PAGE 1 | FEBRUARY 15, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Jewish Federation Activists Travel to DC to Advocate for Israel Aid, Community Security



Alla Olswanger-Lubin and Elissa Taub in front of the Capitol.

Alla Olswanger-Lubin, Federation Board member, and Elissa Taub, Federation Board member and Chair of Federation's Community Relations Council Advocacy Subcommittee, joined over 400 Jewish Federation activists from 65 communities in Washington, D.C., and met with over 140 Congressional offices to advocate for legislation that would support Israel, combat antisemitism, and help secure Jewish communities.

Alla and Elissa met with aides from



Alla Olswanger-Lubin, Rep. David Kustoff and Elissa Taub.

Rep. Steve Cohen, Senator Marsha Blackburn, and Senator Bill Hagerty's offices, and met personally with Rep. David Kustoff. They urged Tennessee legislators to advance the Antisemitism Awareness Act, pass military support for Israel, and increase funding for the Non-profit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

"We stand here in the Capitol of the freest, safest, most powerful, open, inclusive democracy in the history of the world," said Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) President and CEO Eric Fingerhut. "When historians write of today," he said, "they will write that the Jewish people came to the Capitol of the greatest democracy in the history of the world and stood up for the renewed Jewish sovereign state."

"It was an honor to participate in this critical advocacy experience and to represent the Memphis Jewish community with Alla Olswanger-Lubin at my side," said Ms. Taub. "The concerns our community has about Israel's future, addressing antisemitism and keeping our community safe are the same concerns for Jewish people across the nation."

Elissa and Alla also attended a moving presentation with Maya and Gili Roman, whose family member Yarden

(See Advocate Page 3)

Baron Hirsch Inducts New Board Members, Recognizes Loyal Volunteers at Annual Meeting

Penina Wender named synagogue president



Penina Wender addressed attendees of Baron Hirsch's Jan. 30 annual membership meeting as incoming president.

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 30, members of Baron Hirsch gathered for the congregation's annual meeting to celebrate the achievements of the past year, pay tribute to its dedicated volunteers and install a new slate of lay leaders.

The membership unanimously approved Penina Wender as the next president of Baron Hirsch. Wender has been an active member of the synagogue since moving to Memphis – hometown of her husband, Elliot – in 1987. She most recently held the role of first vice president of the board of trustees and co-chaired last year's gala installation dinner for Rabbi Ian and Reb-

betzin Katie Lichter. A graduate of Yeshiva University and the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Wender serves as associate general counsel for Olymbec, which owns and manages properties throughout the U.S. and Canada, and is of counsel at Glankler Brown, PLLC. She has three married children and two grandchildren.

Her appointment continues the Wender family tradition of service to Baron Hirsch; her father-in-law, the late Stanley Wender, and brother-in-law, the late Mark Wender, previously served as president of the synagogue.

"I'm humbled by the trust you've placed in me and thank you for this vote of confidence," Wender said in accepting the presidential nomination. "Baron Hirsch is a unique synagogue where everyone has a place, and every person counts. The shul has taught me about inclusiveness, acceptance of all Jews and the centrality of the synagogue to Jewish life. When we come together to pray as a community, that is the battery that powers everything else we do. Baron Hirsch has played an important role in raising my family, and I'm forever grateful."

Honoring dedicated service

The annual meeting marked the end of Marc Lennon's two-year term as



Baron Hirsch outgoing president Marc Lennon (left), and recipient of the Sam Abraham Member of the Year Award, presented Ira Lipsey with the Louis Turetsky Chesed Award.

president. For his devotion to Baron Hirsch, Lennon was honored with the Sam Abraham Member of the Year Award. During his tenure, Lennon led the congregation through significant changes and uncertainty: welcoming the Lichters, hiring Robert Schneider as executive director following the retirement of David Fleischhacker, navigating communal life post-COVID, join-

ing forces with Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation, and growing the membership to more than 530 families.

In presenting the award, Rabbi Lichter thanked Lennon for his self-less service. "No matter the issue, Marc thinks deeply and empathetically about what's best for our entire congregation,"

(See Meeting Page 3)

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com PAGE 2 | FEBRUARY 15, 2024

My Teen Israel Experience



Chaim Goldman, Rafael Goldkin, Ami Roth, Nadav Aron enjoy a hike in the Golan.

By Rafael Goldkin

This past summer I visited Eretz Yisrael on an NCSY Kollel led by Rabbi Netanel Leibowitz and Rabbi Moshe Benovitz. This trip was made possible largely to the money granted to my family by Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund.

NCSY Kollel is an all-boys program that takes place on Moshav Bet Meir outside of Jerusalem. For six weeks, I focused on learning Jewish topics in depth, traveling Eretz Yisrael, and connecting with other Jewish boys through sports. I was the only boy on the program from Memphis and connected and befriended hundreds of boys from the U.S. and Israel.

The Kollel schedule was great: It started in the morning with davening and learning, basketball in the afternoon, and concluded with night seder (learning) for a couple of hours. The learning was not only enlightening but also fun and enjoyable. The way everyone learned with enthusiasm and vigor made the time fly, and I did not even realize I was learning nearly six hours every day.

The best thing about Kollel was the

theory and practice of middot (Jewish principles.) There was little to no bullying, and everyone was nice to each other. Even the most popular kids were humble and respected every single boy.

I was in a night seder shiur (lecture) led by Rabbi Moshe Benovitz, which dealt with the topic of Jewish sports. Jews in sports is a largely spoken about topic, but not many people touch on how Jews should play sports. I think the hour from 9 to 10 p.m. every night was the most influential part of the program

Rabbi Benovitz dove into Yeshiva League and middot on the court. I don't want to quote anything incorrectly, but what I took away from the shiur is that we Jews are supposed to be different. It says in Parshas (weekly Torah reading) Kedoshim, "I, the Lord, am your God who has set you apart from other people."

Rabbi Benovitz would always say, "If Judaism plus life equals life, then Judaism equals zero." He would explain that we need to bring the Jewish aspect into every facet in our life. Whatever we are doing, wherever we are, we need to act like Jews. Whether on the ball court, out



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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Feb. 16, 2024 / 7 Adar 1, 5784 5:25 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. Feb. 17, 2024 / 8 Adar 1, 5784 6:22 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Terumah

in public or at shul, we need to act like Jews and uphold ourselves to the standard of Jews.

NCSY Kollel was the best example of this lesson. When I stepped onto the ball court to play a leagues game, everyone was still friends. Even playing championship games, the teams would compliment each other on good plays.

When we traveled, the guys would display the best middot, thanking workers and guides wherever we went. This lesson, that we are always Jews, was best taught by Rabbi Benovitz but best displayed by the amazing guys that on NCSY Kollel this sum

can only thank Kollel for teaching me this lesson, and I hope to ingrain it into my life for good.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemksy Endowment Fund for making my NCSY Kollel Israel trip possible.

Rafael Goldkin, son of Amy Goldkin and Alan Goldkin, is a junior at Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to offset the costs of his NCSY Kollel Israel program. All rising juniors and seniors are eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2024 are open and can be accessed at jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowmentfund.

Note: This essay was written before the horrific events of October 7. HW





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Advocate...

