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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 3.



THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 18 CHESHVAN, 5784 NOVEMBER 2, 2023 VOL. 102, NO. 7

Memphis Jewish Federation Launches \$3 Million Memphis Stands with Israel Emergency Campaign



Scott Notowich, Board Chair, Memphis Jewish Federation

Following Hamas’ unprecedented and brutal invasion of Israel on October 7, Memphis Jewish Federation quickly mobilized to stand in solidarity with and provide comprehensive support for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Fully aware of the Memphis Jewish community’s past generosity with emergency Israel needs, Federation launched a historic \$3 million emergency campaign to help support Jewish Federations of North America’s (JFNA) \$500 million campaign. 100% of funds raised go directly to humanitarian support for impacted individuals, families, and communities.

The national campaign is a unified fundraising effort that includes a wide range of national Jewish organizations: Jewish Federations, the Union of Reform Judaism, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Hillel International, the JCC Association of North America, and National Council of Jewish Women.

“Whenever there is a crisis in Israel or an emergency Aliyah need, Memphis is often at the top of the leaderboard in raising funds,” said Laura Linder, President & CEO of Jewish Communi-

ty Partners. “We are unusually philanthropic and generous for a community of our size. In just two weeks, we’ve raised nearly \$2 million for our campaign, and we are confident we can raise more for the victims of this horrible and heartbreaking attack.”

Campaign dollars will give key organizations resources for urgent humanitarian needs such as medical care, emergency services, evacuation, transport, housing, supporting victims of terror, trauma relief and psychological support. Donations will also go toward community rebuilding and long-term economic needs.

“Every gift to the Memphis Stands with Israel campaign makes me so proud,” said Federation Board Chair Scott Notowich. “I am honored to witness the massive level of generosity and compassion our Memphis Jewish community has for the victims in Israel.”

Memphis’ consistent and deep engagement with Israel is recognized nationally. Federation Board members are often selected to serve on JFNA national committees and present at national conferences. Most recently, Federation Board Chair Scott Notowich was appointed to serve on JFNA’s National Allocations Committee.

Scott’s passion and compassion for Israel and the Israeli people is well known. He is immediate past chair of Federation’s Israel & Overseas and Lemsky Endowment Fund committees. His appointment to the Allocations Committee compliments his service on JFNA’s Israel & Overseas Committee.

“We are so pleased Scott will be the voice for Jewish Memphis within JFNA,” said Judy Lansky, Director of Development. “He can fully articulate how the Memphis campaign aligns with JFNA’s national campaign and will find opportunities for collaboration and partnership.”

Meeting weekly, the National Allo-

(See Campaign Page 2)

Memphis Night of Jewish Learning

By Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel

At this unprecedented time of war and worry, Jewish people across the world and in our own Memphis community wish to find ways to come together. As Jews, one of the practices we share, regardless of one’s denominational affiliation, is Torah study. We each look to the vast and ever-growing Jewish library for inspiration and meaning. The Memphis Night of Jewish Learning, Saturday November 18, will bring together Memphis community rabbis and educators to facilitate an evening of study. There are so many ways that each of us can connect to Jewish texts and ideas, and our hope is that you will find offerings that can enrich your Jewish connection. Throughout the night, participants will be able to choose between different sessions, ranging from more traditional Jewish text study to art and music. The Memphis Night of Jewish Learning is also an opportunity for you to finally have a chance to study with that educator or rabbi that you’ve always wanted to hear from, but never had the chance!

Each teacher will be presenting their session twice to give you a chance to choose from a variety of classes.

The confirmed teachers for the evening are: Artist Marisa Baggett, Rabbi Jeff Dreifus (Temple Israel), Rabbi Joel Finkelstein (Baron Hirsch), Rabbi Ilai and Sarit Grunwald (Torah Mitzion Memphis), Rabbi Shmuel Fromowitz (Memphis Kollel), Music & Cantorial Director Emily Groff Heilborn (Temple Israel), Rabbi Sarit Horwitz (Beth Shalom), Rabbi Cantor David Julian (Or Chadash), Rabbi Levi Klein (Chabad), Rabbi Ian Lichter (Baron Hirsch), Rabbi Akiva Males (Young Israel), Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel (MJCC), Rabbi Yisroel Weiner (MHA/FYOS), Dr. Dan Weiss (Bornblum), and Jewish community professional Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein (JCP).

The doors of the JCC will open at 6:30 p.m., and the evening’s first set of classes will start at 7 p.m. Registration will include dinner and one drink. Register at www.jccmemphis.org/JudaicStudies [HW](#)

Memphis Night of Jewish Learning

at the J

Saturday, November 18 • 6:30–10:00 pm
\$25 Community / \$18 Member • Reg #9778

Join us as we come together from across the Jewish community to learn from Memphis Jewish community rabbis and teachers. Cost covers dinner and 1 drink ticket.

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, and visit our office to pick up campaign yard signs, yahrzeit candles, We Stand with Israel bracelets, and blue ribbons.



Campaign...

(Continued From Page 1)

cations Committee has set up a comprehensive and innovative process to identify needs on the ground as quickly as possible. To date, \$70 million has been granted to organizations providing emergency relief and support in Israel, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, World ORT, Israel Trauma Coalition, United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom, ZAKA, Barzilai Medical Center, and the Soroka Medical Center.

To donate and support the Memphis Stands with Israel campaign, visit jcpmemphis.org/westandwithisrael, and stop by Federation (6560 Poplar, Suite

B) for campaign yard signs, yahrzeit candles, We Stand with Israel bracelets, and blue ribbons. You can also send care messages to Shoham, our sister city in Israel, at shoham@jcpmemphis.org.

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

MHA-FYOS Hosts Community-Wide Parent/Child Learning Event in Support of Israel



A full house of learners at the community-wide learning event for Israel at MHA on Sunday, Oct. 22.



The Cenker family participates in the community-wide learning event

On October 22, MHA-FYOS hosted a Community-Wide Parent/Child Learning event in support of Israel. The event was in partnership with several of the Jewish organizations of Memphis. Families were encouraged to either bring their own learning materials or to choose from the variety of materials available including children’s books about Israel, Shabbat and kindness, Israel crossword puzzles, various parsha summaries – both in English and Hebrew, inspirational stories and Israel coloring sheets.

Families from across the community filed into the school’s Moss Gym and sat side-by-side to engage in meaningful activities and learning with their families. Following the learning, everyone heard a beautiful Dvar Torah by MHA-FYOS 11th grader Shayna Klein. She shared insights from Parshat Lech Lecha, in which Hashem promises the land of Israel to Avraham’s descendants. Shayna closed by saying, “We have all seen over the past two weeks the way the Jewish people have come together more than ever before. May our gathering here to-

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
Memphis, TN 38177-0846
Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Office Manager & Subscriptions
toni@hebrewwatchman.com

Rebecca Miller Schudel
Social Media Director
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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info@hebrewwatchman.com

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11/2/2023



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Nov. 3, 2023 / 19 Cheshvan, 5784..... 5:45 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 4, 2023 / 20 Cheshvan, 5784..... 6:41 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeira

day be a piece of the puzzle to bring a speedy salvation for our people.”

Everyone in the gym sang Yom Huledet Sameach and Happy Birthday to a 10-year-old boy who moved to Memphis from Israel three days prior to the event. Then, attendees participated in carefully selected activities based around Israel, which were planned by Sarit and Rabbi Ilai Grunwald and the Torah Mitzion Kollel shlichim, who work with students and adults across the community. These activities included PJ Library Story Time, writing notes to

send to the Kotel and letters to Israeli soldiers and their families, and making an Israeli flag. Torah Mitzion Memphis also set up a make-your-own Israeli pita and coffee station and served ice cream from their very own Israeli Ice Cream Shop Katzefet. Additionally, a group of Middle School girls sold Israel friendship bracelets to benefit the Memphis Jewish Federation Emergency Israel Campaign.

Sarit Grunwald shared, “It was very special to bring some of Israel to everyone here, and it really helped us feel more at home during this terrible time.”

