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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Hillels of Memphis Welcomes New Students and New Advisory Co-Chairs



Audrey Siskind, Hillel Advisory Council Co-Chair

Sophie Bloch, Hillels of Memphis director, is a bundle of excitement and energy. As she explains, "I always look forward to the start of the academic year. I enjoy meeting new Jewish students and reconnecting with students already in Hillel. It's one of the best parts of my job."



Daniel Snyder, Hillel Advisory Council Co-Chair

As the new academic year begins at Rhodes College and University of Memphis, Ms. Bloch, along with Hillel members and lay leaders, is working to ensure incoming Jewish freshmen connect with a Jewish community eager to know them and to make them part of Jewish life on campus.

Hillels of Memphis hosted a Rhodes College welcome reception on Friday, August 18 at The Peabody Hotel. The reception was well attended and Hillels and Rhodes leaders were on hand to answer questions, provide support and register new Hillel members.

To welcome University of Memphis incoming Jewish freshmen, a reception was held on Sunday, August 27 at the Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center.

While new Jewish students are welcomed to Hillel, Ms. Bloch and Hillel lay leaders are welcoming new Advisory Council Co-chairs Audrey Siskind and Daniel Snyder. This year marks a change for the Hillels of Memphis Advisory Council, as the Rhodes College and University of Memphis merge their two Councils into one.

As Ms. Bloch explained, "This new Advisory Council, led by Ms. Siskind and Mr. Synder, will reflect the unity of the larger Hillel brand and community. We are so grateful to have Audrey and Daniel as our leaders while we build an Advisory Council that can optimally serve the needs of our two Hillels."

The Hillels of Memphis Advisory Council provides Hillel students with professional expertise, diverse knowledge of constituent perspectives and connections to local, national and international resources.

Audrey Robbins Siskind, Advisory Council co-chair, has a long history of Jewish community involvement, both personally and professionally. Ms. Siskind worked at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) and the Jewish Federation of Nashville and served as president of ASBEE Sisterhood. In addition to serving as Advisory Council co-chair, Ms. Siskind is also a member of Federation's Community Relations Council and the Yom Hashoah and 2nd and 3rd generation survivor committees.

When asked about her new role as co-chair, Ms. Siskind said, "I do my best to practice *tikkun olam* – to make the world a better place for my children and generations of children to come. It's

(See Hillel Page 2)

Bornblum Jewish Community School Introduces Jewish Studies Partnership with Temple Israel



Morah Maya Sharabi teaching Hebrew language at Bornblum.

Bornblum Jewish Community School teacher Maya Sharabi is leading a new initiative to bring her skills and spirit to the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center (BKL ELC) at Temple Israel. Sharabi, who has been teaching Jewish studies and Hebrew language at Bornblum for more than 20 years, brings a wealth of experience and energy to inspire students at Temple Israel with the Hebrew language and all things Jewish.

According to Sharabi, "This offers a fantastic chance to connect these two learning communities and establish another link between Temple Israel and Bornblum."

Sarah Keith, director of the BKL ELC at Temple Israel agrees. "We are so lucky that we had to look no further than around the corner for an outstanding Hebrew educator. We feel incredibly

grateful to Bornblum for allowing this partnership to work, as we know it will be critical for our Hebrew programming," she said.

Sharabi will teach Hebrew and Jewish studies to Temple's Pre-K and Jr. K students, along with Reut Va'anunu, a teacher at Temple whose children are BKL ELC alumni and now go to Bornblum.

According to Senior Rabbi Micah Greenstein, "The dynamic Israeli duo,

 $(See\ \textbf{Partnership}\ Page\ 2)$



Maya Sharabi leads a Hebrew lesson with one of the Junior Kindergarten classes at Temple Israel's Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center.

Hillel...

(Continued From Page 1)



Mandy Cassius, Noah Freidman, Karleigh Ring, Rhodes College Hillel members



Jose Garcia, Associate Director of Admission for Diversity and Access, Rhodes College

an honor to support Hillels of Memphis and to mentor Hillel members and actively develop local Jewish leaders."

Daniel Snyder is also serving as Advisory Council co-chair and has extensive experience with local Jewish youth and the greater Memphis Jewish community. Mr. Snyder was co-founder and president of the Mississippi State University Hillel in 2011 and has tutored Bar Mitzvah students, coached soccer at MJCC and taught Sunday School at Temple Israel. Along with serving as Advisory Council co-chair, Mr. Snyder is also a Board member for Jewish Community Partners and for the Temple Israel Brotherhood.

As co-chair, Mr. Snyder wants to help students practice community building and leadership development in a safe



Chaplain Beatrix Weil, Rhodes College

and supportive environment. As he explained, "These experiences will help foster and mold future Jewish communal leaders in Memphis, Israel and around the world."

Hillels of Memphis is a program of Memphis Jewish Federation. For more information, email sophiebloch@hillelsofmemphis.org or call 901-452-2453.

The mission of Memphis Jewish Federation is to develop a vibrant and sustained Jewish community in Memphis, Israel, and throughout the world. Federation helps nourish Jewish life through community grants, programs for the Memphis Jewish community and by supporting Jews in Israel and throughout the world. **HW**

Hebrew Watchman

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. September 1, 2023 / 15 Elul, 57837:08 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. September 2, 2023 / 16 Elul, 5783 8:04 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Ki Tavo

Partnership...

(Continued From Page 1)

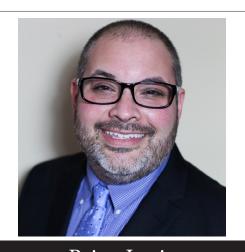
that is how I would describe Maya Sharabi and Reut Va'Anunu. Morah Sharabi is already loved by our weekly Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School students. Her addition to the Hebrew team in our flagship synagogue preschool will strengthen our already solid Pre-K and Jr. K programs. Parents, as well as all our Temple Israel BKL ELC students, will be the beneficiaries of this amazing Bornblum Hebrew teacher!"

The new partnership between Bornblum and the BKL ELC arose from conversations between BKL ELC Director Sarah Keith and Bornblum's Director of Admissions and Parent Engagement, Danielle Zelig, along with Bornblum's Head of School, Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D.

Dr. Weiss viewed the idea as a natural extension of the existing partnership between Bornblum and Temple Israel. "Bornblum has a deep roster of talented Hebrew and Judaic Studies Teachers like Morah Sharabi. We knew immediately that the connection she could make with these young minds would impact their Jewish education for years to come," he said.

Having seen Morah Sharabi teach for the last few weeks, Keith knows that Sharabi, "is a bright light who is so passionate about education. We know she will be a crucial piece of our team as we work together to help our youngest community members discover their Jewish identity and begin their journey at Temple Israel as part of the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center."