(Continued From Page 1) Roman was released from Hamas captivity, even as Maya's sister-in-law, Carmel Gat, remains a hostage in Gaza. Gili said the support of the Jewish community has been critical in the fight.

"It's the deepest possible support that one can imagine," he said.

Israeli Ambassador Michael Herzog spoke to the activists and encouraged them to fight hard for Israel's right to defend itself. He shared that Israel is thinking about a future, non-Hamas force that would rule Gaza, which would include Palestinian forces, he said, and was working to face off humanitarian problems.

Ambassador Herzog also spoke of the critical importance of North American Jewish backing for Israel.

"You have no idea how important your support is," he said. "The people of Israel know it, they appreciate it. And I'm here on their behalf to say...thank you."

Activists also heard from Admiral John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications for the National Security Council, who provided key information about the Biden Administration's ongoing efforts to free the hostages and secure additional defense spending for Israel.

Reflecting on her experience, Elissa said, "I am so grateful to Federation for providing the opportunity to participate in this event. I came away inspired by the support for Israel and the Jewish community within the halls of Congress and by the tremendous respect those on Capitol Hill have for JFNA."

The Memphis Jewish Federation Community Relations Council seeks to advance the values, interests and priorities of the Memphis Jewish community through partnerships and collaborations within the Jewish and greater Memphis community. For more information, contact the Federation at 901-767-7100 or email lwolf@jcpmemphis.org HW

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month

Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service helps to ensure that all members of the Jewish community, regardless of disability status, have the same opportunities to contribute to Jewish life, learning, and worship wherever they choose.

Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAA-IM) was founded in 2009 with the goal to raise awareness and acceptance of Jewish people with disabilities.

Fogelman JFS Inclusion and Diverse Abilities program offers a variety of services to those living with developmental and acquired disabilities and their caregivers. Fogelman JFS has a longstanding social group that is designed to enhance independence and quality of life through activities including: art, cooking and yoga classes, movies, bowling, professional sporting events, community service activities, and fine arts events. Fogelman JFS provides advocacy support to those with legal or social difficulties, as well compassionate case management services to families with children of all ages. One month of awareness is NOT enough; come check out the display during the month of February in the MJCC lobby on how you can make a person living with a disability feel included in Jewish life all 12 months of the year! $\boldsymbol{H}\boldsymbol{W}$

Meeting...

(Continued From Page 1)
Rabbi Lichter said. "He and his wife,
Emily, represent what it means to live a
meaningful Torah life."

Ira Lipsey was also recognized for his dedication to the congregation, receiving the Louis Turetsky Chesed Award. Lipsey has served on the board of trustees for over a decade, most recently as secretary. He is a member of the house/facilities committee and regularly volunteers his time in the Baron Hirsch kitchen to prepare food for synagogue events and to donate to those in need. Like Wender, Lipsey is carrying on a family tradition of service, as his mother, Sue Ann Lipsey, and uncle, Jake Lipsey, are past recipients of the Chesed Award.

"Volunteering at shul is really more of a communal obligation," Lipsey said when receiving his award. "Baron Hirsch is our shul, and each of us must take ownership and responsibility. Even helping once a year can make a huge difference for the members we serve and in supporting our shul's hard-working professionals."

Acknowledging the evening's honorees, Rabbi Lichter said, "Marc and Ira are models of what our shul needs more of."

In addition to the adults recognized at the meeting, Dina and Eitan Selter, Baron Hirsch's youth directors, presented Teen Awards to Avi Becker and Rachel Sanderson for their dedication to supporting the shul's youth programming.

New board of trustees

In her new role as president, Wender will be supported by a board of executive officers and trustees. Inducted as officers were Dr. Mark Kaplowitz, Richard Lewis, Ira Lipsey and Dr. Ellen Tavin, vice presidents; Stacy Sanderson, treasurer; and Amara Levine-Reich, secretary. They are joined by gabbais David Cooper (rishon), Elliot Wender (shaynee), Louis Safier and Adir Rovner (assistants), as well as Sidney Mendelson, warden.

Approved for new two-year terms as members of the board of trustees were Sylvia Albert, Carl Chaifetz, Dr. Sandy Cohen, Dr. Marc Cohen, Tracey Mendelson, Shoshana Mehler, Frank Udelsohn, Dr. Danielle Levine, Dr. Noam VanderWalde and Cindi Weinstein. Cara Baer was approved for a one-year term.

Continuing their service on the board of trustees are Emily Baer, Natanel Brakha, Tova Cooper, Stuey Einhorn, Tami Eiseman, Shana Lowell, Gary Makowsky, Howard Spector and Benjamin Wachtel, along with Jake Lipsey, president of the men's club.

Baron Hirsch is a modern Orthodox Zionist congregation that seeks to engage its members in all aspects of Jewish life. To learn more, visit **www.baronhirsch.org** or contact the shul at 901-683-7485. **HW**

Pearl Berg, World's Oldest Jewish Person and 9th-Oldest Overall, Dies at 114

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – Pearl Berg, thought to be the oldest Jewish person in the world and the third oldest American, died last Thursday in Los Angeles. She was 114.

A philanthropist active in her local Hadassah chapter, Berg was married for

58 years to Mark Berg, a businessman and investor. He died in 1989.

"She maybe had a sip of Sabbath wine but she didn't drink, she didn't smoke, she ate sensibly, she had good emotional balance and she clearly had remarkable genes," Berg's youngest son, Robert Berg, told the "Los Angeles Times."

Berg was born Oct. 1, 1909, in Indiana and raised in Pittsburgh, where she was confirmed at Rodef Shalom Congregation and attended secretarial school. In a tribute written on her 114th birthday, Rabbi John Rosove of Temple Israel of Hollywood, where Berg was a member, remembered that her parents, Archiebald and Anna (née Gerson) Synenberg, were "itinerant photographers" who traveled widely looking for work, and her father later ran a used car business. When that enterprise failed, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Berg met her husband.

"Jewish life was always a priority in Pearl's life," wrote Rosove. "She and Mark joined Temple Israel of Hollywood in 1938 where they raised their sons Alan and Robert," who survive her, as does a granddaughter, Belinda Berg. "She was an avid supporter of Hadassah," serving for two years as president of the Nordea chapter in Los Angeles, "and a lifelong supporter of the State of Israel."

After the death of her husband, Berg joined a book club, regularly attended concerts and plays, and became more involved with a bridge group, according to the Gerontology Research Group, which studies "supercentenarians" and confirms their ages. As a member of Temple Israel's Sisterhood, she wrote "notes to bereaved families on behalf of the temple, which she continued to do until the age of 105," according to the GRC.

At the time of her death, Berg was the ninth oldest living person in the world.

Another Jewish member of the supercentenarian study, Louise Levy, died last year in New York at 112. There are no other Jews among the verified 50 oldest people in the world. But a Jewish sculptor named Morrie Markoff recently entered the supercentenarian club, turning 110 in January. **HW**

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PAGE 4 | FEBRUARY 15, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

Registration Now Open for Free Performing Arts Day Camp for Young People Who Stutter

Camp SAY: Across the USA – Memphis at the Halloran Centre March 23-24

The Orpheum Theatre Group announced the return of Camp SAY: Across the USA – Memphis – a FREE two-day camp for young people who stutter, ages 8-18, that helps build confidence and community. This camp will take place March 23 and 24 at the Halloran Centre (225 S Main St.). Registration is open now and closes Friday, March 15.

