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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 5

THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 2 ADAR, 5783 FEBRUARY 23, 2023 VOL. 101, NO. 22

Dixon Gallery & Gardens Hosts Tu Bishvat Community Day



Bornblum Head of School Daniel Weiss and students offering tree-inspired art activities.

By Sarah VanderWalde

On Sunday February 5, more than 500 people walked through the Dixon Gallery & Gardens to celebrate Tu Bishvat, the Jewish New Year for trees. The sun was shining outside, music was playing inside, and community members of all ages discovered new ways to observe Tu Bishvat.

While planning the Dixon's 2023 events calendar, Dixon's Public Programs Coordinator Elizabeth Sloane noticed that the holiday of Tu Bishvat began on a Sunday night in February. On the Hebrew calendar, the holiday falls on the 15th day of the month of Shvat.

"It was almost serendipitous, as the Dixon Gallery & Gardens is not just an art gallery, but also a robust garden full of trees," Ms. Sloane said. "We are the perfect place for the community to celebrate Tu Bishvat, so I asked the education team if we could move our community day, which is normally on a Saturday, to a Sunday."

With permission for the Sunday date granted, Ms. Sloane reached out to the Memphis Jewish Federation. Federation's Community Impact Manager Lorraine Wolf was excited to get involved and referred Ms. Sloane to other Jewish organizations for partnership.

"It was truly a community effort," said Ms. Wolf. "We had no idea how many people would show up, and we got very lucky with the warm weather."

The Dixon staff along with dozens of community volunteers brought Tu Bishvat to life. Outside the main entrance, children played with bouncy balls, hula hoops, Connect 4 and tic-tac-toe, overseen by teen volunteers from BBYO. Entering the lobby, families were greeted by a Memphis Jewish Federation table and handed a packet of seeds to plant at home courtesy of Federation's Israel@75 initiative.

Inside the auditorium, local musician Jason Caplan played music and led a

circle of kids playing home-made instruments. In the same room, Bornblum Jewish Community School and the Memphis Jewish Community Center had tables set up with tree-inspired arts and crafts.

Leaving the auditorium, visitors walked through the art gallery and could stop to participate in additional tree-themed activities along the way. Many families with young children ventured to story time sponsored by PJ Library, a program of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Donning a home-made tree hat, Bornblum kindergarten teacher Ariel

(See **Tu Bishvat** Page 2)



Many families with young children ventured to story time sponsored by PJ Library, a program of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Donning a home-made tree hat, Bornblum kindergarten teacher Ariel Figueroa read a story about trees.

A Little Kindness Goes a Long Way with the Middos Program



Memphis Kollel and Memphis Jewish Community Center are collaborating through The Alfred and Miriam Glass Center for Middos Development to present a 4-week course exploring middos (character traits).

By Shoshana Censer

A lovely quote sums up a thoughtful and timely new program quite nicely: "In a world where you can be anything... be kind." The program, called The Middos Map, brings together Jason Caplan, the Memphis Kollel and Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC), all collaborating through The Alfred and Miriam Glass Center for Middos Development. The Center, which the Caplan family and Kollel founded, presents four-week courses that explore how middos –char-

acter traits – are developed, how they shape happiness and productivity and how they can be changed.

The Middos Map course will be held March 1–22, every Wednesday from 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., at the MJCC. Jason sparked the idea when he realized an opportunity to bring the Jewish community together.

"Inclusivity, kindness, tikkun olam (repairing the world) are important goals, but they're aspirational – there's

not really a method to practice those," said Jason. "We need something tangible – those who study medicine have training and schooling; a piano player has a methodology for learning the keys – we all need some way to practice treating others with kindness."

The idea of practicing kindness is not just for adults, of course, modeling this important behavior is critical for children, too.

"We put so much effort into work,

money, even sports, for example – but our kids also need to see us studying this topic together, which we all need help on in our very competitive society," added Jason. "Look, it's difficult for Jews to even agree on what the Torah says, there are so many different ways to interpret texts from the Bible – so, The Middos Map was intentionally designed for all Jews, regardless of observance

(See **Middos** Page 3)

Tu Bishvat...

(Continued From Page 1)

Figueroa read a story about trees to a packed audience.

“Having recently moved to Memphis, it was amazing walking through the Dixon and being able to recognize many people from the Jewish community, as well as from my daughter’s school,” said Lillia Osadzinski. “It is nice to see the entire Jewish community come to one event and be together.”

Continuing through the galleries, another favorite stop was in the education room where local Jewish artist Marisa Baggett demonstrated her tree-of-life painting process. While Marisa painted, visitors were able to add their own paint strokes, making the finished painting a Tu Bishvat community masterpiece.

Leaving the education room took visitors outside to a Tu Bishvat seder hosted by the Torah Mitzion Kollel. At the seder table, one could try a variety of fruits known for this holiday including figs, dates and raisins. With a large crowd eager to partake in the food, they broke out in song and led the blessings of the different fruits in Hebrew, English and Spanish.

“We were thrilled with the turnout, especially with many people walking into the Dixon for the very first time. Come back and visit us because the Dixon is free until 2024!”

More tables of art were outside with teen volunteers in charge of different projects including create-your-own tree ring necklaces. Parents left with bags full of art projects, and everyone walked back to their cars with a Ricki’s cookie, a gift from the Dixon.

