

THIS ISSUE IS IN MEMORY OF  
ROSE LUBIN Z”L, WHO WAS  
ATTACKED WHILE ON DUTY IN  
JERUSALEM LAST WEEK.  
STORY TO FOLLOW NEXT WEEK.



THE

Hebrew  Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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# Facing History & Ourselves Southeast Benefit Features Two Past Beneficiaries



Elizabeth Jemison

At this year’s upcoming Facing History & Ourselves Southeast Benefit on November 30, Jon Adam Ross and Elizabeth Jemison will meet on stage. These two Memphians didn’t know each other growing up. However, there is much overlap in their stories, including formative time spent in Facing History classrooms.

In her seventh grade Facing History class at St. Mary’s Episcopal School, Elizabeth Jemison learned about the Civil Rights movement and of the many men that created change for our local



Jon Adam Ross

community and our nation. But what Elizabeth and her peers didn’t learn was about the women who also contributed to the movement in Memphis. They asked their teacher, Susan (Snodgrass) Graber, “What about the women?” Susan, being a talented teacher, agreed that they needed to learn more about the women activists during this time, and the assignment began.

As a result, Elizabeth interviewed Selma Lewis, a quiet, modest woman who spent her life making life better for Memphis and Memphians. Champion-

ing the causes of better race relations, better social services, and the arts, Selma led with grace and compassion and shared her story with Elizabeth. Elizabeth interviewed Selma and learned about her work providing school lunches for children, working with the homeless, and being the first female president of [then] Jewish Family Service.

Jon Adam Ross attended White Station High School. In 1997, as a high school student, Jon had a formative experience in his Facing History classroom and spoke of it at the Facing History & Ourselves inaugural Benefit Dinner. Jon wanted to be an actor and was excited to meet Gregory Alan Williams who was well known for his role on Baywatch. Greg shared his story of his role in the 1992 Los Angeles riots, and saving the life of a Japanese American man who was being beaten by rioters.

After play practice at school, Jon would walk across the street to visit with his grandmother. There, he and Selma would have rich conversations together about what he was learning in his Facing History class. He has very fond memories of this time. Jon went on to be an actor and in 2015 founded

the In[heir]tance project, a national arts nonprofit that works with communities to build relationships across divides through theater projects inspired by shared cultural touchstones. In fact, Jon recently spent time here in Memphis with his company inspiring conversations, writing workshops and rehearsals that culminated in an original theater piece about Memphis.

Join us to learn more about Jon and Elizabeth’s Facing History journey. Co-Chairs Susan and Blair Graber, Will Perry, Shelley Robbins and Reed Landau invite you to join us for an inspirational evening with our community to learn from educators and scholars and witness how Facing History empowers students to stand up to bigotry and hate.

This year’s Facing History and Ourselves Benefit takes place at the Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center on Thursday, November 30, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets and more information can be found at: <https://www.facinghistory.org/learning-events/2023-southeast-benefit> or by emailing Morgan Rittenhour at [morgan\\_rittenhour@facinghistory.org](mailto:morgan_rittenhour@facinghistory.org). [HW](#)

# White House: Israel Agreed to Daily Four-Hour ‘Humanitarian Pauses’



U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Oct. 18, 2023. Credit: Avi Ohayon/GPO

(JNS) – Israel has agreed to observe daily four-hour “humanitarian pauses” in its operation against Hamas terrorists in the northern Gaza Strip, U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said last Thursday.

U.S. President Joe Biden asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to institute the pauses during a call last Monday, according to the White House.

The first humanitarian pause was set to be announced last Thursday, Kirby claimed, adding that Jerusalem committed to announcing each four-hour window at least three hours in advance.

Kirby said a ceasefire is not on the table because it would aid Gaza’s terrorist rulers and “legitimize what they did on Oct. 7, and we simply are not going to stand for that at this time.”

While this is the first time the U.S. has announced this policy, Israel already opened a humanitarian corridor along Salah al-Din road for Palestinians to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

The Prime Minister’s Office released a statement reiterating that “the fighting is continuing and there will be no ceasefire without the release of our hostages.

“Israel is enabling safe corridors from the Strip’s north to its south, as 50,000 Gazans did only yesterday. We once again call on the civilian population in Gaza to evacuate to the south,” Netanyahu’s office stated.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) earlier last Thursday, the Israel Defense Forces likewise downplayed claims of a

(See **Pauses** Page 2)

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# Police in at Least 3 European Countries Arrest Suspects for Allegedly Planning Terror Attacks Tied to Israel-Hamas War



Police shown outside the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, Belgium after a gunman killed two Swedish nationals at a soccer match, Oct. 17, 2023. Credit: Dursun Aydemir/Anadolu via Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Police in at least three European countries have arrested people they said were threatening or planning terror attacks related to the Israel-Hamas war.

The arrests come amid a global spike in antisemitic incidents following Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel that has spurred an ongoing Israeli military response in Gaza. While police have offered widely ranging levels of detail about the threats, they said they interrupted, they believe Israelis were possibly the intended targets of multiple plots.

In Duisburg, a German city of about 500,000 located near the Netherlands border, a man previously convicted of terrorism was arrested after police said he shared with an associate in Syria that he was planning an attack, possibly against a pro-Israel demonstration. The man had previously trained with ISIS in Syria, according to local reports.

In England, “The Telegraph” newspaper reported that a man who arrived in the country in 2020 had been arrested after committing some kind of attack that he said he committed because children had been harmed in Gaza. But while police told the newspaper that they had made an arrest, they did not disclose any further information about the man or the nature of the attack. Security analysts said they might be withholding information in an effort not to inspire copycats.

In Brussels, a Palestinian man was arrested after telling a federal refugee

support agency that he was distressed by what was happening in Gaza and hoped to “die as a martyr by blowing himself up.” The man had applied in September for asylum in Belgium but missed an appointment after learning that members of his family had been killed in Gaza, according to local news reports.

In addition, police in Italy arrested two men whom they had identified as recruiters for ISIS in Europe, saying that they had decided to intervene because the war had heightened the risk of Islamic extremists taking action. The arrests came a day after gunmen allegedly tied to ISIS killed two people at a soccer game in Belgium.

Concerns about Hamas-inspired attacks are on the rise around the world. A wave of mass pro-Palestinian demonstrations since Oct. 7 have also caused anxiety for police and many Jews.

In some cases, local authorities have cracked down on the rallies, drawing criticism from free-speech advocates. In others, they have allowed the rallies to proceed, to the chagrin of pro-Israel advocates who say the rallies give voice to violent threats and antisemitic sentiments.

News also emerged this month about the indictment in August and September, before the Hamas attack, of four teenagers from France and Belgium who police said acted as a terror cell and were planning attacks on Jews, including at the Israeli Embassy near Brussels. [HW](#)

## THE Hebrew Watchman

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### Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Nov. 17, 2023 / 4 Kislev, 5784..... 4:34 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 18, 2023 / 5 Kislev, 5784..... 5:32 p.m.

#### Weekly Torah Portion: Toldot

#### Pauses...

(Continued From Page 1)

ceasefire. “There is no ceasefire. There are tactical, local pauses for humanitarian aid for Gazan civilians. These tactical pauses are limited in time and area,” said the military.

“We are also providing humanitarian corridors for civilians in Gaza to temporarily move south to safer areas where they can receive humanitarian aid,” the post added.

Last Wednesday, Netanyahu once again said that there will be no ceasefire

unless the more than 240 hostages held by Hamas are freed. “It [the campaign] is advancing well and is achieving good results,” he said.

“I would like to set aside all kinds of false rumors that we are hearing from all sorts of directions and re-clarify one thing: There will be no ceasefire without the release of our hostages. Everything else is false,” he added.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog also told U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris last week that there would be no ceasefire without the release of the hostages.

Washington requested that Israel announce a ceasefire lasting multiple days, Biden told reporters last Thursday. “It’s taken a little longer than I hoped,” he said, expressing frustration with Netanyahu.

Biden clarified that there is currently “None. No possibility” of a more permanent truce with Hamas. [HW](#)



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# Popular Kids Video Game Roblox has Become Gathering Space for Pro-Palestinian Protests

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – Israel’s Ministry of National Security is urging parents to report any pro-Palestinian harassment their children experience on the video game platform Roblox.

