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# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 2 TEVET, 5784 DECEMBER 14, 2023 VOL. 102, NO. 13

# IAF Strikes 250 Terror Sites in Gaza as Ground Combat Intensifies



Israeli troops operating in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, Dec. 6, 2023. Credit: IDF

By Joshua Marks

(JNS) – Israel Air Force fighter jets attacked 250 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip last Wednesday including two rocket launchers used in last Tuesday's barrage on the Tel Aviv area.

In Deir al-Balah in the central Strip,

the IAF killed Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists and destroyed terror infrastructure. Six were killed and many injured by an IAF strike last Wednesday morning in the Nuseirat camp, some three miles northeast of Deir al-Balah, according to Palestinian reports.

Ground forces also continued to locate weapons, tunnel shafts, explosives and terror infrastructure. Israel Defense Forces soldiers struck an armed terrorist cell operating adjacent to a school in the northern Gaza Strip and destroyed a tunnel shaft in the area.

According to Arab reports, IDF armored bulldozers were operating in eastern Khan Yunis. The bulldozers are directed to tear up roads to uncover IEDs and level buildings to expose Hamas terror tunnel shafts so as to provide clearance for ground troops.

A red alert siren sounded in Kibbutz Re'im near the Gaza border last Wednesday, close to where Hamas terrorists slaughtered hundreds of Israeli civilians at the Supernova music festival on Oct. 7.

A man around 60 years of age was lightly wounded by rocket shrapnel during one of several attacks, according to the Magen David Adom emergency medical service.

Later last Wednesday, at least 10 rockets were fired at Beersheva. Multi-

ple Iron Dome interceptions were seen over the northern Negev city.

Alarms also sounded in the towns of Margaliot, Matat and Malkia close to the Lebanon border late last Wednesday afternoon.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

#### Names of three slain soldiers released

The IDF last Wednesday morning released for publication the names of two more casualties: Maj. (res.) Yehonatan Malka, 23, from Be'ersheva, killed in action in Gaza, and Lt. Col. (res.) Yochai Gur Hershberg, 52, from Philip Farms, who died in a car accident in southern Israel.

Last Wednesday night, the military announced the death of Sgt. Maj. (res.) Adi Shani, 39, from Tzur Yitzhak. Shani, a reconnaissance soldier in Logistics Unit 6036, died during a battle in Gaza.

At least 95 soldiers have been killed in action in Gaza, at the Lebanon border and in Judea and Samaria since the start of the IDF ground operation in Gaza on

(See Strikes Page 3)

#### **Bornblum Students Make Hearts for Hostages**



Eighth Graders at Bornblum Jewish Community School stand in front of their Hostage Hearts project

#### By Bornblum Jewish Community School Eighth Graders

The middle schoolers at Bornblum Jewish Community School participated in creating and designing more than 240 clay hearts, each dedicated to one of the hostages captured by Hamas. Over the span of three days, we cut, constructed, and showcased all 240 hearts, which are now displayed on the posts outside the front entrance of the school.

On October 7, the terrorist group, Hamas, kidnapped, killed, and tortured more than 1,200 innocent people who were in the southern part of Israel that morning. In addition, 240 were taken as captives by Hamas.

As middle schoolers who attend a Jewish school, we have been taught and made aware of this horrific situation. We wanted to do something and our amazing teacher, Michal Almalem, helped us with this inspiring project. By making all these hearts, we understood

better what this number means when it comes to people who have names, ages, families, and personalities. We felt more connected to Judaism, and aware of how many people are in this awful situation.

These pieces were crafted as clay hearts, as we hope the stories of these captives hold forever true, just as clay never deteriorates. On our Bornblum Eighth Grade trip to Israel, we hope to deliver these personalized hearts to the liberated people they were devoted to.

When we made the heart with the name Kfir Bibas on it, Morah Almalem drew our attention to the fact that Kfir is only 9 months old. We looked at the list and noticed that his last name is the same as 32-year-old Shiri Bibas, Ariel Bibas who is 4, and Yarden Bibas who is 34. The entire Bibas family from Kibbutz

(See Bornblum Page 3)

#### 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.



#### Memphis Jewish Federation Opens Lemsky Fund Grant Applications for Summer 2024 Teen & Young Adult **Israel Programs**



Ari Taub (L) and a friend in Israel at the Kotel on Shabbat

Mollie Wexler (L) and Bella Schreiber in Israel on Masada



#### Memphis and Israel teens at NCSY Hatzalah Rescue program

Federation is now accepting grant applications for its Summer 2024 Teen Israel Experience program, which is open to Memphis Jewish teens entering their junior or senior year in high school. Applications are also open for Federation's Next Stop Israel grant program for high school graduates through age 32.

jcpmemphs.org/lemskyendowment-fund to apply and learn more about both Israel program grant

High school teens interested in the Teen Israel Experience can choose a recognized summer program in Israel, including programs hosted by BBYO, NCSY, JNF, Young Judea, NFTY Camp, and Ramah, among others, and can apply for a \$3,000 grant to help offset program costs. Nadav Lowell, a junior at Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys, participated in the NCSY Hatzalah Rescue program in Summer 2023, thanks to a Lemsky Endowment Fund grant.

"As a participant in the NCSY Hatzalah Rescue program, I had an extraordinary chance to help save lives as an ambulance team volunteer," said Nadav. United Hatzalah is a volunteer-based emergency medical services organization in Israel, recognized for its rapid life-saving interventions.

Through the Lemksy Endowment Fund, endowed by Abe Lemsky (of blessed memory), Federation strengthens bonds between Jewish Memphis and Israel by providing grants for immersive Israel experiences.

"When I entered the Kotel for the first time I was a 16-year-old kid from Memphis, walking in the footsteps of the ancestors before me and the ancestors before them," said Ari Taub, BBYO Israel program attendee. "My summer

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#### Memphis Candlelighting Time

Havdalah, Sat. Dec. 16, 2023 / 4 Tevet, 5784...... 5:31 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion: Mikeitz** 

experience proved to me that Israel is my second home."

Mollie Wexler, who attended an Israel summer program with Cohen Camps, credits the experience with shifting her perspective on Israel. She explained, "During my trip to Israel this past summer, my views about Israel changed. I found a community in a place where I knew few people, and created bonds with those I barely knew at the beginning of the summer."

Next Stop Israel grant applicants are eligible to receive up to \$4,000 to participate in a recognized gap year, summer, or semester program in Israel. All

awarded grant monies are applied to program costs.

A limited number of needs-based program grants are also available for teens and young adults.

During the summer of 2023, Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided more than 20 grants to Teen Israel program participants. Nine young adults are currently participating in Next Stop Israel programs. Applications for both programs are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Lorraine Wolf at lwolf@jcpmemphis.org or call 901-767-7100.

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



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#### Strike...

(Continued From Page 1) Oct. 27; 411 Israeli soldiers have died since the war started on Oct. 7.

On that day, Hamas terrorists stormed across the Gaza border, murdering more than 1,200 people, wounding over 5,000 others and taking some 240 hostages, 138 of whom are still believed to be in captivity in the Strip.

#### **Senior Hamas officials in tunnels**

The IDF and the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) last Wednesday published a photo of senior Hamas commanders gathered in a tunnel under Gaza, many of whom were killed by an Israeli strike.