"Camp SAY has helped me grow in my confidence in myself," said Josiah, Camp SAY Camper. "When I use my voice on stage, it makes me feel powerful, like I'm really respected."

Working in partnership with SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young, the Orpheum Theatre Group has developed an exciting day camp experience that prioritizes connection, collaboration, and fun for kids and teens who stutter, ages 8-18.

Camp SAY: Across the USA - Memphis offers a wide variety of games and activities that encourage community, creativity, and teamwork. Under the guidance of the Camp SAY leadership

staff and the Orpheum's teaching artists and programming staff, campers work together in small groups to create original artistic pieces – short plays, comedy skits, poems, songs, dances, visual art – and share them with the larger group (each child can choose whether or not they wish to participate in this final share). It is a time of celebration and empowerment, where everyone gets as much time as they need to speak and express themselves fully.

"As a parent I wanted my son to know that he was seen and heard and deeply loved," said Jessica, mother of Camp SAY camper Solomon. "Coming to Camp SAY has been a gift to him because it wasn't just Mom and Dad communicating that to him, but it was all of these other beautiful friends communicating that he is seen and heard and deeply loved."

Camp SAY also offers an optional parent education workshop and support group, where parents can learn more about stuttering, share their experiences, and meet other parents of kids and teens who stutter. Each camper receives a free camp T-shirt, and camp includes all programming supplies, plus breakfast and lunch daily.

Registration for Camp SAY: Across the USA – Memphis is open now at orpheum-memphis.com/campsay. For more information, contact Lena Wallace Black at lblack@orpheum-memphis. com or 901-529-4247.

About Camp SAY: Across the USA: Building on the success of Camp SAY, the life-changing two-week residential summer camp for young people who stutter (ages 8-18), Camp SAY: Across the USA brings the Camp SAY experience to cities across the country. Camp SAY and Camp SAY: Across the USA are programs of SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young.

About SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young:

The Stuttering Association for the Young is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support, advocacy and life-changing programs for young people who stutter, ages

3-18. For over 20 years, SAY has offered comprehensive and innovative programs that address the physical, social, and emotional impacts of stuttering. Through Camp SAY Camp SAY: Across the USA, SAY: Speech, and our award-winning Confident Voices creative arts programming, SAY builds a community of acceptance, friendship, and encouragement where kids and teens who stutter can develop the confidence and communication skills they need to thrive.

About the Orpheum Theatre Group:

The mission of the Orpheum Theatre Group is to enhance the communities we serve by utilizing the performing arts to entertain, educate, and enlighten while preserving the historic Orpheum Theatre and the Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education. For more information, visit orpheum-memphis.com.

Orpheum Education & Community Engagement Declaration of Action: We commit to engaging and collaborating with the people of the Mid-South through the transformative power of the arts. HW

'BBC' Staffer Refers to Jews as 'Nazis,' Denies Holocaust

By David Swindle

(JNS) – Dawn Queva, a senior scheduler for the BBC, has referred to the "holohoax" and "AshkeNazis," "Deadline" reported.

Queva, senior scheduling coordinator and playout planner at BBC Three, also posted a host of other antisemitic messages – often typo-ridden – including saying that Jews have "none zero zilch blood connection to the land of Palestine or Israel historically."

"To be JewISH is to practice a religion loosely based on the Hebraic faith," the senior BBC employee said. "To be Jew-ISH has zero to do with ethnicity."

She also interpreted Noah's blessing to his sons in Genesis to mean that Ashkenazi Jews aren't really Jews, but instead "the synagogue of Satan."

Of the Holocaust, Queva wrote that

although 26 million Russians died during World War II, "all we here [sic] about and made [sic] never to forget are the JeWISH 6 million. Never mind the Rothschilds funded their own holohoax."

She also accused Jews of kidnapping, raping and enslaving Africans "for 30 generations," committing genocide against Palestinians and controlling the

media

"We don't comment on individual members of staff, and we have well-established and robust processes in place to handle such issues," a BBC spokeswoman said. "We do not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia or any form of abuse, and we take any such allegations seriously and take appropriate disciplinary action wherever necessary." HW

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CUNY Cancels 'Globalizing Intifada' Panel from Anti-Racism Conference



Pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protesters gather in front of the Colorado Convention Center, the site of the opening plenary of the Jewish National Fund-USA annual conference, Nov. 30, 2023. Credit: Carin M. Smilk.

(JNS) – The City University of New York's Lehman College has chosen to amend its schedule for Feb. 16's "Engagement, Equity and Antiracism" conference, removing a session after receiving strong criticism.

The school had intended to feature a panel titled "Globalizing the Intifada! Mapping Struggles for Palestine Between the Streets and Our Classrooms" before canceling the planned discussion.

Lehman College spokesman Richard Relkin said the panel's "polarizing title" did not fit with "the theme of the conference and does not align with campus policy."

Jane Kehoe Higgins, director of Lehman's Institute for Literacy Studies, told

the "New York Post" that "the goal is to bring people together, not to cause harm or make students feel unsafe" and that "after discussion with the panelists, I do not believe we share the same goal."

Jeffrey Wiesenfeld, a former CUNY trustee, had called the event "a 'how to' guide for junior terrorists," adding that "supporting the intifada is not only antisemitism, it's anti-civilization."

Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) said, "Any event seeking to 'globalize the intifada' is an open invitation to violence against Jews across the globe. The glorification of antisemitic violence has no place in a public university, where all students have a right to be and feel safe." **HW**

Nate Looney Will Use His Experience as a Jew of Color to Speak About Inclusion at Beth Sholom



Nate Looney

Beth Sholom Synagogue will host Nate Looney, the director of Community, Safety, and Belonging at the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), at a special scholar-in-residence Shabbat on March 1-March 2. Looney will discuss how to develop a more welcoming and inclusive Jewish community, drawing from his own experience as a Black Jew.

"We are looking forward to a Shabbat of deep learning, meaningful discussion, and enhanced understanding of what it means to broaden our sense of community," said Rabbi Sarit Horowitz. "Nate will share his own story of belonging in the Jewish community."

At JFNA, Looney is part of the Jewish, Diversity, and Inclusion Team. Born to a Baptist father and Episcopalian

mother, Looney rejected Christianity because the religion was imposed on his enslaved ancestors. Looney viewed Judaism as a faith that encourages followers to ask difficult, uncomfortable questions. He formally converted when he was 26. He is now in his late 30s.

At Beth Sholom, Looney will speak on "Expanding Our Embrace: A Story of Belonging" at Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner on Friday night, March 1 at 6 p.m. He will talk about "Emergent Strategies in Allyship-Partnerships Post Oct. 7" during Kiddush lunch on Saturday, March 2. Later that day, at a 6:30 p.m. Havdallah and light dinner, Looney will participate in a fireside chat.

Looney's background is impressive and diverse. As a member of the U.S. Army National Guard, he received the Army's Meritorious Service Medal for his rescue work after Hurricane Katrina. He served in Iraq and afterwards earned a B.A. in Business from American Jewish University. He founded Westside Urban Gardens, an urban farm, in Los Angeles, where he lives.

