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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 24 KISLEV, 5784 DECEMBER 7, 2023 VOL. 102, NO. 12

B'nai Tzedek: Empowering Teens, Enriching Lives in Jewish Memphis



B'nai Tzedek members enjoyed a special tour of the MJCC

On Sunday, November 12, B'nai Tzedek teens embarked on a unique adventure, led by B'nai Tzedek Professional Coordinator Carolyn Schrier. Their mission: to explore the profound impact their

acts of kindness could have on various Jewish groups in Memphis. As the day unfolded, it became a journey of discovery, kindness and meaningful connections.

The exploration kicked off at the

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, where Baylee Less, the director of development, warmly welcomed the teens. Expressing gratitude for their participation in the Wishmakers program, she remarked, "What these teens achieved in just one year had a significant impact on the residents here."

Venturing further into Jewish Memphis, Shoshanah Kaplowitz, a 12th grader, reflected on their visit to the JCC. "I gained a different view of our community's Jewish nonprofits during our tours. Taking a blindfolded tour of the JCC gave me a new appreciation of all the JCC and other Jewish nonprofits do for members of our community," shared Shoshanah.

Teddy Karol, an eighth grader, who also gained insights during their exploration added, "We learned how Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service [at the MJCC] helps people find

a brighter path in our city. Our impact on the community is more significant than we thought."

Maggie Olswanger, another eighth grader, offered her perspective, "During the B'nai Tzedek bus trip, I learned many new things about Jewish life in Memphis. Exploring Plough Towers was eye-opening; witnessing how they encourage people to connect with each other was inspiring. I'm glad that B'nai Tzedek helps to build these connections."

Ms. Schrier praised the spirit of these young leaders. "The kids leading our community in Jewish Memphis are strong and smart," she said. "Seeing how they recognize their ability to make a significant difference is truly amazing."

Before the tour, the teens admitted to not knowing much about the history or purpose of familiar places like Fogel-

(See B'nai Tzedek Page 3)

Aerial Acrobatics and Fire Show at Chabad's Annual Giant Menorah Lighting Event



Rabbi Levi Klein lights the giant menorah during Chanukah 2022

Once again this year, Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee will attempt to kindle the spark of Yiddishkeit (Jewishness) within each and every Jew with their bold public displays of Jewish pride.

"This year we have added a new twist

to our Giant Menorah Lighting celebration," said Rabbi Levi Klein, regional director of Chabad Lubavitch. "We will be having an Aerial Acrobatics Show with a Gelt Drop and a Live Fire Show by the Memphis Fire Tribe and several other entertainments with a special program in honor of Israel as well."

The festivities will get underway at **3 p.m., on Sunday, December 10,** the Fourth Night of Chanukah at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life located at 2570 Kirby Parkway.

"The festival is open to the public and all activities are free of charge" said Rabbi Klein. "And the Giant Menorah Kindling will be followed by Chanukah Music, Donuts, Latkes and Hot Apple Cider."

The holiday of Chanukah is a festival of victory and celebration for all times, highlighted by the kindling of menorahs each night of the holiday.

"It is a holiday replete with traditions and with display of Jewish pride and unity," said Rabbi Klein.

Chabad Lubavitch, an international organization, has expanded its centers all over the world. With over 4500 offices and centers throughout the world, including the one in Memphis. It is by far the largest network of Jewish and social services in the world.

During the holiday of Chanukah, all Chabad Centers hold public Menorah Kindling Ceremonies to publicize the universal message of Chanukah. Chabad also sponsors the large menorah, which stands in front of the White House and the Largest Menorah in the World (50 feet high), which stands at Rockefeller Center in New York.

Also, Chabad will be visiting the sick in the local hospitals making sure that those unable to make it to a Chanukah Party or celebration will not be left out of the Chanukah Spirit.

In its Chanukah outreach campaign, Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee has also arranged for the erecting of several large menorahs around the Memphis area including each of the three lobbies at the Memphis international airport. They join hundreds of Chabad Centers across the globe that are staging similar massive public displays of the menorah and its symbolic lights. From Australia to Afri-

(See Chabad Page 3)

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A Note from Charles Jalenak Jewish Foundation of Memphis Offers Jewish Values-based Investment Options



Charles Jalenak, CFP®, MBA is Board Vice Chair, Investment for Jewish Community Partners

One of the investment choices for charitable funds held at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is the JLens Jewish Advocacy Strategy. This investment selection is a values-based S&P 500 Index strategy that aligns with Jewish values and advocates for communal concerns in the corporate responsibility and impact investing movement.

The Jewish Advocacy Strategy portfolio includes 300 companies that are selected based on a scoring system for six Jewish values, including the obligation to the society, to the worker, to the environment, to coexistence, to ethical business and for support for Israel.

Last year, JLens formed a partnership with ADL to increase ADL's participation in the values-based investing movement and efforts to fight antisemitic and anti-Israel policies in this field.

If you have questions on this investment strategy or would like to learn more, please contact Sheri Gadberry at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis at 901-374-0400. You can also visit the JLens website at www.jlensnetwork.org. HW

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Office: 901.763.2215 Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Office Manager & Subscriptions
toni@hebrewwatchman.com

Rebecca Miller Schudel Social Media Director Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger Editor and Publisher Emeritus ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50 Payable in Advance

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'Oct. 7 was Just a Rehearsal,' Warns Sinwar



Yahya Sinwar, leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, at a rally in Beit Lahiya, May 30, 2021. Credit: Atia Mohammed/Flash90.

(JNS) – Hamas's Oct. 7 slaughter was "just a rehearsal," the Islamist group's leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar threatened last Thursday, in his first public statement since the terrorist organization massacred more than a thousand people in Israel.

"The leaders of the occupation [Israel] should know, Oct. 7 was just a rehearsal," stated Sinwar, according to the "Maariv" newspaper.

At least 1,200 people were killed in Hamas's Oct. 7 attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border. Another 240 men, women, children and soldiers were taken back to Gaza as hostages.

Last Monday, Israeli media reported that Sinwar paid a visit to several of the hostages held in an underground tunnel in the Strip. One of the hostages released over the weekend said the terror mastermind spoke to them in Hebrew without an accent.

As Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their ceasefire-for-hostages agreement last Monday, Egypt reportedly put heavy pressure on Sinwar.

"Twice during the ceasefire the parties got into a crisis when Yahya Sinwar tried to violate the agreements, the first time last Saturday night," said an Egyptian source with access to official circles

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeishev

in Cairo.

"Egyptian intelligence officers arrived at the Rafah Crossing [to Gaza] and conveyed to Sinwar extremely difficult messages and threats peppered with juicy curses. A short hour later ... the Israeli hostages were released," the source added.

On Oct. 14, Israel Defense Forces International Spokesperson Lt. Col. Richard Hecht told journalists that Sinwar and his entire command team "are in our sights."

"Yahya Sinwar is the face of evil. He is the mastermind behind this, like [Osama] bin Laden was. He built his career on murdering Palestinians when he un-

derstood they were collaborators.

That's how he became known as the butcher of Khan Yunis [in southern Gaza]," said Hecht.

Sinwar was convicted on multiple murder counts by an Israeli court and sentenced to five life sentences, which he was supposed to serve until his death, but in October 2011 he was released from prison – having served only 22 years – as part of the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange.

After his release, Sinwar gained power and popularity within Hamas, becoming its Gaza leader in February 2017 by defeating Ismail Haniyeh in an internal vote. **HW**



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, December 11

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter, head rabbi of Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

Topic: "The Incredible History of Chanukah!"

Chanukah Starts Thursday evening December 7 and ends the evening of Friday, December 15. Please join us for this historical perspective.

Wednesday, December 13

Big Monthly Luncheon! This fun event will feature Hank and Stan. *Please see the accompanying article in this paper for more information.*

Monday, December 18

Field Trip: 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 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 was 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: Central Station Hotel, Curio by Hilton. The hotel includes a refurbished ballroom, two restaurants and a bar. The MATA Trolley Main Street Line heri-

tage streetcar was extended to Central Station in 2021. Reservations are limited as the bus holds only 14 people. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to sign up for this fun event.

Wednesday, December 20

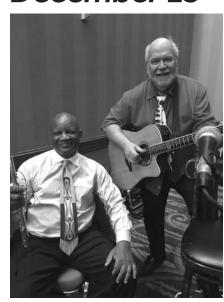
Speaker: Maayan Naor, Israeli Shlicha at the Memphis Jewish Community Center

Topic: "The Diversity of the Israeli People!"

This is Maayan's second year of serving in Memphis. She is originally from a small town in Israel called Nili. She grew up as part of the Maccabi Tzair youth movement where she completed a year of service teaching Hebrew to underprivileged immigrant children. She has a passion for teaching Hebrew, so she became a commander and Hebrew teacher for new immigrants in the IDF. Her hobbies include baking, traveling, and, it goes without saying, teaching Hebrew! Please come for lunch and enjoy hearing from this special lady!

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

Monthly Luncheon Wednesday, December 13



Stan Jackson and Hank Sable

On Wednesday, December 13, the seniors will hold the next Big Monthly Luncheon! This fun event will feature Hank and Stan.

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

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

Transportation is available to those that live near the MJCC for only \$2 roundtrip. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 for more information. Call the MJCC Front desk at 901-761-0810 to make your reservation for the luncheon! The cost of the Lunch is only \$5. Please come join many of your friends for this fun event! **HW**

Chabad...

(Continued From Page 1)

ca, Columbia to Hong Kong, New York City's ground zero to the White House lawn, hundreds of thousands will experience the joy of Chanukah with Chabad. "It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition," said Rabbi Klein. "In ancient times our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place."

For further information on any of

these events or if you have any questions related to Chanukah, please visit www.JewishMemphis.com or call Chabad at 901-754-0404. **HW**

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B'nai Tzedek...

(Continued From Page 1)

man Jewish Family Service or Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The tour changed that. As Ethan Vanderwalde, an 11th grade participant, put it, "The B'nai Tzedek bus tour was eye-opening. Even though I knew about places like the Fogelman JFS and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, I realized I didn't really know their history. Seeing our grant money in action, especially in the Wishmaker program at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, was amazing. It made me appreciate being a part of B'nai Tzedek."

This journey highlights an important lesson. As articulated by Jewish Community Partners CEO Laura Linder "There's always more to discover, even in things we think we know well. The joy of making a difference is a powerful motivator for continued giving. Every contribution, can have a lasting impact on the lives of the people in our community."

To learn more about B'nai Tzedek, visit jcpmemphis.org/teen-philanthropy.

To enroll your teen in B'nai Tzedek, contact Carolyn Schrier at cschrier@icpmemphis.org.

The mission of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is to encourage charitable giving, support partner agency endowment development and build and sustain a vibrant Jewish community. To learn more, visit jewishfoundationofmemphis. org. **HW**

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On Israel's Right to Exist, Massie Votes 'No,' Tlaib 'Present'



Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.). Source: Flickr.

(JNS) – The U.S. House of Representatives voted 412-1, with one voting "present," on Nov. 28 to reaffirm Israel's right to exist.

"The House of Representatives reaffirms the State of Israel's right to exist, recognizes that denying Israel's right to exist is a form of antisemitism, rejects calls for Israel's destruction and the elimination of the only Jewish State and condemns the Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel," the resolution reads.

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) cast the lone "nay," while "Squad" member Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) voted "present."

Among the 21 – 10 Democrats and 11 Republicans – who didn't vote were Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.), a progressive "Squad" member, as well as Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), the former House speaker.

Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) introduced the resolution.

"Both Israelis and Palestinians have the right to live with democracy, safety, peace and human dignity. This resolution that ignores the existence of the Palestinian people brings us no closer to peaceful coexistence," Tlaib stated.

"Israel does not have a right to carry out illegal occupation and apartheid – which will never lead to a just and lasting peace," she added. "Unfortunately, this resolution is a one-sided attempt to rewrite history."

Massie wrote, "I agree with the title 'Reaffirming the State of Israel's Right to Exist' and much of the language, but I'm voting 'no' on the resolution because it equates anti-Zionism with antisemitism. Antisemitism is deplorable, but expanding it to include criticism of Israel is not helpful." **HW**

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Protesters Brandish Swastikas at Pro-Palestinian Rally Outside Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting



A pro-Palestinian protests against the Rockefeller Christmas tree lighting, in New York City, November 29, 2023. Credit: Luke Tress

By Luke Tress

Within Our Lifetime billed last Wednesday's protest as "Flood the tree lighting for Gaza," evoking Hamas' name for the Oct. 7 attack, "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood."