Senior members of Hamas's Northern Gaza Brigade [were] pictured. Five of [whom] were killed in an Israeli airstrike as they hid in a tunnel located under civilian residences and near the Indonesian Hospital, according to the IDF.

Israeli forces killed the brigade's commander, Ahmed al-Ghandoor, the deputy brigade commander, Wael Rajab, and other senior operatives, including the commander of the brigade's support battalion, the head of the technical and operational support department and the observation officer for the northern Gaza Strip.

The IDF also published a video of Rajab walking through a Gaza tunnel.

Ghandoor was responsible for the direction and management of all Hamas terrorist activities in the northern area of the Gaza Strip, according to the IDF.

The Northern Brigade's ability to function had been "significantly damaged" by the death of the commanders, the IDF said.

At the same time these Hamas commanders were eliminated, the commanders of the Beit Lahia Battalion and the central Jabalia Battalion were also killed.

In addition, IDF soldiers killed four battalion commanders from Hamas's Gaza City Brigade, its largest. Among them were the commanders of the Sabra, Shati, Darj Tafah and Shejaiya battalions.

The IDF reported that the Sabra Battalion had been "significantly damaged."

Israeli forces also took control of the Shati Battalion's central strongholds. That battalion is responsible for the central headquarters of Hamas, including at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The heads of its anti-tank, air and naval formations were also killed, according to the IDF.

#### IDF apologizes for killing Lebanese

Israel last Tuesday apologized for killing a Lebanese Army soldier during a strike on a Hezbollah-linked target in Lebanon earlier in the day.

The Lebanese Army said that a military position in the Adaysseh area was "bombarded by the Israeli enemy," killing one soldier and wounding three others.

According to the IDF, Israeli forces "were working to neutralize a tangible threat that was identified" at a Hezbollah launch and observation post along

"The IDF received a report that a number of soldiers in Lebanon's army were injured during the attack. Lebanese army forces were not the target of the attack. The IDF is sorry for the incident, and it will be investigated," the military said in a statement.

It is the first such incident in Lebanon since Hezbollah increased its attacks on Israeli territory after the Oct. 7 massacre and during the ensuing war against Hamas in Gaza. HW

#### The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

#### Special Field Trip Planned for the Memphis Jewish Community Center Senior Group!

On Monday, December 18 the seniors will go on a field trip to Memphis Central Station. Memphis Central Station, referred to as Grand Central Station prior to 1944, is a passenger terminal located along Main Street and G.E. Patterson Boulevard in Downtown Memphis. It is currently a service stop for Amtrak's City of New Orleans route, arriving in late evening northbound and in the morning southbound. It is also served by the MATA Trolley system.

The building opened in 1914, and is located within the city's South Main Arts District. In 2019, the station underwent a major \$55 million remodel that included a new Amtrak ticket office and waiting area. A new luxury hotel was opened in the station: Cen-

tral Station Hotel, Curio by Hilton. The hotel includes a refurbished ballroom, two restaurants, and a bar. The MATA Trolley Main Street Line Heritage streetcar was extended to Central Station in 2021.

Reservations are limited as the bus holds only 14 people.

The cost is only \$2 roundtrip. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to sign up for lunch, also \$2, on the 18th and for this fun event.

If you have any questions, you can call Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please note: There will be no Senior Lunch on Monday 12/25/23 and 1/1/24. **HW** 

#### Ben & Jerry's Chair: 'When People are Occupied Resistance is Justified!'

(JNS) - Ben & Jerry's board chair, whom the ice cream company touts as an "internationally renowned expert on human rights, agriculture, development and conservation policies issues," appears to have endorsed a terrorist organization that the United States has designated as such for 26 years.

"When people are occupied resistance is justified!" wrote Anuradha Mittal on social media. She tagged the post with "Free Palestine" and "ceasefire now."

Mittal has been with the company

since 2007 and is founder of the progressive think tank the Oakland Institute.

Israel is waging a war against Hamas, which the United States designated as a terrorist organization in 1997. Hamas terrorists attacked Israel on Oct. 7, murdering, torturing and kidnapping civilians, including babies, in the worst one-day anti-Jewish attack since the Holocaust.

The ice cream company was founded in Burlington, Vt., some 45 years ago by Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, both of whom are septuagenarian Jews. Ben & Jerry's boycotts Israel, having halted sales in Judea and Samaria.

It wasn't clear whether those associated with the company had previously served up efforts to boycott Israel (BDS) with endorsement of a terrorist organization that recently beheaded, tortured and raped civilians, and took hostages. HW

#### Bornblum...

(Continued From Page 1) Nir Oz is in captivity. Since then, Hamas has declared them dead, but we hope this is part of a psychological attack on Israelis, and that they are still alive.

On November 26, Avigail Idan was released from Gaza. On October 7, in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, this three-year-old (now four) watched her parents get brutally murdered, by Hamas, while her siblings hid in a closet. Avigail ran to a neighbor while covered in her parents' blood and, despite her best efforts to escape, was kidnapped in her neighbor's home. She's now with her remaining family members. Her aunt has received more than 900 requests to adopt young Avigail. The family has politely declined wanting to take care of her themselves. These are some examples of how each heart holds a personal tale of hardship.

But the hearts are also a symbol of inspiration and hope. Each day when we come to school, we look at the walls of hearts, hoping that we are able to take more down and replace them with the red hearts that symbolize that a hostage was freed from captivity. HW

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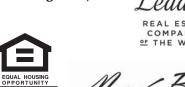
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# Estate Planning Navigating the Dark Side of the Holidays: Protecting Against Grandparent Scams

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

As we embrace the holiday season, it is important to remain vigilant in safe-guarding ourselves and our loved ones from less festive aspects of this time. Amid the celebrations and family gatherings, the specter of scams looms large, and perhaps the most insidious among them is the "grandparent scam." This deceptive tactic preys on a grandparents' innate concern for the well-being of their grandchildren, exploiting emotions and trust in a manner that can lead to financial catastrophe.

Picture this unsettling scenario: a latenight call from a distressed grandchild claiming to be in dire straits, arrested or injured in a foreign land. The plea is accompanied by a desperate request for financial assistance, with a fervent plea to keep the situation confidential from the parents. Alternatively, imagine receiving a call from a seemingly authoritative figure — a lawyer, doctor, or arresting officer — informing you of your grandchild's dire circumstances. Through this type of scam, the grandparent, out of concern and love, may hastily send

funds to aid their grandchild, only to discover later that they have fallen victim to a heartless scam.

The grandparent scam, a menace that has persisted for years, is on the rise and is exacerbated by social media. Scammers exploit social media platforms to gather detailed information about both the grandparent and the grandchild, leveraging family profiles to identify pressure points. Unfortunately, the prevalence of oversharing on public forums only compounds the issue.

Moreover, recent advancements in artificial intelligence technology enable scammers to mimic voices convincingly, adding a layer of sophistication to deceit.

