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JCP's Annual Meeting Celebrated Past, Present and Future Leaders



Laura Linder, JCP President and CEO, with 2023 incoming and outgoing Chairs: (from left) Scott Vogel, Cindy Finestone, Jason Salomon, Marty Kelman, Laura Linder and Scott Notowich

Jewish Community Partners (JCP) held its 2023 Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Belz Theatre, part of the Orgel Family Performing Arts Center at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The program paid tribute to outgoing JCP Board Chair Scott Vogel and outgoing Memphis Jewish Federation (Federation) Chair Cindy Finestone, and warmly welcomed Marty Kelman, incoming JCP board chair and Scott Notowich, incoming Federation chair.

Opening the meeting, Mr. Vogel shared his perspective about JCP achievements during the last year. “The Jewish Foundation of Memphis (Foundation) and Federation have accomplished staff in place who are following new best practices and working toward being a data-driven organization.”

He also thanked JCP President and

CEO Laura Linder for collaborating with him for more than 20 years and gave special acknowledgment to Mr. Kelman and to his close friends. He also recognized his wife, Stacy, and his daughters, Brooke and Ashley, for their love and their engagement with the Jewish community and tzedakah.

He closed his remarks with compliments for Ms. Finestone and Foundation Board Chair Jason Salomon, saying, “Cindy, you are an impactful leader that is sincere, steady, and gets the work done. Jason, you are such a good, level-headed leader and friend.”

Ms. Linder, Mr. Salomon and Ms. Finestone hosted a press conference-style Q+A session to showcase the past year’s milestones for Federation and Foundation.

The session opened with reflections from Ms. Finestone about the Federa-



Annual Meeting attendees heard from Cindy Finestone (seated at left), Jason Salomon (seated at right) and Laura Linder (at podium)

tion’s key achievements for the past year. She shared, “I am so proud of the work our organization has done, including the Teen Mental Health initiative, the grants provided to groups and organizations fighting antisemitism and the FJFS Baby Pantry, led by the Lions of Judah.”

Ms. Finestone also recognized Mr. Notowich. “Scott’s passion and the work he’s done on the Lemksy Endowment Fund, along with his leadership in Israel and overseas has created a positive impact. Scott will develop the next generation of leaders,” she said.

She also thanked outgoing board members Aviva Freiden, Debbie H. Lazarov, Emily Lennon, Richard Lewis and Daniel Snyder, outgoing chair appointees Michael Greenberg and Susanne Landau, and outgoing Hillels of Memphis Advisory Board Chairs Hal Fogelman and Wendy Rotter. She also gave a heart-

felt message to her husband, Mark.

The Q+A session included stories from community members who have a personal association with Foundation and Federation. Marty Regan provided remarks on his involvement with gifts for Foundation. Marci Hirsch spoke about her family’s connection to Israel through the Memphis-Shoham partnership and Israel program grants received by her children. Memphis teen Dylan Spiegel praised JSU, a program of NCSY, which received a Federation Synagogue-based youth group grant. Leigh Hendry, executive director of Plough Towers, spoke about Foundation and Federation support for senior meals, activities and Jewish engagement.

Also, during the Q+A session, Mr. Salomon highlighted Foundation’s ties with professional advisors, stat-

(See JCP Page 3)

At Least 7 Wounded in Tel Aviv Terror Attack



Police and rescue forces at the scene of a car ramming attack in north Tel Aviv on June 4, 2023. Credit: Miriam Alster/Flash90

By Ben Sales

This is a developing story.

TEL AVIV (JTA) – At least seven people were wounded in a terror attack in Tel Aviv as a Palestinian attacker rammed his car into people waiting at a bus stop.

Video from the scene showed the attacker then emerge from his white truck and begin stabbing patrons at a nearby street cafe. According to the Israel Police, he was shot dead by a civilian with a gun.

Multiple victims were wounded seriously in the attack, which occurred in the city’s northern district. The attacker killed on site has been identified as a man from the southern West Bank.

The attack came while a major Israeli military raid took place in the Palestinian West Bank city of Jenin, aimed at rooting out terrorist cells. It is among the largest Israeli military operations in the West Bank in decades, involving hundreds of combat soldiers. Israeli forces have killed 10 people and injured approximately 100, according to the health ministry of the Palestinian Authority, which decried the operation as a “war crime.”

Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai referenced the Jenin operation in remarks from the scene of the Tel Aviv attack last Tuesday.

(See Attack Page 2)

Protesters Block Tel Aviv Highway; 15 People Arrested



Protesters block the Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv during a demonstration against the Israeli government’s planned judicial overhaul and in response to the resignation of Tel Aviv District Police Commander Amichai Eshed, July 5, 2023. Credit: Yossi Aloni/Flash90.

(JNS) – Fifteen people were arrested last Wednesday night in Tel Aviv after protesters blocked Tel Aviv’s Ayalon Highway following the resignation of the city’s police commander. Dozens more were arrested in other protests around the country.

It took police several hours to clear the main north-south route through the city as hundreds of anti-government demonstrators caused massive traffic jams, also blocking Kaplan Street. They lit fires, waved Israeli flags and chanted “democracy.” Officers used water cannons to extinguish the blazes.

Tel Aviv District Police Commander Ami Eshed announced his resignation last Wednesday, citing political interference by members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition, who he claimed wanted the police to exercise a more forceful response to the ongoing anti-judicial reform demonstrations.

Two women were hurt during protests in Jerusalem, and four people were arrested after police declared the gathering illegal. Water cannons and mounted police were deployed to disperse the protesters. Four more protesters were arrested early last Thursday at Hasira Junction near Herzliya.

A man was arrested last Wednesday night after driving through a group of protesters on the Ayalon Highway. No injuries were reported.

Ten people were also arrested during a demonstration outside of the Tel Aviv police station.

“The responsibility for the chaos in the Ayalon lanes lies with the law enforcement system and the police who lost control in the face of the anarchists who block the Ayalon again and again

and again,” tweeted Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

“There is no reason that justifies the selective enforcement that manifests itself in the use of large forces and arrests at right-wing, ultra-Orthodox, settler or Ethiopian demonstrations compared to the left-wing demonstrations that include lighting bonfires and blocking major roads without any response. This is not a democracy!”

“And this is exactly why we are promoting the strengthening of rights and freedoms and first of all the right to equality, because this is the way to strengthen Israeli democracy.”

Nadav Galon, one of the leaders of the protest movement against Israel’s current government, said in an interview last Thursday morning with “Radio 103FM” that more protests were planned.

“You haven’t seen anything yet,” Galon said.

“I am confident that after yesterday, the more the government advances [its judicial reform program] – and I hope it will stop – but if it advances, you will see the same degrees of pressure and even more significant ones to stop the dictatorship. We are determined.”

MK Benny Gantz, chairman of the opposition National Unity Party, said last Thursday that Netanyahu would bear responsibility for any bloodshed during the protests.

“He sees that the violence is increasing – handguns are being drawn, attempts to trample protesters, tension between us that continues to grow—and he continues on this dangerous path that will bring us to a collision, and, God forbid, to civil war,” Gantz told a press conference.

“When people bleed in the streets,

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. July 14, 2023 / 25 Tammuz, 5783 7:57 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. July 15, 2023 / 26 Tammuz, 5783 8:58 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Matot-Masei

the responsibility will first and foremost be his.”