A passerby who questioned protesters about the Hamas attack was berated and driven away from the rally, with police intervening between the two sides.

"NYPD, KKK, IDF they're all the same," the protesters chanted at police.

After protesters started marching, scuffles broke out between demonstrators and police. The NYPD said seven people had been taken into custody for one felony, five misdemeanors and one juvenile report.

In addition to the swastikas, other rhetoric and signs at the demonstration employed antisemitic imagery. Signs at the event said, "Zionist donors and trustees hands off our universities," and showed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holding President Joe Biden on a dog leash, evoking stereotypes about Jewish money and power.

Protesters also lashed Biden for his support of Israel, chanting, "Genocide Joe has got to go."

Protesters explicitly called for the destruction of Israel, chanting, "End the settler Zionist state" and "We don't want no two states, we want all of it." Signs in the crowd read "Victory to the Palestinian resistance" and "Globalize the intifada," which protesters also chanted, a reference to a campaign of terror attacks 20 years ago that killed an

estimated 1,000 Israelis.

The crowd also chanted in favor of a ceasefire. A temporary ceasefire, agreed upon in exchange for Hamas releasing Israeli hostages, was in effect at the time of the protest.

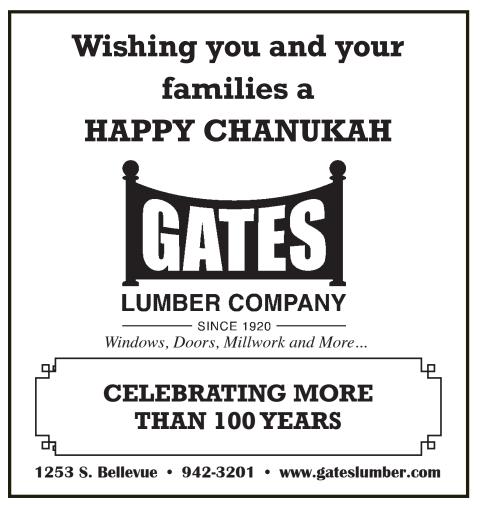
Organizers claimed Jesus – a Jew who, according to Christian scripture, was born in Bethlehem in what is today the West Bank, and lived in the Galilee in what is presently Israel – as a Palestinian. They called to "suspend Christmas celebrations" due to the war alongside a protest by some churches in Bethlehem.

"Palestine is the birthplace of Christianity, Jesus was a Palestinian, how can celebrations go on as normal when his birthplace is being attacked," Within Our Lifetime said in a post announcing the event. One protester carried a sign saying, "Jesus was a Palestinian Jew."

Within Our Lifetime also targeted the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. During that event, protesters defaced the facade of the New York Public Library, causing \$75,000 in damage.

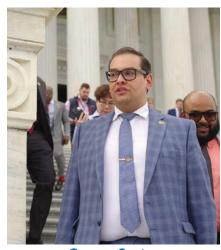
The group sparked backlash earlier this month by posting maps online showing the location of Jewish and pro-Israel organizations in New York and encouraging its followers to target the institutions.

Jews are consistently targeted in hate crimes more than any other group in New York City, with over 230 antisemitic incidents reported to police so far this year. Anti-Jewish hate crimes have surged since Oct. 7, according to NYPD data. **HW**



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House Expels 'Jew-Ish' Congressman George Santos



George Santos

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – The U.S. House of Representatives expelled Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.) last Friday. Santos, who repeatedly claimed to be Jewish during his campaign late last year, faces criminal fraud charges following revelations that he fabricated much of his life story, including his supposed Jewish ancestry.

A freshman who was elected in November 2022, Santos said in a since-deleted passage on his campaign website that his maternal grandparents survived the Holocaust.

"It was an honor to address fellow members of the Jewish community," Santos posted on social media after attending a Chabad event in Great Neck, N.Y., in the days before the election. That post, from Nov. 3, 2022, remains live on X.

After media reports revealed that his claims to Jewish ancestry and other elements of his backstory appeared to be fictitious, Santos denied having said he was Jewish.

"I never claimed to be Jewish," he told the "New York Post." "I am Catholic. Because I learned my maternal family had a Jewish background, I said I was 'Jew-ish."

Genealogical records in Brazil, where both of Santos's parents were born, suggest that his maternal grandparents were Catholics with no connection to the Holocaust.

In addition to his lies about his personal background, Santos has been charged on a 23-count federal indictment that includes conspiracy, identity theft and credit card fraud.

Shortly before the vote last Friday, Rep. Max Miller (R-Ohio) wrote in an email to the entire House Republican caucus that he and his mother had personally been victims of Santos's campaign contribution credit card fraud.

"You, sir, are a crook," Miller said on the House floor last Thursday, alluding to the theft. (Miller is Jewish.)

Despite House Republican leadership voting against expulsion, 105 Republicans voted with nearly every House Democrat to reach the two-thirds majority required to expel Santos from the House.

The expulsion clause of the Constitution grants the House and Senate broad authority to expel any sitting member with a two-thirds majority in their respective chamber. Many Republicans who voted against expulsion said that they believed that under House precedent, Santos should be convicted in a court of law before his removal.

Santos became just the sixth member of the House in U.S. history to be expelled from the House, and the first who was not a Confederate or a convicted felon, per the Congressional Research Service.

In 1861, House members John Clark, John Reid and Henry Burnett were expelled for "disloyalty to the Union." Michael Myers was expelled in 1980 for "bribery, conspiracy and Travel Act violations" (the ABSCAM conspiracy) and James Traficant was expelled in 2002 for "illegal gratuity, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, defrauding the government, racketeering and tax evasion violations."

Following Santos' expulsion, New York's 3rd Congressional district is now vacant and will proceed to a spe-

cial election.

