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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

Full House Community Chanukah Celebration at the MJCC





More than 300 people packed the Orgel Family Performing Arts Center to celebrate Chanukah with dinner and musical guest the Miami Boys Choir

On Sunday, December 10 at the MJCC, just over 300 people packed the Orgel Family Performing Arts Center first in the Belz Social Hall for dinner and then the Belz Theater for a show.

All this to celebrate the fourth night of Chanukah – a celebration sponsored by the Bornblum Foundation and put on by over 25 local agencies and businesses. People enjoyed a buffet meal catered by Sam's Corner, a menorah lighting and a stellar concert by the Miami Boys Choir.

9 TEVET, 5784

The concert was opened with remarks by Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel welcoming everyone and leading everyone in Hatikvah. Then, for the first time since the early 90s, the Miami Boys Choir entertained Memphis with a onehour show of greatest hits, including viral sensation Yerushalyim, and new releases.

DECEMBER 21, 2023

Comments from attendees include:

"What a wonderful evening for our family to really feel like we were getting a night out and celebrating Hanukkah together! The concert was fabulous, " It was a nice display of community achdus (unity)."

(See MJCC Chanukah Page 7)

Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center Welcomes Blair Trotz as New Head of School

By Melinda Lejman

Blair Trotz has been reinventing herself throughout her 37-year career as an educator. Whether working with preschoolers at the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center, teaching at Bornblum Jewish Community School (then Bornblum Solomon Schechter), working with gifted students in Memphis Shelby County Schools, or leading a 1200-student elementary school as assistant principal, Mrs. Trotz has brought a passion and love for children to every role she has filled. Now at the helm of the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temdespite having been in her new role for less than two months. Families also voted on its first ever mascot – Leo the Lion – and he will become part of the school's enrichment and branding in the new year. In addition to kick-starting growth and school spirit, Mrs. Trotz will oversee the extension of the school's curriculum into the younger classrooms. "We already have a top-rated curriculum, and we are going to expand that curric-



ple Israel, she has big plans for its future.

During her educational career, Mrs. Trotz has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, including the Spark Award for Teacher of the Year, Gifted Teacher of the Year for the state of Tennessee, and Hadassah's Outstanding Jewish Educator Award.

Part of her charge as the new head of school is to grow the preschool both in terms of enrollment and staffing. She's off to a good start on both objectives

(See Trotz Page 2)

Blair Trotz

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.



Federation Taps Sarah Besser to Serve as PJ Library Coordinator



Sara Besser

Memphis Jewish Federation is delighted to announce Sarah Besser will be serving as PJ Library coordinator. Building on her passion and dedication as Federation's campaign associate, Ms. Besser is well prepared to build and grow the PJ Library program for the Memphis Jewish community.

Sarah Besser began working at the Memphis Jewish Federation in August as campaign associate bringing with her experience in planning young adult and family engagement events, as well as women's philanthropy, and a background in sustainable and regenerative tourism.

When asked about her new role as PJ Library coordinator Ms. Besser shared," I am beyond excited to work on PJ Library; it is a fantastic program, and I hope to bring the young families in our Jewish community closer together."

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library partners with communities around the world to provide families raising Jewish children with the gift of free, high-quality children's books, music, and resources that foster deeper engagement with Jewish life. In Memphis, Federation leads PJ

Trotz...

(Continued From Page 1)

ulum to younger children as young as 18 months old," shares Mrs. Trotz. "I do think it's very important for the same curriculum to exist throughout the age levels, and this continuity will provide an exemplary education to our children and prepare them for kindergarten and beyond."

"The Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center is such a vital part of the life of the Temple Israel community, and the Board of Trustees is thrilled for the leadership and vision that Blair brings," says Leigh Mansberg, president of the TemLibrary programming with the support of local donors. Beyond a mere book delivery service, PJ Library is a dynamic initiative fostering connections within the community.

Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, executive vice president of Memphis Jewish Federation and chief impact officer of Jewish Community Partners, expressed confidence in Sarah's ability to enhance the PJ Library program, saying, "In her short time as campaign associate, Sarah has already built new relationships with young, Jewish families in our community. I am confident she will take our PJ Library program to new heights."

PJ Library actively fosters collaboration with key community institutions, including the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC), local synagogues, early childhood centers, and Jewish day schools to incorporate Jewish stories and engaging programming into school and community events. One such collaboration is MJCC's PJ Library Snack & Story, led by Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel.

Most recently, PJ Library collaborated with eight community partners for the wildly successful Pajamakkah program – an interactive Hanukkah experience that drew nearly 300 participants from across the Memphis Jewish community.

With 326 children and 256 families already benefiting from PJ Library in Memphis, the impact is undeniable. Ms. Besser's appointment as PJ Library coordinator signifies a commitment to fostering a sense of belonging among young Jewish families in Memphis and strengthening their connections to Jewish life. Take part in this enriching experience for your family by registering for PJ Library today at jcpmemphis.org/ pjlibrary. For more information, email sbesser@jcpmemphis.org or call 901-767-7100. **HW** Hebrew Watchman

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Weekly Torah Portion: Vayigash

istrator in the district," says Mrs. Trotz. "To get back to melding my love for Judaism with my professional career... it's nice to be connected all the way around."

Rabbi Jeff Dreifus, assistant rabbi at Temple Israel and a parent of the preschool shares in the excitement of its new leadership. "We are thrilled to welcome Blair as the new head of school. Her decades as an educator and administrator, her calm and steadfast leadership, and most importantly her kind and caring soul, make her the perfect choice to lead our Barbara K. Lipman ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50 Payable in Advance

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Early Learning Center into its fourth decade. Our community's Jewish future is brighter because Blair is shaping our next generation."

For Mrs. Trotz, creating a bright and vibrant community requires more than just big picture thinking. "I think it's all the small things that make a difference to people. It's the small incremental things you do and the little touches that you put in place that make a school what it is. This place is already great, and it is going to be even more amazing as time goes on." **HW**

ple Israel board. "A profoundly gifted educator who has been a part of so many families' learning journey, we can't wait to see how she continues to elevate the learning experience as she brings her special magic to next generation."