As Israel’s war with Hamas is set to enter its [fifth] week, rallies and protests in support of both Israelis and Palestinians have been held everywhere from the White House to college campuses to the streets of Europe.

Roblox is different because it has

more than 65 million daily active users – around 45% of whom are 12 years old or younger – and users can interact across international borders as they create and explore virtual settings. The platform has been home to several pro-Palestinian gatherings, and the Israeli ministry is warning that game characters brandishing Saudi and Palestinian flags have been attacking players who identify as Israeli.

A video of a Roblox rally, which was shared on X, the platform previous-

ly known as Twitter, has been viewed more than 24 million times.

According to CNBC, one Roblox pro-Palestinian event was visited over 275,000 times. The rallies feature users marching and gathering with Palestinian flags and signs expressing solidarity. A TikTok from Oct. 13 also shows what appears to be a pro-Israel rally in the game, too.

In one instance, which was shared in a Facebook group for Israeli parents, a parent warned that their child had seen other Roblox users possibly reenacting Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack – in which the terror group killed 1,400 Israelis in the bloodiest day for Jews since the Holocaust. The parent urged others to monitor their children’s gameplay and institute parental controls.

individuals found to be in violation of our standards.”

The Israeli ministry said it had been in touch with Roblox and had been told that reporting inappropriate or harassing content was essential to getting it removed.

This is not the first time that Roblox has run into trouble for hosting antisemitic user-created content. Last year, it removed a virtual Nazi gas chamber that users could operate.

Video game sites have previously been a hotbed for antisemitism. A 2021 survey found that 22% of adult Jewish gamers have faced antisemitic harassment while playing.

There are also numerous efforts underway to combat antisemitism in gaming spaces. In one notable example, the popular video game Fortnite introduced an in-game Holocaust museum earlier this year. And Luc Bernard, a British-French video game designer, unveiled his new game, “The Light in the Darkness,” where the characters are members of a French-Jewish family in the years before and during the Holocaust.

“The reality is, video games are the number-one-used platform now,” Bernard told JTA in August. “They’re bigger than movies, they’re bigger than music. Video games are the future of storytelling. So that’s why I also saw this as kind of a perfect platform to educate about the Holocaust.” 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, November 20**  
**Field Trip to Baron Hirsh Synagogue.**  
Senior Rabbi Ian Lichter will give the seniors a tour of this beautiful building. Reservations are necessary since the MJCC Bus has limited seating. This should be a delightful afternoon, so please join us.

**Wednesday, November 22**  
**Special Thanksgiving Bingo!**  
Special games and prizes. Please come join us! Have a Great Thanksgiving!

**Monday, November 27**  
**Speaker: MJCC Shlichah Maayan Naor**  
**Topic: “Israeli Food!”**  
Maayan always brings a neat perspective to everything she talks about. Come have fun and learn about food in Israel.

**Wednesday, November 29**  
**Speaker: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz of Beth Shalom Congregation**  
**Topic: “Ask the Rabbi!”**  
This will be an open forum, so please bring your questions! Come for lunch or just come to hear Rabbi Sarit.

Please come join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious Kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

“We are deeply saddened by the horrific tragedy unfolding in Israel and Gaza, and our hearts go out to those who are impacted in the area or who have loved ones, family and friends in the region,” Roblox said in a statement to “USA Today.” “While our community standards allow for expressions of solidarity, we do not allow for content that endorses or condones violence, promotes terrorism or hatred against individuals or groups or calls for supporting a specific political party. We have an expert team of thousands of moderators along with automated detection tools in place to monitor our platform and will take swift action against any content or

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# ‘From the River to the Sea:’ The Slogan that Led to Rashida Tlaib’s Censure, Explained

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – In a video posted to social media last Sunday, Rep. Rashida Tlaib leveled a litany of harsh accusations at President Joe Biden – from saying he betrayed his voters to blaming him for endorsing “genocide.”

But one six-word phrase in the video caught the ire of a growing chorus of critics and led to formal consequences in Congress: “From the river to the sea.”

The slogan generally appears as the first half of the chant “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” – referring to the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, which encompasses Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. It’s a phrase that Jewish watchdogs call antisemitic, that has caused at least one pro-Palestinian commentator to lose a job – and that Tlaib has walked back in the past.

Last Monday night, the House of Representatives voted to censure Tlaib, in part because of the phrase. A group of Tlaib’s fellow Democratic Congress members said it’s a “rallying cry for the destruction of the State of Israel and genocide of the Jewish people.”

In response to the backlash, Tlaib posted that the slogan is “an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence, not death, destruction, or hate.” Tlaib supports the establishment of a single, binational Palestinian-Jewish state in place of what is now Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

Here’s a rundown of the controversy over “From the river to the sea,” why Jewish groups say it’s antisemitic and how it’s being used surrounding the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

**The phrase is a mainstay of Palestinian protests – and appears in Hamas documents.**

The Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea form the eastern and western boundaries, respectively, of what was the British Mandate of Palestine before 1948. It is also the heart of the biblical

Land of Israel (though the ancient Jewish kingdom there extended further).

In 1947, the United Nations partitioned the land into separate Jewish and Arab states, a decision Jewish leaders accepted, and Palestinian and broader Arab leadership rejected, claiming the entire territory. Right-wing Israeli political movements have likewise claimed the entirety of the territory for Israel.

Israel held control over the entire territory from the 1967 Six-Day War until its withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 – though it never annexed the West Bank and, before 2014, held successive rounds of negotiations with Palestinian leaders over a potential withdrawal.

Since the 1960s, “From the river to the sea” has been used by Palestinian nationalist movements such as the Palestine Liberation Organization and, later, Hamas.

Hamas’ 2017 charter states that in principle, it “rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.” In a 2012 speech, Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said, “Palestine is ours from the river to the sea and from the south to the north. There will be no concession on any inch of the land.”

**Israel and Jewish groups view it as a call for Israel’s destruction.**

Because the whole slogan calls for a Palestine that is “free” across all of the territory that now encompasses Israel, Israelis and their supporters in Congress and beyond view it as a call for Israel’s destruction. In an entry calling the phrase antisemitic, the Anti-Defamation League says the phrase “would mean the dismantling of the Jewish state. It is an antisemitic charge denying the Jewish right to self-determination, including through the removal of Jews from their ancestral homeland.”

The American Jewish Committee likewise says the phrase denotes “erasing the State of Israel and its people. It

is also a rallying cry for terrorist groups and their sympathizers.”

Ahead of last Monday’s censure vote, Democratic Reps. Brad Schneider, Ritchie Torres and Norma Torres circulated a statement signed by 70 Democratic lawmakers stating, “We reject the use of the phrase from the river to the sea, a phrase used by many, including Hamas, as a rallying cry for the destruction of the state of Israel and genocide of the Jewish people.”

Last Monday’s censure resolution, which was Republican-led but garnered 23 Democratic votes, said the phrase is “a genocidal call to violence to destroy the state of Israel and its people.”

The phrase has drawn censure abroad, as well. Late last month, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said the chanting of “From the river to the sea” would become a criminal offense in that country. Lawmakers in Britain and the Netherlands also said they believed using the phrase in protests should be illegal.

**Israeli politicians have occasionally used the phrase as well.**

Israeli politicians have also used the phrase to describe the entire area, although more rarely. In 2020, right-wing lawmaker Gideon Saar, an ally-turned-rival of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said, “Between the Jordan River and the sea there won’t be another independent state,” meaning a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Religious Zionist politician Uri Ariel said in 2014, “Between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea there will be only one state, which is Israel.”

Netanyahu, who also opposes Palestinian statehood, has favored the phrase “west of the Jordan,” which refers to the same territory.

**Pro-Palestinian activists who have used the phrase have faced consequences.**

Tlaib is defending her use of the phrase now, but in the past, she appears

to have recognized that it is problematic. In 2020, she shared a post on Twitter using the phrase but deleted it following backlash.