Gantz said National Unity’s negotiating team would resume judicial reform compromise talks if Netanyahu put a halt to a bill to end the Supreme Court’s use of the standard of “reasonableness” to cancel government decisions.

The Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee voted last Tuesday to advance the amendment to Basic Law: The Judiciary. It was [planned to] head to the full Knesset as soon as last Monday for the first of three readings necessary for it to become law. HW

Attack... (Continued From Page 1)

“We estimate that as a result of the activity in the Judea and Samaria region, the motivation and potential for a terror attack will rise,” he said, using the Israeli government’s term for the West Bank. “Therefore, we have increased our forces. I also ask civilians to stay aware. We’ll do everything we can to provide security.”

The attack comes amid increasing violence that has largely been centered in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Dozens of Israelis and more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in violent incidents since the beginning of the year.

In April, a car rammed into a group of civilians on the Tel Aviv promenade, killing one and wounding seven. Israeli authorities characterized the incident as a terror attack, though the suspect’s family has said it was an accident. In March, a Palestinian attacker killed one person and wounded two in a shooting in Tel Aviv. HW



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JCP...
(Continued From Page 1)
ing, “Professional advisors are our link to donors, and we engage with them through many channels, such as planning councils, events and programs and presentations to local advisor firms.”

He also remarked on the new Life and Legacy Plus initiative, saying, “Through this initiative, we are educating fundholders on the benefits of using their donor advised funds for legacy gifts.”

He closed with a special recognition of the collaboration between Federation and Foundation, which led to 40 Lion of Judah endowments and thanked outgoing Foundation Board members Stanley Bilsky, Irvin Serenco and Jerry Sklar for their service.

After the Q+A session, Ms. Linder opened her talk with gratitude for the leadership of Mr. Vogel, Ms. Finestone and Mr. Salomon, and for the time and energy gifted by all officers, executive committees and board members.

She emphasized, “For our organization, no person stands alone. It takes all of us, together, to be successful.” She also extended a warm welcome to Mr. Notowich and Mr. Kelman and recognized partner agencies for collaborating to meet the needs of every member of the Jewish community.

“Our JCP team has handled everything coming at them with professionalism and an eye on our mission of en-

suring a vibrant and sustained Jewish community,” she said.

She reiterated her passion for developing meaningful philanthropic relationships, explaining, “These relationships are much more than soliciting gifts. They are about connecting community needs with those who find joy in giving back, in tzedakah.”

Ms. Linder closed with needs for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond, including increasing resources for community relations, security and community sustainability, both in Memphis and overseas. She reiterated the critical need to ensure a vibrant and thriving Jewish community for the generations to follow.

Touching tribute videos with messages from families, friends and colleagues of Mr. Vogel and Ms. Finestone celebrated their vision and steadfastness.

Ms. Finestone shared gratitude for serving as Federation chair and pledged to stay committed, saying, “My family and I will stay involved with caring for the Jewish community for generations to come.”

Mr. Notowich spoke about his goals and focus on strengthening intentional engagement for Foundation, Federation and JCP boards. He also recognized his friendship with Ms. Finestone and highlighted a new young adult leadership program called NeXGEN.

“We will continue to build engagement with our leadership and will help Federation address our community’s needs,” he

said. “NeXGEN will give young leaders a way to understand and support Jewish needs locally and globally.

Nominating Committee Chair Anthony Morrison led nominations for JCP board members and office holders: Mark Gillenson, vice chair Impact and Evaluation; Michael Kaplan, counsel; Herbert Gerson, vice chair Human Resources and Charles Jalenak, vice chair Investment, were elected for two-year terms as JCP officers. Mr. Jalenak is also the incoming JCP treasurer.

Charles Jalenak, Michael Kaplan, Adam Lazarov and Andrea Malkin were elected to the JCP board for three-year terms, and Daniel B. Snyder will serve a two-year term.

Elected Foundation officers are Laurie Meskin, chair appointee, and Pace Cooper, chair-elect. Aileen Cooper, Elliot Kiersky, Wendy Rotter and Jeff Wallace will serve on the Foundation board for a three-year term.

Scott Notowich, chair; Jimmy Ringel, secretary; Jonathan Frisch, vice chair Finance; Eileen Posner, vice chair Investment; Sarah Lewis and Michelle Katz, vice chairs Community Impact; Jill Shanker, vice chair Israel and Overseas; Jaclyn Marshall, vice chair Leadership Development; Sheri Lipman, vice chair Needs Assessment, and Craig Weiss, vice chair Security will serve two-year terms as Federation officers.

Federation officers serving a one-year

term are Steve Libby, vice chair Campaign, and Jana Weiskopf, vice chair Young Adults.

Those elected to serve the Federation board for a three-year term are Bob Eise-man, Jonathan Frisch, Jason Goldstein, Molly Lane, Sheri Lipman, Jaclyn Marshall, Kimberlee Strome, Elissa Taub, Parker Trotz and Keri Unowsky. Lisa Menuskin, Rachel Siegel, and Mary Trotz will serve two-year terms. Jana Weiskopf will serve a one-year term.

Mr. Morrison also welcomed incoming Chair Mr. Kelman, saying, “I am excited and honored to congratulate Marty as the new chair of JCP. He has been a steadfast supporter of our organization and has served in leadership positions across our community.”

Mr. Kelman thanked Ms. Finestone and Mr. Vogel for their leadership with Federation and JCP and expressed his enthusiasm for serving with Mr. Notowich and Mr. Salomon along with sharing his goals.

“Our priorities for JCP include exploring technology tools for increased efficiency, using data to drive decision marketing and building financial transparency through board communication. Thank you for trusting me and allowing me this special privilege to serve. Together, we can make the Jewish community better and can help the entire Memphis community reach new heights.” **HW**

Senior Adult Classes Returning to the MJCC!

Starting August 8, on Tuesdays at 6 - 8 p.m., Mah Jongg will be taught by Melanie Mann. Melanie has been teaching Mah Jongg for many years at the MJCC, as well as other places around town. Whether you are a beginner or relearning, Melanie can teach you this

very popular game. A new Mah Jongg card is included in the class fee. The Course number is 9484.

Beginning bridge lessons will return on Thursday, August 17, taught by Debbie Jackson. Learn to play the world’s greatest game. This class will teach you

all the basics you need to start playing bridge like a pro! The class will be on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Course number is 9483.

The cost is the same for both courses. \$80.00 for nonmembers of the MJCC and only \$72.00 for members.

Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810 or by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. Space is limited so please make your reservations before they are sold out. **HW**

French Reporter with Grenades Arrested at Samaria Checkpoint



Weapons found in Frenchman’s car. Credit: Israel Ministry of Defense Spokesperson’s Office.

(JNS) – A French journalist was arrested while trying to cross an IDF checkpoint near Jenin in northern Samaria with three grenades in his vehicle, the Defense Ministry said last Wednesday.

The reporter, who carried an Israel Government Press Office card, arrived at the Gilboa (Jalame) Crossing, located at the 1949 Armistice Line, from the direction of Jenin last Wednesday afternoon, the ministry said. Upon inspection of his car, security personnel discovered an Israeli-made tear gas grenade and two other grenades used for riot dispersion.

Police were called in to safely dispose of the explosives.

