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Academic Excellence Among Top Funding Goals of New Family Foundation at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis



Burton Weil

Memphis philanthropist Burton Weil in partnership with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis has established the Burton Weil Family Foundation, setting in motion what will become one of the city's largest Foundations and will be a philanthropic force for generations to come.

"The Burton Weil Family Foundation is a major philanthropic investment that will benefit our community for generations. Its significance cannot be overstated," said Laura Linder, president and chief executive officer, Jewish Community Partners. "Burton has created a foundation with a strategic goal of funding organizations and programs that will strengthen our city. We are grateful and pleased that Burton has chosen the Jewish Foundation as his partner to carry out his vision."

The Burton Weil Family Foundation is another important philanthropic example for families that have a commitment to charitable giving. "A donor advised fund or a family foundation such as Burton's are popular ways for parents and grandparents to instill a sense of charitable giving in the next generation," said Linder. "Regardless of its size, a family fund is a great vehicle for donors to finalize their legacy and teach their children and grandchildren about the importance of philanthropy and achieving charitable goals."

Which is an important part of the reason why Weil created the Burton Weil Family Foundation. Through the Foundation he can formalize his giving, engage his children, and identify opportunities for investing in move-the-needle programs.

The first major investment of the Burton Weil Family Foundation addresses an important priority of Weil: academic excellence. The Weil Scholars program is a unique academic effort established to attract some of the nation's top-performing students to the University of Memphis. Unlike other academic initiatives at the University of Memphis (UofM), the Weil Scholars Program - acceptance of which is based on academic merit - will offer opportunities to undergraduate students, graduate students, and students at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. The program will also benefit medical students at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center School of Medicine.

"The Weil Scholars program will be transformative for the University of Memphis as it attracts some of the nation's highest performing students," said Linder "Burton's commitment to the University could grow to be the largest gift ever given to the University of Memphis in support of its academic endeavors."

Initial plans call for selection of 12 incoming freshmen, 10 graduate students and two law students at the University of Memphis, plus two medical students at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) as part of the inaugural Weil Scholars program for the fall of 2024. This will be followed by a second cohort of students for the fall of 2025, including another 12 incoming freshmen, 10 graduate students, two University of Memphis law students, and two UTHSC medical students. Students selected to be part of the Weil Scholars program annually will receive renewable academic scholarships to help cover the costs of tuition and fees through the completion of their degree programs. Top-performing Masters and Doctoral students will be selected from applicants in the areas of biomedical engineering, business administration, computer science, data science, engineering, or public health.

Part of the significance of the Weil Scholars program is that historically up to 90 percent of University of Memphis graduates, and a significant portion of graduates at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center School of Medicine remain in the Memphis community.

"The breadth and depth of this program's reach will have a lasting impact on the UofM and will elevate our national recruitment efforts," said University President Bill Hardgrave. "The Weil Fellows Program encourages students who are passionate about innovation and leadership to choose the UofM. This initiative, which supports the pil-



lars of our strategic plan, will be instrumental as we continue to distinguish the University of Memphis as a nationally recognized R1 research institution."

Weil earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Memphis in 1966, and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. He later founded Venture Associates Partners, a private equity firm. In 2023, he established the Burton Weil Family Foundation at the Jewish Foundation, which will fund the Weil Scholars Programs. Weil said he created the Weil Scholars Program because of his desire to help strengthen the City of Memphis by empowering its future leaders through the University of Memphis.

"It's a privilege for me to help these outstanding students by providing them with the financial support they need so they can develop their talents and pursue their passions," said Weil. "It is my hope that they will grow to love Memphis as much as I do."

For more information, please contact Laura Linder, Jewish Community Partners, 901-767-7100.

www.memphis.edu/weilscholars HW

Schumer Says He Would Welcome Netanyahu to Address Congress, One Week after Saying the Israeli Leader has 'Lost His Way'



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Feb. 23, 2021. Credit: Amos Ben-Gershom/Israel Government Press Office

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Days after calling for new elections in Israel and saying that the country's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is an "obstacle to peace" and has "lost his way," Sen. Chuck Schumer said he would welcome Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress.

Schumer's statement, sent to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency via a spokesman, came after Rep. Mike Johnson, the speaker of the House of Representatives, said he was ready to invite Netanyahu to speak to Congress. To do that, he had to get approval from Schumer, the Jewish Democratic majority leader

from New York.

Schumer saw Johnson on CNBC last Thursday and almost immediately relayed his answer: He would welcome the speech. Notably, his statement did not name Netanyahu and made a point of saying he would extend the invitation to anyone holding the prime minister's office.

"Israel has no stronger ally than the United States and our relationship transcends any one president or any one Prime Minister," said Schumer in the statement. "I will always welcome the opportunity

(See Schumer Page 3)

Memphis Walk to Cure Arthritis Names Memphian Lyla Kay as the 2024 Juvenile Honoree



Lyla Kay, 2024 Arthritis Foundation Juvenile Honoree

By Melinda Lejman

On Saturday, April 6, Lyla Kay and her family and friends will participate in the "Walk to Cure Arthritis" - an annual fundraising event hosted by the Arthritis Foundation in cities all across the country. This will be the second year that "Lyla's Legions" will join hundreds of teams nationwide to raise critical funds for research and drug therapy for people with arthritis.

In addition to being this year's 2024 Juvenile Honoree, Lyla will perform in an aerial show as part of High Expectations' youth performance troupe, where she has been a student since 2022.

Diagnosed with Polyarticular JIA (Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis) at 15 months old, seven-year-old Lyla has overcome the once debilitating pain thanks to the care she receives from her specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Arthritis can be difficult to diagnose in infants and children and is often a process of elimination.

"She was in constant pain and discomfort and was unable to walk. For months, we comforted her the best we

could with Ibuprofen and Prednisone, per doctor's orders," says her mother, Larissa Kay. "We were overwhelmingly concerned, and it took what seemed like forever to get a diagnosis."

After months of exams, bloodwork and tests, Lyla now lives pain-free and is an active "ball of energy," says Larissa. "I was so relieved when we got the diagnosis, because even though it sounded really scary, we had a name for it and could finally treat it."