And in 2018, Marc Lamont Hill, a pro-Palestinian political commentator and professor at Temple University, was fired from a role at CNN after he used the “From the river” phrase in a speech at the United Nations. Hill subsequently apologized for using the phrase.

More recently, he has questioned the idea that the phrase calls for Israel’s destruction, pointing to its usage by some Israelis.

“You say “River to the Sea” is “universally” understood to mean the destruction of the Jewish State? On what basis do you make this claim? Did it signify destruction when it was the slogan of the Likud Party? Or when currently used by the Israeli Right? Or even liberal Zionists?” he wrote on X in September.

**Rashida Tlaib is defending the phrase despite backlash.**

In a reply to her initial post last Sunday, Tlaib wrote, “From the river to the sea is an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence, not death, destruction, or hate. My work and advocacy is always centered in justice and dignity for all people no matter faith or ethnicity.”

And as she faced censure last Monday, Tlaib noted that she is the only Palestinian-American in Congress.

“[M]y perspective is needed here now more than ever,” she wrote on X. “I will not be silenced, and I will not let anyone distort my words.”

In a speech to Congress last Monday, Tlaib did not use the phrase “From the river to the sea” and said her criticism focused on the Israeli government.

“My criticism has always been of the Israeli government and Netanyahu’s actions,” she said. “The idea that criticizing the government of Israel is antisemitic sets a very dangerous precedent.” **HW**

## Terrorists in Lebanon Fire ‘Massive’ Rocket Barrage at Israel

(JNS) – Terrorists in the Land of the Cedars unleashed a “massive” barrage of rockets at the northernmost Israeli town of Metula last Thursday.

The rocket fire came after the Israel Defense Forces identified and attacked two anti-tank-missile terrorist cells located in Lebanon in the areas adjacent to the army’s Biranit Base and Kibbutz Yiftah.

Earlier, terrorists had fired missiles at the community of Mitzpe Adi in the Jezreel Valley and at an Israeli aerial drone near the contested Mount Dov region.

In each of the incidents, Israeli forces located the source of the fire and fired

with artillery.

In addition, the IDF said its forces carried out an operation last Wednesday night against a terrorist cell near the western sector of the border in the Rosh Hanikra area.

IAF fighter jets struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon last Wednesday night following launches into Israel over the past day, the army said.

Military structures, posts and technological assets were among the targets.

The IDF also reported last Wednesday night that it had struck a terrorist cell in Lebanon that was operating near Biranit. **HW**

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# Ventura County Sheriff: Suspect in Killing of Paul Kessler Cooperating



The crime scene where Paul Kessler, 69, falls to the ground after being hit in the head at a pro-Palestinian rally in the Los Angeles area of California on Nov. 6, 2023. Source: StopAntisemitism.org.

By Jessamyn Dodd

(JNS) – The suspect in the death of 69-year-old Paul Kessler last Sunday at a pro-Israel rally in Ventura County, in the Los Angeles area, remained at the scene and is cooperating with law enforcement, Jim Fryhoff, the county sheriff, said at a press conference last Tuesday.

“We are committed to gathering all the facts surrounding the incident,” Fryhoff said, calling the investigation ongoing and fluid.

The sheriff, who offered condolences to the victim’s friends and family, said his department received multiple calls at 3:20 p.m. on Nov. 5 from attendees of a Freedom for Palestine rally and what he called a counter-protest by a group called We Are Pro-Israel. Each group drew about 100 people, Fryhoff said.

The suspect, who was one of those who called 911, remained at the scene and cooperated with law enforcement. The suspect reported being involved in an altercation with Kessler, who was conscious when medical personnel arrived, according to Fryhoff.

Kessler was taken to Los Robles Regional Medical Center, in Thousand Oaks, Calif., in critical condition. Last Monday, at 2:43 p.m., the hospital informed the sheriff’s office that Kessler had died from his injuries.

The Major Crimes Bureau initiated an investigation, and Christopher Young, the chief medical examiner, performed an autopsy on Kessler’s body.

“The cause of death has been certified as blunt force trauma,” said Young. He clarified that the cause of death is listed as a homicide.

“This means that the death occurred at the hands of another person,” he added.

After a search warrant was served, the suspect was detained after a traffic stop in Simi Valley and his home searched. The suspect was later released.

At this time, the sheriff’s office has made no arrests. It has received conflicting reports from witnesses, it says. It asks those with photos or video of what happened to contact Ventura County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. **HW**

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## Health Ministry Cuts Red Tape to Save Sperm from IDF's Fallen



A car-ramming victim is brought to Ichilov Hospital at Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv, July 4, 2023. Credit: Gideon Markowicz/TPS

(JNS) – Israel’s Health Ministry has smoothed bureaucratic channels and offered special services to help recover sperm from IDF soldiers killed in the war against Hamas.

Doctors have performed an operation called sperm preservation on 33 men slain since Oct. 7, the day of the Hamas invasion.

The procedure normally requires a court order.

“Early in the war, the Health Ministry’s legal adviser handed down a temporary order lifting the need for court approval. The order has been extended a number of times and is now in force through the end of November,” “Haaretz” reported last Thursday.

The Health Ministry also provides a special ambulance service to speed the bodies of those killed from a military base to one of four hospitals: Ichilov (Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center), Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan, Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah and Shamir Medical Center (formerly Assaf Harofeh Medical Center) in Be’er Ya’akov.

“The faster we do it, the greater the chance of finding motile sperm. The best chance for sperm preservation is within 24 hours of death, and there are differences between the first half of the day and the second,” Dr. Talia Geva, head of the Health Ministry’s Fertility and Childbirth Department, told the paper.

“We’ve learned from both the medical literature and experience that it’s impossible to retrieve live sperm from a dead man after 72 hours,” she said.

The government informs families about sperm preservation when it tells them their son has been killed.

Dr. Etti Samama, head of the Medical Technology Policy Division at the Health Ministry, said, “The teams visiting the families tell them about this while exercising discretion, knowing that not all families are aware of this option. If a family delays it by two days, it’s too late.”

There’s been a change from the past, she added. “There’s a different attitude about fertility preservation and a greater openness regarding various issues of the family unit.” **HW**

## ‘Merry Ham-Mas’: Australian Kmart Removes Christmas Ham Bag from Shelves after Jewish Group Complains



The product has been pulled from Kmart shelves. Image via K-Mart.com.au via WebArchive. Design by Jackie Hajdenberg

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A ham bag has been removed from Australia’s Kmart website after the Australian Jewish Association complained that its message, “Merry Ham-mas,” looked too similar to Hamas, the terror group that invaded Israel on Oct. 7.

The text is printed on the ham bag in festive red and green lettering, with a Christmas tree replacing the first “A.”

“Although this is potentially funny (the AJA committee has tossed around some non-PC jokes) it’s really not a good look,” the AJA wrote in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. “We suspect some product manager may cause the company some embarrassment [sic]. So we’ve politely written to Wesfarmers corporate suggesting the product be pulled,” the group wrote, referring to Kmart’s parent company in Australia.

In an update posted about an hour after its first post about the subject, the AJA wrote that the organization had been contacted by Kmart senior management and that the ham bag had been taken off store shelves and the Kmart website.

Ham bags, when lightly dampened

with water and some vinegar, are used to keep meat fresh. A description on the now-deleted Kmart webpage says the bag costs roughly \$2.50, is made of cotton with a drawstring closure, and includes instructions for use. It is also machine washable and can be paid for in installments, the webpage said.

“We got it wrong on this occasion, and we apologise unreservedly,” a spokesperson for Wesfarmers told The West Australian. “When designing this product we clearly didn’t think through all the implications and the product has been removed from sale.”

David Adler, president of the Australian Jewish Association, said he wanted “to give credit to Kmart management as they acted very quickly.”

“It’s not normal times, there are people that will distort things and will harass the Jewish community,” he told the West Australian. “Of course, there are bigger issues to be addressed, dealing with the actual terrorism is important, but one of the other things we are dealing with is propaganda.” **HW**



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# Israeli Lawmakers Watch Video of Hamas Atrocities



Members of Knesset after viewing a compilation of video footage showing some of the atrocities that Hamas terrorists committed, Nov. 1, 2023. Credit: Yoav Dudkevitch/TPS.