MHA-FYOS Director of Engagement Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky added, “It was incredibly beautiful to see so many Memphis families learning together, all under one roof, in Israel’s merit.” **HW**

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Love Train

By Ariel Augenbraun Edery

I have a simple Spotify account, you know the one that always asks you to “Join Premium” for family and friends... no ads, just music. I have refused to join, and thus...I am subject to the whims of random mixes that Spotify chooses. I happened into a 60’s mix that I listened to religiously. So much so, that AI quantified me as an African American woman who loves soul music. It is a running joke in my house that my Spotify is possessed by the likes of Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Etta James, Duke Ellington, and more...and I love it.

After listening to my 60’s mix, I ventured to a 70’s mix of Stevie Wonder, Bill Withers, and the Commodores. And then...there it was The O’Jays “Love Train.” Wow, that brought back memories of watching Soul Train on a Saturday night with my parents as a treat...the great African American sounds that Neil Bogart, and countless others produced so seamlessly for our souls to enjoy.

I never really paid attention to the words other than the refrain of “People all over the world, Join the Love train... love train!” But, when you hear it 30 times as you walk the dog every morning at the crack of dawn, you actually pay attention to the lyrics.

*People all over the world
Join hands
Start a love train....
All of you brothers in Africa*

Tell all the folks in Egypt, and Israel, too

Please don’t miss this train at the station

‘Cause if you miss it, I feel sorry, sorry for you.

Lyrics by Kenneth Gamble/Leon Huff, SONY ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner Chappel Music, Inc. Produced in 1972

This song was released in 1972 and reached Number One on the R&B Singles, and the HOT 100 in 1973. It was written at the time of the Vietnam War, when the world was reeling from the impact of the war upon the American soldiers, as well as troops from the world sent to fight the Communist regime. The song was written to sing a song about social justice.

Eddie Levert, one of the O’Jays singers said “the biggest problem is how to cope. You have to learn The timeless message of Love Train is that if we pull together, we can make things better for everyone.” (Guardian interview by Dave Simpson, November 1, 2016, “The O’Jays how we made Love Train.”)

Here we are, in Israel, and throughout the world...reeling from the current war against Hamas. For those of us living in Israel, we ALL have sons, daughters, husbands, wives, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces who have been called to

serve the country of Israel in their army capacity. The troops are being called to train for the fight of their lives... the fight against an evil Hamas regime that had no shame in attacking innocent victims, taking hostages, and leaving horrid remains of their evil ways in their wake.

Those of us who have not been called to the front are finding ourselves heeding the call to massive drives of packing food for soldiers at local bases. We are funding random collections for necessary army equipment. We are receiving shopping lists of soldiers filled with everyday items that they had forgotten when they speedily packed up to go to their bases. We are playing with our grandchildren who are living with us while their fathers or mothers are on the front. We are visiting the sick and elderly who still need our assistance. We are helping in hospitals and nursing homes. We are giving food to the security guards at the entrances to our towns and cities. We are also checking on neighbors who are alone with countless children.

We are the LOVE TRAIN.
May Love be the strength we need to fight this war.

Ariel Augenbraun Edery is a mother (and mother-in-law) of three IDF soldiers, a trained Clinical MSW, an English and Diplomacy teacher at Amit Hallel Rehovot, and the author of “Gila Makes Aliyah,” Menorah/Koren Publishers. HW

Ethics Complaint Filed Against Tlaib for Spreading Falsity about Gaza Hospital

(JNS) – Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) was one of many who posted on social media that Israel had killed hundreds in an attack on a Gaza hospital. “The New York Times” has since admitted that its reporting “relied too heavily on claims by Hamas and did not make clear that those claims could not immediately be verified.”

Yet Tlaib’s post, which sparked a tense press conference with U.S. senators visiting Israel, remains live on X. “Israel just bombed the Baptist Hospital killing 500 Palestinians (doctors, children, patients) just like that,” she wrote.

Tagging U.S. President Joe Biden, the congresswoman added that “this is what happens when you refuse to facilitate a ceasefire and help de-escalate. Your war and destruction only approach has opened my eyes and many Palestinian Americans and Muslims Americans like me. We will remember where you stood.”

Biden has since said a U.S. investigation has shown that an errant explosive from Palestinian Islamic Jihad – and not Israeli fire – struck an area near the hospital. And the death toll is reportedly much less than Hamas had originally stated.

The Lawfare Project think tank submitted a complaint against Tlaib with the Office of Congressional Ethics.

“Despite the evidence exculpating Israel, Rep. Tlaib has not deleted the statement from her X account and has refused to apologize or correct the record,” wrote Brooke Goldstein, the think tank’s executive director. “Her actions and omissions amount to willful, intentional and continued spreading of false and demonstrably harmful information that deceives the general public.” HW

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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, November 13
Speaker: Kepola Barajas, Medicare Specialist

She will discuss changes to the current Medicare coming in 2024 and about maximizing your Medicare Benefits. The talk is free and open to the public. A question-and-answer period will follow the discussion. Please join us for lunch and the talk.

Wednesday, November 15
Field Trip
Join us for a trip to TCBY on Brookhaven Circle for an Ice Cream social! Please make your reservation for lunch and to join in this fun field trip!

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. For reservations, please contact Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or call the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

Monday, November 20
Field Trip to Baron Hirsh Synagogue
Rabbi Ian Lichter, Senior Rabbi, 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 join us! Have a Great Thanksgiving!!

Israel Rebukes Russia for Hosting Hamas Terrorists

(JNS) – Israel admonished Russia for hosting Hamas terrorists in Moscow last Thursday, calling it “an act of support of terrorism.”

Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lior Haiat tweeted: “Hamas is a terror organization that is worse than ISIS. The hands of senior Hamas officials are stained with the blood of over 1,400 Israelis who were slaughtered, murdered, executed and burned. They are responsible for the kidnapping of over 220 Israelis, including babies, children, women and the elderly.

“Israel condemns the invitation of senior Hamas officials to Moscow, which is an act of support of terrorism and legitimizes the atrocities of Hamas terrorists. We call on the Russian government to expel the Hamas terrorists immediately,” he said.

The meeting was the first high-level international visit since Hamas launched its massacre of Israeli citizens on Oct. 7. Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, deputy chairman of Hamas’s political bureau, led the delegation, according to a Russian Foreign Ministry statement.

“Contact with him took place in pursuit for the immediate release of foreign hostages held in the Gaza Strip, and issues related to ensuring the evacuation of Russian and other foreign citizens from the territory of the Palestinian enclave were discussed,” the Russian statement said.

Russian news agency TASS also reported that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov held an earlier meeting in Qatar with Hamas political leaders, discussing the fate of hostages held by the terror group.

Russia and China last Wednesday prevented the U.N. Security Council from passing a U.S.-sponsored resolution condemning Hamas and calling for “humanitarian pauses” in the fighting between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group in Gaza.

The draft resolution was not adopted by the 15-member body because Russia and China as permanent members have veto power. Ten countries voted in favor of the U.S. resolution, with the United Arab Emirates notably voting against it. Brazil and Mozambique abstained.

Security Council resolutions need a minimum of nine yes votes and no vetoes by the five permanent members to pass.

A Russian resolution was also rejected that condemned Hamas but also condemned “indiscriminate attacks” on civilians and civilian objects in Gaza and called for an immediate “humanitarian ceasefire.”

On Oct. 16, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Russian President Vladimir Putin that Israel intends to eliminate the Hamas terrorist group in Gaza.

“The prime minister made it clear that Israel had been attacked by brutal and abhorrent murderers, had gone to war determined and united and would not stop until it had destroyed Hamas’s military and governing capabilities,” per a readout from Netanyahu’s office.

Russia’s initial response to the Oct. 7 attack was to side with the Palestinians, with Russian President Vladimir Putin calling for the creation of a Palestinian state with its capital in eastern Jerusalem without condemning the Hamas attack. HW

Bornblum Jewish Community School Postpones Ride for Education

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, Bornblum Jewish Community School Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D announced that its Ride for Education, which was scheduled for Sun., Oct 29, 2023, has been postponed until April 7, 2024, due to the events happening in Israel and their effect on the global Jewish community.

Below is an email that was sent to the community explaining the decision to postpone the Ride.

