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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 21 ELUL, 5783 SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 VOL. 101, NO. 50

Bornblum Faculty Explores their Professional Passions this Summer



Director of Curriculum and Enrichment Jill Cross poses with her leadership cohort at Harvard University

Summer of 2023 will go down as a record setting year for summer professional learning at Bornblum Jewish Community School. Faculty of the local community day school fanned out all over the United States (and a few other countries) to learn new and exciting content and pedagogy.

“We are so impressed by the dedication and curiosity of our Bornblum faculty. Giving up part of their summer vacation to grow as educators by learning from experts in the field is a true sign

of the level of dedication our teachers have to becoming the best, most dynamic professionals in their field,” says Jill Cross, Bornblum’s director of Curriculum and Instruction.

The faculty traveled far and wide to gather new information and innovative teaching techniques. Cindy VanGunda, Michal Almalem and Stephanie Osher joined the Civic Spirit Educator’s Cohort at the New York Historical Society in New York City, where they learned how to imbue the curriculum with Civ-

ic pride and knowledge. According to Rabbi Charles E. Savenor, executive director of Civic Spirit, “With so much at stake currently in the United States, Civic Spirit seeks to transform civic education in day schools to inform what it means to be an informed, engaged, and responsible citizen in America today.”

Bornblum Enrichment and Support Teacher Amy Goldkin attended a four-week Science workshop held by Citizens Science that featured two weeks in Belize and two weeks in Orlando. “Being a researcher for the summer in Belize was an amazing opportunity for me as a teacher. Learning the science, working with the children, interviewing villagers and even flying drones pushed me outside my comfort zone and expanded my knowledge,” said Goldkin.

History and social studies were on the summer PD menu for longtime Bornblum Middle teacher Deanna McAlexander, who explored her love of American History with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History-Colonial America as well as a seminar entitled Teaching with Primary Sources at The University of Memphis. The four-day, 22-hour seminar included 12 one-hour pre-recorded lectures along with four hours of other viewing, reading, and written sharing in discussion groups. The program also included two hours per day of Q&A with Dr. Alan Taylor

from the University of Virginia, followed by sessions on creating lessons and application strategies.

Bornblum Jewish Studies faculty also participated in high-level professional development. Rabbi Akiva Weisinger kicked off a two-year course of study, attending the Rabbi Sacks Torah V’Chochmah program and Lookstein Center’s Virtual Bootcamp on Facilitating Student-Centered Learning of Jewish Texts. Jewish Studies Principal Michal Almalem travelled to the Belfer National Conference for Educators at the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. According to Rabbi Weisinger, “It was a valuable opportunity not just for the learning opportunities, but the opportunity to discuss common challenges and brainstorm strategies with other educators.”

Some teachers participated in online seminars. Stephanie Osher participated in the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute with Colonial Williamsburg, and Samantha Schmidt attended the Smithsonian’s National Education Summit. Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers also participated in online training for the school’s reading/language arts curriculum, Wit and Wisdom.

Finally, members of the school’s leadership team attended advanced seminars

(See Bornblum Page 2)

Man Who Killed 3 Black Shoppers in Jacksonville Carried a Swastika-Decorated Gun



People walk past the Jacksonville, Florida, Dollar General store where three people were shot and killed the day before, on Aug. 27, 2023. Credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – The man who killed three Black shoppers at a Florida Dollar General last Saturday carried a gun that had a swastika on it, according to police in Jacksonville.

The shooter, who died by suicide inside the store, left behind multiple manifestos spelling out his hatred for Black people, officials said, adding to a string of racist attacks on minority groups in

the United States. The manifestos have not been made public.

The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the shooting as “a hate crime and an act of racially motivated violent extremism,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement last Sunday.

Jacksonville officials said they had not found any evidence thus far that the shooter, Ryan Christopher Palmeter, 21, was part of an organized hate group. But advocates say the presence of the Nazi insignia, coupled with the racist manifestos, offer yet another example of how hate ideologies threaten people of many backgrounds.

“From Charlottesville to Pittsburgh to Poway to El Paso to Buffalo, we’re witnessing a cycle of white supremacist violence – fueled by increasingly normalized conspiracy theories and hate promoted directly by politicians and pundits and enabled by social media,” Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said in a statement last Saturday, naming the

locations of mass shootings by white supremacists.

“And it’s sadly no surprise that this racist shooter marked his gun with swastikas: because antisemitism, anti-Black racism, and white supremacy are inextricably linked, animating and fueling each other in a constant feedback loop – with deadly consequences for our communities and our democracy,” Spitalnick added.

The Jacksonville area has emerged as a hub of extremism, with multiple white supremacist and other hate groups active in the area, according to the Anti-Defamation League. The leader of the antisemitic propaganda group Goyim Defense League said he was drawn to the Jacksonville area shortly before he moved from California to Florida last year. In October, the Goyim Defense League used a light projection to display the text “Kanye is right about the Jews,” a catchphrase used by hate groups, at a

(See Jacksonville Page 3)

Bornblum...
(Continued From Page 1)



Bornblum teachers Michal Almalem, Stephanie Osher and Cindy VanGunda show off their civic pride at the New York Historical Society.

that will enhance their leadership for Bornblum. Middle School Coordinator Charna Schubert attended a seminar entitled The Responsive Classroom, and Jill Cross attended the week-long Legacy Heritage Foundation seminar at Harvard University entitled Achieving Excellence through Leadership. Finally, Head of School Dr. Daniel R. Weiss attended the JNF-USA’s Summer Educators Mission to Israel.

According to Dr. Weiss, “My trip to Israel was intense and full of learning with colleagues from around the country. From my conversations with our faculty, I know that they too had similarly inspiring experiences. Kudos to Jill Cross, our director of Curriculum and Instruction, who made professional development for our teachers this summer not only possible, but a priority. She helped each teacher find a PD experience that not only interested them, but which would benefit all of the students at Bornblum.”

Bornblum faculty and leadership will



Enrichment and Support Teacher Amy Goldkin learns about the use of drones to teach science.

continue their professional learning journeys throughout the school year, and the school plans for many of them to travel the country and the world to find professional learning opportunities that match their passions next summer. **HW**

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
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Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Office Manager & Subscriptions

Rebecca Miller Schudel
Social Media Director
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. September 8, 2023 / 22 Elul, 57836:59 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. September 9, 2023 / 23 Elul, 5783 7:53 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Nitzavim-Vayelech

Amid Strike, Mayim Bialik Steps
Down as Host of 'Celebrity
Jeopardy!'

(JNS) – This Jewish actress won’t
host Season 2 of “Celebrity Jeopardy!”
in solidarity with striking Hollywood
unions of writers and actors.

Who is ... Mayim Bialik?

Known for playing Amy Farrah Fowl-
er on “The Big Bang Theory” and the
title character in the 1990s show “Blos-
som,” the 47-year-old Jewish mother
of two has publicly supported several

causes, including education, non-vacci-
nation and veganism.

Her decision to step down as host of
the second season of “Celebrity Jeopardy!”
supports the strikes of the Writers
Guild of America and the Screen Actors
Guild (SAG)-American Federation of
Television and Radio Artists.

“Our words are on the screen every
night,” one of the show’s writers told
“Variety.” “There is no ‘Jeopardy’ with-
out writers. Without us, it’s just an emp-
ty blue screen.”

