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2024 BBYO International Convention Celebrates 100 Years



BBYO Delta Region delegation traveled to the International Convention in Orlando, Fla. in February.

On February 15, 60 Delta members traveled to Orlando, Fla., for BBYO’s biggest event of the year, International Convention. International Convention, commonly referred to as IC, is when BBYO members from all across the world come together for four days. This year’s IC was the biggest one yet, because BBYO is celebrating its centennial year. Over 5,000 people were in attendance including teens, alumni, stakeholders and BBYO staff. Craig Weiss, native Memphian, is currently serving as the BBYO Board of Directors president and attended IC as well.

This year’s IC was from February 15-19 and was filled with programs such as Separates (deep conversational programs), Shabbat services, Limmuds (guest speakers), and so much more. These programs were fun, engaging and meaningful. There was no shortage of options.

On Friday, elections for the 100th Grand Board of the Aleph Zadik Aleph

(AZA) and elections for the 80th International Board of the B’nai B’rith Girls were held. Delta’s Regional Board had the honor of attending and voting at these elections. While this was happening, other members went to their Leads Day activities. Leads Day is when members get to go off-site and participate in an interactive and fun program that involves their personal interests. Some of the Leads Day programs were a basketball tournament, Careers in the Sports Industry, The Future of Fashion, and so much more. Later that night, we had Shabbat services followed by separates and onegs (Friday night activities).

Saturday morning started off with breakfast and Shabbat Services. After, teens were given the option during the day to hear from speakers all over the world like Israeli Baseball Team Director and Head Coach Nate Fish, Holocaust survivors, author Allan Hall, musical artist Westside Gravy, Jeremy

Sherman and Rebecca Weisman from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and so many more.

Block Party Saturday night featured actor and singer Ross Lynch and the long-awaited concert from Noa Kirel and Two Friends.

Sunday featured many more special guests including actor Skylar Astin,

ADL Director Jonathan Greenblatt, Vice President of Entertainment, Nike Jordan Division Reggie Saunders, actor Joshua Malina, actor and comedian Brett Gelman, and so many more.

Sunday night was time for Universal Studios! Everyone in attendance at IC went to Universal for an incredible night filled with the magical world of Harry Potter, thrilling rides and being with friends.

Sarah Hochman, Delta 76th Regional N’siah, said, “This was an incredible experience, and that as my last IC, I had an absolute blast. I made memories and friends that I will never forget.”

This is what BBYO and IC is all about – making Jewish friends from all across the world and having once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

This was Jack Shanker’s first IC. “Putting myself out there really opened my eyes into all of what BBYO has to offer,” he said. “I will definitely be going to IC next year.”

International Convention 2024 was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our Delta teens. It was filled with old friends and new ones. This is proof that BBYO is alive and well at 100 years old, and that entering its next 100 years, there is even more to come! [HW](#)



Scott Shanker, Jill Shanker, Sydney Shanker, Craig Weiss

Israeli Officials Slam Schumer’s ‘Undermining’ Speech on Netanyahu



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) speaks at Sixth & I before 50 American Jewish leaders visit Israel, on Oct. 18, 2023. Credit: Bo Harris

(JNS) – Israeli officials across the political spectrum hit out at U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) last Thursday night for remarks that effectively called for the replacement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who he implied is the main obstacle to a “healthy and open decision-making process” about the future of the Jewish state.

In a speech on the Senate floor that Schumer described as a “major address”

on a possible two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians, the Jewish senator labeled some of Netanyahu’s senior Cabinet members “bigots” and “extremists” and called for new elections.

Schumer claimed that he was speaking on behalf of “mainstream Jewish Americans” to represent their views on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He suggested that Washington should condition or cut off military aid to Jerusalem unless a new government is formed.

Without mentioning Schumer by name, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog was the first to respond, saying after the speech that

(See **Schumer** Page 3)

Honoring Linda Joffre’s Legacy: The Linda K. Joffre Memorial Fund



Linda Joffrey in the ASBEE kitchen where she could be seen often.

At the heart of every community lie individuals whose kindness and selflessness leave an indelible mark on the lives of those around them. Linda Joffre, a beloved member of the Memphis community, was undeniably one of these extraordinary souls. Her boundless compassion and unwavering dedication to helping others inspired countless individuals and left a lasting legacy of love and generosity.

“Linda Joffre, of blessed memory, was a kind and compassionate friend and source of strength to all who interacted with her,” said Rabbi Joel Finkelstein, Linda’s synagogue rabbi. “Linda’s presence was felt in every aspect of communal life, from personal acts of kindness to leadership roles within the congregation. Her willingness to go above and beyond, coupled with her infectious warmth and genuine concern for others, endeared her to all who crossed her path.”

As a fitting tribute to Linda’s remarkable life, the Linda K. Joffre Memorial Fund has been established to honor her memory and continue her noble work. This fund serves as a beacon of hope for individuals and families in need, providing assistance for education, Israel programs, medical needs and emergency assistance.

“Our very dear friend, former ASBEE Executive Director, Sisterhood President, lead organizer, and volunteer of countless events for the shul and community was unquestionably the epitome

of giving and friendship,” remarked Adina Samberg, a close friend of Linda’s.

Despite facing medical challenges, Linda’s dedication to helping others never wavered. Her smiles and hugs remain palpable to all who had the privilege of knowing her, serving as a constant reminder of her enduring legacy of love and compassion.

Dianne Cooperman, another cherished friend of Linda’s, shared, “There are so many stories of Linda helping and loving everyone that knew her. She was everyone’s best friend. No one can ever fill her vacancy.”

This reflection encapsulates the profound impact that Linda had on the lives of those around her. Through the Linda K. Joffre Memorial Fund, her memory lives on, continuing to inspire acts of kindness and compassion throughout the community.

In honoring Linda’s memory, we pay tribute to her remarkable life and the countless lives she touched. The Linda K. Joffre Memorial Fund stands as a testament to her enduring legacy of love and generosity, ensuring that her spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew her. As we celebrate Purim and reflect on Linda’s remarkable life, let us be inspired to follow in her footsteps, spreading kindness and compassion wherever we go.

Memorial funds at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis are a meaningful way to celebrate the lives of loved ones. Call today at 901.374.0400. **HW**

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3/21/2024



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. March 22, 2024 / 12 Adar II, 5784..... 6:55 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. March 23, 2024 / 13 Adar II, 5784..... 7:52 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayikra Zachor

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Israel Prepares for Surge in Jailed Palestinian Terrorists

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered an urgent directive last Sunday for government ministries to prepare prisons for an influx of thousands of Palestinian terrorists expected to be arrested this year.

The order came after the Israel Defense Forces and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) presented their assessment at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv that in 2024, thousands of terrorists in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza

Strip will be detained, according to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office.

Since the start of the current Hamas war on Oct. 7, some 4,000 terrorists, mostly in Gaza, have been arrested.



