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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Independent Schools Show Up for Israel and Bornblum



Over the course of seven days, numerous heads of school, principals, administrators and students from St. Mary's Episcopal School, Hutchison School, Harding Academy, Memphis University School, Briarcrest Christian School, The Collegiate School of Memphis, Bodine School, First Assembly Christian School, and Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School showed up for either Kabbalat Shabbat or morning carpool.

With the war in Israel raging on, Bornblum Jewish Community School Head of School Dr. Daniel R. Weiss was receiving constant inquiries asking how he was doing? Inspired by a letter shared by a fellow head of school in a Jewish day school, he decided to share his perspective with other principals at independent schools in Memphis.

The impetus for this letter was the Global Day of Rage declared by Hamas. According to Weiss, "it was not my intent to scare or shame anyone, but I wanted my colleagues to know that something traumatic was happening to the Jewish

people, and that this included Jewish students and families in their schools."

In part, Weiss wrote:

"How can we be okay when over 1,300 Israelis have been killed, and over 150 taken as hostages in Gaza? Children were murdered in front of their parents and siblings. Young children were taken into Gaza and put in cages and paraded in front of cheering mobs and lashed with sticks as they cried out for their Ima, their mother. Women were raped. Children were beheaded. Bodies were disfigured ... **So no, we are not alright. We can't be.**"

As Weiss pointed out to his fellow administrators, the Day of Rage, "is not against Israel, it is against Jewish people. This is antisemitism at its core. Our students, parents, and staff are terrified, sending texts to each other and to us about the threat. . . [S]everal of your schools have Jewish students, faculty, and staff. They need to know you support them and that they are safe."

Weiss' letter went on to outline steps schools could take to support their Jewish students and families. He also invited them to show their support for Israel and the Jewish community by coming to Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday afternoon or coming to stand at carpool one day and greet our students and families. The response was immediate and overwhelming.

Over the course of seven days, numerous heads of school, principals, administrators and students from St. Mary's Episcopal School, Hutchison School, Harding Academy, Memphis University School, Briarcrest Christian School, The Collegiate School of Memphis, Bodine School, First Assembly Christian School, and Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School all showed up for either Kabbalat Shabbat or morning carpool.

"The feeling of support of having all of these colleagues at school this week showing that they care about Israel and the students and families of Bornblum was more than I ever imagined," said

Weiss. "We are so grateful for their emails and calls and prayers and expressions of compassion, but most importantly that they took time (many were on fall break) and came to stand with us."

Bornblum parents who experienced this outpouring of local support were moved by it. According to Abby Felsenthal, mother to two Bornblum students, "After a week of such deep sadness and fear, it was amazing to pull into school the following week and witness faculty and students from other schools around Memphis literally standing with Bornblum and the Jewish community. It's something I will never forget."

A few days after sending the initial letter, Weiss sent a similar letter to the principals of public schools in Memphis where Jewish students attend. In this letter, Weiss outlined steps that they could take to care for their Jewish students and families, and to make sure that their school environment remained safe for Jewish students. To both the public and independent schools, Weiss offered the assistance of his very talented faculty if any of them wanted someone to speak at their school or help them support their students in any way.

"We are all part of one Jewish community, and anything we can do to help Jewish students or families, regardless of where they go to school, we will gladly do," said Weiss.

Biden In Israel: 'Your Courage and Commitment is Stunning'



President Joe Biden meets with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Oct. 18, 2023. Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90.

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden praised the Israeli people's wartime posture upon his arrival to the Jewish state last Wednesday.

"To the people of Israel, your courage and commitment is stunning. I'm proud to be here," the American president said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greeted Biden at the Ben-Gurion Airport tarmac along with President Isaac Herzog and other senior officials, before heading to the Kempinski Hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea to speak to the media.

"The level of cooperation is unprecedented in the history of the American-Israel alliance," Netanyahu said.

"You have drawn a clear line between forces of civilization and barbarism, sheer evil," Netanyahu told Biden.

The Israeli leader compared the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre of more than 1,400 people in communities near the Gaza Strip as comparable in proportion to over 50,000 Americans murdered in a single day, saying it was like 20 9/11s.

"Oct. 7 is another day that will live in infamy," Netanyahu said, praising Biden for visiting Israel during a war.

"For the people of Israel, there is only one thing better than having a true friend like you with Israel, and that is standing

(See **Biden** Page 2)

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 Yahrzeit 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.



Dozens of volunteers prepared gifts, notes, and care packages to send to families in Israel, at Baron Hirsch Congregation.



Aiden (left) Lyla, Shoshana, and Kivi Cenker helped prepare gifts, notes, and care packages



Kollel Torah MiTzion and Bat Ami packing care packages

THE Hebrew Watchman

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. October 27, 2023 / 12 Cheshvan, 5784.....5:52 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. October 28, 2023 / 13 Cheshvan, 5784..... 6:48 p.m.

Lech-Lecha

Biden...

(Continued From Page 1)

in Israel as the first U.S. sitting president to visit Israel in a time of war, it is deeply moving and speaks to the depth of support for Israel," Netanyahu said.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for standing with Israel today, tomorrow and always."

Biden said that it was important for him to visit Israel so that the "people of Israel and people of the world know where the U.S. stands. I wanted to personally come and make it clear."

Hamas "makes ISIS look rational" and has "brought Palestinians only suf-

fering," he continued.

"Americans are grieving with you and Americans are worried. It is not an easy field to navigate," Biden said.

The president briefly mentioned last Tuesday night's explosion outside of a hospital in Gaza that Hamas blamed on Israel but which the IDF said was caused by a failed Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket launch.