For more information and to register for Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and the Havdallah light dinner, visit bsholom. shulcloud.com/form/Nate-Looney. HW

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon



Happy attendees enjoy a successful monthly luncheon.

On Wednesday, February 21, at noon, we will have our big MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon!

The luncheon will feature musician and vocalist Brad Birkedahl, provided by Creative Aging. Birkedahl is best known for his work with rockabilly trio, The Dempseys. Today Birkedahl has expanded his rock n' roll repertoire with a powerhouse stage show. From presidents to prime ministers, Brad has entertained audiences around the world. In 2015, he was honored with a brass note on historic Beale Street in downtown Memphis.

We will also be honoring one of our regulars, Otto, for turning 100 this past January!

The cost is only \$5 for our delicious kosher lunch and entertainment! Lunch is sponsored by Hope Hospice and Palliative Care.

Please call the front desk at 901-761-



Brad Birkedahl

0810 to make your reservations for this wonderful event.

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, required the day before by 1 p.m., can be made by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

RVWWEA

Giant Hamas Tunnel Found Under UNRWA's Gaza Headquarters

By Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – During a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem last Wednesday, the American diplomat was shown photos of a giant tunnel that was exposed in recent days underneath the central head-quarters of UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both sides.

The Israeli leader showed Blinken proof of the misuse of the UNRWA headquarters' underground premises for apparent terrorist tunneling purposes.

The tunnel that was revealed in the meeting was found in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City. According to the Israel Defense Forces, it is believed to be one of Hamas's strategic tunnels.

This comes amid the ongoing revelations that staff of the U.N. relief agency for the Palestinians were actively involved in the Oct. 7 attack against Israel and have long been disseminating incitement against Israel through various platforms, including as teachers.

Originally published by "Israel Hayom." **HW**





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Young Israel Shares Some Memphis Warmth with the IDF



Some of the dozens of appreciative IDF soldiers who received YI's winter

By Rabbi Akiva Males

A few weeks ago, an incredible mitzvah opportunity unexpectedly came our way. Shimon Bauer had been granted a leave from his IDF service to visit his family here in Memphis. Around that same time, a friend in Israel made me aware that many Chayalim (Israeli soldiers) are in serious need of warm winter clothing. This information jogged my memory, and I recalled a trip to Israel that Layala and I took in the summer of 2015.

During that visit, we spent some time with the director of an organization called Yashar Lachayal, "Straight to the Soldier." Yashar Lachayal's representatives visit IDF bases throughout Israel to see what the soldiers require. Those needs result from the fact that Israel can only stretch its budget so far. We were surprised to learn that there are many basic items that the government is unable to issue to its soldiers, Once Yashar Lachayal determines what the troops are lacking, they set out to fill the gap – with 100% of monies raised used to purchase what the soldiers need.

For example, since 2006, Yashar Lachayal has distributed tens of thousands of warm fleece jackets, hats, gloves, thermal underwear and socks - winter gear that is not standard issue but is a necessity nonetheless. (The director explained: "The IDF has a budget, and when they have to choose between M-16s and fleece jackets, they buy the M-16s.")

As we in Memphis experienced a week of freezing weather conditions in mid-January, I found myself wondering how our brave IDF Chayalim were handling the cold winter conditions in Northern Israel and Gaza. Was there anything we at YIOM could do to be helpful? Then it hit me. Shimon Bauer was planning to return to his IDF unit in another few days. I reached out to him, and he assured me that he'd be excited to share winter clothing items with his fellow soldiers.

With the MHA (together with all other Memphis schools) cancelled due to the icy roads, I had time for a careful run to Costco. Once there, I quickly filled a donated suitcase with 120 pairs of weatherproof socks and 24 insulated OD green vests. While cautiously driving home, I felt great about those items, which would soon help some of our IDF Chayalim stay warm during their winter deployments.

Upon my return, I hastily put together an email asking for donations so YI's Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (RDF) could cover the costs of our soon-to-be-distributed winter items. I was overwhelmed by the response to my appeal. Within one day, more than enough funds came in to pay for the many items I had purchased at Costco.



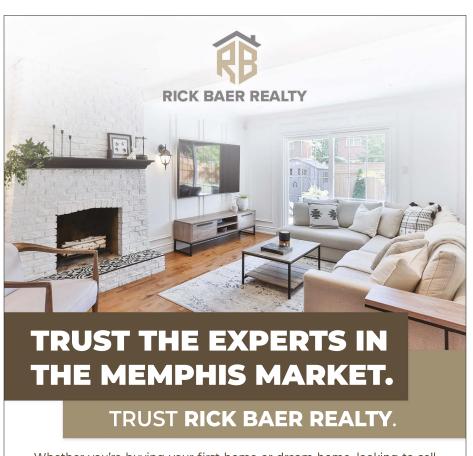
YI's suitcase filled with 120 pairs of weatherproof socks and 24 insulated OD green vests.

In fact, after covering the RDF's expenses, I was even able to send \$1,200 to Yashar Lachayal to support their efforts to supply other Chayalim with items they need to stay warm.

Shimon Bauer succeeded in taking YI's suitcase of socks and vests to Israel. Once there, he quickly distributed our items to dozens of extremely appreciative Chayalim (see the accompanying picture). A tremendous Yasher Koach goes out to the many generous donors who made this truly heart-warming project possible!

May G-d answer all of our prayers, and ensure the well-being of Israel's brave soldiers, our brothers and sisters who are still in captivity (may they be reunited with their families ASAP!), and everyone in Israel who is in harm's way.

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



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Kustoff, Speaker Ohana Hold Historic First Meeting of House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group



Rep. Kustoff, Speaker Ohana, Rep. Lawler, Rep. D'Esposito, Rep. Miller, Rep. Sherman, Rep. Manning, and members of the Knesset in the U.S. Capitol.



Congressman Kustoff speaks with family members of the hostages.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chairman of the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) welcomed Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana to the U.S. Capitol for the inaugural meeting of the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group. Afterwards, the group met with family members of Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

The House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group is a historic alliance between members of Congress and members of the Knesset tasked with strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship. Present at the meeting were Reps. Mike Lawler (R-NY), Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY), Max Miller (R-OH), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Nikema Williams (D-GA), and Kathy Manning (D-NC).

"It was an honor to welcome Speaker Ohana to the U.S. Capitol for the first meeting of the historic House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group," said Congressman Kustoff. "I was pleased to bring together members of Congress and members of the Knesset to reaffirm our commitment to the U.S.-Israel rela-



Congressman Kustoff and Speaker Ohana speak at a press conference following the meeting.

tionship. Israel needs to know that the United States is committed to Israel's security, we are committed to protecting her longevity, and we are committed to bringing all the innocent hostages home safely. During this time of deep sorrow and sadness, it is of the utmost importance that we do all we can to support our greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel." HW



Major General Doron Almog, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is pictured above with members of the Belz family, Federation Board Chair Scott Notowich and community leader Nathan Lubin. Major General Almog visited Memphis to share the myriad of ways JAFI is supporting the most vulnerable families impacted by the atrocities of October 7 and the ensuing war.