The Kay family feels that supporting the event is an important part of helping Lyla take ownership of what may be a lifelong disability. "This is something we are doing for her, something she can enjoy and see that she isn't the only kid with arthritis."

"Lyla is an extraordinary little girl who doesn't let living with arthritis hold her back. After being diagnosed at an early age she has inspired others to keep moving and living - YES! even with arthritis," says Kelsey Johnson, associate director of the Arthritis Foundation.

"When it came to choosing an honoree for this year's 'Walk to Cure Arthritis' it

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Weekly Torah Portion: Tzav Parah

was an easy choice to have her represent the Juvenile generation of Arthritis Warriors. She performs and dances in aerial silks and motivates me and others to keep pushing toward our goals. We are lucky to have Lyla as part of the Arthritis Foundation community," she continued.

To sponsor "Lyla's Legions," you can send a check payable to the Arthritis Foundation at 1355 Peachtree St. NE Ste. 600 Atlanta, GA 30309. Attn. Kelsey Johnson, Memo: Memphis Walk to Cure Arthritis Team Lyla's Legions. Donations can also be made online at events.arthritis.org. HW

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CORRECTION

This photo was captioned incorrectly in the edition of 3/21/24.





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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, March 25

End of Month 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 abundant in this 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.

Monday, April 1

Speaker, Eric Goldberg PT, with Semmes Murphey, along with Dr. Katie Monty, neuropsychologist, and Whitney Gatewood, physician's assistant.

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 with Baron Hirsch for this event. Anyone wishing to go, please call the Baron Hirsch office at 901-683-7485 and make your reservations by Monday April 1 as a headcount is needed. The cost for the Homemade Lunch at Baron Hirsch is only \$5. The MJCC seniors will go to and from the luncheon on the Center bus. There will be entertainment from Creative Aging and Bingo!

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

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN Serving the Memphis community for 98 Years

Schumer... (Continued From Page 1)

for the Prime Minister of Israel to speak to Congress in a bipartisan way."

That statement comes amid ongoing fallout from Schumer's speech on the Senate floor a week ago, in which he castigated Netanyahu and essentially called for his government to be unseated.

"As a lifelong supporter of Israel, it has become clear to me the Netanyahu coalition no longer fits the needs of Israel after Oct. 7," Schumer said in the speech. "The world has changed radically since then, and the Israeli people are being stifled right now by a governing vision that is stuck in the past."

A range of centrist and right-wing Israeli and American Jewish groups, along with Netanyahu himself, have criticized the speech as inappropriate meddling in an allied democracy's internal affairs. Following a tense conversation with Schumer, an influential Jewish organizational umbrella group said it was "distressed" with his call for new elections. And as a kind of rejoinder to Schumer's speech, Republican lawmakers invited Netanyahu to address their closed lunch last Wednesday.

Schumer turned down an offer from Netanyahu to address the Democrats' lunch because he thought the partisan setting was inappropriate. He likewise mentioned bipartisanship in his statement welcoming Netanyahu to give an address to Congress.

If Netanyahu does address Congress, it will be his fourth time doing so. He last spoke to the body in 2015, an address that was controversial, because he used it to urge lawmakers to vote down then-President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal.

Johnson extended the invitation while criticizing Schumer's speech.

"What Chuck Schumer did was just almost staggering, it's unbelievable to suggest to our strongest ally in the Middle East, the only stable democracy that he knows better how to run their democracy, it's just patently absurd," Johnson told CNBC. He did not respond to a JTA request for comment.

Asked by the CNBC anchor whether he had checked first with Schumer, Johnson said he had not, but suggested that he suspected Schumer would turn him down.

"I'm the one that extends invitations to speak in the House, if we just have the House, that's fine, too," he said. "But I think a big majority of the Senate would want to come and stand in support of Netanyahu and Israel."

Johnson said that in his conversation with Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister invited him to speak to the Knesset. Johnson said it would be an honor to do so. HW

Baron Hirsch Synagogue Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon, April 3, 2024

Right: March attendees enjoy the Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon.









The Baron Hirsch Synagogue Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon will be at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. At the SoShuls luncheons, people who are 64 years or older enjoy seeing longtime friends and making new friends. The cost of the luncheon is \$5 per person. You do not have to be a synagogue member to attend. The April luncheon features Memphis musician Gary Abbott, who will entertain the crowd by performing the always popular Elvis Presley music and other familiar tunes. His appearance is courtesy of Creative Aging. Following the lunch and entertainment, lively Bingo games will continue the fun. The luncheon menu will be baked barbecue chicken, potatoes, and broccoli, with homemade meringue cookies for dessert. Delicious food, musical entertainment and Bingo games combine to make the luncheon a great way to spend the afternoon. We look forward to having you join us for a good time! Please make your reservation as early as possible by calling 901-683-7485 or by email to gwen@ baronhirsch.org. HW

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To Increase Inclusion During Passover, JBI Offers Free Large Print, Braille & Audio Haggadot to Anyone Visually Impaired, Blind, or Print Disabled

JBI, the nearly century-old nonprofit that enables access to Jewish life for individuals who are blind, have visual impairments, or print disabilities, recently launched its annual Haggadot campaign offering free large print, braille, and audio Haggadot to anyone in need.

JBI's Executive Director Livia Thompson said, "Participation at a Passover Seder can be difficult and isolating for those who have trouble reading standard text. Our accessible large print, braille, and audio Haggadot allow everyone, young and old, to join with family, friends, and community and partake in the mitzvah of sharing the Passover story. Whether leading the seder in long-standing family tradition or reciting the Four Questions for the first time, all should be able to participate and feel they belong."

JBI offers 18 different versions for patrons to choose from, including Haggadot in several languages, denominations, as well as a Haggadah "digest" for communal seders perfect for use in settings such as nursing homes. Last year JBI partnered with several organizations to add new braille and large-print editions to their offerings, and these now include the Mishkan HaSeder from the CCAR Press, PJ Library's Family Haggadah and the Chabad Haggadah. Through the PJ Library collaboration, JBI has also made an audio version available for families who want to study the text and songs in advance of the holiday.