“It was easy working with all the different organizations within the Jewish community to make this day possible,” said Ms. Sloane. “We were thrilled with the turnout, especially with many people walking into the Dixon for the very first time. Come back and visit us because the Dixon is free until 2024!” **HW**



Jewish artist Marisa Baggett demonstrated her tree-of-life painting process.



Torah Mitzion Kollel hosted a Tu Bishvat seder table where visitors could try a variety of fruits known for this holiday.

THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. February 24, 2023 / 3 Adar, 57835:32 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. February 25, 2023 / 4 Shevat, 5783 6:29 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Terumah



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The Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Baron Hirsch So-Shuls Luncheon is “March”ing on!

Remember the bad weather and icy streets on February 1? How the weather canceled the February 1, SoShuls Luncheon? Well, let’s now forget that and have fun on March 1.

It’s time for the Baron Hirsch So-Shuls Luncheon on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Entertainment will feature the Heart Memphis Duo presented by Creative Aging. Heart Memphis plays memory-provoking songs that will brighten your day. Steve Corbett, on guitar, has been part of the Memphis music scene for many years. Heart Memphis performances are fun, energetic and always

include audience participation.

The luncheon menu will include baked chicken, roasted potatoes, and peas and carrots with fresh fruit for dessert. Bingo games will follow the luncheon.

It will be great to see you there on Wednesday, March 1! Especially since there will not be a Baron Hirsch SoShuls luncheon in April, due to the start of Passover on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Baron Hirsch So-Shuls luncheons are for persons 64 and older, and the cost is \$3 per person.

Please email Gwen Moody at gwen@baronhirsch.com to make your reservations. **HW**

Camp Scholarship Fund for Memphis Campers

Chabad Center for Jewish Life is happy to announce the administration of a camp scholarship fund for Jewish children in Memphis attending any Jewish summer overnight camp in 2023. Thanks to the generosity of a local benefactor, limited scholarships are now available for those who need help paying for Jewish summer overnight camp.

“We are very happy to administer this fund, which is sure to help bring a Jewish experience closer to the reach of those who most desperately need it,” said Rabbi Levi Klein, executive director of Chabad.

A 2008 study by the Foundation for Jewish Camp found that going to camp is an indicator for Jews to be more involved in an array of Jewish experiences. Adults who attended Jewish camps as children were more likely to go to synagogue, marry a Jew, donate to a Jewish charity, light Shabbat candles and feel attached to Israel.

Funds are limited and will be distributed via lottery, based on the number of applicants. An application can be found at www.JewishMemphis.com/scholarship and should be submitted by March 20. **HW**

“Purim in Disney” as Chabad’s Annual “Purim Around the World” Dinner

Chabad will be hosting their annual “Purim Around the World” Dinner on Tuesday, March 7 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life.

This year’s celebration will be “Purim in Disney.” The program will start with the reading of the Megillah at 5 p.m. followed by a full “Purim Buffet Dinner” at 5:30 p.m. with delicious desserts.

Participants will enjoy a delicious Purim Dinner with a Disney feel and entertainment as the Chabad Center will be decked out to match the theme. There will be L’chaim for the adults, and Disney entertainment for the whole family including a Magical Performance, meeting Live Disney Characters, face painting, musical entertainment and wizardly crafts for the kids.

Disney or Purim-themed costumes are encouraged, and children in costume will receive a prize.

“In keeping with Chabad’s track record of Great Purim Dinners, this year’s Purim Dinner & Party promises to be another great celebration” said Rivky Klein coordinator of the event. “So sign up while we still have place, and we look forward to welcoming you.”

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$12 per child (3-12) and sponsors of \$360 or more receive a reserved table for 10.

Reservations are required by Thursday, March 2 and are on a first-come first-serve basis. For more information and reservations visit www.JewishMemphis.com/Disney or call 901-754-0404. **HW**

Middos...

(Continued From Page 1)

level. Our broader Jewish community practicing kindness through specific methods shows our kids that this is important and worth the time and effort.”

The Middos Map is the Center for Middos Development’s second main program. The first course, The Mussar Mindset, was held last year with 27 participants. Mussar is adopted from the Book of Proverbs, describing moral conduct, instruction or discipline, and educating yourself about how to act in an appropriate manner.

“Led by Rabbi Naftali Zions from the Memphis Kollel and Rebbetzin Talia

Nissan, The Mussar Mindset was such a wonderful program and very well received,” said Jason. “We had attendees from all different walks of life, from every shul in Memphis, men and women. It was terrific. Participants gave us wonderful feedback and kept asking about another course. We’re very excited about The Middos Map this March.”

The courses’ curricula are created by the Memphis Kollel for the Memphis community, and hopefully the programs can then be repeated and replicated in other cities. The Middos Map will begin with a review of the basic concepts of middos, then go deeper into the study of our self-consciousness and how to work on ourselves. It’s designed as a bridge builder between text-based learning and practicing middos in our daily lives.

Participants are divided into separate groups of men and women, to promote an open forum of appropriate communication. The program is very interactive – not just one person talking – it’s conversations and sharing of thoughts. Rabbi Shmuel Fromowitz from the Memphis Kollel will lead the men’s group, and Rebbetzin Talia Nissan will lead the women’s again. The course is guided by the teachings of Rabbi Yisrael Lipkin Salanter, as well as the Vilna Gaon, who famously noted: “Middos tovos (good traits) are more important than everything.”