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PAGE 8 | FEBRUARY 15, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

Much Ado About RMDs

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

The SECURE 2.0 Act, passed in late 2022, included numerous provisions affecting retirement savings plans, including some that impact required minimum distributions (RMDs). Here is a summary of several important changes, as well as a quick primer on how to calculate RMDs.

What are RMDs?

Retirement savings accounts are a great way to grow your nest egg while deferring taxes. However, Uncle Sam generally won't let you avoid taxes indefinitely. RMDs are amounts that the federal government requires you to withdraw annually from most retirement accounts after you reach a certain age. Currently, RMDs are required from traditional IRAs, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs, and work-based plans such as 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b) accounts.

If you're still working when you reach RMD age, you may be able to delay RMDs from your current employer's plan until after you retire (as long as you don't own more than 5% of the company); however, you must still take RMDs from other applicable accounts.

While you can always withdraw more than the required minimum, if you withdraw less, you'll be subject to a federal penalty.

Four key changes

1. Perhaps the most notable change resulting from the SECURE 2.0 Act is the age at which RMDs must begin. Prior to 2020, the RMD age was 70½. After passage of the first SECURE Act in 2019, the age rose to 72 for those reaching age 70½ after December 31, 2019.

Beginning in 2023, SECURE 2.0 raised the age to 73 for those reaching age 72 after December 31, 2022, and, in 2033, to 75 for those who reach age 73 after December 31, 2032.

- 2. A second important change is the penalty for taking less than the total RMD amount in any given year. Prior to passage of SECURE 2.0, the penalty was 50% of the difference between the amount that should have been distributed and the amount actually withdrawn. The tax is now 25% of the difference and may be reduced further to 10% if the mistake is corrected in a timely manner (as defined by the IRS).
- 3. A primary benefit of Roth IRAs is that account owners (and typically their spouses) are not required to take RMDs from those accounts during their lifetimes, which can enhance estate-planning strategies. A provision in SECURE 2.0 brings work-based Roth accounts in line with Roth IRAs. Beginning in 2024, employer-sponsored Roth 401(k) accounts will no longer be subject to RMDs during the original account owner's lifetime. (Beneficiaries, however, must generally take RMDs after inheriting accounts.)
- 4. Similarly, a provision in SECURE 2.0 ensures that surviving spouses who are sole beneficiaries of a work-based account are treated the same as their IRA counterparts beginning in 2024. Specifically, surviving spouses who are sole beneficiaries and inherit a work-based account will be able to treat the account as their own. Spouses will then be able to use the favorable Uniform

Lifetime Table, rather than the Single Life Table, to calculate RMDs. Spouses will also be able to delay taking distributions until they reach their RMD age or until the account owner would have reached RMD age.

When Must RMDs Begin?

Date of Birth	RMD Age
Before July 1, 1949	701/2
July 1, 1949, through 1950	72
1951 through 1959	73
1960 or later	75

How to calculate RMDs

RMDs are calculated by dividing your account balance by a life expectancy factor specified in IRS tables (see IRS Publication 590-B). Generally, you would use the account balance as of the previous December 31 to determine the current year's RMD.

For example, say you reach age 73 in 2024 and have \$300,000 in a traditional IRA on December 31, 2023. Using the IRS's Uniform Lifetime Table, your RMD for 2024 would be \$11,321 ($$300,000 \div 26.5$).

The IRS allows you to delay your first RMD until April 1 of the year following the year in which it is required. So in the above example, you would be able to delay the \$11,321 distribution until as late as April 1, 2025. However, you will not be allowed to delay your second RMD beyond December 31 of that same year – which means you would have to take two RMDs in 2025. This could have significant implications for your income tax obligation, so beware.

An RMD is calculated separately for each IRA you have; however, you can withdraw the total from any one or more IRAs. Similar rules apply to Section 403(b) accounts. With other work-based plans, an RMD is calculated for and paid from each plan separately.

For more information about RMDs, contact your tax or financial professional. There is no assurance that working with a financial professional will improve investment results.

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NJ Man Faces Life in Prison After Pleading Guilty to 2022 Spree of Violent Antisemitic Attacks

By Luke Tress

(New York Jewish Week) – A man has pleaded guilty to federal hate crimes for a spree of violent attacks against Jews in a heavily Orthodox area of New Jersey.

In April 2022, Dion Marsh perpetrated a series of attacks against Orthodox Jews in and around Lakewood, a city in central New Jersey that is a hub of Orthodox Jewish life. The victims were recognizable as Jews due to their traditional attire and Marsh targeted them because they were Jewish, according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Last Thursday, Marsh, 29, copped to five hate crimes charges and one count of carjacking. The Justice Department said that Marsh had attempted to kill four victims and assaulted a fifth. He faces life in prison.

Marsh told investigators that the attacks "had to be done" because Hasidic Jews "are the real devils," according to the federal complaint.

"They had this coming," he said.

According to the statement, during the daylong attack spree, in the early afternoon, March forced a Jewish man out of his Toyota Camry, assaulting him and causing injuries, then driving off in the man's car.

Hours later, Marsh used another vehicle to ram a Jewish man, "attempting to kill the victim," and fracturing several bones, the statement said. Between the attacks, Marsh had driven to his home and switched into his grandmother's vehicle, a federal complaint said.

Shortly after that, Marsh used the ve-

hicle to ram a second Jewish man, also attempting to murder him and causing broken bones.

Then, using the first vehicle he had stolen, he rammed into a Jewish pedestrian, got out of the vehicle, and stabbed the victim in the chest, causing serious injuries.

In the final attack that night, Marsh hit another Orthodox Jewish man who was walking in nearby Jackson Township, in another murder attempt that caused broken bones and internal injuries. Law enforcement arrested Marsh later that night at his home.

The Anti-Defamation League said that Marsh had not displayed any indication of antisemitism before the attacks. He now faces a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the four hate crimes violations in which he attempted to kill his victim, a maximum sentence of 10 years for the hate crime assault and 15 years for carjacking. He also faces additional state charges.

The FBI investigated the case along with local police.

"The threat from hate-fueled violence is a sad reality across our state and our nation. That hate is not who we are," U.S. Attorney Philip R. Selinger said in a statement.

There were 408 antisemitic incidents in New Jersey in 2022, including nine assaults, according to the ADL. The guilty plea came as the ADL has reported a spike in antisemitism nationwide following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. HW

A Pledge Renewed for Generations: The Jewish Future Pledge Becomes the Jewish Future Promise

To enhance its mission and outreach, the Jewish Future Pledge (JFP) has announced its new name and becomes The Jewish Future Promise. This name change marks a strategic expansion of the organization's vision, emphasizing a universally accessible and deeply moral commitment to perpetuate the rich tapestry of Jewish narratives, principles, and cultural heritage.

In marking the occasion, JFP also announced that lawyer, law professor and, author, Alan Dershowitz has endorsed and has become a signer of the Jewish Future Promise. Dershowitz, has spent his career protecting the Jewish faith and battling antisemitism.

"The time has come for Jewish donors to prioritize Jewish charitable giving, especially to groups that support Israel and fight antisemitism," said Alan Dershowitz. "I have prioritized my giving to United Hatzalah, a volunteer emergency medical service that treats Jewish, Muslim and Christian Israelis alike. If we ourselves are not for Israel and the Jewish people, who will be?

