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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 2.

THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Stands with Israel



Community Rabbis and Heads of School read Prayer for the People and State of Israel
By Sarah VanderWalde

Horrific.
Unimaginable.
Devastated.
Heartbroken.
Is this really happening?
This can't be happening.

There are not enough adequate words in any language to describe the horrors of the October 7 massacre in Southern Israel.

It was Saturday, shabbat, when Hamas invaded Israel. The news spread around the world and by Monday, the Memphis Jewish community had mobilized. Three formal gatherings of solidarity were scheduled by Jewish organizations in Memphis, while many other people gathered informally for prayer, support and fundraising.

The first gathering, a Vigil for the People of Israel, was held at Temple Israel on Monday October 9. The theme *b'yachad*, the Hebrew word for together, reminded those in attendance that they are not alone in their grief. For Cara Munkata, who attended the Vigil at Temple Israel, being in a safe space with her community is what she needed to process and grieve. "My grandparents survived the Holocaust. This past weekend my mother was in Poland, at Auschwitz, walking through the gas chambers that killed most of her family. And in Israel, it was happening again. It is unimaginable, yet it is real. Being at

Temple was therapeutic, allowing me to mourn in a communal space, while also feeling a sense of hope."

The second community gathering in support of Israel, held at Baron Hirsch on October 9, was a collaboration of the following Jewish organizations: Baron Hirsch, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Bornblum Jewish Community School, Chabad of Memphis, Margolin Hebrew Academy, Memphis Jewish Community Center, Memphis Jewish Federation, Memphis Kollel, Or Chadash, Temple Israel, Torah Mitzion and Young Israel of Memphis.

Baron Hirsch Board President Marc Lennon reflected on the evening saying, "I was amazed by the hundreds of people that showed up to support Israel on Monday night. Not just representatives of all the separate Jewish organizations, but rather all of Jewish Memphis partnered and came together to mourn, pray, be together and support one another in our hour of need."

On Wednesday October 11, the Memphis Jewish Federation mobilized the last formal Israel solidarity gathering of the week at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. "*Kehillah*, the Hebrew word for community, is the very reason we are here," remarked Jill Shanker, Vice Chair of Israel and Overseas at the Memphis Jewish Federation. "We are here to come together to mourn, to learn, to support each other, to act. Each



Federation Community Solidarity Gathering draws 600+ guests



Community gathering in support of Israel held at Baron Hirsch

of these things can be done on our own and in our own homes but we chose to come here...together, as a Kehilah. Because we know that together, we are better. We are stronger. We feel supported. We are connected."

In addition to getting support from inside the Jewish community, on Wednesday evening over 600+ Memphis Jews heard directly from Mayor Jim Strickland (see page 5) and Memphis Police Department Chief CJ Davis with their support of Israel and the Memphis Jewish community. The Mayor acknowledged that "Hamas is a terrorist group that must be condemned... that Israel is entitled to complete security and

self-defense."

"We are keenly aware of the rise in antisemitism... as some of you know the Memphis Police Department has taken steps to increase security around our Jewish community," he continued. "I wish I could offer you more during this troubling time, but I want you to know that your city's leadership is ready to do what it can to help the Memphis Jewish community in any way."

The Police Chief also spoke about safety in Memphis, adding a personal reflection of past visits to Israel and friends in the Israel Defense Forces. "We are

(See Israel Page 5)

We Stand with Israel.

There is still so much to be done to help the Israeli people, and Federation is here to help shine a light, provide resources and foster hope. Donate using the QR code. You can also send a message to our brothers and sisters in Shoham, our Israeli sister city by emailing shoham@jcpmemphis.org, visit our office to pick up a Yahrtzeit candle that memorializes slain victims of the Hamas massacres, or stop by our office next week to pick up a yard sign showing your support for Israel.

Margolin Hebrew Academy Leadership Plays Critical Role in Leveraging National Security Dollars



Margolin Hebrew Academy Executive Director Brandy Flack

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

During a High Holy Day security briefing held on Capitol Hill, Members of Congress from across the aisle and both chambers vowed to advocate for increased funding for the vital Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), whose current funding level of \$305 million is meeting the needs of fewer than half of all applications.

The briefing was organized by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) together with SCN (Secure Community Network), ADL (Anti-Defamation League), and the OU (Orthodox Union), with the support of six other major Jewish organizations.

Representatives from the Memphis Jewish Community included Margolin Hebrew Academy Executive Director Brandy Flack and Stuart Frisch, National Training and Exercise advisor at Secure Community Network.

JFNA President and CEO Eric Fingerhut opened the briefing by stating that while Jewish Federations spend millions of dollars a year on communal security, the public-private partnership with the government requires additional public resources due to recent spikes in antisemitism.

Flack shared details of the harrowing experience she underwent in July when a shooter opened fire outside the school. She credited the school’s security installments with saving lives.

She told of a man who “came to our school in Memphis poised on committing a mass shooting and thankfully he failed. He failed because he was unable to enter our buildings. Only a few weeks earlier, our doors had been replaced and hardened with deliberate access control. The Federal nonprofit security grant program funded this life-saving security upgrade.”

Flack added that the protocols they had practiced helped keep them safe and that their security cameras helped law enforcement to identify, locate, and subdue the assailant before he could move on to his next targets.

SCN national director and CEO Michael Masters noted that “the Jewish community remains the number one target of religiously motivated hate crimes in the U.S. Our network of security professionals have been planning, preparing, and training in advance of this special, holiest of times.

“SCN has trained over 7,700 people for the High Holy Days in the last several weeks alone. We have made much progress, but there is much more work to do. Every religious facility in America must be protected, every member of a faith-based community must be trained, we need to expand NSGP and similar efforts, and our efforts must be professional, specific, and ongoing,” he added.

According to a statement on behalf of JFNA, communal security is a core Jewish Federation priority. In addition to advocating for an increase in the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Jewish Federations continue to raise funds towards LiveSecure, their \$130 million security initiative that was launched in 2021.

Today, 103 Jewish communities have professionally led security programs, up from just a handful in 2019.

Laura Linder, president and chief executive officer of Jewish Community Partners, added “For more than a decade, Memphis Jewish Federation has been working behind the scenes to build a security infrastructure across the entire Jewish community. This infrastructure was tested on July 31 when an active shooter attempted to enter the school.

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
Memphis, TN 38177-0846
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
Barbara B. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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10/19/2023



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. October 20, 2023 / 5 Cheshvan, 5784.....6:00 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. October 21, 2023 / 6 Cheshvan, 5784..... 6:55 p.m.