"I'm deeply saddened and outraged by the hospital blast, which appears to be done by the other team," Biden said.

The U.S. president announced his wartime trip to Israel last Monday "to stand in solidarity in the face of Hamas's brutal terrorist attack."

The president had planned to visit Jordan to discuss "dire humanitarian needs," referring to the situation of two million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, but the trip was canceled after Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas changed his mind and decided not to attend.

The president's trip comes as the IDF prepares for a ground incursion into the Gaza Strip to defeat Hamas in the wake of the terrorist group's Oct. 7 assault on Israel, which killed more than 1,400 people and wounded at least 4,100. Hamas also kidnapped and took back to the Gaza Strip at least 199 hostages.

Israel National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi defined Israel's war goals in press briefing [last Monday] as the destruction of Hamas "as a governing body, as a military body, as a relevant body that threatens the lives of our citizens." **HW**



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USPS Releases Ruth Bader Ginsburg Stamp, 3 Years After Jewish Supreme Court Justice's Death

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – The United States Postal Service has released a new series of Forever stamps honoring Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the late Jewish Supreme Court justice and liberal icon who died in 2020.

The stamp, which recently became available for purchase, shows Ginsburg wearing her black judge's robe and signature white collar. It was announced last year as part of the postal service's 2023 lineup of new stamps, reflecting a jump on the service's standard timeline for honoring deceased people.

The stamp's release comes three years and two weeks after Ginsburg's death at 87, after 27 years on the Supreme Court. Her death, from pancreatic cancer, came on the eve of Rosh Hashanah at a time of intense political polarization – which deepened as then-President Donald Trump pushed through a conservative replacement despite a looming presidential election.

"Honor an icon of American culture with this new Ruth Bader Ginsburg stamp," the USPS says on its website. It says about Ginsburg: "She began her career as an activist lawyer fighting gender discrimination. She went on to become a judge who was unafraid to disagree with her colleagues. Ginsburg

gained a reputation as a respected voice for equal justice."

The RBG stamp costs \$.66 but will hold its value over time as part of the Forever series. The portrait was drawn by Michael Deas, who has painted dozens of stamps, under the direction of the USPS' Jewish art director, Ethel Kessler. The stamp was celebrated at an official unveiling at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Postal Service's special edition stamps commemorating notable Americans have included many Jews, including the physicist Richard Feynman in 2005, cartoonist and inventor Rube Goldberg in 1995 and, in 1991, comedian Fanny Brice, the inspiration for the musical "Funny Girl." The series in which Brice appeared was drawn by the Jewish illustrator Al Hirschfeld. Last year, the service released a special-edition stamp featuring the Jewish poet Shel Silverstein.

The USPS has also offered a range of Hanukkah stamps and last year introduced a new one, its ninth since 1996. The new stamp, which remains available, was drawn by Jeanette Kuvin Oren, a Jewish artist who also designs ritual objects for home and synagogue use. **HW**

Biden's New Book Ban Czar is a Longtime Progressive Jewish Leader

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – The Biden Administration's new point person for combating book bans at school districts and public libraries across the country is a gay, Jewish progressive activist who has served as a government liaison to the Jewish and LGBTQ communities.

The appointment of Matt Nosanchuk comes as the thousands of book challenges nationwide have focused on books with LGBTQ as well as Jewish themes, in addition to works about race. Nosanchuk was named a deputy assistant secretary in the Department of Education's civil rights office earlier this month. In that role, he will lead training sessions for schools and libraries on how to deal with book bans — and warn districts that the department believes book bans can violate civil rights laws.

An Education Department official recently told the 74, an education news site, that the bans "are a threat to students' rights and freedoms."

"I am excited to return to public service to work on behalf of the American people," Nosanchuk posted to LinkedIn earlier this month. "There is a lot of important work to do!"

The Education Department declined to make Nosanchuk available for an interview. He has already taken heat from conservative outlets, which have

pushed the narrative that the books being removed from schools and libraries are too sexually explicit for children. Kayleigh McEnany, the Fox News host who served as Donald Trump's press secretary, called him a "porn enforcer" on-air.

But his appointment has been celebrated by librarians and book access activists. "This is a step forward for the Biden Administration, who has heard the concerns of parents and taken action, but it is just the beginning," the National Parents Union, a progressive parental education activist group, said in a statement.

Nosanchuk's career has largely focused on working with the LGBTQ and Jewish communities. In 2009, after serving in a number of roles in Washington, D.C., Nosanchuk was appointed as the Department of Justice's liaison to the LGBTQ community – a position he held while Obama was still publicly opposed to same-sex marriage. He later worked on the Obama administration's opposition to a law barring same-sex couples from receiving federal benefits.

He subsequently served as the White House liaison to the Jewish community during Obama's second term, and in 2020 was the Democratic National Committee's political organizer for Jewish outreach and LGBTQ engagement. That same year, he cofounded the New York Jewish Agenda, a progressive policy group that he led until earlier this year.

Nosanchuk's first webinar in his new role was recently held in partnership with the American Library Association, an organization with which a number of Republican-led states have recently cut ties. He begins his work after a year that has seen several school districts take aim at books focused on Jewish experiences or the Holocaust.

Two weeks ago, a Texas school district fired a middle school teacher reportedly for reading a passage from an illustrated adaptation of Anne Frank's diary to eighth-grade students. Other schools' removals of "The Fixer," a Jodi Picoult novel about the Holocaust and other texts have been likened to Nazi and Stalinist book burnings – comparisons that proponents of the book restrictions reject.

Democratic politicians, including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, have accused Republicans of wanting "to ban books on the Holocaust." A recent Senate hearing on book bans included testimony from Cameron Samuels, a Jewish advocate for access to books, along with numerous references to "Maus," a graphic novel by Art Spiegelman about the Holocaust that was pulled from a Tennessee middle school curriculum last year.