Israel Prison Service personnel guard terrorists caught during the Oct. 7 massacre and during IDF operations in the Gaza Strip, at a prison in southern Israel, Feb. 14, 2024. Credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90.

In the meeting, which was attended by representatives from the Defense, National Security and Finance ministries, the IDF and Shin Bet warned of a lack of space for holding the increasing number of security prisoners as a result of the war against Hamas.

The Israel Prison Service presented its plans for both short-term and medium-term housing of inmates, which Netanyahu approved. **HW**



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

Monday, March 25
BINGO
Special prizes and an extra game!
Come enjoy lunch with many of your friends and an easy game of Bingo following!

Wednesday, March 27
Field Trip to Dixon Gallery and Gardens

This is a wonderful time of year to go to Dixon! Flowers will be blooming in these beautiful Gardens right in the Heart of Memphis. The Dixon celebrates creativity, beauty and discovery. With its fine art and living collections, rotating exhibitions in the museum and gardens, unique events and educational experiences, the Dixon strives to bring people together and cultivate an appreciation for art and horticulture. Inside the Gallery there are special Exhibitions that will be ending soon. You can join the seniors on the bus from the MJCC or meet us there. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 for your reservation. Seating is limited on the bus.

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

Monday, April 1
Speaker, Eric Goldberg, PT, DPT, CCI with Semmes Murphey
Topic: “Improving Memory”
As we get older, our memory sometimes becomes less reliable. This talk will focus on things that can be done to improve it. This event is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 3
Field Trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their Big Monthly Luncheon
This will be the fourth time the MJCC Seniors join Baron Hirsch for this event. Anyone wishing to go, please call the Baron Hirsch office at 901-683-7485 and make your reservation. The cost for the Homemade Lunch at Baron Hirsch is only \$5. MJCC seniors will go to and from the luncheon on the Center bus, but reservations are needed by Monday, April 1 for Baron Hirsch to have a count. There will be Bingo and entertainment from Creative Aging!

Schumer... (Continued From Page 1)

it was “counterproductive” for him to comment on domestic affairs.
“Israel is a sovereign democracy,” Herzog wrote in a post on X. “It is unhelpful, all the more so as Israel is at war against the genocidal terror organization Hamas, to comment on the domestic political scene of a democratic ally.”
Israel’s ruling Likud Party urged Schumer to refrain from “undermining” Netanyahu’s coalition, noting that “Israel is not a banana republic, but an independent and proud democracy. Contrary to Schumer’s words, the Israeli public supports a complete victory over Hamas, rejects any international dictates to establish a Palestinian terrorist state, and opposes the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza,” the statement added.
Benny Gantz, whose National Unity Party joined Netanyahu’s wartime government in the wake of Hamas’s Oct. 7 massacre, called the U.S. lawmaker’s move “counter-productive and unacceptable,” adding that “Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is a friend of Israel, and though he erred in his remarks, plays an important role in assisting the State of Israel, including during these difficult times.”
By contrast, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid of the Yesh Atid Par-

ty proclaimed that the Senate speech proves that “one by one, Netanyahu is losing the staunchest supporters of Israel. What’s worse is, he is doing it on purpose. Netanyahu is causing serious damage to the national effort to win the war and maintain Israel’s security.”
Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana of the Likud tweeted: “On my recent state visit to the U.S., I was careful not to wade into American internal politics. The U.S.-Israel alliance lives beyond partisan lines. We work with whoever Americans elect and expect that respect in return. Senator Chuck Schumer has been a friend and staunch supporter of Israel for many years, and our recent meeting in the Senate made that clear to me. But his words contravene the reciprocal respect that should define our relationship.”
Ohana’s message was echoed by Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who said: “The largest democracy in the world is expected to respect Israeli democracy.”
According to a survey published earlier this week, even Israelis who do not trust Netanyahu’s leadership continue to back some of his key war policies, including his opposition to the two-state solution and his insistence that the Israel Defense Forces defeat Hamas in Rafah. HW

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‘Jewish Community is Welcome in Oklahoma,’ State’s Governor Says

(JNS) – As of 2003, there were some 5,000 Jews in Oklahoma, 0.1% of the state’s population, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society. That’s about 24 times less than the estimated national average of 2.4%.
Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican, hopes to narrow that gap.
“The Jewish community is welcome in Oklahoma,” the governor recently told the “New York Post.”
“When you think about the values of who we are as Oklahomans it matches with the Jewish community, family focused, very faith focused, entrepreneurial, hard working,” he added. “In New York some of the Jewish community are being persecuted, and you’ve got the pro-Hamas and Palestinian protesters all over, and we’re like, ‘Man, that doesn’t happen in Oklahoma.’”
The governor cited a 2023 school choice state law that provides tax credits of \$5,000 to \$7,500, depending on parental income, for families to use to pay private-school tuition.
Stitt has visited Israel and calls himself a “Torah-loving Christian,” who reads the Bible regularly and has, since 2023, “kept Shabbat most Fridays – a trend which has become increasingly in vogue among some evangelical Christians,” the Post reported.
He also drew criticism two years ago when he said that would claim “every square inch” of Oklahoma for Jesus. The governor met with local Jewish leaders at the time and the latter said they thought he understood their perspective. HW

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Hamas Makes Formal Offer for Hostage Deal and Truce; Netanyahu Rejects Demands as ‘Still Absurd’



Demonstrators rally in support of Hamas hostages near the United Nations in New York City, Jan. 12, 2024. Credit: Luke Tress

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Hamas has issued a formal counterproposal in ongoing talks over a temporary ceasefire and hostage deal in its war with Israel, giving hope for the first time in weeks that more Israelis taken hostage on Oct. 7 could be released and that the fighting could pause.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who met with family members of about 20 hostages last Thursday night, said the terror group was making “ridiculous demands,” leaving wide-open questions about whether progress in negotiations would continue.

“For the first time, we can envision embracing them again,” the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group created to lobby for the captives, said in a statement about their loved ones. “Please grant us this right.”

The counterproposal comes after weeks of tense negotiations in which both Israeli and Hamas officials have expressed pessimism about reaching an agreement. Under the terms that Hamas has outlined, the group would release hostages who are women, children, elderly and sick in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian security prisoners in Israeli prisons, including 100 who have been convicted of murder. The women

to be released would include soldiers, marking a change in Hamas’ stance.

To release the remaining male hostages, whom Hamas considers combatants regardless of whether they were captured while serving in the military, the proposal says Israel would have to commit to a permanent ceasefire, withdraw from Gaza and release all of the Palestinian security prisoners it holds.

Netanyahu rejected the terms as “still absurd” during a meeting of his war cabinet last Friday. He also said the Israeli army would continue to prepare for a planned invasion of Rafah, the southern Gaza city that has become a refuge to nearly 1.5 million Palestinians including, Israeli officials say, members and leaders of Hamas.