Noach

“It takes more than a security guard posted by the entrance to maintain a safe facility – it takes a comprehensive security plan with many components, all of which were in place that day and resulted in the best possible outcome. This included trained and alert staff, locked doors, security cameras, visitor policies, and strong relationships with local law enforcement,” she explained. “We are proud that Security continues to be a priority of Federation. I know this will continue to be the case.” HW

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ISRAEL: WE HAVE NO PLACE ELSE TO GO

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

Due to current events in Israel, I feel compelled to shift from our standard message regarding estate planning or other legal matters, to use this platform to relay a message regarding our homeland. I hope that by the time this message is published, the situation in Israel will have improved dramatically. As I write this on October 11, 2023, tragically, more than 1,200 Jewish/Israeli civilians have been slaughtered, with thousands of others injured. Some of my friends are amongst those murdered and injured and several of my family members and friends have left their jobs, their schools, their wives and children and have rushed to the front lines in the north and south of the country, to defend the Jewish people. News outlets and social media are replete with vile color videos and photographs that can only be described as modern scenes resembling those black and white photographs sketched into our national psyche of Auschwitz and Birkenau. Today's photos will similarly be eternally burned into our souls and minds.

But, aside from feelings of trauma and horror, I feel pride to a degree I have not felt in my entire life. Despite the comparisons to the images from the Holocaust, there is one overriding and overwhelm-



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ing difference between 1940 and today. In 2023, unlike 1940, we have our own country. In 2023, unlike 1940, we have the means to protect ourselves and to retaliate. In 2023, despite a year of brotherly divide and infighting, when it mattered most, history will record that the Jewish people came together and proved to the world, once again, that we are one united family. In one weekend, every Israeli and Jew, regardless of political, religious, sexual or other orientation and divide became one indistinguishable body with one indistinguishable cause, to protect the Jewish homeland and the Jewish people at all costs.

In his moving speech of October 10, 2023, President Biden told a story of his meeting Prime Minister Golda Meir in Israel just before the Yom Kippur war

(if you have not watched every word of President Biden's speech, I highly recommend you do):

"We were standing there silent, looking at the press. She could tell, I guess, I was concerned. She leaned over and whispered to me – she said, "Don't worry, Senator Biden. We have a secret weapon here in Israel ... We have no place else to go. We have no place else to go."

Today, I am frightened, but I am proud. I pray with millions of others that the forces of good and justice will eradicate the forces of evil and corruption. Today, I recognize that "never again" is now. I pray that God protect our people and our country, and we remain united for many years to come. With God's help, and with the IDF's courage and strength, we will win – we must win – because we have no place else to go. We have no place else to go.

He Who blessed our forefathers Abra-

ham, Isaac and Jacob – may He bless the soldiers of the Israel Defense Force, who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God from the border of the Lebanon to the desert of Egypt, and from the Great Sea unto the approach of the Aravah, on the land, in the air, and on the sea.

May Hashem cause the enemies who rise up against us to be struck down before them. May the Holy One, Blessed is He, preserve and rescue our soldiers from every trouble and distress and from every plague and illness, and may He send blessing and success in their every endeavor.

May He lead our enemies under their sway and may He grant them salvation and crown them with victory. And may there be fulfilled for them the verse: For it is Hashem, your God, Who goes with you to battle your enemies for you to save you.

Now let us respond: Amen. **HW**

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Message from Shelley Greenspan Whitehouse Liaison to the American Jewish Community

Friends,

Yesterday, President Biden met with leaders from the American Jewish community ([whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/10/11/remarks-by-president-biden-and-second-gentleman-douglas-emhoff-at-roundtable-with-jewish-community-leaders](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/10/11/remarks-by-president-biden-and-second-gentleman-douglas-emhoff-at-roundtable-with-jewish-community-leaders)) at the White House to pledge his full and continued support for the Government and people of Israel. In

his remarks, the President reiterated his deep sympathy for all those missing, wounded, and killed in the unprecedented and appalling assault by Hamas terrorists. President Biden emphasized that there is no justification whatsoever for terrorism and that America cannot be silent in the face of these unconscionable attacks. The President reiterated his strong commitment to pursuing every avenue to bring American hostages currently held by Hamas terrorists home to their families.

Following the President's remarks, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Liz Sherwood-Randall, Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, and Director of the Office of Public Engagement Stephen Benjamin held a roundtable discussion with the Jewish community leaders. The participants discussed the barbaric Hamas attack on Israel, the President's multidimensional commitment to support Israel's security in the wake of the attack, and the Administration's enduring responsibility to protect Jewish communities from antisemitic incidents in the U.S.

Some history: This week 80 years ago, a group of 400 rabbis came to Washington D.C. to meet with Franklin D. Roosevelt about the Jews being persecuted in Europe. They were refused entry into the White House. As Nathan Diamant from the Orthodox Union beautifully said to the President, "The fact that we are here today and you have spoken as the President of the United States so clearly in support of Israel, so clearly in support of the Jewish people, and welcomed leaders and representatives of the Jewish community into the White House for this discussion shows what a dramatic distance we've traveled in these United States, how we as the Jewish community are blessed to live today in these United States. And we thank you for your leadership and your moral clarity." **HW**

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Brooks Museum to Change Name

When the city’s largest art museum arrives at its new riverfront home, it will do so with a new name.

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Board of Directors announced last Wednesday that upon opening in 2025, the museum will officially be known as Memphis Art Museum.

“We have worked with the greater Memphis community for years on our vision for a new museum, and as it begins to take shape, we are proud to see that it will be a place for community and connectivity unlike anything in our city’s history,” says museum Board President Carl Person. “It is truly Memphis’ art museum.”

Earlier this year, the museum’s Board of Directors authorized a naming rights incentive for lead gifts to the new facility’s \$180 million capital campaign. Barbara and Pitt Hyde’s increased support to the campaign earned them this right – which they, with the museum board of directors, have used to recognize the city they love.

“The museum is only possible because of the tremendous generosity and belief by the people of Memphis. It is our honor to recognize our community in this way, knowing that Memphians for generations to come will continue to celebrate and support their art museum,” says Barbara Hyde. “This is our city’s

museum and should be known as such, now and forever.”

The museum was initially founded as the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery in Overton Park in 1916 by Bessie Vance Brooks in memory of her husband, Samuel H. Brooks, who had been a passionate advocate for a museum for Memphis in his lifetime. Bessie and Samuel Brooks’ vision for the museum, as well as their contributions to its founding collection and original home, will be prominently highlighted in the new facility. The Brooks name will remain attached to the collection – now one of the largest and most comprehensive in the Mid-South – that was assembled while the museum was located in Overton Park.