To riders:
On October 7, the world was shocked as Hamas attacked Israel and the Jewish people. It has been more than two weeks since that terrible day. Whether we know someone directly who was killed or injured, or we are simply disoriented by the scope and cruelty of the terror that was committed against our people, I would venture to say that not one of us has been immune from its effects. Each of us is in mourning, whether it is for the loss of someone we know or for feeling less secure than we did on October 6.

Bornblum’s Leadership Team has spent time talking about what our Bornblum community needs right now. We have spoken with our Israeli faculty and have spent a great deal of time focused on how our community can support them. But as they have been right to point out, this is a tragedy that has befallen the entire Jewish people wherever they are located. In the face of such tragedy, we look to our

traditions for answers for what to do.
As our Jewish Studies Principal Michal Almalem pointed out to our team that we should embrace what Judaism offers, which is the special mourning period called Shloshim (30 days). These first 30 days after loss are a period of transition between being completely enveloped by sadness and beginning to emerge back into the world. For those who have lost siblings or a spouse, shloshim marks the formal end to the mourning period (as opposed to a parent, which is a full year). As we collectively thought about applying the framework of Shloshim to our school community, as each of us has lost our brothers and sisters in Israel, it became clear to us that this is not a period for school-sponsored festivities and celebrations. This is a time for learning, for reflection, and for action.

In light of this decision to treat the period until November 7 as a period of Shloshim, we have decided to postpone the Ride for Education and Festival to April 7, 2024. God willing the current war will have ended with a positive outcome and it will be a time of peace for Jews the world over. We are notifying our riders, sponsors and supporters of this decision and wanted you to know not just that the Ride is being postponed, but why.
May we all be comforted.
B’Shalom,
Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D HW

CAMERA Reveals Anti-Israel Bias at ‘CNN,’ ‘The Guardian,’ ‘USA Today’

(JNS) – The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA) has been analyzing how news channels and publications are covering the current war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, pointing out errors, and in some cases, pointed misinformation.

For instance, CNN chose to use Palestinian casualty data provided by a Hamas-linked entity, calling the source an “aid group.”

“Once again, CNN is uncritically airing Hamas claims,” wrote CAMERA senior analyst David Litman. “After CNN got the story of Al-Ahli Hospital so wrong, the network’s Oliver Darcy wrote a self-serving attempt to explain away the network’s error as a consequence of ‘fog of war.’ The ‘fog of war’ cannot explain this error, which could have been prevented with a few seconds of investigation into the aid agency’s claim.”

Writers for the London-based “Guardian” have accused Israel of “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide” due to its efforts to protect civilian lives in Gaza by advising them to move south before the Israel Defense Forces begins its ground assault on Hamas. CAMERA

identified 11 articles and op-eds making such claims.
CAMERA UK co-editor Adam Levick wrote: “We also likely wouldn’t have thought that even “The Guardian,” when confronted with a modern-day pogrom where Jewish babies were murdered in their cribs, children tortured and killed in front of their parents, the young and old burned alive by antisemitic death squads, some of whom boasted of how many Jews they killed, and who then decapitated and mutilated corpses, would react by doubling down.”
CAMERA senior analyst Sean Durns critiqued a “USA Today” graphic of Israel’s history, explaining its falsehoods.
“‘USA Today’ completely ignores the 1930s, when Arabs were first offered the chance for a two-state solution and a separate Palestinian Arab state – and they declined it,” he wrote.
“Similarly, “USA Today” entirely omits the fact that Arab states chose war over a Palestinian Arab state.”
Other media organizations that received scrutiny include the Associated Press, “The Los Angeles Times,” “The Washington Post,” Sky News and NBC. HW

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Beth Sholom to Host its Second Annual Grand Gala on December 2 Featuring the Renowned Memphis Soul Remedy Band



The Memphis Soul Remedy band has been entertaining crowds with a blend of Memphis soul and 70-80's dance hits for more than a decade. Band members are all practicing health professionals.

Following the huge success of its inaugural Grand Gala last year, Beth Sholom Synagogue will host its second annual Grand Gala on Saturday evening, December 2, at 7 p.m. This year, the festive dinner dance will feature the music of the Memphis Soul Remedy band and

a menu prepared by the talented Chef Jerry Coleman. Gala Chair Samantha Alperin notes that many guests from the greater Memphis Jewish community attended last year's gala. "We have continued to hear such wonderful feedback about

last year's program, and I am so excited for another incredible evening. Given how worried we all are about Israel, we are certainly incorporating our love and concern for our homeland into the evening. It will be a beautiful night of celebrating our community."

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz adds, "Especially in these last few weeks, I have found such a sense of nourishment from being around community. Antisemitism can make people afraid to express their Judaism, and I don't take our thriving Jewish community for granted. We need to find more opportunities to be together, and we need to find opportunities to celebrate our vibrant synagogue."

Alperin says guests can look forward to a great performance by Memphis Soul Remedy, which stands in a long line of Memphis doctors' bands. Neurosurgeons Jon Robertson and Jeff Sorenson, anesthesiologist Autry Parker, internist Marty Weiss, ENT specialist Neal Beckford, ophthalmologist Jorge Calzada, trauma nurse Hope Clayburn, nurse practitioner Catherine Phelps, and others have been entertaining crowds

with a blend of Memphis soul and 70-80's dance hits for more than a decade. "This band has a full horn section, and their music will blow you away," Alperin says.

Gala tickets are available now on bsholom.org for \$100. Sponsorship opportunities start at "Mensch" for \$1,000 (2 tickets); "Chesed" for \$1,800 (4 tickets); "Tzedek" for \$2,500 (6 tickets); and "Rosh" for \$5,000 (a full table of 8).

Alperin thanks the members of the planning committee working with her to organize the event: Leslie Epstein, Rachel Feinman, Naomi Katz, Rebecca Landau, Susan Levko, Rachel Morrison, Carolyn Schrier, Lauren Tochner, and Illyssa Wertheimer.

The Grand Gala host committee members are Samantha and Lon Alperin, Leslie and Jonathan Epstein, Rachel and Josh Feinman, Amy Hertz and Robert Shankman, Naomi and Josh Katz, Rachel and Anthony Morrison, Kate and Danny Schaffzin, Carolyn and Adam Schrier, Jill and Scott Shanker, Stacy and Jerry Siegler, Lauren Tochner and Illysa Wertheimer. [HW](#)

'They're Shooting at People': Hamas Blocking Civilian Evacuation in Gaza



Foreign citizens are evacuated from the Gaza Strip during Israel's Operation Shield and Arrow against terrorists there, May 13, 2023. Credit: Majdi Fathi/TPS

(JNS) – The IDF last Thursday provided audio evidence that Hamas is forcibly preventing Palestinians from heeding Israeli orders to evacuate to the south of the Gaza Strip.

The recording features an officer in IDF Military Intelligence Directorate's Unit 504 and a Gazan civilian speaking about the latter's attempt to temporarily relocate from the northern part of the Strip ahead of an expected major Israel ground operation intended to destroy the Hamas terrorist organization.

In the call, the IDF officer tells Muhammad that to "ensure your personal safety, I'm asking you to urgently go towards Khan Younis" in the south.

The Gazan says in response that "all the roads are blocked."

When asked if Hamas is blocking the roads, he answers in the affirmative, saying that Hamas was preventing passage south through Salah al-Din Road, the main north-south highway running through the Gaza Strip.

Hamas is sending drivers back in harm's way in the north by placing vehicles on the road.

"They are shooting at people," the Gazan civilian says. [HW](#)



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Hamas Claims to Have 35,000 Fighters in Gaza



Terrorists of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Hamas movement, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, April 27, 2020. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

(JNS) – Hamas says it has 35,000 armed supporters in the Gaza Strip, the “TASS Russian News Agency” reported last Tuesday, citing the Al-Hadath television channel.

“We have 35,000 [armed] supporters amassed in Gaza and we are ready [for further ‘resistance’],” the channel quoted a spokesman for the terrorist organization as saying.

The comments come as Israel prepares for a massive air, ground and sea invasion of the Gaza Strip to destroy Hamas after the Oct. 7 massacre of at least 1,400 Israelis.