Israeli officials believe there are 134 people being held hostage in Gaza, all but a handful taken prisoner on Oct. 7, and most of them remain alive. More than 100 hostages – nearly all of them women and children – were released during a 10-day truce in November. Since then, Hamas has not released any other hostages. The Israeli army rescued two hostages and unintentionally killed three, while dozens of others have been revealed to have died on Oct. 7 or since. **HW**

Singer Steve Lawrence, Son of a Cantor and Half of ‘Steve and Eydie,’ Dies at 88



Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gorme (right) and Carol Burnett during a tribute to Irving Berlin on “The Carol Burnett Show,” August 1978. (Wikimedia Commons)

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – Steve Lawrence, the Brooklyn-born son of a cantor, who with his wife, Eydie Gormé, formed one of the most enduring popular singing duos during the golden age of the Las Vegas lounge act and television variety show, died March 7 in Los Angeles. He was 88.

In countless night club and TV appearances, “Steve and Eydie” offered smooth versions of American standards well into the rock and roll era — while modeling a happy marriage that proved a balm in an increasingly spiky cultural landscape. Their comfortably romantic banter helped sell classic duets like “Side by Side,” “We Got Us,” “This Could Be the Start of Something” and “We Can Make it Together.”

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Lawrence had a solo career that included the hits “Go Away Little Girl,” which sold over one million copies, “Pretty Blue Eyes,” “Footsteps,” “Portrait of My Love” and “Party Doll.” He was also an actor, appearing in guest roles on television shows in every decade since the 1950s, including turns as Morty Fine, father of Fran Drescher’s title character in episodes of “The Nanny.”

In 1964, Lawrence was nominated for a Tony for his starring role in “What Makes Sammy Run?” playing a ruthless Jewish Hollywood mogul in a Broadway musical based on Budd Schulberg’s classic novel.

In addition to their popular lounge act, Lawrence and Gormé appeared together in the Broadway musical “Golden Rainbow,” which ran from February 1968 to January 1969 and featured the Walter Marks song, “I’ve Gotta Be Me.” Although Lawrence’s version hit #6 on Billboard magazine’s Easy Listening chart, it was Sammy Davis, Jr.’s version that became a Top 25 hit on Billboard’s Hot 100 pop singles chart in 1969.

Lawrence had shared the song with Davis, a Black convert to Judaism. “I sent him my record live, and I said, ‘You’re going to do this your own way and better, because it’s much more lyrically correct coming from you than it is for me,’” Lawrence told PBS in 2015.

Lawrence, born Sidney Liebowitz in Brooklyn, was the son of Max, a cantor and house painter, and Helen. He started singing in the synagogue choir. After dropping out of Thomas Jefferson High School, he won a spot on Arthur Godfrey’s morning radio show and recorded what became a string of solo hits in his smooth baritone.

He met Eydie (born Edith Gormezano, the daughter of Sephardic Jewish parents Nessim Hasdai Gormezano and Fortuna Gormezano, in the Bronx) when both were regular singers on “The Steve Allen Show” (later retitled “The Tonight Show”). They married in 1957. The pair won a Grammy Award in 1960 for their first complete duet album, “We Got Us.”

In 2010, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency nominated their version of the duet, “Baby It’s Cold Outside” as one of the best Jewish Christmas songs. Written by the Jewish composer and lyricist Frank Loesser, the song is about a man trying to convince a woman to stay in his apartment on a wintry night. While the sexual politics of the song have been criticized in recent years, Ron Kampeas writes of Steve and Eydie that “No other couple sings as closely together, or as knowingly.”

As tastes changed in the 1960s and ’70s, the pair continued performing before audiences of their generation. “Eydie and I have been fortunate in that the audiences where we have performed or done concerts all over the world, the audiences have been supportive, they really showed up,” he told an interviewer in 1995. “I can’t translate that into the record business. The Top 40 has driven myself and all of my colleagues to a different kind of niche.”

The couple sang together well into the early 2000s, before Eydie retired in 2009. She died in 2013.

Lawrence is survived by a son, David, a composer of movie soundtracks, and a granddaughter. Another son, Michael, predeceased him. **HW**

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Estate Planning Issues for Businesses of All Shapes and Sizes

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

As we discussed in our last article, from owning and managing a couple of rental properties to owning multimillion dollar corporations, many of our clients own and maintain businesses.

When advising business owners, in addition to standard estate planning concerns, two (2) specific issues arise: (1) how can the business owner shield and protect personal or family assets from company assets and company liability and (2) how can the business owner create an effective succession plan for the business? In our last publication, we focused on the first issue concerning asset protection. In this article, we will focus on (2) succession planning and delve into the common methods, tools and tactics we employ to advise our clients about pragmatic and effective business succession planning.

2. BUSINESS SUCCESSION IN ESTATE PLANNING

1st Tool – Buy/Sell Agreements:

Buy/Sell Agreements are used to establish a proactive plan for the sale and purchase of business interests upon the occurrence of predetermined, specified “trigger” events. These events can include, but are not limited to, death, disability, retirement, or voluntary/involuntary departure of an owner. These triggers are case specific and depend on the type of business, the owner and the owner’s family. An effective Buy/Sell Agreement ensures smooth transition of ownership and provides liquidity to the departing owner and his or her heirs and beneficiaries.

2nd Tool – Family Limited Partnerships (FLP) or Limited Liability Companies (LLC):

As we discussed in our last article regarding asset protection, FLPs and LLCs are often ideal estate planning tools for business owners. In terms of succession planning, FLPs or LLCs often allow for the gradual transfer of ownership interests in a business to family members and enable the business owner to maintain control during his or her lifetime, so long as the business owner is alive and well. FLPs and LLCs are often effective ways to transition business ownership to the next generation and, simultaneously, minimize gift and estate tax liabilities for the original business owner.

3rd Tool – Trusts:

Various types of trusts, such as revocable living trusts or irrevocable trusts, can be utilized in business succession planning to hold and manage business assets, provide for the transfer of ownership, and minimize estate or other tax liabilities.

4th Tool – Key Person Insurance:

Key person insurance is often used to mitigate the financial impact of losing a key individual in the business due to death or incapacity. The proceeds from the insurance policy can help the business survive during the transition period and provide funds to buy out the deceased or disabled individual’s ownership interest.


As we wrap up this two-part miniseries on estate planning issues related to business owners, it is important to note


that business owners ought to work closely with accountants, financial planners, attorneys and other professionals with expertise in estate planning and business succession to develop a comprehensive plan tailored to their specific needs and goals. Each business is

unique. Each business owner is unique. And each business owner’s family is unique. The proper application of the methods we discussed varies depending on the nature of the business, its ownership structure, the goals of the owner(s) and applicable law and regulation. **HW**



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Opinion

No, Jonathan Glazer Did Not ‘Refute His Jewishness’



Jonathan Glazer, with producers Leonard Blavatnik and James Wilson, accepts the Oscar for Best International Film. Credit: Kevin Winter/Getty Images

By PJ Grisar

This originally appeared on Forward, reprinted with permission.