The Overton Park facility is owned by the City of Memphis and is operated under an agreement with the museum, a private non-profit organization. The new museum facility will be gifted to the City of Memphis after construction is complete and will be operated under a similar agreement by Memphis Art Museum. The name change was announced in a presentation last Wednesday to the Memphis City Council’s Parks & Environment Committee.

“The new museum’s name reflects a dedication to welcome and celebrate

everyone in our city,” says Mayor Jim Strickland. “While it has been my privilege to be involved with the Brooks for years, and the current building will maintain that name, I’m excited about the new museum’s place in our downtown’s future.”

“We believe the new Memphis Art Museum will be a catalyst for the development of an even more culturally dynamic downtown landscape,” says Mayor-elect Paul Young. “My administration will support the creation of this remarkable, world-class facility.”

Upon completion, the 122,000-square-foot Memphis Art Museum will boast 50% more dedicated gallery space and 600% more art-filled public spaces than the current Overton Park facility. This will include Monroe Plaza, a 7,000-square-foot park offering spectacular river views from Front Street to museum patrons and passers-by alike.

Construction on the new museum, designed by Herzog & de Meuron and archimania, began in July 2023. The site previously contained a fire station and structured parking garage.

“Memphis will always be deeply indebted to the contributions of Samuel and Bessie Brooks and their families for the extraordinary legacy they created,” says museum Executive Director Zoe Kahr. “As we enter this new chapter, the very identity of our city’s museum will include and acknowledge every single person – every Memphian – who makes our mission possible. Like the city for which it’s named, our museum’s most exciting days are still ahead.”

Visit MemphisArtMusuem.org for more information. [HW](#)





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Biden Talks to Some Family Members of 14 Americans Missing in Israel

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden spoke on the phone last Friday with family members of 14 missing Americans, according to the White House pool report.

Some of the 14 are presumed to be held hostages in the Gaza Strip after Hamas terrorists attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,300 people and wounding thousands. As many as 150 civilians were reportedly taken hostage to Hamas-run Gaza.

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security advisor, and Roger Carstens, U.S. special envoy for hostage affairs, were among other officials on the call.

“By ‘unaccounted for,’ we mean that. We don’t know where they are,” John Kirby, strategic communications coordinator at the National Security Council, told reporters in an Oct. 12 briefing.

Kirby told reporters last Friday that “a couple” of the family members of the 14 were on the call, per media reports. The spokesman “conveyed directly to these families that they have been in his prayers and reaffirmed for them that the United States government is doing everything possible” to bring their relatives home.

“Several of the family members shared information about their loved one’s personal stories and experiences that they have gone through as they endure the unimaginable,” he added, per reports. [HW](#)

Israel...
(Continued From Page 1)

here in solidarity to stand with you in the city of Memphis and around the country to ensure that we keep our members safe in the Jewish community.”

While the three Israel solidarity events gave adults in Memphis a place to grieve collectively, many younger kids, who are also grappling with how to deal, gathered informally.

A group of middle school girls baked cookies, brownies and muffins for a bake sale, raising over \$1,000. That same group of girls are making friendship bracelets and plan to sell them for \$10 each, with proceeds going to Israel. A family organized a barbeque, selling hot dogs to raise money. Some money is going towards different army units with connections to Memphis. Other donations are being organized to buy flowers for Shabbat. On Friday October 13, 30 bouquets were delivered to wives whose husbands are fighting on the frontlines. This has all been coordinated by people in Memphis.

The Memphis community that is showing support for Israel is felt around the world. Charlotte Harkavy, the granddaughter of Memphis native Iris Harkavy, lives in Tel Aviv, and while talking to her grandmother over Zoom, mentioned how even though she is heartbroken and scared, she feels the support and love of her extended family in Memphis.

Tsefanya Sperling, 24, an Israeli who moved to Memphis in September, as part of the Torah Mitzion Kollel program, flew back to Israel after he was called by the reserves. On Thursday October 12, he sent this message from Israel, “you have no idea how empowering it is to see all the amazing things you are doing in Memphis... and I am proud to be your *shaliach* (messenger) to protect the people of Israel.”

Maayan Naor, the Memphis Jewish



Maayan Naor, Memphis Jewish Community Center Shlichah

Community Center *Shlichah*, also appreciates the support of the Memphis Jewish community. Speaking at the Federation’s solidarity gathering, she spoke about her best friend from high school who went to the music festival, and had she been in Israel, and not in Memphis, she would have been at that festival too. Maayan quoted a famous poem by Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi, “My heart is in the East even though I stand in the West.”

Reflecting on her speech, Maayan said “it was one of the most difficult things I’ve had to do as part of my shlichut. To speak to more than 500 people as I was on the verge of breaking down into tears, while being so far from home, was heart wrenching.”

Tears. They were flowing at the end of all three gatherings during the singing of Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. They flowed during Sami Bray’s powerful rendition of “Bring Him Home” from “Les Miserables” at Temple Israel. They will probably flow as this war continues and we wait to hear good news. In the meantime, the Memphis community is standing together in support of Israel.

Keep checking in on your community. Contact Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at 901-767-8511 if you need additional support. **HW**

Hot dogs for Israel raised a total of \$1500 with \$800 coming via Venmo from those unable to attend including non-Jewish neighbors, co-workers and friends.



Yakir Rovner prepares for hot dog barbecue in support of Israel.



Thanks to the Memphis community, Mirel Nechama (Samuels) Ben Tovim, a former Memphian, received flowers to uplift her spirit and brighten her shabbat while her husband, Gefen, an IDF reservist, was on a communications-blackout.

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland
“Solidarity with Israel” Speech



Memphis City Mayor Jim Strickland and Memphis Police Department Chief CJ Davis

Thank you for inviting me to be with you tonight and to stand in solidarity with Israel and with the Memphis Jewish Community.

It is hard for me to express the outrage I feel regarding the horrific terrorism happening against the State of Israel. Hamas is a terrorist group, and it should be condemned by all civilized people.

It is shocking to realize that this assault against Israel has been the largest single massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

My sense of outrage is coupled with

my deepest feelings of sympathy for all the people of Israel. And I include those of you here tonight whose friends and loved ones are faced with this outrageous act of terror.