(JNS) – Members of Israel’s parliament were invited to view a compilation of video footage last Wednesday showing some of the atrocities that Hamas terrorists committed on Oct. 7.

Lawmakers were allowed to view the footage behind closed doors following a request made by Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana to the Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson’s Unit.

The 43-minute-long video, which was previously shown to the foreign press, included footage captured by body cameras worn by Hamas terrorists, security cameras, dashcams, smartphones and social-media accounts.

Likud Party Knesset member Gilat Distel-Atbaryan said the Knesset physician offered MKs anxiety medication before they entered the auditorium. “I held out in the hall for five minutes and then I ran out sobbing and shaking,” she wrote in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Fellow Likud member Eli Dallal left after 10 minutes, he said. “After briefly watching such atrocities, I say unequivocally: Revenge is needed and a resurgence of Hamas cannot be allowed,” Dallal wrote on X.

“Remember what Amalek did to you,” wrote Education Minister Yoav Kisch following the screening, referring to the biblical archenemy of the Jewish people. “Israel needs to destroy every trace of Hamas just like Amalek.”

Likud MK Tsega Melaku reportedly

fainted as psychologists were called to the Knesset.

“These despicable murderers do not deserve to be called ‘enemy.’ This thing has no right to exist in the world,” said Religious Zionism Party legislator Michal Waldiger. “The citizens of Gaza also participated in the massacre with unimaginable cruelty, so don’t talk about the uninvolved.”

“I can’t talk about the content, I’m not able to talk about the feelings,” Yesh Atid Party MK Vladimir Beliak said, adding, “Just one sentence: It’s forbidden to forget and forbidden to forgive. Forever.”

Labor Party MK Naama Lazimi said she managed to sit through most of the film.

“When the photograph of the murdered baby appeared, the picture was so painful and difficult that I had to leave. The image will be engraved in the depths of my soul forever,” Lazimi wrote on X.

Following the screening, Likud lawmaker Boaz Bismuth called on the IDF to release the video to the public “so that the whole world will know what happened to us.”

Some 1,400 Israelis, nearly all civilians, were killed in Hamas’s Oct. 7 surprise attack on communities near the Gaza border. Thousands more were wounded, and at least 240 Israelis and foreign nationals were taken captive. **HW**

# Stars Of David Spray-Painted on Paris Buildings Remind Jews of 1930s, Mayor Says



A man walks along a building whose facade is covered with Stars of David in the Alesia district of Paris, Oct. 31, 2023. Credit: Geoffroy van der Hasselt/AFP via Getty Images

By Orge Castellano

(JTA) – Police are investigating dozens of Stars of David found spray-painted on the walls of buildings in a Paris neighborhood this week, the latest in a series of incidents tied to the Israel-Hamas war that have had French Jews on high alert since Oct. 7.

Authorities announced the investigation last Tuesday, days after similar graffiti was found in the suburbs of Vanves, Fontenay-aux-Roses and Aubervilliers. In the nearby town of Saint-Ouen, some graffiti was accompanied by slogans such as “Palestine will overcome.”

The mayoralty of the city’s 14th arrondissement said in a statement that the Jewish stars “recall the events of the 1930s... which led to the extermination of millions of Jews.”

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne told the National Assembly that “my government is determined to wage a merciless fight against” antisemitism. Her father survived Auschwitz but then committed suicide when she was 11. “It is the duty of the republic to protect all the Jews of France,” she added.

Officials said that the Stars of David have yet to be officially tallied as hate crimes.

The incident follows a similar one last month in Berlin that left many Jews unnerved there.

France has seen more antisemitic inci-

dents since Hamas’ attacks on Oct. 7 than in the entire past year – more than 850, according to Gérald Darmanin, France’s interior minister. “Jewish community sites will be protected day and night,” Darmanin said at the Levallois-Perret synagogue last Tuesday evening.

The antisemitic incidents range from verbal abuse and antisemitic graffiti to death threats and physical assaults in the street. Over 400 investigations have been opened into instances of online abuse, Le Figaro reported, and more than 425 people have been arrested so far in connection with antisemitic acts throughout the country. Of those, 125 are of foreign origin. “More than 30 are already in administrative centers awaiting deportation, and deportations of foreigners for acts of antisemitism have already begun,” Darmanin said.

With one of the largest Jewish populations outside of Israel and the United States, at around 500,000 people, France is also home to the largest Muslim community in Europe.

Jacques Isaac Azeroual, a kosher butcher in the city’s 19th district, which has a sizable Jewish community, told AFP that he doesn’t feel secure anymore. Out of fear, he is closing his store an hour early and has started covering his kippah outside.

“People are demoralized. They are scared of going out to shop,” he said. **HW**



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# Social Security 101

*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*

Social Security is complicated, and the details are often misunderstood even by those who are already receiving benefits. If you’re looking forward to receiving your Social Security benefits, whether in one year or 30 years, you may be curious about some of the basic rules and options and how they might affect your financial future.

**Full retirement age (FRA).** Once you reach full retirement age, you can claim your full Social Security retirement benefit, also called your primary insurance amount or PIA. FRA ranges from 66 to 67, depending on your birth year (see chart).

**Filing early.** You can claim your Social Security worker benefit as early as age 62. However, your benefit will be permanently reduced if you file before your FRA. At age 62, the reduction would be 25% to 30%, depending on your birth year. Your benefit may be further reduced temporarily if you work while receiving benefits before FRA and your income exceeds certain levels. (When you reach FRA, you would regain any benefits lost due to excess earnings through an adjustment.)

**Filing later.** If you do not claim your benefit at FRA, you will earn delayed retirement credits for each month you wait to claim up to age 70. This will increase your benefit by two-thirds of 1% for each month, or 8% for each year you delay. There is no increase after age 70.

**Spousal benefits.** If you’re married, you may be eligible to receive a benefit based on your own earnings history or a spousal benefit based on your spouse’s work record. The maximum spousal benefit, if claimed at your full retirement age, is 50% of your spouse’s PIA (regardless of whether he or she claimed early) and doesn’t include any delayed retirement credits. If you claim a spousal benefit before reaching your FRA, it will be permanently reduced.

**Survivor benefits.** If your spouse dies, you can claim a reduced survivor benefit as early as age 60 or a full survivor benefit — 100% of your deceased spouse’s PIA and any delayed retirement credits — if you wait until your full retirement age. If you are eligible for a survivor benefit and one based on your own work record, you could claim a survivor benefit first and switch to a

benefit based on your work record at your FRA or later, if it would be higher.

**Divorced spouses.** If you were married for at least 10 years and are unmarried, you can receive a spousal or survivor benefit based on your ex’s work record. If your ex is eligible but has not applied for Social Security benefits, you can still receive a spousal benefit if you have been divorced for at least two years.

**Dependent benefits.** Your dependent child may be eligible for benefits after you begin receiving Social Security if he or she is unmarried and meets one of the following criteria: (a) under age 18, (b) age 18 to 19 and a full-time student in grade 12 or lower, (c) age 18 or older with a disability that started before age 22. The maximum family benefit is equal to about 150% to 180% of your PIA, depending on your situation.

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Claiming Early or Late

Year of birth	Full retirement age	Worker benefit at age 62: percentage of PIA	Worker benefit at age 70: percentage of PIA
1943-54	66	75.00%	132.00%
1955	66 and 2 months	74.17%	130.67%
1956	66 and 4 months	73.33%	129.33%
1957	66 and 6 months	72.50%	128.00%
1958	66 and 8 months	71.67%	126.67%
1959	66 and 10 months	70.83%	125.33%
1960 & later	67	70.00%	124.00%

## Detroit Police Say Suspect Arrested in Murder of Samantha Woll

(JNS) – James E. White, Detroit’s chief of police, released a statement updating the public on the ongoing investigation into the death of Jewish community leader Samantha Woll.

“As part of my continuing commitment to transparency in this matter, I am sharing with the community that a suspect has been taken into custody for the murder of Samantha Woll,” White said last Wednesday. “While this is an encouraging development in our desire to bring closure for Ms. Woll’s family, it does not represent the conclusion of our work in this case.”

