabbi Finkelstein – here’s to another 500,000 video hits of sharing Torah and Judaism with the world! **HW**

More Than a Third of People in Hungary and Poland Have ‘Extensive’ Antisemitic Beliefs, ADL Survey Says

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – A survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that significant portions of people in 10 European countries believe a range of antisemitic stereotypes, including more than one in three people in Poland and Hungary.

The ADL measures antisemitic attitudes across a range of countries by asking respondents if they believe a set of 11 stereotypes about Jews, ranging from “Jews have too much power in the business world” to “Jews are responsible for most of the world’s wars.”

This survey, taken from November to January, polled more than 6,500 people across 10 countries: Germany, France, the United Kingdom., Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia. The margin of error for Ukraine and Russia was 3.1%, and was 4.4% for the remaining countries.

According to the ADL’s methodology, “survey respondents who said at least 6 out of the 11 statements are ‘probably true’ are considered to harbor anti-Semitic attitudes.” In Hungary, 37% reached that threshold, while the figure was 35% in Poland. In Ukraine, 29% of respondents met that threshold, and in Russia and Spain, the figure was 26%. The lowest figure, 8%, was in the Netherlands.

Although Poland and Ukraine had relatively large portions of respondents indicating that they believed in antisemitic stereotypes, their percentages each represented a steep decline from previous surveys. In 2019, the last time the survey was taken in those countries, 48% of Polish respondents and 46% of Ukrainian respondents met the ADL’s threshold for antisemitic attitudes.

Stereotypes around Israel were especially prevalent. More than 40% of respondents in Poland, Spain, Belgium and Germany said, “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.” More

than 30% of respondents in all countries polled expressed that belief. And in Ukraine and Hungary, more than half of respondents said, “Jews have too much power in the business world.” The survey also found that in the countries polled, rates of antisemitism “tend to be higher on the political right than the political left.”

The survey found, however, that Holocaust denial was less common across the countries. In all the countries polled, either zero or 1% of respondents said, “The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen.” A higher percentage across the countries, though still a small minority, said, “The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated.” That number appeared to be highest in Ukraine, Hungary and Russia, all countries where the Holocaust took place.

In Russia, 27% of respondents said they had not “heard about the Holocaust in Europe during World War II.” **HW**

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Genghis Khan Never had a Library Card



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

Ted Roberts

When Genghis Khan was a little boy, he was a terrible reader. Many a night Mama Khan pleaded with him to “stop swinging that two-handed sword. Go read a book.” The family had already lost a sheep dog and two milking yaks to Genghis’ practice sessions. But his little lips twisted, and his fingers and toes twitched as he struggled to pronounce words of several syllables. “Read Genghis, read,” said his mama.

He was a non-reader who – when he matured – was more effective than smallpox and the Black Plague in holding down population growth. He could have been (had he been able to fill out the application) the first honorary President of Planned Parenthood.

Like Genghis Khan, Atilla the book-hating Hun never owned a library card. Stalin only read Marxist polemics. Historians tell us that Hitler burned books in his fireplace at Berchesgarten instead of wood. Furthermore, I have never met a gang member or serial killer who belonged to his local literary society – not one.

The non-readers of the world – at least those who sat in the seats of the mighty – have brought us nothing but death and taxes. “He who hath his head in a tome cannot crack your dome or steal your home,” goes an anonymous, 15th Century saying.

It’s true. Reading is a civilized habit that leads the practitioner, says the same shy epigrammatist, to “excessive wordiness that can bore the ears off the unfortunate listener – but never produce bodily damage.” It is a habit that enhances neighborliness and citizenship.

However, all readers are not achievers. Reading is clearly the drug of choice for many dreamers and escape artists. What power it has to transport us from Worryland to the Wonderland of our choice! It’s the most inexpensive, instantaneous form of transportation known to timid adventurers who detest risk; and who don’t have the down payment for a James Bond Maserati or an airline ticket to Samarkand or a trip to sultry Istanbul on the Orient Express. And look at the travel time you save.

Want to climb the South face of Anna Pura or tour the Valley of the Kings without getting sand in your nose? Listen to Napoleon’s Generals discuss their ill-fated winter vacation in Russia? Want to join Elijah, Saul of Tarsus and St. Thomas Aquinas in a lively theological discussion? Learn about love without laying out 50 bucks for a candlelight supper? Read a book.