Democratic and Republican party county leaders in the 3rd district will choose the nominees for the special election in consultation with state and national leadership. While Santos announced in November that he would not seek re-election in 2024, he could run in the special election as an independent. **HW**

Facing a 23-count fraud indictment, Santos became just the sixth member of the House, and the first non-Confederate or convicted felon, expelled from Congress.



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Israeli Hostages Recount Beatings, Death Threats in Captivity



Relatives of Israelis held hostage by Hamas in Gaza hold a press conference in Tel Aviv, Nov. 29, 2023. Credit: Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90.

By David Isaac

(JNS) – Israeli hostages recovered from captivity in Gaza have largely kept out of the public eye, but accounts slowly reaching the press from their family members point to widespread abuse by Hamas.

Hostages report having been beaten, threatened with death, underfed, kept in cages and denied medical care.

Elma Avraham, 84, who had health issues, was taken hostage from Kibbutz Nahal Oz on Oct. 7, the day of the Hamas attack. Although in generally good health when captured, she deteriorated in captivity.

Released on Nov. 26, she had a pulse of 40 and a body temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit.

"They held her in terrible conditions," daughter Tali Amano said. "We stood at the entrance with a package of medications for her. My mother didn't need to return this way and I have no idea how

she will make it through these days."

IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said, "She was denied life-saving medications. She was not visited by the Red Cross."

Ditza Hayman, 84, who was kidnapped by Hamas from Kibbutz Nir Oz was similarly neglected.

"The kidnappers took my mother to the attic of an unfinished building inside Gaza. She was hidden there completely alone, without other hostages and was trapped inside the building," her son, Gideon, told Channel 12.

"In the cold, without running water, electricity and with very little food. I will not go into detail about the hygiene that was there. Think about the worst possible – and then worse than that," he said.

"Once or twice a day one of the kidnappers came to her, served her food and left. During all these days she did not receive any medical treatment, nor could she ask for it, because the kidnappers did not speak Hebrew or English," he added.

Female hostages were kept in cages, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group set up in the wake of the attack, revealed last Monday.

Children were branded lest they escape, according to Yaniv Yaakov, the uncle of the brothers Or, 16, and Yagil, 12, who were freed on Nov. 27.

"Every child that Hamas took was taken on a motorcycle, and they took each child and put their leg in front of the exhaust pipe, which caused a burn to mark the children so that in case they ran away or fled, they could find them," he said.

A Thai hostage who was released told Israel's Channel 12 that the Jewish captives were beaten with electric cables. Israeli hostages were treated worse than the others, he said.

Eitan Yahalomi, 12, a dual Israeli-French citizen, was released last Monday, 52 days after his abduction. His aunt, Deborah Cohen, told France's BFM TV that he was forced to watch footage of the massacre.

"Every time a child cried there, they threatened them with a weapon to keep them quiet. Once they got to Gaza, all the civilians, everyone was hitting them. ... We're talking about a child 12 years old," his aunt said.

"Maybe I was naïve, but I wanted to hope that they [Hamas] were treating him well," she said. "I was wrong. They are monsters."

Tom Hand, the father of Irish-Israeli Emily Hand, a 9-year-old who was among 13 Israeli hostages freed on Nov. 25, said she was shockingly pale, her faced hollowed out and her head full of lice.

"The most shocking, disturbing part of meeting her was she was just whispering, you couldn't hear her. I had to put my ear on her lips," he told CNN on Tuesday. "She'd been conditioned not to make any noise."

She learned after her return that her "second mom" had been killed by Hamas. (Her mother died of cancer when she was two.)

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"Last night she cried until her face was red and blotchy, she couldn't stop. She didn't want any comfort, I guess she's forgotten how to be comforted," Hand said. "She went under the covers of the bed, the quilt, covered herself up and quietly cried."

Emily believes she'd been gone a

Like the other hostages, she was poorly fed, given rice, water and pita bread. ("There were days when they barely had any food, in the last few days they only ate very little rice," Merav Mor Munder, cousin of Keren Munder, 55, who was released on Nov. 24, told Israel's Chan-

Israel has demanded that Hamas allow the Red Cross access to the captives. "Hamas continues to deny the Red Cross access to the remaining 145 hostages in violation of every norm of humanity," said Prime Minister's Office spokesman Eylon Levy last Thursday.

"We're talking about people who were brutally abducted into the Gaza Strip. some with horrific injuries. We've already seen hostages returning, some in critical condition, others held there without medication," he said. "They must be given access to medical treatment."

Hamas has forced hostages to write glowing letters on the conditions under which they were held. One letter distributed widely by Arab media was written by Danielle Aloni, who was kidnapped with her daughter Emilia, 5, and returned on Nov. 26.

In it, she thanked Hamas for its "extraordinary humanity" towards her daughter.

Israel's media has warned to ignore such propaganda.

Of the 145 hostages still being held by Hamas, 28 are women and 117 are men. Ten of the hostages are age 75 or older, among them husbands of women already released.

One hundred five hostages were released in small batches over the course of a week in which Israel has agreed to a halt in the fighting for the sake of their return.

Last Friday, Hamas violated the ceasefire and renewed hostilities. HW

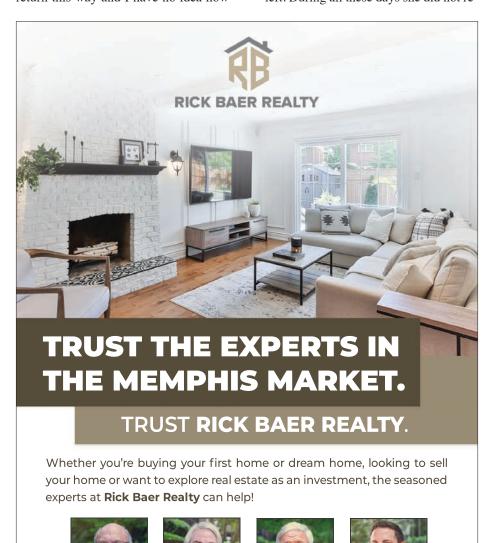
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Memphis Jewish Federation's Reunion 2023: A Night to Remember



Judy Lansky, Issac Graber, Rachel Rotter, Hayley Alpert, Max Alpert, Sarah Besser



120+ quests celebrated at Reunion in the Old Dominick Distillery

Reunion 2023 was a great success. Over 120 people reunited to give back to the Memphis Jewish Federation. Old Dominick was a great host and guests enjoyed specialty drinks like "Call your Bubbe" and "Shofar so good."