It seems that even before he finished accepting his Oscar – or before any music played him off – critics slammed “Zone of Interest” director Jonathan Glazer for his speech last Sunday night. Abe Foxman, the former head of the Anti-Defamation League, posted to X (formerly Twitter) that while he was pleased that Glazer’s film won for best international film, “as a survivor of the Holocaust I am shocked that the director would slap the memory of over 1 million Jews who died because they were Jews by announcing he refutes his Jewishness.”

It was a case of selective hearing – and also an unwieldy sentence.

What Glazer, who didn’t quite deliver his speech with an orator’s bravura or impeccable diction, really said, reading off a paper, was that he and his fellow winners, Leonard Blavatnik and James Wilson, “stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation, which has led to conflict for so many innocent people.”

(Representatives for Glazer and the film did not respond to a request for comment [last] Monday morning.)

To hear that Glazer was refuting his Jewishness – and in the next breath the Holocaust – is absurd. He committed years of his life to making “The Zone of Interest,” an intricately filmed drama about the commandant of Auschwitz

and his domestic banality of evil.

Foxman is right that it would indeed be shocking for a person who had made this film to use his time on the Oscar stage to “refute his Jewishness.” X’s community notes saw fit to set him straight, placing the full quote beneath Foxman’s post.

Foxman wasn’t alone in condemning Glazer’s speech, which went on to address the dehumanization in this latest war, “whether the victims of October the 7th in Israel or the ongoing attack on Gaza.”

John Podhoretz of “Commentary” posted something unprintable about where he thinks Jonathan Glazer should put his first Oscar. Michael Freund, a former adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, posted to X that Glazer is “a self-hating Jew of the worst sort who exploits the Holocaust to attack Israel in public at the Oscars ceremony.”

In our inbox, Ari Ingel from the Creative Community for Peace issued a statement that read, “It’s disgusting to see that when the director of a Holocaust movie wins an award, he uses his platform to denounce his own Jewishness and co-opt the tragedy of the Holocaust [sic] for his own political cause.”

In fact, Glazer was accusing Israel of co-opting the Holocaust and, again, he didn’t denounce anything but the occupation and the ongoing war’s well-documented suffering on both sides.

So what’s happening here? Did people only hear a fragment of Glazer’s speech, or did they preemptively choose not to like what he was saying because it was critical of Israel? Or, is the Holocaust taboo when it comes to the current war, even as many are keen to point out that Oct. 7 represented the greatest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust?

(There’s another option, which is that critics may have read an unfortunately abridged quote that appeared in “Variety” that said Glazer “refuted his Jewishness” full stop.)

Certainly there is ample room to disagree with Glazer, but when no one engages in good faith with what he actually said, you aren’t disagreeing with him but with a straw man.

There is an irony to all this. Glazer, a veteran director of commercials, music videos and a handful of critically acclaimed films, is known for his precision. In his speech, being less than clear with his words left him open to being taken out of context or selectively quoted.

But then, Glazer wasn’t winning for speech and debate. He won for a film that asks difficult questions of its audience, daring them to interrogate their own biases and numbed responses to human tragedy.

“The Zone of Interest” – which also nabbed an award for its sound design, that meticulously recreated everything from gunshots to the rumble of Auschwitz’s industrial killing – is all about what we can choose to ignore for the sake of our own comfort.

Those misunderstanding what Glazer said – or willfully distorting it – are only proving his point. **HW**



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Rabbi Loren Sykes, Who Founded the First Camp Ramah in the South, Speaks at Beth Sholom Torah Fund Luncheon



"By supporting Torah Fund, we are ensuring the future of the Jewish people," said Barbara Hellman, VP of Torah Fund for the Southern Region of Women's League of Conservative Judaism.

Beth Sholom Synagogue hosted its elegant annual Torah Fund luncheon on March 10 to raise money to support five Conservative/Masorti institutions training tomorrow's rabbis and Jewish professionals.

"By supporting Torah Fund, we are ensuring the future of the Jewish people," said Barbara Hellman, a Beth Sholom congregant and vice president of Torah Fund for the Southern Region of Women's League of Conservative Judaism.

The featured speaker was Rabbi Loren Sykes, who completed his undergraduate studies at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) joint program. He later received his rabbinical ordination at JTS, which is supported by the Torah Fund. Speaking to luncheon guests on Zoom from

Washington, D.C., he said, "Without a scholarship from the Torah Fund, I would not have been able to attend JTS. It was much too expensive for me."

Janet Rubin, Beth Sholom Sisterhood program chair, conducted the interview with Rabbi Sykes, who described the remarkable things he accomplished after JTS. After working at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, he was chosen as the founding director of Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia, the first Ramah camp in the South. In 2005, Rabbi Loren created Camp Yofi, a family camp for Jewish families with children living on the autism spectrum.

Today, Rabbi Sykes is the director of Teen Immersive Israel Programs for the Union of Reform Judaism; principal of URJ Heller High School in Israel; and



The luncheon's featured speaker Rabbi Loren Sykes said, "Without a scholarship from the Torah Fund, I would not have been able to attend JTS."

will work this summer at The Jewish Agency for Israel as director of C2G: The Project to Send Israeli Teen Delegations to Jewish Summer Camps across the world. The teens will come from ar-

eas directly impacted by October 7.

At the luncheon, Hellman took a moment to remember Marilyn Notowich z"l, who had been a staunch Torah Fund supporter for years. Heller also recognized Jodi Becker, Stacy Canales, Patti Elster, Sheri Lipman and Nancy Sayer for becoming Benefactors of the Torah Fund this year.

Hellman noted that this year's Torah Fund theme – we are all Israel and responsible for one another – "has become even more pertinent as we look at our Jewish world today. Together we are proud of our Jewish homeland and together with our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world, we recognize the need to grieve, mourn and also fight to keep our Homeland safe; we can do our part by keeping Judaism alive and thriving."

The five institutions supported by Torah Fund are the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Schetcher Institutes in Jerusalem, Israel, Seminario Rabbinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Frankel College in Potsdam, Germany. [HW](#)

New York Transit CEO Accuses EndJewHatred of 'Cyber Attack'

(JNS) – When the EndJewHatred movement contacted John ("Janno") Lieber, chair and CEO of Metropolitan Transportation Authority, to report antisemitic ads on New York City trains, the Jewish public-transit authority leader accused the group of launching a "cyber attack."

"Ironical that EndJewHatred, which I am sympathetic to, has set in motion what is effectively a cyber attack against MTA leadership," Lieber wrote to an attorney and activist associated with EndJewHatred, the "New York Post" reported. "Very poor judgment."

Gerard Felitti, the activist and civil-rights attorney, called Lieber's note "really crazy," "insane" and "unbelievable," per the "Post."

The group that combats anti-Jewish behavior had written to Lieber that "certain individuals have unlawfully installed artwork, covering paid advertisements for businesses and spreading hate towards Israel, which in turn fuels antisemitism."