On a personal level, this new role provides Mrs. Trotz with something that was previously missing. "Part of what I loved [when thinking about this role] is the opportunity to be back in a Jewish educational environment. When I left my role at Memphis Shelby County Schools, I was the only Jewish admin-



Brian Lurie Broker, Vice-President GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

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Salon Circle Presents "L'DOR V'DOR" from Generation to Generation

As we have watched, cried and prayed for our "mishpocha" in Israel and at home, we stop to think of the importance of our family and friends and of our histories, so intertwined. Our upcoming musical program, planned before October 7, 2023, features outstanding musicians in our community.

We know how music, the arts, values, traditions, and culture are passed from one generation to another.

On December 28 at 1 p.m. in the Audubon Square Party Room we will hear it! Everyone is invited to hear these wonderful pairs of musicians!

Our program presenters are:

Diane Cohen and Arielle Cohen, violinists

Alisa Horn, cellist, and Jan Horn, pianist

A variety of salads and desserts will be prepared by our members. The cost of lunch is \$10.

Please RSVP to Linda Bedrin at lindabedrin@gmail.com or 901-355-0350.

Diane Cohen is originally from San Diego, California. Her mother was a violinist in the San Diego Symphony, and her father was a professional clarinetist who taught at UCSD. Diane began studying violin with her mother's best friend, Judy Coker, at eight years of age. She completed her Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance at Indiana University and her Master of Music at Arizona State University. She won an audition as assistant principal in the Memphis Symphony Orchestra 12 years ago and performs in many venues with the symphony. Diane met her husband, David, soon after arriving in Memphis. Arielle has played the violin since she was four, is now seven years old and studies with Daina Staggs of Dallas. Diane practices with her every day. Arielle's brother, Joshua, three years old, is taking piano lessons.

Alisa Horn began cello lessons at age four at Rhodes College where her mother, Jan, was teaching Suzuki Violin. Jan received her Bachelor of Music degree from Southwestern at Memphis, now Rhodes College, and performed with the Memphis Symphony and Opera Memphis orchestras. Alisa's grandmother, Janice Lowi, taught piano and played organ at Temple Beth Israel in Gadsden, Alabama, for 60 years. Alisa was surrounded by music in her home via her parents and siblings. She studied with Professor Peter Spurbeck at the University of Memphis who taught her to love to perform and to love the cello. Alisa completed her Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from the University of Michigan and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. She spent 12 years in New York City as a freelance cellist playing on Broadway and performing with many singer/songwriters and touring with the Inventions Trio. Since returning to Memphis, Alisa has completed her Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Memphis. She is excited to be able to use music and counseling to help people in the Memphis community.

We look forward to seeing everyone at what will be a very entertaining program for all.

 \sim Jan and Linda HW

Is It OK to Eat? Child Hostages Ask Doctors Who Treated Them



Trauma. Courtesy of Schneider Children's Medical Center. By Etgar Lefkovits

(JNS) – Is it OK to eat? Can we look out the window? Is it alright to leave the room?

These were among the questions that scores of traumatized Israeli children held hostage for over 50 days by Hamas in Gaza asked doctors and social workers during their first days of freedom and recuperation earlier this month.

Slowly, the children began to regain their trust. A half-smile; an immediately granted after-midnight request for schnitzel and mashed potatoes. After some days, they were released from the hospital as doctors worked to help these child hostages return home. Yet their journey is only just beginning.

'Shadows of children' return home

They have been called "shadows of children." Thin and emaciated, pallid and fearful; and all-of-a-sudden grown up, some orphaned, others with a parent still left behind in captivity in Gaza.

For over 50 days, many were kept in tiny underground rooms in tunnels, with no window and no daylight, recounted Dr. Dana Singer-Harel, a pediatrician at Schneider Children's Hospital in Petach Tikvah, who was part of a team of doctors and social workers who tended to





Soooo very special! Enlarged & Updated with custom enhancements, recent updates and



the child hostages after their release from Gaza.

They suffered from meager food, no sanitary conditions, and the fear of the unknown. Some didn't know how much time had passed or where they were. The lucky ones had their mothers or siblings with them. Some heard of family members killed on the Hebrew news radio that their captors were listening to.

Most of the children lost between 10-15% of their body weight, the pediatrician said. Some of the children were not allowed to shower even once in their 54-day captivity, while others showered just once with a bucket of water.

"This was not something you could prepare for by reading a medical textbook," Singer-Harel said last Thursday in an interview. "It was a case-by-case basis. There was no good way to prepare for this."

"In my wildest dreams these were stories that I never thought I would hear," added Ifat Ezer-Cohen, a hospital social worker.

And those were the lucky ones. Two children, including the youngest hostage, a baby 10 months old, and his 4-year-old brother remain unaccounted for, their fate unknown since they were not released with the rest of the 30-some children freed during the periodic releases held in November.

Most of the children released from captivity were brought to Schneider Children's Hospital where they spent between two nights to a week, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Besides being emaciated and fearful, many had stomach flu, diarrhea and lice, but were otherwise physically in stable condition, Singer-Harel said. Because of the emotional trauma that they underwent, many of the children had regressive responses, and became more childlike such as wetting their pants after previously being toilet trained, she said.

Those who had their mothers with them fared the best.

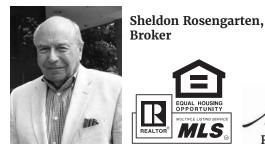
"It was amazing to see how much better those children who had their mothers with them fared both physically and mentally compared to those who were alone," Singer-Harel said.

The social worker recounted how some of the mothers made up stories so that their children would not be fearful telling them they were in a safe place because there was a war going on at home. As such, the children called their captors "the guards with the beard" or "the guards with the gun," she said.

"The mothers' main motivation was to protect their children," said Ezer-Cohen. "Every choice they made – whether it what they said or how much they ate – was related to how to save their children."

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Recently released from the hospital and back with their friends and relatives if not at home, which in some cases was damaged or destroyed, it remains unclear how long it will take these children to recover from their trauma, whether it will be months or even years.

"The mental rehabilitation will take time," said Singer-Harel.