ABC announced that Ken Jennings
will host in Bialik’s stead.

Earlier this year, Hadassah, The
Women’s Zionist Organization of Amer-
ica named Bialik one of 18 U.S. Zionist
women to know. **HW**



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Jacksonville...
(Continued From Page 1)

Jacksonville football game attended by 75,000 people.

The Dollar General shooting took place on the five-year anniversary of a fatal shooting at a video game convention in Jacksonville, and officials said the shooter’s manifestos indicated an awareness of the date. (The perpetrator in that case, which was not treated as a hate crime, was a Jewish man from Baltimore.)

It also comes 15 months after a shooter who subscribed to “replacement theory,” or the belief that minorities are usurping white Americans in a plot masterminded by Jews, killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store. The theory has united white supremacists across borders in their hatred of Jews and immigrants and inspired multiple attacks, including the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in which

11 Jews were murdered; the 2019 attack on a New Zealand mosque that killed 51; and the 2019 massacre at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart that targeted Hispanic immigrants.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis visited the scene of the Jacksonville shooting last Sunday, where his remarks were briefly interrupted by booing before a local councilwoman silenced the crowd.

DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate, has loosened gun laws in Florida and has also sought to constrain instruction about race and racism in public schools.

“We are not going to let people be targeted based on their race,” DeSantis said. “We are going to stand up and we are going to do what we need to do to make sure that evil does not triumph in the state of Florida.” **HW**

Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League Resuming

The Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League will resume on September 18.

The league continues to bowl at the Cordova Bowling Center where the league was initiated. Bowling is 4 – 5 p.m. on Mondays.

The league started in 1999 by David and Jane (obm) Ross to provide a sport that athletes with intellectual disabilities can participate in. Bowling was picked due to their daughter, Julie’s, love for bowling; and there was not an official bowling league for these athletes.

This also gives the athletes an oppor-

tunity to socialize with other athletes, gives parents a relief during this period and gives an opportunity for both adults and students to volunteer.

Teams have 3 or 4 athletes and are grouped by their skill level. No matter their level, everyone has fun.

If you know of any athletes that may be interested in bowling, any family member can contact David at davidross5147@gmail.com or Rose Ross at rosebross@gmail.com And if you would like to volunteer to help cheer these athletes on you also can contact David or Rose. **HW**

Mikvah Discovered in Basement of Former Strip Club in Poland

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – Before the Holocaust, the population of the town of Chmielnik, Poland, was around 80% Jewish. Sephardic Jews, having been expelled from Spain during the Inquisition, settled in Chmielnik and eventually built a synagogue in 1638.

After the war, only four Jews remained. Today, the building houses a museum of the town’s Jewish life and history.

Now another Jewish heritage site has been discovered, in an unlikely place.

A few years ago, Marian Zwolski,

a businessman from Chmielnik, purchased a former nightclub that has been closed for 15 years. When he opened the door to the basement of his new property, he discovered something unexpected: a mikvah, or Jewish ritual bath.

The bath’s blue and white floor tiles are still there, as are Stars of David on the wall. A smaller mikvah, likely used by women, is in a neighboring room.

“It’s astonishing,” said Meir Bulka, who advocates for the preservation of Jewish heritage in Poland, in an interview with “Haaretz.” “You enter the

basement, and you’re in another world. It’s like a time capsule.”

Just up the stairs from the mikvah – which is full of water – are remnants of the former Sphinx club: a Heineken sign, a pole for strippers, decorations of ancient Egypt and plenty of mold and leaks, according to the “Haaretz” report.

Zwolski, who also operates a funeral home in nearby Kielce – the site of a 1946 pogrom that killed 42 Jews – told “Haaretz” he is hoping to turn his new mikvah into a tourist attraction, possibly a museum.

“I was born and raised here, so I care about the history of the place. I don’t want it to disappear,” Zwolski says. “I encourage the people to remember the past and I also call on you, the Jews, to preserve it and see to it that it is memorialized.” **HW**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As the parent of a former MHA student, it was gratifying to read your front-page article of 8/10 detailing how all the various entities and individuals in charge of our security came together to keep an awful thing from happening on 7/31. But before we tell them “Kol ha Kavod” or spit three times while muttering “kyne eyin hara,” regarding their successful measures in securing our buildings, we need to realize that there’s not much to be done about the outside areas (parking lots, etc.). Have we forgot that on 4/13/2014, three beautiful people were gunned down, the first two, William Corporon and his 14-year-old grandson, Reat Underwood, at the JCC of Greater Kansas City in Overland Park, Kan., while still in their vehicle, and the third, Terri LaManno, outside of Village Shalom, a short distance away, where she’d gone to visit her elderly mother? Reat was the son of the cousin of Yvette Manassis Corporon. Some of us may remember Yvette’s appearance at our own JCC where she spoke on the dual subjects of her incredible book: “Something Beautiful Happened.” One of the subjects, of course, was the aforementioned tragedy that had befallen her family by the loss of Reat and William. The other followed her search for the descendants of a Jewish family from the island of Corfu (yes, the Durrells’ Corfu), which was hidden from the Nazis during WW II by her grandmother on the island of Erikousa.

It’s not my intention to take anything away from the relief and gratitude we feel that evil didn’t triumph on what could have been a horrible day last month, but I feel we owe it to William, Reat and Terri to breathe a sigh of relief whenever we physically make it into one of our Jewish Institutions, while commemorating their too-short lives, and celebrating our heroes, both local and distant, like Yvette Manassis Corporon’s grandmother.

~ Alice Zalon

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This Prominent Greek Neo-Nazi is Running for Mayor of Athens – from Jail



Then-Golden Dawn lawmaker Ilias Kasidiaris speaks during a rally against the construction of a mosque in central Athens, Sept. 5, 2018. Credit: Panayotis Tzamaros/NurPhoto/Getty Images

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – Ilias Kasidiaris has been in a Greek prison since 2021 for his involvement with the far-right Golden Dawn party. The group disbanded after several members were convicted of running a criminal organization linked to hate crimes. But that hasn’t stopped Kasidiaris, who has a swastika tattoo, from running to be mayor of Athens. Last Monday, the center-left PASOK alliance of parties submitted a proposal that would bar convicted criminals such as Kasidiaris from running in elections.

According to Greek news site “eKathimerini,” it is unclear if the ruling government will accept the proposal. According to reports, Kasidiaris has remained a popular figure with his follower behind bars, regularly using a cell phone and posting to social media. “He’s even been given the opportunity to conduct radio shows from his cell and has been very effective in using social media to rally support among the young,” the head of a group that studies far-right movements told the “Guardian” in April.

Jewish Heavy-Metal Band Frontman Halts Concert to Comfort Crying Girl



David Draiman of the band Disturbed. Credit: Chris James Ryan Photography/shutterstock

(JNS) – Throughout the band Disturbed’s Aug. 3 show in West Palm Beach, Fla., Sophia stood in the front row with her parents, singing along to the performance by the dark group, known for booming anthems like “Down with the Sickness.” The band leader David Draiman, 50, a Jewish musician and strong defender of Israel, invited the girl to join him on stage, according to news reports, but the invitation scared Sophia, who began to cry.

