

# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

# HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM10 KISLEV, 5784NOVEMBER 23, 2023VOL. 102, NO. 10Memphis Delegation 180+ Strong at March for Israel in<br/>Washington D.C. Among 300,000November 23, 2023VOL. 102, NO. 10



Credit: Eli Ostrow By Shoshana Cenker

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, Nov. 14, a diverse delegation of 180 Memphians eagerly boarded a charted plane to represent the Bluff City at America's March for Israel in Washington, D.C. It just might be the one and only time a gate worker called for the "minyan group" to board over the loudspeaker. Once safely in the air, Jews of all denominations and local Jewish orgs, along with several non-Jews, listened as Tefillahs HaDerech, the Traveler's Prayer, was recited over the speaker system; Memphis Jewish Federation organizers provided details of the day's plans; beautiful words were shared about Lone Solider Rose Lubin (z"l) by her Aunt Brooke Lubin; Amanda Braswell from Security Community Network offered important safety information; and the group was led in singing a couple songs together, including Am Yisrael Chai. A unique flight, indeed. Arriving safely at BWI, we hopped on four buses from the tarmac, each with a designated security guard and bus captain, and enjoyed a delicious kosher boxed lunch on the way to the rally. Under tight security, when the Memphis delegation approached the scene, an air of peace, hope, solidarity, and ruach (spirit) was felt with delightful pride. Wearing our "Memphis Stands with Israel" T-shirts and a lanyard with a hostage's name and photo, as we moved through the massive crowd, among the throng of blue and white, Israeli and American flags, and signs, folks connected with friends and family members from countless other cities, sharing hugs and photo opps. We also met up with Margolin Hebrew Academy high school students, who had traveled up on buses.

After the rally, our Memphis delegation had the extraordinary opportunity to meet privately with four Tennessee representatives at the U.S. Capitol -Congressman David Kustoff, Congressman Steve Cohen, Senator Bill Hagerty, Senator Marsha Blackburn - all of whom expressed their profound and unwavering support for Israel, personally and through U.S. aid funding packages. From there, we took buses back to the airport, dined on another tasty kosher boxed meal, and flew back to the 901, equal parts exhausted and uplifted. An incredibly special day. The entire powerfully moving day trip was put together in mere days due to the tremendous work of Memphis Jewish Federation and its board. Thanks to generous sponsors and donors, the trip's cost was significantly reduced, making it affordable and accessible for those who wanted to participate.



Thanks to the leadership of Memphis Jewish Federation Board Chair Scott Notowich (right), Israel and Overseas Vice Chair Jill Shanker (left), Leadership Development Vice Chair Jaclyn Marshall (below), Federation Past Board Chair Cindy Finestone and the generosity of community donors and supporters, Federation was able to charter a plane and take 180 Memphis Jewish community members to the historic March for Israel in Washington, D.C. With nearly 300,000 Jews from across the nation, Memphis and Federation showed up to support Israel, stand up to combat antisemitism and be a voice for the hostages captured by Hamas.

Throughout this editon are some personal thoughts from locals who attended the once-in-a-lifetime event that gathered ~300,000 people together for peace and justice for Israel – the largest pro-Israel event in U.S. history. May G-d protect our soldiers and all of Israel and bring the hostages home safely. **HW** 



"I'm so glad that we were all able to share this experience! I have never been more proud to be Jewish and to be part of our wonderful Memphis Jewish community." ~ Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

Shoshana Cenker and Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky Credit: Eli Ostrow

(See **Rally** Page 2 and beyond)

# 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.



#### Rally...

(Continued From Page 1)



Nearly 200 Memphis Jewish community members attended the March for Israel with travel subsidies from Federation.







Jon Olswanger and Mason Weiss at March, represent Memphis and Federation



Ellee Breit, Debbie Lazarov, Jill Notowich, Kimberly Strome, Cindy Finestone

# Hebrew Watch

THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUN

#### Established September, 1925 By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

**MAILING ADDRESS** THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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> The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency,

#### THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn. **POSTMASTER:** 

Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50 Payable in Advance

**Subscriptions** toni@hebrewwatchman.com

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# Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Nov. 24, 2023 / 11 Kislev, 5784	. 4:31 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 25, 2023 / 12 Kislev, 5784	5:29 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeitzei



We were proud to represent Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab at the March for Israel in Washington, DC. We were there representing both our Memphis Jewish community, but also our senior Jewish residents who could not attend themselves. It was incredibly moving to see that many people standing up for our worldwide Jewish community and Israel's safety." ~ MJHR Executive Director **Bobby Meadows and MJHR Development Director Baylee Less** 



Ellee Breit, Natalie Klaven, Brooke Lubin, Jaclyn Marshall, Jamie Klazmer

"If you did not have a hero before you came on this trip, you do now. Rose Lubin is a hero and my beloved niece. She was murdered by a terrorist while proudly serving the State of Israel. Her memory is a blessing and an inspiration. I am marching for her." ~ Brooke Lubin

# The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

#### Monthly Luncheon

On Wednesday December 13, the seniors will have their next Big Monthly Luncheon! This fun event will feature the musical stylings of Hank and Stan!