For Sharabi, "Teaching Hebrew and Judaic studies at Temple is an honor." When asked about her feeling about the opportunity, she said, "I am excited to be a part of their Jewish education journey. Witnessing students develop a passion for Judaism from a young age brings me great joy. I hope the Temple students take the values they learn with them into the larger community and enjoy the benefits of learning a second language as they grow." HW



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Starting September 4, The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club has some terrific programs planned. The regular programs start at 12:15pm.

Monday, September 4

The senior lunchroom will be closed for Labor Day! Have a great holiday!

Wednesday, September 6

Watch videos of the Great Comedy Teams of the past! Abbott and Costello, Burns and Allen, Martin and Lewis, and others! Come Laugh with us!

Monday, September 11

Watch a video remembering 9/11/2001. This is a day that most will remember exactly where they were when they first heard what was happening. Reservations are not needed for this important memorial video.

Wednesday September 13

Hear from Rabbi Shmuel Fromowitz, Rosh Kollel of the Memphis Kollel. His topic is "The Call of the Shofar!" Come enjoy this informative talk, right before the High

Please join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2.00 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m.

Reserve your spot by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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Baron Hirsch to Open Holiday Season with Kumsitz & Selichot

The tone will be set for an inspirational month when Baron Hirsch opens the holiday season with a Kumsitz on Saturday evening, September 9 at 10 p.m. The kumsitz will take place in the Tabernacle room, where Rabbi Ian Lichter, Cantor Ricky Kampf and Youth Director Eitan Selter, accompanied by musical instruments, will together lead the participants in songs taken from the holiday liturgy.

"Singing is such an important part of Baron Hirsch services," noted Cantor Kampf. "Coming together through song and music will be an inspirational and meaningful way to start off the high holiday season."

Following the Kumsitz, everyone is

invited to the Belz Sanctuary for Selichot services, which will begin at 10:45 p.m. The earlier hour for selichot allows more people to attend this important service. Cantor Kampf will lead the service, accompanied by the Baron Hirsch Choir. Refreshments will be served after Selichot. There is no charge for this event, and the entire community is invited.

The night of Selichot begins a very active holiday season at Baron Hirsch, which will include tefilla, new children's programs, and a host of holiday events and meals. The community is invited to spend any part of the holidays at Baron Hirsch and to call the synagogue office at 901-683-7485 for more information. HW

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Farmers Market **Boots Pepper** Vendor for Spicing Social Media with **Antisemitism**

(JNS) – There's peppercorn, and then there's pepper scorn.

Justin Bale, who owns a business in Olathe, Kan., that grows more than 100 kinds of peppers and tomatoes, in addition to seasonings and hot sauces, has been kicked out of an Overland Park, Kan., farmers market for shocking antisemitic postings.

The owner of PepperCave, identified as a "Christian family business," even offered customers a discount code of "GasThejews," the "Kansas City Star" reported. Bale also posted social-media messages denying the Holocaust and calling for the extermination of the Jewish people.

A spokeswoman for the city of Overland Park said that Bale was "suspended indefinitely" from the farmers market.

Undeterred, Bale doubled down after being booted out. He posted on social media that he now has "much more time to dedicate to online sales and we can switch the chip recipe to lard!" (It wasn't clear if that was a reference that was intended to call attention to something non-kosher.)

"Remember to save 14.88% on all orders with code: GasThejews," he wrote. "My name is Justin Bale. I live in Olathe, KS. I fear no jew!"

The discount was apparently a reference to the neo-Nazi 1488 code that the Anti-Defamation League called "a combination of two popular white supremacist numeric symbols." HW

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Diverse Candidates Run for City Council District 5 Race

Local High Schooler Luke Hatler Enters District 5 City Council Race

By Shoshana Cenker

An ambitious high school student has thrown his hat in the ring for a City Council seat in District 5. Luke Hatler is a senior at White Station High School. When not focusing on his important school studies, he works for Mempops – and has always been interested in politics.

"For as long as I can remember being politically conscious, the city has been run in the interests of the wealthy and developers, as average and disadvantaged Memphians get left behind," Luke explained. "I believe that if we continue to elect middle-aged professionals-turned-politicians to our local government, as we have for the past few decades, nothing will change."

Taking a look at the challenges facing Memphis and its residents, Luke's homed in on one main critical issue: housing.

"I believe a lack of affordable housing is the root of most of the issues that our city faces, especially crime and property," he added. "I would push for the Memphis Housing Authority to be fully funded, so it can begin developing affordable housing projects so all of our people can afford the shelter they should have a right to."

According to Luke, who's clearly driven and motivated, it's not all challenges and struggles in the Bluff City. He's eyeing the many positive possibilities that could come to fruition in the 901 by focusing on specific groups of Memphians. And he believes a changing of the guard in local government is the key.

"The city government must always prioritize the needs of its most vulnerable people and never the interests of the wealthy donor class and the developers," he said. "We have so much potential in Memphis, but we need to start looking out for our poorest and disadvantaged before we can realize this potential, and electing more of the same is not how we're going to do that."

Luke's election run is giving him a head start on his future plans, which include studying law.

Find Luke online at:

facebook.com/lukeformemphis and Instagram @lukeformemphis.

The District 5 council seat is currently held by Councilman Worth Morgan, who can't seek reelection due to term limits. The Memphis City Council election is Oct. 5, 2023. **HW**

DEADLINE FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAY AT 5PM WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR STORIES IN ADVANCE.

Native Memphian Philip Spinosa Jr. Runs for City Council Again

By Shoshana Cenker

Another entry into the City Council District 5 election comes with some local government experience. Philip Spinosa Jr. decided to run for city council because "Memphis is at a tipping point and crime is out of control," he explained. "I simply cannot stand on the sidelines knowing that I could win this race and help get our city back on the right track, while serving others from the City Council. My family and I refuse to give up on my hometown; we love this city. While having the privilege of serving on the council once before, I understand the impact local government can have, either improving or disabling a city's potential. In the past, I have a track record of bringing people together, in a respectful manner, to improve ineffective policy. That's exactly what I plan to do if elected."

Philip, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration – insurance from the University of Mississippi, served part of his previous city council term he was elected to in 2015, representing Super District 9. He resigned when he was "recruited by Phil Trenary to join him at the Greater Memphis Chamber," as Phil's senior vice president. "I was so excited to help our city grow, have Phil as my mentor, and to be able to support my family," Philip said, "by dedicating my full-time professional life to the City of Memphis."