PEN America, a literary free-speech advocacy group, welcomed Nosanchuk's appointment.

"Book removals and restrictions continue apace across the country, as the tactics to silence certain voices and identities are sharpened," the group said in a statement. "Empowering the coordinator to address this ongoing movement is critical." **HW**

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Baron Hirsch Synagogue November Kol Rena Socials Luncheon

Baron Hirsch Synagogue will host the November Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at noon.

The SoShuls luncheons are for people who are ages 64 and older.

The cost for the luncheon is \$5.00 per person, and the Bingo game fun will follow the lunch.

You do not have to be a synagogue member to attend. Come join friends you already know or meet new friends at the November luncheon.

With the days getting shorter, and the weather getting cooler, the SoShuls Luncheon will provide a warm meal and an embracing setting for all!

The Jeremy Shafer Trio will set the musical mood for a great time, courtesy of the non-profit agency, Creative Aging.

Since 1995, Jeremy Shafer has been entertaining audiences with jazz, swing, big band and blues music. The Jeremy Shafer Trio will give us a chance to return to the timeless sounds of Frank

Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and other great musicians. Can't you feel the joy of that music? What a great way to sing-along with all the musical greats!

The delicious Thanksgiving menu will be filled with many comfort food favorites, including pumpkin pie.

There was no October luncheon due to the High Holy Days, however, the September SoShuls luncheon was well-attended. The Rosh Hashanah-themed meal was delicious!

It was a pleasure to have Baron Hirsch Rabbi Ian Lichter join the luncheon guests and share his Rosh Hashanah greetings and d'var Torah with them.

So now, it's time for you to join us at the SoShuls Luncheon at noon on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

Please make your reservations with Gwen Moody at gwen@baronhirsch.org.

We'll be glad to have you there, and you'll be glad you joined in the fun! **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, October 30

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter

Topic: "Avraham and Sarah, A Pair to Pattern After!"

Rabbi Lichter always has talks that seniors enjoy! A question and answer period will follow the discussion. Please join us for lunch and the talk.

Wednesday, November 1

Special art project with Sarah Nowlin

Sarah will help the seniors create a special Interactive Art Collage. Sarah's visual arts workshops are designed to put everyone at ease and encourage exploration, whatever a participant's art background may be. Groups work together to co-create artwork with the entire group, layering materials and colors on one piece. Surprising collages of

Please join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious Kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home. The cost is only \$2.00 for seniors.

Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

vibrant shapes and expressions emerge, wowing the participants. Please make your reservation for lunch and to join in this terrific art project.

Monday, November 6

Speaker: Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, MJCC Director for the Center of Jewish Living and Learning

Topic: "Learn about a Jewish Holiday you may not heard of!"

Rabbi Abe's talks always are enjoyed and give an insight many really enjoy. No reservations are necessary so please join us.

Wednesday, November 8

Speaker: Rabbi Jeff Dreifus, Assistant Rabbi at Temple Israel

Topic: "Jewish Veterans!"

All members of the community are invited to hear this important talk.

Tehran Calls for Oil Embargo Against Israel

(JNS) – Iran urged the 57 members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to impose an oil boycott on Israel during a meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, last Wednesday.

The urgent meeting was convened to discuss the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, "The foreign minister calls for an immediate and complete embargo on Israel by Islamic countries, including

oil sanctions, in addition to expelling Israeli ambassadors if relations with the Zionist regime have been established."

The Islamic Republic's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also called for assembling a team of Islamic lawyers to document potential Israeli war crimes in the Gaza Strip.

Iran urged the embargo after a blast detonated at a Gaza hospital, allegedly killing hundreds. The event sparked widespread protests in Arab states,

which blamed Israel.

Israel provided ample evidence, including video, that the incident was caused by an errant Islamic Jihad missile that went off course, a fairly common occurrence.

U.S. President Joe Biden told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a visit to Israel last Wednesday that "based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team – not you."

The outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas, which caught Israel by surprise on Oct. 7 in a terrorist offensive that killed more than 1,400, mostly civilians, has derailed efforts by the Netanyahu government to expand peaceful relations with Muslim states as sources say Saudi Arabia has paused normaliza-

Iran's foreign minister called "for an immediate and complete embargo by Islamic countries, including oil sanctions."

tion talks.

The White House, which was brokering the talks, said hopes for a deal are still alive with Biden telling CBS's "60 Minutes" in an interview that aired last Monday, "The Saudis, and the Emiratis, and other Arab nations understand that their security and stability is enhanced if there's normalization of relations with Israel." **HW**

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Memphis Friends of Israel Dinner at Baron Hirsch Congregation



Naqshon's Leap performing at the Memphis Friends of Israel event



Attendees at Memphis Friends of Israel dinner



Dr. Tricia Miller, senior analyst at Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis, speaking at the Memphis Friends of Israel dinner at Baron Hirsch Congregation

IDF: Hamas Terrorists Could Still be in Israel



Israeli soldiers walk through the destruction caused by Hamas terrorists in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, Oct. 15, 2023. Credit: Edi Israel/Flash90.

(JNS) – The Israeli military has not ruled out the possibility that Hamas terrorists who infiltrated the Jewish state during the devastating cross-border invasion on Oct. 7 remain in the country.

“We have not finished scanning [the Gaza border area] yet,” IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said last Thursday.

He noted that troops [last] Wednesday located and captured a Palestinian terrorist – tired and hungry – who was attempting to return to the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

Hagari stressed that there have been no additional infiltrations of Israel over the past few days.