To learn more or to request a free large print, braille, or audio Haggadah for you or someone you know or love, please visit JBI's website at www.jbilibrary.org, call 800-999-6476, or email haggadah@ jbilibrary.org. Please note orders are requested by April 11 in order to receive a free Haggadah in time for this year's Passover Seder. Haggadot are free for individuals. For institutions requesting multiple Haggadot, JBI charges a modest fee to cover the cost of production for those located outside of New York City. (Within NYC nonprofits can request Haggadot, free of charge, thanks to an accessibility grant serving NYC.)

About JBI

JBI, established in 1931 as The Jewish Braille Institute, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages and backgrounds who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled gain access to Jewish life. Through a vast circulating library, liturgical texts, customized materials, and cultural offerings, JBI enables its patrons to connect to the rich literary, cultural, and religious texts of the Jewish community. JBI creates, publishes, and distributes thousands of Jewish-interest materials in audio, braille, and large print that are provided free of charge and sent directly to patrons' doorsteps. JBI continues to innovate and empower communities through its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. To learn more, visit www.jbilibrary.org. HW

Amy Sherman-Palladino, Eli Roth Among 1,200+ Jewish Creatives Rejecting Jonathan Glazer's Oscars Speech

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – More than 1,200 Jewish Hollywood creatives have signed onto a statement rejecting the speech criticizing Israel by "The Zone of Interest" director Jonathan Glazer at this month's Academy Awards.

The signatories include "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" writer Amy Sherman-Palladino, horror director Eli Roth and actress Jennifer Jason Leigh, as well as several show-business figures – Debra Messing, Brett Gelman, Michael Rappaport and others – who have been prominent defenders of Israel during its war against Hamas.

In the speech, Glazer said he and the others accepting the Oscar for best international feature for their Holocaust film "refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people, whether the victims of October the 7th in Israel or the ongoing attack on Gaza."

The comments have drawn fierce criticism, both over his phrasing that caused some to believe he had rejected his Jewish identity and over his apparently intended meaning, that Israel's war in Gaza is characterized by the same kind of "dehumanization" that made the Holocaust possible.

Now, a statement organized by United Jewish Writers, a coalition that formed shortly after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel as the Hollywood unions were divided over whether and how to issue statements condemning the attack and supporting Israel, aims to demonstrate the scope of dissent within Hollywood.

"We refute our Jewishness being hijacked for the purpose of drawing a moral equivalence between a Nazi regime that sought to exterminate a race of people, and an Israeli nation that seeks to avert its own extermination," the statement says.

The statement laments the death of Palestinian civilians but lays the blame with Hamas, not Israel. It also interprets Glazer's mention of "occupation" to apply to the entire State of Israel.

"The use of words like 'occupation' to describe an indigenous Jewish people defending a homeland that dates back thousands of years, and has been recognized as a state by the United Nations, distorts history," the statement says. "It gives credence to the modern blood libel that fuels a growing anti-Jewish hatred around the world, in the United States, and in Hollywood."

The statement concludes, "The current climate of growing antisemitism only underscores the need for the Jewish State of Israel, a place which will always take us in, as no state did during the Holocaust depicted in Mr. Glazer's film."

Glazer has not commented publicly about the statement or any of the responses – critical or supportive – to his speech. **HW**

Will Aaron Taylor-Johnson Make James Bond Jewish Again?

By PJ Grisar

This article originally appeared on Forward, reprinted with permission.

Live and let chai?

According to U.K. tabloid "The Sun," Jewish British actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson has been offered the role of iconic spy James Bond in the long-running franchise's next installment. The news is a welcome development for longtime fans who insist that the MI6 agent was inspired by real-life "Ace of Spies" Sidney Reilly, a notorious operative of Jewish origin. (Bond creator Ian Fleming knew Reilly, but once insisted, "James Bond is just a piece of nonsense I dreamed up. He's not a Sidney Reilly, you know.")

Taylor-Johnson's casting may also

help to rid the property of certain remnants of Fleming's genteel antisemitism, most evident in the Bond villain Goldfinger, named for the author's Jewish acquaintances.

But beyond the quiet representation of this announcement runs a unique opportunity for a retcon. Prior to Sam Mendes' "Skyfall," in which we learn about Bond's Scottish pedigree, a popular fan theory posited that "James Bond," like 007, was an alias, thus explaining the characters' ostensible immortality and vastly different looks from "Dr. No" onward. Given that Daniel Craig's Bond was shown shuffling off this mortal coil at the end of "No Time to Die," there is an opening for a fully Hebraicized origin story for Taylor-Johnson's turn in the tux.

Imagine it: A young James "Yaakov" Bond (ne Goldband), born to a family of orthopedists in the Finchley neighborhood of London is approached to serve His Majesty's Secret Service at a Moishe House mixer.

Bond, a recent Cambridge grad who keeps Shabbat, was recruited specifically to diversify the intelligence service beyond the old Church of England crowd. His first day on the job runs up against Shabbat and, when mysterious masked men break into his flat, he scalds his assailants with a pot of cholent.

What follows is a mad-dash chase through Golders Green, where Bond is forced to shake off the advances of nuclear scientist Zuzanna Zaftig (don't look at me, Fleming set this precedent!)

Together with his old Yeshiva havruta Q – real name Quentin Mizrahi – he obtains a kosher gadget that converts any lift into a Shabbat elevator, making for a thrilling sequence of vertical brawling as he discovers that it is his old mentor, Avery Judenhaas VI who is seeking to scrub Bond from the goyishe club of MI6.

Working title is (hat tip to my colleague Zach Golden): "Quantum of Shabbos." HAIM can do the theme song, and I kinda want Nathan Fielder and Benny Safdie to direct.

Should the Broccoli family honor my suggestion, at long last Jewish Bond fans will have what we so long desired: a license to *kvell*. **HW**

Prominent Jewish Names Join Letter to Biden from Progressive Donors Warning

Against 'Unconditional' Support for Israel By Ron Kampeas

A number of prominent Jewish donors are included on a letter from more than 100 Democratic funders calling on President Joe Biden to pull back his "unconditional" support for Israel's war effort, and warning that it may harm his reelection prospects.

"Because of the disillusionment of a critical portion of the Democratic coalition, the Gaza war is increasing the chances of a Trump victory," said the letter, which was sent last Monday and first reported by "The New York Times."