The Frenchman was taken into custody for further questioning and a report was sent to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Last Wednesday, the Israel Defense Forces completed a 48-hour counterterror raid in Jenin. More than 1,000 troops participated in the operation, believed to be the largest deployment in Judea and Samaria in two decades. At least 12 Palestinians were killed, all confirmed to be terrorists, and more than 100 terrorism suspects were arrested. **HW**

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Young Israel’s 2023 Annual Meeting



Sam Epstein (center) accepts YI’s award of dedicated service on behalf of his wife Eileen Segal from Steven Schwartzberg (left) and Esther Katz (right).

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Young Israel’s 2023 Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, June 25 in YI’s Moss Grand Foyer. This was an evening for the Shul’s members to gather for a delicious dinner, recognize volunteers and honorees, and hear from the congregational leadership.

Thank you and a big Yasher Koach to everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to make this year’s Annual Meeting a success: Sam Chafetz, Eileen Segal and Sam Epstein, Abbe and Jonathan Kaplan, Esther and Allan Katz, Michelle and David Katz, Lenny Plotitsa, Ruthie and Ari Rashkin, Steven Schwartzberg and Jon Wogan.

YI’s President Steven Schwartzberg spoke about many of the congregation’s accomplishments of the past year and what we can look forward to as a Shul moving forward. He also thanked many of the Shul’s members who volunteer so much of their time, energies and resources in support of our congregation.

In the middle of my opening D’var Torah, a raging thunder and windstorm erupted, and power was lost in much of the neighborhood. Thankfully, most of the power at Young Israel remained operational, and an enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance.

YI’s thanks and gratitude were expressed to the outgoing board members and officers (Menachem Davis, Joel Kahane, Michael Novich and Havah Schneider) for their years of dedicated service to our Shul.



Rabbi Yaakov Gelb (left) being recognized for leading YI’s youth programming

Steven voiced our sincere thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Yaakov Gelb, who was recognized for his dedicated service as YI’s youth director for the past two years.

Mazel Tov to Lenny Plotitsa on receiving the William Epstein Chesed Award! Lenny’s tireless work and devotion to our Shul and community is an inspiration for all.

Last but not least, Esther Katz masterfully expressed our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Eileen Segal, who was recognized for her 15 years of dedicated service as YI’s executive director. We all wish Eileen the very best as she embarks on her retirement. (Due to a cancelled flight, Eileen could only participate via Zoom. However, her husband – Sam Epstein – was present, and accepted Eileen’s award on her behalf.)

Layala and I are thankful to our Shul’s dedicated leadership and committed membership. Young Israel certainly has lots to be excited about, and much to look forward to!

Young Israel of Memphis’ Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org [HW](#)



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Pregnant Woman Injured in Tel Aviv Terror Attack Loses Baby

(JNS) – A pregnant woman, one of seven people injured in a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv on July 4, has lost her baby, the Israeli Embassy in Washington tweeted.

The embassy previously wrote of the attack, “There is no moral equivalence, no justification. Acts of Palestinian terrorism are fueled by an ideology of antisemitic hatred that vilifies the Jewish people.”


“Terrorism strikes again in the streets of Tel Aviv today,” tweeted Melissa Lantsman, a Jewish member of the Canadian Parliament.

“Praying for the full recovery of those injured in today’s stabbing attack and car ramming attack. One victim – a pregnant woman who was wounded has lost her child as a result of her own injuries. An absolute tragedy,” she added. Another horrific act of terror, another incident the world won’t condemn.”

“If this doesn’t make you angry then we don’t know what will,” added “HonestReporting” Canada. “For any parent, this is the unimaginable and beyond devastating. May the baby’s memory be for a blessing.” [HW](#)



Lenny Plotitsa (left) receiving the William Epstein Chesed Award



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NC Gubernatorial Candidate Accused of Antisemitism Says People Need to Start Reading Hitler Quotes



North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson on April 9, 2022.
Credit: Allison Joyce/Getty Images

By Jacob Kornbluh

This originally appeared on “Forward,” reprinted with permission.

Mark Robinson, the GOP frontrunner for North Carolina governor in the 2024 contest who has been accused of trafficking in antisemitism, encouraged the reading of quotes from Adolf Hitler and other dictators at a conservative conference last weekend.

“Whether you’re talking about Chairman Mao, whether you’re talking about Stalin,” Robinson said in a speech at the Moms for Liberty annual conference in Philadelphia last Sunday, “it is time for us to get back and start reading some of those quotes.” The remarks were published last Wednesday by Heartland Signal, a Twitter account monitoring politics in the Midwest.

Robinson, currently lieutenant governor, recently likened the current political climate in the U.S. to Nazi-era Germany and compared his political opponents to Hitler. He also veered into Holocaust denial, writing in a social media post that the “liberal media deliberately fo-

cuses on the topic of the Nazi and their purported murder of ‘6 million Jews’ for a specific purpose.”

Moms for Liberty has advocated for book bans in school districts across the country. The gathering in Philadelphia featured prominent Republicans, including former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, among other GOP presidential candidates.

One of the organization’s chapters in Indiana came under fire last month and later apologized for quoting Adolf Hitler in a newsletter. The group’s citation of Hitler is not an isolated incident. Media Matters, a nonprofit group that monitors news outlets, last Friday shared images from a 2021 presentation in Flagler County, Florida, that juxtaposed quotes and images of both Hitler and Abraham Lincoln. The Hitler quote featured in the Moms for Liberty presentation – “He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future!” – is the same line that appeared in a recent newsletter of the Indiana chapter. [HW](#)

David Beckham Says He’s Proud to Be ‘Part of the Jewish Community’ at London Synagogue Event

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – British soccer icon David Beckham is known globally for his bevy of championships as well as the “bend” he could put on the ball during 20 seasons of play.

But last Sunday, approximately 600 people in a London synagogue saw him exhibit a different talent: saying “Hamotzi,” the Jewish blessing over bread.

That moment of Hebrew came during an interview Beckham gave at St John’s Wood Synagogue about his Jewish heritage as well as his career. According to accounts in British Jewish publications, the event was a fundraiser hosted by JW3, a Jewish community center, for a Jewish education fellowship. It cost nearly \$100 a ticket and sold out in under an hour.

“I am part of the Jewish community, and I am proud to say it,” said Beckham, whose grandfather was Jewish.

“My grandfather always made sure we would keep up with certain traditions,” he said. “We went to bar mitzvahs and weddings, and I would wear a kippah. Every Saturday morning, I used to go to see my grandfather – you’d walk in the house to my grandmother preparing chicken soup and matzah balls and latkes. We always kept to those traditions; it was always about the family coming together and spending time together.”

Beckham was interviewed by television producer Ben Winston, son of the late Lira Winston, a Jewish nonprofit leader and educator for whom the fellowship is named.

Winston, a TV producer who is friends with Beckham – and with Harry Styles – remarked, “I’ve never felt less good-looking on a stage.” (Beckham is

also known as a model and the star of advertisements around the world.)

Winston also quizzed Beckham on his Jewish knowledge, reciting the first half of the “Hamotzi.” Beckham completed the blessing perfectly.

Beckham also spoke about the triumphs and regrets he had over the course of his two decades as a professional soccer player beginning in the early 1990s, much of which was spent with the powerhouse Manchester United club. Beckham also played for Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain, both also elite teams, as well as the L.A. Galaxy. He is regarded as one of the best players of his generation and as a cultural icon.