“We’ll roll up our sleeves and get to work, exploring what middos are, where they come from, how they impact us, and how they can be shaped. It is quite ambitious,” explained Rabbi Fromowitz. “Preparing the materials for this course was very exciting for me, and I’m looking forward to sharing them with the participants. Anyone can join, whether you took the first course or not.”

“Middos binds a community together. It’s an essential message for the individual as a Jew and as a human. This is not an intellectual study, like with chumash or gemara – everyone can relate to kindness, and it’s something we can all admit we can work on,” Jason added. “The Middos Map is a very cool class that will provide actual training regarding the way we treat other people. As Rabbi Akiva said, ‘v’ahavta l’reacha kamocha,’ – ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ This is not an Orthodox or Reform thing... this is a Jewish, a human thing – we can all study middos.”

The Middos Map is \$40 for nonmembers, \$30 for members. Register: middoscenter.org. For more info about the Center: info@middoscenter.org.

Do something kind today. **HW**

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My Teen Israel Experience

Eliza Herman, daughter of Jenny and Larry Herman, is a junior at St. Mary's Episcopal School. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of her BBYO Passport Israel 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 Eliza Herman

This past summer was one that I will never forget because of my amazing trip to Israel. This was my first time going to Israel, and it was incredible to see how much my connection to the country and my faith grew throughout the three weeks I was there.

The decision to go on this trip was one of the hardest ones I have ever made because I would only know one other person. From going to the shuks (markets), hiking Masada at five in the morning, and especially hanging out with new friends, I can confidently say that I have made memories on this trip that I will never forget.

The trip started in Jerusalem with a tour of the Old City where we walked from the Jaffa Gate to the Zion Gate. This path included walking through an aqueduct underneath the city. We ended the day by going to the 2022 Maccabiah opening ceremonies. At this event, we met up with all of the other BBYO Israel trips where we got to watch the procession of all the countries and ended the night with a concert.

Another day that stands out to me was our day in Tsfat. This day consisted of a tour of the city followed by a discussion

with a Kabbalistic artist that lives in the city. This talk stuck with me because it was so interesting to learn about a new side and way of Judaism that I did not know about previously. The artist talked about his life and how he grew up in America and then decided to follow his spirituality and move to Israel. He also spoke about how he uses his art to express some of the teachings of the Kabbalah. After this, we explored the city for ourselves and walked around the market. The day ended with rafting and pizza on the Jordan River.

Before I went on the trip, I knew I was going to love hiking Masada, and I can say that the experience exceeded my expectations. Our desert adventure started with riding camels at sunset, which was so much fun. That night, we learned about the Bedouin culture while staying in tents. The next day started early with a 4:30 a.m. wake-up so we could see the sunrise from the top of Masada. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the early wakeup and hike were well worth the view at the



Eliza Herman at the Kotel.

top. One of the most impactful moments on the trip was when the group sat in a circle and watched the sunrise at the top while saying a prayer for how we were all grateful to be at that place and in that moment together.

These were only a few of the many experiences that not only made me feel

connected to Israel but also with Judaism as a whole. I feel like I have a home in Israel and made many friends from all over the country.

Thank you to the Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky's Endowment Fund for helping make this journey possible for me. **HW**



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Uneasy Calm in LA Jewish Neighborhood after Arrest of Shooting Suspect who Said he Targeted Jews



Television and newspaper reporters in Los Angeles interview passersby in the Jewish neighborhood of Pico-Robertson following two shootings that occurred in the area in the previous two days on Feb. 17, 2023.
Credit: Asaf Elia-Shalev

By Asaf Elia-Shalev

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The morning after Los Angeles police arrested a man suspected of shooting two Jews outside their synagogues, the biggest indicator of disruption in the neighborhood where the incidents took place was a caravan of news trucks.

Along Pico Boulevard, the thoroughfare running through the Pico-Robertson neighborhood that is home to a large and diverse Jewish community, people were heading to prayer services, shopping for groceries and picking up bagels — standard activities for a Friday morning.

Some said they might not have been doing so if the gunman behind the shootings that took place on Wednesday and Thursday mornings was still at large.

“There’s a lot of moms that walk up and down taking their kids to school,” said Taryn, whose children attend a local Jewish day school, outside the Elat Market kosher grocery store. “When they hadn’t found somebody, I did take my car because I didn’t feel safe walking. It affects our lives.”

Last Friday afternoon, police in Los Angeles revealed details about the alleged shooter’s identity and motivation. Jaime Tran, 28, faces hate crimes charges and was being held in the county jail on \$2 million bond, according to the county’s inmate locator service.

According to charges filed by the federal prosecutors, Tran told officers that he had chosen the location of the shootings by searching for “kosher markets” on Yelp and selected the victims by their “head gear.” He had previously sent antisemitic messages to former classmates in December and cited a flier, apparently of the type routinely distributed by the white supremacist Goyim Defense League, that blamed Jews for the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Over the past two days, our community experienced two horrific acts we believe were motivated by antisemitic ideology that caused him to target the Jewish community,” United States Attorney Martin Estrada said in a statement. “It is important, especially in one of the most diverse areas in the world, that we celebrate our differences, and stand together to oppose acts of hate.”