The letter comes amid growing pressure on Biden over Gaza from a swell of progressive voters, who have voted "uncommitted" in significant numbers in several primaries. The protest votes raise the prospect that progressive voters may stay home or decline to vote for the president in November, potentially facilitating a victory for former President Donald Trump.

"As donors and activists, we have committed much time and treasure in helping increase the turnout of likely Biden voters, particularly among young voters and voters of color." the letter says. "Many of these voters are now questioning whether the Democratic Party shares their values."

Among the signers are George and Liana Krupp, the father and daughter who steer the Krupp Family Foundation, which funds progressive Jewish organizations as well as the Council of American Jewish Museums. George Krupp, who has given \$600,000 to Democrats this cycle, according to the "Times," told the "Times" he remains committed to electing Biden to office.

Other prominent Jewish names in-

clude Barbara Dobkin, a philanthropist who has given to Jewish and Israeli feminist causes; Carol Winograd, who has funded progressive Jewish groups including J Street and Bend the Arc; Tamara Abrams, a Bay area climate activist who has served on the board of the East Bay Jewish Community Center; Margery Goldman, a philanthropist who has funded Israeli-Palestinian peace groups; and Marsha Rosenbaum, who has been at the forefront of advocating for drug reforms.

The letter says Israel has the right to defend itself from Hamas after the terror group's Oct. 7 attack on Israel, which it said included war crimes.

"We cannot imagine the pain that the hostages and their families endure every day," the letter says. "We also acknowledge that Israel has the right, as does every country, to defend its citizens, and we sympathize with the stated joint goals of eliminating Hamas and freeing the hostages.

But the letter goes on to charge Israel with "indiscriminate" bombing and "systematically" destroying "nearly all civil structures in Gaza." It calls for conditions on U.S. defense assistance to Israel and adds, "Regrettably President Biden has provided what appears to be unconditional support for the Israeli operation." It says Biden's pressure on Israel to minimize civilian casualties has been ineffective.

"We are asking the Biden administration immediately to change course," it says. "Conditions need to be placed and monitored on any further military, financial or diplomatic aid. All indiscriminate bombing and demolition must stop." **HW**

Trump: 'Democrat Party Hates Israel'



U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands during a press conference announcing the Trump administration's Mideast peace plan on Jan. 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead.

By Joshua Marks

(JNS) – Former U.S. president and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said last Monday that the "Democrat Party hates Israel."

The remark came in response to a question from Sebastian Gorka on his "America First" show on the Salem Radio Network about why those associated with the Biden administration, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), dislike Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I actually think they hate Israel. I don't think they hate him [Netanyahu]. I think they hate Israel. The Democrat Party hates Israel," said Trump.

The 45th president added that vote-seeking was part of the reason that in his view the Democrats have turned their back on America's Middle East ally.

"When you see those Palestinian marches, even...I'm amazed at how many people are at those marches, and guys like Schumer see that and to him its votes. I think its votes more than anything else because he was always pro-Israel. He's very anti-Israel now," said Trump.

He went on to say that Jews who vote for the party should be ashamed of themselves.

"Any Jewish person that votes for Democrats hates their religion. They hate everything about Israel. And they should be ashamed of themselves, because Israel will be destroyed," he said, citing Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

He reminded listeners that under his term in office he ended the Iranian nuclear agreement, and said that if he had been reelected he would have forged another deal with Iran "that would have been good for everybody, with no nuclear weapons."

"With me Iran was broke. They were absolutely stone-cold broke. There was no terrorism because they didn't have money to fund Hamas and Hezbollah and the other 28 groups. They had no money. They were stone-cold broke," said Trump.

"These people are the worst, there's something wrong with them," Trump said of the Democrat Party. "They are the worst negotiators. All they are good at is evil. They are evil people. Sick. Evil."

Trump said that the United States is "like a puppet for China now" under President Joe Biden, who he called a "Manchurian candidate" and the "worst president in the history of our country by 10 times. There's never been anything like it. Jimmy Carter is the only one happy because he's a brilliant president compared to Biden."

Gorka asked Trump if China has compromised Biden and Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.).

"I think they have it on Biden, yeah. They probably have it on Schiff too. But I think they have something on Biden. There's no reason why Biden could be so weak with China. It's pathetic," said the former president.

Last Sunday, Trump said there was "100% no question" Schumer and the Biden administration are telling Israel how to run its government.

"The Democrats are very bad for Israel. Israel sticks with them. I guess Israel's loyal maybe to a fault because they stick with these guys," he told Fox News's Howard Kurtz.

In a speech on the Senate floor last Thursday that Schumer described as a "major address" on a possible two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians, the Democrat labeled some of Netanyahu's senior Cabinet members as "bigots" and "extremists" and called for an early election.

Schumer claimed that he was speaking on behalf of "mainstream Jewish Americans" and represented their views on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He suggested that Washington consider conditioning or cutting off military aid to Jerusalem unless a new government is formed.

According to Trump, if the Democrats had been good to the Jewish state, Hamas's Oct. 7 terrorist massacre of 1,200 people, primarily Jewish civilians, in the northwestern Negev would never have happened.

"If he [Biden] were supportive of Israel, the Iran nuclear deal would have never been signed and Israel would have never been attacked," Trump told Fox News, adding: "I'll bet you I would have had Iran in the Abraham Accords."

Forty-four percent of Israelis want Trump to win November's election, compared to 30% who would prefer Biden to secure a second term, according to a Channel 12 poll published last week.

Twenty-six percent of respondents said they did not know whom they wanted elected.

Breaking the figures down, 72% of respondents who voted for parties in Netanyahu's governing coalition said they preferred Trump, while 8% chose Biden. By contrast, 55% of respondents who cast a ballot for parties in the Israeli opposition preferred Biden, compared to 23% for Trump.

The poll of 504 Israelis had a maximum sampling error of 4.4 percentage points.