Israeli forces will face a network of terror tunnels underneath the Strip that Brig. Gen. (res.) Professor Jacob Nagel, former acting head of Israel’s National

Israeli forces will face a network of terror tunnels underneath the Strip.

Security Council, recently said could reach into the thousands of kilometers.

“The aim, as we have said, is to destroy Hamas’s capabilities. People do not understand what is beneath Gaza. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of kilometers of tunnels under the Strip. These are mainly located under the north of Gaza, therefore we are moving people to the south of the Strip,” Nagel said in an interview with “Globes.” [HW](#)

Lehrhaus Lecture Celebrates the Beautiful Music of Jewish Musicians in China on November 8



Dr. Jie Gao will bring to life the contributions of Jewish musicians in China at a Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom lecture on November 8.

“What matters in life is not what happens to you, but what you remember and how you remember it,” said Gabriel García Márquez, author of “One Hundred Years of Solitude.” For musicians and composers, we can best remember their music by bringing it to life on today’s stages. To that end, violin virtuoso Dr. Jie Gao, a visiting professor at University of Memphis, will bring to life her research on Jewish musicians in China and their beautiful music at a special Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom lecture on Wednesday, November 8 at 7 p.m.

Gao is a scholar, musician and filmmaker who focuses on the lives of Jewish composers and musicians who lived in China during the early to mid-20th century. Many of these musicians had fled to Shanghai before World War II. Gao’s work aims to uncover their musical creations, significant contributions to classical music, and the remarkable stories of their lives.

Gao’s lecture and performance is entitled “Bring a Memory to Life: A Preliminary Study of Jewish Musicians Living in China in the Early to Mid-20th Century.” She will play recordings of discovered violin works and perform several short, live excerpts along with presenting her research. Ultimately, her goal is to reintroduce these musical masterpieces to a modern audience.

Gao is a visiting professor at the East Asian Studies Institute at the University of Memphis. As an educator, musician, writer and filmmaker, Gao has shared her expertise through performances and lectures across Asia and the United States. She has performed with several orchestras, including Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Texas, and Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Ala. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas.

Gao also was an associate producer of the award-winning documentary series “Treasures of the Earth Series” (by Nova, PBS), which received the 2018 New York Festival TV and Film Gold Award. She has a rich professional background, including serving as an advisor of the Young Artists Training Program at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China, and as a contributing writer for the magazine of China National Center for the Performing Arts, and the “China Music Weekly Newspaper.”

Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom takes its inspiration from The Free Jewish House of Learning, the school for Jewish studies and adult education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt in 1920. Lectures in this series are free and open to the general public. For more information, visit [bsholom.org](#). [HW](#)



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'Glory to Our Martyrs' Projected onto Building at George Washington University



Messages reading "Glory To Our Martyrs" and "Divestment From Zionist Genocide Now," along with others, are projected onto the side of a building on George Washington University's campus in Washington, D.C., Oct. 24, 2023. (StopAntisemitism via X)

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Students, administrators and the Hillel director at George Washington University say they are concerned after anti-Israel messages were projected onto the exterior of a campus building last Tuesday night.

The messages – including “Glory To Our Martyrs,” “Divestment From Zionist Genocide Now,” and “Free Palestine From The River To The Sea” – appeared on the side of a library building for two hours, drawing a crowd of counter-protesters to an adjacent plaza where some sang the Hebrew song “Oseh Shalom,” a passage from daily prayers calling for peace.

The display comes at a moment of rising tensions on college campuses following a major attack by the Palestinian terror group Hamas against Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel’s ensuing war in Gaza, which Hamas controls.

Photos shared by the student newspaper and the watchdog group StopAntisemitism showed that the messages spanned several floors and could be read clearly at a distance. Video appeared to show masked students projecting the images from the street, arguing with university police over whether their actions were in violation of campus rules, before being ticketed.

The campus newspaper, “GW Hatchet,” reported that four student demonstrators associated with Students for

Justice in Palestine were responsible for the display. Other phrases that were projected, according to the newspaper: “End the siege on Gaza,” “GW the blood of Palestine is on your hands,” “GW is complicit in genocide in Gaza,” “Your tuition is funding genocide in Gaza,” “2,000 Palestinian children were murdered by ‘Israel’ in the last two weeks” (with “Israel” in quotation marks) and “President Granberg is complicit in genocide in Gaza.”

The last refers to GWU president Ellen Granberg, who joined the university this summer and has published two statements about the war, including one condemning “the celebration of terrorism” that followed a different SJP demonstration.

GW Hillel director Adena Kirstein, who is hosting a survivor of the Hamas-led massacre from an Israeli music festival on campus next week, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the phrases broadcast on the library were “absolutely” antisemitic.

“‘From the river to the sea,’ when you call for the erasure of the Jewish space, yes,” she said. “When you put ‘Israel’ in quotation marks, deeply troubling. And by the way, it’s not helping the cause.”

Jewish students on campus, Kirstein said, are “navigating a really, really difficult climate and they feel really isolated and alone.”

In a statement last Wednesday, the university acknowledged the projections, which it said were “unauthorized” and “violated university policy.”

“The statements made by these individuals in no way reflect the views of the university,” the statement said, adding, “We recognize the distress, hurt, and pain this has caused for many members of our community.” It also promised further communication from Granberg.

Granberg’s most recent statement about Israel, published Oct. 11, specifically condemned “the celebration of terrorism and attempts to perpetuate rhetoric or imagery that glorifies acts of violence” and came after SJP students reportedly harassed a pro-Israel vigil for the victims of Hamas attacks and published an Instagram statement praising Hamas for “breaking free, tearing down the prison walls, and making it known to the world: We will be caged no longer.” The statement also noted that the SJP chapter does not distinguish between combatants and civilians on either side of the Israeli-Palestinian divide.

College campuses across the country have struggled with how to respond to the Israel-Hamas war. Student groups and faculty at prominent universities have come under fire for statements and comments almost entirely blaming Israel for Hamas’ attacks, or even supporting the attacks themselves. University donors have also pulled support from schools including Harvard over administrators’ perceived reluctance to take a pro-Israel stance on the conflict. Even the student government at Brandeis University, which was founded after the Holocaust by the American Jewish community, this week voted down a resolution to condemn Hamas.

The GWU building where the mes-

sages were projected, the Gelman Library on the Washington, DC campus, is named after prominent Jewish philanthropists Melvin and Estelle Gelman, the former of whom endowed a chair of Judaic studies at the university. (It was also the same building where Israeli-American sociologist Amitai Etzioni, an influential proponent of “communitarianism” who died earlier this year, kept an office.)

GWU has played host to a series of antisemitism-related controversies in recent years, including when a Jewish fraternity’s miniature Torah was damaged and a bench at the campus Hillel was vandalized. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Education opened a federal civil rights investigation into the university’s handling of complaints directed at a psychology professor over comments she had reportedly directed at Israeli students; the university’s own investigation of the matter determined she had not done anything antisemitic.

Kirstein told JTA that “the university gets a bad rap most of the time” when it comes to Jewish life. Except for the past two weeks, she said, “it’s a vibrant Jewish community. We have a beautiful building, we have kosher food, we have great support from the university.”

Minutes before the messages, Kirstein had posted on her blog about feeling “extra lonely” as “a Jew on a college campus” amid the Israel-Hamas war.

“I am angry – at a world where it seems critical thinking is in short supply,” Kirstein wrote. “I am scared – that some days, my heart is hardening. I am bitter – that my students have to constantly qualify their opinions, proving to others that their souls are always in the right place. I am sad – for what the future might hold.” **HW**

With North Carolina Decision, School Choice Reaches 'Escape Velocity'

By David Swindle

(JNS) – North Carolina became the ninth state to enact universal school choice when it passed its budget on Sept. 22.

It is the first in the nation to allocate education funding to parents, rather than schools, without a Republican trifecta, Fox News reported. The GOP controls both state house chambers; however, the state’s governor, Roy Cooper, is a Democrat.

“The story of the school-choice movement is still being written,” noted Jason Bedrick and Lindsey Burke, both of the Heritage Foundation. “But what has just transpired in North Carolina is likely to be remembered as a key turning point.”