"The false claims and inflammatory messages about Israel being propagated through this artwork only serve to fuel antisemitic sentiments and create divisions in our community," the letter added, per the "Post."

One of the offending ads on a New York City train that the "Post" reproduced states: "Israel Bombs. USA Pays. How many kids did you kill today?"

The "Post" added that 1,500 people "flooded" MTA officials over email about the antisemitic ads. [HW](#)



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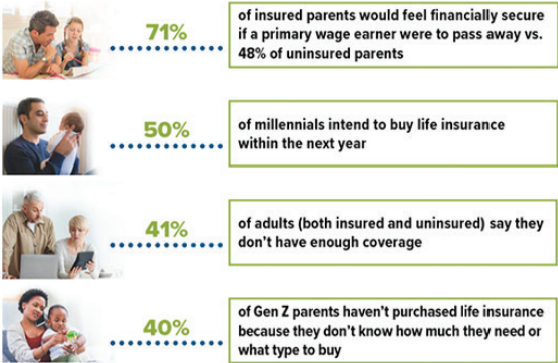
Your most valuable asset may be your ability to earn an income. Over the course of your lifetime, you could earn several million dollars – money that helps support you and your family. If something happened to you, how would your family replace your lost income? Life insurance can help replace your income when needed at your death. However, with the wide variety of policies available, it’s important that you understand some of the basic types of life insurance coverage.

Term life insurance
With a term policy, you get “pure” life insurance coverage. Term insurance provides a death benefit for a specific period of time. If you die during the coverage period, your beneficiary (the person you named to collect the insurance proceeds) receives the death benefit (the face amount of the policy). If you live past the term period, your coverage ends, and you may get nothing back. Term insurance is available for periods ranging from one year to 30 years or more. You may be able to renew the policy for a new term without regard to your health, but at a higher premium. As you get older, the chance that you will die increases. For this reason, premiums generally increase as you get older. However, some term life insurance

can be purchased for a fixed amount of death benefit, at a level premium, for a specified number of years. Most term insurance also has a conversion feature that allows you to switch your coverage to some type of permanent insurance without answering health questions.

Whole life insurance
Whole life insurance is a type of permanent insurance or cash value insurance. Unlike term insurance, which provides coverage for a particular period of time, permanent insurance provides coverage for your entire life, as long as you pay the premiums. When you make premium payments, you pay more than is needed to pay for the current costs of insurance coverage and expenses. The excess payment is credited to a cash value account. This cash value account allows the insurance company to charge a level premium and to provide a death benefit and cash value throughout the life of the policy. The cash value grows tax deferred and can be directly accessed through a partial or complete surrender of the policy, or through policy loans. It is important to note, however, that a policy loan or partial surrender will reduce the policy’s death benefit, and a complete surrender will terminate coverage altogether.

Strong Interest in Life Insurance



Source: 2023 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA

Universal life insurance

Universal life is another type of permanent life insurance with a death benefit and a cash value account. Unlike traditional whole life, universal life insurance allows you flexibility in making premium payments. Universal life insurance policy premiums may be adjusted upward or downward within policy guidelines. Reducing or increasing premiums will impact the growth of the cash value component and possibly the death benefit. Some universal life policies also allow you to choose a level or increasing death benefit. Be aware, though, that if you want to raise the amount of coverage, you’ll need to go through the insurability process again, probably including a new medical exam, and your premiums will increase.

The cost and availability of life insurance depend on factors such as age, health, and the type and amount of insurance purchased. There are expenses associated with the purchase of life insurance. Policies commonly have mortality and expense charges. Any guarantees are subject to the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the insurance issuer. Loans and withdrawals will reduce the policy’s cash value and death benefit, could increase the chance that the policy will lapse, and might result in a tax liability if the policy terminates before the death of the insured. Additional out-of-pocket payments may be needed if actual dividends or investment returns decrease, if you withdraw policy cash values, if you take out a loan, or if current charges increase.

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OBITUARIES

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OBITUARIES



Jerome Bernard Makowsky

Jerome Bernard Makowsky was born on August 28, 1934, and passed away on March 7, 2024, just shy of his 90th birthday. A lifelong resident of Memphis, he was an endlessly enthusiastic husband, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, civic and community leader, life-long business partner and dear friend. By his own description, Jerome lived a “charmed life.”

Jerome was a wise, loving, elegant man who cared deeply about his family and the community. Without an ego and with great generosity he led business, religious and artistic institutions. He had time for everybody and made everyone feel special in his presence.

He was a true servant leader (before the term was coined). Once Jerome

joined an organization, he rose up the ranks to become its president. Jerome graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1956 where he was president of the ZBT fraternity. Upon his return to Memphis, he started his career in the real estate business building single-family homes. He soon opened Makowsky Construction Company and transitioned to the development of small and large apartment properties, including Valley Forge Apartments, Camelot Manor, Wingood Manor and Lynfield Place. During this time, he established Professional Management Associates, which became Makowsky & Ringel, Inc., and ultimately Makowsky Ringel Greenberg, LLC. A 47-year partnership with Nick Ringel enabled the firm to become one of the leading real estate development and management companies in the Memphis area.

He served as the president of the Memphis Jewish Federation, president of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, president of the Memphis Jewish Community Center, president of the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) of North America, and president of the World Confederation of Jewish Community Centers. Jerome was chairman of the Memphis Arts Council and a participant in Leadership Memphis.

He was the recipient of numerous service and leadership awards, including

the lifetime achievement award given by the Memphis chapter of Lambda Alpha Int’l Land Economics Society.

Jerome’s boundless energy was infectious. He is remembered for his big hellos, his morning singing of “Honeybun,” his smooth moves on the dance floor, his educational and fun leading of family Sabbath and holiday meals, and the gusto with which he joined friends for decades of Wednesday night dinners.

Jerome was the consummate patriarch. He is survived by his wife of more than 68 years, Evelyn Makowsky, children Russell Makowsky (Melanie Katzman), Gary Makowsky (Dinah), and Rayna Greenberg (Michael), along with grandchildren Sharon Makowsky (Stephen Flug), Ellen Makowsky (Abe Jacobs), Wyndam Makowsky (Amanda), Emily Greenberg (Andrew Kagen), Sara Grossman (Jacob), Harper Makowsky (Trey Brademan) and Adam Greenberg. Known to the younger generations as “PawPaw,” Jerome was proud to be the great-grandfather to six great-grandchildren with two more on the way!

The funeral was held on Sunday March 10 at Baron Hirsh Cemetery. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, or a charity of your choice. **HW**

Haart Launches Website to Support Zionist Social-Media Advocates

(JNS) – Online harassment of Jews and Israel advocates has reached such a level of intensity, according to a Jewish reality star and fashion executive, that a new community needs to bring together those condemning hate.