Last Tuesday, an unarmed Gazan was caught near the Israeli city of Netivot, about eight miles from the Strip, and taken to the local police station for questioning. It is thought that he entered Israel as part of the mass border infiltration.

Also last Tuesday, Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem’s Ein Kerem said that it was refusing to treat a Hamas terrorist.

The hospital said that security officials had attempted to admit the terrorist during the night, but that he was refused entry and thrown out of the building.

On Oct. 7, some 2,500 terrorists broke through the Gaza security barrier and rampaged through Israeli communities in the western Negev, murdering more than 1,400 persons and wounding over 4,500. At least 203 people were taken back to Gaza as captives. **HW**

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Errant Palestinian Terror Rocket 'Likely' Killed UN Staff in Gaza, Says IDF



A U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East building in the southern Gaza Strip, Nov. 29, 2021. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90.

(JNS) – An errant rocket fired by Palestinian terrorists likely killed six staff members of the U.N. Relief and Works

Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) earlier last week, the Israel Defense Forces concluded fol-

lowing an internal probe.

“On October 17, at 15:06, UNRWA stated that six of its staff members were killed in a strike on a UNRWA school and shelter in the Al-Muazi area in Gaza,” the IDF said last Wednesday.

However, “a comprehensive internal investigation revealed that the IDF did not operate in the area between 10:00 and 16:30 that day. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad [PIJ], however, fired rockets from that location during the time of the explosion,” the army revealed.

“It is highly likely that a Hamas or PIJ misfire caused the damage to the school,” concluded the report.

In a statement from the Jordanian capital of Amman, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini last Tuesday accused the Jewish state of hitting the school “during Israeli forces airstrikes and bombardment on the Gaza Strip.”

“This is outrageous, and it again shows a flagrant disregard for the lives of civilians,” Lazzarini charged, adding: “At least 4,000 people have taken refuge in this UNRWA school turned shelter. They had and still have nowhere else to go.”

‘Rockets have been causing harm to Gazan civilians’

According to IDF data released earlier last Wednesday, rockets fired at Israel by Gaza-based terrorist organizations are increasingly falling short inside the Strip.

Last Tuesday, some 12.7% of all projectiles launched by Hamas and PIJ struck in the Strip, compared to just over 6% the previous day.

Since the start of the war on Oct. 7, some 7.52% of rockets failed to reach Israeli territory, the military said, adding that it detected 450 misfires that led to “death and destruction in Gaza.”

“Rockets have been causing harm to

A “comprehensive internal investigation” revealed that the Israel Defense Forces did not operate in the area, the military said.

Gazan civilians, in addition to Israeli civilians,” the IDF said. “Hamas is continuing to use the residents of the Gaza Strip as human shields and does not hesitate to risk the lives of Gazan civilians for the purpose of attacking Israelis.”

Last Tuesday evening, an explosion rocked the courtyard of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. Hamas sources claimed it killed 471 Palestinians. Hamas and much of the Arab world immediately blamed Israel, accusing the IDF of deliberately striking the hospital.

Yet last Wednesday, Israel presented conclusive evidence proving a faulty PIJ rocket caused the explosion. No Israeli air force, ground or naval attacks were being carried out in the area at the time of the blast, said IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

U.S. President Joe Biden and the Pentagon have confirmed that based on available evidence, the explosion was caused by an errant PIJ rocket.

“I’m deeply saddened and outraged by the hospital blast, which appears to be done by the other team – not you,” said Biden, who landed in Israel last Wednesday to show support for Jerusalem’s war effort against Hamas.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson told NBC News that “our current assessment, based on analysis of overhead imagery, intercepts and open-source information, is that Israel is not responsible for the explosion at the hospital in Gaza yesterday.” **HW**



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Thousands Rally in Times Square to Demand Release of Hamas Hostages



In Times Square, thousands of Israel supporters demand the release of hostages held by Hamas on Oct. 19, 2023. Credit: Luke Tress

By Luke Tress

(New York Jewish Week) – Ronen and Orna Neutra told a large crowd in Times Square that their son, Omer, had captained his soccer team at his Long Island high school and loved the NBA. They last spoke to Omer on Oct. 6 while he was stationed with his tank unit on the Gaza border, when he said he looked forward to a restful Shabbat.

"Omer is now considered to be held by Hamas," his father said. "Omer, we know that you're alive and you're strong."

He added, "We pray for your swift return."

The parents delivered the speech as part of a massive "Bring Them Home" rally last Thursday evening on behalf of the captives held by Hamas. The rally was organized by the Israeli American Council and backed by a range of Jewish groups. Thousands of people packed Times Square for the event, bearing Israeli and American flags and photos of the 200 hostages held by the terror group, which took the captives when it invaded Israel from Gaza on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 and wounding thousands.

Photos of the hostages were displayed on the iconic LED screens towering over Times Square, as well as on the LED billboards along Broadway and Seventh Avenue.

Community leaders and politicians, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, addressed the crowd, vowing to bring back the hostages and defeat Hamas, and leading chants of "Bring them home." Israeli singer Shiri Maimon sang Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah."

"To free the hostages we will persist and persist and persist," said Schumer, who had recently returned from a trip to Israel. "In every generation they have risen to afflict us," he said, quoting the Passover Haggadah. "But we know in every generation we fight back until we win." **HW**

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

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A recent AARP study found that nearly half of all private sector employees ages 18 to 64 had no access to a retirement plan at work. It also found that small businesses are more likely to lack a work-based plan, putting their workers at a significant disadvantage when it comes to retirement preparations.¹

Last December, Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion omnibus package that included the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022, a package of legislation designed to improve the nation's retirement-planning health.* Here are a few provisions that may be of particular interest to small business owners.