Attendees got to vote on where their

ф

donations from the night would go and chose Senior Hot Meals, a program that delivers kosher hot meals to seniors who are unable to cook or do not have access to kosher meals. We are so grateful that we were able to bring the community together for such a special event. **HW**

Have a Simcha?

Birth announcement, anniversary, engagement, wedding announcement, special birthday, etc. share with The Hebrew Watchman readers 901.763.2215 info@hebrewwatchman.com

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Bar Mitzvah



Zacharia Levine

Zacharia Levine, son of Drs. Danielle and Yehoshua Levine, will celebrate his bar mitzvah on Shabbat Chanukah, December 9, at Baron Hirsch, where he will read from the Torah and Haftorah, and lead the Musaf prayer. He will also be delivering a d'var torah to the congregation.

To prepare for his bar mitzvah, Zacharia learned Parshat Vayeshev and how to lead Musaf with his father and Cantor Ricky Kampf. In honor of becoming a bar mitzvah, Zacharia also learned with Uriah Ben David from the Torah Mitzion Kollel and with Rabbi Ian Lichter,

senior rabbi of Baron Hirsch.

Zacharia is in the 7th grade at the Margolin Hebrew Academy and spends his summers at Camp Stone, a Bnei Akiva camp in Pennsylvania. At home, Zacharia enjoys biking, ripsticking, exploring the outdoors, cooking dinner for his family and baking incredible desserts. While traveling with his family, Zacharia has had the opportunity to explore different cultures with his brothers, Akiva and Gavriel, and sister Arielle.

Zacharia and his family moved from Boston to Memphis eight years ago and are grateful to call Memphis their home. The Memphis Jewish community welcomed them with Southern hospitality in 2015, and now those same people are helping to host almost 100 out-of-town guests in Memphis this weekend. The Levine family is thankful for the support and friendship of their Memphis village.

Zacharia is the grandson of Drs. Brenda Kohn and Walter Molofsky of New York, New York, and Mrs. Letha and Dr. Raphael Levine of Englewood, New Jersey. All four grandparents will be traveling to Memphis, along with Zacharia's 26 first cousins, aunts and uncles, and many life-long friends from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois, Massachusetts and Florida. HW

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT October 15 - December 7

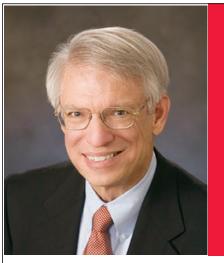
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Managing Medicare Out-of-Pocket Costs

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

Medicare covers only 60% of total health-care costs for Americans age 65 and older.¹ Deductibles, copays, coinsurance, and payments for services not covered by Medicare can result in substantial out-of-pocket expenses. And there is no annual or lifetime out-of-pocket limit.

Whether you are already enrolled in Medicare or planning to enroll in the future, you may want to consider two options to help manage out-of-pocket costs: **Medigap** and **Medicare Advantage**. Both are offered by private insurance companies approved and regulated by Medicare. They are mutually exclusive – you cannot be covered by both – but either might provide more stability to your health-care spending in retirement.

Supplemental Insurance

Medigap supplements coverage under Original Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance), and you must be enrolled in Part A and Part B in order to buy a Medigap policy. These policies pay nearly all or a percentage of Medicare out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, copays, and coinsurance. Some plans may pay for services not covered by Medicare, such as emergency medical care outside the United States (up to plan limits), but they generally do not cover long-term care, vision or dental care, hearing aids, or private-duty nursing. New Medigap policies do not cover prescription drugs, so you must enroll in Medicare Part D if you want prescription drug coverage.

You can enroll in a Medigap plan at any time, but the best time to do so is

during the initial Medigap open enrollment period – the six-month period that begins on the first day of the month in which you are 65 or older and enrolled in Medicare Part B. During this time, you can buy any Medigap policy in your state for the same premium the insurance company charges to healthy enrollees, even if you have health problems. If you miss this opportunity, a company can charge you more for coverage or refuse coverage altogether, depending on your health. Medigap policies are guaranteed renewable; once you are enrolled, you cannot be denied coverage or charged more than healthy enrollees due to changes in your health, as long as you pay your premium.

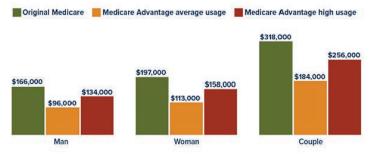
A Medigap policy covers only one individual, so you and your spouse need separate policies if you both want coverage.

Saving for Retirement Health Care *The chart [to the right]* shows the savings that a man, a woman, and a couple who retired at age 65 in 2022 might need to meet retirement health-care expenses, assuming median prescription drug expenses. Medicare Advantage Plans can reduce out-of-pocket expenses, but they often have limited networks and may require approval to cover certain medications and services.

All-in-One Coverage

Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans, also called Medicare Part C, replace Original Medicare Part A and Part B and often offer prescription drug coverage, similar to Medicare Part D. Benefits are provided through a private insurance company, but much of the funding comes

from the federal government, and plans must offer the same benefits as Original Medicare. MA plans generally encourage the use of network providers and have higher costs for out-of-network services. They may offer additional benefits not covered by Original Medicare, such as dental care, eyeglasses, and wellness programs. You will typically pay your Medicare Part B premium and may pay an additional premium, depending on the plan. You may also have out-of-pocket deductibles, copays, and coinsurance. However, all MA plans have an annual out-of-pocket maximum.



Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2023. Projections are based on a 90% chance of meeting expenses and assume savings earn a return of 7.32% from age 65 until expenditures are made. Does not include vision, hearing, dental, or long-term care expenses. Original Medicare estimate includes premiums for Medicare Parts B and D, the Part B deductible, out-of-pocket prescription drug spending, and premiums for Medigap Plan G, which would pay most other out-of-pocket costs. Some Medicare Advantage Plans require additional premiums, which are not included.