Just over a year later, Philip then decided to start his own business. The boutique freight brokerage/logistics company just celebrated its four-year anniversary earlier this year. "I am humbled to work alongside our people in

our office and with our customers every day," he noted. "I am also thankful to be headquartered right here in Memphis."

While there are several opportunities to make positive changes in the city, Philip sees two main areas in need of attention: crime and economic development.

"Addressing crime and supporting our police is the most urgent need for our community at this time," Philip said. "We must do everything we can to recruit, retain, and train the best police officers in the country to be right here, right now, in Memphis. If we don't address the criminal element and make sure our citizens are safe immediately, our city will continue to lose our tax base through our population leaving. My top priority from a budget standpoint is to address crime and do whatever it takes (nothing is off the table) to fully fund our police force and ensure long-term budget stability."

Philip believes creating economic opportunities for all of Memphis' citizens is also paramount.

"If we are not taking care of our current employers, prospective employers, and doing all we can to help our workforce acquire skills they need to be employed," he said, "then we are doing a disservice to all of our people and stunting our growth."

In his former professional life, Philip spent 15+ years at FedEx, with his final years there within FedEx Services in an executive leadership position.

For more information on Philip's candidacy: philipspinosa.com

The Memphis City Council election is Oct. 5, 2023. **HW**

Meggan Wurzburg Kiel Runs for Memphis City Council, District 5



By Shoshana Cenker

A local member of the Jewish community has her sights set on public service. Meggan Wurzburg Kiel is running for Memphis City Council, District 5.

After graduating from Duke University with degrees in Political Science and French, Meggan started her career in Boston at the international headquarters of Facing History and Ourselves. She then earned her master's in education from UMass-Boston, as a member of the first cohort of the Boston Teacher Residency. "But my goal was always to return home to Memphis, where I wanted to raise my children and make a deep impact on the city I love," she said. "My husband, Daniel, and I moved back in 2005, right before our first child, Sadie, was born."

Over the next 10 years, Meggan worked in education throughout Memphis: Facing History and Ourselves, Rhodes College, Memphis PREP Program (now REACH Memphis), and The Soulsville Charter School.

"These experiences helped me build a vision for the city, as I designed and implemented exceptional opportunities for Memphians," Meggan explained. "The way I went about building the [Souls-ville] department is how I confront all leadership challenges I face: listen to stakeholders, research best practices nationally, build consensus, and move forward with transparency and accountability."

Next, Meggan volunteered on the founding board of the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAH), a new org her lifelong congregation, Temple Israel, was involved with. MICAH connects people from faith communities to decision-makers in local policy.

"I began to attend City Council, County Commission, and school board meetings; I learned about the budgets and watched how our local government functioned (or 'dysfunctioned')," Meggan said of MICAH, which she was hired to work for three years later, training members of MICAH's congregations how to advocate for important issues. "MICAH leaders coming together with environmental leaders, bus riders, and the business community to advocate for investment in public transit showed me what it could look like for everyday residents to be at the table advocating for what is important to them. This advocacy led to a first-time public transit investment from the County and increased investment from the City."

All of Meggan's work has led her to run for City Council. She's also relying on her faith as guidance. "There is a midrash (Bereshit Rabbah 39:1) that shares the story of Abraham coming across a burning palace," Meggan shared. "Abraham asks G-d, 'Where are you? Can you not do something?' And G-d replies, 'I am here, where are

you?' I feel those words deeply in this moment. Our world is certainly on fire; Memphis is on fire. ... I feel called to serve my City in this moment."

Something Memphians might not be aware of is that the City Council is a nonpartisan body, confronting different issues than national partisan ones. "We must address our community's safety, infrastructure, and economic development. These are not partisan issues," she explained. "They are human issues that affect all of us, each and every day, and require leaders who will listen closely to residents, bring together the stakeholders, and then work diligently to move Memphis forward."

Meggan believes she can usher in positive change with accessible, communicative, and thoughtful leadership, noting several complex problems Memphis faces, including community safety and economic opportunity.

"Communities that have begun to make progress in these areas are showing that partnerships between multiple agencies – including the police, other government entities, and community organizations of multiple sizes – are critical to partnering intervention and prevention," she said. "We must both respond to current levels of crime and also address prevention efforts for Memphis to become a city where we can all live, work, and raise our children in safety."

She adds that improving literacy, public transit to jobs, and affordable housing can help alleviate long-term poverty and reduce violence. Those efforts, along with hospital- and school-based interventions and robust re-entry supports, can reduce violent crime, as proven in other cities that have adopted those comprehensive strategies. Investments in areas that impact safety also build up Memphis' ability to attract and maintain major employers and prepare workers for the jobs our city needs to grow and thrive.

Meggan believes that with proper leadership, listening, partnerships, and collaboration, the city can be transformed.

"While some may choose to focus on people's differences or how dire the situation is, I have and will focus on what we share in common and a vision for a thriving Memphis so that we can move our community forward, as partners," she explained. "Leadership requires constant communication with other stakeholders and building collaboratively, because it takes broad buy-in for any policy to work or even get passed. This is the type of vision I bring to Memphis – not lofty dreams but the clarity needed to execute real change."

For more information about Meggan Kiel's campaign for City Council District 5: megganformemphis.com

The City Council election is Oct. 5, 2023. **HW**

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Baron Hirsch Synagogue Announces September Kol Rena SoShuls









Pictured Above: Attendees from the August Luncheon

Just in time to enter the High Holy Days, the Baron Hirsch Synagogue September Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon will take place at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

The popular musical duo, The Beverly Brothers, will provide the entertainment, courtesy of Creative Aging. This festive pre-holiday luncheon menu includes stuffed chicken breast, glazed carrots and apple kugel. Dessert will be a tasty "dump cake" and fruit. Bingo games will follow the luncheon.

In August, the SoShuls luncheon (pictured above) was well-attended.

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the New Year ahead, we appreciate the helpful contributions of time, talent and energy of the wonderful SoShuls volunteers: Emily Steinberg, Alvin Steinberg, Elaine Miner, Madelyn Daneman, Natalie Sukhodolsky, Carol Zalowitz, Sherri Richman, Elaine Skopp, Brenda Bloomfield, Robin Tauer, Rosalind Wolf, Chana Ahuva Shayne, Debbie Rosenthal, Julie Levy, Marci Platkin, Barbara Radinsky, Bayla Manis, Linda Nahmias, Sandi Haddad, Sara Kaplan, Emily Lennon and Janet Shipman. Our Volunteers make the SoShuls Luncheons so much fun and provide such delicious meals.