Tax Perks for Employers

Beyond the obvious benefits for employees, providing access to a retire-

ment plan might also help a small business build and retain a quality staff. To that aim, the Act enhances the tax credits offered for the adoption of new retirement plans, beginning in 2023.

For employers with 50 employees or less, the pension plan start-up tax credit increases from 50% of qualified start-up costs to 100%. Employers with 51 to 100 employees will still be eligible for the 50% credit. In both cases, the credit maximum is \$5,000 per year (based on the number of employees) for the first three years the plan is in effect. In addition, the Act offers a tax credit for employer contributions to employee accounts for the first five tax years of the plan's existence. The credit amount is a maximum of \$1,000 per participant,

and for each year, a specific percentage applies. In years one and two, employers receive 100% of the credit; in year three, 75%; in year four, 50%; and in year five, 25%. The amount of the credit is reduced for employers with 51 to 100 employees and is not available to employers with more than 100 workers.

More Rule Changes Ahead

Beginning in 2024, employers will be able to adopt a starter 401(k) or similar 403(b) plan, which is designed to be lower cost and easier to administer than other types of employer-sponsored plans. This type of auto-enrollment plan will be for employee contributions only, up to a maximum of \$6,000 per year (\$7,000 for those 50 and older), indexed for inflation.

SIMPLE plans may benefit from two new contribution rules that take effect in 2024. First, employers may make nonelective contributions to employee accounts up to 10% of compensation or \$5,000. Second, the annual contribution limits (standard and catch-up) for employers with no more than 25 employees will increase by 10%, rather than the limit that would otherwise apply. An employer with 26 to 100 employees would be permitted to allow higher contributions if the employer makes either a matching contribution on the first 4%

of compensation or a 3% nonelective contribution to all participants, whether they contribute or not.

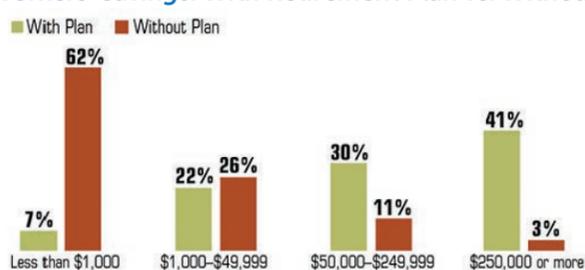
* SECURE stands for Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement and originated with the SECURE Act of 2019.

1) American Association of Retired Persons, July 2022

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Comparing Workers' Savings: With Retirement Plan vs. Without



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OBITUARIES

Sally Travis Felt

Sally Travis Felt passed away peacefully on October 13, 2023, in Brevard, North Carolina, surrounded by family and friends. She moved to Brevard in 2022, to be with her daughter, having previously spent a few summers there. She decided to remain after being diagnosed with lung cancer. She was 95 years old.

She was born in Brooklyn, New York, a fact she tried to keep secret from others outside the family for most of her life because she was the quintessential Southern Belle. Sally grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, raising her children in North Miami Beach, Florida, and then moving to Memphis, Tennessee, to marry Bill, the love of her life. She originally met Bill while attending Vanderbilt University where she earned her undergraduate degree and was elected the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity's Sweetheart. Sally lived in Memphis for almost 45 years.

Sally was smart, glamorous and beautiful, witty and fun-loving, with a spicy sense of humor. Known to those closest to her by her nickname, Scarlet, she was devoted to her family, organizing or supporting family gatherings during the holidays, always ensuring everyone could be together. She loved to entertain and eagerly threw parties for any festive occasion. Sally was a lifetime member of Hadassah and a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue while living in Atlanta. She later became a member of Temple Israel in Memphis, where she was active volunteering with the elderly. She was also a docent at the Brooks Museum and enjoyed sharing her love of art with others.

She enjoyed playing card games and excelled at bridge and mah jongg, eager to teach younger women how to play. She even played gin into her final months, still winning a few hands with her younger opponents. Sally also loved to travel. Throughout her lifetime, she visited dozens of countries on every continent except Antarctica. She most enjoyed traveling with friends and family, and in her later years, she particularly loved taking her children and grandchildren on cruises.

She was predeceased by her parents, Bertha and Robert Travis, and her husband, William "Bill" Felt. She is survived by her children, Josh Zwerner, Janna Zwerner and Jolie (Michael) Kisber; her grandchildren, Cody and Jarron Zwerner, Olya "Cookie" Zwerner, Zachary (Gabby) Kisber, Jordanna (Brandon) Denson, and Gabriel Kisber; and three great-grandchildren, and a host of loving cousins and friends.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Greenwood Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online at CampJudaea.org or mailed to: Camp Judaea, 1440 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30309, or a charity of your choice. **HW**



Sam Weinreich

The world has lost a beloved family man and Holocaust survivor. Sam Weinreich z"l passed away at the age of 104 on Sept. 10, 2023. Sam lived a long, miraculous life. He was well-known throughout Memphis and the South as an outspoken survivor, sharing his terrifying truth and horrors from the Holocaust.

Sam was born into an Orthodox family in 1919 in Łódź, Poland. One of nine children – four brothers and four sisters – his family owned four furniture and antique shops. Sam began singing in his shul's choir when he was 8 years old. Gifted with perfect pitch, he was a mezzo-soprano in his youth, later becoming a tenor as he grew up. Sam especially loved singing in shul with the greatest chazzanim (cantors) of that time.