This is not the first time Beckham has spoken openly about his Jewish heritage. He has a Hebrew tattoo reading “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine,” a quotation from the Hebrew Bible’s “Song of Songs.” His wife, Victoria Beckham, a fashion designer and former member of the Spice Girls, had a matching tattoo that she reportedly had removed in 2015.

In 2008, the couple sent their son, Cruz, to a Jewish preschool in Los Angeles. And in front of a JW3 audience in 2016, Beckham spoke about his grandfather, and how he was sad that only his oldest son, Brooklyn, had gotten to know him.

In 2022, Brooklyn married Jewish American heiress and actress Nicola Peltz in a Jewish ceremony, which included a huppah, the breaking of a glass and the signing of a ketubah, or Jewish marriage contract. [HW](#)

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Court Acquits Border Policeman in Shooting of Autistic Palestinian



Israeli police guard the location where Iyad Halak was shot near the Lions' Gate in Jerusalem's Old City, May 30, 2020. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

(JNS) – The Jerusalem District Court acquitted a Border Police officer last Thursday in a case stemming from the 2020 killing of an autistic Palestinian. The officer, whose name remains under a gag order, shot and killed Iyad Halak in the capital's Old City after mistaking the latter's phone for a weapon, and after orders for Halak to halt went unheeded. The court ruled that the officer had "acted out of self-defense and concern for his life and the lives of others." Border Police Commander Amir Cohen hailed the ruling and emphasized that the officer had received support "throughout the entire journey." Cohen added that the officer would be reinstated and allowed to participate in an upcoming commander's course. Israel Police Commissioner Kobi

Shabtai said, "We commanders sent the police officer on a mission, and we bear the responsibility to stand by his side. "I believe the court was correct in its ruling," he added. Halak, 32, was shot while on his way to the special-education institute that he attended daily in Jerusalem. Israel Police officers stationed at the Lions' Gate in the Old City – the site of many Palestinian stabbings and other attacks – told investigators that Halak's behavior had appeared suspicious. They said that when they called on him to halt, he ran, spurring them to summon the Border Police. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir last Tuesday praised the court's decision, saying: "Our heroes who go out to defend us and the State of Israel will always get my full backing." **HW**

BBC Apologizes for Anchor Saying 'Israeli Forces are Happy to Kill Children'

By Ben Sales
(JTA) – The BBC has apologized for an on-air interview in which one of its anchors told former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett that "Israeli forces are happy to kill children." The journalist, Anjana Gadgil, was interviewing Bennett last Tuesday about the Israel Defense Forces' incursion this week into the Palestinian West Bank city of Jenin. Twelve Palestinians, including a number of children, and one Israeli were killed in the operation, which lasted two days. Israel conducted the operation to root out terror cells in the city and maintains that all of the Palestinian dead, regardless of age, were militants. Near the beginning of the 8-minute interview, Bennett repeated that message, to which Gadgil responded, "Terrorists, but children. The Israeli forces are happy to kill children." Bennett responded, "It's quite remarkable that you'd say that, because they're killing us. Now, if there's a 17-year-old Palestinian that's shooting at your family, Anjana, what is he?" Gadgil's remarks drew condemnation from a number of groups and public figures. The Board of Deputies of British Jews, an umbrella community organization, said it was "appalled" by her statement and that it would reach out to the BBC due to what it called "a clear breach of the Corporation's own guidelines." The Anti-Defamation League called the remark "slanderous and hateful," and said it "speaks to a sustained anti-Israel bias within mainstream media outlets." Bennett tweeted that the conversation was "one of the most hostile interviews toward Israel that I can remember."

In response, a spokesperson for the BBC told the "Jewish Chronicle," a British newspaper, that the network apologizes for Gadgil's statement. "While this was a legitimate subject to examine in the interview, we apologise that the language used in this line of questioning was not phrased well and was inappropriate," the BBC spokesperson said, adding that the network has endeavored to cover Jenin in an "impartial and robust way." The British Board of Deputies said it welcomed the "speedy response" from the BBC. "I am pleased that the BBC have apologised for the clearly unacceptable language, which was used in their interview with Naftali Bennett," said Marie van der Zyl, the group's president, in a statement. Gadgil's remarks come as the Palestinian Authority has called the operation a "war crime" and the top United Nations human rights official said in a statement that the operation "raises a host of serious issues with respect to international human rights norms and standards." The U.S. National Security Council, by contrast, said in a statement that it "support[s] Israel's security and right to defend its people," though it added, "It is imperative to take all possible precautions to prevent the loss of civilian lives." The BBC's apology comes about six weeks after CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour apologized for saying the killing of three British Israelis happened in a "shootout" rather than a shooting. Bennett left Israeli politics last year after serving as prime minister for little over a year. **HW**

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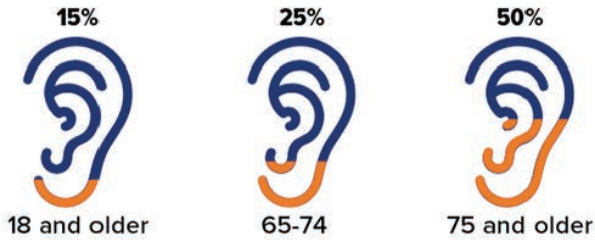
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Percentage of Americans with hearing loss serious enough to affect their daily life, by age



Sources: National Institutes of Health, 2022; National Council on Aging, 2022

More than 37 million U.S. adults are living with some hearing loss, but only about one-fourth of those who might benefit from a hearing aid have used one.¹ One big obstacle is cost: The average price of a pair of prescription hearing aids runs about \$4,600.

Traditional Medicare and most health insurers cover routine hearing tests but not the cost of hearing aids, although some private Medicare Advantage plans will help cover them. But thanks to a recent regulatory shift, it's now possible to buy an effective hearing aid without a medical exam or a prescription, potentially for a lot less money.²

In an effort to spur competition and lower prices, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released final rules for a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids specifically for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. These OTC hearing aids are designed to be self-fitting, and they cost less, partly because they don't require the services of an audiologist to evaluate the person's hearing and fit or tune the device. Consumers who purchase OTC hearing aids should be able to set them up by themselves or with technical support provided by manufacturers through apps or over the phone.

Well-known manufacturers are rolling out an assortment of OTC hearing aids, many of them costing as little as \$200 to \$500 per ear. Some wrap around the ear like traditional hearing aids, but others look more like ear buds or are nearly invisible. They are already available at many stores where health-care devices are sold, or online, but this brand-new market should continue to expand over time. Hearing loss is often progressive, and research shows that people wait an average of 10 years before buying a

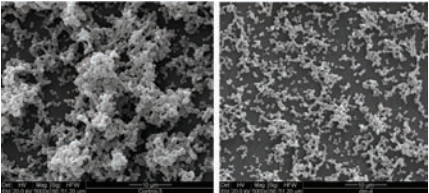
hearing aid.³ Thus, there is some hope that easy access to more affordable – and less conspicuous – options could encourage more people who have trouble hearing to seek help sooner.

OTC hearing aids must be clearly labeled as FDA approved, which should help shoppers distinguish them from unregulated personal devices that may amplify sound but don't correct other issues, such as distortion. Consumers are advised to ask about the retailer's return policy in case they are disappointed with the performance of their new hearing aid.