Taryn, who declined to share her last name because of privacy concerns, recently moved to Los Angeles from South Africa. She said she was concerned about crime generally but was disconcerted by learning about the alleged shooter’s antisemitic animus.

“Obviously it’s very scary having heard that this guy specifically targeted Jews,” she said. “It’s definitely scary. This is kind of, I guess, a reality check.”

Inside Temple Beth Am, a large Conservative synagogue in the area, some attendees at the weekday morning service said they were aware that shootings had taken place. Fewer knew that someone had been arrested.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles had released a statement late last Thursday saying that it had been informed by law enforcement that a man had been arrested in connection with the shootings, which left two men with injuries that were not life-threatening.

The federation also said it had been informed that the suspect has “a history of animus towards the Jewish community.”

The Los Angeles Police Department also said late Thursday the suspect had been “taken into custody without incident” in nearby Riverside County, and a rifle and handgun had been recovered there.

“I’m grateful for the stellar work of our people,” LAPD Chief Michel Moore said on Twitter. “There’s much more to this incident that we will share at the appropriate time.” **HW**

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Memphis Jewish Federation Hosted a Training on Best Practices in Responding to Antisemitism



Training on best practices in responding to antisemitism led by American Jewish Committee’s Southeast Regional Director Dov Wilker. Community rabbis, heads of school, educators, teen professionals, Community Relations Council members and Federation board members learned about the latest trends in antisemitism and different methods of responding.

Valentine Packages for Veterans



*By The King Family,
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During the past 10 years, our family has prepared treat bags for the Veterans and Service Persons at the Memphis Veteran’s Hospital. This year we continue our Valentine gift bags filled with delicious treats as well as high-quality menzies DIA-CREW socks. Each year, we provide over 130 bags.

The VA Medical Center is located at 1030 Jefferson Avenue in Memphis. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Patient advocates are specially trained to help Veterans resolve any issues concerning medical care. The Veterans Administration offers services to all Veterans: homeless, women, minorities, LGBTQ veterans as well as those suffering from PTSD and mental health problems.

Our family uses products that give back to the military as we learn about them. In a prior year, we purchased from Operation Coffee, because they donated a percentage of proceeds to organizations that focus on Veteran suicide prevention. This year our Veterans will feel warmer and more comfortable in their new tech-ops socks.

Remembering our heroes and helping to support our wounded and disabled Veterans is a mitzvah for all. [HW](#)

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ALAN HARKAVY

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**March 23, 2023
7:00 PM**

**Memphis Jewish
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The Middos Map

The Center for Middos Development, a project of the Memphis Kollel, presents a new four-week course exploring how character traits (middos) are developed, how they shape happiness and productivity and how they can be changed.

March 1st - March 22nd

Wednesdays
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Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
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The U.S. stock market had a banner year in 2021, with the S&P 500 index up almost 27%. Unfortunately, stocks turned downward on the second trading day of 2022 and kept sliding into a bear market.¹

Stocks in the S&P 500 are classified by 11 different business sectors, each of which responds differently to economic conditions. For example, the information technology sector was very strong in 2021, rising by 33.4%. But it turned south in 2022 and dropped by 26.7% through October. On the other hand, the energy sector, driven by high oil prices, was up during both periods (see chart).

Index Weighting
Many broad-based indexes, including the S&P 500, are weighted based on market capitalization – the total value of a company’s outstanding stocks. Sectors have different sizes and weighting to begin with, but the weight can change significantly due to performance. The information technology sector, which includes some of America’s largest companies, rose from about 20% of S&P 500 capitalization at the end of 2018 to 29% at the end of 2021, increasing its impact on the index when the sector turned downward. The financials sector dropped from 13.3% to 10.7% over the same period, decreasing its impact on the index.²

This means that even if you invest primarily in broad-based funds, you may be more heavily invested (overweight) or less invested (underweight) in a given sector than you realize. If you own more specific funds or individual stocks, your portfolio could be even more overweighted or underweighted.

Some market sectors – such as health care, consumer staples, and utilities – are considered “defensive” and may be good to hold through a bear market or

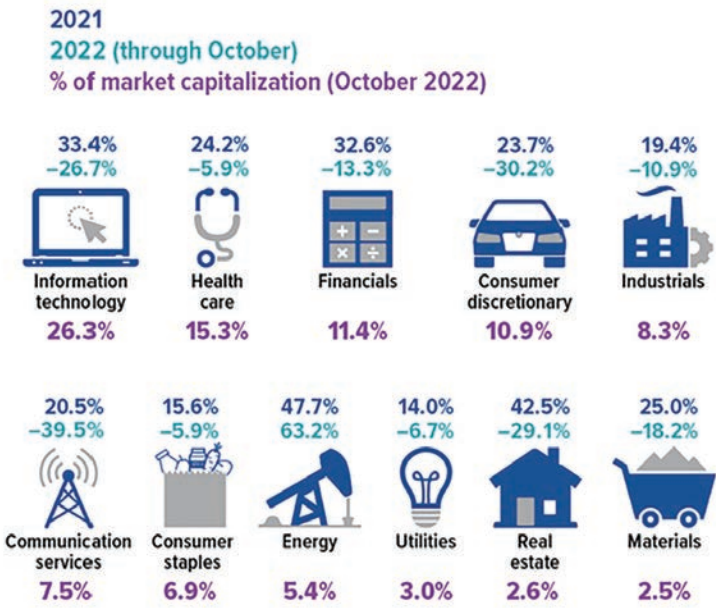
economic recession because businesses in these sectors tend to remain strong regardless of economic conditions. Others – such as information technology and consumer discretionary – may have more growth potential but are more sensitive to economic conditions. Whether it’s appropriate to shift sector allocations in the middle of an economic cycle depends on your individual circumstances and long-term goals.