So, how can one best shield themselves or their elderly loved ones from falling prey to such manipulative schemes? First and foremost, one ought to cultivate a heightened awareness of unfamiliar calls, particularly during the holiday season when scam attempts intensify. In addition, one should exercise caution when faced with requests for money, especially in seemingly urgent situations. Scammers often employ high-pressure tactics, coercing victims into hasty financial transactions through methods such as money orders, gift cards, crypto or cash apps. Resist succumbing to the pressure, hang up, and promptly report the incident to local law enforcement. Subsequently, reach out directly to family members to confirm their safety and refuse to keep such calls a secret.

One can further fortify defenses on social media platforms by revisiting and reinforcing privacy settings by restricting access to personal information and thus minimize the potential for scammers to exploit such platforms. In the event of a suspicious call, refrain from volunteering information and force the scammer to reveal specific details, such as a grandchild's name, address and date of birth. Maintain composure, as scammers seem to thrive on inducing panic to compromise judgment.

To further arm yourself against scams, stay informed about the latest tactics.



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Resources such as those provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Better Business Bureau, and the American Association of Retired Persons offer valuable insights and tools for recognizing and reporting scams. Familiarize yourself with the signs of a potential scam and educate others, particularly older family members, about the dangers of grandparent scams.

By staying informed, spreading awareness, and utilizing available resources, we can collectively stand against scams and ensure a safer and more secure environment for our elders during the holiday season and beyond. Stay safe and Chag Sameach! HW

#### Restoring the Wounded Souls of the Child Hostages



Relatives of Israelis held hostage by Hamas terrorists in Gaza since the Oct. 7 massacre hold a press conference in Tel Aviv on Dec. 4, 2023. Credit: Tomer Neuberg/Flash90

#### By Amelie Botbol

(JNS) – "They may not have visible injuries, but their souls are wounded," Dr. Moshe Ashkenazi, the deputy director of the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital at the Sheba Medical Center, Ramat Gan, told JNS.

Eighty-four women and children were released by Hamas last week as part of a week-long ceasefire agreement with Israel.

"In the first hours [after their release],

we listened to them and gave them space, we tried to restore their sense of control," said Ashkenazi.

"For 50 days, they had no say. They were told what to eat, when to stand, and when to use the bathroom. We wanted them to dictate the rhythm of their interaction and feel in control of their lives again," he added.

Dr. Havatzelet Yarden-Bilavsky, senior physician at Schneider Children's

Medical Center, Petach Tikva, who treated 19 released children, said the physical condition of the former captives was evidence of terrible neglect.

"They lost about 7% to 15% of their body weight. They had lice problems and insect bite marks, which show that hygiene was very low. They were pale and had terrible expressions on their faces of terror and sadness." Yarden-Bilavsky told JNS.

"Some of them also suffered wounds from the Oct. 7 Hamas violence, which were left untreated," Yarden-Bilavsky added.

On Oct. 7, Hamas sparked a war with Israel by invading Israeli towns and villages bordering the Gaza Strip, killing 1,200, wounding thousands and kidnapping some 240 Israelis and foreign nationals. While 110 Israelis and foreign nationals were returned as part of the ceasefire, 137 Israelis and foreign nationals are still being held by Hamas terrorists, including 20 women and two children.

As more reports emerge of physical and mental abuse, including reports of children being beaten, starved, drugged, held at gunpoint and forced to watch footage of the massacre, Yarden-Bilavsky is anxious about those still held in Gaza.

"The emotional trauma is tremendous and the longer they are immersed in it, the longer it will take for them to heal and get back to normal life," she said.

While she described displays of affection and joy among reunited families at the hospital, Yarden-Bilavsky also mentioned more sober reunions and highlighted signs of anxiety and other symptoms among the former captives.

"I saw terrorized children and parents shocked by their traumatized children. It's unimaginable what these children and family have been going through," she said.

"Some of them did not want to eat anything, others overate. Some had night terrors and are very anxious around strangers," she added.

For some, the euphoria of the reunion with their family was soon followed by grief upon learning of the loss of a relative

Moran Aloni, whose sisters Danielle and Sharon and three nieces, Emilia,

Emma and Yuli, were returned from captivity, described the conditions in which they were held and some of the after-effects in a press briefing organized by Media Central and the Hostages and Missing Families Forum.

"Danielle and Emilia were moved from place to place. In one place they were forced to whisper for days. Children were unable to laugh, cry or shout," said Aloni

He related that Danielle and Emilia were held along with 10 other people in a tiny room with rare visits from their captors – never knowing if they would live to see another day.

Sharon and her 3-year-old twin daughters, Emma and Yuli, are unable to sleep most nights, he said, while Emilia, Danielle's daughter, does not let her mother go anywhere without her.

Similarly, Hen Avigdori, who also participated in the briefing said that his 12-year-old daughter, Noam, would not let him leave the house, and wakes up in the middle of the night screaming.

Ruth Weinberg, a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst who has been working with survivors of the attacks, told JNS that "the stress of war can trigger somatic symptoms, related to sleeping and eating habits, as well as emotional outbursts."

The young survivors' "sense of reality and of themselves was broken on Oct. 7," she said.

"They are at a time when they are developing their personalities and identities. They now have to go back to meeting people and playing outside, while feeling as though they are leaving their parents in a danger zone. They have to learn how to feel safe again," she added.

Ashkenazi told JNS he strongly believes that the strong social background of the children's families and the solidarity of the kibbutz system are pillars of strength that will increase the chances of a full recovery.

"I am optimistic. The support of their families and kibbutz members will play an important part in their recovery. It is essential that in the coming weeks, they get back to routine life. The routine will protect them," said Ashkenazi. **HW** 

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#### PJ Library & BBYO





PJ Library has been hosting monthly events called Snack and Story led by Rabbi Abe.

For the November event, BBYO volunteered to read and do arts and crafts with children ages 0-6 years old. The theme of November was gratitude and being thankful. The teens helped read the stories aloud and sang! After, the teens helped the children with a craft

and a snack.

Meredith Epstein, BBYO leader said, "she had the best time reading and being with the children and it reminded her of how thankful she is to be a part of this community."

It was a great opportunity for BBYO to give back to the Memphis Jewish community, and they can't wait to partner again with PJ Library. **HW** 



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#### Jewish Security Network Head Joins FBI Terrorism Task-Force Executive Board



Michael Masters, national director and CEO of Secure Community Network. Credit: Courtesy.

#### By David Swindle

(JNS) – Michael Masters, national director and CEO of Secure Community Network (SCN), received an appointment to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force's executive board.

The appointment "is a reflection of the strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship that exists between SCN and law enforcement broadly, and the FBI specifically," Masters told JNS.

"It is, in my mind, a recognition not only of the threats facing the Jewish community but SCN's unique role in addressing the safety and security issues of the community," he added.

In a statement, SCN said that the task force brings together expertise across multiple agencies to disrupt and prevent terror attacks. Members include investigators, analysts, linguists and specialists in other fields.

"We remain particularly concerned about individuals and groups associated with violent extremist ideology and, in particular, those who may be motivated to The appointment is a reflection of the threats facing the Jewish community, Michael Masters, national director and CEO of Secure Community Network, told JNS.

violence based on Hamas's attack on Israel and the aftermath," Masters told JNS.

He added that trend lines "have been disturbing for the last several years."