Nothing’s free in this world except the shroud they bury you in. That, YOU don’t have to pay for – it comes out of your estate. So, there is a price paid by the avid reader – a physical price. The body becomes soft and tends to enlarge around the middle due to the dedicated reader’s dislike of any movement more rapid than turning a page. Also, you miss lots of intriguing conversation with family members requesting you to pick up Bobby, go to the grocery, hang that 200-pound dining room mirror, knead the bread for the supper loaf. But when you’re talking religion with St. Thomas, who can hear all that background chatter?

Reading is especially healthy for children who in our intellectually blighted times often fall prey to TVitis. A disease that numbs the mind and atrophies the muscles and sinews of the body. In terms of exercise, TV is to reading as floating is to swimming. The one-eyed beast does all the mental work – like the picture book of the pre-reader. Instead of a meaningful string of words that forces the young mind to construct a picture, there it is on the screen. Brain, go to sleep. I’ll do it for you, says the box.

Garrison Keillor calls a book “this portable garden, which has survived TV, computers, censors, lousy schools and rotten authors.” I might add to his list of perils; mates who think G-d put us on Earth to conduct brilliant conversation

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

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over the supper table instead of propping your current obsession against the catsup bottle.

Let me put it this way. “There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away.” Well, I was gonna say that ‘till I found that Emily Dickinson, who loved a snappy metaphor better than a New England Fall, ALREADY said it. Remember that man is the only mammal whose cubs can learn to read A. A. Milne. But reading, like love of sunsets and fried oysters, is an acquired taste.

Learned not in Southpark or Simpsonland, but in the laps of mothers and fathers.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. HW

ISRAEL INSIGHTS

Kissinger at 100: His Israel Legacy

By Howard Weisband

Henry Kissinger, one of the true elder statesmen of the 20th and 21st Centuries, turned 100 on May 27. Still quite active, a few days prior he celebrated his milestone in life at the Yale Club in Manhattan, feted by the Economic Club of New York. As reported by Jonathan Guyer in “Vox,” a large crowd heard Kissinger speak for an hour about life, career, current events, detente, the USA, realpolitik and geopolitics.

Still a mentor to academics, politicians, world leaders and diplomats, Kissinger continues to write and attend conferences. Guyer quotes Kissinger at the Yale Club, who said in part: “My view is, we need to be always strong enough to resist any pressures. We must always be ready to defend what we define as our vital interests. We must also be clear about what our vital interests are and stay within those bounds.”

His 100th birthday brought forward a flurry of articles showering both praise and criticism, even some condemnation, of both personality and policy during Kissinger’s most influential and productive years within the Nixon and Ford Administrations. A simple scan of

internet media sources produced coverage of multiple viewpoints, most of it, understandably, not focused on Israel nor the Middle East, but on Vietnam, China, and other countries, plus human rights, Kissinger’s overall diplomatic approach, realpolitik and his career as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State.

In this brief column I will focus on Israel, specifically what might be boldly called Kissinger’s Israel Legacy, which is framed by the 1973 Yom Kippur War and its immediate aftermath.

However, I begin not with Kissinger but with Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, who initiated the Yom Kippur War, and then chose surprisingly to visit Israel in November 1977 and establish negotiations that led to the Camp David Accords in 1978 during the Carter Administration and ultimately the Israel – Egypt Peace Treaty in 1979, which has held to this day.

I have long believed, in brief, that Sadat did not suddenly become a Zionist or develop a love for Israel. Rather, he pragmatically turned from warmonger to statesman and peacemaker because,

first, 1967 and 1973 convinced him that the Arab nations could not defeat Israel militarily, certainly not with inferior Russian equipment. Second, as the leader of Egypt, he had responsibility for the welfare of his people; thus, he needed the support of the west, particularly that of the United States.

Back to Kissinger, and particularly his role during and following the Yom Kippur War in October 1973. There remains controversy regarding responsibility for the initial delay in the resupply and shipment of arms to Israel during the war. Four individuals were involved: President Richard Nixon, Chief of Staff Alexander Haig, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger and Secretary of State Kissinger. But once the situation on the ground was clear, a massive, unprecedented airlift began with U.S. military planes constantly in motion, supported by all in the Administration.

Kissinger himself then stood out at the end of the war with his infamous shuttle diplomacy resulting in a Sinai Accord between Israel and Egypt and a Disengagement Agreement with Syria.

I believe that it was Kissinger’s art-

ful diplomacy in 1973-74 that laid the foundation for the November 1977 Sadat journey to Jerusalem, and ultimately respective Peace Treaties between Israel and Egypt, then with Jordan.

With the success of his shuttle diplomacy, Kissinger created his Israel Legacy.