We are also grateful to our kind and considerate Baron Hirsch staff members, including Robert Schneider, Gwen Moody, Zak Shayne and the Baron Hirsch Kitchen staff for their help and hard work with the preparation of the luncheon meals.

Due to the celebration of Sukkot, there will not be a SoShuls Luncheon in October. So, please make your plans to join us at the September SoShuls Luncheon. Please note, the SoShuls Luncheons will resume on November 1, 2023.

Baron Hirsch So-Shuls Luncheons are for people ages 64 and older, and the luncheon cost is \$5. Come be part of the fun and visit with old and new friends; maybe even invite a friend to join you.

Please make your September So-Shuls luncheon reservation by email to gwen@baronhirsch.org or by calling 901-683-7485. Should you need a specific dietary adjustment, please let Ms. Moody know. We will do our best to accommodate your needs, if possible.

We look forward to seeing you at Baron Hirsch at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023. **HW**

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All items are priced by half-pan, which serve 10-15 people. Email your orders to Bobbie Yarbrough, byarbrough@memphisjewishhome.org, by Friday, Sept. 1st. Pickup will be Friday, Sept. 15th.

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Jewish Foundation of Memphis Remembers Curt Ward During Make a Will Month



Curt Ward z"l

When Curt Ward turned 103, he decided it was time to establish his Jewish philanthropic legacy. Curt had been supporting Jewish community needs for nearly 70 years, but he wanted to make a lasting positive impact. He told his personal advisor, Bill Loveless, "If I don't set aside gifts now in my will, I won't have a chance to fund the programs that are special to me and my family."

Bill met with Curt to review his will and Curt earmarked monies to endow four designated funds. These charitable bequests, as specified in Curt's will and managed by Bill, would ensure Curt's exact philanthropic wishes were met.

Bill was particularly invested in supporting Curt's charitable giving – he and Curt had known one another since Bill was a child. Bill considered Curt family and his children adopted Curt as their honorary uncle.

As Bill explained, "I knew Curt was a generous soul and a compassionate man, but I did not know the stories that compelled Curt to leave legacy gifts. He was incredibly humble and did not ever tout his own achievements. The conversation we had about setting up charitable

bequests turned into a history lesson for me. After so many years of friendship, Curt finally told me the story of how he escaped Germany as a young man and about the family he lost at Auschwitz."

Curt's bequests to Lion of Judah and Federation's Holocaust Art and Essay Contest were especially significant. The Lion of Judah gift ensured Hedi, his beloved wife of 50 years, would be a forever Lion. His gift to the Holocaust Art and Essay Contest was born out of his own Holocaust experience – he lost his sister, brother-in-law, and niece at Auschwitz.

In the later years of his life, Curt shared his Holocaust story, saying, "For a long time, I didn't talk about the Holocaust, but now I want to talk about it, because that generation is dying out, and people need to remember."

In addition, Curt provided significant resources for Wendy and Avron B. Jewish Family Service's Shabbat services at retirement homes, camp scholarships at Memphis Jewish Community Center and programs at Temple Israel.

When asked about Curt and his philanthropic legacy, Sheri Gadberry, senior philanthropic advisor and executive vice president, said, "Curt will always be a shining example of intentional giving and making a positive impact for generations to come. His compassion lives on through his gifts."

If you are interested in using your will as a tool for legacy giving, Foundation's philanthropic advisors are here to help. Call 901-374-0400 to speak with Sheri Gadberry or Larry Schaffer.

The mission of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is to encourage charitable giving, support partner agency endowment development and build and sustain a vibrant Jewish community. To learn more, visit https://www.jcpmemphis. org/foundation. HW

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Applications Open Until September 15 for JCRS Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program



Applications are open for the Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program, a program of Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRS). For over 20 years, JCRS has brightened the Hanukkah celebrations of hundreds of children who are facing challenging financial times. The Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program provides a minimum of eight, individually wrapped Hanukkah presents that are age-appropriate and tailored to the interests of each individual



A past Hanukkah recipient and mother of 3 shares her experience:

It is almost the last day of Hanukkah, and I wanted to truly thank you and all the volunteers at JCRS for the absolutely lovely Hanukkah gifts. Each day my girls have been thrilled to open up yet another gift. They are perfect, and so well suited for them! You have made our Hanukkah extra bright this year!

A young recipient also shared his thanks:

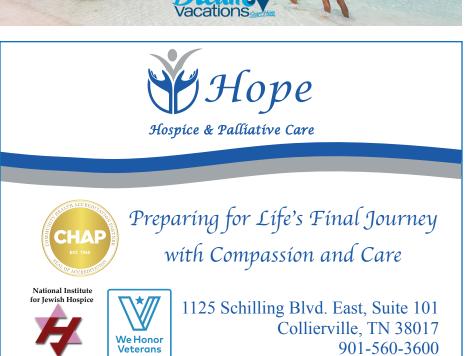
Thank you and the kind people of JCRS for making my Hanukkah so super super special. Thank you for the wallet, the headphones, the CDs, and so much more!

To apply, families must reside in the JCRS service region: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. We advise families to visit our website (https://jcrs.org/services/ hanukkah-program/) to fill out the application as soon as possible. Applications will close on September 15, 2023. The program also serves special needs and institutionalized adults within our service region. If you have questions regarding your eligibility please email our Program Coordinator, Ian Nicolosi at ian@jcrs.org.

For more information about JCRS, to donate or get involved, please contact our office at 800-729-5277 or visit www.jcrs.org.

ABOUT JCRS: Established in 1855 as an orphanage in New Orleans, JCRS is currently the oldest existing Jewish children's social service organization in the U.S., as well as the only regional Jewish child welfare agency in the country. JCRS provides needs-based scholarships for summer camp experiences, college aid and assistance to children with special needs. Additional outreach programs include the Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program and the PJ Library program for Jewish children ages 12 and under. HW





Have a Simcha? share with The Hebrew Watchman readers 901.763.2215 info@hebrewwatchman.com



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Visiting Israel . . . It's Never for Long Enough!



Rabbi Akiva and Layala Males reciting their early morning prayers in Ben **Gurion Airport's Food Court**

By Rabbi Akiva Males

For the first two weeks of August, my wife, Layala, and I were fortunate to visit Israel. While there, we helped my parents settle into their new apartment at a retirement center in Jerusalem that they recently moved into.

We also spent meaningful time with them, three of my siblings living in Israel (it's just me and a brother in Baltimore left in the U.S.), nieces, nephews and great-nieces and-nephews. Layala and I also caught up with some old friends and visited some of Israel's special places. Finally, we were thrilled to celebrate at two family weddings (first at a nephew's and then at a niece's).