Draiman paused the performance and descended from the stage to address the girl. “It’s OK. I didn’t mean to scare you. You OK? You promise?” he said, in an exchange captured on video and shared online. The girl nodded. “Oh, darling, you’re making me feel terrible now,” he added. He told the audience that he loved that the band’s concerts are a “family affair.” Draiman also told the girl that he is proud of her, that she is awesome. He asked her name, and when she told him, he told the audience: “Everyone say hello to Sophia.” He also asked for her parents’ names. “Everyone say hello to Rita and Arthur,” he added. “This little girl has been singing her heart out the entire show,” he told the audience. “She knows so many of the songs.” HW

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ראש השנה

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Erev Shabbat, September 15, 6:50 p.m.

Rabbi's drash “Words vs Sticks and Stones”

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Shabbat, September 16, 9:00 a.m. Torah Svc 9:45 a.m.

Rabbi's drash 10:15 a.m. “Aliyah? Role of Jews in the Diaspora”

Member Sponsored Congregational Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. Torah Svc 9:45 a.m.

Rabbi's drash “Second Day Blues” 10:15 a.m.

Member Sponsored Congregational Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Tashlich after services

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YOM KIPPUR

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Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre –Sunday, September 24, 6:30 p.m.

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“The State of the Shul” – Or Chadash President, Sandy Fenton

Yom Kippur, Monday, September 25, 8:30 a.m. Torah Svc 9:30 a.m.

Rabbi's drash “The Deep Philosophy of Calvin and Hobbes” 10:15 a.m. followed by Yizkor

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Raising a Toast to Gaslight Wine & Spirits’ Kosher Selection



Gaslight’s wide selection of kosher wines

By Shoshana Cenker

L’chaim, cheers, salute, skål to the local store that’s stocking a fantastic selection of kosher wines and hard alcohol. Gaslight Wine & Spirits, at 4177 Summer Avenue, has been the Frulla’s family business for 50 years, which Anthony Frulla recently inherited.

“When I first arrived at Gaslight Wine & Spirits after my brother’s death, I was trying to think of ways to add to the store’s services and offerings to the community, as we begin our 50th year as a family-owned business,” Anthony explained. “I noticed that we already offered kosher wines, but I wanted to expand our selections. As a lifelong practicing Catholic and a 100% Italian, I have always felt a kinship to the Jewish faith and community because of similarities in religious rituals, traditions, and family cultural celebrations. With the help of my Jewish manager, Brian Haeberle, and my nephew, Jeremy Frulla, we are working to grow our kosher and mevushal wine selections, as well as kosher liquor items, to help make each and every Jewish holiday and celebration as special as possible.”

Without missing a beat, manager Brian got to work extensively researching the kashrus process as well as specific wines, hard liquors, and the various kosher certification agencies and symbols. He had a head start having just been asked to choose some kosher beverages for a local family’s event.

“It’s important to Anthony that we embrace Memphians’ kosher needs, because we truly care about our community and customers,” said Brian, a Level II Sommelier. “I even brought a mezuzah in and hung it on the door frame of the store. We wanted to make this store an environment where everyone is welcome, where our Jewish customers feel like they’re part of our family. Anthony loves to meet and welcome our Jewish clientele and find out what they want and what’s seriously lacking in the city, so we can provide it.”

And provide it they have. Gaslight recently supplied all the kosher wine and alcohol for Jewish Community Partners and Memphis Jewish Federation’s Israel at 75 birthday celebration, as well as for events at the Memphis Jewish Community Center and Temple Israel’s Brotherhood, and it has accounts with Temple Israel and the Chabad House of Memphis.

The staff at Gaslight wants folks to know that the Summer Ave. location shouldn’t worry anyone. The area “isn’t shady like it was years ago – it’s definitely been evolving,” noted Brian. In addition to the clean, well-stocked, open-designed store with its excellent kosher selection, what sets Gaslight apart from

other alcohol stores is definitely its friendly and knowledgeable staff, all of whom are focused on customer service, which I noticed immediately upon entering the well-lit, large establishment.

“We believe it’s important to really listen to our customers’ needs, so we can guide them to the best choices,” Brian said, which I saw firsthand during my visit. “We want our customers to feel like family, so that’s how we treat them.”

Brian and his skilled team are working on expanding the already generous section of kosher offerings to include ciders, plus new tequilas and scotches, and additional kosher for Passover options. There’s a lengthy blue booklet hanging by the kosher alcohol that lists all the available brands and which hechsher (endorsement from a kosher certification agency) each has – think Star K and OU, along with several others.

The Gaslight team is also continuing to learn about kashrus, which was evident when I was introduced to the lovely Andi, who’s one of the kosher experts. “My passion is learning; I embrace learning about other cultures,” she said in her calming tone, adding the fun fact that “65% of women choose wine based on the label.”

Part of the kosher expansion could involve Heaven Hill, a huge independent family-owned award-winning global alcohol business best known for its

bourbon. Brian had a chance encounter at a hotel with Max Shapira – the enterprise’s former president, who just became its executive chairman.

Brian struck up a conversation with Max, which included a discussion about Passover alcohol and orphan barrels. Hopefully, Brian’s polite fanboying will pay off with new Passover selections at some point. “Anthony and I are both excited about the possibility,” said Brian, whose drink of choice now is wine with a meal, though his first love was beer.

I also met Tom and Will, both incredibly educated about kashrus, and spirits in general. The team members truly are experts, not just employees ringing people up at the register. I know this because Brian gave them a fun kosher pop quiz, which they effortlessly passed. Then Brian proceeded to share, in impressive detail, the often-confusing topic of mevushal wine.

“Our team really understands and wants to learn about the kosher aspect,” said Brian, who previously worked in hotel bar in Eilat, Israel. “We all really just want to support our Jewish and kosher customers; it’s a great feeling.”

Whether you need just a couple options for your Shabbos or Rosh Hashana



A well-stocked selection of kosher spirits

table or large quantities for events, Gaslight Wine & Spirits has plenty of choices in the store and can also place special orders, if needed. With new state laws prohibiting some out-of-state online companies from shipping to Tennessee and our lackluster kosher selection around town, perhaps Gaslight will be pouring all our future glasses. Bottom’s up! **HW**



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From the Kitchen of Seth Feibelman

A Family-Inspired Rosh Hashana Feast

Matzah Ball Soup (Serves 4-6 ppl)

My throat cancer has progressed to the point that I cannot eat most foods. I have trouble with bread because it sticks to the back of my throat. When I chew, my jaw feels like I have gone a few rounds in the ring with Rocky Balboa. However, Matzo Ball soup is the exception. It is the medicine that keeps me going. Food for the soul. My grandmother’s home remedy.

- 4 quarts chicken stock or broth
- 1 cup matzo meal
- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp granulated garlic
- 1 tsp granulated onion
- 1 tsp pepper

I prefer my matzo balls to be light and airy like they are falling apart. Not too big and not too small. About the size of a spoon. In order to accomplish this, you must not over roll your balls. I use a small teaspoon to scoop up a little of the dough. Then use my fingertips to lightly make it round. If I try and roll it into a ball or work it with my fingers too long, the ball comes out dense and hard in the



middle. If you want bigger matzo balls than portion the dough with a small ice cream scoop. Make sure you do not

press the dough firmly with the scoop or the balls will be dense.