"It is hard to say how long it will be," said Ezer-Cohen. "This is a journey that they need to recover from." **HW**

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Israeli Forces Recover Bodies of Three Hostages from Gaza



Israeli hostage Elia Toledano. Courtesy.

By Pesach Benson

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces soldiers have recovered the body of hostage Elia Toledano, the IDF announced last Friday morning.

The body of the 28-year-old Toledano was identified by medical and rabbinical officials as well as the Israel Police.

The IDF did not indicate how or when he died.

Hours later, the military announced that forces operating in Gaza retrieved the bodies of two more Israeli hostages: Cpl. Nik Beizer, 19, and Sgt. Ron Sherman, 19.

Toledano was taken captive at the Supernova music festival at Kibbutz Reim. More than 360 people were massacred at the outdoor event and another 40 were taken hostage.

Beizer and Sherman were kidnapped

by Hamas terrorists during assaults on their bases near Gaza border.

"Our national mission is to locate the missing and return all the hostages home. We are working together with security agencies, and with all intelligence and operational means to return the captives," said the IDF.

Last Wednesday, authorities confirmed that an Israeli and a Tanzanian taken hostage by Hamas on Oct. 7 died in captivity in Gaza.

Tal Chaimi, 41, was a third-generation member of Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak. The father of three, a dual Israeli-Romanian citizen, he was a member of the kibbutz's security team. It was thought that he had been taken alive to Gaza, but new evidence indicates Chaimi was killed, and his body taken to the Strip.

Joshua Mollel, a 21-year-old agricultural intern from Tanzania, was abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz. He was murdered in captivity.

At least 1,200 people were killed in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on Oct. 7. The number of men, women, children, soldiers and foreigners held captive in Gaza is now believed to be 138. Other people remain unaccounted for as Israeli authorities continue to identify bodies and search for human remains. **HW**

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Telling the Story of the Heroes of Oct. 7



Graphic: Courtesy of Tehila Bar Hama.

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – Eran the potato farmer. Rachel the food hostess. Michaela the midwife.

All three are residents of the northwestern Negev who were caught in Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre; all three are heroes who were able to think quickly on their feet and save myriad lives on that dreadful day.

Their stories of heroism, and many more, are being gathered and documented online for children, to give them strength and create a sense of unity amid the horrors being shared about Oct. 7.

The name of the project is "The Heroes of October 7th: Stories for Children," with the accounts of heroism originally published in Hebrew, and now available on Facebook in English and French as well.

The project is the brainchild of Hadassah Ben Ari, an Israeli mother of seven, who told JNS she spent Oct. 7, Simchat Torah, shuttling her children in and out of a Jerusalem bomb shelter.

"I saw from the expressions on my children's faces that they didn't understand what was going on. When we got home to Pardes Hanna [between Netanya and Haifa], where it was quiet, I felt like they didn't understand the depths of the war, and our need for unity.

"So I told them a story from the point of view of our heroes. When I saw they were smiling and were able to connect, I decided to tell them a story every day."

It was then that Ben Ari decided she wanted to share what happened on Oct. 7 with the next generation of children in Israel and Jewish communities abroad, "from the point of view of our wonderful heroes and heroines."

'They heard their brothers were in danger'

Dr. Allison Kupietzky, the English-language project manager for the initiative, told JNS that she connected to what Ben Ari was trying to accomplish.

"On the first day of the war my nephew, [Sgt. First Class Yosef Malachi Guedalia] fell [in battle]. It really echoed with me that we need to give a name and a face to these heroes who left their homes on Simchat Torah; left their families and drove down because they heard their brothers were in danger."

Kupietzky said that Ben Ari, a professional writer and editor, started on her own, and shortly after she began to post the stories on social media, a team of about 20 people joined to help.

Kupietzky enlisted volunteer editors and translators to make the stories shared by Ben Ari available in English. "We are now close to 120 stories, so it's a profound and meaningful project for this time."

Joslynne Halibard, the English-language editor of the project, told JNS: "We are trying to share these stories with as big of an audience as possible. It [the war] obviously affects our children here in Israel the most, but children abroad want to read about it, and either be comforted or be able to identify with children here in Israel."

Kupietzky added, "Current events in Israel and in the Jewish communities overseas are in the children's faces. They can't ignore it. There are posters around them [of hostages], news reports, and their parents are worried.

"This project is so important because it allows the children to view [the situation] through this carefully curated list of stories – which have been reviewed by a psychologist, and gives them the strength and sense of unity we need so much today."

The Facebook page with the compilation of stories offers professional "guidelines for parents" before, during and after reading the stories to their children, to ensure that the story is appropriate and will in no way result in the opposite effect of triggering anxiety or adding to their fears.

Ben Ari said that since launching the projects more and more Israeli parents have contacted her, wanting to share stories of the heroism displayed by their adult children who died in defense of the country. Her goal is to turn the stories she gathers into a book in multiple languages.

"I have already gotten feedback from all over the world, including in countries where there is so much antisemitism that Jews are taking down mezuzot and are afraid to light Chanukah candles in public. I feel like I have to connect them to Israel, the one place in the world where you can openly be proud to be Jewish," she said.

"What Hamas did was unleash more evil into the world. Our response is to add goodness to the world, by sharing the stories of true heroism, by our soldiers and those who protect us. That is the Zionist response," Ben Ari said. **HW**

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Attacker of Jewish Couple in Beverly Hills on Shabbat Faces Multiple Charges

(JNS) – Prosecutors have charged Jarris Jay Silagi, 44, with multiple crimes following his alleged attack on Dec. 9 against a Jewish couple walking on Shabbat to their synagogue in Beverly Hills, Calif., saying it was an act of violence that "caused great bodily injury during the commission of the crime."

Silagi allegedly ran towards the husband and wife, hitting the kippah-wearing man on the head with a belt before attempting to rob the woman. The crimes were caught on video.

The assault led prosecutors to file charges including one count of attempted second-degree robbery; one count of elder or dependent adult abuse, infliction of injury; one count of assault with a deadly weapon; and two counts of assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury.