Additionally, on Monday night, 8/7, Layala and I were happy to represent Young Israel and our Memphis community while sharing in the joy of the Grunwald-Wolicki (Kollel Torah Mitzion) wedding.

As for our "there's no place like home" Israel moment, see the accompanying picture. Before catching an early morning return flight to the U.S. on Monday, 8/14, we recited our Shacharis prayers at a table in Ben Gurion Airport's food court. Where else can a couple Daven so openly in an airport (especially when one is wearing his Tallis and Tefillin) without anyone around them batting an eyelash? (By the way, after sharing this picture with my siblings, one of my brothers informed me that there's a chapel available for Davening right off the food court. Oh well . . .)

When visiting Israel, it seems like there are so many people to see, so much to do, and there's just never enough time. I guess we'll have to return home again soon!

Young Israel's Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org HW

Bat Mitzvah



Adina Sarah Lennon

Adina Sarah Lennon, daughter of Emily and Marc Lennon, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat, September 2,2023.

She has spent the past several months

preparing for this day by learning with Dina Selter, Baron Hirsch youth director. Adina and Dina studied Midrash Mishlei on Eishet Chayil, which details attributes of women throughout the Tanach. Adina's preparations were enhanced by spending time with Rabbi Ian Lichter, learning Parshat Ki Tavo, the Torah portion that will be read by family members during the service.

Adina was also in the second cohort of students in the Matan Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program at Baron Hirsch.

Adina is in the 6th grade at the Margolin Hebrew Academy, where she has been involved in the Girls on the Run program and loves the Middle School Girls programming activities. Adina is an avid reader who also enjoys playing basketball and being with her many friends. She spends her summers at Camp Moshava in Wild Rose, Wis.

She is the granddaughter of Janet and Doug Shipman of Memphis and Rosi and David (z"l) Lennon of Skokie, Ill. Her proud brothers are Ilan, Eitan and David Lennon. HW



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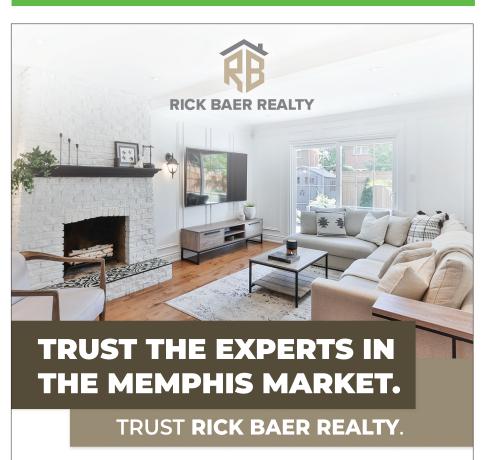
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SECURE 2.0 Act Expands Early Withdrawal Exceptions

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

 $Questions\ for\ Mike?\ You\ can\ reach\ him\ at\ 901.761.8151\ or\ Michael. Stein @WellsFargoAdvisors.com\ \bullet\ fa. wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein @WellsFargoAdvisors.com/michael-stein @WellsFargo$

Tax-advantaged retirement accounts such as 401(k) plans and IRAs are intended to promote long-term retirement savings and thus offer preferential tax treatment in return for a commitment to keep savings in the account until at least age 59½. Withdrawals before that age may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty on top of ordinary income tax. However, there is a long list of exceptions to this penalty, including several new ones added by the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022.

Before considering these exceptions, keep in mind that the greatest penalty for early withdrawal from retirement savings could be the loss of future earnings on those savings (see chart). Even so, there are times when tapping retirement savings might be necessary.

Some employer plans allow loans that may be a better solution than an early withdrawal. If a loan or other resources are not available, these exceptions could help. They apply to both employer-sponsored plans and IRAs unless otherwise indicated.

New Exceptions

The SECURE 2.0 Act added the following exceptions to the 10% early withdrawal penalty. Withdrawals covered by these exceptions can be repaid within three years. If the repayment is made after the year of the distribution,

an amended return would have to be filed to obtain a refund of any taxes paid.

- **Disaster relief** up to \$22,000 for expenses related to a federally declared disaster; distributions can be included in gross income equally over three years (effective for disasters on or after January 26, 2021)
- **Terminal illness** defined as a condition that will cause death within seven years as certified by a physician (effective 2023)
- Emergency expenses one distribution of up to \$1,000 per calendar year for personal or family emergency expenses; no further emergency distributions are allowed during the three-year repayment period unless the funds are repaid or new contributions are at least equal to the withdrawal (effective 2024)
- **Domestic abuse** the lesser of \$10,000 (indexed for inflation) or 50% of the account value for an account holder who certifies that he or she has been the victim of domestic abuse during the preceding one-year period (effective 2024)

Lost Opportunity

An early retirement plan withdrawal could end up costing more than you might imagine, even without the 10% penalty. Income taxes will reduce the present value of the withdrawal, and you will lose the potential long-term growth on the amount withdrawn.

Potential lost growth on a \$10,000 withdrawal, assuming 6% annual return



This hypothetical example is used for illustrative purposes only and does not represent the performance of any specific investment. Fees and expenses are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. Actual results will vary.

Exceptions Already in Place

These exceptions to the 10% early withdrawal penalty were in effect prior to the SE-CURE 2.0 Act. They cannot be repaid unless indicated.

- Death or permanent disability of the account owner
- A series of substantially equal periodic payments for the life of the account holder or the joint lives of the account holder and designated beneficiary
 - Unreimbursed medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income
- Up to \$5,000 for expenses related to the birth or adoption of a child; can be repaid within three years
- Distributions taken by an account holder on active military reserve duty; can be repaid up to two years after end of active duty
 - Distributions due to an IRS levy on the account
- \bullet (IRA only) Up to \$10,000 lifetime for a first-time homebuyer to buy, build, or improve a home
 - (IRA only) Health insurance premiums if unemployed
 - (IRA only) Qualified higher education expenses

Special Exceptions for Employer Accounts

The 10% penalty does not apply for distributions from an employer plan to an employee who leaves a job after age 55, or age 50 for qualified public safety employees. SECURE 2.0 extended the exception to public safety officers with at least 25 years of service with the employer sponsoring the plan, regardless of age, as well as to state and local corrections officers and private-sector firefighters.

Retirement account withdrawals can have complex tax consequences. Consult your tax professional before taking specific action.

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

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CUNY Hires Professor CNN Fired for Being Anti-Israel

(JNS) – The City University of New York, which has been accused extensively of antisemitism of late, has hired a professor, whom CNN fired in 2018 for an anti-Israel speech.