Sector Funds
One way to shift sector weight in your portfolio is by adding one or more sector funds – mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that focus on stocks of companies in a particular industry or sector of the economy. Because these funds are less diversified, they typically carry a higher level of volatility and risk than broad-based funds and should be considered as a complement to a core portfolio of diversified funds rather than a replacement.

Although sector funds offer flexibility in fine-tuning your portfolio, it’s important to resist the temptation to chase performance and move assets into “hot” sectors without a more comprehensive strategy. Sector performance is cyclical, and last year’s hot sector can easily turn cold, as can be seen in the ups and downs of technology stocks. Also keep in mind that every business cycle is different, and unexpected events can disrupt regular trends.

The return and principal value of all investments, including sector funds, fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Asset allocation and diversification are methods used to help manage investment risk; they do not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.

Varied Weight and Performance
Sector gain or loss, with percentage of S&P 500 market capitalization



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices, 2022 (data as of October 31). The S&P 500 is an unmanaged group of securities considered representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

Mutual funds and ETFs are sold by prospectus. Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other information about the investment company, can be obtained from your financial professional. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to invest.

- 1) S&P Dow Jones Indices, 2022
- 2) Sibilis Research, 2022

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‘Everyone was Excited’: Ancient Gold Bead Uncovered in Jerusalem



This rare gold bead, dating back at least 1,600 years, was uncovered in dirt taken from a Roman structure in Jerusalem’s Emek Tzurim National Park. Credit: Ari Levy, Israel Antiquities Authority.

(JNS) – A unique, pure gold bead dating back at least 1,600 years has been uncovered in the Emek Tzurim National Park in Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) revealed last Wednesday.

The bead was found in dirt removed from a Roman structure discovered during the Pilgrimage Road Excavation. It was created using a unique technique that required delicate workmanship to

affix tens of tiny balls together in the shape of a ring in order to create one ornament.

The relic was found by Hallel Feidman, an 18-year-old doing her compulsory national service as a volunteer for the sifting project at the Archaeological Experience.

“I poured the pail onto the sieve and began to wash the material that was brought from the excavations in the City of David,” she recounted. “And then I saw something shiny in the corner of the sieve, different, that I don’t normally see. I immediately approached the archaeologist, and he confirmed that I had found a gold bead. Everyone here was very excited.”

According to IAA excavation directors Shlomo Greenberg and Ari Levy, the bead was found in a formerly grandiose structure that was at least 25 meters long and built on the Pilgrimage Road in the City of David. “The wealth of the building’s occupants is evidenced by additional finds that were discovered in it, like imported clay vessels and a decorated mosaic floor,” they said.

The researchers pointed out that the bead was perhaps created in a period that precedes that of the structure in which it was found, but said that it was reasonable to assume that the bead belonged to the building’s residents.

The find is of special importance, according to the researchers, both because gold items are rare archaeological finds in Israel and because beads of this style are not common, given the unique and complex technique used to create them.

The artifact is one of only a few made from pure gold ever found in Israel and dates to at least 1,600 years ago.

The technique, researchers said, most probably originates from the region of Mesopotamia, where it was known approximately 4,500 years ago.

“The most interesting aspect of the bead is its unique and complex production method,” explained Amir Golani, an ancient jewelry expert at the IAA. “A good understanding of the materials and their properties is required, as well as control over the heat, in order to on the one hand solder the tiny balls together to create a tiny ring, while also preventing overheating, which may lead all the gold to melt.”

It is possible that the bead was created in a different area and was brought to the City of David as part of the extensive trade relations between Jerusalem and other regions. Another theory is that the bead was gifted to a Jerusalem resident, or, possibly due to its unique nature, was passed within the family from one generation to another as an inheritance.

Similar beads have been discovered in burial caves from 2,500 years ago (end of the First Temple period) in Ketef Hinnom near the City of David, but those beads were made from silver.

To date, only a few dozen gold beads have been found in Israel. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Judah Alan Kutner

Judah Alan Kutner, 74, of Lawrence, New York, formerly of Memphis, passed away on January 29, 2023, in New York.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rabbi Seymour and Shifra Kutner.

He leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Barbara Katz Kutner, his children, Ephraim (Rena) Kutner, Shifra (Yossi) Leitman, Yonasan (Rachel) Kutner and Eliezer (Faigy) Kutner, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was a man full of kindness and love for his fellow man. He greeted everyone with a smile and always helped anyone he could. In spite of many years of suffering, he had a love of life and an appreciation of this beautiful world. He was always reading and trying to discover new things. He fulfilled the words of the Torah with passion and loved to study it whenever he could. His family was everything to him and being with them brought joy to his heart. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

After a funeral service in New York, he was laid to rest in Har Hamenuchos Cemetery in Jerusalem, Israel. The family requests that charity be given and acts of kindness be performed in his memory. **HW**

Antisemitic Attacks Target 3 University of Denver Students



Pork vandalism at the University of Denver, Feb. 2023. Source: StandWithUs.