The dearth of details on the investigation so far has led to skepticism and anxiety regarding whether further lethal threats remain for Detroit’s Jewish community.

Those concerns are certain to continue, as White said that much information would “remain confidential at this time to ensure the integrity of the important steps that remain. Investigators will be continuing their work with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office until the conclusion of this investigation.”

The suspect’s name has not yet been released. [HW](#)

## Congratulations to TSC’s E. Frank Bluestein: Governor’s Arts Award Recipient 2021-23 Arts Educator and Administrator

By Dan McCleary

On the evening of Tuesday, October 17 at the Tennessee Executive Residence Conservation Hall in Nashville, Governor Bill Lee and First Lady Maria Lee with the Tennessee Arts Commission presented the 2021-23 Governor’s Arts Awards to 12 recipients.

These awards represent Tennessee’s highest honor in the Arts. They recognize extraordinary artistic and cultural contributions by individuals and organizations with state, regional, and national impact.

The awards are presented in three categories. In the Distinguished Artist category, singers Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood were recognized, as was Memphis’ soul artist Carla Thomas. Our friend Debbie Litch at Theatre Memphis was honored in the Arts Leadership category.

We are deeply proud to announce that Tennessee Shakespeare Company Executive Director and Co-founder E. Frank Bluestein received the Governor’s Arts Award as Arts Educator and Arts Administrator.

As I told the State’s nominations committee, no one in my lifetime has done more to advance the supreme importance and vitality of arts education in our State; nor has anyone I know accomplished more or advocated more eloquently for secondary school arts students and teachers alike. Mr. Bluestein, a 1996-97 Disney National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year Award winner, in fact is a national role model for teachers, schools, arts organizations, and state and federal governments. How? He leaves no question about what we all can do and support to address our many rapidly advancing national and world needs.

During his in-person acceptance

speech in Nashville, in front of the Awardees, their friends and families, and the Governor and First Lady, Mr. Bluestein ended his remarks with this:

“Governor Lee mentioned the economics of our State. The Arts Award recipients in this room all had Arts teachers in their lives who helped them get here. And, like you said, Governor, if we do not invest in our Arts Education, who is going to follow them and continue this strong tradition in Tennessee? It’s very critical.

“The Arts do teach us a lot about a lot of things,” he continued. “But the Arts also have their own unique language and inherent qualities. A few of these are creativity, imagination, innovation, collaboration, understanding of one another, beauty, and love. And if you want to know how important those qualities are, just pick up your daily newspaper or listen to the news, and you will understand why we need these qualities so much in our world today.”

Mr. Bluestein created the performing arts department at Germantown High School and its nationally recognized theatre and television program. He is the executive director of the Tennessee Arts Academy in Nashville.

And without him, there is no Tennessee Shakespeare Company.

Congratulations, Frank Bluestein. Thank you for a lifetime of achievement through the performing and teaching arts in our State. And thank you for continuing to advocate for our students, teachers, and our positive future in Tennessee and the United States.

Dan McCleary  
GHS student of E. Frank Bluestein [HW](#)

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# Israeli Officials Angry Press may have Known Hamas would Invade



Journalists in Sderot, Nov. 9, 2023. Credit: Eitan Elhadez-Barak/TPS.

(JNS) – Israeli officials reacted with anger to a report suggesting that photographers associated with international news services may have had advance knowledge of Hamas’s plan to attack Israeli communities on Oct. 7.

They were reacting to a report by HonestReporting, a Jerusalem-based media watchdog, which identified six freelance photographers from the Gaza Strip who were present during the attacks, and whose work the Associated Press and Reuters are selling to other publications. The report was published last Wednesday.

The National Public Diplomacy Directorate in the Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement last Thursday saying it “views with utmost gravity that photojournalists working with international media joined in covering the brutal acts of murder perpetrated by Hamas terrorists on Saturday, October 7th, in the communities adjacent to the Gaza Strip.”

The statement added, “These journalists were accomplices in crimes against humanity; their actions were contrary to professional ethics,” and demanded that action be taken against the photographers.

Meanwhile, the Government Press Office sent an urgent letter to the bureau chiefs of the media organizations that employed these photographers and sought clarifications on the matter.

Minister-without-Portfolio Benny Gantz also condemned the photographers, posting on X, formerly Twitter, “If there were journalists who knew about the massacre [in advance], who remained silent and took pictures while children were being massacred – they are no different from the terrorists and their punishment is severe.”

In a follow-up tweet, Gantz wrote, “Journalists found to have known about the massacre and who still chose to

stand as idle bystanders while children were slaughtered – are no different than terrorists and should be treated as such.”

HonestReporting identified the photographers as Hassan Eslaiah, Yousef Masoud, Ali Mahmud, Hatem Ali, Mohammed Fayq Abu Mostafa and Yasser Qudih.

“What were they doing there so early on what would ordinarily have been a quiet Saturday morning? Was it coordinated with Hamas? Did the respectable wire services, which published their photos, approve of their presence inside enemy territory, together with the terrorist infiltrators? Did the photojournalists who freelance for other media, like CNN and “The New York Times,” notify these outlets,” HonestReporting asked.

HonestReporting also obtained screenshots of Eslaiah’s now-removed tweets on X in which he documented himself standing in front of an Israeli tank. He did not wear a press vest or a helmet, and the Arabic caption of his tweet read: “Live from inside the Gaza Strip settlements.”

After the report was published, a video published on Eslaiah’s Facebook account was found in which he is riding on a motorcycle while holding a grenade. A separate photo surfaced of Eslaiah with Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind of the Oct. 7 massacre.

Eslaiah’s photos from Oct. 7 were used by the Associated Press and CNN.

Last Thursday, CNN announced it had severed ties with Eslaiah but said it did not have “any reason to doubt the journalistic accuracy of the work he has done for us,” according to Israeli daily “Yedioth Ahronoth.”

The Associated Press also denied prior knowledge of the attacks, saying its role “is to gather information on breaking news events around the world, wherever they happen, even when those events are horrific and cause mass casualties.”

Reuters issued a statement saying it “categorically denies that [Reuters] had prior knowledge of the attack or that we embedded journalists with Hamas on Oct 7.”

The news agency merely “acquired photographs from two Gaza-based freelance photographers who were at the border on the morning of Oct. 7, with whom it did not have a prior relationship,” the communiqué said.

As of last Thursday afternoon, “The New York Times” had not issued a statement on the issue. **HW**

# Jewish Students Start Lawsuits to Battle Campus Antisemitism, Hate Crimes

(JNS) – Following a series of anti-Israel protests on campus, some which have turned violent, and a lack of adequate responses by university administrations, Jewish students are now turning to the U.S. legal system.

“There has been an explosion of antisemitism on college campuses around the country and we had been looking at this issue prior to the massacre on Oct. 7,” said Mark Ressler, the Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP lawyer leading the effort. “We’re going to show that the universities had notice of acts of hatred and bigotry towards Jewish students, that there was pervasive anti-Jewish bigotry on campus, and that administrators and university bureaucrats acted with deliberate indifference.”

Lawsuits focus on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which makes discrimination by race illegal for institutions receiving federal dollars.

Schools the law firm plans to sue in the coming weeks and months include Harvard University, Cornell University, New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University.

Harvard recently announced an advisory board to help develop strategies for combating antisemitism, hate speech and even hate crimes on campus. Cornell experienced antisemitic threats targeting the Jewish student center and its kosher dining hall, with the student alleged to have committed the crime arrested last Tuesday. **HW**

## OBITUARIES

### Selma Engelberg Chambers

Selma Engelberg Chambers passed away at age 82 on October 26, 2023, in Coppell, Texas, after a courageous 10-year-battle with multiple myeloma.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Gary Chambers, with whom she was married 50 years. She was the daughter of Issy and Helen Engelberg.

She attended Springdale, Snowden and Central High School where she was business manager of the yearbook and voted most likely to succeed. She attended Purdue University College of Pharmacy and graduated number one in her class. She was elected a member of Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society.