(Recommended reading related to Kissinger’s 100th birthday and Israel: “Kissinger at 100: His Complex Historical Legacy,” by Alan J. Steinberg, published by the Jandoli Institute on May 24, and “Honoring Henry Kissinger on his 100th Birthday,” by David M. Weinberg, in the “Jerusalem Post,” May 24. Disclosure: both are friends. Alan lives in New Jersey, David in Israel.)

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Affirms: ‘I support Israel’



Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Credit: Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons

At a press conference last Thursday, Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. took a question regarding antisemitic musician Roger Waters and his own overall position on Israel.

Independent podcast co-host Craig Pasta Jardula asked Kennedy: “A couple tweets were put up in support of Roger Waters and then taken down. You want to give us a little explanation of why they were taken down and also your stance on Israel and Palestine?”

Kennedy responded: “I made the tweet applauding Roger Waters’ cour-

age in opposing the Covid mandates and the Ukraine war. I was unaware of his position on Israel. And when I learned that I immediately took it down.”

Then discussing his stance on Israel more broadly, Kennedy said: “I support Israel. My family has a long relationship with Israel and supporting its right to exist and its right to protect its security.”

Jardula followed up: “And the Palestinians?”

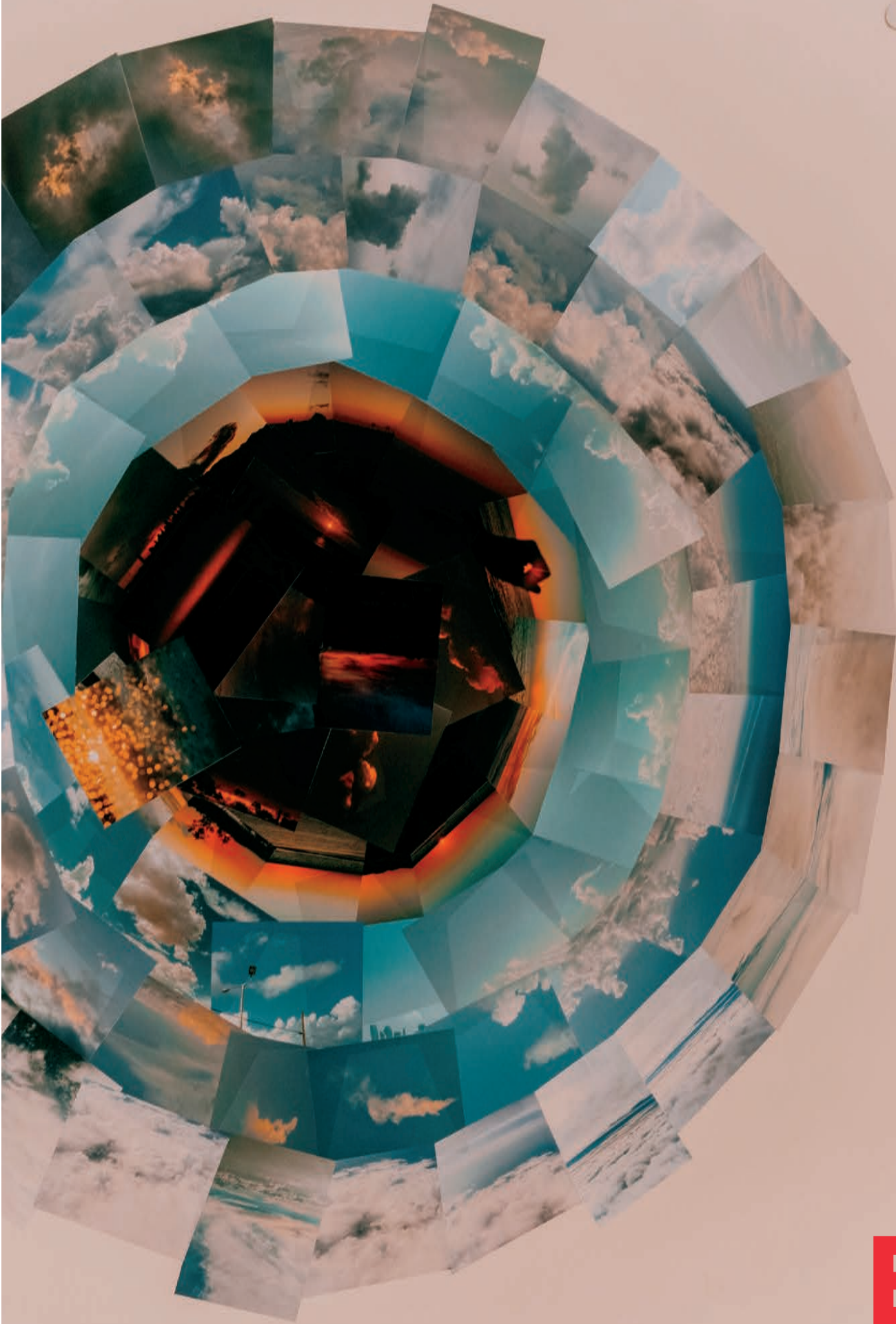
Kennedy replied: “And a humane outcome and a recognition ultimately of the aspirations of the Palestinian people is important for everybody.”