"I unequivocally condemn the violent attack inflicted upon those peacefully observing their faith," said Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón.

"Such acts of antisemitism have no place in our community, and we continue to be committed to ensuring justice prevails and holding the defendant accountable," he continued. "Our thoughts are with the victims and all those who continue to be targeted for their faith. My office's Hate Crimes Unit will work diligently to bring justice to the victims." **HW**

Exploring the Wonders of Hanukkah at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab



Volunteers and staff deliver Hanukkah gifts to residents at the Home.

By Jasmine Williams

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) shared the spirit of Hanukkah far and wide with their residents this December and plan to keep it going throughout 2024.

Hanukkah celebrations took place all week long at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. We hosted a latke-making competition, delivered gifts to all our patients and residents, and gathered to light the menorah every day. We celebrated Hanukkah together, as it should always be. Rabbi Kelman shared words of encouragement with us, he said, "As long as mankind makes their best effort to bring God's light into the world, small and feeble as it may seem, know that God will take care of the rest. Then God's light will illuminate the entire world."

At the latke-making competition, residents created their delectable recipes. Whether they wanted cheese, sour cream and spinach or just plain latkes with parsley; the recipes were tasty. The latkes were judged by the resident council president, Jo, and two staff members. The competition ended with crowning our resident, Teresa, as the Latke Champion of 2023. MJHR staff and board members helped spread more joy throughout the week by delivering gifts to the residents' rooms, and we had a special visit from Robb Zelonky who sang some delightful Hanukkah tunes!

As most of us know well, Hanukkah teaches us that in difficult times we should come together, not hide away, and remain dedicated to what matters most. Hanukkah translates from Hebrew as dedication or rededication, reminding us that even when we lose our way there is always a path back. MJHR is always dedicated to giving our residents a safe and compassionate place to thrive, but this year, we are rededicating ourselves to spreading the light not only in December. For 2024, we hope our community will join us in rededicating ourselves to connecting with the ones around you, supporting the community you love, and



Teresa, winner of the latkemaking competition!

always encouraging others because everyone deserves compassion.

Hanukkah activities at the Home are generously supported by the Ben and Larisa Baer Jewish Activities Fund. We are grateful to them for helping to uphold our Jewish heritage and environment.

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. Find more information at www. memphisjewishhome.org/giving. HW



Robb Zelonky performs Hanukkah tunes for residents during the menorah candle lighting.

SALON CIRCLE PRESENTS "L'DOR V'DOR" From Generation to Generation

As we have watched, cried and prayed for our "mishpocha" in Israel and at home, we stop to think of the importance of our family and friends and of our histories, so intertwined. Our upcoming musical program, planned before October 7, 2023, features outstanding musicians in our community. We know how music, the arts, values, traditions, and culture are passed from one generation to another. On December 28 we will hear it! Everyone is invited to hear these wonderful pairs of musicians!

> Our program presenters are: Diane Cohen and Arielle Cohen, violinists Alisa Horn, cellist and Jan Horn, pianist

DATE/TIME: Thursday, December 28, 2023, 1:00 P.M. PLACE: Audubon Square Party Room

A variety of salads and desserts will be prepared by our members. The cost of lunch is \$10. Please RSVP to Linda Bedrin at lindabedrin@gmail.com or 901-355-0350







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Federation Sends Local Teen Professionals to JFNA Ignite Convening for Inspiration and Insights



Julee Levine (I) and Carolyn Schrier at Ignite Conference

Recently, Memphis Jewish Federation sent Carolyn Schrier, B'nai Tzedek coordinator for Jewish Foundation of Memphis, and Julee Levine, director of education at Beth Sholom Synagogue, to Ignite, an interactive network-building experience for Jewish teen leaders. The two-day Chicago conference

BBYO Hanukkah and Havdalah Celebration



The first weekend of December, BBYO celebrates Shabbat globally.

In Delta Region, each of our communities did something special to celebrate.

BBYO Memphis gathered at Temple Israel for a night of prayers, fun and tzedakah.

It was a great night for all the Memphis teens to gather to light the menorah and

Havdalah candle. They had a great time playing our Hanukkah mini-golf course that went through the halls in Temple. The Gibson Donut bar with every topping and icing was a huge hit. Teens also received community service hours for writing letters to IDF soldiers fighting right now.

It was a special evening with lots of Memphis teens! **HW**

provided them with creative teen engagement strategies, including ways to include youth voices in community engagement.

"Ignite was an exceptional opportunity to network and connect with others in the broad field of Jewish teen engagement," reflected Julee. "I gained new ways of thinking and new ideas from colleagues who work in synagogues, camps, community organizations, and youth movements across the country."

The evolving landscape over the past decade, particularly in mental health, education on Israel, and addressing, antisemitism stood out as central topics. As Carolyn noted, "Teens still need peerbased socializing opportunities, and they want a return on their time investment."

Her overarching takeaway emphasized the significance of providing opportunities for teens to engage in their everyday lives through a Jewish lens. Carolyn stressed, "Our Jewish teen leaders need to foster teen-centric experiences, and ensure the teens, and the staff that serve them, feel valued and included in how the general community grows and evolves." Both Julee and Carolyn want to nurture and support Memphis Jewish teens, as they develop into active leaders who will help grow a vibrant Jewish community.

"We were pleased to offer this professional development opportunity to all our Memphis Jewish teen professionals and are thrilled that Carolyn and Julee were able to attend the conference," said Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, executive vice president of Memphis Jewish Federation. "Upon their return, they both presented their key takeaways to Federation's Teen Professionals Council. We look forward to the conference's long-term impact on Jewish teen engagement in Memphis."

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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MJCC Chanukah... (Continued From Page 1)



the food was absolutely delicious and plentiful! Thank you for an exceptional program!"