Hank Sable moved to Memphis in 1993 to open a vintage guitar store across from the Peabody Hotel. He met Memphis musicians and began performing regularly. Hank has been a member of the Joyce Cobb band for 15 years, playing every Sunday for the Boscos' brunch. Hank also performs with Nora Tucker, at the River Inn and at Paulette's. A long-time Creative Aging musician, Hank plays guitar and violin.

Memphis born Woodwinds Master, Stan Jackson was exposed to music at an early age. He plays flute, percussion and keyboards. Stan has worked with music industry notables Quincy Jones, Jackson Brown and Kirk Whalum. He performed frequently in the cast of Puccini's La Boheme with the Los Angeles Opera. Stan successfully built and ran a state-of-the-art Music Multi-Media Center at the Magnet School, Washington Prep Music Academy, in South Central Los Angeles. Since moving back to Memphis, Stan has performed with Joyce Cobb on Sundays at Boscos' brunch and with Hank Sable.

Hank and Stan come to the luncheon through help from Creative Aging. Transportation is available to those that live near the MJCC for only \$2.00 roundtrip. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 for more information. Please call the MJCC Front desk at 901-761-0810 and make your reservation! The cost of the Lunch is only \$5.00. **HW** 

I am very fortunate and grateful to Memphis Jewish Federation and lay leaders for all their assistance in allowing many of us from Memphis to come. It was through their work that 180 of us were there and able to participate together in a common cause for Israel. We have seen many from across the country like us drop what they are doing and come to DC for this important rally. This was the first time I have gone out of my comfort zone to travel out and go to a rally. It was a unifying experience with everyone in the rally to be able to come together in support of Israel. It's an honor and privilege to be able to Stand with Israel!~ Robert Schneider, Executive Director Baron Hirsch Congregation

#### Rally... (Continued From Page 1) Memphis Stand with Israel



YI's Rabbi Akiva Males caught up with three of his congregants shortly after arriving in Washington, D.C. (Left to right) YI's President Steven Schwartzberg, Yosaif Naftel, Lenny Plotitsa, Rabbi Akiva Males.

#### By Rabbi Akiva Males, Young Israel of Memphis

Aside from serving as Young Israel's Rabbi, I'm also fortunate to teach Torah at the MHA-FYOS. As such, I had the opportunity to join the boys of the CYHSB on their coach bus to / from Washington, D.C. for the historic rally for Israel on 11/14/23. (Once there, I was thrilled to also meet up with Young Israel's representatives and many members of the Memphis Jewish community who had flown in together for the rally.)

From the moment we left Memphis on our coach bus on Monday afternoon, until we returned around noon on Wednesday, the students worked well together as a team, cooperated with



#### the CYHSB students he attended the record-breaking rally for Israel in Washington, DC. Note the two boys happily wearing Tefilin with the U.S. Capitol in the background.

their faculty members, and made a positive impression on all who they came into contact with.

One vignette: On Wednesday morning, we conducted a roadside Minyan at a picnic area outside a Pilot truck center near Nashville. A woman we had never met pulled up in her car to tell us how happy she was to see us praying, and how glad she was to see that we had attended the historic rally for Israel that she had seen so much positive news coverage of. (I wonder what gave us away?)

One humorous incident I experienced in D.C.:

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As the group of six students I was leading made its way to the front of the rally, two of the boys told me they had overslept our early morning roadside Minyan on the way into D.C. As such, they hadn't yet put on Tefilin / said Shema. What to do? Their problem was solved by the Chabad Yeshiva students who were out in force laying Tefilin on men / boys of all ages! (see accompanying picture).

Taking part in this historic gathering was an extremely positive experience that the students and I will always remember. **HW** 

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#### Rally... (Continued From Page 1)



Dr. Ariel Zelig, Jaclyn Marshall, Benjamin Lazarov representing young adults supporting Memphis Jewish Federation

# *"It was a historic day, and I left (the March) feeling very proud." ~ Benjamin Lazarov*



The Baum / Sukhodolsky Family

"Many of us have had a profound sense of loneliness since October 7, much of that feeling dissipated being with almost 300,000 people who care deeply about Israel, about the desire for the release of the hostages, and for the ability to confront antisemitism. To be with participants representing the diverse Memphis Jewish community added immeasurably to an extraordinary day." ~ Rachel Shankman

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Brooke Lubin, Sarah Bracha Wogan, Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

*Eli Ostrow with a group from Columbia University* 



I went to the Rally joined by over a dozen others from Chabad. It was an amazing experience and the Memphis presence was very noticeable with everyone wearing T-shirts and the many signs we carried that said "Memphis Stands with Israel." Many Memphians that live elsewhere and friends and family of Memphians kept coming over to the area where our group was and joined in with us.

As a proud member of the Memphis Jewish community and a parent of amazing passionate, Zionistic children a Lone Soldier in the IDF, I was honored to have been able to stand together amongst the almost 300,000 people who came together in Washington, DC in support of Israel, in support of the Jewish People across America and around the world and to demand the release of our hostages and to BRINGTHEM-HOMENOW!!!!