The Democratic contender for president deleted tweets in support of musician Roger Waters.

Kennedy, 69, is the nephew of the 35th president; his father, Robert F. Kennedy was a senator from New York, served as U.S. attorney general and ran for president in 1968 before he was assassinated in June of that year. HW

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Completing a Great Year . . . and a Great Book



Rabbi Akiva Males studying together with Aiden Bieber during CYHSB's Beit Midrash program

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Twice a week, the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys (CYHSB) starts its mornings with the Beit Midrash program. During that time, students enjoy studying assorted Judaic subjects in small groups with their rabbis, community rabbis and educators.

For the past two years, I've been fortunate to have Aiden Bieber as my study partner during this program. Sometimes, other students whose rabbi / educator couldn't make it joined us as well. During that time, Aiden and I studied a highly engaging book by Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff entitled "Jew Got Questions?" After two years, we recently completed it!

Rabbi Hajioff is a native of London, England, who has made a serious impact in the field of Jewish outreach. Having heard him speak nearly 20 years

ago, I knew that he was very smart and quite entertaining. Rabbi Hajioff is also a popular professor at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, a leader of Birthright trips to Israel and Europe, and is the educational director of Birthright Israel Alumni programs in New York City.

I reached out to Rabbi Hajioff and told him how much Aiden and I enjoyed studying his informative book. I also mentioned how special it would be if we could schedule a Zoom call with him to ask him a few questions, share some comments and hear some of his words of wisdom. Rabbi Hajioff readily agreed, and we scheduled a call for Wednesday afternoon (5/31/23).

Realizing this was a great opportunity for the other CYHSB students as well, I asked Rabbi Gersten and Dr. Kennon if we could invite all the students to this

Zoom session and hold it in the CYHSB Library. They responded with a quick "Yes," and MHA's own Noam Davidovics flawlessly connected my iPhone, a school iPad and the CYHSB Library's SmartBoard to bring this all together.

Sure enough, Rabbi Hajioff's approximately 15-minute presentation was insightful, thoughtful and humorous. Keeping the attention of a group of high school students is no easy task, yet he pulled it off while sharing several meaningful messages.

Rabbi Hajioff then answered two questions Aiden asked him about his book. He then spoke about a few of the most-frequent questions he receives regarding Judaism from his students, Birthright participants and YouTube followers. That impromptu discussion was both eye-opening and witty.

We closed the half-hour program by wishing Rabbi Hajioff much continued success in his varied efforts to share Torah and Jewish knowledge with everyone he interacts with. Additionally, the students and Rabbi Hajioff congratulated Aiden for his perseverance in studying and completing "Jew Got Questions?"

This was a terrific end-of-the-year experience for Aiden, me, and each of the participating students. Yasher Koach Aiden! I truly enjoyed learning with you. I'm looking forward to continuing studying together with you next year during CYHSB's Beit Midrash program!

Rabbi Akiva Males serves as the Rabbi of Young Israel of Memphis and as a Judaics instructor at the Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South. He can be reached at rabbi@yahoo.com [HW](#)

Summer Camp Again Offered to Jewish Refugees from Ukraine

(JNS) – A new \$2 million fund has been set up to support young Ukrainian Jews and their families to attend camps this summer to offer them a respite from an invasion by Russia that is now entering its 16th month.

Israel and a group of Jewish philanthropists came together through Mosaic United "to ensure that Ukrainian Jews resettled or displaced from their homes can take part in enjoyable, restful and meaningful Jewish experiences this summer."

The program seeks to provide "enriching activities to strengthen their Jewish identities as well as their connections to Israel and the Jewish people."

Last year, the program brought 1,400 people to 24 camps across 10 countries. Mosaic United's mission is to "bring together, spur and equip organizations working to strengthen the connection of young Jews to their Jewish identities and Israel."

Mosaic United is currently taking applications from Jewish organizations seeking to participate.

Last month, Ukraine honored organizations that have provided support during the war, including the Jewish Federations of North America. [HW](#)

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