State funding – slated to reach \$520 million by 2032 – will provide \$6,500 scholarships in what are called Educa-

tion Savings Accounts, which families can use for a variety of expenses, including supplies or private school tuition.

“The education choice movement has reached escape velocity,” Bedrick told JNS. “The most effective tactic of the choice deniers has been fear-mongering that a robust education choice policy would ‘destroy’ the district school system. Yet states like Arizona and Florida proved the Chicken Littles wrong.”

Looking ahead, Bedrick thinks that states with school choice “will further normalize the policy and make scare-mongering even harder.”

“I predict that within a decade, more than half of U.S. states will have adopted a universal education choice policy,” he said. **HW**



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A legal will describes how you want your material assets to be distributed, but how do you leave behind your values? Using an ethical will, also called a legacy letter, you can tell your personal story and communicate your beliefs and life lessons to your family, friends, or community. You can opt to share it during your lifetime or leave it as a special gift for your loved ones to cherish after you're gone.

Despite the name, an ethical will isn't a legal document, and though often written, it can be in any creative format you choose. You might make a video or audio recording, create a photo album or a scrapbook, write and record a song, or put together a collection of recipes.

There are no rules that dictate what to include. For example, you might decide to write a few pages recounting meaningful family stories, while adding personal notes of love and gratitude. You might share challenges you've overcome or explain why you made certain decisions. You could tell your children how they have enriched your life or simply record a brief message to inspire future generations.

No matter which format you choose and what you decide to say, consider keeping the tone positive and helpful. Think about how your message might be received, and how future generations might benefit from what you have to say.

The process of writing an ethical will may seem daunting, but it can also be rewarding as you reflect on your experiences and what you truly value. Here are a few questions to help you get started.

- What principles guide your life?
- What are you most grateful for?
- How would you like to be remembered?

- How have specific experiences or events shaped you?
- What are some important choices you've made?
- How have you treated others, and how have others treated you?
- What have you not had the chance to say?
- Who were the most influential or admirable people in your life?
- Which charitable organizations are most important to you and why?
- What are your hopes for future generations?

If you need further information and inspiration, you can find samples, templates, books, and workshops online. Your attorney may also help guide you.

Once you've crafted your ethical will, make sure it's preserved in digital or printed form, or both. Share it now, or keep it with other estate documents, such as a copy of your legal will and advance care directives, and tell others where to find it.

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Hamas Terrorist Boasts to Proud Parents about Massacring Jews



The aftermath of Hamas's Oct. 7 onslaught on southern Israel, in Kibbutz Be'eri near the Israeli border with Gaza Strip, and slaughtered civilians, Oct. 17, 2023. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

(JNS) – While reestablishing control of communities devastated by Hamas's Oct. 7 invasion, the Israel Defense Forces found a recording of one of the terrorists boasting to his parents about how many Jews he had killed.

Israel revealed the recording, which was found on the phone of a murdered Israeli woman, for the first time at the U.N. Security Council last Tuesday.

"Hi dad, I'm talking to you from Mefal-sim [a kibbutz in southern Israel]. Open my Whatsapp now and you'll see all those killed. Look how many I killed with my own hands! Your son killed Jews," the terrorist shouts enthusiastically.

"May God protect you," his father says. "Dad, I'm talking to you from a Jewish woman's phone. I killed her and I killed her husband. I killed 10 with my own hands!"

"God is great," the father can be heard saying.

"Look how many I killed with my own hands! Your son killed Jews!"

The son then asks to speak to his mother, saying, "Their blood is on their hands, put mom on."

"Oh my son, God bless you," the father cries emotionally. The mother also expresses enthusiasm.

Then the terrorist's brother comes on the phone and tells him to come back.

"What do you mean come back? There is no going back. It's either death or victory. My mother gave birth to me for the religion, Alaa. What's with you, Alaa? How will I return," the terrorist answers.

He then repeatedly urges his family to open Whatsapp to see all the pictures of the dead he had sent them. [HW](#)



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Hamas Employs Nazi Propaganda Tactics, Senior Israeli Official Says

(JNS) – Don’t buy the propaganda of Hamas, a murderous terrorist organization that has adopted Nazi-like tactics, said a senior Israeli political official in response to the release of two hostages by the organization.

Hamas released Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Cooper, 79, both from Kibbutz Nir Oz, last Monday. Their husbands remain in captivity along with more than 200 abductees seized by the terrorists during their Oct. 7 rampage.

“Just as the Nazis carried out engineered and staged tours for the Red Cross of a ‘clean’ concentration camp to deceive the world and present themselves as humane, so Hamas, while slaughtering babies, raping women and shooting children, tries to present itself as humane by releasing a handful of abductees it supposedly took care of. Hamas are the new Nazis,” the diplomatic source said.

The Israeli official referred to tours Nazis gave to the Danish Red Cross and the International Red Cross in June 1944 of the Theresienstadt Ghetto in Czechoslovakia, a way station to the extermination camps.

“It was all an elaborate hoax. The Germans intensified deportations from the ghetto shortly before the visit, and the ghetto itself was ‘beautified.’ Gardens were planted, houses painted and barracks renovated. The Nazis staged social and cultural events for the visiting dignitaries. Once the visit was over, the Germans resumed deportations from Theresienstadt, which did not end until October 1944,” according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Lifshitz described to the press how she was treated well by the terrorists while held captive in Gaza, despite the fact that Hamas terrorists killed more than 1,400 Israelis, wounded thousands, decapitated babies and raped women, all while filming their crimes.

The press conference has been described as a public-relations disaster by Israel advocates, which they say served to whitewash Hamas’s monstrous crimes.

Yoseph Haddad, a well-known Israeli Arab activist who has dedicated himself to explaining Israel’s positions to the world, posted his frustration on X, saying it “drives me crazy how we fall into the trap of Hamas’s psychological warfare.

“The ‘dedicated and humane treatment’ of ISIS-Hamas is already echoing around the world. They have already forgotten about the horrors we watched yesterday,” Haddad tweeted.

Even Ichilov Hospital (Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center) attempted to free itself of responsibility for the press conference held there, which has come under increasing criticism.

“Ichilov was asked to allow the hostage and her family and the media to speak in an organized and coordinated manner. Coaching the family regarding the style and content of the messages is not our responsibility, but that of official security and public relations figures, who have been in direct contact with the family,” the hospital said. **HW**



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**

OBITUARIES



Erwin Clifford Ostrow

Erwin Clifford Ostrow, 75, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2023, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a proud and loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. He was born in Memphis, on February 1, 1948, to Esther Cooper and Arnold Ostrow.

Erwin graduated from White Station High School and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He met the love of his life, Rose Epsman, during her first week of freshman year at UT. Though their meeting was a mistake, it was the happiest one he made.

Erwin had a long career as a real estate agent and mortgage broker.

He loved planning trips and traveling, especially cruises. Some of his favorite times were spent with his grandchildren playing very competitive games of Monopoly. He even had a special deal named after him.

Erwin will be remembered for his kind spirit, warm nature, and his love of having his friends and family nearby.

Erwin leaves his wife, Rose; daughters Erin Ostrow and Jenny Herman (Larry); son Craig Ostrow (Paige); grandchildren Zachary Herman, Eliza Herman, Connor Ostrow and Jack Ostrow. He shared special relationships with his siblings Barbara and Max Ostrow, Mervyn Epsman (of blessed memory), Janice Gwin (Tom, of blessed memory), Lynne and Mark Cohen, Stacie and Ken Epsman, and Debbie and Martin Sher. In addition, Erwin had incredible times with his beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Baron Hirsch Cemetery on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to donate in Erwin’s honor, please consider the Memphis Jewish Community Center or a charity of your choice. **HW**

Elaine Kapell Wagner Skopp

Elaine Kapell Wagner Skopp died Sunday evening, October 22, 2023, at Baptist East Hospital after a brief illness.

Elaine graduated Central High School in May 1967, went to Indiana University for her first year of college and graduated cum laude from Memphis State University in 1971. While in college Elaine met Murray Wagner, whom she married in November, 1971. They had two wonderful children Alyse and Brandon Wagner. Murray died in 1985 at the young age of 47.