His life changed in every way when he was 20 years old, with the start of WWII in September 1939, as his family was locked in the Łódź Ghetto, suffering in despicable, unlivable conditions. When the Ghetto was liquidated in 1944, Sam was carted off by train to Auschwitz, where he spent three days, and then to Kaufering, which was one

of the 11 subcamps of Dachau – he somehow lived through unimaginable pain and devastation. A few times, Sam was asked to sing for a Jewish Czechoslovakian doctor, who would give him an extra piece of bread. With that small portion of added sustenance, Sam credited his voice with saving his life.

In 1945 as allied forces drew closer, the Nazis moved prisoners deeper into Germany. When Sam's train was bombed, he hid in the woods, eventually stumbling upon a farmhouse with an American soldier standing guard. It was then he knew he was finally free. Sam was the only survivor of 11 immediate family members.

After the liberation, Sam met his future wife, Frieda, also from Łódź, in a displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany. The survivors were married on Sam's 27th birthday, Sept. 3, 1946. Frieda was 22. Since they didn't have family anymore, the 300 people at the DP camp came out to celebrate.

On April 5, 1949, Sam and Freida emigrated to the United States. Sam often joked that he didn't even know where Memphis was, much less if there were any fellow Jews there. The Weinreichs learned how to speak English by listening to the radio. For his career, Sam first worked restoring furniture, then transitioned to the paint industry. He also owned a liquor store and later retired as a property management superintendent. Sam had also designed the Memphis home he and Freida had built.

He was active in the Memphis Jewish community, at Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, Baron Hirsch Congregation, and local Jewish organizations. Sam served as vice president and president of a club called the New Americans of the Jewish Community Center. And he was part of a group of local survivors who raised nearly \$6,000 in 1967 to build a Holocaust memorial in Memphis. When the

Six Day War erupted, the survivors decided to donate those funds to the Israeli government – they believed the continued existence of the Jewish State was a greater priority at the time than building a local memorial. And Sam proudly sang the "Partisan Song" and "Ghetto Song" for nearly 60 years at Memphis' annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

Sam dedicated his life to sharing his story and the truth about the six years of hell he endured in the Holocaust to as many people as possible – at schools, synagogues, on Zoom, churches, anywhere he could. Though he often joked that at his older age he still had most of his marbles, he certainly remembered every detail about the atrocities: dates, clothes, sounds, weather, smells, exact quotes. Speaking the truth was his painful labor of love – his mission to perpetuate the memory and honor those who perished, hoping future generations learn from the past and promote tolerance and compassion.

Sam amassed countless VHS tapes, DVDs, binders, and folders – all with the Weinreich's life history. He documented everything, ensuring a permanent record for history's sake and for his family. Sam would often acknowledge how blessed he was, and friends and family enjoyed his singing right up until his passing.

Sam leaves behind his wife, Freida, of 77 years. It's believed they were the oldest living Holocaust survivor couple in the U.S. Sam's legacy includes four children – Sarah Light (OBM) (Berel) Marilyn Schachter (Mendy), Jerry Weinreich (Rebecca), and Elaine Katz (Yitzie) – and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sam was laid to rest in Israel.

Condolence notes and donations can be sent to Baron Hirsch Congregation and the Nusach Sphard Minyan, as well as KAVOD. **HW**

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Hamas Releases Two American Hostages from Gaza

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Hamas has released two American hostages, a mother and a daughter, whom it was holding in the Gaza Strip. The release was confirmed by an organization dedicated to the rescue of the more than 200 hostages the terrorist group captured in its Oct. 7 invasion.

“The families headquarters congratulates the release of hostages from Hamas captivity,” the Hostages and Missing

Families Forum said in a message it distributed to reporters on WhatsApp. “The continued holding of hostages is a war crime. Hundreds of families await the assistance of leaders of Arab states after Hamas’ actions shocked the entire world.”

Foreign reports named the women as Natalie and Judith Raanan of Evanston, Illinois.

Media reports said the two were a mother and a daughter, who were re-

leased to the Red Cross. A Red Cross spokeswoman did not immediately return a request for comment.

A spokeswoman for the Families Forum, Liat Bell Sommer, confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the two hostages are American, but said she could not provide further details at the request of the families.

A Hamas spokesman told reporters on a Telegram channel that it had “released two American citizens (a mother and

her daughter) for humanitarian reasons, and to prove to the American people and the world that the claims made by Biden and his fascist administration are false and baseless.”

President Joe Biden has backed Israel in its war against Hamas since the terrorist group invaded Israel, killing 1,400 people, most of them civilians, wounding thousands and kidnapping more than 200. Israel declared war on Hamas following the invasion. **HW**

Hamas Inflated Hospital Blast Death Toll, Per AFP Report



Damage caused from an explosion at Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, Oct. 18, 2023. Credit: Atia Mohammed/Flash90.

(JNS) – Hamas massively inflated the death toll of last Tuesday’s blast near the Gaza Strip’s Al Ahli Arab Hospital, as it tried to pin the incident on the Israeli military, a European intelligence official told the “Agence France-Presse.”

“There weren’t 200 or even 500 deaths. More likely between 10 and 50,” the anonymous source, told the news agency.

Gaza health authorities, which Hamas controls, claimed last Tuesday that the blast in Gaza City killed 471 Palestinians. The terror group immediately blamed Israel, accusing the Israel Defense Forces of deliberately striking the hospital.

In response to Hamas’s accusations, violence erupted around the region, as angry protesters gathered in front of Israeli diplomatic missions.

Israel presented conclusive evidence last Wednesday that a faulty Palestinian

Islamic Jihad rocket struck the area near the hospital. No Israeli air force, ground or naval attacks were carried out in that area at the time of the blast, said IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

U.S. President Joe Biden said that the Pentagon confirmed based on available evidence that the explosion was caused by an errant PIJ rocket.