Marc Lamont Hill, who holds an endowed chair at Temple University in Philadelphia, is now a "presidential professor" of urban education at CUNY's Graduate Center in Manhattan.

The Graduate Center describes Hill as a "radical educator" who "explores issues of race, education, citizenship and state violence in the United States and Middle East."

The speech for which Hill was fired from CNN included the statement, "We have an opportunity to not just offer solidarity in words but to commit to political action, grass-roots action, local action and international action that will give us what justice requires and that is a free Palestine from the river to the sea."

Although the latter phrase refers to violently erasing Israel from the map, Hill claimed at the time, "My reference to 'river to the sea' was not a call to destroy anything or anyone."

"I am calling on the CUNY board of trustees to not allow this dangerous hire

to move forward that will leave CUNY's Jewish students and staff feeling even less safe than they do now," wrote Ari Kagan, a New York City Council member.

After meeting with Nation of Israel head Louis Farrakhan in 2016, Hill wrote on Instagram: "Been blessed to spend the last day with Minister Louis Farrakhan. An amazing time of learning, listening, laughing, and even head-nodding to music. God is Great."

"CUNY hiring Marc Lamont Hill is so perfect. I don't know how I didn't see it coming," wrote Seth Mandel, executive editor of the "Washington Examiner" magazine.

"The Philadelphia Inquirer" noted that Hill had "drawn criticism in the past over his comments about the Middle East," and that Temple trustees condemned his comments about Israel in 2018, although they defended his right to free speech.

On May 12, a CUNY law school student delivered an antisemitic commencement address. Earlier this year, CUNY was accused of retaliating against Jewish professors and for offering a hard-left definition of Jew-hatred as guidance for those reporting antisemitism. **HW**

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OBITUARIES



Saul Charles Belz

Saul Charles Belz, born April 14, 1942, left this world peacefully at home with his wife, Betsy Belz, and their beloved whippet, Gracie, on August 16, 2023. His last six weeks were some of the best of his 81 years of life, as Saul and his oldest granddaughter, Rose, spent their summer together eating a multitude of Jerry's snow cones. Saul's light lives on through his children, Jennifer Belz, Heather Belz (Michael Passalacqua), Charlie Burr (Libby Upham), Peggy Flanagan, and Hallie Flanagan, through his grandchildren, Rose Belz Passalacqua, Marigny Burr, and Shelby Burr, through his wife and love of his life, Betsy, and through his many dear friends.

Popularly known as "Long Tall Slinky Saul," "Saulie," "Zadie," or "Cat Daddy," Saul was the epitome of cool. He was voted Most Witty by his senior class, graduating from White Station

High School in 1960. Often heard singing to his beloved dogs and plants, Saul had a beautiful voice, once even opening for Bo Diddly. In addition to being an avid reader, Saul was an avid fan of the Memphis Tigers as well as the Memphis Grizzlies and could often be heard yelling about same from his home or the FedEx Forum.

A member of Glankler Brown since 2000, Saul had an illustrious legal career spanning over 55 years. While he received numerous accolades during his career, including the Pillars of Excellence award from the University of Memphis Law Alumni Association, Saul took the most joy in mentoring younger attorneys, such as his youngest daughter, Hallie, and his friend, Ben Baker.

While Saul was well known for his sense of humor, his keen intellect, as well as his astonishing career, he was also known as a beacon of positivity, charm and kindness. Saul greeted each day with a positive attitude and a song. He treated everyone he met with warmth and respect, no matter who they were, which was exemplary of the respect and appreciation he had for life. His lifelong friends, Karen Carrier, Hayden Lait, and Steve Bercu, and his cousin, Laurie Stark, were a source of joy, love and laughter to Saul, and these cherished friends, among so many others, provided great comfort, assistance, and love to Saul's immediate family following his passing.

Any donations should be sent to Boys and Girls Club of Memphis or to HIAS.

A service was held at Temple Israel Cemetery in the Levy-Cooper Chapel on Monday, August 21, 2023, followed by a short graveside service. **HW**



Deanna Spector Serenco

Deanna Spector Serenco was a loving wife, mother, aunt and grandmother. Deanna, 84, passed away August 5, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital East. She is survived by her husband of 61 beautiful years, Irvin Serenco, and three children, Allison Serenco Parker (Keith) of Memphis, Gail Serenco (Joel Kravetz) of Arlington, Va., and Michael Serenco (Cheryn) of Las Vegas, Nev. She also leaves her seven grandchildren, Grant Parker of New York City, N.Y., Miles Parker of Chicago, Ill., Reese Parker of Memphis, Jake Parker of Memphis, Jordan Kravetz of Arlington, Va., and Bree and Sage Serenco of Las Vegas, Nev. and loving nieces, a nephew and cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Helen Spector, and sister Dell Asher.

Deanna was a native of Atlanta, Ga. She attended the University of Georgia and graduated from Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Mo. She moved to Memphis to teach deaf children at Memphis Oral School for the Deaf. After many years of helping deaf children develop their own voice in an oral deaf education program, she worked for the Board of Education teaching hearing conservation to Memphis school students. She also provided individual instruction to hearing impaired adults on lip reading and improved communication.

Deanna was a devoted supporter of the Memphis Jewish Community Center's early childhood program. She and Irvin established the Deanna and Irvin Serenco Infant Care Center in the MJCC preschool, and ensure that early childhood students receive annual speech, language and hearing screenings free of charge. The infrared hearing system in the MJCC's newly renovated theater was provided in honor of Deanna.

Deanna was a devoted member of Subsidium, which is a women's group to help support the financial needs of Memphis Oral School for the Deaf and Beth Sholom Synagogue sisterhood.

The funeral was held at Beth Sholom Synagogue Wednesday, August 9 and a graveside burial at Beth Sholom Memorial Gardens.

The family requests donations to be made to Memphis Oral School for the Deaf, Memphis Jewish Community Center or a charity of the donor's choice. **HW**

Israeli UFC Fighter Natan Levy Beats Up Online Troll who Supports Holocaust Denier Nick Fuentes

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – As only the third Israeli to compete in the Ultimate Fighting Championship, or UFC, Natan Levy is not afraid to showcase his Jewish identity in and out of the ring.

He gave himself the chance to do just that as he invited a follower of white supremacist provocateur Nick Fuentes to a fight that was filmed and posted to YouTube last Thursday.

Levy and the man, identified only as Ben, had dueled on Twitter before doing so in person.

"I'll drive to Vegas any day of the week to spar you on behalf of Nicholas J. Fuentes and America First," Ben wrote to Levy, referencing Fuentes' online show where he regularly espouses antisemitic rhetoric and Holocaust denial.