She met Gary at Purdue and with him and a partner they established Josey Lane Pharmacy in Farmers Branch, Texas. The store was quite successful, but after the birth of her two daughters, Julia and Cynthia, she became a “tennis mom.” With Gary, she cheered their daughters’ tennis successes. Both girls were awarded tennis scholarships, one to Purdue and the other to Illinois. She and Gary provided uniforms for the girls’ tennis team at Purdue, and later she donated an electric scoreboard to the Schwartz Tennis Center at Purdue.

She was an avid reader and supported the Coppell Public Library and NPR radio. She loved her grandchildren, Claire Rodriguez, Mason Embree and Sophie Schwartz. She watched as the girls became accomplished tennis players and Mason became a member of his high school and college band, all while maintaining high scholastic grades.

When Gary retired, they joined an RV group and visited nearly every state and Canada. Her loves were the museums and national treasures, but she especially loved the comradery of those she traveled with. She made lifelong friends with whom she kept up with. Selma had incredible times with her father, mother, brother, husband, daughters and grandchildren. She will be sorely missed.

Selma is survived by her daughters, Julia Chambers (Barry) and Cynthia Schwartz, her grandchildren, Claire Rodriguez (Ben) and Mason Embree; her brother, Leonard Engelberg (Ida), and nephews Alec and Paul Engelberg.

A celebration of life is to be held November 18, 2023, in Coppell, Texas.

Memorials may be sent to Friends of Coppell Library, Coppell, Texas. **HW**

### Clifton “Clif” Goldner

Clifton “Clif” Goldner, 99, of Memphis, Tenn., passed away peacefully on November 3, 2023.

Clif was born on January 15, 1924, to Alvin and Hortense Goldner in Nashville, Tenn. and had a brother, Alan Goldner (deceased). After graduating from Christian Brothers High School in 1942, he was drafted into the Army and honorably served his country in WWII in Italy from 1942 to 1945.

He continued his studies at Louisiana State University, where he walked onto the tennis team. From the moment he became a tiger, “the spirit lived in him forever old L-S-U.”

Upon completing two years at LSU, he returned to Memphis and married the love of his life, Jane Goldner (deceased). Jane and Clif went on to have one child, Gale Goldner Pick. Jane and Clif were married for 70 years prior to her death in 2018.

Clif had a distinguished career in sales and was working until the age of 90. He played golf well into his 80s and was still winning when he hung up his clubs. He was a fighter with a huge heart.

He will be remembered for being a true hero with an infectious positive attitude. He is predeceased by his wife, Jane Goldner, his mother, Horrense, father Alvin, and brother Allyn Goldner. He is survived by his daughter, Gale Goldner Pick, son-in-law Randal Pick, their three daughters and his great-grandchildren, Robin Pick Marks, (Derek) and son Graham Marks; Shelley Pick Olsen, Todd Olsen, Crosby and Dakota Olsen and Abby Pick.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, November 7 at the Temple Israel Cemetery, Memphis, Tenn. **HW**

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# Twelve Terrorists Killed in Jenin Counterterror Raid

(JNS) – At least 12 Palestinian terrorists were killed in exchanges of fire with Israeli forces in the Jenin camp in Samaria throughout last Thursday, as the IDF carried out drone strikes in the terror hub, Hebrew media reported.

As part of the hours-long counterterrorism activity in Jenin, more than 20 wanted suspects were apprehended, according to “Ynet.”

Troops seized two M-16 rifles, three handguns, a Carlo-style submachine gun, ammunition and other military equipment. IDF soldiers also located and destroyed a tunnel shaft where explosives were being stored.

According to local reports, which cited Palestinian sources, the wounded arrived at the Governmental Hospital and Ibn Sina Hospital, both in Jenin. Israeli troops were reportedly surrounding the Governmental Hospital to prevent the

terrorists’ escape.

IDF forces uncovered and destroyed dozens of improvised explosive devices in the Jenin camp during counterterror operations overnight last Wednesday, according to the report.

They came under fire during the operations and were also attacked with explosives. The Israeli forces returned fire, and Israeli aircraft attacked gunmen that posed a danger to troops.

Israeli forces also confiscated weapons and an explosive device in Ya’bad, south of Jenin, and an improvised weapon in Bethlehem.

Nine wanted individuals were arrested in operations throughout Judea and Samaria overnight last Wednesday. Since the start of the war, more than 1,430 terror suspects have been detained in Judea and Samaria, including over 900 Hamas members. **HW**

# Squanto; The Lost Israelite



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

## Ted Roberts

I can still picture my old Sunday School teacher. A kindly man who received pennies for putting up with 20 hooligans like me and you every Sunday morning. I remember how he stood by his desk in a suit that even Elijah, a notoriously lousy dresser would have rejected. And I remember how he patiently explained that, after the reign of Solomon – maybe the first of the tax and spend liberals – his kingdom was divided in two. There was Israel, the Northern Kingdom and Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Soon after the split, Israel was conquered by the Assyrians, who banished our kinsmen to the corners of the known world. This historical event instigated one of the great mysteries of all time. “THE LOST TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL!” Really. I kid you not. Historians, bible scholars, TV producers, and internet babblers continue to ponder this mother of mysteries.

On the puzzle index it ranks above

the lost continent of Atlantis. Even cultural anthropologists turn away from the question of why the cave dwellers of 10,000 BC never chopped up a dinosaur liver with a little onion, a few hard-boiled eggs, a tablespoon of schmaltz – to examine this deeper question of the invisible, wandering vagabonds of old Israel. In the age of exploration – the 17th through the 18th Century – biblical hochems – Jews and Christians alike – were all asking that age-old question – where are the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel?

And every time a crowd of yellow, white, or dusky natives massed on a newly discovered shore to stare at the great sailing ships from Europe, some seaman would lean over the rail and shout, “Hey, Du bist Yiddish?” or some such clever question.

Among the stronger candidates were the American Indians. Don’t ask how they traveled from Samaria to North America. Anthropologists hate nasty questions that demand factual answers. But their usual answer to this pivotal question is “in a boat, dummy!” But Jews and boats were never friends. How many of your Jewish friends could fix a warped propeller blade or an off-center transaxle shaft?

Yes, they colonized the New World, say the theorists, and were waiting with the gift of Thanksgiving for those weary, hungry Puritans; every one of whom,

like your next door Christian neighbor, can fix an off-center transaxle shaft blindfolded, even. Jews roast turkey in onion, wine gravy. Gentiles fix boats.

Here are a few other reasons that lead me to suspect that Squanto – the founder of Thanksgiving – and his tribe were Jewish.

1. Thanksgiving is Sukkot lightly disguised. A harvest festival, fitting in Fall when the crops are all safely in the barn. Notice the pumpkin theme; then consider that pumpkin would do as well as carrots or sweet potatoes in Tsimmes.

2. Who else but an Israelite like Squanto would have the Chutzpah to walk into that Caucasian encampment armed only with a turkey. (Some of the old Puritan chronicles call him Schlo-mo!! Is that a give-away or what?)


3. Remember those stern Puritans, like our Polish ancestors, preferred davening to pinochle as a pastime. They were Old Testament oriented. Their G-d thundered justice in Leviticus, not in the namby-pamby books of the prophets who fixated on social justice and forgiveness. So they felt right at home with those displaced Jews of the New England Diaspora.

Besides that, weren’t the so called “Indians” smart enough to get out of the Manhattan real estate market at the top? Didn’t they sell out for 24 bucks

### The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

**The best of  
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worth of beads, which they converted to cash; no paper – no notes – no stock. Just hard American dollars. Know how much 24 bucks, compounded since the 17th Century amounts to today? Many times more than the assessed value of that island crowded with skyscrapers. And they never had to worry about tenants. “Squanto, come fix the toilet.” “Squanto, the rug in my office needs replacing.” “Squanto, you didn’t send me a receipt.” Who needed headaches? They stayed home and ate roast turkey on Friday nights. And maybe lit candles.

*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*

# Half of Israel’s Operating Rooms Unprotected from Missiles

(JNS) – Fewer than half of the operating rooms in Israeli hospitals are “protected spaces,” that is, built to withstand blasts and shrapnel from conventional weapons.