In an overwhelmingly unified chant of AM YISRAEL CHAI, the message for all Jewish people everywhere is WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

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and a parent of a son who served as ~ Mrs. Kara Bierman

Standing on the mall of the Capitol surrounded by 300,000 Jews all there for the same purpose was a truly powerful experience. The unifying force was not hatred of the enemy but love for Israel and the Jewish people and our desire to bring the hostages home. ~ Keri Unowsky

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# **OBITUARIES** Rose Lubin: A Hero to Israel & the Jewish People



Sgt. Rose Lubin (OBM) with cousin Ari Lubin

#### By Shoshana Cenker

Rose Lubin (z"l) always had determination. Growing up in Atlanta, she was the eldest of five siblings to parents David (Stephanie) and Robin Lubin. Her drive and ambition were showcased in

.....



Tillie Alabaster Halpern

Tillie Alabaster Halpern passed away peacefully in her home on October 20, at age 99 just two months shy of her 100th birthday. Tillie was born on December 20, 1923, to Esther Hanover Alabaster and Morris Alabaster. She grew up in the Pinch and was a longtime member of Baron Hirsch Congregation. She attended Christine School and graduated from Humes High School in 1942. Shortly thereafter she met S. Alvin Halpern of Roanoke, Virginia, while he was stationed in the army in Memphis. They married in 1944 and have two sons, M. Ronald Halpern (Myrna) and Leslie Donald Halpern (Kathryn.) Except for a short time living in West Palm Beach, Florida, while Alvin was stationed in the army, Tillie was a lifelong Memphian. Tillie and Alvin were married for 59 years until his death in 2003. Tillie and her dear friend, Shirley Schwartz (of blessed memory), pioneered the volunteer program at St. Jude Hospital in its early days. Tillie was proud to have met Danny Thomas during her volunteering and she remained a supporter of this cause her entire life. Over the years Tillie was an avid tennis player, sports fan and seasons ticket holder for Memphis Tiger basketball. She loved playing Mah Jong with her many ways, first as a singer and theater performer when she was young, then in her athletic abilities as a teenager. The only female competitor on her high school wrestling team, Rose lettered in

wide circle of friends. She was devoted to her family and her large extended family of Hanover aunts, uncles and cousins.

Tillie was a people person and loved working for many years in the office of her nephew, Dr. Michael Alabaster, as well as being the resident agent at both the old Diplomat Apartments and Fountain Square.

Known for her striking beauty and can-do attitude, Tillie was always the one you could call on to get the job wrestling and later in cheerleading. She continuously offered support, always encouraging her friends to grow in the gym.

An active member of the Atlanta JSU community, Rose took part in the JSU GO trips to Israel in the summers of 2018 and 2019, noting they were "an experience like no other."

Rose's conviction continued in her young adult years with her resolve to make aliyah to Israel to carry out her purpose: serving and protecting the homeland of the Jewish people as a police officer. In August 2021, she did exactly that. Living on Kibbutz Sa'ad, with a bright, contagious smile that could light up a room, Rose proudly donned the officer uniform as part of the Magav Border Police unit in March 2022, helping keep the special place she now called home safe.

When the Israel-Hamas War broke out on Oct. 7, the incredibly dedicated Rose continued her duty, defending Israeli towns in the south against the invasion before being called to defend the Old City in Jerusalem. Rose's commander said she fought "like a lioness" to protect Israel from more death.

Tragically, on Monday, Nov. 6, while she stood guard near Herod's Gate, Sergeant Elisheva Rose Ida Lubin succumbed to injuries she suffered from a brazen attack by a 16-year-old terrorist. Rose was just 20 years old. Devastation and heartbreak swept across the globe.

Thousands – family, friends, strangers – attended the Lone Soldier's funeral in the police section of the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem on Nov. 9, honoring her commitment to Israel and her people.

Friends quickly launched the Remem-

done. Whether she helped you bake for a Simcah, hemmed a dress or knit a sweater for you, she was always happy to share her many talents. She was talented also in smocking and loved making outfits for her grandchildren, and extended family. These treasures are still passed along in the family today.

Tillie was predeceased by her parents, Esther and Morris Hanover, her sister, Bertha Schneider, and her brothers, Jake Alabaster and Sam Alabaster. In bering Rose Challenge, asking everyone to light Shabbat candles in Rose's honor, posting with #rememberingrose.

Those who knew her well describe Rose as "incredible, kind, gentle, a deeply spiritual soul who always looked to help others." She loved Israel and was "fiercely determined to accomplish anything she set out to do," often volunteering for the hardest tasks and without complaint.