In a small mixing bowl whisk eggs and oil until well blended. In a medium mixing bowl, combine matzo meal, salt, granulated garlic, onion, and pepper. Mix the eggs and oil in the dry ingredients. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes. Bring chicken stock to a slow boil. Gently form matzo meal into balls and drop in chicken stock. Do not overwork the matzo meal. The more you work the balls, the denser the balls will be, and they will not be light and fluffy. Once all the balls are in the stock, cover and let simmer for at least 30 minutes. Serve immediately or store in a container and refrigerate for up to 7 days.

Apple Noodle Kugel



- 8 oz medium egg noodles cooked and strained
- 2/3 cup melted butter
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups cottage cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups granny smith apples peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Topping**
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups corn flakes lightly crushed
- 1/4 lb butter softened

Whisk eggs, sugar, salt, and sour cream. Stir in cottage cheese noodles, raisins, apples, and melted butter. Gently stir until well blended. Transfer to a lightly greased 9x13 casserole dish.

For the topping, mix all of the ingredients together and cover the top of the casserole evenly.

Bake casserole at 350 for one hour uncovered. If the crumble of top begins to get too dark, loosely cover with foil. Let the casserole rest for 1/2 an hour before serving.



word on it!

Sauté the onions with the butter in a pan on medium heat. When the onions are translucent, mix in a bowl with the cream of mushroom soup, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, salt, and hot sauce. Add green bean and stir gently. Layer the green beans in a casserole dish with the cheese and onions. You should have enough to make at least 2 sets of layers green beans, cheese, onions, green beans, cheese, onions. On the last layer leave off the cheese and onions. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 for 20 minutes. Then add the cheese and onions for the last 10 minutes. **HW**

Sweet Rosh Hashana Brisket

It is a tradition in my family to eat brisket during the High Holidays. I always remember the smell of the beef roasting in my grandmother’s house. As the tradition has been passed down, so has the recipe. This is a recipe my grandmother liked to serve us during Rosh Hashana to symbolize the sweetness of the new year.

- 1 large brisket
- 2 onions sliced
- 2 fuji apples sliced
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 3/4 c brown sugar
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 cup water
- Salt & Pepper as needed

Coat the Brisket with salt and pepper. Combine the remaining ingredients in the bottom of a large roasting pan. Place the seasoned brisket in the roasting pan with the fat side up. Cook brisket in an oven set to 425 degrees for 30 minutes. This will brown the outside of the meat and heat up the liquid in the bottom of the roasting pan. After 30 minutes, turn the temperature of the oven down to 225 and cook for 45 minutes per pound. For



example, if the brisket weighs 10 lbs., you will cook it for 7.5 hours. Remove from oven and let brisket rest for at least an hour before slicing. Slice the brisket against the grain so the meat will be tender and juicy.

Green Bean Casserole

- 4 cans green beans strained
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp Soy Sauce
- 1/4 c butter
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/4 tsp hot sauce
- 2 cups shredded cheddar
- 1 can French fried onions

I was eight years old when I learned this recipe from my grandmother. She did not make it often but after she showed me how to make it, I was hooked. I began making it every holiday. It was so popular; I began making it during the week as a meal to itself. My wife tells people that the reason she married me was her love of my green bean casserole and mashed potatoes.

Unfortunately, when I prepared this recipe for the article, I could not eat it after the first bite. I could not swallow the green beans and onions due to the consistency and the spices from the sauces did not agree with my sensitive tastes. My family assured me it was delicious as always and I will take their

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Critics Say Princeton Again Advances Claim Israel Harvests Palestinian Organs



McCosh 50, the largest lecture hall on campus, renovated in 2021. Credit: Politics Is Exciting via Wikimedia Commons.

By Menachem Wecker

(JNS) – A 2017 book that is part of a sample reading list for an upcoming Princeton University humanities course has drawn charges of antisemitic blood libels. It also raises broad questions about academic freedom and what kinds of scholarship are appropriate for classroom study.

The controversy surrounds “The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability,” by Jasbir Puar, a professor of women’s and gender studies and director of the graduate program in women’s and gender studies at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Duke University Press, which published the book, refers to it as a “pathbreaking” study of disability, which draws “on a stunning array of theoretical and methodological frameworks.”

“Puar’s analysis culminates in an interrogation of Israel’s policies toward Palestine, in which she outlines how Israel brings Palestinians into biopolitical being by designating them available for

injury,” the press states. “Supplementing its right to kill with what Puar calls the right to maim, the Israeli state relies on liberal frameworks of disability to obscure and enable the mass debilitation of Palestinian bodies.”

With Edward Said’s 1978 work “Orientalism” and others, the book is listed on a “sample reading list” for the Princeton course “The Healing Humanities: Decolonizing Trauma Studies from the Global South,” taught by Satyel Larson, assistant professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton. The course is listed as an offering in fall 2023-24.

“Re-orienting healing as a decolonizing process enables students to re-politicize personal trauma as it intersects with global legacies of violence, war, racism, slavery, patriarchy, colonialism, orientalism, homophobia, ableism, capitalism, and extractivism,” per a description of the course on the Princeton site. “The course participates in a new project to help illuminate how the humanities it-

self can offer new paths to understanding trauma and healing.”

Arsen Ostrovsky, CEO of the International Legal Forum, shared a letter with JNS that he penned to Christopher Ludwig Eisgruber, president of Princeton, and Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, chair of the university’s Near Eastern studies department.

“The book in question contains a number of very serious and defamatory accusations, primarily that the Israel Defense Forces is harvesting the organs of Palestinians, including by ‘shooting to maim, rather than to kill,’ in order to create a ‘mass debilitation of Palestinian bodies,’” Ostrovsky wrote. “This charge is not only demonstrably false, but a modern-day antisemitic blood libel.”

He told JNS that the forum was “requesting that the book be removed, not as part of a debate about the limits of free speech on campus, but because of its lack of educational value and potential for incitement to racial hatred and violence against the Jewish community by the use of age-old antisemitic blood libels.”

‘Students shortchanged by virulently anti-Israel syllabi’

Ostrovsky told JNS that he has read parts of the book that relate to Israel and has reviewed comments from the publisher and author, as well as external reviews.

“There are circumstances where, depending on context, it is appropriate to teach antisemitic material, provided there is an educational or scholarly component to it,” he told JNS. “In this case, we do not believe there was any such educational merit to it, for reasons explained in the letter.”

In the letter, Ostrovsky noted that Princeton hosted a lecture in February by Mohammed El-Kurd, “a notorious Jerusalem-based Palestinian activist, whom the Anti-Defamation League has called an ‘unvarnished, vicious’ antisemite, and who himself has also sick-

eningly accused Israelis of harvesting and eating the organs of Palestinians.”

Duke University Press, Princeton University and the author of the book did not respond to queries from JNS. An email to the professor teaching the Princeton course returned an automatic response: “Thank you for your email. Please expect a response to non-urgent matters within 1-2 business days. Thanks for your patience.”

Rutgers confirmed to JNS the book author’s current employment at the university but declined to comment on the charges that her work is antisemitic.

“Every semester, on campuses across the United States, students are shortchanged by their biased, one-sided and virulently anti-Israel syllabi that present materials uncritically,” wrote Miriam Elman, executive director of the Academic Engagement Network, on X (formerly Twitter).