Elaine married Irvin Skopp in November 1989, and they blended their families. Irvin and Elaine were married for 34 years.

She was employed as a revenue agent for the Internal Revenue Service for 35 years. Upon retirement from the IRS, Elaine worked as a consultant assisting and advising clients who had tax issues.

Elaine was a member of both Baron Hirsch Synagogue and Temple Israel. She was a board member of Salon Circle in charge of selling donation cards, which benefited St. Jude’s biomedical library. She was a Lion of Judah, a member of Memphis Jewish Community Center where she exercised regularly and a board member of Memphis Jewish Federation. Elaine was active in assisting with monthly senior luncheons at Baron Hirsch Synagogue and Memphis Jewish Community Center. For many years until the present, she was a monthly volunteer for Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service assisting with religious services for residents of Town Village Independent Living.

Elaine was a people person. She enjoyed helping numerous people with tax issues, walking, participating in exercise classes, playing Mahjong, traveling, and going to musicals at Theater Memphis and Broadway shows at the Orpheum.

Elaine leaves her husband, Irvin Skopp, her children Alyse Wagner (Jon Sacks), Brandon Wagner, Alyza Rogers (Kevin) and Shira Levy, her sister, Sara Slovis (Herb) and her nieces Lauren Hackney (Bill) and Melanie Wolf (Bobby). Elaine had six grandchildren who knew her as Nannie and was a second mother and grandmother to her nieces, nephews and their children.

She was greatly loved and will be missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services were held at Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Sam Abraham Chapel on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

The family requests any memorials be sent to Baron Hirsch Synagogue, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital or a charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

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Hamas Terrorists Confess to Raping Jewish Dead, Beheading Children

By Lilach Shoval

(JNS) – After showing foreign journalists footage of the atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists during their Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel, the IDF last Monday published two segments from the interrogation of Hamas terrorists who participated in the massacre.

“The plan was to go from house to house, throw grenades and kill everyone there, including women and children,” the terrorist said. He also told interrogators that Hamas had instructed them to behead their victims.

“The purpose of entering Israeli territory... was to kidnap civilians; they want as many hostages as possible,” one of the terrorists revealed. He added, “They [Hamas] promised us that whoever brings a kidnapped person will receive an apartment and \$10,000.”

Another terrorist talked about the instructions to seize Sufa military post and kill the residents of Kfar Aza, saying: “The instructions were to kidnap anyone we came across – elderly, women and children. We were ordered to kill everyone in Kfar Aza and empty the kibbutz of its people. In one case we entered a home and saw another group holding the family hostage, they were using them as human shields so that they would not get hurt.”

Another terrorist who participated in the Kfar Aza massacre said, “We entered one of the houses; there was a woman on the floor, and then her dog came towards us so I shot the dog. After that, we noticed a man in the yard of the house, and I shot him with three bullets.”

Asked whether the man in the yard had been armed, the terrorist replied, “No, he was not armed. I shot him in the chest with three bullets when he was not holding any weapon at all.”

“Afterward,” he continued, “we roamed around the area, and we saw two adjacent houses at a specific point in Kfar Aza, and we burned both of them completely.”

The terrorist also told investigators he had raped one of the corpses.

One of the terrorists, a member of Hamas’s special “Nukhba” force, told interrogators: “We reached a house where a family had taken shelter inside a reinforced room, and we yelled for them to come out, but they were afraid and stayed inside. We set off a small explosive on the iron window, creating a small hole, and threatened to throw a burning cloth in to suffocate the people inside. As a result, one of the girls inside got scared and opened the window.”

At this point, one of the terrorists fired 10 bullets at the mother and her two daughters, aged 18 and 20, he said, adding, “Later, more of us came and fired more shots at them.”

When asked whether attacking unarmed women was permitted by the Koran, the terrorist replied, “None of them were armed, and they didn’t fire at all. We simply slaughtered them. According to the Quran, it’s forbidden.”

“Aren’t your actions similar to those of ISIS? Killing civilians indiscriminately is exactly what ISIS does,” asked the interrogator, to which the terrorist replied, “That’s correct; it’s just like ISIS. There’s no difference.”

The same answer was given by another of the terrorists.

“There is no difference between what we did and what ISIS does. The brutality is the same.”

Originally published by “Israel Hayom.” **HW**

A New Yorker is Going Viral for Confronting Someone who Ripped Down Israeli Hostage Posters



A man confronts another man who was filmed removing Israeli hostage posters on a street corner in Queens, according to video shared by the watchdog group StopAntisemitism. (X)

By Ben Sales

(New York Jewish Week) – Countless videos have spread this week of people taking down hostage posters. But almost immediately, it seems, viewers knew that this one would be different.

Like the others, this video featured someone tearing down the fliers featuring the names and pictures of some of the more than 200 people held captive by Hamas in Gaza. But unlike the rest, the man confronting the poster-ripper did not just urge the person to stop. Instead, he said the f-word. A lot.

Another difference: The man confronting the person taking down the posters was, by his own admission, “not

f—ing Jewish.”

“You don’t have a f—ing right to touch that s—,” the man sporting a brown plaid shirt yelled in a thick New York City accent about halfway through the 43-second clip, which was first shared by the group StopAntisemitism. Someone can be heard calling him Paulie.

“This is a free country,” the man went on. You can wave your Palestine flag and say ‘Death to the Jews’ or America or whatever you want, but we can put up f—ing signs, OK? Then don’t rip that down.”

After a short confrontation with the man he said had torn down the posters, he said, “You’re littering the city. In a minute I’m going to litter the f—ing floor with you.”

As of last Friday evening, the video had more than 3 million views on X, formerly known as Twitter, and more on Instagram. Users quickly determined that the exchange occurred at a specific street corner in the Queens neighborhood of Forest Hills, which has a large Jewish community. Several said they’d like to buy the man a beer or several, or send him money on Venmo.

“This non-Jewish person’s determination to do the right thing is the energy and support we need right now,” wrote one user on Instagram. “Helping bring the hostages home is what any decent human being should do.”

As Shabbat began in New York last Friday evening, Paulie’s identity had not yet been publicly revealed. But it seemed to be only a matter of time. “Who wants to [buy] those guys a beer?” another user wrote on Instagram, adding the applause emoji. “We need the reverse shame game and find their names and publicly praise them.” **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS

Unity Now, But for How Long?

By Howard Weisband

October 7 brought upon us unspeakable even unthinkable gruesome tragedies, and the beginning of our current war.

Paradoxically, it immediately brought unity to multiple sectors of Israeli society and throughout Diaspora Jewry, wherein the overwhelming majority of our people joined in the effort to decisively defeat Hamas.

The paradox is particularly poignant given that it had been reported that Iran and Hamas had hoped to take advantage of the sharp divisiveness that had existed in Israel protesting the judicial reform, which even involved reserve soldiers, including pilots, refusing to report for ongoing training.

In addition, we remember Yom Kippur shortly before October 7, which manifested additional ugly splits in Israeli society in Tel Aviv, when secular Jews were pitted against one another, and we again saw the tension between observant and secular Jewish citizens.

On one hand, it was reassuring to witness our people coming together as one in a totally unified fashion. On the other hand, it was painful to realize that it took the murderous actions of a despicable enemy to bring about that unity.

However, readers will remember that

in a column some weeks ago, when I was questioned about the impact of the divisiveness in the army with reserve soldiers “on strike” and not reporting for regular training periods, I commented: “Believe me, if Hamas or Hizbullah, or G-d forbid, Iran even threatened to attack, every one of those reservists would run to his/her base.”

Such was the case after October 7; all Israelis answered the call. And Israelis abroad en masse rushed to get seats on El Al (other airlines cancelled flights to Israel) to join their army units.

In addition, Israel’s civilian population pulled together immediately to aid a population in crisis, well before the politicians established an emergency unity Government. Those who organized demonstrations so vociferously against the Government began utilizing their organizing skills to aid blood drives, provide non-military equipment and supplies for soldiers, and offer housing, clothing, and meals to the survivors from the south and evacuees from the north.

From the United States and other countries there have been solidarity rallies and more: significant increased fundraising efforts plus mobilization of Jewish communities to send literally

tons of similar supplies to Israel.