(JNS) – From Feb. 9 to Feb. 12, three Jewish University of Denver students were targets of antisemitic attacks, including pork left at one student’s doorstep and smeared on the door, and *mezuzot* ripped off two students’ door frames. (Some news reports referred to the pork as “glued” to the door.)

A *mezuzah* is a ritual object that contains the *Shema* prayer written on parchment, affixed to Jewish doorposts. The attacker tampered with the scrolls in the students’ *mezuzot*, destroying one of them, according to StandWithUs.

“The students are all identifiable Jews or Jewish leaders on campus,” the international nonprofit stated.

StandWithUs said that vandalism of *mezuzot* is on the rise in the country, but these attacks were particularly shocking given the way they centered on Jewish religious practice, including the prohibition against consuming pork.

The private, nearly 160-year-old university, which has an enrollment of

about 14,000, condemned the incidents and opened an investigation. “We stand together in deploring these acts and in committing ourselves to promoting a warm, welcoming campus in which all community members can thrive,” the school stated on Twitter.

A statement on the university website mentioned the attacks were antisemitic but generalized its commitment to “a warm, welcoming campus in which all community members can thrive.”

The university’s undergraduate student body is estimated to be about 10% Jewish, CBS Colorado reported. “Small acts of hate lead to bigger ones and make life unsafe for all students,” the university’s Hillel stated.

Roz Rothstein, CEO of StandWithUs, said that as a daughter of Holocaust survivors she is “shocked and horrified by the religious nature of these antisemitic assaults taking place in 2023.” That both anti-Israel and antisemitic incidents are on the rise is not a coincidence, she added. **HW**

Antisemitic Fliers at Maryland High School Part of Broader Pattern

(JNS) – Twice in the past two weeks, antisemitic fliers appeared at Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Md., prompting an investigation by the Montgomery County police. Swastikas have appeared at multiple county schools, and someone spray painted “Jews Not Welcome” on a school sign. Students have also allegedly made antisemitic threats.

Some 10% of Montgomery County, Maryland’s 1.05 million residents is Jewish reportedly, representing 45% of the state’s Jewish population.

“Each day that passes, I fear we are moving closer to a day where it’s not just scrawled on a sign, where it’s not just drawn on a desk, but that our kids are being placed in physical harm,” Adam Zimmerman, who teaches about the Holocaust at a Rockville, Md. synagogue, told WUSA9.

In response to the rise in antisemitism, the county increased funds for school security. Will Jawando, a county councilman, described the incidents as “a spike.”

“We have to say this is wrong. It’s not acceptable. We’re investigating anything that is done like this as a hate crime,” he said.

Zimmerman and Jawando both suspect that national rhetoric of politicians and celebrities may have contributed to the increase in the county schools’ hate crimes, they told the CBS affiliate. **HW**

Jay K. Schwartzberg

Jay K. Schwartzberg passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

He was a veteran of World War II having served in the Army Signal Corps in the South Pacific.

He leaves behind to mourn him his wife of 73 years, Renee; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Lee Schwartzberg and Tammy, and Fredric (Rico) Schwartzberg and Nancy; granddaughters Alison Schwartzberg and Kara Kaplan (Jordan) and two great-grandchildren, Emma and Tyler.

He was laid to rest on Tuesday, February 14 at the Temple Israel Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to Temple Israel, Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund at 1376 East Massey Rd, Memphis, Tenn., 38120 or to West Cancer Foundation, 7945 Wolf River Blvd, Germantown, Tenn. 38138. **HW**

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

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Purim; First Help Yourself, Then Pray



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

Ted Roberts

I'm sure you know that the Torah explicitly commands us to tell the story of Pesach to our children. Right? We all know that.

However, there's no clear commandment about some of our other holidays. But you shouldn't ignore the opportunity to be a storyteller and hopefully dole out a little inspiration. It's OK, says the Talmud, to sit your kids down at the kitchen table – set a bowl of fudge ripple in front of each little, inquisitive head and tell them a Chanukah, Purim, Tu B'Shevat, Yom Kippur story. Kids love stories, kids love your attention, kids love fudge ripple. (And don't try to save a few pennies – buy the best.)

So, here comes Purim. Naturally, I summoned my youthful audience to the kitchen, laid out the fudge ripple, and watched each obedient soul gleefully take a seat. They were ready for ice cream. Little did they know that in my house, refreshments in March come with a Purim story.

But before that, I freshened up my 65-year-old head by rereading the book of Esther. A wise stratagem – even wiser than selecting Fudge Ripple rather than Neapolitan, or what we used to call

three-way. Kids hate Neapolitan. Sadly, a Purim story told over a bowl of Neapolitan goes nowhere.

The Book of Esther, I discovered, had difficulties I needed to attend to before I told this story to youngsters. Bible scholars have been fascinated with this Megillah for decades. How did a book that never mentions G-d get enshrined in the Holy writ? (The earlier versions in the Greek Septuagint DO refer to the Almighty. Esther and Mordecai pray for his aid!) And why is it, point out the scholars, that for the first time in the Tanach our team is called Jews – not Israelites? And why is Esther the heroine – our Deliverer so embarrassed at her membership in the club of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah et al that she initially hides it from her Royal Lover? And how did she reside in the palace but still keep kosher and bathe in the Mikvah?