Individuals with severe or sudden hearing loss, as well as those who experience ear pain, vertigo, or tinnitus, should consult an audiologist for testing and treatment. Some people with mild to moderate hearing loss may still want to have their hearing tested by an audiologist, who might be able to help identify OTC hearing aids that may work well for their specific condition.

1) National Institutes of Health, 2022
2-3) National Council on Aging, 2022
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Israeli Scientists Identify Molecule Preventing Dental Cavities



A scanning electron microscope (SEM) view of the surface morphology of biofilm formed by *S. mutans* after 24 hours untreated (left) and treated (right) with 0.5 M DIM. Images are shown at 5,000 magnification. Credit: Ariel Kushmaro.

(JNS) – Scientists at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva and their colleagues at Sichuan University in Chengdu and the National University of Singapore have identified a naturally occurring molecule that reduces the biofilm that produces plaque and causes cavities.

The researchers found that the molecule 3,3'-Diindolylmethane (DIM), also known as bisindole, disrupted biofilm formation by 90% and therefore bacteria

such as *Streptococcus mutans* were not given a chance to grow and attack enamel.

The findings were published earlier this month in the journal "Antibiotics."

"The molecule, which was found to have low toxicity, could be added to toothpastes and mouthwashes to greatly improve dental hygiene," said lead author Professor Ariel Kushmaro of the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering at Ben-Gurion.

Kushmaro is also a member of the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology and the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change.

The study was conducted with Kushmaro's student Yifat Baruch along with Dr. Karina Golberg and Professor Robert S. Marks, as well as Qun Sun of Sichuan University and Karina Yew-Hoong Gin of the National University of Singapore. [HW](#)

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Anglican Church of Canada Finalizes Decision to Replace 'For The Conversion of the Jews' Prayer

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – The Anglican Church of Canada has voted to remove from its prayer books a prayer calling for the conversion of the Jews.

The decision, made last Friday during a church convening in Calgary, ratifies a move first announced three years ago to replace the prayer with one calling for reconciliation with the Jews. At the time, the Anglican bishop of Quebec said the change would help the church "acknowledge and repent" for its "participation in antisemitism" and help it to "stop singling out Jews as a target for our evangelistic efforts, and to assume a humble and reconciliatory stance with our Jewish elders in the faith."

The conference was the first time the church's General Synod, its official governing conference, met since the 2019 resolution.

"We commend the General Synod for this important decision," said Rabbi Adam Stein of Congregation Beth Israel in Vancouver, in a statement on behalf of the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus and Canada's Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

"Authentic interfaith dialogue requires respect," said Stein, who spoke to church leaders in 2019. "Any attempt by one to convert the other is the antithesis of respect. Changing this prayer represents a milestone in Anglican-Jewish relations and invites Anglicans to assume a reconciliatory stance with the Jewish community."

The decision comes amid a spate of efforts to strip antisemitic elements from Christian liturgy and practices. In

December, citing a rise in antisemitism, including among self-described Christian nationalists, the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations urged churches to scrutinize their own practices and change those that can fuel hatred against Jews.

The group's letter followed initiatives in some of the world's largest Christian denominations to address antisemitism in their liturgy and history. Earlier in 2022, the Episcopal Church announced that it would review pre-Easter readings that blame "the Jews" for the death of Jesus and offered an alternative to them.

Meanwhile, in 2021, Pope Francis restricted the use of the Latin Mass, a traditionalist liturgy that includes a prayer for the conversion of Jews, out of concern that it was being used by those who did not accept the Catholic Church's 1965 statement declaring that the Jews were not responsible for Jesus' death; he has also condemned antisemitism.

And the Church of England, from which the Anglican Church of Canada spun off, recently apologized to Jews for the antisemitic laws that led to their expulsion 800 years ago.

The Anglican Church of Canada's new prayer, "For Reconciliation with the Jews," was written in consultation with the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus, according to the resolution to remove the "Conversion of the Jews" prayer. A different prayer for Jewish conversion to Christianity was removed from the Canadian church's Easter liturgy in the 1990s. [HW](#)

What Happened When a Jewish Group and the Right-Wing Moms For Liberty Shared a Conference Hotel



Police and protestors stand outside the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown during the Moms for Liberty summit.
Credit: Michael M. Santiago via Getty Images

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – It was still winter when the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs learned that its June conference would share space at a hotel with an unexpected guest: a conservative “parents’ rights” group that is driving book bans across the United States.

Among the books pulled from classrooms at the behest of Moms for Liberty members have been several Holocaust-related or Jewish titles, including a version of “The Diary of Anne Frank.” The group’s conference would bring together backers of the group’s agenda, purportedly to protect children from dangerous influences in their schools. It would also attract protesters who view Moms for Liberty as a vanguard for a radical right wing that is increasingly taking aim at LGBTQ rights.

That gathering at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown took place alongside the national convention of the men’s club group and took its attendees by surprise, said convention co-chair Mark Givarz.

“We didn’t rent the whole building. We rented half of it,” Givarz, who lives in Florida, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “But we never expected to have a group of controversy next to us.”

It was too late for the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, which is associated with Judaism’s Conservative denomination, to reconsider its conference location. The group had already signed a contract with the Marriott, and approximately 400 attendees from across the country had already booked travel for the event, which ran June 28 to July 2. Plus, the organizers had already put to-

gether a whole program and made plans to set up a temporary synagogue for the duration of the event.

So the group proceeded, putting out a statement rejecting Moms for Liberty and emphasizing that it holds very different values.

“We believe that every person is made b’tzelem elohim – in God’s image, and deserving of loving-kindness, respect, and dignity,” the statement said. “As such, the FJMC strongly advocates for equal rights for all, including the LGBTQIA+ community. At the FJMC we welcome all participants with love, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, which is why our Inclusion Initiative is a vital part of our programming.”

The statement went on, “While the FJMC recognizes that Moms for Liberty and their speakers have the constitutional right to peaceably assemble, the FJMC does not endorse either the organization, its leadership, or the sentiments that they or their speakers may express during their conference.”

As the event drew nearer, Givarz and convention chair Rick Wronzberg continually monitored the Moms for Liberty website for updates on guest speakers, concerned about the possibility of security issues at their own event. In the days before the conference, Moms for Liberty announced that three Republican candidates for president would speak: former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has been a particular champion of the parental rights movement. All three draw support from

Republican Jews – including a subset of the men’s club convention attendees – driven in part by their records on Israel.

Moms for Liberty also ignited new controversies as the conference neared. A chapter in Indiana quoted Adolf Hitler in a newsletter; an apology followed, but so did an illumination of other instances when group members had cited Hitler approvingly. A report in “Vice” documented ties between the group and multiple white supremacist and extremist groups, including the Proud Boys, whose founder has a history of antisemitism and whose members were integral to the Jan. 6, 2021, pro-Trump riot at the U.S. Capitol. And the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate, officially declared Moms for Liberty an “extremist” organization, along with several other parental rights groups.

A few people who had planned to attend the FJMC conference canceled because of the overlap out of concerns for the atmosphere, Givarz said.

“They didn’t want to disrupt their Shabbos with the nonsense,” he said. “Can you blame them?”

Eric Weis, a member of the group’s board of directors from New Jersey, canceled his plans to attend despite having attended each of the group’s conferences over the last 22 years. “There was just no way we could have fun,” he told the “Philadelphia Inquirer,” which first reported about the overlapping conferences.