Rose's family is touched by the outpouring of sympathy from around the world. Countless people supported shiva needs. To donate in Rose's memory, the family suggests these worthy causes that were close to Rose's heart:

• Emergency Campaign 2023 Friends of the IDF: fidf.org

• Tzofim Garin Tzabar / Israeli Lone Soldier IDF Program: interland3. donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink. aspx?name=E358971&id=14

Michael Levin Lone Soldier
Foundation: michaellevinlonesoldier.org
Michael Levin Base, supporting lone soldiers and lone b'not sheirut: themichaellevinbase.org

Rose leaves behind a large, beautiful family, including grandparents Nathan and Alla Lubin, (Memphis) and Eva and Dan Marx (Nashville); great-grandmother Esther Lubin, Memphis; Uncle Ryan and Aunt Brooke Lubin, Memphis; and many more. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Rose was a brave hero to Israel who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Jewish people. Her courage and commitment to protect Israel continue to serve as inspiration to all of Klal Yisrael. May her neshama have an aliyah and her memory always be a blessing. **HW** 

addition to her children, she leaves her grandchildren, Marty Halpern (Angel) of Memphis, Eric Halpern (Heather) of Atlanta, Leslie Halpern (Eddie) of Nashville and Joel Halpern (Lucille) of Paris, France. She also leaves 8 great-grandchildren, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held October 22, 2023, at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. Donations may be sent to St. Jude Hospital, Baron Hirsch Synagogue or a charity of your choice. **HW** 



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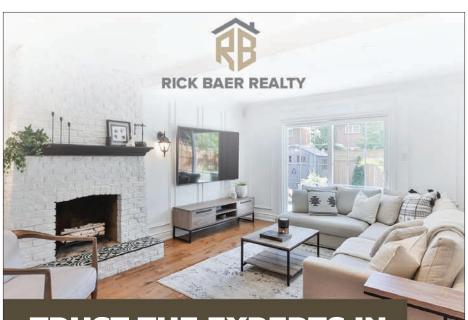
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#### Rally...



Kimberlee and Dr. Scott Strome, Amy Hertz wth husband Robert Shankman

When the opportunity to join this group arose, we didn't hesitate to sign up. We are members of Beth Sholom Synagogue but more importantly we are Jews. The day in our nation's capital was filled with so many emotions, from total elation to the deepest sadness one can imagine, from empathy for all victims on both borders to anger that we are put in this situation again and from isolation and loneliness from some of our closest friends to the joy and excitement to be with so many others who feel the same way. I was particularly moved by the groups who were holding "Christians for Israel" standing shoulder to shoulder with all of us. What a day it was. Am Yisrael Chai. ~ Amy Hertz



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Dorit Boxer, Margo Fogelman, Jewish Foundation of Memphis Senior Philanthropic Officer and Executive Vice President Sheri Gadberry and Abbey Cowens

The decision to go to DC for the march was a no brainer. I felt compelled since the minute I realized I could go and am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to witness a slice of history firsthand.

Aside from the Federation's ability to whip together a first-class operation dotting every single i and crossing every single t, the familiarity and comfort standing amongst nearly 300,000 like-minded people in a sea of blue and white donning amazing Memphis Stands with Israel tees was magical and powerful. If we can just end any terrorist regime, bring the hostages back to their loving homes safely and wash people's mouths of nasty rhetoric, we will finally have the peace we desperately seek. ~ Margo Fogelman

To be a part of the journey to DC was amazing. I loved the feeling of comradery between so many of my fellow Jewish Memphians. I felt so much pride as we all came to stand together and make our voices heard." ~ Leigh Hendry, Executive Director Plough Towers



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Rally... (Continued From Page 1)



About 80 parents representing Margolin Hebrew Academy gathered before a meeting with Tennessee Congressman and Representatives.



Four busloads carried attendees from the plane to the Capitol.

It was such an honor and privilege to have been a part of one of the largest Jewish gatherings in United States history alongside so many folks from Memphis. The rally was a powerful demonstration of Jewish pride in the face of fear and antisemitism. So many of us have felt alone at times in recent weeks, but joining with nearly 300,000 folks in DC showed us that there is always light in the darkness, and that Am Yisrael Chai, the people of Israel lives. ~ Temple Israel Rabbi Ross Z. Levy, who traveled 20+ Temple Israel members

I came to rally to support Israel and to protest anti-semitism. My family left Ukraine when I was young to get away from violent anti-semitism, and to see it spreading here is scary and shocking. ~ Lenny Plotitsa, Young Israel participant





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# **BBYO Stands with Israel and the Memphis Jewish Community**



Three generations, mom Jill Shanker, Sydney Shanker, grandmother Andie Uiberall

#### Sydney Shanker - 79th International Sganit of BBYO

I am grateful for Jewish pride. Without it, I would not stand up to hatred, voice my perspective to individuals who continuously try to silence it, and join over 290,000 people in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, November 14 to be an agent of change in a world where extremism and antisemitism is at its highest. Joining the Memphis Jewish Federation in D.C. was an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Witnessing the call to action that families of hostages expressed, the sheer multitude of people representative of differing geographies and backgrounds, and the togetherness and family that almost 300,000 people shared has only further instilled in me this Jewish pride and drive to stand up to hate.