Levy accepted Ben's challenge, even offering to pay for his gas. (Last year, Levy had issued a similar warning to rapper Kanye West after he praised Hitler, telling him, "if you've got a problem with me or my people, come see me, bro.")

In the video, Levy is shown greeting Ben at a mixed martial arts dojo in Las Vegas. Levy wears a shirt with his "Jew-Jitsu" nickname.

Ben explains to Levy that Fuentes is a leader of the "America First" movement, which he describes as "a political movement based on furthering Christian values in the United States." He says he was just "messing around" online and claims he is "not a hateful person."

When Levy points out that Fuentes is a Holocaust denier, Ben says that Fuentes is merely a "revisionist." And when Levy asks Ben how many Jews were killed in the Nazi genocide, Ben said, "I wouldn't know that off the top of my head... they say six million."

"He's just a kid, probably a dumb kid," Levy said to the camera before they step into the ring. "I'm not gonna hurt him too bad, but a lesson has to be taught here about trolling. Education is painful sometimes."

They fight for two rounds, with Levy pinning Ben both times. At the end of the second bout, Ben can be heard saying "I'm sorry."

After the fighting is over, Levy and Ben stood outside the ring, arms around each other, as Ben looks into the camera and says, "Six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust." Levy corrects his verb choice, interjecting with "murdered," before adding "F-k Nick Fuentes!"

Ben admitted he "needs to be more well-researched," while Levy offered a warning: "This one wasn't that painful. The next one will be twice as painful."

The video then ends by showing Shimon Smotritsky, an Israeli mixed mar-

tial arts fighter, heading into the ring with another man, identified as Cee-Jay, who said he's "not defending Nick Fuentes, I'm defending my friend's honor." Their fight doesn't last long, but it ends in bloody fashion.

"Don't talk sh-t about Jews, baby," Smotritsky says with a wink. **HW**

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The Goat; Yom Kippur's Prima Donna



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 know the Lord loves all his children – human and animal. But I have a feeling that he has a soft place in his heart for goats. You don't agree?

Well, consider the partiality he showed this species at creation time. He not only blessed him with a set of insides that can handle paper, rags, and tin cans, but this good-natured browser received the scapegoat mission. You remember it's described in Leviticus: Aaron shall "confess" over the scapegoat all the sins of the people, "symbolically transferring a load of guilt from us to the dumbfounded animal – who is then led off to the wilderness wailing over its lot with its thin, piercing shofar-like voice. He is the goat who relieves us of sin on Yom Kippur.

Its fate was scripted in the Holyday Megillah that first day of creation when the animals were assigned their roles. This was a big day in Eden. All the animals were assembled in the meadow by the water hole. One by one they were summoned to appear before the throne. Here, they would receive their assignment

The donkey was nibbling some lush green grass near the throne, so he was

first. "On YOUR back," announced the Lord, "the Moshiach shall enter my Holy City of Jerusalem. You shall be the limousine for my messenger of Peace and Justice."

But since the donkey had such a grand role – and to teach the world that appearances are trivial – the Almighty didn't over decorate him. He's a plain fellow – always schlepping stuff from Dan to Beersheva – with comic oversized ears and a voice that brings down the pine cones from the trees. And a stubborn disposition that invites kicks to the nether end of him. If you didn't read the script – the Chumash – you'd think him a clown – not a big-eared prince – in the drama of mankind.

The goat, watching carefully and awaiting his mission, moaned when he saw the Lord bless the burro with this significant role. What remained for him?

Now it was the turn of the goat. "Goat," said the Lord. "I have chosen you – not one of my most elegant creations – to be the savior of Israel. Your swaying back shall bear the sins of the people. I shall send you with your noxious bundle far away into the forsaken lands where the sun never shines. Every year at Yom Kippur, the High Priest shall select one of your breed to perform the solitary mission of absolution. You, one of the lesser creations – crying as you enter the wilderness – shall bring forgiveness."

The goat listened. Fear gripped his heart and he pawed the earth. He nervously fluttered his lovely eyelids several times in succession. Even then he had long, curly lids. But the rest of him

was strictly junkyard gray with a long skinny tail like a possum that ineffectively lashed at flies that would torment him in the life to come. His ears, like the donkey's, were outrageous. He had no horns.

So when the goat heard his magnificent, but perilous assignment, he figured the Lord might be generous enough to improve his imperfect appearance. "Lord," he bleated as he thoughtfully chewed his cud. "Considering the service my tribe will render to your people, could I make a few simple requests?"

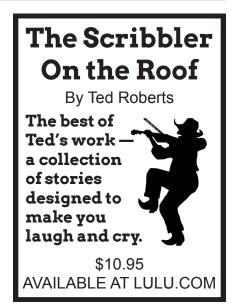
And the Creator of all things from the moss on the tree trunk to Leviathan, nodded positively.

Now, remember that most of the other animals had already been formed, including the sheep. The goat was wary. He could just see those heavy handed shepherds with biting shears shaving the trembling lambs.

"Please, sir," he shrilled in his high voice. "No thick, rich fleece for me, but a nice coat of scraggly fur to keep me warm will be just fine."

And somehow this farsighted creature knew of mutton stew supplied by fat sheep. So he begged the Creator to make him a muscular animal with stringy flesh. "Boney will be great, please."

Well, that took care of survival, thought the clever goat who was already envisioning a long and happy life. But hmmm, consider the broad back of the donkey. Definitely not an asset if one wanted to wander loose in the meadow without some lazy human loading you up with his paraphernalia. So he requested a slender build and shoulders



no wider than his head.

"And please, sir, a digestive system that can handle tree bark and all the litter that mankind will invent and scatter in the world to come." Maybe," he thought, "me and my clan can provide a solution of the waste storage problem that sooner or later will overwhelm mankind."

"And I almost forgot," said the world's first negotiator. "How 'bout some horns instead of these embarrassing ears. There should be grandeur in my banishment to the wilderness, not burlesque."

The Lord sighed and agreed. The bargain was struck. So the goat had his way, which is a small price, I say, for the load of sin he carries off to the wilderness.

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 Boondoggle Diplomacy or Path to Peace?

By Howard Weisband

As an amateur political scientist, I continue to watch the intriguing Middle East geopolitical machinations that could bring about a normalization agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

My question is, however, do these chess-like multiple movements represent a diplomatic boundoggle or a path to peace? I hope for the latter of course, but I'm wary of the former.

The reality is quite complicated. We are not dealing with one or two political systems and cultures, but three very different sovereignties: Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States. Each is involved in talks and negotiations, however, not as a threesome, at least not publicly. And each has its own culture, priorities, wish-list and timetable at play.