“The proposed (now vetted and approved) course isn’t focused on Israel, but is reportedly an anthropology course with cross-national case studies on ‘decolonizing trauma,’” she wrote. “To be clear, faculty have the academic freedom to teach course material in their area of expertise as they see fit. They get to choose and select topics, readings. But they don’t have a right to be free of criticism, and this Princeton syllabus deserves to be critiqued!”

“The instructor is apparently still junior faculty, not yet tenured. She is learning, needs mentoring,” Elman added. “Senior faculty and curriculum vetting committees could help here with syllabi recommendations.”

“Welcome to one of America’s top educational institutions, Princeton ... where they teach that ‘Israel harvests Palestinian organs,’” wrote Adam Milstein, who co-founded an eponymous family foundation. “No, it’s not a joke. This blood libel is actually on the syllabus for a humanities course this coming year.” **HW**

Tennessee Court Rules Couple has the Right to Sue State after Foster Care Agency Denied Them Services Because They are Jewish

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A Jewish couple has grounds to sue the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services after a state-funded adoption and foster care agency denied them services because they are Jewish, a Tennessee appeals court ruled last Thursday.

The decision is the latest development in a long-running battle that began in 2021, when Elizabeth and Gabriel Rutan-Ram turned to the Holston United Methodist Home for Children in Greenville, Tennessee, for foster parent training. The couple hoped to foster, and later adopt, a child.

According to a lawsuit the couple filed last year, the agency declined to work with them because they were Jewish. A Tennessee state law passed in 2020 allows adoption agencies not to place children in homes that violate the agencies’ “religious or moral convictions or policies.”

The couple was open about being Jewish, with Gabriel Rutan-Ram telling the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last year that “They would have seen the mezuzah on the door” as well as a painting of the Western Wall in the house.

The lawsuit, which the Rutan-Rams filed with the support of Americans United for Separation of Church and

State, takes aim at the law, which was principally intended to exempt agencies from working with same-sex couples. But later last year, a three-judge panel dismissed their claims on technical grounds, as the Rutan-Rams have received state support in fostering a teenage girl, whom they are introducing to Jewish life.

Last Thursday’s ruling reverses that decision, with another three-judge panel ruling that the couple has the right to sue as prospective foster parents and as taxpayers, lacking access to the same services available to Christians. Joining the Rutan-Rams in their lawsuit were six other Tennessee taxpayers, four of them faith leaders, who objected to their tax dollars being used to fund religious discrimination in foster care.

The lawsuit itself will now be considered by a trial court in the state.

“Liz and Gabe Rutan-Ram suffered outrageous discrimination because they are Jewish,” Rachel Laser, president and CEO of Americans United said in a statement. “This loving couple wanted to help a child in need, only to be told that they couldn’t get services from a taxpayer-funded agency because they’re the wrong religion.” **HW**

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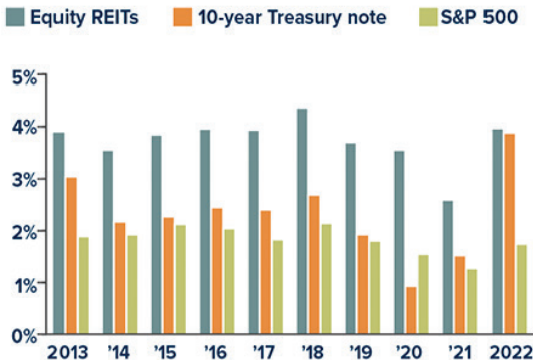
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Real estate investment trusts (REITs) can offer a consistent income stream that is typically higher than Treasury yields and other stock dividends (see chart). A qualified REIT must pay at least 90% of its taxable income each year as shareholder dividends, and unlike many companies, REITs generally do not retain earnings, which is why they provide higher dividend yields than most other stock investments. You can buy shares in individual REITs, just as you might buy shares in any publicly traded company, or you can invest through mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Share Price Volatility
While REITs may offer solid dividends, share prices tend to be volatile and are especially sensitive to rising interest rates. The most common type of REIT is an equity REIT, which uses capital from a large number of investors to buy and manage residential, commercial, and industrial income properties. These REITs derive most of their income from rents and may be directly affected by rising rates, because companies often depend on debt to acquire rent-producing properties – and higher rates can push real estate values downward. Also, as interest rates rise, REIT dividends may appear less appealing to investors relative to the stability of

bonds offering similar yields.
Considering these factors, it's not surprising that equity REIT shares struggled in 2022 – declining 25% in total returns – as the Federal Reserve raised rates to combat inflation. However, REITs soared in 2021, returning 41%, and may be poised for better performance in 2023 and beyond, as interest rates settle. In Q1 2023, REIT fundamentals such as funds from operation and net operating income were solid, and occupancy rates for industrial and retail properties surpassed pre-pandemic levels. (Apartment occupancy was down slightly, and office occupancy was still about 5% lower than before the pandemic.)¹
Diversification and Asset Allocation
Along with providing income, REITs can be a helpful tool to increase diversification and broaden asset allocation, because REIT shares do not always follow the movements of stocks or bonds. Over the 10-year period ending in 2022, equity REITs had a correlation of 72% with the S&P 500 and 50% with the corporate and government bond market. The correlation was even lower over 30 years.² As this suggests, REITs are in some respects a unique asset class. Diversification and asset allocation are methods used to help manage investment risk; they do not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.

Consistent Yields
Over the last decade, equity REITs maintained dividend yields that were higher than yields on the 10-year Treasury note and dividend yields on stocks in the S&P 500.



Sources: National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, 2023 (Equity REITs); Federal Reserve, 2023 (10-year Treasury note); S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P 500). The S&P 500 Index 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 security. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary. U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. The principal value of Treasury securities fluctuates with market conditions. If not held to maturity, they could be worth more or less than the original amount paid.

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1–2) National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, 2023
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michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com
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Haredi Man Charged with Seducing Women Using Secular Identity on Dating Sites

(JNS) – The Israel Police last week released the name and photograph of Rabbi Yosef Paryzer, who took to dating sites under the alias “Jack Segal,” a supposed secular Jew looking for a serious relationship, in order to initiate sexual relations with multiple women.

Jerusalem District detectives arrested Paryzer, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi in his 30s, on Aug. 23 for creating a false identity and making false promises to trick women into sex.

At the time of his arrest, the police had the testimony of five women. Since then more than 30 women have come forward claiming to have been his victims. The special fraud unit has now collected testimony from 18 women.

The women say he identified himself online as Jack Segal and established relationships with them, some lasting months. He told them that he was looking for a long-term relationship and marriage.

Paryzer is married with children.

One of the first women to submit a complaint about Paryzer told Israel’s “Channel 12,” speaking under the pseudonym “Kinneret:” “We were together for five months, during which he got to know my family and joined me at a family event. When I became a little more interested in his personal life, I got a bad feeling in my gut.”

She sensed something was wrong when he withheld personal details. “I never saw his home but I didn’t push for it at first because I didn’t want to be that pushy girl. When I offered to talk to his mom, it never worked out. We never shopped together on Fridays. I told him, ‘I feel you are hiding something from me.’

“In one of our conversations, I even laughed and asked: ‘When I’m not here on Shabbat, do your wife and children take care of you?’ And he answered me: ‘I can barely manage with one. Do you think I can with two?’