You can enroll in an MA plan instead of Original Medicare during your initial Medicare enrollment period.² You can change coverage from Original Medicare to MA or vice versa, or change between MA plans, during the Medicare Open Enrollment period from October 15 to December 7. You can change from MA to Original Medicare or switch MA plans during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period from January 1 to March 31. You may also be able to make changes during other special enrollment periods.

For more information on Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and enrollment periods, see Medicare.gov.

- 1) Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2023
- 2) Initial Medicare enrollment period is the seven-month period beginning three months before the month you turn 65 and ending three months after the month you turn 65. Special enrollment rules apply if you have health insurance through your own or your spouse's employment.

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U.S.: China Ignored Distress Calls from Hijacked Israeli Ship

By Charles Bybelezer

(JNS) - Chinese naval vessels ignored repeated distress calls from an Israeli-owned commercial tanker that was under attack by suspected Somali pirates last Sunday, according to the Pentagon.

The USS Mason destroyer and allied ships - reportedly belonging to Japan - recovered the Israel-linked Central Park tanker, which an "unknown entity" hijacked in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed last Monday.

Pentagon Press Secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder confirmed that at least three People's Liberation Army Navy ships in the area failed to heed the distress calls.

"So, my understanding is there were three PLA Navy ships in the vicinity. However, they did not respond. Supposedly, those ships are there as part of a counter-piracy mission, but they did not respond," said Ryder.

"If there's a vessel that's hailing a distress signal and all vessels in the vicinity should – are required to come and help and support," he added.

During the rescue operation, five armed hijackers attempted to flee in a small boat and were detained by the U.S. Navy. The 22-member crew of the Central Park was uninjured, according to CENTCOM.

"We're continuing to assess, but initial indications [are] that these five individuals are Somali," said Ryder. "But again, we'll continue to assess that, as well as next steps in terms of the disposition of those five individuals," he added.

"Clearly, a piracy-related incident in that this vessel was boarded by these five individuals. They attempted to access the crew cabin," said Ryder. "The crew essentially were able to lock themselves into a safe haven. These individuals attempted to access and take control of the ship. But when the combined task force responded, they essentially fled," he added.

Concurrently with the attempted hijacking, two ballistic missiles were fired towards the USS Mason from areas controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The missiles fell 10 nautical miles (11.5 statute miles) away from the vessel, causing no injuries or damage.

"Maritime domain security is essential to regional stability," said Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, CENTCOM commander. "We will continue to work with allies and partners to ensure the safety and security of international shipping lanes."

The Zodiac Maritime ship management company, part of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group, had called the attack on the Central Park "a suspected piracy incident."

"We would like to thank the coalition forces who responded quickly, protecting assets in the area and upholding international maritime law," said Zodiac Maritime last Monday.

According to the company, the Turkish-captained vessel has a multinational crew consisting of Russian, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Indian, Georgian and Filipino nationals.

The ship is carrying phosphoric acid. Last Friday, an Iranian drone attacked an Israeli-owned commercial vessel in the Indian Ocean. The attack on the CMA CGM Symi container ship came a week after Houthi rebels hijacked an Israeli-linked ship in the Red Sea.

On Nov. 19, the Israel Defense Forces confirmed that the Houthis hijacked the Bahamian-flagged Galaxy Leader vehicle carrier, calling it a "very grave incident of global consequence."

"The ship departed Turkey on its way to India, staffed by civilians of various nationalities, not including Israelis. It is not an Israeli ship," the military added. The Galaxy Leader is registered by a British company partially owned by Israeli tycoon Abraham Ungar.

"This is another act of Iranian terrorism and constitutes a leap forward in Iran's aggression against the citizens of the free world, with international consequences regarding the security of the global shipping lanes," the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem said.

Last Wednesday, the Canadian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, U.K. and U.S. foreign ministers, as well as the high representative of the European Union, called on the Houthis to halt their attacks.

"Emphasizing the importance of maritime security, we call on all parties not to threaten or interfere with lawful exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by all vessels," according to a statement by the top G7 diplomats.

"We especially call on the Houthis to immediately cease attacks on civilians and threats to international shipping lanes and commercial vessels and release the M/V Galaxy Leader and its crew, illegally seized from international waters on Nov. 19," it added.

On Nov. 9, Houthi rebels fired a ballistic missile at Eilat, which was intercepted by Israel's Arrow 3 in the aerial-defense system's first operational use.

On Oct. 31, Israel's Arrow 2 air defense system for the first time intercepted a surface-to-surface missile fired from the Red Sea area.

Additionally, dozens of U.S. troops have been wounded in more than 60 attacks by Iranian-backed proxies in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17, according to the Pentagon. HW

Hamas Claims Three Members of Bibas Family, Including Baby Kfir, were Killed in Gaza



Ten-month-old Kfir Bibas. Credit: Hostages Missing Families Forum

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Force is investigating claims that three members of the Bibas family in Gaza, including 10-month-old Kfir, died in Hamas captivity, the military said last Wednesday.

The "military" wing of Hamas announced the deaths of Kfir, his brother, Ariel, 4, and his mother, Shiri, 32, the Hamas- and Palestinian Islamic Jihad-affiliated Quds News Network reported earlier last Wednesday.

Without presenting evidence, the Al-Qassam Brigades attributed their deaths to "a previous Israeli shelling on the Gaza Strip."

The statement did not mention father Yarden Bibas, 34, also kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz during the Oct. 7 mas-

The IDF announced it was "assessing the accuracy of the information."

"Hamas is wholly responsible for the security of all hostages in the Gaza Strip. Hamas must be held accountable. Hamas's actions continue to endanger the hostages, which include nine children," read the statement.

IDF representatives spoke with the

Bibas family following Hamas's announcement "and are with them at this difficult time," the military said.

The IDF said last Monday that the Bibas family had been transferred by Hamas to another terrorist organization and that they were being held in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis.

Kfir's aunt last Tuesday pleaded for their release.

"We're talking to you today because tomorrow is the last day of the current ceasefire," Ofri Bibas-Levy told reporters. "At the moment they are the youngest hostages still remaining in Hamas captivity."

"We don't know where they've been held. From what we know, they are kept underground," said Bibas-Levy. "We're really worried about the 10-month-old baby with formula [normally] as his main nourishment."