"The Jewish Future Promise is our collective defiance of fear, an emblem of unity that stands unyielded in the face of

any challenge," added Dershowitz. "It's a symbol that extends beyond charity; it's a commitment to education, advocacy, and community solidarity. This promise we take is deeply personal; it affirms our unwavering dedication to our heritage, people, and homeland. In signing, we are laying down a promise, a covenant, that ensures our Jewish legacy is not just remembered, but lived and cherished, generation after generation. Individual Jews and Jewish family foundations have been among the most generous contributors to universities, cultural institutions, and general charities. Jewish philanthropists should continue to support general institutions, especially medical and social ones that are essential to good health, but for now - when the Jewish community and the Jewish state are in crisis - they should also focus on the first of Rabbi Hillel the Elder's admonitions; we must not neglect ourselves and our own charitable institutions."

"Alan's endorsement of the Jewish Future Promise at this pivotal moment reflects a powerful testament to his enduring commitment to the Jewish heritage," proclaimed Mike Leven, the founder of JFP. "His signature illuminates our com-

munity's growth, approaching 50,000 devoted signers. This surge of support encapsulates our collective resolve to preserve the essence of our Jewish identity. As we transition to the Jewish Future Promise, with the advocacy of distinguished leaders like Alan, we reaffirm our unwavering dedication to the continuity and vitality of Jewish culture and values for future generations."

To celebrate JFP's name change, Jewish actor and comedian Modi Rosenfeld, who recently signed as JFP's 40,000th signer, released a pair of videos to help raise awareness and encourage people to sign the Jewish Future Promise. Modi adds his influential voice to the chorus of other prominent singers, including influential Jewish leaders such as Noa Tishby, Rabbi David Wolpe, Leon Cooperman, Bernie Marcus, Paul Singer, Harold Grinspoon, and Charles Bronfman.

JPF is a powerful response to a 2017 study that found a mere 11% of donations from key Jewish benefactors were invested in Jewish causes. The Jewish Future Promise is a catalyst for change and through its efforts, JFP has created an alliance of philanthropic family foundations, individuals, and families

to secure over \$2.75 billion in commitments to various Jewish causes.

About Jewish Future Promise

The Jewish Future Promise (JFP) is a visionary global initiative dedicated to preserving and enriching the Jewish heritage for future generations. The Promise asks signers to make a moral commitment; if any charitable contributions are made upon passing, whether it be \$10 or \$10 million, at least half will support Jewish causes and/or the State of Israel. JFP is embraced by notable philanthropists including Bernie Marcus and Charles Bronfman, who pledged to direct their estate's philanthropic gifts toward Jewish and Israel-focused causes. Extending its reach, JFP also inspires young adults, through the Jewish Youth Promise for 13- to 24-year-olds, to pledge lifelong engagement with the Jewish community. JFP's impactful work is supported through partnerships with major Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Federations of North America, JNF-USA, Israel Bonds, the Orthodox Union, and a host of local federations across the United States. For more information, please visit, www. jewishfuturepromise.org. HW

'Curb Your Enthusiasm' Season 12 Premiere Raises a Question: Will Larry Go to Israel?



Larry David attends the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" Season 11 premiere at the Paramount Theatre in Los Angeles, Oct. 19, 2021. Credit: Jeff Kravitz/ FilmMagic for HBO

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Every season premiere of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" raises the question of just how Jewish the latest run of the show will be.

Last Sunday night, in the first episode of the 12th (and final) season, Larry David may have provided an answer: Not just Jewish, but possibly even Israeli. Light spoilers lie ahead.

This season is a continuation of the last, in which Larry produces a show about his youth called "Young Larry," and is in a reluctant relationship with local politician Irma Kostroski (Tracey Ullman). The first episode, which premiered [last]Sunday night, centers on an ill-fated trip Larry takes to Atlanta to be the guest of honor at a birthday party.

While at the party, Larry and his housemate, Leon (J.B. Smoove), discover that the host, who described himself as "African," is, in fact, white and South African. Larry asks Leon, who is Black, if he's ever been to Africa. Leon says he hasn't but would like to go.

"I wonder if a Black man going to Africa is like a Jew going to Israel," Larry says. After a brief interjection by Leon, Larry continues, "I'll tell you what: Let's plan a trip! We'll hit the Congo, you know, and then we'll go to Tel Aviv." Leon assents.

If Larry and Leon do go to Israel, it will be different from the Israel of today.

This season of "Curb" finished filming last March, well before anyone knew that the country would be plunged into a months-long war. But the end of episode one throws into question whether Larry will be able to leave the country at all.

The Israel conversation wasn't the only Jewish moment of the show. When Larry meets another nemesis of his, the housekeeper at his hotel, he calls her a "farbissina" – Yiddish for a bitter person. It's clear not everyone knew what it meant: Google searches for the word rose shortly after 10 p.m. ET, the premiere time. **HW**

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The Origins of Valentine's Day



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

Ted Roberts

It all began in 19th century England. Young Bobby Shaftoe loved – from a distance of course – his schoolmate, Vicki Valentine. Their combined age was 22 and Bobby was 12. So, you can figure out that Mistress Vicki was only 10. But emotionally, physically, and intellectually she was a giantess compared to shy Bob.

He preferred a pounding with a cricket bat to a short conversation with this half-grown schoolgirl. He stuttered, and a rash (which spelled "I LOVE YOU" in blotchy red bumps) decorated his chest. So, Bobby – eager to proclaim his emotions – approached his good friend, young Master Hallmark, who had a reputation for courage, a talent for fond phrases, and a need for shillings, pence, and pounds. Bobby Shaftoe begged his pal, Hallmark to deliver a devotional message to Vicki, the playground

Queen. "I'll give you a whole handful of pence, Hallmark."

That very afternoon they held their planning session.

"What thoughts should I convey to Mistress Valentine?" began the silver-tongued emissary.

"Well, tell her I think she's cuter than a dish of kidney pie." Bob was fascinated by kidney pie. In fact, the same devotion was applied to anything that came on a plate. Consequently, he was a rounded little fellow.

"I love her yellow hair, and I think her eyes are shinier than my finest Aggie marble," said Bobby.

Young Master Hallmark, blessed with a maturity beyond his age, duly took note. "Hair so fine – Eyes that shine – Will you be mine, Valentine?"

The next day young Master Hallmark, note in hand, was waiting by the playground swing for the golden girl. He was idly making a dollar sign in the dust at his feet when he looked up at a pair of emerald-green eyes framed by crayon yellow hair. Gad — Bobby Shaftoe should have warned him. Who could look at those eyes and still command brain and tongue to work sensibly together.

He tried, but like his employer, he developed palpitations. And only gibberish fell on the sugar cookie ears of

Mistress Vicki Valentine.

The messenger fled, but not before he thrust his notes in Victoria's palm.

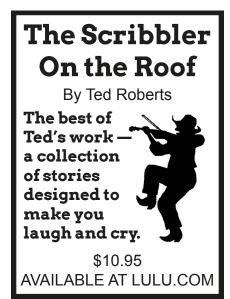
The next day the owner of the emerald eyes and sugar cookie ears coyly approached a trembling Bobby Shaftoe. She wore a modest shawl over her hypnotic hair, and she turned down the volume of those radiating emerald eyes so that Bobby could breathe normally and articulate without slobbering.