“I’m deeply saddened and outraged by the hospital blast, which appears to be done by the other team – not you,” said Biden, who visited Israel last Wednesday to show support for Jerusalem’s war effort against Hamas.

Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. National Security Council, told NBC News that “our current assessment, based on analysis of overhead imagery, intercepts and open-source information, is that Israel is not responsible for the explosion at the hospital in Gaza yesterday.” **HW**

OPINION

A Naive West Must Awaken to the Jihadist Threat

Dr. Eric R. Mandel

(JNS) – I awoke to sirens on Saturday morning, Oct. 7, in the sleepy community of Yerucham in the Israeli Negev. The sound of explosions could be heard in the distance. It was the holiday of Simchat Torah, when Jews worldwide celebrate the end of the annual reading of the Torah. This year, it coincided with the Jewish Sabbath, a day of peace.

I watched men with prayer shawls running from the synagogue towards cars to bring them to their army units or security duties. I heard the echoes of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Arab armies, in a surprise attack on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, sought to annihilate the Jewish state and commit a new Holocaust. Some, including the current Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas, deny the Holocaust ever occurred.

On Oct. 7, in the town of Sderot, I witnessed firsthand some of the fallout from the terrorist massacre in Israel’s Gaza envelope. The goal of Israel’s enemies in 1948, 1967, 1973, 2000, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021 and 2023 remains the same. As Syrian leader Hafez al-Assad said in 1967, “Strike the enemy’s settlements, turn them into dust, pave the Arab roads with the skulls of Jews.”

However, the complexity of the Middle East and the death cult of radical Islamism eludes Western comprehension. The perplexing convolutions of regional Islamist alliances allow Iranian Shiite Persians to coordinate and support the Sunni Arabs of Hamas and the Shiite Arabs of Hezbollah, all of whom share a pervasive hatred of Jews and the Jewish state.

Many in the West are now afraid that if they speak critically of radical Islamism they will be labelled racist or be socially cancelled for failing the multiculturalism test. They shouldn’t be afraid. Many Muslims, Persians and Arabs in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria and Iran long for the

day they will no longer ruled by the tyrants of Islamism. This is not about being anti-Islamic but about being anti-jihad.

Although they have been far too mute during this war, the leadership of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman and more are desperately rooting for Israel to destroy Hamas and reduce the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood’s ability to infect their own societies and topple their governments.

To understand why Palestinians remain brainwashed, read the words of Ruth Lande Wasserman, former chair of the Knesset’s Abraham Accords Caucus, writing in “The Jerusalem Post,” “The Palestinian leadership in Gaza and the West Bank, in contrast to the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, has not agreed to changing a single word in the schoolbooks that poison the minds of the young generation every single day against Israel, Jews and Western culture. ... This is the very leadership that cares very little for its own people and their needs.”

It is also why we witnessed ordinary Gazans handing out candy and celebrating as mutilated Jewish hostages were paraded in Gaza. It is no coincidence that my experience in the Gulf regarding the treatment of Jews was profoundly different from the antipathy I felt when I talked to the P.A., PLO and Fatah.

Americans may have forgotten about jihadists, but they haven’t forgotten about us. They have a growing presence in the West. Just watch the videos of the rallies in major Western cities over the past week celebrating Hamas’s massacre.

The Hamas charter is unambiguous in its goals and ideology. It states that the group is composed of Muslims who “fear God and raise the banner of jihad. ... Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious. ... There is no solution for the Palestinian question ex-

cept through jihad ... to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine.”

Israel should treat Hamas no differently than America treated ISIS. Unfortunately, innocents cannot be protected in such a war, because the terrorists’ strategy is to embed themselves within the non-combatant population and attack from civilian locations. Hamas has perfected this technique in order to manipulate the Western world into choosing moral ambiguity.

Naïve American students on college campuses decide to be ignorant of the hard truth that, as President Joe Biden said, there is true evil in the world, and Hamas is part of it. As Bari Weiss of “The Free Press” noted, universities suspend professors for using the wrong pronoun but cannot condemn terror supporters on their campuses or physically protect Jewish students on campus.

There should be little dispute: Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad have been armed, trained and work in coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran. One cannot ignore the Iranian fingerprint. Iran’s “Supreme Leader” Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said openly, “We will support and assist any nation or any group anywhere who opposes and fights the Zionist regime, and we do not hesitate to say this.” Iran’s jihadist aims are enabled by American sanctions relief, which allows Iran to sell unlimited quantities of oil to China.

U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer told CBS News that Iran was “broadly complicit” in the Hamas attack on Israel. Iran openly admits to supporting Palestinian groups in Gaza. Leaders of both Hamas and Islamic Jihad regularly visit Tehran.

The U.S. should support Israel’s war against Hamas, which is ideologically identical to the U.S. war against ISIS. Indeed, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd

Austin said the actions of Hamas were “worse than what I saw with ISIS.”

But we were fighting ISIS thousands of miles away on someone else’s territory. Israelis are fighting on their own land, often within earshot of their homes and loved ones. I have seen this firsthand over the years when visiting IDF soldiers in the field.

In addition, America has a volunteer army. In Israel, service is near-universal, and everyone knows someone fighting in the war, especially with over 300,000 reservists called up in recent days. Within a day of the outbreak of the fighting, I heard from families I know whose relatives had already fallen in combat. My friend, a brilliant historian, told me on the evening of the fourth day of the war that his son, who was on the frontline, had the impossible dilemma of deciding which of his friends’ funerals to attend the next day – the one killed attending the Negev peace concert or a fellow soldier who had just fallen in battle.