Bibas-Levy continued: "We call upon the Israeli government and Qatar and Egypt, everybody who is involved in these negotiations and this deal, to do whatever they can to include our family in this deal and to release them as soon as possible." HW

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Historic Statesman, Who Advised Presidents, Henry Kissinger Dead at 100



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) meets with Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, in New York City on Sept. 21, 2023. Credit: Avi Ohayon (GPO)

By David Swindle

Alan Dershowitz first met Henry Kissinger in the mid-1960s. "We were both professors at Harvard, and his son and my son were elementary school classmates," Dershowitz, an attorney, commentator and Harvard Law School professor emeritus, told JNS.

The two remained friends until Kissinger's death, at 100, on Nov. 29.

Dershowitz told JNS that he and Kissinger sat next to each other in synagogue last year on Yom Kippur. "He said yizkor for his parents," Dershowitz said, referring to the Jewish memorial service. "This year, he was too frail to come."

Kissinger's "pragmatism" and "sense of incremental benefits" influenced Dershowitz's worldview, the attorney said.

"He was one of my strongest supporters. When I defended President [Donald] Trump in the Senate and a lot of people, particularly the Jewish community, attacked me, he supported me, defended me and called me and told me I had done the right thing," Dershowitz said.

The two had long talks about Israel "about 1973 and whether he did the right thing or the wrong thing," Dershowitz said.

"We've agreed and disagreed over the course of my lifetime – mostly agreed," Dershowitz added. "He always had an image for the future. He was never thinking about today or even tomorrow.

He was always thinking about the day after tomorrow. He was a visionary and a brilliant man."

Realpolitik

Heinz Alfred Kissinger was born on May 27, 1923, in Fürth, Germany, to a Jewish family. His father, Louis Kissinger, "was a teacher of geography and history in Fürth, Germany, before fleeing with his family to the United States in 1938 as antisemitism increased under Hitler," per a death notice for Louis in the "New York Times" on March 21, 1982 ("Father of Kissinger is dead.") His mother, Paula, was a homemaker.

Kissinger fought in World War II, working as an interpreter, arresting Gestapo agents, helping in the liberation of the Ahlem concentration camp in Germany and earning a Bronze Star.

After the war, he made his mark at Harvard, writing the longest-ever undergraduate thesis – 400 pages – provoking a new rule limiting paper lengths. He became a professor at the university, and ultimately associate director of the schools' government department and international affairs center.

He served simultaneously as U.S. secretary of state and national security advisor under U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford – the first and only time someone has held both roles at once, let alone doing it twice.

Kissinger is widely credited with crucially influencing Cold War affairs during this period, playing a key role in opening relations with China and numerous decisions in Vietnam and thirdworld conflicts. These have generated considerable acclaim and controversy.

He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 for helping end the Vietnam War.

Elder statesman

Following his retirement from government in 1977, Kissinger regularly wrote books on foreign policy and consulted widely with political leaders and diplomats.

His foreign policy approach of "realpolitik"- which views international relations on the basis of self-interest rather than moral principles – continues to impact world affairs today.

Despite having lost family in the Holocaust, Kissinger was so committed to that pragmatic approach, that he once said, "If they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern. Maybe a humanitarian concern."

Known for his wit, Kissinger also once said, "If it were not for the accident of my birth, I would be antisemitic. ... Any people who has been persecuted for 2,000 years must be doing something wrong."

Shortly before his death, Kissinger began writing about the potential threat of artificial intelligence.

"He was intrigued by artificial intelligence, and he actually understood it, which not too many people do," Dershowitz told JNS. "He understood both the benefits and the risks. As he always said, every step forward has the potential for a half a step backwards, so he was always doing on the one hand, on the other hand evaluation."

'A giant, a titan'

During a meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv last Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Kissinger "really set the standard for everyone who followed in this job."

"I was very privileged to get his counsel many times, including as recently as about a month ago," Blinken added. "He was extraordinarily generous with his wisdom and his advice. Few people were better students of history. Even fewer people did more to shape history than Henry Kissinger."

Herzog told Blinken, "You are following in the footsteps of a giant, a titan – Dr. Henry Kissinger – who has left us peacefully tonight."

"We are big admirers of Henry Kissinger, who laid down the foundations of so many great decisions of his and processes which he has led, which has brought results that we feel until today, peaceful results," Herzog added. "He laid the cornerstone of the peace agreement, which were later signed with Egypt, and so many other processes around the world. I admired Henry Kissinger."

Kissinger ended his last conversation with Herzog saying, "Mr. President, please know I've always loved and admired and supported the State of Israel," and "so I always felt his love and compassion for Israel and his belief in the Jewish state," Herzog said.

Ronald S. Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, said that as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, Kissinger "intimately understood the freedoms that the United States symbolized during a pivotal era."

Kissinger appeared at some of the WJC's events, and the congress awarded him in 2014 with its Theodor Herzl Award. "We mourn the loss of a statesman, whose wisdom and friendship were a beacon of light," Lauder added, noting that Kissinger's "passing leaves a void in our world that will be profoundly felt."

Michael Herzog, Israel's ambassador to the United States, wrote that Kissinger's "life and career were the embodiment of the American dream, as he rose from being a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany to a giant, who shaped global and Middle Eastern geopolitics and left a lasting legacy."

Herzog cited a letter Kissinger wrote to his younger brother, the Israeli president, that "to celebrate Israel's 75th anniversary alongside my 100th is a particular gift."

Dershowitz told JNS that he fondly recalls his lunches with Kissinger, whose favorite cuisine was French. "He loved good food. I know. I shared some," Dershowitz said.

"He was not a religious Jew, and was not really a traditional Jew, but the Judaism was in his heart," he said. **HW**

Blinken Questions Israel's War Plans, Suggests Clock Running Out

(JNS) – U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, attending a meeting of Israel's War Cabinet last Thursday, questioned Israel's strategy for resuming war against Hamas and suggested that Israel was running out of time.

In a leaked, though unverified, conversation reported by Channel 12, Blinken focused on Israel's plans to fight Hamas in the southern Gaza Strip (fighting resumed last Friday when Hamas fired rockets into Israel).

Blinken said Israel couldn't carry out the attack the same way it did in the northern Gaza Strip, which the IDF now largely controls, as the population density in the south has increased since Israel told Gazans to move away from the conflict zone in the north.