Another group member, Elliott Dubin, did travel from Northern Virginia to attend with his wife but told the local newspaper that the conference overlap was particularly galling because of his group’s membership.

“I just wondered who is the genius that booked two sort of opposing groups in the same hotel?” Dubin said. “Many of the Holocaust survivors went through book burnings in Germany and this seems to be the same type of thing.”

Tensions were high as the conferences got underway, as hundreds of protesters against Moms for Liberty gathered outside the Marriott. Police, Secret Service and hotel security amassed to keep the peace and protect the political speakers, and several protesters were arrested.

Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs leaders said they and their attendees felt safe despite the crowding. And Givarz said encounters between the two conferences were mostly neutral. He said that throughout the conference, he had brief,

cordial conversations with Moms for Liberty co-founder Tina Descovich, recalling that he told her a significant portion of his attendees were “very pissed off” about Moms for Liberty’s presence, though he noted that a smaller subset would likely be interested in hearing from the group’s speakers.

Descovich told JTA she did not recall that phrasing. She said she remembered hearing from a leader of the men’s club group that “half of them liked us and half of them didn’t like us, but that they weren’t there to be political.” She was also unaware of the Jewish group’s statement regarding Moms for Liberty, and upon being informed of it, told JTA, “This is America, you can have disagreements and debate on ideas. That’s what our country is about.”

Both Givarz and Descovich remember a conversation in an elevator about his kippah, which was made by the Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda. (There is a FJMC chapter there, but Ugandan group members were unable to attend the conference because of visa issues.) Descovich told JTA, “It was the most beautiful yarmulke I’ve seen.”

Only at one moment was there tension, when attendees of the men’s clubs conference got to bypass a security line and Moms for Liberty attendees got upset – but Givarz compared it to a dispute in the line to get soda at a baseball game.

“We’re very, very pleased with the Philadelphia Police Department and the Marriott for providing excellent, very assuring and unobtrusive security,” Alan Budman, the newly installed president of the mostly volunteer organization, told JTA.

Last Saturday, a group of about 50 men set out on a short walking tour – and wound up with police escorts.

“We didn’t ask for it – they sent police officers on bicycles to accompany them on the walk down to the tour, which was about a seven- or eight-block walk and then on the tour itself and back,” Budman said. “So it made our people feel much more secure.”

Givarz said he made contact one last time with Descovich that Sunday as both conferences were wrapping up – for a goodbye that he said was not particularly memorable.

“At the end of the day, in my opinion,” Givarz said, “Moms for Liberty were like a mosquito that got swatted around but did no damage.” **HW**

Russia Hints at Prisoner Swap Possibility for Jailed Jewish Journalist Evan Gershkovich

U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich stands inside a defendants’ cage at Moscow City Court on June 22, 2023.

Credit: NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/ AFP via Getty Images



By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – The Kremlin has said for the first time that it has held discussions with U.S. officials regarding a possible prisoner exchange involving the Jewish American journalist Evan Gershkovich, who has been held in a Russian prison since March.

The U.S. ambassador to Russia visited Gershkovich last Monday, mark-

ing the first time a consular official has been able to meet with him since April. Meanwhile, Russian Embassy officials met for the first time this week with Vladimir Dunaev, a Russian national jailed in the United States on cyber-crime charges.

Asked to comment on whether the consular visits pointed to a future prisoner swap, Dmitry Peskov, press secre-

tary for Russian president Vladimir Putin, suggested to reporters last Tuesday that the possibility was open.

“We have said that there have been certain contacts on the subject, but we don’t want them to be discussed in public,” Peskov said. “They must be carried out and continue in complete silence.”

Gershkovich, a 31-year-old reporter at “The Wall Street Journal,” is the son of Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union. He was arrested by the Federal Security Service while on a reporting trip in Yekaterinburg on March 29 and is being held at Lefortovo prison on charges of espionage which he, “The Wall Street Journal” and the U.S. government deny. A Moscow court recently upheld a decision to extend his pretrial detention until at least Aug. 30.

“While we unfortunately do not have a breakthrough to share, we continue to

pursue every avenue to secure the release of Evan Gershkovich and fellow American Paul Whelan,” a White House official said last Tuesday. The ambassador, Lynne Tracy, reported that Gershkovich appeared to be in good health and spirits during their meeting.

According to “The Wall Street Journal,” Russian officials have previously suggested the possibility of a deal, but any consideration for a swap involving Gershkovich would have to wait until after a verdict is reached in his case. But it could be many months before a trial is held, legal experts say. A prisoner swap has long been seen by American officials as the most plausible way of securing his freedom, as espionage trials in Russia are conducted in secret and it is rare for courts to acquit a defendant. If convicted, Gershkovich could face up to 20 years in a penal colony. **HW**

Jews Have their Own Creole Language - in the Middle of the Caribbean



A street in the historic quarter of Willemstad, Caracao, that started as a hub for Dutch slave traders. Credit: Wikimedia Commons

By Dor Shabashewitz

This article originally appeared in “Yiddish.”

As most “Forward” readers probably know, Yiddish and Hebrew are by far not the only Jewish languages. Jewish communities around the world once spoke or still speak their own versions of the local languages, such as Ladino, which is derived from Spanish, and Bukhari, which comes from Tajik.

One of the most unique, albeit little-known, Jewish diaspora languages is still spoken in Curaçao, an island in the Caribbean by the coast of Venezuela and a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Curaçao’s main language is Papiamentu. It’s a creole, a mix of two or more languages. But having many loanwords is not enough for a language to be a true creole. Most such languages also have very peculiar grammatical structures, similar to other creoles around the world, but unusual compared to all other languages.

When it comes to the more well-known creole languages such as Tok Pisin of Papua New Guinea, we have a good understanding of how exactly they emerged: the indigenous population

learned some basic English words used by the British colonizers in trade and administration and began using them in a way they were used to, following the grammatical rules of the local Austronesian languages.

Traces of Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch

The history of Papiamentu is slightly more complicated. Some linguists consider it a Portuguese-based creole that was later influenced by Spanish, while others view Spanish as the primary source language and regard the Portuguese influence as a later layer. Today, the former point of view dominates. Either way, Papiamentu contains traces of both Romance languages and Dutch.

The original inhabitants of Curaçao were the Arawak. In 1499, their island was colonized by Spain, but 135 years later the Dutch conquered it and began bringing enslaved individuals from West Africa where a Portuguese-based creole was the local lingua franca at the time. Soon a wave of voluntary immigrants followed. Sephardic Jews came from other Dutch, Spanish and Portu-

guese colonies in the region to trade and work as interpreters on the island.

These Jews quickly learned the language of the island’s majority, the enslaved Africans, and after a while Papiamentu became their own home language. Today virtually all Curaçaoans, including white Dutch people, speak Papiamentu, but that has not always been the case. According to the historians, Curaçao’s Sephardim were the first non-African group to pick up the local creole.

Jews added words from Hebrew

Just like all other Jewish communities in various countries, the Curaçao Jews began changing the local language, adding loanwords from Hebrew and creating a new dialect or ethnolect. As the linguist Neil G. Jacobs writes, the phonetic appearance of Hebrew and Aramaic words used in Curaçao demonstrates their Sephardic origin.