Trump and Biden clinched the Republican and Democratic presidential nominations, respectively, in primaries last week, setting up a rematch of the 2020 election. **HW**



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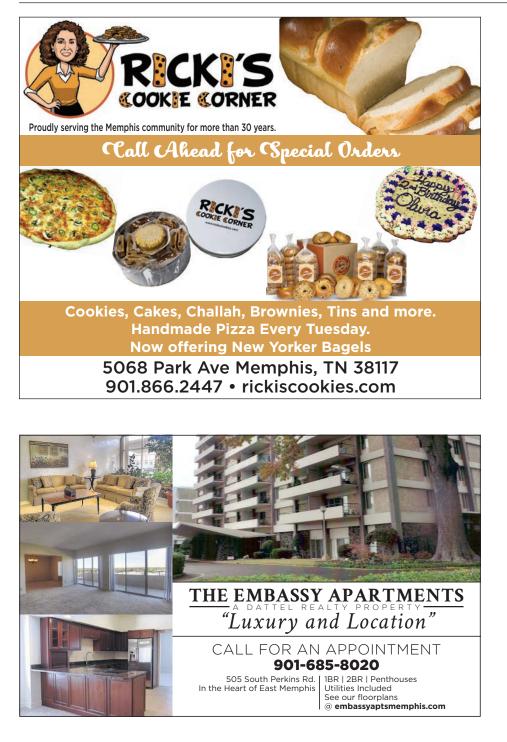


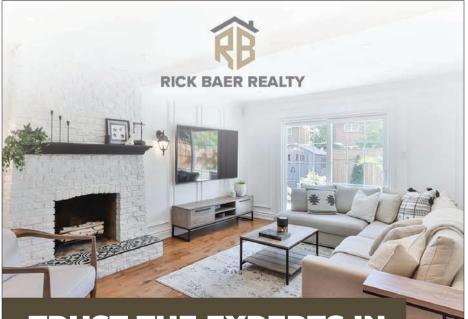
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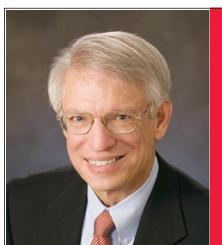
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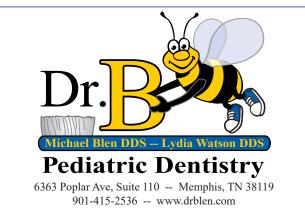
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Leprosy, which 'Conjures Images of Biblical Plagues,' on the Rise in U.S.

(JNS) – Hansen's disease, or leprosy, is on the rise in parts of the United States, according to Dr. Robert Schwartz, professor and head of dermatology at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

The disease, which is detailed extensively in Jewish scripture, is "a growing challenge in parts of North America" and is "beginning to occur regularly within parts of the southeastern United States," the researcher told "The Conversation."

"The surge in new cases in central Florida highlights the urgent need for health care providers to report them immediately," per the article. "Contact tracing is critical to identifying sources and reducing transmission."

Leprosy "is very rare in the United States, with less than 200 cases reported per year," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"CDC has not issued a travel advisory for Florida, or any other state, due to Hansen's disease (leprosy)," it stated. "Most people with Hansen's disease in the U.S. became infected in a country where it is more common. In the past, leprosy was feared as a highly contagious, devastating disease, but now we know that it's hard to spread and it's easily treatable."

To become infected with leprosy, one needs "close contact" with someone with the untreated disease "over many months," per the CDC. "You cannot get leprosy through casual contact such as shaking hands, sitting next to, or talking to someone who has the disease," it added, noting that "around 95% of all peo-



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ple cannot become sick, because they are naturally immune."

There is evidence that "leprosy has plagued civilization since at least the second millennium" before the common era, according to "The Conversation." "Fear of contagion has led to tremendous stigmatization and social exclusion. It was such a serious concern that the Kingdom of Jerusalem had a specialized hospital to care for those suffering from leprosy."

"The word 'leprosy' conjures images of biblical plagues, but the disease is still with us today," "The Conversation" added.

The Torah records that leprosy – which Moses and his sister, Miriam, had temporarily – can be a punishment for speaking ill of others, or of God. The Torah also records instances of leprosy (tzra'at) on clothing and on architecture, also as a punishment for slander-ous language (lashon harah). **HW**

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What Should You Know about Risk and Your Investments?

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

Risk, and the role it plays in a portfolio, can be among the most difficult concepts to understand fully. Sometimes our view of risk isn't something we consider until there's a sharp market downturn or other activity that compels us to question our tolerances. To help bring the positives and negatives of risk into clearer focus, here are four important risk-related considerations for investors.

1. Risk has many faces

The term "risk" usually refers to investment risk: the idea that you could purchase stock at \$50 a share and it could be worth \$25 a year later. This kind of risk is relatively easy to understand, and it's measurable based on the ups and downs in an investment's price. The more volatile the price has been, the more risky the investment is considered to be.

Investment risk is only one risk investors can face. Others include:

• Market risk. This is the risk that the entire market will decline and pull your investment down with it. This happened to stocks during the Great Recession, as well as during the market decline due to the initial impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

• Inflation risk. Inflation is the overall increase in prices in an economy. There's a risk that an investment's return won't be enough to overcome inflation's impact. For example, if inflation runs 2% a year and your investment returns only 1%, your investment will buy less at the end of the year than at the beginning.

• **Opportunity risk.** Some investors believe you can avoid risk by investing conservatively. Opportunity risk is the possibility of missing out on the chance to earn better returns because you aren't being more aggressive.

There are other types of risk, too, including some specific to certain investment categories. For example, bond investors face default risk – the risk that the issuer will fail to make interest payments or repay the bond's par value at maturity.

2. Risks are usually linked to expected return

This is possibly the most important thing to understand about risk. Risk and return generally go hand-in-hand: If you put money into a low-risk investment, you should probably expect lower returns. If you choose a higher-risk investment, you're likely seeking higher potential returns.

Of course, things don't always work out the way you expect. A high-risk investment may not get better returns. (In fact, you could lose your entire investment.)

3. You should determine your risk tolerance

Your risk tolerance is how much risk you can comfortably live with in your portfolio. Determining your risk tolerance can be challenging. One indicator that you've exceeded your investment risk tolerance: when your investments' performance keeps you awake at night – especially when there's market volatility.

It's OK to have a relatively low risk tolerance. However, focusing on lower-risk strategies may mean that you need to adjust your objectives (for example, having \$750,000 at retirement instead of \$1 million). Or, you may need to increase the time until you tap into your investments. For example, you may decide to work until age 67 instead of 65 so you have more time to earn money, add to your portfolio, and wait before you begin to withdraw funds.