As your mayor, I want you to know that I believe that Israel is entitled to complete security and self-defense. I also want you to know that I am keenly aware that the threat of antisemitism is on the rise everywhere, and Memphis is not immune from that. We are aware that there have been and likely will be more threats to our local Jewish institutions. As some of you know, the Memphis Police Department has taken steps to increase security around our Jewish community.

I wish I could offer more in this very troubling time. But I want you to know that your city’s leadership is ready to do what it can to help the Memphis Jewish community in any way.

And on a personal note, my thoughts and prayers – as well as those of my family, including my wife, Melyne, who is here with me tonight – are with you and the people of Israel.

God bless Israel. And God bless the United States of America. **HW**

Deeply Concerned for the People of Israel,
Jill Biden Writes to Sara Netanyahu

(JNS) – “Like so many Americans, I am deeply concerned for the people of Israel in the face of this unconscionable terrorist attack,” Jill Biden, the U.S. first lady, wrote to Sara Netanyahu, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a letter that the Israeli Government Press Office released on Oct. 13.

The apparently handwritten letter appears on stationary bearing Jill Biden’s name and part of the U.S. presidential seal. It is dated October 2023.

“Our resolve is clear – even though our hearts are broken. We stand with the State of Israel and its people, always,” the first lady added. “You and Bibi are in my prayers. Love, Jill.”


The GPO also released a type-written


response from Sara Netanyahu, which is dated Oct. 13, 2023, Jerusalem, and is hand-signed.

“At this disheartening of times, your letter was a ray of light. Your words entered and warmed my broken heart. Thank you,” Sara Netanyahu wrote. “You are a true friend. Bibi and I appreciate that and the unwavering support you and Joe have shown us. Today and always.”

“At the moment, we share a broken heart, but Israel’s resolve will see us emerge victorious in this war of good over unspeakable evil. We have no other choice,” she added. “Thank you for your prayers. Am Israel Chai. Love, Sara Netanyahu.” **HW**

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Sisterhood Hosts Soup, Cupcakes, and a Big Surprise in Beth Sholom's Sukkah



Sisterhood Program Co-Chair Janet Rubin orchestrated the evening's big surprise – a dance performance by the Grizzlies Grandmas and Grandpas.

Beth Sholom Sisterhood celebrated Sukkot with a festive “Soup-rize! in the Sukkah” on October 4. More than 70 people enjoyed steaming bowls of mushroom and wild rice soup and a hearty vegetable soup, served with pierogis and salad. But the big “surprise” came right before dessert. Sisterhood Program Co-Chair Janet Rubin had arranged for the Grizzlies Grandmas and Grandpas to

run into the social hall and dance, dance, dance. Then came the cupcakes!

Sisterhood President Susan Levko and her crew spent a day in the Beth Sholom kitchen to create gorgeous fall-themed cupcakes filled and covered with different candies. Sisterhood thanks Rubin for organizing this fun event. Rubin thanks the many volunteers who played a vital role in the program's success. **HW**



More than 70 Beth Sholom Sisterhood members and friends enjoyed soup at Sisterhood's “Soup-rize! In the Sukkah” on October 4



Sisterhood President Susan Levko and her crew spent a day in the Beth Sholom kitchen to create dozens of fall-themed cupcakes.

Eliana Light Concerts at the MJCC October 28-29



Eliana Light

Join us as we welcome Eliana Light back to Memphis for two incredible concerts at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, October 28-29, 2023.

Our Saturday night Coffee House Concert (at 7:30 p.m.) will feature Eliana's thoughtful, playful songs, accessible exploration of Jewish ideas, and meaningful stories. Sunday morning at 10 a.m. will be an interactive, engaging, and learning-full concert for kids and families.

While in Memphis, Eliana will also conduct staff development for the teachers in the MJCC Early Childhood Center from which she graduated as a child. She is so excited to return to the community that raised her and instilled in her a love for Jewish community.

Eliana is a singer-songwriter and Jewish educator with a focus on making Jewish sacred heritage accessible and meaningful to any and all ages. Since getting her master's degree in Jewish Experiential Education from the Davidson School at the Jewish Theological Seminary, she has worked with 50+ communities to enliven and deepen their gatherings. She also does that work through “the Light Lab Podcast.” Her music for kids has been featured with PJ Library, in the Complete Songbook for Children Volume III, and on her JKids radio show, “Way to Grow!” Eliana has made four albums of original Jewish music with a fifth one in production. You can find Eliana's albums on Spotify and Amazon, or wherever you stream your music.

We hope you will join us to learn, reflect, and sing together!

You can purchase tickets for the concerts at jccmemphis.org/CulturalArts or by contacting the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

Third Annual Ride for Education Promises a Wheely Good Time!



Participants in the 2022 Ride for Education

It’s once again a time to peddle with a purpose as Bornblum Jewish Community School is set to host the 3rd Annual Ride for Education. This multi-event bike ride and festival is a community event aimed at raising funds for education programs in Memphis.

With its 18-mile, 36-mile, Family Fun Ride and Festival, Bornblum has raised over \$102,000 for Memphis education initiatives in the past two years. This year’s Ride for Education promises to be bigger and better than ever, benefiting not only Bornblum Jewish Community School, but the Barbara K. Lipman

Early Learning Center at Temple Israel and Memphis Jewish Community Center’s Early Childhood Center. According to event chairperson and Bornblum parent Lawson Arney, “The Ride for Education is such fun event for everyone involved. Whether you ride one of our distance rides through Germantown and Collierville or our Family Fun Ride through the Poplar Estates neighborhood, you are sure to get some exercise and have a great time doing it.”

The outdoor festival, which runs from 10:30 to 12:30 at Bornblum, features a number of bike-related crafts. Families



can participate in the annual tricycle course, decorate and eat bike-themed cookies, color a bike helmet puzzle cut on the school’s new design lab laser cutter, or make bike-related jewelry. There will also be a professional face painter, bike obstacle course, snack stand and coffee bar.

This year’s Ride for Education takes place on October 29, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 6641 Humphreys Boulevard. The 18-mile and 36-mile rides will start at 9:30 a.m. The Ride Festival runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the Family Fun Ride kicks off at 12:30 p.m.

Bornblum Jewish Community

School’s Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D. emphasizes the event’s mission, stating, “Giving charity and helping the community are major lessons we instill in our students at Bornblum. The Ride for Education is not just for cyclists. We are inviting the entire Memphis community to join us in a day of fun while lending a helping hand to impactful education programs.”

To participate in this year’s Ride for Education, individuals can register for a Distance Ride at just \$36 or the Family Fun Ride for a nominal fee of \$5. Riders can register for the ride at www.rideforeducation.com. **HW**

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Mutual Funds: What’s in Your Portfolio?