In many hospitals, surgeons are forced to leave patients in the middle of an operation when a siren sounds warning of

incoming missiles if the operating room is not protected, “Kan News” reported last Monday.

Among them are major institutions including Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan, Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah and Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

In addition, only 30% to 40% of hospital beds in general hospitals in Israel are in protected spaces, the news site said.

The Ministry of Health said that in the next two months, it will need 200 million shekels (\$52 million) to protect 50% of hospital beds.

Responding to the report, the chair-

man of the Israel Medical Association, Dr. Zeev Feldman, called on the “Ministry of Health and the [IDF] Home Front Command to expand the provision of services in the hospitals, including testing/institutes/clinics and surgeries, to prevent irreversible harm to citizens’ health.” **HW**

# ISRAEL INSIGHTS The Day After

## By Howard Weisband

We knew immediately this would not be six days of war. More likely six months. Maybe more.

Far from a conventional war of army facing army, this is a war against savage terrorism. I needn’t repeat the beastly onslaught of October 7. The IDF and the people of Israel understood from the outset that the Hamas evil empire will have to be decisively and entirely eliminated as a terror and political entity.

Although taken by surprise on October 7, the IDF incredibly and quickly regrouped, calling up some 360,000 reserve soldiers to join the standing army of approximately 160,000 men and women.

On a personal level, our two sons and a son-in-law were called into their reserve units on October 7 and 8. We are in touch with them, and we are thankful for family and many friends and classmates who have been checking in with us as to their safety.

Whether the IDF had a battle plan “in the drawer” or redesigned one following October 7, it immediately and effectively went into attack mode, from the air, the sea, and then on the ground. As I write on November 8, a full one month later, Gaza has effectively been cut in half with the bulk of the war being fought in the northern Gaza strip where

most of the Hamas terror regime exists, largely underground in their massive tunnel network built under hospitals, schools and mosques. The IDF encouraged and even escorted thousands of Gaza civilians to move south.

Reporters are following the war, bloggers are writing about life in Israel, and columnists are looking already at the day after. The caveat to the latter is that the day after will be by definition only after a decisive victory is attained.

Formal investigations rightfully will be established to address the intelligence and operational failures that led to the shocking tragedy of October 7.

One particularly aggressive columnist, Uri Dagon, in “Israel Hayom,” a newspaper, which decidedly leans right, already addressed the Prime Minister on November 7: “It’s game over; you will not be able to continue in the war’s aftermath; you should lead Israel to victory – but then step down; stop throwing blame all around, take responsibility and accept that the buck stops with you....”

There are larger questions that await the day after. Will the Government as a whole have to resign? Will a different party leader, in Likud or otherwise, be able to form a new majority coalition? Who will make up that coalition? Would it be more reflective of the Israeli center? What is the fate of judicial reform?

Or will we go to elections with the citizenry themselves providing a new mandate?

Meanwhile, what seems to be a given is that the day after will mean that Israel will have to maintain some relationship to Gaza. The Prime Minister has already defined that as “security control” for a period of time. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken recently referred to a “transition period.”

But transition to what? Multiple ideas and questions abound.

What directions will be put forth by the United States and other countries of the West such as Britain, France and Germany?

Will a weakened and corrupt Palestinian Authority seek to regain political and security control of Gaza?

Secretary Blinken is quoted in the “Times of Israel” on November 8 as saying: “What Gaza should have is Palestinian governance, Gaza unified with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority... a sustained mechanism for reconstruction in Gaza, and a pathway” to a two-state solution.”

Further questions:

Will the United Nations attempt to step in and put in place an international peacekeeping force?

What will be the fate of UNRWA in Gaza, which historically has so poorly

maintained the welfare and education systems of the Palestinian population?

Is there a possibility of Egypt itself, or Egypt and Jordan together, taking some degree of responsibility for Gaza?

Could a pan Arab special entity consisting of the nations within the Abraham Accords be formed to guide the future of Gaza?

Will Israel and Saudi Arabia return to normalization discussions?

Will countries, which have harbored and funded Hamas, particularly Qatar and Turkey, be pushed to expel Hamas leaders and end their financial support?

And the overarching dilemma for Israel, the Middles East and the world: how will Iran’s overwhelming support of terrorism and its nuclear threat be eliminated?

These questions and more will have to be determined on the day(s) and months after.

*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*

# ‘Finish Them’: GOP Presidential Candidates Unite Over What They’d Advise Netanyahu about Hamas



**Republican presidential candidate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, in the center, speaks alongside former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy during the NBC News Republican Presidential Primary Debate at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, Nov. 8, 2023. Credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images**

**By Ron Kampeas**

(JTA) – It was one of the few questions that united all five candidates at what was a no-holds-barred Republican primary debate: What would they advise Israel’s prime minister as he wages war against Hamas?

The uniform answer: Finish them.

Israel and antisemitism featured large in the latest GOP primary debate in Miami last Wednesday, in part because a cosponsor of the debate was the Republican Jewish Coalition, which got to ask two questions, a first for a Jewish group. But they would have been asked even without the RJC’s influence, because Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel and the resulting war in Gaza has roiled the world and American politics.

NBC moderator Lester Holt made his second question what the candidates would advise Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. First to answer was Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

“I will be telling Bibi finish the job once and for all with these butchers,” said DeSantis, using Netanyahu’s nickname. “They’re terrorists. They’re massacring innocent people. They would wipe every Jew off the globe, if they could.”

The unalloyed backing for Netanyahu comes as President Joe Biden, who also at first unquestioningly backed Netanyahu, has in recent days faced Israeli resistance to his pressure for humanitarian pauses in the fighting.

All four candidates echoed DeSantis’s reply. Nikki Haley, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, suggested she had spoken with Netanyahu since

Oct. 7, when Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, launching the war. “The first thing I said to him when it happened was, I said ‘Finish them. Finish them.’”

Vivek Ramaswamy, an entrepreneur who often bucks the Republican establishment on foreign policy, hewing to isolationism, was as bellicose, but also pivoted to a favored topic, the Mexican border, and suggested that he would seek to kill people there.

“I would tell him to smoke those terrorists on his southern border,” he said. “And then I’ll tell him as president of the United States, I’ll be smoking the terrorists on our southern border.”

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott said he would tell Netanyahu, “Not only do you have the responsibility and the right to wipe Hamas off of the map, we will support you, we will be there with you.” He took it a step further, saying he would also strike Iran, which is an ally of Hamas.

“You actually have to cut off the head of the snake and the head of the snake is Iran and not simply the proxies,” he said.

Chris Christie, the former New Jersey governor, said Israel should have free rein, but also, unusually for a foreign politician, criticized Netanyahu for not being prepared.

“You must go in and make sure that Hamas can never do this again,” he said. “And the fact is that Israel and their intelligence community failed. They failed here and they failed the people of the State of Israel. And so we need to work closely and better together to

make sure that they’re degraded.”

Absent was Donald Trump, the front-runner who is so far ahead in the polls he does not feel the need to join the debates. The first question posed by NBC moderator Lester Holt was how each of the five candidates would defeat Trump. That out of the way, Trump, who attended a rally elsewhere in Florida while the debate was underway, was barely mentioned again.

RJC’s CEO Matt Brooks posed two questions and earned a shoutout from DeSantis for enduring a tough month. “I know it’s been very difficult for the [Jewish] community and appreciate you guys rallying together in difficult times,” DeSantis said.

Brooks’ first question was whether the United States should use military force against Iran given strikes by its proxies on U.S. forces. DeSantis and Haley, who answered the question, avoided saying explicitly they would hit Iranian territory but said that they would retaliate more robustly than Biden has against the strikes by the proxies.

Brooks’ second question was about the spike in antisemitism at U.S. universities. “Jewish students across the country are threatened and under attack,” he said. “What do you say to Jewish students on college campuses who feel unsafe given the dramatic rise in antisemitism?”

DeSantis noted that he recently barred some pro-Palestinian groups from operating on Florida campuses, and Scott similarly backed pulling federal funds from universities that do not adequately deal with antisemitism, something the Biden Administration [last] week said would be its policy. Christie spoke about his experience dealing with antisemitic and anti-Muslim attacks as a U.S. attorney immediately after 9/11.