The drama at Shushan befuddles the adult Jewish mind but is sheer entertainment for kids. Esther, a mere mortal and probably a slip of a girl, is our Agent. Well, you know the old saying. "If you want to add a third bathroom to your split-level colonial, better call a contractor – don't wait for the Lord." I'm not saying you should neglect heavenly overtures. Esther would tell you to call the contractor first and negotiate a price. THEN, you can pray for the miraculous appearance of a new bathroom with a designer sink and vanity. Miracles should be reserved for Plan B.

The fact that our sole agent of salvation is a young, Jewish lady who dazzles the royal court doesn't bother me a bit.

And who's to say that if Esther's wiles had failed us, the creator of Persians and Jews wouldn't have grabbed hold of Ahasueros' heart and turned it in our direction – as he did to Pharaoh. Notice that in the Egyptian crisis Moses carries the ball first. Only when he fumbles, does the Lord of Hosts run out on the field with a bag full of tricks. First call the contractor – then pray.

In the Shushan case, Esther succeeded. Had she fainted with the weight of our cause on her shoulders, HE would have picked her up. Some Rabbis tell us that the Lord hates miracles. HE likes to leave the natural world alone, ticking along in accordance with his specifications. If Esther, her friends, and family can get the job done, then fine.

But there's another problem with the scroll of Esther. It's our heroine's relationship with the king, who doesn't seem to be a member of a Shushan synagogue or temple. We don't want young Yael, my granddaughter, standing under the Hupah – ten years hence – with a nice, but non-Jewish Persian. "Listen, it's OK," she shouts to the audience over her shoulder. "It's all in the Book of Esther, as told by my Zayde."

Great! Well, the Book of Esther doesn't say specifically the king's NOT Jewish. And it doesn't say that he DIDN'T convert. And Ahasueros does have a Jewish lilt to it.

All this you should explain to the kids along with the narrative – full of plot surprises and colorful characters. What-a movie it would have made. I can't wait for some smart producer to realize this. And no script royalties. I mean the

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By Ted Roberts

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story is in the best-read book of all time: in the public domain, as the lawyers say. And the casting is easy. Catherine Zeta Jones plays Esther. George Clooney's the king. Esther would give up a lifetime of chopped liver lunches for those roguish, twinkling eyes.

Haman? Decidedly Jack Nicholson. And Anthony Hopkins is a shoo-in for Mordecai. Watch for it.

We certainly dodged a bullet that day in Shushan, 2500 years ago. And recall that the "Persia" of the Scroll of Esther is the Iran of today – with a new Haman – but still threatening Jews.

Somewhere in the Talmud I'm sure it says; the more things change, the more they stay the same. If it doesn't, it should.

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

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ISRAEL INSIGHTS Terrorism vs Judicial Reform

By Howard Weisband

These have been very difficult days in Israel.

Terrorism again strikes just before Shabbat, tragically taking the lives of two young brothers, badly injuring their father, and killing a recently married young man.

Simultaneously, sadness and anger invaded the warm and loving atmosphere of the Shabbat day.

Motzei Shabbat, Saturday night following the end of Shabbat, tens perhaps hundreds of thousands of Israelis across the political spectrum again gathered in Tel Aviv, in Jerusalem, and elsewhere to demonstrate – not against terrorism – but against their own Government and its proposed legislation already in its beginning stages for judicial reform and other proposed pieces of far legislation.

On February 13 a national demonstration took place in Jerusalem, with some 300,000 people from the city itself and thousands travelling to the capital via cars, buses and trains. Not against the terrorism that so recently has occurred seemingly unabated within the city, but against the Government, all largely protesting judicial reform.

The terrorism has not been ignored. Security forces, including the police and the IDF, have increased their counter operations, making arrests and eliminating many of those terrorists who have been responsible for the attacks. Police presence in Jerusalem has been substantially increased.

So what's happened? After all, this is a new Israeli Government, again led by Israel's longest-serving, veteran Prime Minister, but this time with a number of younger, far right, first-time members of his coalition, including several rookie ministers and Knesset committee chairmen. They came with an agenda, and they are energetically pushing it forward post-haste.

They were all democratically elected, but now, suddenly, they are getting a democratic push-back from the Israeli population at-large and from some of the very same people who voted for them.

Economic voices and business leaders in Israel have warned the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister (one of those rookie ministers from a far right party) that the strong Israeli economy could be severely, negatively affected. Money and investments they say are already being moved out of Israel due to fear of a soon-to-be unstable overall situation within the Government and the business environment.

And significantly, the very popular and capable President of Israel addressed the nation and the Government. He asked the Knesset to slow down the judicial reform, in order to address the multiplicity of issues in a rational, national discussion that will include member of the opposition parties and legal experts. At the time of this writing, that process is being considered with an initial meeting announced to be held at the

President's House with his involvement.

Diplomatically, strong voices from abroad – from the U.S. and elsewhere – are saying "slow down, reconsider what you're doing, make sure that you have a consensus, you may be threatening a balance of power in governance and ultimately even democracy in Israel."