“A friend said she posted that antisemitism is bad, and people called her ‘pro-genocide.’ All she posted was that antisemitism is not OK. This makes it cool to not be OK with antisemitism,” said Julia Haart, the star of “My Unorthodox Life” on Netflix.

Haart said the new AHMNation.com would be for “those people who are getting attacked and vilified because they are Jewish, or supporting Jewish people, or saying antisemitism is wrong.”

She said they need to know “they aren’t alone. It’s about community and love.”

In comic-book style, the site announces: “Where Followers Become Heroes.”

After joining, community members will receive a daily email encouraging them to follow a particular pro-Israel advocate. **HW**

As Ukraine War Enters Year 3, Odessa Jewish Children’s Home Struggles with New Challenges

JTA Staff

When Rabbi Avraham Wolff leaves the Mishpacha Children’s Home in Odessa, Ukraine, most evenings, he whispers a silent prayer.

He prays that the 120 children for whom his organization cares will be able to sleep through the night, uninterrupted by air raid sirens and a race to the bomb shelter. He prays that the food, education and warmth his staff provides will help them overcome the challenges of their circumstances so they can obtain the same opportunities as regular children.

He prays that he’ll be able to come up with the resources he needs to keep the Children’s Home running despite the war and the devastation it has wreaked on Odessa.

“Hardly a day goes by without some kind of trauma,” says Wolff, who in addition to running Mishpacha Odessa is a Chabad emissary and chief rabbi of southern Ukraine. “The kids meet with psychologists all the time. We’re coping with very trying circumstances.”

As the war in Ukraine enters its third year, the hardship has not eased for the estimated 30,000 Jews remaining in Odessa, despite the fading of the Russia-Ukraine war from international headlines. There are still attacks on the city nearly every day, tens of thousands remain displaced, and many of those who remain are struggling with the loss of their livelihoods, homes and loved ones in the war.

In the midst of this, Wolff runs an orphanage for a Jewish population that was at high risk even before the war. About 70% children at his facility come from homes all over Ukraine where their parents (or, in most cases, single parent) could not care for them due to trouble with drugs, alcohol, crime, prostitution or mental-health problems. About 30% of the children have no parents at all. A few arrived at the Mishpacha Children’s Home as newborns,

straight from the hospital delivery room and with nothing other than their birth certificate. Since the war began, seven new children have joined the orphanage, including two boys ages 4 and 5 whose mother disappeared during a bombing attack on Odessa six months into the war. They were brought to Mishpacha by neighbors.

Wolff’s job is to provide the children under his guardianship with a safe and nurturing Jewish environment from the moment they arrive until they go off on their own – often, only once they get married. They get food, clothes, schooling, healthcare, psychological counseling and love. The children, of course, pay nothing, but the annual cost of running the separate boys’ and girls’ homes is \$2.5 million. Wolff’s organization also runs a host of other Jewish institutions in Odessa, including two kindergartens, an elementary school, a high school, a Jewish university, a senior-care facility for Holocaust survivors and a home for war refugees.

In the early days of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, with Russian warships anchored off Odessa’s Black Sea coast, missile attacks wreaking havoc in the city, and Russian President Vladimir Putin making specific mention of his ambitions for Odessa, Wolff made the difficult decision to evacuate all the children under his care to Berlin.

“The war had come to our home,” Wolff recalled. “Jews came to the synagogue in the morning with the paleness of fear of death covering their faces. If this anxiety hit everyone, how much more so did it strike the orphans, who are like our children. This fear surrounded them and paralyzed them. All the security that we instilled in them – which we worked so hard for, with dedicated teams 24/7 – was about to collapse.”

In a complicated logistical operation, Mishpacha arranged for the children’s

evacuation in the midst of the fighting and despite the fact that many of them lacked passports. The children went on a 52-hour overland journey accompanied by Wolff’s son, Mendi and Mendi’s wife, Mushki, as well as Mishpacha staffers and Igor Shatkhin, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Southern Ukraine.

As soon as they arrived in Berlin, Shatkhin began organizing the evacuation of other Jewish children and women in Odessa who wanted to flee. The men had to stay behind due to Ukraine’s wartime conscription law barring most men ages 18-60 from leaving the country.

“We sent a message to the entire community: Women and children who want to go with us to Berlin to register immediately by phone and report the next day at 6 AM,” Shatkhin recalled. “The hysteria was so great that in less than an hour 180 women and children signed up.”

Wolff’s wife, Haya, accompanied these evacuees on their journey, but Wolff himself stayed behind. He had to care for those who remained in the city, including at a Mishpacha senior-care facility.

After a year, Wolff brought the orphans in exile back to the Children’s Home in Odessa, where they could finally feel at home again.

But they returned to a transformed city. The Jewish population had shrunk by almost half. The well-to-do local businessmen who in their philanthropic largesse had funded over 80% of Mishpacha’s budget had become needy themselves. Parents who had managed until the war to hold onto their kids had become desperate and distraught. One child was brought to the orphanage after her mother was hospitalized at a mental-health facility following an attempted suicide.

These days, Wolff’s top priorities are dealing with the kids’ wartime traumas and increased mental-health needs while

finding alternative sources of funding for the Children’s Home.

“Our donors have lost their businesses and are now asking us for food,” Wolff said. “Before the war we were supported almost entirely by the local community, but today there’s hardly a single dollar we’re able to collect in Odessa. We are 100% reliant on donors from overseas.”

Shatkhin says his Jewish federation is able to help some, but the lion’s share of support still must come from overseas. Mishpacha Children’s Home receives funding from organizations including the Jewish Relief Network Ukraine (JRNU), Kate and Marty Rifkin of the KMR Foundation, and the Patrick and Lina Drahi Foundation, but Shatkhin is seeking more help from American Jews.

“Our goal is to do everything we can to make these kids smile, despite their trauma,” Shatkhin said. “We want to continue to raise them and prepare them for independent, full and successful lives. But we need the Jewish world’s help.”

Since Oct. 7, Wolff has been caught up in a second war – the conflict in his native Israel, where Wolff still has plenty of family and which has drawn global attention away from the Russia-Ukraine war.

“The security and needs in Israel are very important to the Jewish world – and they are very important to me,” Wolff said. “But we can’t forget that there are thousands of Jewish children here in Ukraine, too, and they also need our love and support.”

To make a donation now to support Mishpacha Children’s Home, visit <https://www.mishpachaorphanage.org/shelteringhearts>.

This article is sponsored by and produced in collaboration with Mishpacha Chabad Odessa, which cares for Jewish elderly, children, and the community in Odessa, Ukraine. This story was produced by JTA’s native content team. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Frieda Gola-Weinreich

The world has sadly lost another remarkable soul, precious Holocaust survivor and much-loved matriarch. The other half of what was believed to be the oldest living survivor couple in the U.S., Frieda Gola-Weinreich, A”H passed away at the age of 99 and a half years old on February 10, 2024, - exactly five months to the day of her beloved husband of 77 years, Sam Weinreich, Z”L. Like her husband, Frieda lived a long and miraculous life.