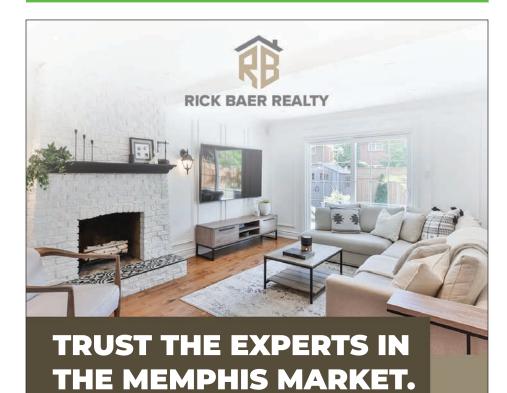
"Thank you for organizing a really excellent community event. It is rare that you go to a Jewish event that runs on time and smoothly. We were very

impressed with the efficiency, delicious hot fresh food, and great entertainment. It was a nice display of community achdus (unity)."

We look forward to having many more community celebrations in the future and hope to see you all. HW



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New FAFSA Favors Grandparent College Giving

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

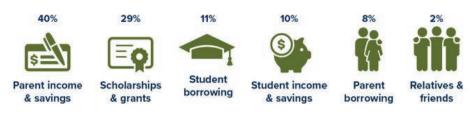
Helping a grandchild obtain a college degree could be a lifelong gift, but grandparent giving has often required fiscal gymnastics to avoid reducing a student's financial aid eligibility. That is changing with the 2024–2025 Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens in December 2023. The changes apply to any gifts from grandparents, including distributions from grandparent-owned 529 plans, which offer tax-free growth when funds are used to pay a beneficiary's qualified education expenses.

Distributions and Gifts No Longer Counted

Under the old rules, grandparent gifts and grandparent-owned 529 distributions were counted as untaxed student income and assessed at 50% when calculating student resources, which would typically reduce a student's financial aid award. The new FAFSA will no longer include a question about gifts from grandparents and will draw student income information solely from the student's tax return, which would not include gifts or 529 distributions.

This means that grandparents will be able to help with their grandchild's college expenses without affecting the student's eligibility for financial aid based on the FAFSA. Keep in mind, however, that grandparent gifts and 529 distributions will likely continue to be counted by the CSS Profile, an additional aid application typically used by private colleges when distributing their own institutional aid. **A Family Project**

Here's how the typical family paid for college during the 2022-2023 school year



Source: Sallie Mae, 2023

The FAFSA uses a two-year "look-back" period for income, so the 2024–2025 FAF-SA will be based on the student's 2022 tax return. Thus, a grandparent gift or distribution in 2022 won't affect the 2024–2025 FAFSA, and the same treatment will apply to gifts and distributions in 2023 and later years.

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses associated with 529 plans before investing. This information and more is available in the plan's official statement and applicable prospectuses, including details about investment options, underlying investments, and the investment company; read it carefully before investing. Also consider whether your state offers a 529 plan that provides residents with favorable state tax benefits and other benefits, such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors. Generally, there are 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. For withdrawals not used for higher-education expenses, earnings may be subject to taxation as ordinary income and a 10% federal tax penalty.

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'Deep Remorse,' after IDF Kills Three Israeli Hostages it Misidentifies as Terrorists

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces mistakenly identified three Israeli hostages as threats and killed them amid combat in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shuja'iyya, the Israeli military stated last Friday.

"During searches and checks in the area in which the incident occurred, a suspicion arose over the identities of the deceased," the IDF stated. "Their bodies were transferred to Israeli territory for examination, after which it was confirmed that they were three Israeli hostages."

Upon further examination of the bodies, Israel identified the three hostages: Yotam Haim, 28, whom Hamas terrorists kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza; Samer Talalka, 22, whom Hamas kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Am; and third hostage, whose family asked that his name not be publicized at this time.

"The IDF began reviewing the incident immediately," the military said. "The IDF emphasizes that this is an active combat zone in which ongoing fighting over the last few days has occurred. Immediate lessons from the event have been learned, which have been passed on to all IDF troops in the field."

The Israeli military "expresses deep remorse over the tragic incident and sends the families its heartfelt condolences," it added. "Our national mission is to locate the missing and return all the hostages home." **HW**

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Let's Connect

Eric A. Trotz Awarded 2023 REALTOR of the Year



Eric A. Trotz

the Memphis Chapter of the Appraisal Institute as a committee member on numerous occasions in addition to serving twice as chapter president. Eric is currently serving the Tennessee REAL-TORS on their Professional Standards Committee and is the current Memphis chapter representative of the Tennessee Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. He is also a current member of the National Association of REALTORS Real Property Valuation Committee where he works with the executive editor of "REALTOR Magazine" to organize and help facilitate publishing appraisal-related articles provided to their 1,500,000 + members.

Eric specializes in commercial real

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Eric A. Trotz, with Trotz Real Estate Services, Inc., was recently named the 2023 REALTOR of the Year, the highest honor presented annually by the 4,754-member Memphis Area Association of REALTORS (MAAR). This award is bestowed upon a REALTOR member in recognition of his or her civic, business, and industry/organizational contributions and achievements during the most recent five years, with special focus on the most immediate past 12 months.

Eric has been a MAAR member since 1984 and is a prior Board of Directors member where he served as secretary/ treasurer. He has also served on numerous MAAR committees including Professional Development, Professional Standards, Budget and Finance, Grievance, Nominating, Governing Documents and Appraisal.

Eric is a past director of the Tennessee REALTORS and has also served estate and focuses on appraisals and commercial leasing/brokerage. Eric is a Lifetime Member of the MAAR Multi-Million Dollar Club.

According to Eric, "I am surrounded daily by an amazing group of professional colleagues, all of whom are hardworking and dedicated to MAAR and our profession. I am truly honored and humbled by having received the MAAR REALTOR of the Year award, and I share this recognition with so many other outstanding REALTORS and Affiliate Members, too, who dedicate themselves every day to true professionalism, customer satisfaction, and extensive community involvement."

Though named differently, Trotz Real Estate Services, Inc. began in the 1930s, and Eric is the third owner of the company. Trotz Real Estate Services, Inc. serves numerous municipalities, governmental and public entities, landlords, tenants, attorneys and private individuals. **HW**

Arlene Hurtig Rubel

Arlene Hurtig Rubel, 86, died in the Methodist Alliance Hospice in Memphis on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, after a long illness. She was born January 15, 1937, in Greenville, Miss., and grew up in the neighboring town of Leland, Miss. She graduated Leland High School in 1955. While in school she played flute and was a majorette in the high school band. She attended Newcomb college (women's division of Tulane University) for one year, followed by one year at the University of Mississippi. After a year in a secretarial school in Memphis, she moved to Washington, D.C. and began working as a secretary for Congressman John C. Watts of Kentucky, a job she held for 10 years before retiring.