"The use of sexually violent language, as well as that which mirrors actions we witnessed on Oct. 7 – acts of beheading, mutilation and shear barbarism – have become more pronounced and are highly troubling," he said. "A key part of participation in the task force will be identifying trend lines before they become fault lines." **HW** 



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#### Handmade Tallit and Judaic Textiles by Ruth Simon McRae in the Shainberg Art Gallery through December 28



Ruth's work is influenced by her own

There are 20 tallitot, 5 wall hangings,

and 18 challah covers in this show, and

they each have a story to tell. You can

experience the stories through her art

by seeing Handmade Tallit and Judaic

Textiles on display in the Shainberg Art

Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Commu-

nity Center through December 28. HW

life and environment; her tallitot are

"canvases for expressing stories, histo-

ries, and rituals."

#### Challah covers by Ruth Simon McRae

Ruth Simon McRae's *Handmade Tallit and Judaic Textiles* gallery show is an example of art imitating both life and faith. McRae states "my interest in textiles stems from a childhood surrounded by fabrics, from the fabrics in my father's interior design studio to the fabulous clothes of the 1960s."

She translated that interest into education at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Philadelphia College of Art, and Georgia Tech; and embarked on a long career in textile design while also expanding her artwork. Ruth's dedication to her craft is noteworthy – she taught herself to weave on a 100-year-old loom she purchased in 1970.

McRae lives in north Georgia where she pulls inspiration from her everyday life and the world around her and turns it into art. The first tallit – Jewish prayer shawl – she created, Trees, was inspired by an image of the tree branches in her yard against the early morning sky. The finished product is a beautiful tallit in shades of aqua, teal, and blue that displays the complexities of Ruth's style and how she combines multiple mediums including textile arts, painting, printmaking, and mixed media, into meaningful, wearable art. Many of her tallitot include prayers or phrases incorporated into the designs in a way that looks both decorative and natural.

McRae also creates wall hangings, like *Luminaries*, which she based on the creation story. It displays a transition from dark to light, created through Japanese shibori techniques of folding and stitching in combination with multihue dyeing and features hand-beaded embellishments to represent stars. It is the largest piece in the show aside from some of the tallitot.

The collection of displayed challah covers is meant to be used on the Shabbat table, but can also double as wall art. These pieces display the variety of styles and techniques Ruth uses to create her art including, block print, hand dyeing, vintage materials, embroidery, shibori, and more.

#### Have a Símcha?

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# The state of the s

**Beth Sholom Sponsors Its** 

Most Successful Coat Drive

for Coleman Journey School







Students show off their new winter coats that were donated to the Coleman Journey School by Beth Sholom.

Beth Sholom Synagogue delivered 299 mostly new, warm winter coats for the students of Coleman Journey K-8 School, the shul's most successful coat drive ever, announced Vera Feldman, co-chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee, who organized the project. Jessica Phillips, school guidance counselor, sent photos of the students to the synagogue with a note of thanks, which said "The students are SOOOO elated when they get their new coats. These smiles are priceless. Thank you so much!!!"

Feldman expressed special thanks to Beth Sholom member, Tresha Mandel, who rallied her neighbors and Facebook friends to support the drive. Together, Mandel and her friends donated 90 coats.

In addition to the coat drive, Beth Sholom's ongoing relationship with Coleman Journey School supports students through donations of school supplies and menstruation products as well as holding an annual Coleman Holiday Give the Gift of Giving Gift Shop. **HW** 

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#### Four Key Objectives of a Sound Retirement Plan

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

A sound retirement plan should be based on your particular circumstances. No one strategy is suitable for everyone. Once you're retired, your income plan should strive to address four basic objectives: earn a reasonable rate of return, manage the risk of loss, maintain a source of sustainable and predictable income, and reduce the impact of taxes.

#### Earn a Reasonable Rate of Return

Your retirement savings portfolio will likely be used to provide at least a portion of your income throughout retirement. The overall goal is to maintain an amount that produces the necessary income each year. This requires accounting for the rising costs of goods and services (including health-care expenses); identifying your budgetary needs and wants; estimating how long you'll expect retirement to last; and factoring in Social Security and other income sources. It also requires estimating a rate of return you'll need to earn on your portfolio and then putting together an investment strategy to pursue that target

While we'd all like to achieve a 30%–40% annual return on our retirement savings, for most of us that isn't practical. If you have enough savings to meet your retirement needs, you'll want to maintain that level of savings throughout your retirement years. That's why it's important to strive for a realistic rate of return on those savings. Of course, determining a reasonable rate of return depends on your individual circum-

stances and goals.

#### Manage Risk of Loss

If you have sufficient savings to meet your retirement needs and goals, you'll want to protect those savings and reduce the risk of loss due to sudden market corrections and volatility. The goal is to reduce investment risk and preserve savings. A reduction in savings due to a market downturn could require you to sacrifice important retirement goals and reduce retirement income.

Prior to retirement, you have more time to recover from market losses. However, once retired, your time frame for recovery is much shorter. For example, if you had retirement savings of \$500,000 and lost 25% due to market volatility, your savings would be reduced to \$375,000. You would have to earn a rate of return of more than 33% in order to get back to \$500,000. That could take plenty of time to achieve.

#### Maintain a Sustainable and Predictable Income

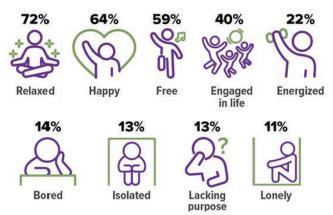
During our working years, most of us are used to receiving a steady income. However, once we retire, the income we got from work is no longer there, even though that's what we've been accustomed to. So it's important to create a sustainable, dependable, income stream in retirement to replace the income we received during our working years. While you may receive Social Security retirement benefits, it's unlikely that you can maintain your desired lifestyle in retirement on just Social Security. In

addition, defined-benefit pension plans are not as prevalent or available as they once may have been. Most employers don't offer pension plans, placing the burden on us to find our own sources of retirement income.

Maintaining a sustainable income in retirement is important for many reasons. You'll want sufficient income to meet your retirement expenses. It is also important that your income is not negatively impacted by downturns in the market. And you'll want your income to last as long as you do.

#### **A Few Words About Retirement**

In a recent survey, retirees ages 40 to 74 were asked to choose from a list of words and short phrases to describe their feelings about retirement. The good news is that most had positive feelings.



Source: AARP, 2022 (multiple responses allowed)

#### **Reduce the Impact of Taxes on Retirement Income**

Taxes can cut into your retirement income if you don't plan properly. Many of us think our tax rate will be lower in retirement compared to our working years, but that is often not the case. For instance, we may no longer have all of the tax deductions in retirement that we had while working. In addition, taxes may increase in the future, potentially taking a bigger chunk out of your retirement income. So it's important to create a tax-efficient retirement.

Your retirement plan should be suited to your particular situation. However, these four objectives are often part of a sound retirement plan. A financial professional may be able to help you to earn a reasonable rate of return, manage risk of loss, create and maintain predictable retirement income, and reduce the impact of taxes on that income. There is no guarantee that working with a financial professional will improve investment results.

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#### Gaza Woman Tells "Al Jazeera" Reporter Hamas Steals Aid

(JNS) – Hamas redirects humanitarian aid deliveries to its tunnels for use by members of the terrorist group, a Gaza woman told an "Al Jazeera" reporter.