Frieda was truly the yin to Sam’s yang and throughout their long marriage, the two were the ultimate team while being great opposite and complementary forces to each other in their respective and unique personalities. While Sam was well-known throughout Memphis and the South as an outspoken survivor who could often be found center-stage sharing his miraculous story of survival or performing and singing for crowds (sometimes all of the above), Frieda was the quieter force that propelled him; the wind beneath his wings. Unlike Sam, she never enjoyed the limelight, but if you asked her to share her own story (which she never hesitated to do when asked, much like Sam) and were privileged enough to bear witness, you would be most amazed by her ever-so-sharp memory and the vivid detail in which she would recount her early years.

Born on July 22, 1924, in Łódź, Poland, Frieda grew up in an observant and loving household as the youngest of six children (the only child of her mother’s, she had five half siblings). She enjoyed a normal and happy childhood in Łódź where she attended a Jewish all-girls public school and dreamed of one day continuing her studies to pursue accounting. However, shortly after her 15th birthday, the security she formerly knew was shattered as Poland was invaded by the Nazis, and her neighborhood in Łódź, which boasted a large and thriving Jewish population was quickly transformed into the Łódź Ghetto.

Since everyone living in the ghetto had to make themselves useful in order to receive food rations, Frieda was put to work making shoes from straw that provided the German Army with an extra protective layer against the cold in Siberia. The rations they did receive were extremely meager causing many in the ghetto to die of hunger. It wasn’t long before the lack of food would lead

to Frieda losing her own father. Frieda’s siblings had previously left to seek refuge in other towns where they had other relatives (though ultimately, they learned they were no safer there than in Łódź) and with her father’s passing, Frieda remained alone with her mother.

In August of 1944 as the Soviet troops were continuing their advance into Poland, the Łódź Ghetto was liquidated by the Nazis, and Frieda, along with her mother and the other Jews of the ghetto, was transported to Auschwitz. Upon their arrival, they were greeted by Josef Mengele who quickly determined the fate of all those who arrived in the camp as they stood before him, sending them either to the right or the left. Frieda’s mother was immediately sent left. Not knowing what this fate meant, Frieda pleaded with Mengele to be able to stay with her mother. Before her own fate could be decided, a couple of prisoners who worked by the transports with understanding of what was transpiring quickly pulled her away from her mother, sending her to the right. That was the last time Frieda ever saw her mother as she was unknowingly bound for the gas chambers. She never had the chance to learn the names of her fellow prisoners but has always referred to them as the two angels that saved her life.

Fortunately, Frieda did not spend longer than three days in Auschwitz before being transported to a labor camp called Kristianstad, which was close to Berlin. There, Frieda was a bricklayer, and every day she helped construct a wall that was then senselessly forced to be taken apart with the bricks washed – an exhausting and pointless exercise. Every day before work, everyone stood “appell” (for roll call). Sometimes there were miscounts or someone would be missing, and everyone was then forced to stand outside for hours without food as punishment. One day, Frieda happened upon a potato that fell from a nearby truck. Unsure what else to do with it as there were no means of cooking, she intended to eat it raw, but did not get the chance as she was spotted by a female German officer who took away the potato and punished Frieda by making her stand “appell” all alone. Another officer upon seeing Frieda stand as she was told approached her and asked her name, which she took down.

Not long after, Frieda learned she was included on a list of 20 girls that were being sent to another labor camp in Czechoslovakia called Parschnitz. Here, quality of life drastically improved under much better conditions. Frieda worked in a factory that produced gas masks and was able to use her knitting abilities to knit herself socks and scarves to help her keep warm during the brutal winter. She learned that her “stolen” potato helped save her by causing her to be transferred to Parschnitz while many of those who had remained in Kirstianstad died on a forced march to Bergen-Belsen as the Russian troops were advancing.

In May of 1945, Frieda was finally liberated. Along with some friends, she

made her way back to Poland in search of any living family. When she learned there were no other survivors among her immediate family, she had no wish to remain in Poland. She with her friends then set out to Germany and ultimately arrived in Landsberg where a displaced persons camp had been established. The camp functioned like a community where life slowly began to normalize for all the survivors there. It was here that she met her future husband, Sam Weinreich, who also happened to be a native of Łódź though their paths had never crossed. As the sole survivors of their families, they married on September 3, 1946 (Sam’s birthday) and together began to rebuild their lives.

In 1949, Sam and Frieda received their papers to leave for America. They assumed they would settle somewhere familiar sounding such as New York or California, but had never heard of Memphis, Tennessee, the place they landed due to Sam’s background in the furniture finishing industry. In Memphis, Sam and Frieda built a beautiful life and family together from the ground up. Though they had no living extended family, the other “new Americans” (referring to the other Memphis survivors) became their new extended family.

While Sam made his mark outside the home as he provided for his family, Frieda was the consummate homemaker and the very essence of the home, which was always immaculately kept. Talented in her sewing abilities and having learned dressmaking while in the displaced persons camp, she expertly sewed many of her children’s clothing when they were young. A wonderful cook and baker, she had many culinary creations that she was known for. When the Memphis Hebrew Academy held their annual bazaar, which included a bake sale, Frieda was always asked to make her famous chiffon cakes because they were often requested and pre-sold. Frieda would often volunteer for the Memphis Hebrew Academy whenever they held events, usually in some kitchen capacity. Whether it was cooking for one of their Sunday night fundraising dinners or baking for the bingo games, she was happy to contribute in any way she could in appreciation for her children’s Jewish education.

The Weinreich home was often used for entertaining, including countless bridal showers. And Frieda had a group of women that she would routinely host sheva brachot with. She never hesitated to move out the furniture to accommodate the crowd. She liked to entertain nicely and made sure her children had the tools to do so when they got married. That was important to her.

Up until these last several months, Sam and Frieda remained active and beloved members of the greater Memphis Jewish community. Aside from the MHA/FYOS, they were involved in several other local organizations. They were founding members of the community’s Yom Hashoah committee and continued to be involved in each year’s commemoration, up to and including

this past year. Until COVID hit, Sam and Frieda could both be found frequenting the MJCC with their regular exercise routines that inspired many others their junior. Though members of both Baron Hirsch and ASBEE Congregations, they were regulars at Anshei Sphard throughout the period of the shul’s presence in their neighborhood. Frieda had her special row of women that she sat with on Shabbat mornings each week, and the shul was a very important part of her social and spiritual life.

There was nothing more important to Sam and Frieda than their family. This was evidenced by the many pictures they had of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all around their home. If anyone ever asked Frieda how many grandchildren or great grandchildren she had, her answer always was “not enough.” When surrounded by their nachas, Frieda would often remark “look what came from two people.” The large family they created was their greatest victory over Hitler and the Nazis.