4. Help is available

Because risk is complicated – and only one aspect of investing – consider looking to a financial advisor for help with building your portfolio. A financial advisor will take the time to get to know your goals and understand your risk tolerance before recommending an investment plan.

All investing involves risk including the possible loss of principal.

Investments in fixed-income securities are sub-

ject to market, interest rate, credit and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can cause a bond's price to fall. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and/or principal. This risk is heightened in lower rated bonds. If sold prior to maturity, fixed income securities are subject to market risk. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

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This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors in Memphis at 901.761.8151

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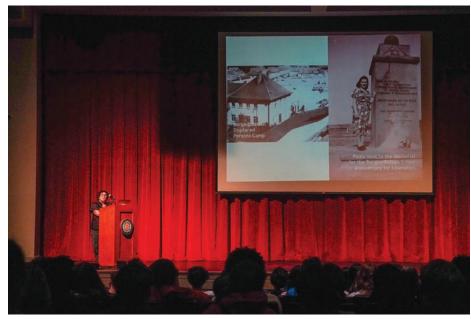
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Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered brokerdealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. © 2022 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. CAR-0822-04792 Jack Cohen (survivor) and Sara Beth Cohen present to Grahamwood Elementary School students



Dorothy Goldwin presents to 10th graders at Lausanne Collegiate School

OBITUARIES



Shirley Paller

Shirley S. Paller, 92, of Memphis, died peacefully with her family at her side on March 17.

Mrs. Paller was the valedictorian of the class of 1949 at Humes High School, was a lifetime member of Hadassah, and a member of Baron Hirsch Congregation. She retired in 1993 after a 28year career at First Tennessee Bank. She enjoyed spending time with her family and watching Memphis Tigers basketball games.

She was proceeded in death by her parents, Manuel and Jennie Shiffman, her husband, Josh Paller, and her sister and brother-in-law, Sylvia and Louis Kirschner.

She is survived by her brother, Dr. Stephen (Lynda) Shiffman, her daughter, Gloria Paller, her son, Barry (Amy) Paller, her grandchildren, Josh (Carrie) Miller, Mindy (Greg) Wilson, Jackie (Justin) Bender, and Jeffrey (Laura) Paller, six great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Shirley's memory can be made to Baron Hirsch Synagogue, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The National MS Society, or Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. **HW**

Netanyahu to Biden: Impossible to Complete Victory without Entering Rafah



President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak to reporters in Tel Aviv, Oct. 18, 2023. Credit: Miriam Alster/Flash90.

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces troops will enter the Hamas stronghold of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip with or without support from the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed last Wednesday.

"There were times we agreed with our friends, and there were times we did not agree with them," the premier said in a pre-recorded video address to Israeli citizens. "Ultimately, we always did what was necessary for our safety, and we will do so this time as well."

During a phone call with Netanyahu last Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden stated that he could not support a major military offensive against Hamas in Rafah. Instead, the White House favors a limited operation aimed at high-value targets and securing the Gaza-Egypt border.

Netanyahu last Wednesday confirmed that "President Biden, whose support I appreciate, asked to present us with proposals by his people, both regarding the humanitarian field and on other issues.

"In the beginning [of the current war], I told the president: Hamas cannot be defeated without the IDF entering Gaza. In our latest conversation, I told him that it is impossible to complete the victory without the IDF entering Rafah and eliminating the remaining Hamas battalions," he continued.

Netanyahu stressed that "from the very beginning, we agreed that Hamas should be eliminated. However, it's no secret that during the war, we had dif-

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ferences of opinion about the best way to achieve this goal."

The Israeli leader also emphasized that he had already approved the IDF's operational plans for Rafah and would "soon" green-light an outline for the evacuation of noncombatants from the city.

"While we prepare to enter Rafah, which will take some time, we continue to operate with all our might. We continue to operate in Khan Yunis, in the central [Strip's] camps, in eliminating and capturing senior Hamas officials – as we did just now in Shifa [in Gaza City] – in eliminating many hundreds of terrorists," he said.

"As I promised you over and over again – we are determined to achieve a decisive victory, and we will achieve it," said Netanyahu.

Earlier this month, two Israeli hostages were rescued from Rafah by IDF special forces. Many of the 134 captives still in the hands of Hamas after 165 days are believed to be held in the area. It is feared that some of them could have been smuggled to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula via tunnels.

During last Monday's White House daily press briefing, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that despite Biden's opposition to the Rafah operation, the president did not threaten to cut off military aid. The senior official added that Biden's concerns about Rafah should not be understood as a lack of U.S. commitment to root out Hamas.

"The president has rejected, and did again today, the strawman that raising questions about Rafah is the same as raising questions about defeating Hamas," Sullivan stated.

Last Tuesday night, the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem announced that Netanyahu would be sending two of his trusted associates, Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer and National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, to Washington to discuss the pending battle.

They will be joined by an official from the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli Defense Ministry unit responsible for humanitarian and civilian affairs in the disputed territories.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will make a separate trip to the U.S. next week, in what will be his first official visit since Oct. 7. Gallant will fly to Washington at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

Addressing troops in western Gaza City last week, Gallant seemed to indicate that the IDF operation in Rafah would happen soon. "Even those who think that we are delaying will soon see that we will reach everyone," he stated, according to a Defense Ministry readout. **HW**

The Katz and Rubenstein Families thank everyone for honoring us with your presence at the Shiva House and those who

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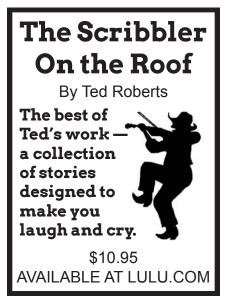


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Miracles Everywhere



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

I guess it all depends on what you mean by "miracle." Or to use a fancy schmancy German word that I've been trying to work into a story for months – "weltanschaung" – world view. (Germans can't express anything philosophical in less than eleven letters.)

For example, Believers and Evolutionists have dueled since Darwin's day over the origins of humanity. Silly. The scientists ignore the poetry of G-d's breath on clay and all its implications, and the Believers can't see G-d's hand in the magical clump of clustered cells within the well-dressed ape called man.