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

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

Mutual funds pool investment dollars from many individual investors to purchase a group of selected securities aimed at meeting a particular objective. This offers a convenient way to invest across a wide range of market activity that would be difficult for most investors to do by purchasing individual securities. More than 52% of U.S. households owned mutual funds in 2022.¹

Here are some basic types of funds in order of typical risk, from lowest to highest. This is just an overview – with over 7,000 funds to choose from, you should be able to find appropriate investments to pursue your financial goals.²

Money market funds invest in short-term debt such as commercial paper and certificates of deposit (which generally provide a fixed rate of return). They are typically used as a cash alternative and/or as a fund for settling brokerage transactions.

Municipal bond funds generally offer income that is free of federal income tax and may be free of state income tax if the bonds in the fund were issued from your state. Although interest income from municipal bond funds may be tax exempt, any capital gains are subject to tax. Income for some investors may be subject to state and local taxes and the federal alternative minimum tax.

Income funds concentrate on bonds, Treasury securities, and other income-oriented securities, and may also include stocks that have a history of paying high dividends.

Balanced funds, hybrid funds, and

growth and income funds seek the middle ground between growth funds and income funds. They include a mix of stocks and bonds aimed at combining moderate growth potential with modest income.

Value funds invest in stocks of companies that appear to be undervalued by the market. They are more volatile than balanced funds, but typically offer dividend income and may have solid growth potential if the market recognizes the underlying value.

Growth funds invest in the stock of companies with a high potential for appreciation but low emphasis on income. They are more volatile than many types of funds.

Global funds invest in a combination of domestic and foreign securities. International funds invest primarily in foreign stock and bond markets, sometimes in specific regions or countries. There are increased risks associated with international investing, including differences in financial reporting, currency exchange risk, economic and political risk unique to a specific country, and greater share price volatility.

Sector funds invest almost exclusively in a particular industry or sector of the economy. Although they offer greater appreciation potential, the volatility and risk level are also higher because they are less diversified.

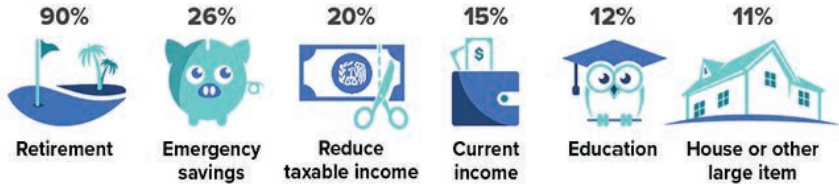
Aggressive growth funds aim for maximum growth. They typically distribute little income, have very high growth potential, tend to be more volatile, and are considered to be very high risk.

Reasons to Invest

Four out of five households who own mutual funds cited retirement as their primary reason for investing. However, many investors own funds to pursue multiple financial goals.

Source: Investment Company Institute, 2022 (multiple responses allowed)

Percentage of households owning mutual funds who cited these financial goals



Bond funds (including funds that contain both stocks and bonds) are subject to the interest rate, inflation, and credit risks associated with the underlying bonds. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall, which can adversely affect a bond fund’s performance. U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. Dividends are typically not guaranteed.

Asset allocation and diversification are methods used to help manage investment risk; they do not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss. Mutual fund shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investments seeking to achieve higher returns also carry an increased level of risk.

Money market funds are neither insured nor guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. Although a money market fund attempts to maintain a stable \$1 share price, you can lose money by investing in such a fund.

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

1–2) Investment Company Institute, 2022–2023

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Reckonings: A Glimpse into
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Reckonings Film
Screening
Sunday, October 22
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HIAS: Then and Now - A Journey
through Time and Compassion
Sunday, November 19, 2023
MJCC



HIAS:
Then and Now –
From 1881 to 2023
Sunday, November 19
2 pm CT

74-minute film. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, secret meetings began to negotiate the incomprehensible – compensation for survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? Reckonings explores this riveting, untold story.

How HIAS, the world’s oldest refugee organization, has transformed from a resettlement agency helping Jewish refugees to an international humanitarian organization, assisting displaced persons of all faiths using Jewish values. In conversation with Memphian Eden Siskind, Assistant Program Director, Latin America and the Caribbean.



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OBITUARIES

Philip Malkin Engel

Philip Malkin Engel of Overland Park, Kan. died on October 6, 2023.

Mr. Engel ws born in Memphis in 1936. He attended CBHS where he played football. He went to the University of Texas and graduated from Memphis State University. At Texas he was a member of Sigma Alpha MU Fraternity.

Mr. Engel spent 37 years with Harcros Chemicals Inc. He started as a sales representative in Memphis. He moved to St. Louis to become the District Manager. While in St. Louis, Mr. Engel was a member and on the Board of Directors at Temple Israel Congregation, Creve Coeur, Mo., and a member of Norwood Hills Country Club.

He then moved to Kansas City, the corporate office of Harcros, to become their Director of Sales and Marketing. In Kansas City, he was a founding member and on the Board of Congregation Kol Ami. He enjoyed reading, traveling, and golf at Wolf Creek Golf Club and their Winter home in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Mr. Engel is preceded in death by his parents, Leah Malkin Rosenthal, David E. Rosenthal and William Engelberg.

Mr. Engel was the husband of Kenla Engel. He leaves a sister, Bonnie Cheryl Roquita of Roswell, Ga.

Graveside services were held on October 11, 2023, at Temple Israel Cemetery, Memphis, Tenn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the charity of the donor’s choice. [HW](#)



Alvin A. Gordon

The *ushpreezim* had an extra Avraham Avenoo this year in the sukka. They were joined by attorney, philanthropist and leader of the Memphis Jewish community, Alvin A. Gordon, who died in Jerusalem a few days before Rosh Hashanah on September 11, 2023 (HEBREW date here).

Alvin was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on July 31, 1930, moved to Memphis in 1956, and became a dual citizen with Israel in the 1990s. Alvin was an early member of Beth Sholom synagogue, where he became president in the 1970s. Later, he was an active member of Anshei-Sphard. After a meeting with the Lubavitcher rebbe in the 1970s, Alvin was instrumental in helping establish Chabad in Memphis. He led the Bornblum and Lowenstein Foundations, funding community programs at the JCC, at various synagogues, and helping establish the Bornblum Jewish Day School.