Frieda was a woman with many extraordinary attributes. Despite her formal education being cut short at a young age due to the war, she was extremely smart and wise and never without a quick-witted sense of humor. Her small and delicate stature (specifically in her later years) could easily fool anyone, for she was a fierce powerhouse of a person who possessed immeasurable strength and resilience like no other. If all of her remarkable traits had to be narrowed down to one single descriptor, the most appropriate would undoubtedly be “survivor.” Not only was she a survivor of the Holocaust (and the very sole survivor of her family), she also persevered over a brain tumor, Lymphoma and even COVID at the height of the pandemic at the age of 95. In her advanced age, she survived many falls that resulted in broken shoulders and hips. She was one tough and determined woman who repeatedly defied the odds, not letting any obstacle impede her and it was this stubborn perseverance that kept her alive for 99 and a half years.

After Sam’s passing in September, Frieda moved to Wesley Hills, New York, to live with her eldest grandchild, Yossi Light and his family. In her last few months, Frieda was constantly surrounded by her loving family. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Israel on February 12 at Eretz HaChaim Cemetery.

Aside from her husband Sam, Z”L, Frieda was preceded in death by her daughter, Sarah Weinreich-Light, A”H and son in-law, Berel Light, Z”L. She is survived by her daughter, Marilyn (Mendy) Schachter, her son, Jerry (Rebecca) Weinreich, her daughter, Elaine (Yitzie) Katz and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Together, Sam and Frieda leave behind an incredible legacy.

Condolence notes and donations can be sent to Baron Hirsch Congregation and the Nusach Sphard Minyan, as well as KAVOD. **HW**

Oct. 7 Survivor: Hamas Terrorists Spared Me Over Messi Tales

(JNS) – A remarkable story of survival has emerged from the horrific Hamas attacks on the Israeli community of Nir Oz on Oct. 7. Esther Cuño, a 90-year-old Argentinian-Israeli, credits Argentine soccer legend Lionel Messi for helping spare her life when armed Palestinian terrorists stormed her home.

“They demanded to know the whereabouts of family members, but she re-

mained calm and steered talk toward soccer,” explains the new documentary “Voces del 7 de Octubre – Latino Stories of Survival.”

Cuño told her attackers she hailed from the same country as Messi. “One of them said he liked Messi and then made her pose for a picture. She was left alone after that,” the film reveals.

The documentary, under production by Fuente Latina news organization

and director Tony Hernandez, captures the Latino immigrant experience during the brutal Hamas onslaught that killed, wounded, or kidnapped a quarter of Nir Oz’s residents.

“This documentary is unique as it spotlights the Spanish-speaking community in Israel and conveys their stories of horror and heroism,” said Leah Soibel, Fuente Latina’s CEO.

“Documenting the narratives from

the viewpoints of Spanish-speaking immigrants has been an extraordinary privilege. Our film aims to preserve the lessons of history while leveraging our shared humanity in the battle against terrorism,” Hernandez stated.

The movie follows individuals like Cuño as they recount surviving the massacre through immersive storytelling.

Originally published by Israel Hayom. **HW**

Netanyahu Hits Back at Biden: ‘I’ve Got My Own Red Line’



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations annual mission in Jerusalem, Feb. 18, 2024. Credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90.

By David Isaac

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, responding to recent remarks by U.S. President Joe Biden, said last Sunday that he, too, has a red line: “You know what the red line is? That October 7 doesn’t happen again.”

Netanyahu made his comments to Paul Ronzheimer, deputy editor-in-chief of German newspaper “BILD,” who was reporting for Axel Springer, the parent company of “Politico.”

The prime minister referred to comments by Biden on March 10, in which he was asked by MSNBC host Jonathan Capehart: “Do you have a red line with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu? ... For instance, the invasion of Rafah, which you have urged him not to do – would that be a red line?”

Biden did not refer specifically to Rafah, saying only, “You cannot have another 30,000 dead as a consequence [of pursuing Hamas],” citing a figure presented by Hamas for casualties in Gaza.

The president prefaced that remark by saying, “I’m never going to leave Israel. The defense of Israel is still critical. So there’s no red line [where] I’m going to cut off all weapons so they don’t have the Iron Dome to protect them.”

Of Netanyahu, Biden said, “He is hurting Israel more than he is helping.”

The prime minister, when asked by Ronzheimer what he thought Biden meant, said, “I don’t know exactly what the president meant, but if he meant by that, that I’m pursuing private policies against the wishes of the majority of Israelis and that this is hurting the interests of Israel then he’s wrong on both counts.”

Netanyahu said that his policies are supported by the vast majority of the Israeli people, who recognize the need to destroy all of Hamas’s battalions in Gaza and that the Palestinian Authority should not be put in charge of Gaza on the day after, given its own support for terrorism.

“[Israelis] also support my position that says that we should resoundingly reject the attempt to ram down our throats

a Palestinian state,” Netanyahu said.

“So the attempt to say that my policies or my private policies that are not supported by most Israelis is false, and the vast majority are united as never before. And they understand what’s good for Israel,” he added.

(The Biden administration has from

early in the war insisted that a Palestinian state should be the end game, a position reaffirmed by Biden at his State of the Union address last Thursday: “As we look to the future, the only real solution to the situation is a two-state solution over time.”)

Netanyahu’s rebuke of Biden was unusual as Israel has strived to avoid open confrontation with the U.S., which has supplied it with a massive influx of arms to fight its war against Hamas.

However, even as arms and materiel continue to flow, the Biden administration’s public comments have become ever more critical of Israel’s conduct of the war.

Israelis have taken note of the sharpened rhetoric. According to a survey published last Sunday, three in four Jewish Israelis say that Biden’s initial support for the Jewish state after the Oct. 7 massacre has dwindled.

During a Fox News interview last Monday, Netanyahu was asked if a “fractured relationship” had developed between Israel and the U.S. and whether the U.S. was pressuring Israel to take its foot “off the gas” in its war against Hamas.

“Ultimately, it’s Israel that has to decide. Our neck is on the line,” Netanyahu responded. “I’m telling you

that we’re not getting off the gas. I’m telling you that we have to take care of Israel’s security and our future. And that requires eliminating the terrorist army. That’s a prerequisite for victory.”

Pointing to a recent poll showing 82% of Americans support Israel’s war against Hamas, Netanyahu said Americans “recognize that our battle is your battle, and our victory is your victory. And I’m sure that deep down everyone in Washington understands that.”

The main theme of White House criticism is Israel’s obligation to supply aid to Palestinian noncombatants.

Israel says it is allowing enough aid through, but that U.N. inefficiencies on the Gaza side of the border leave the aid undistributed. Secondly, when aid is distributed, it is often hijacked by Hamas, helping to prop up the terrorist group, which is seen by the population as still in control given it manages the food supply.

In his State of the Union address, Biden announced his intention to establish a temporary pier to bring in aid from the Mediterranean. Israel has not opposed the initiative, with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant saying last Sunday that it will “help lead to the collapse of the Hamas regime.” **HW**

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