In 1979, Arlene met her future husband, Milton Rubel, and in 1980 they were married. The Rubels settled in Blytheville, Ark., where Milton worked as manager of the Sears Roebuck store. Arlene moved to Collierville, Tenn., after her beloved husband died in 2003, so that she could be close to her stepdaughter, Leigh Ann Ryan. She was a devoted grandmother to Leigh Ann and Mike Ryan's sons, Zachary and Jacob. She was always available to pick them up from school, and she faithfully attended all of their school functions, especially swim meets and baseball games. The boys loved that Arlene regularly took them to The Country's Best Yogurt for afternoon treats.

Arlene and Milton travelled frequently within the U.S. and in Europe. Their interest in other countries led them to host two foreign exchange students. One of them, Karsten Myhre from Norway, lived with the Rubels for a year in Blytheville and attended high school there. Karsten went on to graduate from medical school and is now a vascular surgeon in Oslo. Arlene and Milton considered Karsten their adopted son and stayed close with him over the years. After Milton died, Arlene attended Karsten's wedding in 2004.

Arlene enjoyed reading the "Commercial Appeal," watching television, attending regular Jazzercise classes and eating late-night ice cream. She liked socializing with friends until she became too disabled from illness. She was a long-standing member of Temple Israel. Arlene had a remarkable memory for other peoples' birthdays and anniversaries. She never failed to send greeting cards and gifts to members of her family and to close friends on these occasions. She is survived by her brother, Howard Hurtig of Philadelphia, Pa., her sister, Bonnie Sue Hurtig of Bellingham Wash., the Ryans of Memphis and several nieces and nephews. Donations in her memory

OBITUARIES



Michael David Weiss

Michael David Weiss passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 10 surrounded by some of his favorite people. He was laid to rest on Monday, December 11, 2023, at Temple Israel Cemetery.

Michael was born in Waukegan, Ill., on March 8, 1937, to Adolph and Betty Cantor. Though his father died when he was young, his childhood in Chicago was filled with love. After his father's untimely death, his mother married Alexander Weiss – or Papa Sonny as he was known within the family. Papa Sonny adopted Michael, officially making him a Weiss.

Michael attended the University of Oklahoma, where he studied Journalism and loved ROTC. He made lifelong Sigma Alpha Mu friends with his hilarious wit. Most importantly, he met Marcia Ann (Annie) Pinstein. Enamored from the start – ask his family how their relationship began – it was clear these two were meant to be.

The inseparable duo married on June 15, 1958, and moved to New Jersey, where Michael served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps. Once he completed his military commitment, Michael and Annie moved back to Memphis – as his mother-in-law made clear was non-negotiable. Thus began a lifetime of love, laughter and many children.

Trudi arrived first, and shortly after, Bill and Betsy. The Weiss clan soon moved into their "famous" house in East Memphis, where Marty and Dory made the home complete.

The Weiss house – that Michael built as he launched his residential homebuilding business – served (and continues to serve) as the spot of so much joy, celebration and legendary stories for so many in and outside the family.

Though he considered his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as his greatest achievements, Michael's professional and personal accomplishments continue to make his family beam.

Michael's career started in advertising, but he transitioned into the building business, thanks to his mentor, Irby Cooper. After a successful career in residential home building, he turned his focus to commercial real estate development and eventually launched his company, Weiss and Weiss. He was named "Home Builder of the Year" and was the president of the West TN Home Builders Association.

Michael used his talents to help so many within the Jewish community. He served as president of the Memphis Jewish Community Center and oversaw its massive renovation in the late 1990s. Michael also served as vice president on the Temple Israel Board of Trustees and played an integral role in the synagogue's early 2000s renovation. Michael quietly helped others in countless ways.

Michael loved his life and always lived it to the fullest. Whether hosting Shabbat dinners for his family of 25+, regularly beating his son-in-law, Reid, on the golf course, watching the Grizzlies or Cubs on his beloved porch, starring in "Fiddler on the Roof" (twice!) "Oklahoma" or "Annie," or playing the saxophone, his infectious energy made him one-ofa-kind. He will be sorely missed.

Michael leaves his treasured wife of 65+ years, Marcia Ann Weiss; his brother, Jay Weiss (Linda); five children, Trudi Evensky (Reid), Dr. William Weiss (Patti), Betsy Libby (Steve), Dr. Martin Weiss, and Dory Greenberg (David); 18 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to MIFA, the Memphis Jewish Community Center or Temple Israel Synagogue. **HW**

Apple Blocks Islamic Jihad and PFLP Telegram Channels on iPhone

(JNS) – The official Telegram channels of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organizations were blocked this week on all devices using Apple's iOS.

The channels were the main propaganda outlets of the U.S.-designated terrorist groups, which used Telegram to share videos of kidnappings and killings of Israeli civilians and IDF soldiers.

Apple's decision came after a U.S.based NGO, the Zachor Legal Institute, approached it with a request to block the channels.

Google has taken a similar action on its Android devices, blocking two Hamas channels and the three PIJ and PFLP channels as well.

In October, Apple and Google took similar action against Hamas propaganda channels. **HW**

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Dutch Mayor Refuses to be Photographed with Israeli Ambassador at Hanukkah Event, Setting Off Media Frenzy



Roelef Bleker is mayor of the Dutch town of Enschede. Credit: Wilfried Brandsma/ Wikimedia Commons

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – A Hanukkah celebration in the Dutch town of Enschede took a bitter turn after its mayor refused to be seen near the Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands.

Jaap Hartog, chairman of the Enschede synagogue, invited Mayor Roelof Bleker to a celebration of Hanukkah and the synagogue's 95th anniversary last Monday night. He reserved a seat for Bleker next to Israeli Ambassador Modi Ephraim, who was visiting Enschede for the occasion.