For example, משפחה ‘family’ became *mishpakha* (not *mishpokhe*) and פנים ‘face’ is *panim* (not *ponem*). That being said, the rule has its exceptions: רחמנות ‘mercy’ is pronounced as *rakhmones* – the accented vowel *o* and the ending *es* clearly speak of an Ashkenazi influence.

The Hebrew words that are mostly used in religious contexts are not the only difference between the speech of the Curaçao Jews and the “general Papiamentu” spoken by everyone else on the island. Jacobs mentions varying stylistic preferences. When Papiamentu speakers want to sound more formal or eloquent, they tend to use “pure,” non-creolized forms of words taken directly from Spanish or Portuguese. This is true of all Curaçaoans, but the choice of these languages varies between the ethnoreligious communities. Non-Jewish islanders generally prefer Spanish as the literary reference language, while the local Sephardim use more loanwords from Portuguese and French.

Judaeo-Papiamentu is now under

threat of extinction

Some words in the Jewish ethnolect of Papiamentu differ from the general language regardless of style and context. In many cases, the Jewish forms are closer to the European source languages. The word for dignitary is dignitario in Spanish and Portuguese and sounds exactly the same in Judaeo-Papiamentu, whereas non-Jewish Curaçaoans say dignatario – with a different vowel in the middle. One more example is the word that the Curaçao Jews pronounce as granmersi and their non-Jewish neighbors as gremesi. It comes from French where it means “many thanks” but has a completely different meaning in both versions of Papiamentu: It is a verb that means “to live on another’s expense.”

The more European-like forms of these words may be explained by decreolization, the process of a creole vernacular becoming closer to its original source language. In post-colonial contexts, this usually happens when a creole-speaking community gains access to education, and as a result – more exposure to the written language of the colonizing society perceived as correct and prestigious. In the case of Curaçao’s Sephardim, it might have something to do with their reading of old books and keeping in touch with Jewish communities in other Romance-speaking countries.

Just like most Jewish languages besides Hebrew, Judaeo-Papiamentu is under threat of extinction. The processes of assimilation, secularization and globalization have caused the younger generations of the Curaçao Jews to switch to the general variety of the language. Thankfully, Judaeo-Papiamentu has been thoroughly described by the local Sephardic writer and sculptor May Henriquez. Even if it dies as a spoken language, it will live on in her books that give us an insight into the speech, history and culture of this little-known Jewish community. **HW**

Violent Antisemitism on the Rise in Germany, Watchdog Finds



From left to right: Felix Klein, Germany’s antisemitism monitor; Bianca Loy, co-author of the RIAS report; and Benjamin Steinitz, executive director of RIAS, shown in Berlin with the organization’s 2022 antisemitism report, June 27, 2023.

Credit: Bernd von Jutrczenka/picture alliance via Getty Images

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) – Violent antisemitism is on the rise in Germany, according to a report released [in June] by a Berlin-based watchdog organization with branches around the country.

According to the report on “Antisemitic Incidents in Germany 2022” from the Federal Association of Research and Information Centers on Antisemi-

tism (RIAS), while the overall number of incidents dropped slightly from the previous year, nine incidents were categorized as “extremely violent,” up from six in the previous year. It was the highest total on record since 2017, when the annual reporting began.

The total number of antisemitic incidents RIAS recorded was almost 11%

lower than in 2021, which had a total of 2,773, but 26% higher than in 2020, when the total was 1,957.

The extremely violent incidents included shots fired in November 2022 at the entrance of the historical rabbi’s house at the Old Synagogue in Essen. The category includes physical attacks as well as attempted attacks. In all, 65 antisemitic assaults were counted in 2022, down from 70 in the previous year.

RIAS director Benjamin Steinitz said Jewish communities still need to improve their security given “the high threat posed by Islamist and right-wing extremist actors.”

State investigators have linked some incidents, including the one in Essen and another in Bochum, to actors working for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Steinitz said Germany must “take action against Iran’s state-coordinated terrorism and consistently advocate for the inclusion of the Revolutionary Guards on the EU terror list.”

Whether violent or not, antisemitic incidents have a chilling effect on Jewish life, Bianca Loy, co-author of the study, told the Deutsche Welle public news agency. “They can significantly cloud the feeling of security among Jews,” she said.

In Hamburg, according to the RIAS press statement, a café clerk made an

antisemitic comment about a patron’s kippah as he was paying: “Yes, you can tell he has money by his hat. They always have enough money.”

The report said that in 105 cases, Holocaust memorials or commemorative signs were vandalized in 2022. In January in Weimar, commemorative “stumbling stone” memorials, marking the last place where Jews lived before deportation, were smeared with grey paint and scratched. In September, several signs at the Ahlem memorial in Hanover were damaged by graffiti.

Last November, in a former east German city, a right-wing extremist group attacked and insulted attendees at an event hosted by an anti-racist association, throwing beer bottles and stones and yelling antisemitic insults. Some repeatedly gave the Hitler salute, which is illegal in Germany, and shouted: “Come out, you bloody Jews!”

For the first time, the RIAS report includes statistics and analysis from 11 German states. It gives a broad nationwide picture of antisemitic incidents as well as other forms of racism and discrimination, classifying incidents as physical, verbal or written, and by degree of violence.

Many incidents in 2022 were related to conspiracy theories, particularly in the context of protests against coronavirus prevention measures. **HW**

Same Old Indiana Jones is Still Fighting the Same Old Nazis – It Almost Got a Lot More Interesting



Harrison Ford still has that Indiana Jones charm at 80.
Credit: Courtesy of Disney

By Mira Fox

Indiana Jones first came onto the scene fighting Nazis, and he'll go out the same way. In 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the graverobbing archeologist kept Nazis from getting the magical Ark of the Covenant. In "The Last Crusade," it's Nazis and the Holy Grail. And in what is supposed to be the final installment in the Indiana Jones franchise, a much-older Indy battles Nazis over the Antikythera, an astronomical dial created by Archimedes – and made of solid gold.

Basically, not much has changed for Indiana Jones. Admittedly, the relic in question is more niche than the Ark or the Holy Grail – but otherwise, "The Dial of Destiny" is right in the mold of every other Indiana Jones installment, a

swashbuckling adventure film.

Except, of course, that Harrison Ford is old now – though, let's be clear, he looks pretty good for 80 and even gets a shirtless scene, albeit in rather saggy boxers – and so is Indiana Jones. He's now a cranky professor of archeology at Hunter College who yells at the hippies in the next apartment over when they wake him up by blasting the Beatles to celebrate the moon landing. That's right, it's 1969.

Which brings us back to the Nazis. How is Indy still fighting Nazis in 1969?

Well, the movie opens with the much-talked-about de-aging of Ford for a flashback to WWII, with Indiana Jones fighting on top of a Nazi train full of plundered art and relics. He's there to

steal the Lance of Longinus, the spear that drew Jesus's blood, but upon realizing it's a fake, he snags the Antikythera – or half of it – out of the hands of a German scientist.

By 1969, that same Nazi scientist (Mads Mikkelsen) has been recruited by the U.S. government to work at NASA – as many Nazi scientists actually were, in one of the few pieces of actual history in the movie – and is suddenly being feted by the president for putting a man on the moon. But he doesn't seem to care much about space travel; he's more interested in time travel. He wants to return to Nazi Germany to alter history, and he's convinced that Archimedes' dial can bring him there.