“I suffered a lot from the breakup and a month later we talked and he made promises to me from here to Thailand – that he would work on himself and become the person I deserve. He played with my emotions. He got to know my family, connected with my father, made promises from the bottom of his heart,” she said.

“I told him that I feel that God created me to be a mother, and he answered me, ‘And I will take care of it.’ Why make false promises that you know for sure that you will not be able to keep? These manipulations have hurt many women,” Kinneret said.

The police have asked women who fell victim to Paryzer to report it as soon as possible to their local police station. [HW](#)

Shellfish Dumped on UC Berkeley’s Jewish Fraternity House on First Shabbat of Semester

By Emma Goss

(J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA) – Local police are investigating after a Jewish fraternity at the University of California, Berkeley, reported finding hundreds of shellfish dumped across its property.

The shellfish were also thrown through a window at Berkeley’s chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, in what the fraternity is calling “an act of antisemitism vandalism.”

“We go outside, we saw crayfish had been thrown all over our deck, all over the side driveway, through the windows into someone’s room and scattered all around the backyard,” said Jadon Gershon-Friedberg, a Berkeley senior and the AEPi chapter president, who lives in the fraternity house. A fraternity brother had noticed a half-dozen people with a bucket approach the house just before 1 a.m., he said.

Gershon-Friedberg and other fraternity brothers immediately checked around neighboring fraternity houses to see whether shellfish had been dumped on their property too. They believe theirs was the only target.

“We realized this is more than just a prank,” Gershon-Friedberg said.

Given that the perpetrators used shell-

fish, a food forbidden under the laws of keeping kosher, and that they targeted the Jewish fraternity on the first Shabbat of the school year, AEPi considers the incident to be antisemitic, according to a statement released last Sunday. “This incident was undoubtedly deliberate, aimed at intimidating our chapter,” AEPi’s statement said.

The vandalism comes two weeks after AEPi’s national office launched a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. Under the partnership, the fraternity’s umbrella organization will hire a staffer to train members across its 150 chapters to respond to antisemitism and advocate for Israel. AEPi was founded more than a century ago after Jews were excluded from a New York University fraternity, and in a statement, AEPi CEO Rob Derdiger said chapter members are “on the front lines of this battle on college campuses.”

After the shellfish were discovered, Gershon-Friedberg called 911 and said officers arrived at the house quickly. He said he filed police reports with both the city and campus police departments and hopes they will investigate the vandalism as a hate crime. The Berkeley Police

Department confirmed that the incident is under investigation, but didn’t specify whether it’s being investigated as a hate crime. Campus police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

When the sun rose on Saturday, Gershon-Friedberg saw the full extent of the mess, which left a strong, fishy odor in and around the house.

“We found claws by the side of the house and by the door. We found a fish tail and head in someone’s room,” he said. “It was absolutely disgusting.”

AEPi’s national office paid for a cleaning crew to clear away the shellfish and pressure-wash the deck that morning.

Gershon-Friedberg and Jon Pierce, a former AEPi International president who now serves as the fraternity’s spokesperson, both said the fraternity plans to use the incident to help Berkeley students understand what antisemitism looks like and how to ensure the safety of Jews on campus and more broadly.

“Maybe this is a crime of ignorance as much as a crime of hate,” Pierce said.

Gershon-Friedberg also sent a letter to the school’s administration detailing what happened.

“We are saddened and dismayed by

what appears to be a hateful incident of antisemitism targeting the members of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity,” Dan Mogulof, a UC Berkeley spokesperson, said in a statement.

“The campus administration has a long-standing and unwavering commitment to confronting antisemitism, and its expression, as we do with all forms of bias, discrimination, and hatred,” Mogulof added. In response to the incident, UC Berkeley’s vice chancellors of equity and inclusion and of student affairs are offering their support to fraternity members and other Jews on campus, Mogulof said.

“An investigation is underway,” he said, “and we will, as always, ensure there are appropriate consequences if laws, campus policies, and/or the Student Code of Conduct are found to have been violated.”

There are 20 students who live at the AEPi house, and 25 students total in the chapter. The fraternity has eight students who keep kosher, according to Gershon-Friedberg.

“Everyone is still a little shaken up,” Gershon-Friedberg said. “This is our home.” **HW**

Please check out Jewish Scene Magazine and The Hebrew Watchman on Facebook • Instagram • JewishSceneMagazine.com • HebrewWatchman.com

Illinois Governor Vetoes Bill for Kosher-Meal Options in State Schools, Hospitals



Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker speaking at the World Economic Forum in February 2023. Source: YouTube via Wikimedia Commons.

By Bradley Martin

(JNS) – Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker drew criticism from Jewish groups recently when he vetoed a bill that would have required the state’s public schools and hospitals to offer upon request kosher, halal and other religion-based dietary options.

State and federal prisons are required, per the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, to offer such dietary accommodations to inmates. But no such federal law applies to state schools and hospitals. The bill, IL HB3643, which the billionaire Jewish democrat vetoed on Aug. 11, was introduced on Feb. 17 and had drawn 33 sponsors.

On May 27, the bill amended the state’s school code to add that each school district had to provide “religious dietary food options, including, but not limited to, halal and kosher food options” during school lunch programs.

“A school district is required to comply with this subsection only if the State Board of Education is able to secure a statewide education master contract and provide a religious dietary food option to the school district pursuant to subsection,” the bill stated.

It added that state hospitals also had to provide religious food options.

And it specified that “kosher” refers to food “supervised, prepared under and maintained in strict compliance with the laws and customs of the Jewish religion, including, but not limited to, the laws and customs of shechita requiring the slaughter of animals according to appropriate Jewish law, and in compliance with the strictest standards of Jewish law as expressed by reliable, recognized Jewish entities and Jewish rabbis.”

The bill passed in the state House 93-14 on March 22 on a third reading. The text about kosher food was added on

May 17. It passed 39-19 on a third reading in the state Senate on May 18 and passed 63-34, with 10 “other” votes, in a state House concurrence on May 25.

“There were legitimate concerns”

In a letter to the Illinois General Assembly, Pritzker wrote that he vetoed the bill because local school districts, rather than the state education board, “have the expertise and understanding of local needs required to enter into food-service contracts.”

“Districts are already responsible for all their food service contracts and will continue to have the capability to enter into contracts with meal vendors based on the unique cultural needs of the students and their communities,” he wrote.

JNS asked both the governor’s office and the state education board if the governor would take responsibility, having vetoed the bill, if a local school district opted not to provide kosher, halal or other faith-based dietary options to students. Neither responded to that question.

Olivia Kuncio, senior deputy press secretary for the governor, told JNS that it was impossible for the governor to work with the bill given the way it was written.

“Because the language concerning the master contract was entwined throughout the bill, an amendatory veto wasn’t possible,” Kuncio said. “We’re glad that this issue was raised and hope that the General Assembly will continue to work on legislation to address any issues in this process.”

Despite Pritzker vetoing a bill that would give students access to meals

that fit their religious values, Kuncio claimed that the governor is committed “to ensuring all Illinois students have access to meals that fulfill their dietary and religious needs through individual contracts districts have entered into.” She added that Pritzker will keep supporting the state education board in local contract efforts.

Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, director of government affairs at Agudath Israel of Illinois, told JNS that the governor should have worked with the bill.

“We were disappointed that the governor vetoed the entire bill. Although there were legitimate concerns, we were committed to working with the Illinois State Board of Education on additional legislation to address those concerns,” he said.

Those “legitimate concerns” center on the master contract for vendors, which the bill called for and which was “not something school districts were opposed to,” according to Soroka. He believes it is a “fair question” to ask why Pritzker did not choose to use an amendatory veto instead of vetoing the entire bill.

Amy Zimmerman, assistant vice president of state government affairs at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago, said her organization hopes that more legislative work can be done to protect students’ religious needs.

“We are disappointed the bill was vetoed and hope that a compromise solution can be found ...” Zimmerman told JNS.

Soroka told JNS that the ability to get kosher food is an “important need.” **HW**

How Adam Sandler’s ‘You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah’ Drew on Real-Life Jewish Celebrations



Adam Sandler’s daughters Sunny and Sadie Sandler star in “You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah.” Credit: Scott Yamano/Netflix

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – To prepare for their role in creating Adam Sandler’s latest movie, crew members hit the Toronto bar and bat mitzvah circuit.

Production designer Perry Blake and set decorator Julia Altschul, guided by a local consultant on the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, crashed 10 parties within a matter of weeks.

“We saw how amazing and big and outlandish and extravagant they were,” Blake told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “With a movie, you usually set your sights high – bigger than the real world. But that was like, wow, the real world is really amazing.”

The team borrowed several features from the events they attended, from 30-foot-wide videos honoring the bar and bat mitzvah celebrants to costly DJs to fanciful lighting displays. All of those led to the lavish sets in “You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah,” which hit Netflix last Friday.

One circus-themed party inspired the dazzling Carnivale-themed bar mitzvah that opens the film.

“We actually hired one of the people who was working at this circus bar mitzvah to be in our movie,” said Alt-

schul. “She was a stilt walker and she had different outfits. So at the circus bar mitzvah she was a bearded lady and then at ours, she was this really amazing, flamboyant butterfly girl.”

The world of extravagant, euphoric and angst-charged parties for 13-year-olds is the setting of Sandler’s new comedy, a coming-of-age drama that is also an onscreen vehicle for his real-life Jewish family. Sandler plays the befuddled, uncool dad Danny Friedman to Stacy and Ronnie Friedman, portrayed by his real-life daughters, Sunny and Sadie Sandler, while his wife, Jackie Sandler, has a smaller role as the mother of Stacy’s best friend, Lydia.

The friendship between Stacy and Lydia makes up the backbone of the film, which is based on Fiona Rosenbloom’s 2005 book of the same name. The two girls start out planning their dream bat mitzvah parties together, but a rift over Hebrew school stud Andy Goldfarb (Dylan Hoffman) threatens to destroy both their friendship and their Jewish rites of passage.

Sandler has previously appeared in movies with Jewish themes, including the comedy “You Don’t Mess With the

Zohan,” about a legendary Israeli soldier, and acclaimed dramas “The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)” and “Uncut Gems.” (The Jewish actress Idina Menzel starred opposite Sandler in “Uncut Gems,” about the diamond business, and again plays his character’s wife in the new film.)

But none has portrayed a centerpiece of Jewish family life so thoroughly, and so earnestly. “You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah” shows Stacy practicing her Torah portion; agonizing over her “mitzvah project,” a service initiative that many congregations encourage; and meeting with her hipster, often-on-the-treadmill rabbi, played by comedian Sarah Sherman. (The movie, directed by Sammi Cohen and written by Allison Peck, filmed in part at a real Toronto Conservative synagogue, Beth Tzedec.)

For Stacy, Lydia and their friends, the point of the milestone is the party. The movie explores the intense pressure that families, especially in affluent communities, can face to throw the best-ever bash. Bar and bat mitzvah parties in the United States can cost between \$10,000 and \$40,000, or upwards of \$100,000 for families in New York City and Los Angeles, according to The Bash, an event-planning platform – though the price tag can easily rise higher for families that choose pricey venues and entertainment. One 2015 celebration in New Jersey that featured teen idol Nick Jonas reportedly topped \$1 million.

Sandler’s character battles back against the pressure. After Stacy demands a private yacht on the Hudson River and pop star Olivia Rodrigo on a jet ski, her father responds: “When I got bar mitzvahed, we had a party in Grandma’s basement. We all split this giant matzo ball. That was the fun. You know what the theme was? Being Jewish!”

One coming-of-age party in particular fueled the crew’s imagination: star Sunny Sandler’s real-life bat mitzvah, which took place in Los Angeles just a few months before the film started shooting. Blake attended the ceremony and the celebration along with Cohen and Peck.

“That was Adam Sandler’s daughter, so it was pretty over-the-top, too,” said Blake.

The event was notable not only for its famous attendees, including Jennifer Aniston, a close family friend, and Jewish director Judd Apatow, who is Sandler’s former roommate. Like the fictional party at the climax of the film, Sunny Sandler’s bat mitzvah was Candyland-themed. Blake took photos of its impressive candy buffet and pink-and-purple color scheme, which directly inspired the movie set.

The crew worked with Heather Glowinsky, the proprietor of Rockpaper Events in Toronto, to sample other glitzy celebrations. But though the crew had fun building elaborate party scenes, they said they also sought to convey the significance of a ritual that unites Jewish families.

“The coolest thing was just seeing that it’s so much about family,” Blake said. “Just seeing the old grandma table with one kid there, or the parents all hanging out and they just know each other, and all the kids know each other from going to Hebrew school.”

Altschul, who has a Jewish father but did not have a bat mitzvah celebration herself, said the bar-and-bat-mitzvah-crashing season made her rethink her own connection to Jewish tradition.

“I realized how much I know about being Jewish,” she said. “I really didn’t consider myself so Jewish, and then I realized that my grandma and my dad had actually instilled so many things in me. So that was a nice discovery.” **HW**

Samaria Leader Presents Plan to Boost Jewish Population



Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan poses for a picture in the Evyatar outpost in Samaria, June 22, 2023. Credit: Flash90.

(JNS) – The Samaria Regional Council, which administers communities in the northern part of Samaria, has unveiled a plan that seeks to increase the number of Jewish residents living in the area from barely 50,000 to over one million, claiming the initiative would “strengthen Zionism” and solve Israel’s housing crisis.

The “Samaria to a Million” proposal, which was first shared last Wednesday in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had been in the making for over a year with the backing of “hundreds” of local leaders, said

Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan.

The initiative suggests building new cities and expanding existing communities, while connecting the remote region to central and northern Israel by trains and highways. The plan also proposes the construction of a new hospital in Samaria, as well as industrial zones.

A new city of 133,000, named Shamir, would be established in the vicinity of Rosh Ha’ayin, near the security fence, in addition to the planned town of Ta’anakh, which would absorb another 30,000 Israelis. Notably, the entire proj-

ect would be built on lands that are legally designated as state (public) lands.

Last Wednesday, Dagan called on the Netanyahu government to officially adopt his organization’s plan as a way to resolve what he described as a “national crisis of overcrowding in the center of the country.”