But hours before the event, Hartog received a call with preconditions from Bleker.

"The mayor didn't want to sit next to the ambassador, didn't want to shake hands with him and especially didn't want to shake hands with a photographer present, so he wouldn't have trouble with photos in the media," Hartog told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Hartog responded by telling the mayor not to come at all. However, when Bleker insisted on joining, he was received and seated on the synagogue's balcony between other guests.

Bleker said his intention was to keep a distance from the war in Israel and Gaza and avoid images that might stir controversy. But that effort backfired, as his stipulations prompted a media frenzy in the Netherlands this week.

Enschede's small community of Jews – about 45 in total – were already frustrated with Bleker, according to Hartog. He said that Bleker rejected their requests for increased security and surveillance after Oct. 7, despite a surge of antisemitic attacks across the country.

The Central Jewish Board of the Netherlands also criticized Bleker. Chairman Chanan Hertzberger chided him not only for conditioning his appearance at the synagogue, but also for sitting in the back instead of the front seat originally reserved for him.

"The mayor should sit at the front of such a celebration," said Hertzberger in translated remarks. "We can only conclude that this mayor projects his criticism of Israel onto the Jewish residents of his city."

Bleker said he regretted the controversy in a public statement last Tuesday, noting that he had called both Ephraim and Hartog to apologize. He [was scheduled to meet] with Hartog on Friday.

But Bleker appeared to stand by his desire for separation from the Israel-Hamas war. "I am there for all Enschede residents and therefore want to stay away from international conflicts," he said.

Ephraim acknowledged the spat but emphasized his own appearance at the synagogue in posts on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Anyway it was an emotional Hanukkah celebration in Enschede, with hundreds of Christians and Jewish friends of Israel," Ephraim wrote. "In my words I called to stand together against hatred and antisemitism." **HW**

The Hebrew Watchman publishes obituaries (up to 500 words) as a service to the Jewish community at no charge. Over 500 words there is a minimum fee.

GOP Picks Mazi Melesa Pilip, Ethiopian-Born Israeli-American, to Run to Replace George Santos



Mazi Melesa Pilip, a Nassau County legislator, calls for the prosecution of the alleged assailant in the violent attack on a Jewish New Yorker in 2021, at a press conference, in Mineola, New York, Jan. 29, 2023. (Instagram)

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Long Island Republicans selected Mazi Melesa Pilip, an Ethiopian Jewish Nassau County legislator, to run in the special election to replace George Santos, who was expelled after he was exposed for alleged fraud and lies, including that he was Jewish.

Pilip emerged as a likely contender to replace Santos when his lies were exposed soon after his election last year, and she was officially named last Thursday as the candidate, nearly two weeks after Santos' expulsion. She will face Democrat Tom Suozzi, who is hoping to get his old job back after quitting the seat in an unsuccessful bid for governor. The special election is Feb. 13.

Pilip, 44, is an Orthodox Jewish mother of seven who served as a paratrooper in the Israeli army and campaigned in Israel for better representation of Ethiopian Jews. She has also taken a prominent role in campaigning against the spike in antisemitism in New York since Hamas terrorists massacred 1,200 people in Israel on Oct. 7, launching Israel's current war in Gaza.

Pilip was 12 during Operation Solomon, the 1991 airlift that brought Ethiopian Jews to Israel. After a stint in the paratroop division of the army, she studied occupational therapy and diplomacy at Israeli universities, where she met her Ukrainian-American husband who was then a medical student.

In Israel, she led the Ethiopian Student Union for two years. "I was a voice of so many young kids who wanted equal opportunity and really my main focus was especially education, because I do believe through education, you can achieve a lot and you can integrate into the society," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in January.

Pilip ran for her seat on the Nassau County legislature in 2021 in part because of the antisemitism she said her son faced in middle school. She ousted a Democrat to win her spot in 2021 after asking Jewish supporters to put her up over Shabbat so she could visit synagogues. She was handily reelected last month.

Pilip was among a broad swath of Long Island Republicans who denounced Santos and called on him to resign as soon as his deceptions were revealed.

"I trusted him, and I told people to vote for him. I campaigned with him. And so when you do something like this, and then keep every day there's something new coming about him," she told JTA. "It's making you feel uncomfortable because people asking, you know, 'What's going on, Mazi? What happened with this guy?"" **HW**

DEADLINE FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAY AT 5PM WEEK PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

House Passes Annual Defense Bill with Key Israel Provisions Under the bill, Israel will receive hundreds of millions of dollars for defense cooperation with the United States, as well as training on aerial refueling its air force.

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act last Thursday for fiscal year 2024. The NDAA includes several provisions designed to support Israel and counter Iran.

The annual defense spending bill passed on a bipartisan basis, 310-118 – with 73 Republicans and 45 Democrats voting against the measure – after its companion bill passed in the Senate last Wednesday, 87-13.

Both conservative and progressive opponents of the bill cited its extension of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which permits warrantless wiretapping of foreign communications, including contact with U.S. citizens. They also cited the defense expenditure's price tag: \$886.3 billion.

The 2024 defense spending bill also includes several provisions designed to support Israel and counter Iranian influence in the Mideast.

Under the bill, Israel will receive \$500 million for missile-defense cooperation, \$47.5 million in new spending for U.S.-Israel cooperation on emerging defense technologies and \$55 million for the U.S.-Israel counter-drone program, as well as training on aerial refueling for the Israeli Air Force.

Israel's ability to carry out mid-air refueling is currently limited to its fleet

of decades-old, repurposed Boeing 707 tankers. It is set to receive four more modern KC-46A tankers from Boeing in 2025, which the United States will train Israel to use and could signal an increased capability to strike at Iran's nuclear facilities.

The NDAA also establishes a presidential envoy for the Abraham Accords at the ambassadorial rank, intended to promote integration and new normalization agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Dan Shapiro, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, currently holds a similar position at a lower official rank.

Countering Iranian threats and those

posed by its regional proxies is also a part of the bill, which would require the U.S. defense secretary to further integrate Israel into the U.S. maritime security strategy to counter Iranian maritime threats.