Woman born of a rib of Adam? "You shall become one flesh," said the Miracle Maker to Adam and Eve. Big deal? Miraculous? I find it literally unimpressive compared to the appearance of your infant daughter conceived from a microscopic drop of fluid that the Master Magician turned into a girl child that insisted on first, dolls then a two-speed, yellow bike and later a wedding that would sustain Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for a week. That's not a miracle? Miracle of miracles, you say. OK, but not compared to the natural state of events designed by the Creator.

I mean – open your eyes – he sculpted the Earth and hung it among the galaxies, and it hasn't fallen once – due to His law. Who needs small stuff like manna and quail in the Sinai and the several resuscitations that follow in the prophets?

Yes, the parting of the Red Sea was maybe a "miracle" (or a gusty west wind) and so was manna in the sandy Sinai, and there's a few more when we get to the prophets. But I say they're small potatoes compared to the common tabby cat manufactured by the millions by the G-d who plucked Israel from the claws of the Egyptians. That cat is a survival machine. No confusion here – no pantheism – we don't worship the cat – we marvel and worship the Creator of cats and people and galaxies and sunsets.

But you must admit He did a heckuva job on that cat. (But more about that later.)

We admire His unimaginable mechanism that he designed for the human plumbing system. Orthodox Jews say a prayer every time they use the system. Talk about miracles – so many conduits and passageways and pipes and tubes in the human body. As delicate as your bubbe's lace tablecloth and yet it works. Observant Jews praise His genius every time they use the system that after all, He only loaned to them for hopefully seven to nine decades. Asher Yotsar, they call the prayer. Again, we are awed by creation, but we always bow to the artist, not the painting.

But to get back to my cat, she's an exhibition of hard-wired survival techniques. Unlike the strong human mother, she has a litter of four or five – the mama salmon lays 100,000 eggs, thereby assuring that under the worst conditions the species is perpetuated. Secondly, the cat can scamper up the Pine tree whenever she's inclined. A great talent if you like squirrels for supper. And the cat is like your cell phone in that she must recharge her batteries with frequent naps. She seems to understand that you must cleanse your hide. Like Cleopatra, she's constantly grooming her skin. She knows 101 tricks about hunting.

But here's the mystical part. Most cats never read that classic called "Cat Raising for Dummies." Yet habits, necessary to life, somehow pass from the mother cat to that ball of fur called the kitten. Now that's a miracle! We use the word instinctive, but we don't know its meaning. Autopsy a cat and you won't find "instinct" any more than you find soul in the human cadaver. There's as much of Hashem in the cat as in the Humash, which is not to be disrespectful. He made it with His usual powers. The same natural powers He used to part the Red Sea.

Why would He who created and sanctified the rule of nature break his own protocol? He hates to interfere, you know.

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**

Israeli Embassy in The Hague Firebombed; No Injuries

(JNS) – Israel's embassy in the Netherlands was firebombed last Thursday, weeks after Dutch police warned of a "serious threat" to the diplomatic mission.

Police in The Hague said that one suspect threw a "burning object" at the building, causing minor damage. Nobody was injured in the attack, which took place around 10:50 a.m.

The suspect was swiftly arrested by local security forces, police said in a post on X, adding that the investigation was ongoing and the area around the embassy had been cordoned off.

Large numbers of police, including bomb disposal squads, were called to the area after a suspicious backpack was found there. "It is unacceptable that an attack like this can take place in the Netherlands. Fortunately, there were no injuries," the embassy said in a statement.

"We trust that the authorities will take all possible measures to prevent attacks like this. This proves the dangerous consequences of hatred and incitement. This hatred cannot be tolerated," it continued.

The Israeli embassy in The Hague has been under increased police surveillance since Feb. 8, when authorities warned of unspecified "serious threats" to its security amid the war with Hamas in Gaza.

In late January, an apparent explosive device was found near the Israeli embassy in Stockholm. The object was found outside the embassy grounds and the national bomb squad was dispatched to investigate.

Israeli Ambassador to Sweden Ziv Nevo Kulman confirmed reports of the attempted attack. "We thank the Swedish authorities for their swift response. We will not be intimidated by terror," he said in a post on X.

On Dec. 26, Jerusalem confirmed that the Israeli embassy in New Delhi, India, was targeted by an explosive device. The explosive was set off near the diplomatic mission.

The previous month, a far-right activist was arrested in Tokyo after crashing his car into a barricade close to the entrance of the Israeli embassy. One police officer sustained minor injuries in the attack.

In mid-October, an Israeli embassy official was attacked in Beijing as Hamas called for a day of global jihad against the Jewish people.

A week later, Cypriot police arrested four Syrians after an explosive device was thrown 100 feet away from Israel's embassy in Nicosia.

Late last year, Israel's National Security Council warned that since the start of the war with Hamas, "increased efforts have been detected on the part of Iran and its proxies, as well as on the part of Hamas and elements of global jihad, to attack Israeli and Jewish targets." **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS He Said What?

By Howard Weisband

Like many Americans and Israelis, I listened intently on March 14 as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer delivered his 45-minute speech on the floor of the Senate. The Democratic Senator from New York has been known accurately as a stalwart supporter of Israel. from the equation, there will never be peace in Israel and Gaza and the West Bank. Those four major obstacles are: Hamas, and the Palestinians who support and tolerate their evil ways. Radical right-wing Israelis in government and society. Palestinian Authority President lished.

Further irony: in 2009 Netanyahu, then Prime Minister as well, said in what's been labelled a landmark speech at Bar-Ilan University: "If we get a guarantee of demilitarization, and if the Palestinians recognize Israel as the Jewish state, we jority Leader calls for new elections in Israel and then threatens his democratic ally! Have we entered a new era?

Moreover, if Schumer or his staff had done their homework, they would have found a relevant Israel Channel 2 News poll that reported: "According to the poll, 30% of all Israelis believe that elections should be declared now, while 34% believe a date for elections should be set for after the war, and 29% said elections should be held at the end of the current Knesset's term in 2026." For various reasons, 63% of Israelis do not believe elections should occur in the midst of war. The Senator's criticism should be seen not only as a partisan, personal attack against the Prime Minister. He confronts in large measure Israeli public sentiment. 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

The copy of the speech released by the Senator's office is titled "I Feel An Immense Obligation To Speak And Act."