The best analysis to date that I've read is that of Dr. Yoel Guzansky, a Senior Researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University. On July 23, he published "The Road to Normalization: Relations between Israel and Saudia Arabia." (It's rather lengthy; I recommend you reading it: https://www.inss.org.il/publication/saudi-arabia-normalization/#_ftn2).

Guzansky shares his reading of the Saudi perspective and negotiating position: "For the Kingdom, caution on all aspects of normalization with Israel is essential, partly because of its status in the Muslim world, its status in the Arab world, anti-Israel sentiment among the Saudi public, and the country's religious and conservative character. Nonetheless, Saudi Arabia has an interest in improving its relations with Israel and the dividends it can obtain on this account, particularly from the United States. As a result, the assessment is that there will be relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, but not on the Abraham Accords model – the process will advance at a slower pace and with different parameters..."

His analysis describes the pragmatic negotiating flexibility that the Saudis want to create for themselves: "It is thought that the purpose of this (negotiating) space is to enable the Kingdom to take small, slow steps towards normalization, even without a full solution for the Palestinian issue, while staying "loyal" to the Palestinians."

Finally, he concludes: "Saudi Arabia has chosen to strengthen its ties with Israel gradually, with terms and circumstances that it deems convenient, while maintaining its secret contacts with Israel. There is still a possibility for greater closeness based on confidence building measures, including, for example, permits for pilgrims to fly directly from Israel to Saudi Arabia, plus

some incentives for doing business, in other words, a continuation of creeping normalization."

President Biden is in a bind. As I've stated earlier, he needs a diplomatic achievement going into next year's elections. A Middle East "peace agreement" would give him that accomplishment. But if he gives too much away to the Saudis – military hardware, civilian nuclear power – he alienates his left. If he pressures Israel to concede too much, he loses Congressional support on the right

Prime Minister Netanyahu finds himself in a different political predicament and facing a more critical timetable: he would like Saudi normalization ASAP. It would remove pressure to rush more judicial reform legislation through the Knesset, which he is being pushed to do by his far right coalition members, and thereby it would simultaneously take some edge off the ongoing massive civil demonstrations throughout the country. Perhaps it would also put a halt to the demands of his Chareidi (ultra-Orthodox) partners who also are testing the limits of the Government with their proposed Basic Law to allow their young men not to be drafted into military service.

Bibi will have to take significant political risks at home. However, he

knows that an Israeli Saudi agreement potentially reseals his personal legacy within a positive realm.

A "Jerusalem Post" editorial on July 31 stated that Netanyahu has referred to normalization with Saudi Arabia as one of the top priorities of his Government, and even more, he called a Saudi-Israeli deal "a quantum leap forward that would change history." The same editorial examined the options and concluded that an agreement with the Saudis "may be a price well worth paying."

Summarizing the current realpolitik: the Saudis favor a deal, but they are creeping toward it; Biden is looking some seven or eight months down the road; Bibi is thinking about the immediate future.

Are we facing a diplomatic boundoggle or are we on a path to peace? Stay tuned.

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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Marlene Trestman Authors New Book on History of The Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans



Marlene Trestman Credit: Devin Morton

Marlene Trestman's forthcoming book, "Most Fortunate Unfortunates," is the first comprehensive history of the Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans. Founded in 1855 in the aftermath of recurring yellow fever epidemics, the Home was the first purpose-built Jewish orphanage in the nation. It reflected the city's affinity for religiously operated orphanages and the growing prosperity of its Jewish community. By the time the Jewish Orphans' Home closed in 1946, it had sheltered more than sixteen hundred parentless children and two dozen widows from New Orleans and other areas of Louisiana and the Mid-South.

Based on deep archival research and numerous interviews of alumni and their descendants, "Most Fortunate Unfortunates" provides a view of life in the Jewish Orphans' Home for the children

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Berlin Airport Security Asks Chabad Rabbi to Remove **Yarmulke**

(JNS) - Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal, who leads Chabad in Berlin, was recently asked to remove his yarmulke while going through security at Berlin Brandenburg Airport in Germany.

The rabbi, who insisted that there was no such security policy in place, subsequently met with the chief of the German federal police. The latter confirmed that Jewish travelers do not need to uncover their heads during check-in.

"While there's no doubt that safety guidelines need to be followed, the directive to remove the kipah – a Jewish symbol that never leaves our heads was never approved and holds no validity," said the rabbi, who has run the Jewish center since the mid-1990s.

In May 2022, Germany's leading airline Lufthansa apologized for keeping more than 100 identifiably Jewish people from flying from the city of Frankfurt to Hungary. Later that year, the airline adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. HW

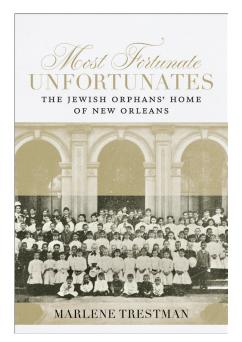
and women who lived there.

Marlene Trestman grew up in New Orleans as a client of the Jewish Children's Regional Service, the successor to the Jewish Orphans' Home. A former special assistant to Maryland's attorney general, Trestman is the author of "Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin."

Among early praise for "Most Fortunate Unfortunates:" "Attentive to race and gender, and contextualized within general and Jewish history as well as the history of child care, "Most Fortunate Unfortunates" sets a new standard as a well-researched, well-written, warts-and-all history of the Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans." ~ Jonathan Sarna, American Jewish historian and author of Jewish Book of the Year award-winner, "American Judaism: A History." Also, "With narrative empathy and scholarly rigor, Trestman gives readers insight not only into one specific orphanage, but also into the larger challenges, triumphs, and dilemmas of an American Jewish community determined to care for its children." ~ Kim van Alkemade, New York Times-bestselling author of "Orphan #8."

"Most Fortunates Unfortunates," which will be released on October 18, is currently available for preorder on Amazon, lsupress.org, and any bookseller of your choice.

JCRS is thrilled to celebrate the release of this new work alongside its author. Marlene will be in the Greater New Orleans area in October 2023 to attend an invitation-only book release party



being hosted by JCRS at The Windsor Court.

More information about Marlene Trestman and her book at www. marlenetrestman.com.

ABOUT JCRS: Established in 1855 as an orphanage in New Orleans, JCRS is currently the oldest existing Jewish children's social service organization in the US, as well as the only regional Jewish child welfare agency in the country. JCRS provides needs-based scholarships for summer camp experiences, college aid and assistance to children with special needs. Additional outreach programs include the Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program and the PJ Library program for Jewish children ages 11 and under. www.jcrs.org HW



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