According to the exchange posted to social media last Wednesday night, the elderly woman said that "all aid goes down [into Hamas tunnels]. The aid does not reach the nation and entire people."

The journalist from the Qatari stateowned network then tried to convince her that only a small amount of aid is coming into the Strip and that it is all being properly distributed.

The woman wagged her finger at him and said, "Everything goes to their [the terrorists'] houses. They take it. They will even shoot me and do whatever they want to me, Hamas."

#### Hamas receipts show gap with Gaza population

Last Thursday, the IDF revealed receipts for items worth thousands of dollars illustrating the gap between Hamas and the public in Gaza.

The invoices were found during the ground operation in Gaza and examined by the military's intelligence unit.

The items include luxury jewelry purchased by the son of Hamas politburo head Ismail Haniyeh.

"In one of the raids, five receipts were seized in the name of Ma'ad Ismail Haniyeh – the fourth son of the head of the political bureau of Hamas, testifying to the purchase of luxury jewelry for thousands of dollars from shops in the Gaza Strip and Qatar," the IDF said in a statement.

The IDF said that the amount of money from one receipt is equal to almost two years' salary for the average Gaza resident.

#### Fuel for southern Gaza

Israel's Security Cabinet last Wednesday evening approved a "minimal supplement of fuel" into the southern Gaza Strip, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

The War Cabinet recommended the move as "necessary to prevent a humanitarian collapse and the outbreak of epidemics."

According to the announcement, "the minimal amount will be determined from time to time by the War Cabinet according to the morbidity situation and humanitarian situation in the Strip."

Coalition Ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir voted against the move, which reportedly stemmed from U.S. pressure.

Washington is reportedly demanding that the current daily delivery of 60,000 liters (nearly 16,000 gallons) be doubled or tripled. Channel 12 reported that the War Cabinet will gradually increase the daily amount from 60,000 liters to 180,000 liters (47,550 gallons). **HW** 



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#### Mike Stein

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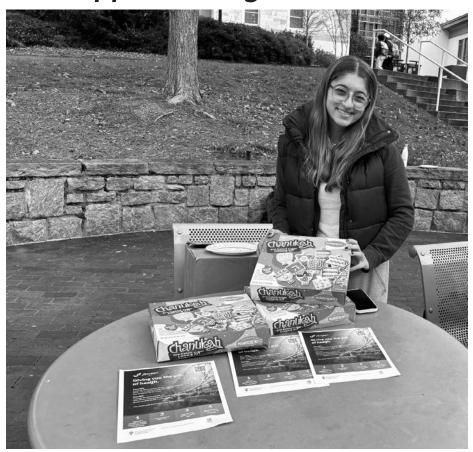
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## JScreen and Manischewitz Join Forces to Celebrate the Holiday Season and Support College Students



Sophie Ingber, a JScreen intern distributing Manischewitz Cookie Kits at Emory as part of an outreach program with www.jscreen.org and Manischewitz to provide comfort to college students during JScreen Screening events.

As Chanukah approaches, JScreen, a national non-profit public health initiative dedicated to preventing Jewish and other genetic diseases, is proud to announce a meaningful partnership with Manischewitz, the leading kosher family brand with a rich history spanning over 120 years. This collaborative effort aims to raise awareness about the importance of genetic screening for family planning. A primary focus is on college campuses where students are offered genetic testing to help ensure the health of their future families.

Over the years, JScreen has formed relationships with student groups on college campuses through onsite genetic screening events. During these particularly difficult times for the Jewish community, Manischewitz has joined with JScreen to support students on these campuses by providing care packages or 'Comfort Food for the Soul.' The first campus to receive the Manischewitz care packages was Emory University, where JScreen is based. Manischewitz is also creating care packages to ship to students at other campuses across the country, including Emory, NYU, and Rutgers. Yeshiva University, Cornell, and Georgetown, to name a few. The packages contain Manischewitz Cookie Kits and Manischewitz Chanukah house

"We are very proud to support our students with information about genetic testing and comfort food for the soul," says Executive Director of Hillel at Emory Rabbi Ilan Schwartz.

Now in its 10th year, JScreen simplifies genetic screening by providing ac-

cessible at-home saliva kits. JScreen's reproductive carrier testing empowers individuals and couples with comprehensive insights into their genetic makeup and the risk of having a child with a genetic disease. If an elevated risk is identified, JScreen's genetic counselors provide private consultations through phone or video teleconferencing, discussing options to assist in planning for the health of future children.

"We are proud to partner with Manischewitz and provide students with education and support," says JScreen Executive Director Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid.

"There is no better time than now to collaborate with JScreen in educating and reaching out to college students, highlighting the significance of genetic screening for the well-being of this and future generations. We share the love of family and are proud to support this effort for Jewish college students who are really struggling right now," states Shani Siedman, CMO of Manischewitz. "Manischewitz products are 'comfort food for the soul,' and what could be a better time than now to provide our delicious food items to nurture college students."

For more information about JScreen testing, please visit www.jscreen.org. To learn more about Manischewitz, go to www.manischewitz.com **HW** 

#### Israel Philharmonic Heals Through Music



Orchestra member Uzi Shalev in the field

As Hanukkah, a celebration of light amidst the darkness, approaches, the Israel Philharmonic continues to serve as a beacon of light for Israeli civilians during these difficult and uncertain times. Following the horrific Hamas attacks on Oct.7 and the postponement of the Israel Philharmonic's 87th season, the orchestra immediately pivoted its efforts toward helping affected citizens and their country. Some of their recent activities have included:

Special performances: The philharmonic has been performing around the country, in trio and quartet groups, for evacuees, especially children, and wounded citizens.

In one especially moving performance, at Soroka Medical Center, musicians played for Avida Bachar, a resident of Kibbutz Be'eri who survived the attack but suffered a leg amputation and lost his wife and son.

"Salute to Israel": This special con-

cert was broadcast live on Oct. 22 in an empty hall with only the images of all hostages 'looking' at the musicians from the seats in the first rows. The musicians performed Israel's national anthem, Paul Ben-Haim's "Fanfare to Israel" and Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, "Eroica." Music Director Lahav Shani addressed viewers with a moving speech. The concert has received more than 150,000 views in Israel and around the world.

Playing for families evacuated to hotels: To view photos, visit https://www.facebook.com/afipo

Free admission for evacuated families: As the Israel Philharmonic begins its 87th concert season with its Children's Philharmonic Series, they are offering free admission to displaced families from the Gaza border communities and the North. To learn more, visit www. youtube.com/shorts/mNhH\_oeiagc

Art exhibit: On the balcony of the Charles Bronfman Auditorium, the Israel Phil's concert hall in Tel Aviv, 239 mannequins are now on display with an illuminated sign that reads, "BRING

#### THEM HOME."

The exhibit, crafted by artist Nadav Barnea, symbolizes the 239 hostages being held by Hamas. To view a photo of the exhibit, visit www.instagram.com/p/CzjQca-on0c/

Farming: Even though a musician's hands are their livelihood, philharmonic members did not hesitate to volunteer for time-sensitive harvesting work, supporting the farmers who were drafted. Instead of holding million-dollar instruments, they held tomatoes and avocadoes, to keep the economy going.