Alvin enjoyed 63 years of marriage with his wife, Elaine, who survives

him. He had two sons, Robert (Tara) and Baruch (Anat), nine grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. (“Someone ought to get the parents of those kids a TV,” he’d often jest, “so they’d have something else to do at night.”) Of his heaping helping of descendants, he and Elaine would often say, “We are swimming in a river of *nachas*.”

Family was all, and everyone was family to Alvin as he and Elaine dove into the all the holidays with reverence and joy. They liked a crowded table, there was always plenty of food and *l’chayim*. He had a soothing speaking voice that sounded like a blessing, and indeed, throughout his 93 years, he joyfully bestowed blessings to people near and far. Days before his death, he was celebrating his life – and others’ as well.

As he did with every *gabbi* who called him to the Torah, he’d insist that all of his grandchildren’s names be included in the Mi Shebeirach: Racheli, Hadasa, Yehuda, Na’ama, Yonaton, Amitai, Lila, Esther and Tovia.

He attended The University (of Virginia, to the uninitiated) where he merited a room “on the lawn” in a dorm designed by Thomas Jefferson. He graduated early from law school there, soon finding himself on a first-class European tour sponsored by Uncle Sam’s army. Based in Germany during the Korean War, he saw all of Europe and left with stories to rival Joseph Heller’s “Catch-22.” About the only exercise he ever got was when the military confused his law clerk orders and sent him to paratrooper school. After being pushed out of a plane once, he subsequently refused and had to run around

the base all day. Soon after, he was able to attain a new assignment as a lawyer in the military.

He practiced law in Memphis initially with his uncle Gordon I. Gordon, later partnering with cousins Bruce Feldbaum and Mark Cantora.

Many Fridays he’d ride his bicycle from East Memphis to downtown, blaring Hasidic music from a cassette player slung over his shoulder. He favored a convertible car – with the air conditioning on. He liked to quote his cousin, Moose, the famed bookie of Virginia Beach, saying, “How sweet it is.”

He was a bike rider, a kite flyer, a gambler, a raconteur and usually both the smartest and the funniest person in the room. Both in Israel and in America, his personal giving encompassed organizations and individuals in need, often before they asked.

Even when his health was failing, humor and kindness were his strongest attributes, and he still loved a good joke. At one point in the doctor’s office, he had lost so much weight that when he stood before the nurse, his pants fell down. He waited a beat, then told her, “You know I don’t do this for everyone.” She burst out laughing and his day was made.

In recent years, he’d sign off his phone calls with, “All is well.” And he always endeavored to make “all well” for others. Helping others was just his natural way.

The family asks that any donations made in his memory go to the Bornblum Jewish Community School (Memphis), Chabad of Memphis or IsraelEmpowered.com. All is well. [HW](#)



Stanley Lee Wender

Stanley Lee Wender, 94, passed away on the 5th of October 2023.

Stanley, a lifelong Memphian, was born on September 21, 1929, to Bessie (Alperin) and Ellis H. Wender. His life was shaped by his early years working in his father’s dry goods store, Grand Leader, a cornerstone of the neighborhood that impressed upon him the importance of community and family, which he would carry with him through-

out his life.

After attending A.B. Hill Elementary then Central High School, Stanley continued his education at Washington University in St. Louis, where he majored in Business and Finance. Following his graduation in 1951, he proudly served in the U.S. Army, training at Forts Huachuca and Ord ahead of deployment to Shemya, Alaska, where he spent the majority of his service.

After his service, Stanley returned to Memphis where he met the love of his life, Razelle Margolin. They had a swift courtship and were married on December 26, 1954, the wedding was a small, intimate gathering of 1000 people.

Already working as a builder, Stanley joined National Mortgage Company, the Margolin family business, where he would begin a storied career which lasted over 40 years. The family aspect of the company was central to his dedication and hard work.

Stanley’s proudest achievement was raising his four children Mark, z”l, Jill, Elliot, and Margo. He was a dedicated father who never missed a family meal, dance recital, or sporting event.

Judaism penetrated every facet of

Stanley’s life, from daily prayer to family gatherings. He was president of Baron Hirsch Synagogue and the Margolin Hebrew Academy and involved in several other Jewish organizations including Israel Bonds. Stanley’s generosity reached countless individuals, many of whom never knew of his selflessness.

In his free time, Stanley was an avid listener of big band and Dixieland jazz. Sports were a constant in his life. He was an excellent tennis player and legendary third baseman in local softball leagues. He loved to watch his beloved Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, Memphis Chicks, St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox.

Stanley is preceded in death by his parents, Ellis and Bessie (Alperin) Wender, sister Janice Adelstein, and beloved son Mark Wender.

He is survived by his wife, Razelle Margolin; children Jill (Paul) Friedman, Elliot (Penina) Wender, Margo (Todd) Gruen; daughter-in-law Sally Wender, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Baron Hirsch Synagogue. [HW](#)

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Asher Yotzar - A Prayer for the Dammed



*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

This is a medical Megillah about a Jewish writer. It is not his usual illuminating commentary on the deep mysteries of our faith; like why is the Rabbi's speech always longer on those Saturdays when our writer friend consumed three glasses of iced tea before services. (Why is it that, when he needs to flee to that small room with porcelain furniture behind the reception hall, his Rabbi glows with prolonged and endless inspiration?) Our twitchy writer is waiting for, "in closing, my friends..." and all he's getting is, "and there's another incident in Leviticus that..."

OK, let's be honest (and extremely personal) the "writer friend" is me.

So, here's the real problem. It's 2:00 a.m. in the morning and I've got a medical problem like that iced tea discomfort multiplied by a hundred miseries. Like the Tower of Babel is to a stack of pancakes is this impediment to that Saturday morning discomfort. Let's call it a stoppage – a blockage – without using a map of the human torso to pinpoint the problem. My wife, a Florence Nightingale, an experienced RN, understands immediately. We're off to the ER. "Where's George Clooney?" I muttered in my hysteria. "I want George Clooney."

This episode began a week before with a series of "procedures." "Procedures," the mantra of the medical community, since it doesn't raise visions of blood, pain, and tears. "Procedure? Sure, Doc, let's do a procedure. You didn't say cutting, slicing, sewing, cauterizing, removing, did ya? Procedure – such a nice non-intrusive word. Do it."

And we did. Lots of 'em for a week – topped off by two days in that strange piece of downtown real estate that has 400 bedrooms, 400 baths – not one fireplace – and a large non-kosher cafeteria. And if you're lucky, the rent's covered by Medicare.

So now I'm home. It's supposed to be all over. I'm supposed to be as free flowing as the mountain brook as it splashes playfully down to the sea. But uh oh. All of a sudden – that problem.