From my time in BBYO and in the Memphis Jewish community, I have been surrounded by like-minded people. However, because of social media, I have been exposed to people I previously looked up to completely misrepresent the ideals of Zionism, attempt to diminish the voice and strength of Jews across the world, and call for the complete cleansing of the Jewish people in the Middle East. Whether these media users understand the impact of their words is beyond me, but I do know that the pride I felt in D.C., much like many others, has only pushed me to amplify my voice in the face of adversity.

I was able to share this undeniably influential experience across three generations of my family present at the rally who continuously encourage me to stand up to hate, enforce positive and necessary change, and remind me that perspective is the key to understanding.

I am and will always remain a proud member of the Memphis Jewish community, and an even prouder Jew. **HW** 

I have never been so proud to be Jewish and so completely consumed with devotion to the land of Israel. ~ MHA Student



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# Coming in 2024: New 529 Plan-to-Roth IRA Rollover Option

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

In December 2022, Congress passed the SECURE 2.0 Act. It introduced two new rules relating to 529 plans and student debt that will take effect in 2024.

The first provision allows for tax- and penalty-free rollovers from a 529 plan to a Roth IRA. The second provision allows student loan payments made by employees to qualify for employer retirement matching contributions.

#### 529 Plan to Roth IRA Rollover

529 plans are tax-advantaged savings accounts specifically geared to saving for college. In an effort to broaden their flexibility in situations where families have extra funds in an account, Congress created a new rollover option. Starting in 2024, 529 plan beneficiaries can roll over up to \$35,000 to a Roth IRA over their lifetime. Here are the specific rules:

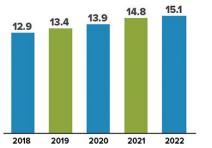
• Any rollover is subject to annual Roth IRA contribution limits, so a beneficiary can't roll over \$35,000 all at once. For example, in 2023, the Roth IRA contribution limit is \$6,500 (for people under age 50) or earned income, whichever is less. If the limit remains the same in 2024, a beneficiary would be able to roll over up to \$6,500.

• In order for the rollover to be taxand penalty-free, the 529 plan must have been open for at least 15 years. If the 529 account owner (typically a parent) changes the beneficiary of the 529 plan at any point, this could potentially restart the 15-year clock.

• Contributions to a 529 plan made within five years of the rollover date can't be rolled over — only 529 contributions made outside of the five-year window can be rolled over to the Roth IRA. For more information on determining the date of contributions, contact the 529 plan manager.

Example: Kate opens a 529 account for her son Joe when he is three years old. Kate contributes to the account for 15 years. At age 18, Joe enters college. Kate continues to contribute to the account while Joe is in college. Joe graduates, and there is money left over in the 529 account. Because the account has been open for at least 15 years, Joe is

#### Number of 529 college savings plan accounts 2018–2022, in millions



Source: ISS Market Intelligence, 529 Market Highlights, 4Q 2019–2023

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eligible to roll over funds from the 529 account to a Roth IRA in his name. He can roll over an amount up to the annual Roth IRA contribution limit, provided he doesn't transfer any contributions made to the 529 account in the past five years. Joe can continue rolling over funds from the 529 plan to the Roth IRA (consecutive years or intermittent years) until he has reached the \$35,000 lifetime limit.

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Employees with student debt often have to prioritize repaying their loans over contributing to their workplace retirement plan, which can mean missing out on any potential employer retirement matching contributions. Starting in 2024, the SECURE 2.0 Act gives employers the option to treat an employee's student loan payments as payments made to a qualified retirement plan (student loan payments will be considered an "elective deferral"), which would make those contributions eligible for an employer retirement match (if an employer offers this benefit).

There are generally fees and expenses associated with participation in a 529 plan. There is also the risk that the investments may lose money or not perform well enough to cover college costs as anticipated. The tax implications of a 529 plan should be discussed with your legal and/or tax professionals because they can vary significantly from state to state. Most states offering their own 529 plans may provide advantages and benefits exclusively for their residents and taxpayers, which may include financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses, which are available in the issuer's official statement and should be read carefully. The official disclosure statements and applicable prospectuses, which contain this and other information about the investment options, underlying investments, and investment company, can be obtained by contacting your financial professional.

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#### Rally...

(Continued From Page 1)



Groups of Memphis Jewish Federation delegates making their way from the buses to the Capitol.





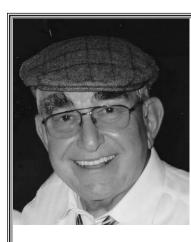
Hershel Krupp

Credit: Eli Ostrow

The joy was nearly indescribable, looking all around you to see you're one of hundreds of thousands of people peacefully supporting the Jewish people. During the rally, I found myself within 20 feet of people from Miami, Silver Spring, West Hempstead, Harrisburg, Milwaukee, Teaneck, Riverdale, and Memphis. The speeches from family members of hostages were especially powerful - their strength both heartwrenching and inspiring. The singing by the Maccabeats and



Sarah Bracha Wogan, Brooke Lubin, Shoshana Cenker, Sarah VanderWalde in front of the U.S. Capitol



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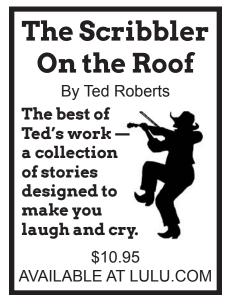


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Matisyahu was a definite highlight, balancing the weight of the day with a great version of "One Day."