“The plan is based on the assumption that Samaria is the key to resolving [the housing crisis],” the Samaria Regional Council said in a press release, adding: “We are speaking of millions of desolate dunams and the only reserve of state land near the center [of Israel], around 20 kilometers from Tel Aviv.”

The Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem had no comment on the council’s proposal.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who also oversees civilian issues in Judea and Samaria as a minister in the Defense Ministry, intends to present a broader development plan for Judea and Samaria at this week’s Cabinet meeting.

The move comes during a wave of deadly Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis in Judea and Samaria, including the murder of a kindergarten teacher near Hebron last Monday and the murders of a father and son in Hwara last Saturday.

Smotrich’s two-year program to expand development in Judea and Samaria is projected to cost around 700 million shekels (\$186.1 million), and according to estimates that figure could rise to 1

Yossi Dagan called on PM Netanyahu to adopt his plan as a way to resolve the “national crisis of overcrowding in the center of the country.”

billion shekels (\$265.9 million).

Smotrich is reportedly seeking to encourage demographic growth in more remote parts of Judea and Samaria by earmarking over 100 million shekels (\$26.6 million) for northern Samaria, the Hebron Hills, Kiryat Arba and the areas around the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley.

The Jewish population in Judea and Samaria has surpassed half a million people, according to a report published earlier this year. There were 502,991 Jews living in Judea and Samaria as of Jan. 1, according to the document, which culled data from Israel’s Interior Ministry.

The 500,000-plus Jews living beyond the 1967 Green Line account for some 12% of all Jews in Israel. The natural growth of the Jewish population in Judea and Samaria is expected to exceed 600,000 by 2030, 700,000 by 2035 and one million by 2047, the report added. **HW**

September Senior Monthly Luncheon at the MJCC



Candace Mache

On September 27 at noon, the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Adult Club Monthly Senior Luncheon in coordination with the Memphis Jewish Federation’s Scheidt-Hohenberg Kosher Hot Meals Program at the MJCC will hold its Sep-

tember Monthly Luncheon, featuring songstress Candace Mache and accompanist provided by Creative Aging. Steeped in classic blues and jazz, Candace Mache has the sultriness of Peggy Lee and the soul of Nina Simone. Candace is equally at home in an intimate New York nightclub or setting the tempo for the Swing dance set in New Orleans. Make plans to experience her dynamic and soulful approach to classic American songs. The luncheon also features a terrific hot lunch from the kitchens of the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost, as always, is only \$5.00 for the lunch and the entertainment. Reservations are required and can be made by calling or emailing Steve Kaplan, Adult Services coordinator at the MJCC. His direct number is 901-259-9220 or email him at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. One can also call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to make a reservation. Please join us for this nice event! **HW**

Engineers Inspect Western Wall Ahead of High Holidays



Engineers check the integrity and clean the stones of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Aug. 29, 2023. Credit: The Western Wall Heritage Foundation.

By Pesach Benson

(JNS) – As Jews prepare for the High Holidays, engineers last Tuesday began getting the holy site ready for the thousands of visitors expected there. The engineers, working for the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, which administers the site’s daily affairs, examined the structural integrity of the Wall, removing loose stones and seasonal plants. The inspection is performed twice a year, ahead of Rosh Hashanah and Passover, for the safety of visitors and to maintain the wall’s structural integrity. The work is done under the supervision of the Rabbi of the Western Wall and the Holy Places Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz and in accordance with religious law. In July 2018, a boulder weighing 100 kilograms (220 pounds) became dislodged from the wall and fell, just missing a 79-year-old woman praying there. According to the foundation, more than half a million people visited the Western Wall during Passover in April. Rosh Hashanah, which kicks off the High Holidays, begins this year at sunset on Sept. 15. During the inspections, workers also clean the Wall and remove the thousands of notes written to God that visitors place between the stones.

The practice stems from Jewish teachings that God’s presence never left the Western Wall and that prayers ascend to heaven through the adjoining Temple Mount. People unable to visit can write notes on the foundation’s website that are placed in the Wall by staff. Notes removed by workers are buried. The Western Wall, once known as the Wailing Wall, is a remnant of a retaining wall encircling the Temple Mount built by Herod the Great and is the holiest site where Jews can freely pray. The Temple Mount, where the First and Second Temples stood, is the holiest site in Judaism. For centuries, Jews did not visit the Temple Mount because foreign occupiers would not let them and because of a rabbinic consensus that laws of ritual purity preclude it. But since the unification of Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War, a growing number of rabbis have argued that ritual purity laws don’t apply to all sections of the Temple Mount and encourage visits to permitted areas to maintain Jewish connections to the Mount. More than 2,000 Jews visited the Temple Mount during the initial days of Passover this year before security officials restricted access to the holy site. **HW**

Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall by Daniel Levin at the MJCC August 5 – September 27



Credit: Daniel Levi

The 2023-2024 Markell Family Cultural Arts Series at the Memphis Jewish Community Center opens with an artist talk featuring Daniel Levin, photographer and author of “Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall.” The artist talk on Sunday, September 10 at 2 p.m., will give attendees an opportunity to hear Levin talk about his current gallery show and book by the same name, which features photographs and stories of violins restored by Amnon Weinstein, renowned Israeli luthier (violin maker). Levin is the first photographer to depict Weinstein’s workshop in Tel Aviv, his one-of-a-kind collection of violins that survived the Holocaust, and his artful process for restoring them. This interactive gallery show features QR codes linked to audio files, allowing viewers to hear stories about each piece in Levin’s voice. According to Sophie Samuels, MJCC

Cultural Arts director, “This interactive exhibit allows us to reflect on the Holocaust from a unique perspective. Thinking about the people who played these violins and their stories is thought-provoking and powerful.” “Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall” is on display in the Shainberg Art Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) through Wednesday, September 27. Both the show and the author talk are free and open to everyone. Contact Sophie Samuels, Program Director of Cultural Arts and Adult Services for questions at 901-259-9230 or atssamuels@jccmemphis.org. Programs in the 2023-2024 Markell Family Cultural Arts Series at the MJCC are sponsored by Arts Memphis, Jewish Book Council, Jewish Community Partners, Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South, Novel, and Tennessee Arts Commission. **HW**

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Attorneys

Michael D. Kaplan
Neil Harkavy
Jason D. Salomon
Jason M. Goldstein
Derek Whitlock
Laura Kessler Mason
Hillary Weiss Samuels
Jeremiah McGuire
Sorrelle Dattel

Senior Counsel

Teresa M. Bernhardt

Of Counsel

Laurie A. Cooper
Steve R. Graber
Alan L. Kosten

Ronald M. Harkavy (Retired)
Raymond Shainberg (1930-2018)
Allen Dunstan (1948-2017)

HARKAVY SHAINBERG KAPLAN PLC

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Shana Tova!

שנה טובה

Join us for Rosh Hashanah!

Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, Sept. 15	6:30pm	Ma'ariv
Rosh Hashanah First Day Saturday, Sept. 16	8:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am	Shacharit Service Tot Family Service (with adults) Kulanu Service/Youth Program (K-6) Teen Program
Rosh Hashanah Second Day Sunday, Sept. 17	8:30am 10:00am 10:00am 4:30pm	Shacharit Service Tot Family Service (with adults) Kulanu Family Service (with adults) Tashlich



All are welcome.
Registration required.

Babysitting available.
Registration deadline: Sept. 11 at 5pm.

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