Jones' goddaughter, Helena, played by Phoebe Waller-Bridge stepping far outside her usual genre, shows up to steal the dial to sell on the antiquities black market. But the Nazis are hot on her tail and she and Jones end up working together to try to keep the dial out of the Nazis' hands.

They roam from Morocco to Greece to Sicily to find the missing half of the Antikythera and meet a bunch of Indy's old pals from his adventure days. They're all just as old and infirm as he is, which is a running gag; Antonio Banderas has a cameo as Indy's treasure-diving buddy, except he now has a bum leg and walks with a cane, and John Rhys-Davies' Sallah, a character from previous films, is now an NYC cab driver. In a way, they yearn for their past heydays as much as the Nazis.

The movie is much more focused on the action set pieces than it is on actual stakes, emotional or otherwise, and while that is, in a way, hewing to tradition – "Raiders of the Lost Ark's" plot developed around ideas for stunts – it can make it a little hard to care who wins. Even the Nazis are relying entirely on the name and the gut punch of the

swastika armband for their big-baddie energy; of course we all know Nazis are Bad, but no one ever says why the heroes are so passionate about thwarting them.

I'm not particularly worried about this from an educational perspective – this is not an educational film. But it was a missed opportunity to make the movie just a little more compelling. Especially since the writers hinted at an idea for a more complex plot; spoilers ahead.

Near the end of the movie, the Nazi scientist announces what exactly he wants to do in the past: Kill Hitler. The Allies didn't win the war, he says – Hitler lost it. But he "lit a fire that could have burned 1,000 years." Killing Hitler is a pretty unexpected goal for a Nazi! It's a great twist, and it could have added a really intriguing historical revisionist element to the movie – and could have made the evil threat so much more, well, threatening. Especially given that in the real world of 2023, it's clear that Hitler's fire is, in fact, still burning.

But unfortunately, that revelation comes near the end of the movie, and is quickly irrelevant. Of course, it's not the worst thing to reinforce that Nazis are always the Bad Guys, no matter what. But it's also simply more interesting to explain, and rather lazy not to.

Still, the overall message, simplistic though it may be, still holds: Even one bad seed can birth something dangerous. And given the state of the world today, with conspiracy theories we once believed confined to dark, niche corners of the internet now finding their way into the mouths of politicians and television hosts, its moral seems surprisingly prescient for a simple action flick.

"Yesterday belongs to us," intones our Nazi Bad Guy ominously. But thankfully, in the real world, it's always today. Which means even modern-day Nazis are old-fashioned and out of touch. **HW**

Pew: 87% of Israelis has Positive View of America



Flag of Israel.
Credit: Ri Ya via Pixabay.

(JNS) – A new study of global attitudes shows that Israel is the country with the second-highest positive opinions towards the United States, with only Poland ranked higher.

The report from the Pew Research Center reveals that among Israelis, 87% hold a favorable view of the United States, while 12% have a negative opinion. This compares to the survey's high in Poland of 93%, the low in Hungary of 44% and the median of 59% overall across the 23 surveyed countries.

Other outlier countries with notably higher or lower levels of anti-Americanism included Australia at 52% and South Korea at 79%.

"Israel's current view of the U.S. is the most positive since 2000," Israel Nitzan, acting consul general at the Consulate General of Israel New York, tweeted of the survey. **HW**



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IDF Strikes Targets in Lebanon after Rocket Launch



IDF Artillery Corps personnel near the border with Lebanon, July 6, 2023. Credit: Ayal Margolin/Flash90.

By Joshua Marks

(JNS) – The Israeli military carried out strikes against a rocket launch site in Lebanon last Thursday.

IDF soldiers arrived near the border town of Ghajar after reports of an explosion in the area. It was learned that a projectile was fired from Lebanese territory and had exploded next to the border in Israeli territory.

Arab channels said Palestinian factions, angered by last week’s IDF operation in Jenin, fired the rockets. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the rocket fire.

Professor Eyal Zisser, an expert at Tel Aviv University on Lebanon and Arab-Israeli relations, told JNS that the source of the rocket fire was indeed likely Palestinian.

“From time to time there are rockets

fired lately by Palestinian groups and not by Hezbollah. [The Lebanese terror group] usually takes responsibility [for its attacks] and then the IDF can identify the source and the linkage to Hezbollah,” Zisser said.

“With Palestinian groups [in southern Lebanon], it is always more difficult. We saw some rockets being fired in the direction of Israel during some of the Israeli operations in Gaza. This time after Jenin, maybe this is some sort of Palestinian response,” Zisser continued.

The IDF responded with 15 rounds of artillery fire.

Jets were heard overhead in southern Lebanon.

The military correspondent for Israel’s “Walla” news site reported that “the IDF attacked empty land in southern

Lebanon.”

Zisser described the Israeli response as “very limited.” Last Thursday’s rocket fire is something that Israel “can ignore, contain and move on ... you don’t go to war for that.”

According to Lebanese media reports, the rocket fire emanated from Bastra, located between Kafr Shuba and Al Mari in southern Lebanon.

The IDF Home Front Command did not issue any special instructions for Israelis living close to the frontier.

Citing three “security sources,” the Reuters news agency initially reported that two rockets were fired from southern Lebanon, with one of them hitting Lebanese territory and the second striking near a “disputed area at the border.”

A source in the Lebanese army intelligence services told the Arabic-language news site “Al-Araby Al-Jadeed” that the incident is under investigation. A source from the United Nations’ peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that they were attempting to verify that a missile was fired from Lebanon towards Israel, adding that “nothing is clear yet.”

Tensions have been high along the border after the Hezbollah terror group pitched two tents on the Israeli side of the demarcation line. It was reported last Sunday that the group removed one of the tents.

The outpost was set up in early April, north of the border fence but on the Israeli side of the U.N.-marked Blue Line in the Mount Dov region. The position, located across from an Israeli military base, was reportedly manned by three to eight armed terrorists.

The move comes after Jerusalem re-

portedly sent a message to Hezbollah threatening a confrontation unless the outpost was removed.

Zisser when asked by JNS said that he “wouldn’t connect” the rocket launch with the Hezbollah outpost. “Maybe, but I don’t think this is the case.”

Last Thursday’s rocket launch also comes amid tensions in Judea and Samaria and follows a major counterterror operation in Jenin in the early hours of last Monday, including the entry into the Samaria city of significant ground forces.

More than 1,000 IDF troops participated in the two-day raid, in what is believed to be the largest deployment in Judea and Samaria in two decades.

A Palestinian terrorist drove his car into pedestrians at a bus stop on Pinchas Rosen Street in Tel Aviv’s northeastern Ramat Hahayal neighborhood last Tuesday.

He then got out of the vehicle and stabbed additional victims with a sharp object, police said. There were seven victims in total.

The Israeli military struck Hamas weapons-making facilities in the Gaza Strip overnight last Tuesday, in response to a barrage of rockets launched from the Hamas-controlled enclave.

Five rockets were fired into Israeli territory from Gaza, all of which were intercepted by Israel’s Iron Dome air-defense system. Shrapnel from one of the rockets struck a home in Sderot, causing damage.

In April, the Gaza Strip-based Hamas fired 34 rockets from southern Lebanon towards northern Israel, in the biggest attack emanating from the Hezbollah-controlled country since the 2006 war. [HW](#)



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