Haley gave one of the most impassioned responses, saying that rising antisemitism revealed a country with a troubled soul.

“We don’t need to celebrate terrorists,” she said, referring to protesters who have at times characterized Hamas’s actions as “resistance.” “We don’t need to celebrate genocide. We don’t need to celebrate violence towards anybody. We need to go back and soul-search in our country and remember what we are about and we are about taking care of people not going and making them live in fear.”

Ramaswamy said he preferred to counter speech with more speech. “We

don’t quash this with censorship because that creates a worse underbelly,” he said. “We quell it through leadership by calling it out.”

Ramaswamy, who has flirted with the far right, at times seemed to speak in their direction. He chided the RNC for airing the debate on NBC, saying it should have chosen moderators such as Tucker Carlson, who was fired this year from Fox News, and Elon Musk, who has engaged with antisemites on X, the platform that he owns and renamed from Twitter. He called Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Jewish president of Ukraine, a “Nazi” and accused him of persecuting Christians. Another of the cosponsors of the debate was Rumble, the video platform that gives free rein to the racist and antisemitic right.

Antisemitism also came up in a portion of the debate dealing with whether to shut down the social media video platform TikTok because its Chinese ownership poses a security risk. Politicians from both parties have alleged that TikTok’s algorithms favor antisemitic and pro-Palestinian content, especially since the Oct. 7 attacks.

“TikTok is not only spyware, it is polluting the minds of American young people all throughout this country,” Christie said. “And they’re doing it intentionally and when you saw what happened in the last few weeks, with all of this antisemitic, horrible stuff that their algorithms were pushing out at a gargantuan rate.”

Relatedly, Rep. Josh Gottheimer, a Jewish New Jersey Democrat, last Wednesday introduced legislation that would require TikTok to register as a foreign agent and to report on the promotion of hatred and terrorism on its platform or face stiff penalties. A press conference with Gottheimer; Republican Don Bacon of Nebraska, who is cosponsoring the bill; and the Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said TikTok postings promoting false narratives about the Oct. 7 attacks, including describing them as flag operation, had wide reach on the platform.

The TikTok debate produced the evening’s most stunning exchange in a raucous debate, when Ramaswamy hit back at Haley who had previously derided him for embracing the app, saying that her daughter was a frequent user. “Leave my daughter out of your voice,” Haley said, leaning toward Ramaswamy. When he pressed on, she grimaced. “You’re just scum,” she said. **HW**

## Birthright Israel Calls on its 850,000 Alumni to Volunteer in Israel During War Against Hamas

Jerusalem, Israel (November 6, 2023) – Birthright Israel announced today a vital effort to assist the Jewish state as it defends itself from Hamas. The initiative arose from the many alumni who have contacted Birthright Israel offering to volunteer during this crisis.

Birthright’s initiative involves placing volunteers on kibbutzim and moshavim to harvest crops in the absence of the thousands of foreign field workers who returned to their countries during the war. The volunteers will thereby make a crucial contribution to saving the hundreds of family farms whose residents were evacuated or called into reserve duty since Hamas massacred southern-Israel residents on October 7 and

**For a period of two weeks, alumni will pick fruit and vegetables or pack boxes of supplies**

launched its war against the Jewish state.

Participants will also work in donation centers to help with sorting, packing and distributing boxes of supplies for civilian evacuees and military units.

Birthright is coordinating the effort through its Onward Volunteer Program.

First round of applicants will volunteer for two weeks in two (2) rounds in November and more spots are expected to open in December.

The program will fully cover Tel Aviv-area accommodations, all of which have fortified rooms; transportation from and to the airport, and to and from the volunteering sites; and a small stipend. Participants will pay the cost of their flights and travel insurance.

The Volunteers will be working up to six hours daily, during which they’ll meet Israeli peers who also are lending a hand in farms and warehouses.

Applicants need to be between 18 and 40 years old, regardless of their previous Israel-program experience, with prefer-

ence given to those who have already participated in Israel programs and who are ages 25 and up. All applicants will need to identify themselves as Jewish.

“I have been gratified by the Birthright Israel alumni – ranging from those who came to Israel just a few months ago, all the way back to those who participated in our first year back in 1999 – who have reached out since October 7th to ask how they can help,” said Gidi Mark, Birthright Israel’s chief executive officer. “This initiative is a meaningful and practical way to stand with Israel and to actively assist a great need.”

For more information and to apply to volunteer, please visit: [birthrightisrael.com/beyond/resource-center](https://birthrightisrael.com/beyond/resource-center) **HW**

# Brawls Erupt Outside LA Museum of Tolerance Screening of Hamas Atrocities Footage



**LAPD officers get between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists outside The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. The museum held a private screening of footage documenting the Hamas invasion of Israel on Oct. 7th. Supporters of Palestine protested across the street outside. Credit: Luis Sinco / Los Angeles Times via Getty Images**  
**By Andrew Lapin**

(JTA) – Fistfights broke out last Wednesday night outside a Holocaust museum in Los Angeles that was screening footage of Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre of Israelis after pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated against what they said was a “Gal Gadot military propaganda video.” Several people were reportedly pepper-sprayed and detained by police following the Museum of Tolerance screening of “Bearing Witness,” a 45-minute compilation of footage largely from cameras carried by Hamas terrorists when they attacked Israeli civilians on Oct. 7. About 1,400 Israelis died in the

attack and about 250 were taken hostage in Gaza, which Israel has invaded with a stated goal of demolishing Hamas. An LAPD helicopter reportedly circulated overhead and ordered protesters to disperse. In footage of the confrontations circulating online, pro-Israel protesters sexually harassed a Jewish woman who demonstrated with pro-Palestinian protesters and accused her of being “Arab.” The clash came days after a Jewish man in Los Angeles died after an altercation with a pro-Palestinian protester at a rally, the first known incident of a death in the United States related to pro-

tests around Israel. Police said they had identified a suspect but had not yet made any arrests in that case. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass denounced the violence. “We cannot allow current worldwide tension to devolve into this unacceptable violence in our city,” she tweeted late last Thursday. “This is a time of immense pain and distress for thousands of Angelenos. We must stand together.” The film being shown, whose title is frequently used in Holocaust discourse, was first compiled by the Israel Defense Forces and screened for foreign journalists covering the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and siege of Gaza. The IDF said it undertook the step to prove that the Hamas atrocities had actually happened amid a rising tide of denial. Critics of Israel’s war in Gaza say the film is being used to justify ongoing bombings there that some of them say is causing a “genocide” there. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry says more than 10,000 people have been killed; it does not differentiate between civilians and Hamas fighters. Israeli officials have said the number killed could be around 20,000 but said the vast majority were terrorists. The film has since made its way to the United States with the backing of some Jewish and Israeli entertainment industry leaders, including Gadot, whose reported involvement in last Wednesday’s screening had been seized on by pro-Palestinian protesters online. Dubbing the screening a “Gal Gadot military propaganda video” and a “Zi-

onist trap,” some left-wing social media users encouraged non-Jewish protesters to stay away from the protest to avoid being labeled as antisemitic. A screening in New York earlier in the week passed without incident. Gadot was not present at the Museum of Tolerance screening for around 200 industry professionals, though her husband, Israeli film producer Jaron Varsano, was. The screening was invitation-only, with industry reports deeming it the town’s hottest ticket, and its location was obscured from public view out of security concerns. “You have a film that is being shown at a time when people are calling for a ceasefire,” one protester told the “Los Angeles Times.” “The screening is only for a few privileged people and it doesn’t lead to conversation.” According to the “Hollywood Reporter,” several other notable Jewish and Israeli industry executives were present at the screening, including “Golda” director Guy Nattiv (who also helped organize it); “Pulp Fiction” producer Lawrence Bender; and Mattel CEO Ynon Kreiz, who shepherded this year’s smash-hit “Barbie” movie. Melissa Zukerman, a Hollywood publicist, identified herself as the main organizer at the screening and thanked a former IDF spokesperson for helping it come together. Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, also spoke, as did Rabbi Marvin Hier, long-time head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which oversees the museum. **HW**



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