Now here I must digress to educate readers who are more into Seinfeld, Der-shewitz, and Larry King than the Rambam or Rashi, the great Torah commentators. We Jews have an exalted view of HE who created the cosmos and the capillary: HE who activates the pulse of the migrating Monarch butterfly, the mother fox who knows to suckle her young, and the astronomer who peers into the Milky Way. C. S. Lewis, the great Christian philosopher, calls our bodies: "vast and perilous estates pulsating with the energy that made the world." We Jews share his awe of the human frame and understand that we only lease these earthly quarters. Laced with a million possibilities for failure, the body only works because of some sleight of hand we don't understand. Its operation is a mathematical nightmare. A defiance of the laws of probability that would make

an engineer wince. Thought, sensation, breathing, digestion, locomotion, elimination all depend on a synchronous performance by a set of perfectly functioning systems. A speck of dust in a pink passageway and you're toast.

To declare their admiration, awe, and thanks for these beneficent operations, observant Jews have a daily prayer – Asher Yotzar. You create man with "many openings and hollows" it says. And if "one of them were to be ruptured...or blocked, it would be impossible to survive." It goes on to say, "Blessed are you Lord who heals all flesh and acts wondrously."

Now from the sublime back to my bedroom, eerily illuminated by the nightlight. My "hollows" – one of them – as blocked up as Pharaoh's heart.

Back to the ER? Unbearable.

Then I saw it on the bedside table. My son – impelled by a faith far stronger than mine – had sent it. A large, garish, laminated poster. The prayer, Asher Yotzar, in the middle surrounded by cartoonlike illustrations. Primitive, almost laughable, especially to me: a tightly affiliated but imperfect Jew, whose Mitzvah batting average does not qualify me as a Hall of Famer.


But there are no atheists in foxholes or the ER as any nurse will testify. And when you're drowning in a sea of suffering, if they throw you a noodle lifeline, you'll hang on.

I read the prayer as I ached. Twice. In English and Hebrew. The ardor, the passion of my Yom Kippur prayers was a whisper compared to this whirlwind. I said it twice, reading each word slowly and distinctly. I wanted no misunderstanding of my plight or my passion.

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

The best of
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make you
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The Master Healer must have a clear, comprehensive diagnosis.

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It stands now on my bedroom wall. (You can get a copy of your own by calling 1-800-700-9577.) I admit that the ER number also is scribbled in pencil on a pad on my night table. But it's well below Asher Yotzar and rapidly fading in the sunlight streaming through the bedroom windows.

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**

Israeli Troops Find ISIS Flag on Hamas Terrorist's Body

By Pesach Benson

(JNS) – Israeli forces have uncovered an Islamic State flag among the gear of a Hamas terrorist killed in Kibbutz Sufa near the Gaza Strip, Israel Defense Forces spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told reporters last Thursday.

During the press conference, which came against the backdrop of rocket

barrages from the Gaza Strip, triggering sirens as far away as Netanya and Ariel, Hagari also said the IDF had so far notified the families of 97 hostages being held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The IDF last Wednesday also named another 31 soldiers killed since Saturday, bringing the toll of slain soldiers to 220.

Last Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden compared Hamas's Oct. 7 assault on Israel to the atrocities committed by ISIS.

"The brutality of Hamas – this blood-thirstiness – brings to mind the worst – the worst rampages of ISIS. This is terrorism," said Biden.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State

Antony Blinken arrived in Israel last Wednesday, where he was scheduled to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog and other senior officials.

Blinken was also scheduled to meet with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas in Jordan last Friday. **HW**

Israel Insights Déjà Vu All Over Again, But Different*

By Howard Weisband

When I wrote my last column merely two weeks ago, "Lessons Learned? 50 Years and 30 Years Later," little did I know that an unlearned lesson would bite us back immediately, and so very tragically.

I am writing on October 11, the fifth day of a gruesome, unanticipated war labeled by Israel "Swords of Iron." The joy and peaceful celebration of Shabbat, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah was shattered by the brutal Hamas invasion that slaughtered hundreds of innocent men, women, and children of all ages, and also took scores of hostages into Gaza.

As I write this column in our home in Jerusalem, in very surreal fashion, I am receiving multiple alerts in real time on my iPhone of rockets still raining down mainly in the south, plus some in the central area including just outside Jerusalem, and in the north.

My purpose here is not to present the heartbreaking, unfathomable personal stories and numbers of casualties we've suffered, or to delve into deep analysis of what happened, or possible war tactics going forward. Expertise and opin-

ion in all of these areas and more can be found through reliable media sources.

In addition, our superb soldiers in the IDF have already turned the tide of this war, on the ground and in the air, as difficult as their task has been, so that the border is resealed, hopefully better protected, and Hamas is being hit very hard in Gaza from the air. The latter factor may be the prelude to a ground invasion when there will be far fewer terrorists and much less ammunition for our soldiers to confront.

Rather, I want to share eerie and difficult thought that I felt relating to what I wrote two weeks ago, as I absorbed the shocking and horrific enormity of hundreds of Hamas terrorists having crossed our border, causing such savage human devastation.

I thought back to the key paragraph, which I reprint here: "About 25 years ago I was privileged to hear a private briefing at Bar-Ilan University provided by an active Israeli army intelligence officer. In the course of his talk, he said something that has remained with me ever since. Simply stated, he said that if an Arab leader, military or political,

says something, believe him. Do not try and analyze it. Do not use our western culture, education, and training to overthink it. Believe him."

Fifty years ago we didn't believe that the Egyptians and Syrians would attack Israel, although they amassed troops on our borders. Thirty years ago we knew that Arafat and the PLO called for the destruction of Israel, but we believed they would make peace with us.

Now 2023. We know that Iran supports and funds Hamas. We know that Iran and Hamas call for the destruction of Israel. But we've believed we could contain them and maintain a relatively peaceful situation.

The Gaza border was penetrable, and our 25 communities were lightly guarded and relatively unprotected. Apparently, we overly relied on technology, which was knocked out through a well-planned combination of cyber war tactics and drones, which then allowed an invasion of thousands of terrorists.

No doubt that there were intelligence and operational failures, which will be fully investigated and recommendations made. But first we must win this war de-

cisively so that we eliminate those who want to eliminate us.

I fear that we tried to overthink Hamas and Iran, and other terrorist entities as well. We must believe what they say and overly protect our most vulnerable areas.

Two weeks ago my question of 50 and 30 years ago was: Lessons Learned?

This past weekend my eerie feeling and answer was no.