~ Steven Schwartzberg, Young Israel of Memphis president





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# Congressman Kustoff, Senator Blackburn, Senator Hagerty and Congressman Cohen address Memphis delegation



Congressman Kustoff addresses the crowd. Courtesy: Kustoff

WASHINGTON, D.C. November 14, 2023 – Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) hosted nearly 200 members of the Memphis Jewish community in the United States Capitol. In attendance at the event were Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Bill Hagerty (R-TN), as well as Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN).

"It was an honor to host members of our Jewish community in the United States



Congressman Kustoff, Senator Blackburn, Senator Hagerty, and Congressman Cohen pose with attendees. Courtesy: Kustoff

Capitol today," said Congressman Kustoff. "I applaud this group from Memphis and West Tennessee for traveling to Washington to reiterate our strong support for Israel. We must continue to demonstrate to the world that our country's commitment to our strongest ally in the Middle East is unwavering. Thank you to Senators Blackburn and Hagerty, as well as Congressman Cohen, for joining me." **HW**  WASHINGTON, D.C. November 14, 2023 – Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN)

On Tuesday, I joined my colleagues in watching a 47-minute film produced by the Israel Defense Forces on the Hamas surprise attack of October 7 and then spoke from the floor of the House about the need to support Israel and condemn the atrocities committed by the terrorists.



Congressman Cohen addresses the crowd. Credit: Eli Ostrow

That afternoon, I attended the March for Israel on the National Mall with tens of thousands and heard speeches by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, among others. Later, I received a classified briefing on the ongoing war and spoke to 181 marchers – in T-shirts reading "Memphis Stands with Israel" – who flew in for the event. **HW** 

#### The unity displayed by the greater Memphis Jewish community was incredibly heartwarming! ~ Naftali Niman, Young Israel representative

out of the city. It's a commitment to civil rights and a better Memphis that continues today with Temple Israel Micah Greenstein.

Meanwhile, also in the Sixties, Myra Dreifus fought for free school lunches for poor children and successfully convinced the school district to levy a special tax to fund them. She also convinced city government to fund a summer jobs program.

The list of names arguably should include Presley whose "Memphis Mafia" had four Jewish members – Alan Fortas, George Klein, Marty Lacker, and Larry Geller. Presley had acted as a Shabbos goy when he lived in public housing and later in life, he wore a pendant with the Hebrew Letter, "chet and yod," spelling out the Hebrew word for life. A cousin said a maternal ancestor was Jewish. When his mother died, he designed a headstone with a Christian cross and a Jewish Star of David.

# Anti-Semitism: Enough IS Enough

#### By Tom Jones

Previously posted on Smart City Memphis, Nov 13, 2023. Reprinted with permission.

The scourge of human history is anti-Semitism.

The history of homo sapiens is pockmarked with epic events of inhumanity and eras of blinding intolerance, but as events and eras ebb and flow, the durability of hatred of the Jews is a strain that refuses to die.

It is a virus that defies the cures of logic and knowledge, mutating into new and ignominious forms always toxic and virulent.

It persists today in our country where anti-Semitic instances reached new levels in 2022 and have climbed by 400% this year. Orthodox Jews have been attacked and spit on, Jewish children are afraid of wearing yarmulkes, college students endure chants encouraging their deaths, and the constant fear of attack produces the suffocating feeling of being a stranger in their own country.

No Tolerance for Intolerance

Let's be clear. Criticisms of the Israeli government policies are not the same as anti-Semitism. After all, a significant ilar terms rooted in fanatism spewing hate are not just uninformed, they are un-American.

#### Jewish Contributions Everywhere

Jews have always comprised a small percentage of the world population, particularly considering that more than six million were murdered by the Nazis.

Despite that, Jews have always punched above their weight. They only account for about 2.4% of the population of the U.S., but their contributions are considerable – in the law, literature, music, theater, movies, medicine and medical research, culture, civil rights, and every aspect of American life.

The evidence of that fact for me in just the last 24 hours includes George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Timothee Chalamet on SNL created by Lorne Michaels, music by Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, a preview of a movie about Leonard Bernstein, a radio interview with neurologist and author of "Awakenings" Oliver Sacks, an excerpt of Barbara Streisand reading her recently published book, and a documentary about Albert Brooks made by Rob Reiner that included interviews with Steven and Saloon in the Pinch District on the north side of Adams between Front and Main Street. A few years later, he was followed by Hayme Solomon, who became a successful merchant, cotton broker, and city alderman.

Later, there would be Benedict Lowenstein and Jacob Goldsmith whose retail stores ultimately led to the city's preeminant department stores. Henry Seessel's peddling business grew into a successful grocery store.