All in all, it has truly been a very impressive demonstration of unity among both Israelis and Diaspora Jewry.

The Hebrew word for unity is “achdut.” We in Israel are seeing it everywhere: in official messaging including from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), in newspaper and TV ads, in social media, signage on walls in the city, and even on drawings made by children placed in the elevators in our apartment complex.

Borrowing from a colleague, a senior Jewish educator: achdut can mean “unity, harmony or solidarity... It engenders a feeling of oneness; and, a feeling of community, communality and “peoplehood.” And, it is built upon a common destiny, trust and a shared vision.”

My own personal Jewish values and professional goals have been based on the concept of achdut and unity within each Jewish community and among the Jewish People.

That’s why I was frankly distraught during the past year to live with a Government that did not understand or hold to that same value, and then to witness the fractures that erupted within Israeli society.

I know that the current achdut will remain in place until the IDF achieves a

decisive victory.

But what will happen on the next day?

After the victory is achieved and the emergency Government is no longer in place, will achdut remain within the society?

Necessarily and rightfully, there will be hard and important investigations into how the intelligence and operational failures of October 7 were allowed to happen and who was responsible. In my opinion, the current Netanyahu Government and the Prime Minister himself will have to resign.

Will Ganz and/or the opposition be able to form a new Government? Will the society allow them to do so? Or will we have to go to new elections?

Most importantly, will we have achdut? That as a priority will be the challenge and the test of new leadership.

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**

IDF Ground Forces Stay in North Gaza as Incursion Expands



Israel Air Force strikes on terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip, as seen from the Israeli side of the border, Oct. 28, 2023.
Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces ground forces that entered northern Gaza last Friday night remained there on Saturday, marking what appears to be the start of the Israeli ground offensive, as opposed to earlier brief raids.

“In Gaza, we are proceeding with the stages of the war. IDF forces entered northern Gaza and broadened the ground activities,” IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said last Saturday.

Infantry, Armored Corps, and Combat Engineering Corps units all entered the Strip, supported by heavy artillery.

Meanwhile, the Israeli home front continued to face rocket fire from Gaza, with volleys fired at greater Tel Aviv and Beersheba last Saturday. A rocket scored a direct hit on a home in Beer-sheba, but no injuries were reported, as civilians evacuated to safe rooms as warning sirens pealed.

Meanwhile, Hagari said, the Israel Air Force continued “massive highly significant air attacks and the killing of senior Hamas commanders.”

Acting on Military Intelligence and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) information, Israeli fighter jets last Saturday killed Ratib Abu Tzahiban, the commander of Hamas’s Gaza City Brigade’s Naval Forces.

Tzahiban planned and commanded a maritime infiltration attempt on Oct. 24 that the Israel Navy thwarted, said the military.

Additionally, Israel Navy sailors and the IAF provided support to IDF ground forces and struck numerous Hamas terrorist targets from the air and the sea, the military said. Among these targets were observation posts, anti-tank missile launchers and a “military” compound.

Overnight, fighter jets also killed Asem Abu Rakaba, the head of Hamas’s Aerial Array.

Abu Rakaba was responsible for Hamas’s unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, paragliders, aerial detection and aerial defense, the IDF said.

“He took part in planning the massacre in the communities surrounding the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7. He directed the terrorists who infiltrated Israel on paragliders and was responsible for the

drone attacks on IDF posts,” the army said.

Hagari said senior field tactical Hamas commanders are being eliminated, advancing Israel’s war goals.

There were no injuries reported to Israeli ground forces thus far.

“We are working, with the objectives of destroying Hamas, returning hostages and restoring national security. These guide us as we move and take operational decisions, with these goals being our compasses,” he said.

At the humanitarian level, Gazan civilians continue to move south beyond Wadi Gaza, where Israel is allowing more trucks carrying food water and medicines into southern Gaza from Sinai. “Those who will go to this protected place will receive food, medicine and water,” said Hagari.

“The New York Times” reported last Saturday that Israel’s assertion that Hamas is stockpiling fuel and food in Gaza and keeping it away from civilians was confirmed by Arab and Western officials, who said the stockpiles are being kept in Hamas’s enormous underground tunnel network.

“Hamas has hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel for vehicles and rockets; caches of ammunition, explosives and materials to make more; and stockpiles of food, water and medicine,” the “Times” stated.

The Galilee

In northern Israel, several anti-tank missile and mortar shell launches were identified from Lebanese territory towards Israel last Saturday, including at IDF posts along the border. The attacks hit open areas.

IDF tanks and artillery responded with fire towards the origin of the attacks and struck Hezbollah military infrastructure in Lebanon, the army said.

Last Saturday afternoon, a terrorist cell attempted to fire anti-tank missiles from Lebanon towards the western sector of the border, near Kibbutz Hanita. An IDF UAV struck the cell.

In Judea and Samaria, the IDF has deployed a large number of troops, said Hagari. The IDF is conducting a series of security raids against Hamas in the region.

from moderate to light injuries. Half an hour after that attack, central Israel was again targeted by rockets.

According to IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military is affixing a red flag to the world about Hamas’s war crime of using hospitals in Gaza as human shields and revealed intelligence for that purpose.

“Hamas has turned hospitals into

Addressing claims of hostage exchange deals in the works, Hagari described them as “cognitive terrorism meant to influence our population on such a sensitive area.” The IDF works with the Hostage and Missing Persons Headquarters to provide “real information” to families when it is received, he said.

Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Yadlin, former head of IDF Military Intelligence and former IAF deputy commander, told journalists on a call organized by Mediacentral, a nonprofit, Jerusalem-based media liaison service, that the ground operation was delayed until out of a desire for the air campaign to weaken Hamas as much as possible, to call up and train reserves, and to provide them updated intelligence.

A request from the United States, which is concerned about attacks on its forces in Syria, Iraq and the Persian Gulf, for more time, also played a role in delaying the ground offensive, Yadlin said.

“According to my impression, it started last night, even though it is not a full-scale attack, it’s a low-intensity conflict. It’s inch by inch, meter by meter, trying to avoid casualties and trying to kill as many Hamas terrorists as possible,” he said.

“I guess that most of them [the terrorists] will flee to the tunnels, and then the challenge is to destroy these tunnels to get them out using one technique or another,” said Yadlin.

Hamas was not considered to be the top threat to Israel, coming after Iran, its nuclear program and Iranian entrenchment, and was seen as an entity to be weakened but kept as an address that controls Gaza, he noted.

“Since Oct. 7 this paradigm was found to be wrong, and replaced with a paradigm of Nazi Germany and ISIS. Like those, Hamas “should be destroyed as a state, Hamastan should be destroyed,” Yadlin said.

“It is not a blitzkrieg, it is not a Six-Day War, it is a long, low-intensity conflict, but the goal is very clear. At the end of the day, very much like Nazi Germany disappeared or the Islamic caliphate, which lasted from 2014 to 2019 until the United States destroyed it in Iraq and northern Syria,” Hamas too will be destroyed as a terror army and regime.

“This is the directive that the IDF got from the government,” said Yadlin.

Destruction of Hamas

In defining what the destruction of Hamas would look like, he estimated that some 10,000 out of the 27,000 terrorists of the Hamas army would need to be killed, that its command and control systems stop functioning, that Hamas chief in Gaza Yahya Sinwar and “military” wing chief Mohammed Deif are targeted, and that some additional senior Hamas commanders are willing to leave the Gaza Strip, “as Arafat left Beirut in 1982.”

This would be realistic if conditions around Israel allow enough time, said Yadlin, noting that external factors like American pressure to end the war due to a humanitarian crisis, or the north erupting, could change the time factor.

command-and-control centers, and hideouts for terrorists and commanders,” he stated. “According to intelligence in our hands, there is fuel in hospitals in Gaza, and Hamas is using it for its terror infrastructure.”

The IDF shared this information and more with intelligence agencies from allied countries, he said.

Addressing Shifa Hospital in Gaza

Israel is employing an air campaign, a siege and a ground campaign to achieve these goals, he said.