A snippet of Music Director Lahav Shani's remarks during the "Salute to Israel" concert (translated from Hebrew):

I ask myself, how is it possible to contain both this sense of distress and anguish alongside hope and yearning for life? In our daily life, this seems almost impossible. The grief and anger are so strong that it is difficult to feel anything else. But it is at these moments that music has incredible strength. Music can contain and reflect all our feelings, side by side. HW

## Empowering The Next Generation: The Jewish Youth Pledge Welcomes its 18,000th Ambassador

ATLANTA – In a milestone moment for the Jewish continuity, The Jewish Youth Pledge (JYP) celebrates the induction of its 18,000th "Chai" Jewish Youth Pledge Ambassador, Camila Besprosvan, the President of Students Supporting Israel at Loyola Marymount University. This milestone underscores JYP's pivotal role in cultivating a lasting bond between young Jewish individuals and the enduring values of their cultural and religious heritage. With a commitment to forging a vibrant future for Jewish traditions and community, JYP makes its innovative, complementary platform available for organizations worldwide dedicated to igniting a passion for Jewish identity among youth aged 13-24. Through JYP, a new generation embarks on a transformative path of engagement and personal growth, en-

suring the Jewish spirit thrives for years.

"To me, the Jewish Youth Pledge means that I am promising my family, friends, and community that I will always support the Jewish community, the State of Israel, and our prosperity," said JYP's 18,000th Pledger, Camila Besprosvan. "Beyond that, it is a way for me to honor my ancestors and assure the world that I do not forget their suffering as Jews in Spain, Ukraine, Syria, and Argentina. It is an oath that I will protect their and my decedent's prayer for peace and safety."

JYP strengthens participants' connection to their heritage and community by encouraging pledgers to play a critical role in shaping the future of the Jewish people. JYP engages participants with enriching programming designed by leading Jewish educators to explore

their Jewish identity through immersive experiences. Participants pledge to live Jewishly, penning a digital letter to their future selves and sharing the impact they want to leave on the Jewish community. Pledgers immortalize their pledging moment with a candid digital photo, marking the start of their commitment journey. JYP memorializes these memories of their immersive experiences and seals them in a digital time capsule, which, over the next two decades, JYP participants receive biennial reminders of their promise and are gifted their letters every five years. The Jewish Youth Pledge offers organizations a free platform that nurtures alum engagement and creates an unforgettable shared experience, fortifying a lifelong relationship between organizations and pledgers.

"In the shadow of rising antisemi-

tism, each pledge is a defiant beacon of hope – a testament to the enduring spirit and unity of the Jewish people," said Mike Leven, Founder of JYP. "Today's achievement of 18,000 youth pledges is not merely a count; it's the heartbeat of a generation poised to inherit and reshape our heritage. As we stand at this juncture, the resounding commitment of our youth to Jewish life and culture heralds a future where our traditions are remembered and vibrantly lived. The Jewish Youth Pledge is more than an initiative; it's a promise engraved in the souls of our young, ensuring that the Jewish identity is preserved and invigorated in the hands of those who will write our story tomorrow."

For more information about The Jewish Youth Pledge, visit jewishyouthpledge.org. **HW** 

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# On Chanukah, Daughters Dream and Fathers Scheme



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

#### **Ted Roberts**

It was the second night of Chanukah and the house was full of her excited grandchildren, who shrieked and wailed and chattered like the construction crew that worked on the Tower of Babel. Was it totally random, the old lady wondered, or was there a script for this bedlam. I shouldn't be so cranky, she reasoned. But 12 kids – some exultant with their gifts, some complaining – could shatter the glass in the windows.

And such lavish Chanukah gifts. In my day, thought Bubbe, I'd be lucky to get a piece of fruit and a silver dime.

The gifts had been distributed, the latkes consumed, and both adults and kids had taken the ceremonial peck at her cheek. So, soon it would be time for the Chanukah finale, the traditional "then and now" seminar with Bubbe; an old family custom.

The kids clustered around her. "Tell us how it was when you were a girl, Bubbe," as though they believed she had ever been anything but a short, round lady who smiled more than she talked. A Jewish Queen Victoria with a decidedly unEnglish accent who they were forced to call on the phone every weekend.

Last year she told them the story of

her voyage in the filthy hold of the SS Wilhelm to the glittering new world of the Lower East side. The year before, she'd left them shocked and wide-eyed over the tale of her older brother's abduction by a band of drunk Cossacks. And every word was true, and every word was a lesson.

Instruction. Wasn't that Bubbe's role, like smiling and offering the drooping cheek to pursed lips? These kids should know how it was back then. Beginnings are as useful as endings. Didn't she still have a sharp mental picture of her brother and their Polish village? Didn't her mouth remember endless meals of cabbage and potatoes? And who could forget her entire family stuffed in an East side tenement that only glittered when ice silvered both sides of the windowpane?

"So, tell us a story, Bubbe. C'mon, c'mon," they persisted.

"OK," she agreed, "but first a cup of tea and a slice of lemon and two Sweet 'n Lo's." Quickly they obeyed.

She sat at the dining room table; they crowded around, two of the little ones to a single chair.

"I'll tell you about my best friend, Dora. She was 16, like me. We had both been in America since we were six. So we considered ourselves Americans – not Greenhorns. We even had boyfriends, not boyfriends like you mean now, but, ya know, special friends. My best girlfriend, Dora, had a boy downstairs in the tenement who she watched out of the corner of her eye. You know how it is. You look at him. He turns shyly away. But you hope he looks back."

"Anyhow, Dora loved Jacob Plesovsky.

He was 18 and already he was peddling lady's dresses around town. Like I say, he'd never taken her out. Who had money for that – but they had talked plenty. I think they had a plan."

"Daughters dream, but fathers scheme, as they say. One day her father waits 'til everybody's out of the room, and he sits Dora down across the dining room table for a talk. And he tells her she's gonna have the best second night of Chanukah ever; because on the second candle of Chanukah, little Dora is going to be a married woman. Dora is so fetumult, so mixed up to hear this, that for a minute she thinks her papa has gone to the Plesovskys and made a deal. How did he know about her plan, which she had only revealed to her best friend? Me. Then through a fog, as though her father is shouting from a passing ship, she hears the name Adam Grossman."

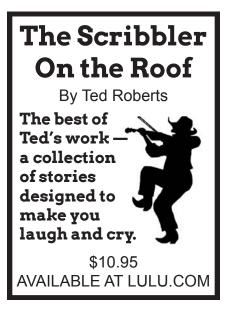
"Papa, Jacob Plesovsky, that's who I want. You got the wrong boy."

"But daughters dream and fathers scheme."

"Listen," says Papa, "this boy you'll love in a couple of years. He has a good job in the textile district, and he's handsome. Grayish-blue eyes and light brown, wavy hair. No moles, no blemishes. And as the Americans say, he is high-spirited. They'll never tie him to a tailor's bench. Now, that's that! Go help your mama with the supper dishes." Dora's futile tears mixed with the dirty dish water in the sink.

Bubbe paused to let the truth sink into youthful minds. "Yes, her father had selected her husband."

At first, silence. Then a chorus of re-



volt. "So, what happened to your friend? And what about Jacob?"