Over the years, these early Jewish names were joined by Cooper, Belz, Gerber, Lightman, Sharff, Shainberg, Grinspan, Dreifus, Plough, Korones, Alperin, Scheidt, Feibelman, Herff, Moss, Waldauer, Burson, Allenberg, Fogelman, Adler, Levy, Loewenberg, Hanover, Bearman, Halle, Lichterman, Goodman, Margolin, Hohenberg, Kopald, Weinberg, Orgel, and Cantor, to name only a few.

#### Fighters for Social Justice

These are names that every Memphian should know because they are central to the proudest chapters in the city's history. It is in this way that an anti-Semitic attack is not just an assault

percentage of American Jews have criticized those policies themselves.

Protesting in favor of Palestine is not prima facie anti-Semitism and is protected by the First Amendment because of defenses over the decades by Jewish lawyers like David Goldberger, Louis Brandeis, Floyd Abrams, Bob Herman, Glenn Greenwald, and others.

That said, we can debate, demonstrate, and disagree, but we should loudly and persistently condemn any of it that devolves into anti-Semitism. We all know the difference between free speech and hate and violent speech, so we have an obligation to call out the latter regardless of our political positions and personal opinions.

People who march around in neo-Nazi garb shouting Nazi slogans dishonor the price Jews paid from German bigotry but also our fathers and grandfathers' sacrifices in World War II to fight Hitler and Nazism. Those who speak in simSpielberg, Judd Apatow, Larry David, Sarah Silverman, and Ben Stiller.

It's enough to remind me what the world would be like without the Jewish contributions that make it dramatically more enjoyable, enriching, and engaging.

#### An Outsized Impact

The number of Jews in the Memphis region is about 10,000, or 7/10ths of 1%. But just as Jews have done in the U.S., this small minority has shown an outsized impact with their leadership and generosity to civic and charitable organizations.

They have been instrumental in the history of downtown, the development of the business community, and influential in government affairs.

It's a relationship that dates back to the earliest days of Memphis, a Western frontier town named only 19 years before it had its first known Jewish resident. David Hart owned Hart's Inn on Memphis Jews, but Memphis itself.

Along with my dear friend, Susan Adler Thorp, I was involved in the recent exhibition at Temple Israel paying tribute to Rabbi James Wax who fought relentlessly for social justice and equal rights from 1954 to 1978. He famously rebuked Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb on national television for the politician's culpability in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He also was on the committee that quietly desegregated all public facilities in Memphis while the Jewish owners of the city's largest department stores were doing the same.

He built on a tradition that dated back to Temple Israel Rabbi William H. Fineshriber, who risked everything to be an outspoken critic of lynching and the Ku Klux Klan in early 20th century Memphis, and in the 1960s, Rabbi Arie Becker of Beth [Sholom] synagogue marched with Dr. King in Birmingham, leading to death threats that forced him

#### The Mantra

Last week marked the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht in Germany when Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues were looted and burned and about 30,000 Jewish men were arrested. A month later, all Jewish businesses were banned.

In the midst of a surge in anti-Semitism and the troubling allure of authoritarianism to many, what was once unimaginable in America is more and more comprehensible. It is a frightening time for all of us, so imagine how disturbing it is for Jews who have two millennia of experience that tells them how the unfathomable can become reality.

It's why when it comes to anti-Semitism, all of us should join with our Jewish friends and neighbors and say emphatically: "Never again."

It's time for all of us to also add: "Enough is enough." **HW** 

#### Rally... (Continued From Page 1)

The Rally for Israel made an incredible impact on our group in many ways. Nearly 300,000 strong coming together to demand the release of our brothers and sisters held in captivity, demonstrating support for Israel to defend itself against Hamas and exhibiting a unity within our people to fortify ourselves against the tidal wave of antisemitism we are experiencing were all by-products of the meaningful day. My gratitude to the Memphis Jewish Federation for their hard work, generosity and sheer will to allow our community to be represented at the rally. It was a day that will be counted as one of my most meaningful as we prayed with our lips and our legs! ~ Rabbi Ian Lichter, Baron Hirsch Congregation

# Reflections of the Day

#### Rabbi Cantor David Julian, Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue

Yesterday I was one of over 200 Memphians, zealots for Israel and World Jewry, who were joined in Washington, D.C. by 310,000 others from throughout the United States and Canada. We assembled in the National Mall, between the Capitol Building and the Washington Monument for the **March for Israel**. It was one of the most profound and moving experiences of our lives, indelibly etched in our collective memories.

What, in our modern, sophisticated, enlightened, and often quarrelsome society could have motivated so many of us – Jews, Christians, every race and ethnicity, young and old – to spontaneously unify under one conceptual banner? How could so many people find one focus, one concern, one frustration that would inspire them to assemble so swiftly?