The Israel funding in the NDAA is separate from the Biden administration's \$106 billion supplemental foreign aid request, which includes \$14.3 billion for Israel and more than \$61 billion for Ukraine. Those proposals remain deadlocked in the House and Senate over the inclusion of Ukraine and Republican demands for additional security measures at the southern U.S. border.

The NDAA will now proceed to U.S. President Joe Biden for signature. **HW**

Young Israel's 5784 / 2023 Chanukah Chagiga



Local magician Jeffrey Day shared a captivating performance at YI's Chanukah Chagiga

By Rabbi Akiva Males

It may have been cool outside, but inside Young Israel of Memphis on Tuesday evening, December 12 – the sixth night of Chanukah – the scene was warm and inviting. Close to 250 adults and children turned out to enjoy a funfilled evening in honor of the holiday.

Young Israel's Chanukah Chagiga (celebration) was a great success. The event truly provided something for everyone. Attendees enjoyed each other's company, and a delicious BBQ-themed dinner including soup, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, potato latkes and drinks.

But food was only part of the attraction. During dinner, a variety of fun Chanukah crafts, games and prizes entertained the children. The meal was capped off with joyous singing as we celebrated the Sheva Berachos of Dr. Beth (Katz) and Jeffrey Daman – who returned to Memphis for one day to celebrate with us! We thank Beth and Jeffrey for turning our Chanukah Chagiga



The event was greatly enhanced by including Sheva Berachos for the newly married Dr. Beth (Katz) and Jeffrey Daman

into a true Simcha – and we wish them a future filled with much health, happiness and success!

Following dinner, everyone gathered in YI's Kahane Sanctuary for a fantastic magic show – led by the talented Jeffrey Day. I was amazed to see how this local magician held all the children (and adults) in the room spellbound for an entire hour.

The delightful evening was made possible thanks to the organizational efforts of Sarah Bauer – YI's Executive Director – and a robust group of generous sponsors and hard-working volunteers.

Bringing so many people – representing such different age groups – together during Chanukah was the perfect way to celebrate the holiday. YI truly appreciates each and every one who helped make this year's Chanukah Chagiga possible!

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@ yiom.org **HW**

Young Israel Shared Chanukah Donuts with 100 IDF Soldiers



Group of IDF soldiers enjoying some of YIOM's Sufganiyot (donuts) on Chanukah

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Chanukah has always been a time in which we share Tzedakah in a generous

fashion. Chanukah is also a terrific time to reach out and share some love with the brave Chayalim (soldiers) of Israel's Defense Forces (IDF). After all, they are doing their best to protect our brothers and sisters in Israel – while away from their own homes, friends and families.

Before and during Chanukah, YI's Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (RDF) was involved in sharing some Chanukah warmth with many deserving individuals and causes. While I'm not able to share the identities of those individuals our Shul was able to assist, I'm happy to identify one terrific cause that Young Israel supported.

This Chanukah, YI once again partnered with www.BasketstoIsrael.com to supply active-duty IDF soldiers with Sufganiyot (donuts) to enhance their Chanukah. Thanks to this year's generous group of sponsors, YI was able to share Sufganiyot with 100 soldiers!

Knowing that a caring Shul in faraway Memphis, Tenn., was thinking of them on Chanukah surely provided those IDF soldiers with a much-appreciated morale boost!

A relative of mine delivered YIOM's donuts and sent me the following message:

"We delivered the donuts today and the soldiers were thrilled. They said that because of the alerts, their commanders canceled all the Chanukah vacations to return home. Many of them have wives and children and it is very difficult to be very far from the family – especially on Chanukah. They were happy to receive fresh donuts and they said that this is a kind of compensation for not having a normal Chanukah holiday."

Yasher Koach to all of Young Israel's RDF supporters who enable this fund to engage in so many meaningful good deeds!

Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org **HW**

Hamas Officials Quit Qatar, Shut Down Cellphones

the U.S., Qatar, which opened an office for Hamas in 2012, has come under crit-

there would be "serious consequences" if Israel attempted to pursue senior Hamas officials "outside the Palestinian territories," whether in Turkey or elsewhere. The warning was delivered to Israel "following the statements of officials," according to the source. As a result, al-Arouri may have felt safer in Turkey, contradicting his past statements that "we are never afraid to die as martyrs."



Doha, Qatar. Credit: Pixabay.

(JNS) – Several Hamas leaders recently left Qatar together with their entourages, cutting off communications including cellphones.

The leaders left for Algeria, Lebanon, Iran and other countries, according to sources cited by "Kan News" Arabic channel. Among Hamas leaders living in Qatar are Ismail Haniyeh, head of the terrorist group's political bureau, Mousa Abu Marzook and Khaled Mashal. They live a life of luxury in the Gulf state even as most Palestinians in Gaza live in abject poverty.

Officially a major non-NATO ally of

icism from Congress for backing the terrorist group. A bipartisan group of 113 U.S. lawmakers sent a letter to President Joe Biden on Oct. 16 asking him to put pressure on countries, including Qatar, that support Hamas.

Another Hamas leader, Saleh al-Arouri, who lives in Lebanon, also has moved location to Turkey. Al-Arouri is typically located in the southern suburbs of Beirut, where Hezbollah's power base is located. There, he coordinated between the two groups and organized activities of Hamas's Lebanon branch, the "Kan" report said.

The recent movement of Hamas leaders may be related to Israel's promise to wipe out the terrorist group's leadership wherever it is found. Ronen Bar, head of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), said on Dec. 3 that Israel will eliminate the leaders of Hamas in Qatar and Turkey.

Following Bar's comments, a Turkish intelligence official told Reuters that Although al-Arouri holds the No. 2 spot in Hamas, a "Kan News" report in September described him as "the most dangerous man in Hamas," a puppet master pulling the strings behind the scenes.

He has repeatedly called for violence against Israelis in Judea and Samaria. "Don't let them feel secure while they're in our land. Cause them to lose a feeling of security and to lose hope so that they'll leave and go someplace else," he has said.

He was imprisoned by Israel for terrorist activities almost continuously from 1992 to 2010. **HW**



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