“We saw a very serious air campaign, striking every target command post, intelligence center, anti-tank teams, anti-aircraft teams, terrorist chiefs, their tunnels, their supply – everything is a target. To avoid collateral damage people were asked to move to the southern part of Gaza, and anyone who stayed is in a way a human shield for the terrorists,” said Yadlin.

It is possible to both advance the goal of destroying Hamas and to secure the release of the 229 hostages being held by it at the same time, he argued.

“It is clear Sinwar understood Israel would launch ground maneuver and he tried to take advantage of it [the hostage situation] by a long process of negotiations, releasing two hostages a week. At this pace, it would take two years. Israel would not accept it, and in a way what I think the [current] maneuver is telling Sinwar is you cannot stop the maneuvering and you will pay even more if you don’t do a serious substantial deal, at least the kids, the 9-month baby, the 4-year-olds whose parents were killed, the women raped over and over again, and maybe again now: We want these civilians to be returned as soon as possible. If Sinwar thinks he can play the time and stop the maneuver, he’s absolutely wrong,” Yadlin said.

“Sinwar is now also under pressure from people in his own terrorist movement, saying, ‘We went too far, let’s do a deal or Gaza will very soon be like Dresden [in 1945]. But he is not paying so much attention. The people of Gaza is not his interest. He cares about jihadist ideology that [promotes the goal of] ‘We will kill all the Israelis,’” Yadlin added.

Sinwar is “very frustrated that the rest of the fronts haven’t erupted,” he added.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah is still at the stage of showing “minimum support for Sinwar,” Yadlin continued. Nasrallah “said he would go up to level 2 if Israel attacks on the ground. We have to see what he’s planning for the next days.

“Level 3 is a full-scale war,” something Hezbollah is “absolutely not interested in,” Yadlin argued. “Fifty Hezbollah terrorists are already killed, some before and some after firing anti-tank missiles. He may move to another mode and we have to be ready. But the [IDF] Northern Command is ready. He sees that fighting against the Syrian opposition [on behalf of the Assad regime in the civil war] is easier than fighting the IDF when the IDF is ready.”

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant last Saturday directed the defense establishment to continue striking above and below ground in Gaza and to continue its efforts to detect and eliminate Hamas terrorists, both leadership and operatives.

“I completed a situation assessment. Last night we completed a phase in the war. We will continue to be strong and precise, and hunt down every terrorist,” said Gallant. **HW**

IDF: Hamas’s Terror Command Center Built Under Gaza’s Main Hospital

By Yakkov Lappin

(JNS) – Hamas has systematically turned hospitals in the Gaza Strip into terror command centers and hideouts, the Israel Defense Forces said last Friday, as volleys of rockets fired by Hamas targeted central and southern Israel.

Four people were injured in a direct rocket strike on a residential building in Tel Aviv last Friday afternoon, ranging

City – the largest in the Strip, with more than 1,500 beds, 4,000 staff and people arriving in recent weeks around the hospital grounds – Hamas is “cynically using” such places as a “shield for its underground terror complex,” said Hagari.

The Gazan network of underground combat tunnels, dubbed “the metro”

(See **Hospital** Page 12)

Hospital... (Continued From Page 11)

by the IDF, is often placed right next to sensitive sites like hospitals, mosques, schools and UNRWA sites as part of a deliberate doctrine by Hamas to limit IDF airstrikes.

Pointing to a map of the Shifa Hospital, Hagari said that Hamas conducts its command and control out of places like the X-ray room for terror activities like launching rockets.

“It is here in Shifa Hospital where Hamas operates its command-and-control cells. Hamas terrorists operate inside and under Shifa Hospital, with a network of terror tunnels. It also has an entrance to the tunnels from different places in the hospital,” said Hagari. “Right now, terrorists move freely at Shifa Hospital.”

‘Hamas’s use of hospitals is systematic’

Hundreds of terrorists flooded the Shifa hospital after the Oct. 7 massacre of more than 1,400 Israelis by Hamas, stated Hagari.

“Hamas not only endangers the lives of Israeli civilians but also exploits the lives of innocent Gazans as human shields. Hamas’s use of hospitals is systematic. They do so precisely because they know Israel distinguishes between terrorists and civilians,” he said. “We already exposed that Hamas stole fuel from UNRWA – and UNRWA confirmed it.”

He was referring to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

Hagari played an audio recording between an IDF officer and a senior Gazan

energy official, who stated that Hamas uses very large quantities of fuel for its underground tunnel activities, in addition to oxygen and electricity.

When medical facilities are used like this, they are liable to lose protection under international law, Hagari warned.

“For over two weeks, the IDF has called and continues to call the civilians of northern Gaza and Gaza City to temporarily move south for their own safety,” he stressed. “We continue to back efforts by Egypt and the United States to get food, medicine and water to south Gaza. We will increase this humanitarian effort.”

Terror targets struck, Palestinian commander killed

Meanwhile, [early last Saturday], the IDF conducted a ground raid in the Gaza Strip and struck dozens of terror targets belonging to Hamas, it said.

IDF ground forces, accompanied by Israeli Air Force fighter jets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), conducted the raid in the central Gaza Strip early last Friday.

As part of the activity, IDF aircraft and artillery struck terror targets belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization in the Shuja’iyya area and throughout the Gaza Strip, the military said.

The troops exited the area at the end of the activity. No IDF injuries were reported.

During the activity, the IDF identified and struck numerous terror targets, including anti-tank missile launch sites, military command-and-control centers, as well as Hamas terrorists themselves.

Overnight last Friday, the IDF killed Madhath Mubashar, commander of the Western Khan Yunis Battalion of the

Hamas terrorist organization. Madhath took part in explosives and sniper attacks against Israeli civilian communities and IDF soldiers, the military said in a statement.

Israeli fighter jets struck more than 250 military targets belonging to Hamas last Thursday and Friday. These included tunnels, dozens of Hamas operatives, operational command centers and rocket-launch sites.

In addition, an Israeli UAV fell in the Gaza Strip as a result of a technical malfunction. There is no risk of an information breach, and the incident is under review, said the military.

Strike towards Israel from ‘Red Sea area’

Meanwhile, Israeli Navy personnel from the elite Flotilla 13 commando unit conducted a targeted raid from the sea in the southern Gaza Strip. During the activity, the soldiers struck Hamas military infrastructure and operated in a compound used by Hamas’s commando naval forces, said the military.

Israeli Navy vessels and aircraft took part in the raid.

In the north last Friday, terrorists carried out a shooting from Lebanon towards an IDF post near the communities of Avivim and Kibbutz Misgav Am in northern Israel. No injuries were reported. IDF tanks and artillery returned fire at the source of the fire.

Last Friday morning, a strike in the resort town of Taba in the Sinai Peninsula originated from “the Red Sea area,” according to an Israeli military official, in an apparent reference to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Arabic-language media cited an Egyptian military source as saying the

blast that lightly wounded six people was caused by a drone.

Taba is located along the border with Israel, some six miles from the southernmost city of Eilat.

Last week, the USS Carney, a U.S. Navy destroyer, shot down missiles and drones from Yemen that could have been aimed at Israel, the Pentagon said.

Early last Friday, after 14 attacks by militias backed by Iran on U.S. military targets in Syria and Iraq over the past 10 days, the United States launched a series of airstrikes on munitions storage sites in Syria affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC.

“The strikes took place at roughly 4:30 a.m. last Friday in Syria near Al Bukamal, a Syrian town on the border with Iraq, and were carried out by two F-16 fighter jets using precision munitions,” Reuters quoted a U.S. official as saying.

One of the sites struck is the Al-Bukamal area, which, according to the Alma Center, a defense research group in Israel, is heavily involved [and] is operated almost exclusively by associates of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran. On the Iraqi side of the border, in the Al-Anbar province, those leading the smuggling are the Iraqi Hezbollah militias. The site is used to smuggle weapons and terrorists along the Iranian-run trafficking corridor.

Meanwhile, within Israel, the Israel Police announced that it arrested more than 100 suspects and charged 24 of them since the start of the war over incitement to violence and terrorism.

Police also removed 300-plus posts encouraging violence, incitement and affiliation with terrorism, with 146 of them leading to investigations. [HW](#)



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