It made no difference. But luckily, Victoria opened the conversation with, "Yes, yes, yes, I'll be your Valentine forever. What a loving heart lies in your pudgy chest. And what a poetic soul pulses in your cuddly body. And I'd love to share a plate of kidney pie with you."

The poetic soul moved its head up and down in recognition and gratitude. That's all it could do.

Well, the word soon got around that Hallmark could make a golden cage of phrases that could capture any girlish heart.

"You just give him a few clues," young Vanlandingham told a group of spellbound listeners, "like her hair color and whether she's thick or thin. He makes up a mushy note and takes it to her. Next thing you know – you're sitting in her parents' dining room having fish and chips."



Business boomed for Young Master Hallmark. He kept that lucky last line that had heralded his new career. With a slight twist it became – "Won't you be MY Valentine." In fact, since all young ladies of 10 have hair so fine and eyes that shine, he used the very same verse for months. It went with everything – like your white socks. His career thrived.

That Hallmark, he was a card!

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

Sea of Galilee Water Level Rises Amid Heavy Rains in Israel



Snow in Nebi Samuel Park. Credit: Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

By Pesach Benson

(JNS) – The Sea of Galilee's water level rose some 15 cm during a [36-hour-period] due to rainy weather, which was expected to continue for several days [last week].

According to the Water Authority, the lake's water level now stands at 210.65 meters below sea level, or 1.85 meters below its full capacity.

The forecast also prompted authori-

ties to close off hiking trails in the Negev and near the Dead Sea for fear of flooding. The popular Darga, Mashash, Teko and Og riverbeds [were scheduled to be] closed until Saturday evening.

Flash floods in the Negev are especially dangerous because the dry, compacted desert soil is less absorbent, leading to unusually sudden and powerful flooding.

The risk is further compounded by forecasts of snow on Mt. Hermon in the

Golan Heights. Melting snow raises the water level of the Golan's streams. Ordinarily, snow on Mt. Hermon, the highest point in Israel, attracts skiers, but the ski center has been closed to visitors since Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre.

Flooding is also expected in Israel's coastal plain and Tel Aviv metropolitan area

The rainy and cold weather was set to ease up [last] Monday. **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTSA Multiplicity of Fronts

By Howard Weisband

Given the current situation ("matzav" in Hebrew), Israel is facing a multiplicity of unprecedented, critical fronts simultaneously.

Those fronts range in nature: militarily, diplomatically, judicially, politically, and even psychologically. I will describe each of them, albeit too briefly to do the entire situation justice within one relatively short column. The point being that together, intertwined as they are, this multiplicity of fronts, each important in its own right, paints one very complex picture.

Militarily the IDF remains engaged in Gaza, partially in a "mopping up" operation, and continuing to destroy large elements of the massive underground tunnel infrastructure, while closing in on Hamas leadership, which surrounds itself with our hostages.

In the north, the IDF remains heavily engaged with Hezbollah and their array of rocket attacks, as our air power pinpoints their firing positions, killing terrorists and destroying as much of their arsenal as possible. The wild card is whether or not the Israeli army and political establishment will be forced to conduct a ground invasion to defeat Hezbollah or at least push them back beyond Lebanon's Litani River allowing for a renewed buffer zone.

Near Eilat in the south and in the Red Sea, Yemen's Houthis continue to attack Israeli territory and international shipping, even after U.S. and British retaliation.

The common thread of course in these military fronts is Iran, each terror organization being a proxy, or better described as a tentacle of the Iranian octopus. Neither Israel, the U.S., nor the free world as a whole has yet to fully confront and eliminate Iranian rhetorical, terrorist, and cyber attacks, nor the "biggie," its potential nuclear aggression.

Diplomatically, the most important immediate task is the release of the remaining Israeli hostages being held captive underground by Hamas in its massive tunnel network. The mediators are the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt, bringing proposals back and forth between Israel and Hamas. Diplomats and decision makers are negotiating terms of ceasefire or pauses in the war, prisoner release, and humanitarian aid, while the lives of hostages are on the line, many of them tragically lost already.

Meanwhile, Israel is negotiating normalization and open diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, both through the U.S. and directly in back channels. Perhaps the stickiest issue is the Saudi need to show progress toward a Palestinian

state, or what more often is referred to as the "two state solution." Readers are advised to read Elliott Abrams superb article in "Tablet Magazine" (February 1), "The Two-State Delusion." His logic and cautions apply to the Saudis and additionally to the positions held by the U.S. and almost all others as they view the Middle East.

Judicially, Israel remains a defendant in the International Court of Justice to South Africa's scandalous charge of genocide, or what Justice Elyakim Rubinstein has called "political harassment." On the home-front. Israel's own Supreme Court has all but road-blocked the Government's judicial reform, which may have seen its last days politically following October 7 in any case.

The political front has been super-charged by all of the above plus renewed, consistent public demonstrations on behalf of the hostages that increase the tension between the Government's decision to continue the war until a decisive victory versus a pause or a ceasefire. Added to that are many calls for new elections even during the war, which have been aided by extremely negative, irresponsible behavior on the part of a few imprudent politicians on the far right of the coalition.

And finally, a national psychological crisis is emerging. A January 7 story in the "Jerusalem Post" is subtitled "A new study by the Israeli Institute for Occupational Safety and Health exposes the health costs of war." The article describes those "who served in the IDF (and) are now gradually returning from the battlefield... (joining those) who continued to work during the fighting.... Forty-three percent of the soldiers suffer from stress and anxiety; 39% experience severe sleep problems.... Thirty-five percent of workers lost close family members or relatives; 40% worry about their relatives in the reserves; and 30% fear the economic situation resulting from the war."

In short, the nation is gearing up to address a myriad of mental health issues.

How many fronts can we face simultaneously? Yet we must.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

OBITUARIES



Marilyn K. Notowich

Marilyn K. Notowich, age 88 of Memphis, Tennessee, died peacefully with her family by her side on January 31, 2024. She was born in 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Memphis after college. She is preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Herbert L. Notowich, and by her parents, Deena and Harry Kolker, as well as her brothers, Elliot and Barney Kolker.

Marilyn graduated from University City High School in St. Louis and attended the University of Missouri. She enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

Marilyn loved her family, traveling,

making people smile, was an avid reader, and an enthusiastic University of Memphis and Memphis Grizzlies basketball fan. She was a champion of all of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild. Marilyn had a distinctive way of connecting with people and making them feel welcome, often hosting family and friends for celebratory occasions. She was actively involved in her community and, in particular, with her cherished Beth Sholom Synagogue. One of Marilyn's many volunteer efforts included delivering meals with the Memphis Inter-Faith Association (MIFA).

Marilyn is survived by her children,

Grizzlies basketball, Tennessee Volun-

teer sports, travel and his dog, Neyland.

Garibaldi's Pizza managing catering

and multiple locations. He had a won-

derful relationship with the Garibaldi

family and hired countless friends to

He later became involved in real es-

tate, buying, selling, renting, and rehab-

bing 100s of properties. The relation-

ships he built in both of these businesses

were deep, warm, and priceless, includ-

ing with River City Land Company

Countless friends, tenants, and even

strangers have reached out to David's

family saying how friendly, loving,

helpful, and concerned he always was

for each person's wellbeing. In some

neighborhoods, the people who lived

there were very grateful that David

nearly single handedly regentrified and

David had friends from every corner

improved their community.

where he held his real estate license.

work there with him.