Déjà Vu. Tragically.

*Baseball fans will know that I have borrowed the phrase "Déjà Vu All Over Again" from Yogi Berra, the Hall of Fame catcher who famously played with the New York Yankees. It is known as one of many "Berraisms."

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**

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Midsouth Explores History and Humanity

As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisper, the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Midsouth invites you to join us for two captivating events this fall. These programs promise to delve into the rich tapestry of Jewish history, shining a spotlight on moments that defined our collective identity and values.

Reckonings: A Glimpse into Holocaust Reparations
Date: Sunday, October 22, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Memphis Jewish Community Center Theatre

Our first event of the season, on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m., will feature a screening of the thought-provoking documentary “Reckonings.” Directed by the acclaimed filmmaker Roberta Grossman, known for her work on “Who Will Write Our History,” this film offers an unprecedented look into the complex negotiations that led to the groundbreaking Luxembourg Agreements of 1952.

“Reckonings” transports us to a time when the world was grappling with the aftermath of the Holocaust, and the souls of the six million who perished seemed to be present in every room

where these discussions unfolded. In secret, brave individuals came together to address an unthinkable question: How could compensation be determined for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history?

This documentary takes us on a journey from the halls of power in Bonn, West Germany, where fierce debates raged over wartime debts, to the streets of Jerusalem, where the idea of talks with Germany led to violent protests and turmoil. It sheds light on Jewish and German leaders who risked their lives to meet in a hidden castle near The Hague, navigating anger, shame, and anguish as talks teetered on the brink of failure.

“Reckonings” also honors those unsung heroes who continued negotiations, knowing that no amount of compensation could ever truly heal the wounds but hoping it could, at the very least, acknowledge the pain and pave the way for a better future. Featuring interviews with Holocaust survivors, scholars, and dignitaries, this film illustrates how political will and moral imperatives converged to bridge an impossible divide. It marks the first time in history that individual victims of persecution received material compensation from their perpetrators.



Reckonings Film Screening
Sunday, October 22
2 pm CT



HIAS: Then and Now - From 1881 to 2023
Sunday, November 19
2 pm CT

HIAS: Then and Now - A Journey through Time and Compassion
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Memphis Jewish Community Center Theatre

Our second event, taking place on Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m., will explore the remarkable evolution of HIAS, the world’s oldest refugee organization. From its origins as a resettlement agency aiding Jewish refugees to its current status as an international humanitarian organization serving displaced persons of all faiths, HIAS’s transformation reflects the enduring Jewish values of compassion and assistance to those in need.

In conversation with Memphian Eden Siskind, assistant program director for Latin America and the Caribbean, we will gain insight into HIAS’s contemporary work across more than 11 countries

in the region. This conversation will illuminate how HIAS continues to uphold its mission of aiding those who have been forcibly displaced and marginalized, using the timeless Jewish values of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

As we embrace this autumn season, we invite you to join us for these enriching and inspiring events. The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Midsouth is committed to preserving our heritage, fostering understanding, and promoting empathy through the lens of history. We look forward to sharing these poignant moments with our community and welcoming you to engage in thoughtful discussions that honor our past and illuminate our path forward.

Mark your calendars, and let us journey through history together, exploring stories that define our shared humanity. **HW**

Memphis Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council visits Sikh Temple in Cordova



Members of Memphis Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council visited the Sikh Temple in Cordova as part of its mission to develop relationships and build coalitions with our city’s diverse faith and ethnic communities. Participants learned about Sikh history, culture and religion and the challenges facing the Sikh community in the greater Memphis area. This visit comes on the heels of one with West Tennessee Episcopal Bishop Phoebe Roaf.



Sikh Temple Sacred Text



Argentina, Canada, Other Countries Plan Airlifts to Help their Citizens Leave War-Torn Israel



Travelers are seen at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 8, 2023. International airlines delayed or cancelled their flights to and from Israel after an attack by Hamas triggered a war. Credit: Chen Junqing/Xinhua via Getty Images

By Juan Melamed

(JTA) – Argentina is launching an airlift to evacuate its citizens from Israel, four days after Hamas attacked Israel, killing and wounding thousands of people and spurring a war that could be long-lasting.

The Foreign Ministry opened a hotline last Saturday, the day of the attack, for Argentinian citizens to request repa-

triation. Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero said last Tuesday that more than 713 requests had been received.

Now, the “Safe Return” program will allow up to 625 people to leave the country. A military Hercules airplane and a Boeing jet will be deployed first to Cyprus and then to Tel Aviv. Last Thursday, three flights planned to take off from Tel Aviv to Rome, each carrying about 200 people.

“There are people who were there for tourism, for work, for studies and others who have been living for a long time,” Cafiero told the national news agency Telam.

So far, most people in Israel who wish to leave are on their own to do so, and many flights have been canceled, making it hard to get out.

The decision to evacuate expatriates, which tends to be made in only the most extreme and dangerous circumstances, reflects a growing realization that the war launched in response to the attack could be long and grueling. Ar-

gentina is not the only country to send planes to retrieve its citizens: Poland and Australia, for example, have said they would evacuate citizens who want to exit the country. Canada had plans to announce an evacuation effort, using military planes and with special provisions for people who cannot safely get to Israel’s international airport, last Wednesday.

The airlift by Argentina – home to an estimated 180,000 Jews, the sixth-largest Jewish population in the world – is especially notable because until last week, the country held the ignominious record of being the site of the worst terrorist attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Eighty-five people died in the 1994 bombing of the headquarters of AMIA, Buenos Aires’ Jewish community center, which like the Hamas attack is widely understood to have been carried out in collaboration with Iran.

Jorge Knoblovits, president of DAIA, Argentina’s Jewish umbrella organization, decried Hamas during a massive

rally in Buenos Aires, outside a Jewish community center at the corner of Avenue Estado de Israel and Avenue Estado de Palestina. The group, he said, aimed to destroy not only Israel “but all of us, all Jews, anywhere in the world.”

The demonstration, one of dozens that have taken place around the world in support of Israel this week, occupied two full blocks and drew prominent figures including the U.S. ambassador, the city mayor and Patricia Bullrich, a candidate for president in this month’s election. Moshe and Sara Korin, whose son Abi has not been heard from since the attack on his kibbutz, also appeared at the rally.

A number of Argentinian expatriates were killed in the Hamas attack, all on kibbutzes in Israel’s south that were popular destinations for South Americans who moved to Israel. According to the Foreign Ministry’s latest data, Argentina has confirmed seven deaths among its citizens and 15 remain missing. **HW**



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