A nation’s first duty is to protect its people, and Israel is no different from any other nation. That means ending Hamas as a military entity. Anything less invites the next war sooner rather than later. America needs to be there for its ally, no matter how much the American progressive left tries to play the moral equivalence game and call for an end to U.S. aid to Israel.

So, when the world stops remembering and sympathizing with the Jewish civilians who were murdered and raped, whose babies were slaughtered, whose teenagers were maimed for sport, whose children were forced to witness the slaughter of their parents, all of it too reminiscent of the Holocaust, don’t forget who initiated this war, what they believe and what they did. Know too that their brutality will not end in Israel. They are coming for you too. **HW**

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Russian Ambassador Says Israel Should Agree to Immediate Ceasefire

By Amichai Stein

(JNS) – Russian Ambassador to Israel Anatoly Viktorov started off his first interview with JNS after Hamas brutally attacked Israel on Oct. 7 by saying, “The terrorist methods used by Hamas during the initial stage of confrontation deserve only condemnation. And, of course, we condemn extremist terrorism, murder of civilians, hostage-taking, as well as a blockade of people and the creation of difficult living conditions or other violent actions against civilians.”

The ambassador’s remarks underline the “both-sides” approach taken by Russian President Vladimir Putin and other senior Russian officials since Oct. 7. They have admitted Israel was the victim of an unprovoked attack but criticized the Israeli response, a line that has alienated and angered many Israelis.

JNS: Can you explain to me which measures Israel has taken that Russia sees as harsh?

Ambassador: It is difficult to assess what should be Israel’s response to what happened on the 7th of October, but the Israeli response should be led by the interests of the humanitarian situation. People in Gaza are not responsible for what Hamas’s leadership or terrorists from Hamas are doing.

JNS: Many Israelis were offended that President Putin compared what’s going on now in Gaza to the Nazis’ siege of Leningrad during World War II.

Ambassador: I advise you to read what exactly President Putin said. He said that military and other means like the Leningrad blockade should be not implemented. And that’s it. It’s not an accusation. It’s not a comparison of behavior of the Israeli armed forces with

any of the events of the Second World War. We should not act to aggravate the situation.

JNS: Does Russia believe Israel’s intelligence regarding the recent explosion at a hospital in Gaza, which showed Israel was not responsible and Palestinian Islamic Jihad was responsible?

Ambassador: It’s not a matter of my belief. Our official reaction is: We are deeply shocked by what happened and we express our deepest condolences. We have a principled position about the inadmissibility on any violence against civilians, attacks on medical facilities, on other civilian infrastructure. I cannot guess who is behind the explosion, but this tragic event and catastrophe, as President Putin said, should be a signal, a trigger to the serious consideration of an immediate ceasefire and immediate ending of hostilities.

JNS: But when the IDF presents the intelligence proving its case, why do you find it hard to say this is the correct version?

Ambassador: You know what, I am not an expert. Everyone, including journalists, should let the experts make some conclusions and present their views. It doesn’t make sense to speculate now because all of us are not specialists and are not experts.

JNS: What is Russia’s possible role in what is going on right now in the region?

Ambassador: President Putin has contacted a few leaders in the region, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and made it clear that we are fundamentally ready in principle to continue to carry out our work, focused on

the interest of ending this conflict, and we are trying to facilitate a ceasefire.

JNS: Is there a chance that Russia will become a negotiator?

Ambassador: I don’t see any obstacles to Russia being a negotiator, bearing in mind that we are keeping normal, constructive relations with the key leaders. We are impartial. We are not acting against the security interests of any country. In no way we are acting against the interests of the State of Israel and the people of Israel.

JNS: U.S. President Joe Biden just visited Israel. U.S. aircraft carriers are arriving in the Mediterranean. How does Russia see the U.S. involvement in what’s going on here?

Ambassador: The U.S., unfortunately, has not had a positive role in what is happening, because in the previous few years, they were trying to monopolize the peace process in the Middle East. But history shows us that, on many occasions, unilateral efforts were never successful. And, of course, part of the responsibility for the current situation lies with the United States. It’s now our firm position: The lack of the prospects of a peace process is one of the key reasons for the hostilities that are taking place now. We are expecting from American leadership that they contribute to stopping hostilities, achieving a ceasefire and deciding how to proceed towards a peaceful, diplomatic settlement.

JNS: Do you think the U.S. led us to what is happening now?

Ambassador: Of course, there is some blame, but I’m referring to the period before the war. I’m saying that the lack of a political horizon is one of

the main causes of the current situation. Now is not the time to accuse somebody of creating this situation. It’s not the time for mutual accusations. It’s time to consolidate our efforts.

JNS: Is Russia planning to change how it sees Hamas after these terrorist attacks?

Ambassador: On many occasions, Russia is asked to apologize for sins we did not commit. Claims that we support terrorism, providing them with arms... it’s not true. We have explained that the only goal of and reason for our contacts is “How can we play the role without contacting terrorists?” The current contacts with the representatives of Hamas are aimed at achieving a ceasefire, rescuing hostages taken by Hamas and saving the civilian population. Without contacting them, how do you think this can be achieved? It does not mean we are terrorist supporters.

JNS: So, Russian officials will continue to meet with Hamas officials?

Ambassador: I think so.

JNS: Is Russia assisting Hamas with military equipment, as Ukraine has claimed?

Ambassador: The short comment is: Nonsense. It’s not true. Long comment is: We are not sending our arms in violation of our international obligations. And in the case of Hamas, we are not doing that.

JNS: What kind of solution does Russia see to the current war?

Ambassador: The solution is to pressure both sides in order to persuade them to reach a ceasefire. The longer the hostilities continue, the more difficult it will be to find a solution. **HW**

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