Thanks to the inspirational work and organizational skills of the Jewish Federations of North America, Friends of the IDF, and the remarkable staff and leadership of our own [Federation], it happened. Judaism happened en masse: our values and dignity were on display for the world to see. Kudos to Laura Linder, Scott Notowich, Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, Amanda Braswell, Jill Shanker, and several others who motivated our community and led our people efficiently, with thoughtful detailed preparation. From our 6:30 a.m. departure, to our 11:30 p.m. return all of us were accounted for – exhausted from the long day of miles of walking, but exhilarated for having been in the thick of the most extraordinary Jewish social-political-unifying event in history.

Notwithstanding the speeches and occasional cheerleading by an impressive list of personalities, what struck me was the dignity of the packed crowd, whose number was about equal to the populations of St. Louis, Pittsburgh, or Cincinnati. Speakers were listened to, songs were joined, cheering was synchronous. Occasional gaps were filled by calls for "Bring Them Home." "Hatikva" and "Star Spangled Banner" were sung as if under a master choir director. In contrast to demonstrations by "others," this was a thankfully boring day for police. There were children atop fathers' shoulders waving American and Israeli flags, people unembarrassedly weeping as parents of hostages spoke, passionate camaraderie and solidarity welded strangers together, placards and T-shirt with images of hostages were everywhere - including on plastic cards worn by each Memphis participant. The feeling of a revitalized love for Israel and Judaism was palpable: soul connections that were beautiful beyond the singing of it. To a one, we all were supremely grateful to have been part of Kahal Yisrael. HW

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## Join Federation for Reunion 2023



Young Jewish Memphians Andrea Cohen, Stephanie Saslawsky, Joel Saslawsky, Kayla Klazmer, Marissa Magdovitz, and Andrew Magdovitz at Reunion 2022

Get ready to immerse yourself in an unforgettable night as the entire Memphis crew, including young Jewish Memphians (ages 21-45), locals, visitors, and ex-pats, comes together for the Memphis Jewish Federation's second annual Reunion on Wednesday, November 22. Set against the vibrant backdrop of downtown Memphis, this event promises to be an exciting celebration of community and connection.

Last year's Reunion was a resounding success, and this year's promises to be even better. Federation has curated an evening filled with music, laughter, and the spirit of togetherness. It's not just a party; it's a chance to reunite with friends, make new connections, and celebrate the rich cultural tapestry of the Memphis Jewish community.

The event caters to a diverse audience, ensuring that whether you're a local, a visitor, or an ex-pat, there's a place for you at the Reunion. This gathering includes young adults ages 21-45 with the average age being in the mid-30s making it an inclusive gathering for individuals at different stages of their lives.

As the anticipation builds, the question on everyone's mind is, "Have you gotten your tickets yet?" This is an event you won't want to miss, and securing your spot is the first step to a memorable night. The tickets not only grant access to the festivities but also contribute to the Memphis Jewish Federation's mission of fostering a vibrant Memphis Jewish community.

Attendees will also get to vote on which program will receive event proceeds – guests can vote for PJ Library, Senior Hot Meals, Antisemitism microgrants, and Hillel.

Get your tickets for Wednesday, November 22 for \$50. For more information, visit jcpmemphis.org/reunion or call 901-767-7100. **HW** 

# Bornblum Judaic Studies at U of M Presents Philistines, the so called 'Sea People', in Light of Excavation in the Land of Israel

Bornblum Judaic Studies at The University of Memphis invites you to a talk by Dr. Dale Manor on the "Philistines, the so called 'Sea People', in Light of Excavation in the Land of Israel," Wednesday, November 29 at 7:15 p.m. in the University Center Shelby Room 342. There will be a pre-talk reception at 6:45. In his talk, Dr. Manor will speak about the origins of the Philistines and the archeological findings in Bet-Shemesh.

Dr. Dale W. Manor, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology and Hebrew Bible at Harding, earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology with a minor in Hebrew Bible. Dr. Manor has 25 seasons of experience in field archaeology. Since the year 2000 he has been the Field Director of the Tel Bet-Shemesh excavation project in Israel. He has also served on the staffs of the Tel Miqne/ Ekron and the Tel Rehov excavation projects in Israel. Other field experience includes participation in excavations at Tel Dan and Ketef Hinnom near Jerusalem as well as an archaeological survey in Israel's Negev.

He worked as an assistant to the Editor for the "Anchor Bible Dictionary," editing some 450 articles on archaeology and historical geography. He has written the introductions for the historical books in the "Old Testament Introduction" for the College Press series. In addition, he wrote the comments on Ruth in the "Zondervan Illustrated Bib-



Dr. Dale Manor

lical Background Commentary on the Old Testament" and contributed to the study notes in the "NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible" from Zondervan. A book entitled "Digging Deeper into the Word" was released in November 2015, and deals with aspects of archaeology and the Bible. Dr. Manor is currently working as the lead editor of the second major volume of the excavations at Tel Bet-Shemesh to be published by the Institute of Archaeology at the Tel Aviv University.

For more information, contact Dr. Shaul Bar or Vivian Arendall, Bornblum Judaic Studies 901-678-2919. Attendees may park for a fee in the Zach Curlin Garage; there is also free parking along Walker Avenue. **HW** 



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