"Well, they didn't die of a broken heart. I don't know what became of Jacob. I think he ended up working in a men's clothing store in the Bronx."

The children muttered rebelliously about slipping out of bedroom windows at midnight and running off to some renegade Rabbi for a quickie. "That's what we'd do now," said two of the smaller mutineers. "And what about Dora?"

"Dora – she did OK," said the Bubbe as her eyes wandered over a room full of 12 vibrant, high-spirited kids. Many with gray-blue eyes and wavy, light brown hair.

On this second night of Chanukah, it was more apparent than ever to the old lady that daughters dream and fathers scheme. Next Chanukah she'd tell them how Adam Grossman had softly tiptoed into her heart.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. **HW** 

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#### ISRAEL INSIGHTS A Modern Miracle

By Howard Weisband

Chanukah Sameach!!!

As we celebrate Chanukah this year, 5784 on the Hebrew calendar, we cannot help but look back over 2000 years to 166 BCE when the Maccabees began their revolt against the Seleucids, capturing Jerusalem in 164 BCE and establishing the first Chanukah.

Very different times and different realities, but we were at war then, and we are at war once again. Today we needn't capture Jerusalem. The IDF is defending and protecting Jerusalem and the modern State of Israel.

Someone in the U.S. checking in on our family recently sent me a note ending with "Hoping and praying for a Chanukah miracle in Israel." My response concluded with: "Our modern Chanukah miracle will only come after the IDF achieves a decisive victory in this war just as the Maccabees did some 2000 years ago."

The IDF is a modern, powerful army. It has the some of the most highly motivated, trained, capable, and moral soldiers in the world. They have already made significant progress inside Gaza. It may take more months of hard, intensive fighting, but they will achieve a decisive victory, eliminating Hamas militarily and politically. Within that victory, we pray that all of our remaining hostages will be rescued.

The Chanukah miracle 2000 years ago, as we all know, was that a single container of oil, enough for one day, lasted eight days. Thus, we celebrate for eight days.

Israeli soldiers in Gaza have brought with them their own personal Chanukah menorahs, which they and their fellow soldiers will light in their celebration of Chanukah, as we all light our own oil or candles each day in Israel and throughout the world.

Further, what is the modern miracle, perhaps miracles, that we seek to achieve following the forthcoming IDF victory in this war?

First, the Jewish unity that exists in Israel today should continue in a positive and constructive manner for the Israeli society and for world Jewry. The judicial reform debate and demonstrations have been set aside, so those same citizens, no matter their political stripes, are participating in the war effort either on the front lines or as volunteers throughout the country. Volunteers from Israel and abroad are getting extra supplies to soldiers, aiding evacuees from the south and the north with everything from teaching the children to doing laundry, and providing critical planting and harvesting help on farms.

Second, there will be an independent,

extensive, in depth, objective state investigation into what went wrong both in the army and within the political system that led to the horrendous, barbaric Hamas attack on October 7. Their recommendations should be clear and specific, and fully implemented on a national level.

Many researchers, journalists, and pundits are already providing their opinions in the press and through other online media sources. One of the more interesting opinions was provided on December 5 by Dr. Netanel Flamer, a Senior Research Fellow associated with both Bar-Ilan and Reichman Universities.

In a paper titled "Humility Is Required for Improved Intelligence After the October 7 Catastrophe," Flamer asserts in his Executive Summary: "Israeli intelligence failures - particularly those leading to the failure to warn of a largescale attack, as suffered by Israel in the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023 – are typically followed by the creation of investigative committees that scrutinize intelligence processes, highlight gaps and vulnerabilities, and recommend mechanisms to prevent future failures. But without a profound cultural shift within the intelligence organization and its personnel - specifically, the integration of humility into the organizational DNA - these mechanisms will not deliver the desired outcome."

Flamer's emphasis on humility within the leadership ranks is a fascinating point. It buttresses my own opinion that a certain complacency, unfortunately and tragically, had overcome both military and political leaders in Israel, not unlike in some ways that which happened leading up to the Yom Kipper War in 1973.

Leadership must have humility and never become complacent. Creative and open thought is critical to constructive advancement.

The third miracle I would hope for is that a new political and army leadership will emerge that places their ongoing focus and priority on Israel and its national needs rather than on their personal political and career advancements.

Such miracles would bring us to offer a resounding AMEN!!

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

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# Norman Lear, Jewish Creator of Pioneering TV Comedies Including 'All In The Family,' Dies at 101



Norman Lear attends the Hollywood Walk of Fame Star Ceremony honoring Marla Gibbs on July 20, 2021, in Hollywood, California. Credit: Amy Sussman/Getty Images

#### By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Norman Lear, the Jewish TV pioneer behind iconic comedies of the 1970s and 1980s that helped bring social commentary and Black characters into the mainstream, has died at 101.

Lear's death was announced by a spokesperson for his family, according to "The New York Times."

The decorated creator of "All In The Family," "The Jeffersons," "Maude," "Sanford and Son" and a host of other groundbreaking TV sitcoms, Lear lived and worked through just about every era of Hollywood comedy. A lifelong liberal in part, he said, because of hearing an antisemitic preacher on the radio as a child.

Beginning in the 1970s, he donated large sums to progressive causes, and in 1980 he founded People for the American Way, an organization aimed at countering the influence of the Christian religious right wing in politics.

He reached his 100-year milestone a

few years ahead of peers Mel Brooks and Dick Van Dyke (both 96). But he had to say goodbye to other beloved longtime colleagues, including Carl Reiner (who died in 2020 at age 98), talent manager George Shapiro (who died in May at 91) and Betty White (who died shortly before her 100th birthday).

Lear got his own documentary in 2016 and received a Kennedy Center honor, as well as just about every other award under the sun. Yet even as he notched the century mark, he continued to work, co-hosting "Live In Front Of A Studio Audience," a series of TV specials in which celebrities recreate episodes of his old sitcoms, and executive-producing the recent remake of his show "One Day At A Time," as well as last year's documentary "Rita Moreno: Just A Girl Who Decided To Go For It."

Lear was born July 27, 1922, in Connecticut to Jewish parents who had

Russian and Ukrainian ancestry. Lear celebrated his bar mitzvah, but later described himself to JUF News in Chicago "as culturally Jewish as I could be and proud to be Jewish, but I'm not a religionist of any kind." He recalled that hearing antisemitic preacher Father Coughlin on the radio as a child helped fuel his interest in political activism.

When Lear was 9, his father was sent to prison for three years for his part in a fraudulent get-rich-quick scheme, and his mother sent her son to live with relatives he barely knew in Brooklyn. Lear returned to Connecticut to finish high school, and later attended Emerson College in Boston for a stint, but dropped out to join the U.S. Air Force and flew bombing missions over Europe when he wasn't entertaining fellow airmen. He moved to Los Angeles after the war and became a comedy writer in the budding television business.

Over time, his many early projects – which also included "Good Times," the first family show led by two Black parent characters – were seen as a crucial bridge to wider acceptance of Black stories in pop culture. Though "Good Times" was criticized for what many perceived as an over-reliance on catchphrases and stereotypes, his follow-up "The Jeffersons" gave American culture a robust and celebrated portrait of upwardly mobile Black middle-class life.