David spent many years working for

Stacy Canales (Art), Scott Notowich (Jill), and Lee Notowich (Stephanie). She also leaves her grandchildren, Aaron and Brittney, Sam, Joey and Rachel, Samantha and Avi, Deena, Maddie, Davis, and Margot, and her great-grandchild, Hannah, as well as her dear brother-in-law, Alvin Notowich.

The service and burial took place on Friday, February 2, 2024, at Beth Sholom Memorial Gardens where Marilyn was laid to rest alongside her husband, parents, and brother.

Donations in Marilyn's memory may be made to Beth Sholom Synagogue (bsholom.org). **HW**

share to help us remember him fondly. David truly cared for people and did not judge others. David's kind deeds for those in need were not known by everyone but became more apparent with the many wonderful stories we have heard about David from his countless friends. He had a nickname for everyone. Like his mother, he never met a stranger.

Even though he had some health issues when younger, David's fabulous spirit really shined through when he was about to go to kindergarten, and he had to be on crutches for over a year. Nothing ever held him back. David always thought each day and each moment was "incredible" or "amazing!"

As his close friend, Scott Frix, stated in comments at the funeral service, "from this day forward the sun will be a little dimmer, but the moon and stars will be a lot brighter."

The family requests donations to the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel or the Ronald McDonald House. **HW**



David Lee Steinberg

David Lee Steinberg, 58, passed away suddenly on January 31, 2024, at his home and was laid to rest at Temple Israel Cemetery surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by his son, Ryan Steinberg of Atlanta, his mother, Joy Wilk, brother Ken Steinberg (Jill), sister Lisa Levi, his life partner, Heather Murphy, and many nephews, a niece, a great-nephew, great-niece, cousins

(JNS) - Jay Peak Resort in Vermont

- a family winter ski escape that also

offers indoor activities - lost several

workers the company's president, Steve

Wright, called "great employees right

That moment took place at a costume

party when five employees from Peru, who held J-1 visas, chose to wear home-

made swastika armbands and perform

up until this moment."

and family members who were all very close to David throughout his short life. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Steinberg, stepfather Larry Wilk and grandparents Joe and Rose Allenberg and Philip and Ruth Steinberg.

David was born in Memphis and lived here his entire life. He graduated Christian Brothers High School, attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and was a successful real estate investor and property manager.

David dedicated his life to his son, Ryan. He and his ex-wife, Suzanne Hill Bagley, shared in Ryan's upbringing, and David and Ryan enjoyed many travels together, sports, music, and the search for the world's best hamburger. David later married Heather Murphy who he continued to share a very close relationship with even after their divorce. Heather and David remained special friends, traveled together, and shared in family events up until the day he died.

David's greatest loves were family, friends, just people in general, Memphis

Vermont Resort Sends Five Employees Packing after Nazi-Imagery Photo

a whole is very 'peace, love and positiv-

ity' type of vibes – and that's the exact

opposite of what we're getting with that

F.-1- -4-1 **

The Peruvians worked at the resort's water park and as lifeguards for about a month. **HW**

Nazi salutes, leading to a photo of them sort told NBC5, "I feel like Jay Peak as

on Instagram.

Wright stated: "We have a zero-tolerance policy as it relates to this sort of thing."

He said the resort promptly investigated the incident, and on Feb. 6, the employees were terminated and are "heading back to their hometown."

One anonymous employee at the re-



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shoham@jcpmemphis.org.



February 14, 2024

Jewish camp scholarships are available to rising 4th grade students

For more information contact Carolyn Pruitt at cpruitt@jcpmemphis.org or (901)-767-7100.

through 12th grade students who will be attending Jewish overnight camps under Jewish auspices.

PAGE 12 | FEBRUARY 15, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

Montana Tucker Wears Yellow-Ribbon Dress, Recording Academy CEO Pays Tribute to Nova Victims at 2024 Grammys



Singer and influencer Montana Tucker arrives for the 66th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on February 4, 2024, wearing a dress with a yellow ribbon meant to call attention to the Israeli hostages in Gaza. Credit: Robyn Beck/AFP via Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – An influencer who traveled to Israel to bear witness after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack walked the red carpet at the Grammys [last] Sunday night in a dress meant to call attention to the Israelis who remain hostages in Gaza.

And the CEO of the Recording Academy, Harvey Mason Jr., paid tribute during the awards ceremony to the hundreds of victims of the attack at the Nova music festival, heeding a call made last week by the CEO of the American Jewish Committee.

"Music must be our safe space. When

that's violated, it strikes at the very core of who we are," Mason said from the stage at the awards ceremony, held at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. He proceeded to name other fatal attacks at concerts or music festivals. "We felt that at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris. We felt that at the Manchester Arena in England. We felt that at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas. And, on Oct. 7, we felt that again, when we heard the tragic news from the Supernova Music Festival for Love, that over 360 music fans lost their

lives and another 40 were kidnapped."

Some survivors of the Nova festival, a trance festival held at a kibbutz just miles from the Gaza border that underwent hours of assault by Hamas terrorists, likened their experience to the Holocaust.

Mason concluded, "That day and all the tragic days that have followed have been awful for the world to bear as we mourn the loss of all innocent lives."

Mason did not name Israel, Gaza or Hamas in his comments, one of several times when the four-month Israel-Hamas war played a role at the music awards ceremony.

Some attendees were reportedly delayed by pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrating outside the ceremony.

Social media influencer Montana Tucker's dress featured a large yellow ribbon at its center, in a nod to the more than 100 Israelis who have been held hostage in Gaza since Oct. 7. Tucker, who is Jewish, visited Israel in December, one of a number of influencers to do so, and organized a flash mob there with a survivor of the Nova festival.

And singer Annie Lennox called for a ceasefire during a tribute to Sinead O'Connor, the Irish singer who died last year.

"Artists for ceasefire! Peace in the world!" Lennox shouted during her performance. The Scottish performer of "Sweet Dreams" was one of hundreds of artists to petition President Joe Biden

in favor of an immediate ceasefire in December.

The ceremony comes a month after a handful of attendees wore yellow ribbons to the Golden Globes award ceremony, following an advocacy effort by families of hostages.

The hostage family movement did not publicly make a push for displays of support at the Grammys, but AJC CEO Ted Deutch had done so, urging the Recording Academy to call attention to the Nova victims. He thanked the academy for Mason's tribute in a statement.

"While our hearts continue to ache for those who were lost, we take comfort in tonight's stirring tribute," Deutch said. "Music can be a great source of healing"

Deutch's request was not the only one made of the Recording Academy on behalf of Jews this year. A number of Jewish artists are also urging the group to introduce an award for best Jewish music, akin to the one for Christian music that already exists.

Taylor Swift and the pop trio Boygenius were the big winners during the awards ceremony, but the Jewish producer Jack Antonoff – who once wore a Jewish star necklace to another awards ceremony – took home the prize for producer of the year, non-classical. Noah Kahan, a Jewish singer songwriter who became known on TikTok, was nominated but did not win best new artist. HW

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