"There are two million Palestinians there," Blinken reportedly said. "You need to evacuate fewer people from their homes, be more precise in your attacks, not damage U.N. facilities, and make sure there are enough safe areas. And if not, then don't attack where there is a civilian population. What will be your method of operation?"

IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi replied that the Israel Defense Force makes sure to act on the basis of "proportionality, judgment and international law." He added: "There were times when we attacked based on these principles, and there were times when we decided not to attack because we were waiting for a better opportunity."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant asserted: "All of Israeli society is united around the goal of dismantling Hamas – even if it takes months."

Blinken suggested that Israel doesn't have that kind of time: "I don't think you will have the credit for that."

Blinken also addressed Israel's plans post-Hamas, noting that Israel didn't

want the Palestinian Authority to take over, but didn't offer another idea.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "As long as I sit in this chair, the Palestinian Authority that supports terrorism, teaches terrorism and finances it will not control Gaza the day after Hamas."

In a late Thursday afternoon press conference, Blinken appeared to confirm part of the War Cabinet discussion, saying: "In my meetings today with the prime minister and senior Israeli officials, I made clear that before Israel resumes major military operations, it must put in place humanitarian civilian protection plans that minimize further casualties of innocent Palestinians.

"That means taking more effective steps to protect the lives of civilians, including by clearly and precisely designating areas and places in southern and central Gaza where they can be safe and out of the line of fire," he said. However, Blinken did not appear to confirm that the U.S. had placed a time limit on its support for Israeli operations

To a reporter's question whether a deadline had been set for Israel's war effort, Blinken said: "The U.S. will continue to support Israel's efforts to do everything possible to ensure that Hamas cannot repeat the horrors of Oct. 7.

"And that means, among other things, that Hamas cannot remain responsible for governance in Gaza, and it cannot retain the capacity to repeat those attacks."

In an official Israeli statement released after a meeting between Gallant and Blinken, Gallant said: "We are going to fight Hamas until we prevail – no matter how long it takes. This is a just war against Hamas – the ISIS of Gaza, and it's a war to bring the hostages back home – as long as it takes." **HW**

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Farmer Hero Saved Scores While Hamas Massacred 364 at Music Festival



Rami Davidian reunites with young people he saved on Oct. 7 during the Supernova Music Festival

By Amelie Botbol

(JNS) - Rami Davidian, a farmer from Moshav Patish, an Israeli farming community located about 10 miles from the Gaza Strip, saved scores of young partygoers during Hamas's murderous assault on the northwestern Negev.

Davidian, 58, will participate this week in a series of gatherings and speaking opportunities in Miami and New York to describe the role he played as a civilian hero during the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks, which killed 1,200 and wounded thousands. He also met Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan.

At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, Davidian received a phone call telling him that a friend's son was in danger and urging him to help. The scale of Hamas's onslaught on the Supernova Sukkot outdoor music festival near Kibbutz Re'im, close to the Gaza border, was not apparent to him when he set off on his rescue mission.

A total of 364 civilians were killed and many more wounded, in the biggest single terrorist attack in Israel's history. At least 40 were taken hostage by Hamas. Attendance was reported to be 3,500, but figures vary.

"On my way to Re'im, I saw dozens if not hundreds of young people, fleeing the site. They surrounded my vehicle as I approached, begging me to help. Then, I began to comprehend the enormity of the crisis," Davidian told JNS.

Davidian contacted his son-in-law on Moshav Patish, telling him to prepare residents to receive the influx of terrified, wounded and distraught survivors, while he directed them to the moshav.

"Ten minutes later, I found the kid who I had been sent to rescue. I loaded him and a dozen others into my car. As we drove back to the moshav, they described how terrorists were murdering people at the festival and implored me to save their friends," Davidian related.

He also received scores of messages and phone calls from distressed parents, asking him to locate and save their children. Simultaneously, he started getting live location messages from young people dispersed all over the area.

"I drove back and forth between the site of the festival and the moshav for four hours. Each time I picked up and dropped off 10 or 12 kids. I rescued them under fire and under the nose of dozens of terrorists.

"I hid in the bushes, behind trees, and advanced carefully to get the kids out. I didn't act like Rambo, I did it quietly and that's how I succeeded in saving so many," Davidian added.

'I spoke to them in Arabic'

Davidian recounted how he pleaded with five or six Hamas terrorists for the life of Amit Parizer, 23, who had sent him her location, in a desperate attempt

"I was unarmed and outnumbered. I spoke to them in Arabic and told them that I was a Yemenite Muslim coming to alert them that soldiers were closing on them," he said. "I advised them to leave the girl and escape, while they still could. In that moment, I felt fearless,"

At first, Parizer had attempted to escape with the group of her friends. She lost them in the crowd of young people fleeing for their lives.

"I hid in the bushes and texted my friend, Romi, who had met Rami when she escaped and walked all the way to his house in Moshav Patish. She sent me his number," Parizer told JNS.

"It was very difficult for him to get to me amid the shooting. At one point, six Hamas terrorists saw me hiding in the bushes. Rami arrived at just the right time and rescued me. Rami is an amazing person who, unarmed and fearless, helped so many young people. I will remain grateful for the sacrifice he made to save me for the rest of my life," Pariz-

Davidian, who had never had any sort of special training and had not served in a combat unit in the army, said: "On that fateful day, the hand of God touched me and guided me to do this. To me those children were like my own children, and I needed to get them to safety."

He still struggles with the loss of those he could not save.

"In some cases, parents would reach out to me, and I would see their kids among the dead. I was not capable of delivering the news, so I'd simply say I couldn't enter."

After the IDF arrived and took care of the remaining survivors, Davidian helped with finding those killed by the terrorists. "I saw things one should never see. I saw a naked girl shot, people tied together and executed. I smelled death. I still don't know how to cope with it."

Two weeks later, in hospitals and homes all over the country, Davidian visited some of the young people he rescued. "I promised them that when the war ends, I'd have them all over at my house for a celebration," he said.

Davidian's nephew, Oz Davidian, another farmer from southwestern Israel, also saved, in similar fashion, 120 young people from the music festival. HW

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