"It's not that there had not been black people on television before," wrote Ronda Racha Penrice, a Black cultural critic, in 2016. "But black people had not been on television by the '70s in roles where who they were mattered

as much to them as they did on 'Good Times' and 'The Jeffersons.'"

"All in the Family," which starred the "lovable bigot" Archie Bunker character, has also been appraised as one of the earliest TV shows to deal with antisemitism in the United States – though Lear's intention to paint Archie's opinions as abhorrent backfired when many viewers, including U.S. President Richard Nixon, decided they agreed with him.

Lear's support for liberal causes lasted through his later years. Shortly after turning 100 last year, Donald Trump reiterated an argument he had made as president – that American Jews endangered themselves by not supporting him. Lear quickly made headlines for calling Trump a "horse's ass."

"Today, having recently turned 100, I read Donald Trump's appalling words about American Jews, and I am nine years old again," he tweeted. "The phrase, a horse's ass, was an everyday expression when I was nine and it occurs to me again now."

Days earlier, Lear had taken to Instagram to reminisce in a video, singing a lick from the classic tune "That's Amore," recalling how he once worked for Dean Martin singing the same song during the Colgate Comedy Hour in the 1950s.

Reflecting on his life in the video, Lear expressed gratitude for every moment of it.

"Living in the moment, the moment between past and present, present and past, the hammock in the middle of after and next," he said by way of advice. "Treasure it. Use it with love." **HW** 

#### Israeli Boy Orphaned by Hamas Attack to Mark Bar Mitzvah



Ariel Zohar and his Holocaust survivor grandfather Marco with a ZAKA community emergency response volunteer. Source: Merav Sever/X.

(JNS) – An Israeli boy whose parents, two sisters and grandfather were murdered in the Hamas attack on his kibbutz will celebrate his bar mitzvah Thursday.

Ariel Zohar of Kibbutz Nahal Oz was saved from the Oct. 7 massacre because he went out for a run.

His father, Yaniv Zohar, 54, mother, Yasmin, 49, and sisters Keshet, 18, and Tehelet, 20, were buried after a joint funeral in Rishon Letzion on Oct. 18.

He is now staying at his uncle's home in the Tel Aviv suburb.

Zohar was able to recover two pairs of tefillin or phylacteries – the small black leather boxes with leather straps containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah and worn during weekday morning prayers – from his destroyed home.

The first pair was the one that his parents had bought him for his bar mitzvah, while the second, retrieved by a ZAKA search and rescue official at Zohar's request, had been handed down to Zohar's father from his surviving grandfather, Marco, a Holocaust survivor whose own parents were murdered by the Nazis.

Chaim Otmazgin, who recovered the tefillin from the house, recounted the moving words that Zohar's 90-year-old grandfather told his grandson: "My parents were murdered when I was 14. Today I have a grandson living in Israel! To you too, they did this to you when you were 12 years old. You too will have grandchildren in Israel!"

"Our message is the Nation of Israel lives," Tomer Cohen, the boy's uncle, told JNS last Tuesday. **HW** 

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# GOP Candidates Spar in Debate Over Whether to Send U.S. Troops to Gaza

#### By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Candidates sparred over whether to send U.S. troops to Gaza and Vivek Ramaswamy endorsed a conspiracy theory that has inspired antisemitic violence at the Republican primary debate on December 6.

The debate, held at the University of Alabama less than six weeks before the Iowa caucuses kick off the nominating contest, did not include the frontrunner, Donald Trump. The former president, who leads polls by a wide margin, has skipped every debate thus far.

Haley, the former United Nations ambassador who is rising in the polls and has received an infusion of donor money, was the prime target of the other three candidates on stage: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Ramaswamy, an investor and political newcomer.

Israel came up almost immediately in the debate, hosted by the small cable network News Nation. Moderators asked whether candidates would send troops into combat to free the eight Americans who are among the more than 100 hostages still held by Hamas, which launched the current war when its terrorists attacked Israel from Gaza on Oct. 7.

Christie said, "You're damn right, I'd send the American army in there to get our people home and get them home now."

DeSantis said, "We have to look out for our people when they're hostages" and segued into attacking President Joe Biden for not doing enough to confront Iran. He later said he wouldn't accept Gazan refugees into the United States "because of the antisemitism and because they reject American culture."

Haley also didn't answer the question about U.S. troops directly, also attacking Biden for not being aggressive enough toward Iran. She added that Russia, Iran and Hamas are linked and pose a threat to global stability, an argument Biden has also made.

"You've got to punch them, you've got to punch them hard and let them know that – that's the only way they're going to respond, so the way you do that is you go after their infrastructure in Syria and Iraq where they're hitting our soldiers," Haley said of Iran. "That's what you do, and then that's when they'll back off."

Ramaswamy attacked Haley for comments she has previously made where she called Hamas' invasion of Israel an "attack on America."

"If you can't tell the difference between where Israel is and the U.S. is on a map, I can have my three-year-old son show you the difference," he said. "That is irresponsible, because it has major consequences, because that doesn't leave room for what actually is an attack on America."

Late in the debate, Ramaswamy leaned into promoting conspiracy theories that Trump had embraced – including the false claim that Trump won the

2020 election; that the Jan. 6, 2021, mob at the U.S. Capitol, aimed at keeping Trump in power, was an "inside job;" and that the George W. Bush administration covered up the real perpetrators of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

He also said that "the Great Replacement Theory" is the policy of the Democratic Party. The theory in its original form claims falsely that Jews are orchestrating the mass immigration of people of color into Western nations in order to replace their white populations.

The theory fueled the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history, when a gunman murdered 11 Jews at a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018, as well as other violent mass killings.

"The Great Replacement Theory is not some right wing conspiracy theory, but a basic statement of the Democratic Party's platform," he said. He did not directly mention Jews.

Ramaswamy also attacked Haley for accepting the backing of wealthy donors. The most significant of these is the Koch network, named for the industrialist brothers who are not Jewish; Ramaswamy named only Jewish backers, including LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman and BlackRock CEO Larry Fink.

He called Hoffman "George Soros Jr.," referring to the liberal Jewish financier and philanthropist who has become a bogeyman of the right and who frequently appears in antisemitic conspira-

cy theories. DeSantis also namechecked Soros, noting that he had removed two prosecutors in Florida whom he said Soros backed.

Haley said her greatest concern about porousness on the U.S.-Mexico border was that it could facilitate the entry into the United States of Iran-backed terrorists.

She also took a question about a confrontation in Congress [last] Tuesday between Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik and the presidents of three elite universities who declined to say outright that calling for the genocide of Jews would violate university anti-harassment policies. Two of the presidents have since partially walked those statements back.

Haley called the remarks of the university presidents "disgusting" and said she would alter President Joe Biden's strategy to combat antisemitism by making clear that anti-Zionism is antisemitism. Congress just passed a resolution to that effect as well.

She also pivoted to one of her key talking points, which is to fault the Chinese-owned TikTok social media app as a potential tool of the Chinese government.

"For every 30 minutes someone watches TikTok every day they become 17 percent more antisemitic," she said, apparently referring to an analysis posted on Twitter last week by an investor, Anthony Goldbloom, who posted that the data "suggests TikTok is a meaningful driver of a surge in antisemitism." HW



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