Experienced political commentators and veteran journalists are concerned that this situation may represent the most significant constitutional challenge and crisis in the almost 75-year history of the modern State of Israel... which ironically to-date does not have a constitution! There is however a set of Basic Laws approved over the years by the Knesset, which one day may be utilized to form a constitution for the country.

What we are witnessing, those commentators and journalists tell us, is an unprecedented grab for power by a small group of far right politicians who are attempting to weaken the Supreme Court and the entire judicial system, so that the Knesset, the legislative branch, has full power and control via the ability to select members of the court and override their decisions.

Their power is based upon the Prime Minister's need to have them in the coalition or his Government will fall... even though those few people, democratically elected, represent only 11% of the voting public!

I've described in prior columns how

the voting public has been pushed to the right resulting from the failure of Oslo, Intifada, Hizbullah and Hamas, rocket attacks, terrorism and Iran. They voted in a right-wing Government to handle such matters more aggressively. They did not necessarily vote for the legislative package that has been unrolled.

Yes, there is a need for qualitative judicial reform, everyone agrees, but rationally so, and not to the extent proposed that it shifts Israel away from proper checks and balances within the system.

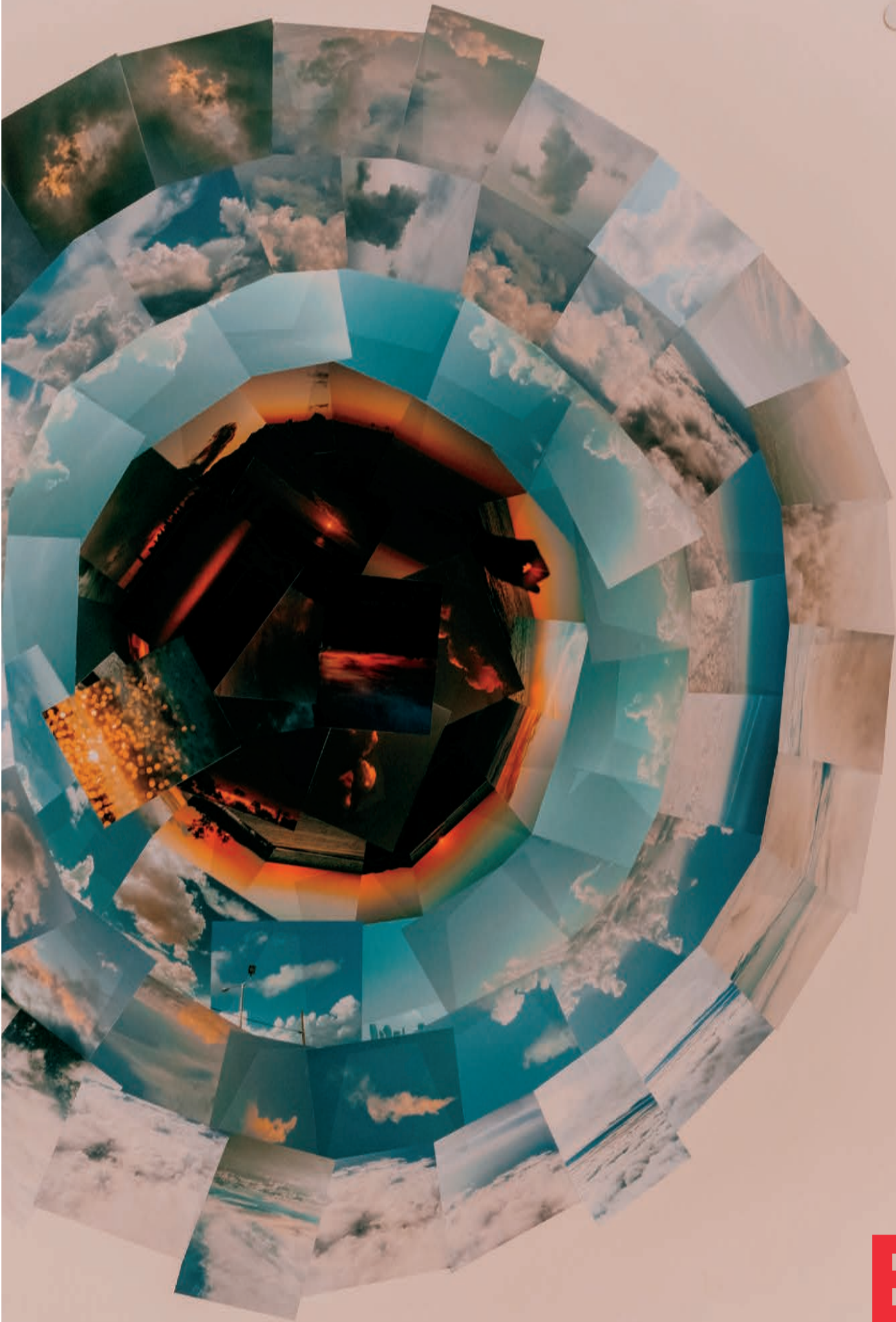
I have neither the space here nor the necessary expertise to properly explain the proposed legislation or the possible options for necessary judicial reform. I highly recommend to the reader, if you have not done so already, that you type "judicial reform in Israel" in Google or another search engine, to read learned articles, listen to podcasts or watch webinars with legal experts and politicians across the spectrum.

Then decide for yourself.

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

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