The speech has been analyzed up and down by Americans and Israelis, by politicians and pundits, by those on both the left and right. I needn't attempt to add a complete analysis in this column. Rather, I prefer to provide my visceral reaction to what I heard, which in the week since the speech, even as I have read a wide range of commentaries, I still feel intensely.

Throughout his speech, often referred to as coming from the highest ranking American Jewish elected official historically, Schumer certainly referred to his love for Israel. Importantly, he also expressed his support for Israel since October 7.

Then he stated: "Right now, there are four major obstacles standing in the way of two states, and until they are removed Mahmoud Abbas. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu." The Senator went on to explain his thoughts regarding each of these statements in detail.

Whatever are our opinions regarding Netanyahu, and as one who has criticized his leadership characteristics, I believe it was absolutely inappropriate for Schumer to link the Prime Minister with Hamas and Mahmoud Abbas.

Ironically, Schumer later in his speech stated: "Some of Israel's greatest warriors and security experts have been staunch advocates for peace because they understand better than anybody that it is essential to Israel's security. David Ben-Gurion, Yitzhak Rabin, Ehud Barak... all of them sought peace with the Palestinians."

No doubt the Senator knows the history. Each of the Israeli Prime Ministers that Schumer names was rebuffed by the Palestinians, or the peace that he seeks, that we all seek, would have been estabare ready to agree to a real peace agreement, a demilitarized Palestinian state side by side with the Jewish state."

The Palestinians have yet to recognize Israel as the Jewish State.

Schumer continued: "At this critical juncture, I believe a new election is the only way to allow for a healthy and open decision-making process about the future of Israel, at a time when so many Israelis have lost their confidence in the vision and direction of their government."

Then "If Prime Minister Netanyahu's current coalition remains in power after the war begins to wind down, and continues to pursue dangerous and inflammatory policies that test existing U.S. standards for assistance, then the United States will have no choice but to play a more active role in shaping Israeli policy by using our leverage to change the present course."

In these two sentences the Senate Ma-

From Knishes to Challahs, These Classic Ashkenazi Foods aren't for Eating - They're Purses



Marlo Gorelick is the designer behind Glam Judaica, a line of Ashkenazi food-inspired purses. Credit: Joe Gorelick

By Julia Gergely

(New York Jewish Week) – Like so many stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Marlo Gorelick picked up a new hobby: cake decorating.

She learned all the trendy techniques of the day, from of-the-moment decorations to how to properly layer colorful cakes and jams in order to create the all-popular rainbow cake.

But, unlike the myriad cottage food businesses that Jewish entrepreneurs launched during and after the pandemic, Gorelick's cakes stood out for one significant reason: They weren't edible. But don't mistake this as a commentary on Gorelick's baking skills: Gorelick's cakes were never intended for eating. Rather, they're designed to be worn – as purses.

"My husband said to me, 'If you bake, you're going to burn the house down,'" Gorelick told the "New York Jewish Week." "So, I took cake, and I married it with something that my mother loved, which was handbags." During the pandemic she launched Cake Purses – a line of highly decorative vegan leather bags in the shape of confectionery, such as carrot cake and strawberry shortcake. Some of her bags, which can be found on her social media, are bedazzled with crystal stones while others are painted; all come with a zipper in the back to store items in the satin-lined interior.

Last summer, Gorelick wanted to find a new direction for her business. She began experimenting with creating purses in the shape of classic Ashkenazi Jewish foods: challahs, bagels and that New York City classic, black and white cookies.

"I said goodbye to it [cake purses], because I saw that people were just icing boxes and getting tons of hits and money from it," Gorelick recalled. "I thought, 'What am I doing? This is silly. This is ridiculous.""

She began to roll out her first few Jewish food designs ahead of the High Holidays – but then, Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel gave her pause. Gorelick admits she was "scared" about being so outwardly Jewish. "I didn't want anything bad to happen to me or anybody, so I tabled it," she said.

But life had other plans. After a major illness the following month, Gorelick returned from the hospital knowing that pivoting her business towards Judaism was ultimately "what I was meant to do," she said. And so, earlier this month, Gorelick, who is based in Princeton, New Jersey, officially launched Glam Judaica, a new line of Jewish food-themed purses and accessories that includes a rhinestone-covered matzah ball soup bag and a very realistic looking potato knish purse. She's also crafted purses in the shape of Jewish holiday-specific treats like hamantaschen and sufganiyot.

"I'd gone through this near-death experience where so many things had been taken from me. I said to myself, 'You can't take away my Judaism – I will always be that,'" she said. "If I'm going to do this [make food purses], I'm going to do it with things that are near and dear to me.'"

Gorelick grew up in a Conservative Jewish family in New Jersey, and said that Judaism is a major part of her life and identity. "My grandfather immigrated from Kyiv, in what is now Ukraine, to escape pogroms. My father's mother's side of the family was in the Holocaust. My mother's family escaped Russia. So [Judaism] is fully ingrained in me," she said.

During the pandemic, Gorelick's spangled designs made their way around the internet and to several craft and candy expo shows in the Tri-State area. She also partnered with the iconic East Side restaurant Serendipity3 last year to create exclusive "Frrrrozen Hot Chocolate" purses to celebrate the 30 millionth serving of its "world famous" sweet treat.

For now, she makes the Glam Judaica bags, which are generally between six and 10 inches wide, to order. Gorelick, who runs the business by herself with some design and content creation help from her husband, said it takes her up to three weeks to create a purse.

The Glam Judaica line includes bracelets, necklaces and pins. She adorns one of her bracelets with five different miniature food charms – a hamantaschen, bagel, black and white cookie, rugelach and challah – and decorates a shiny bagel pin with lox, onions and capers. Each item, including the purses, starts around \$125, Gorelick said, though she adjusts the prices depending on the type of material and "bling" the customer wants.

The response so far to her new Jewish collection has been "fabulous," Gorelick said.

"People see it, they identify with it," she said. "It's a bit of nostalgia and they want it, because that's the cookie they baked with their bubbe, or that's what they served when they had their bar or bat mitzvah."

But Gorelick is not done with cakes quite yet. In addition to Jewish food designs, Gorelick recently made a yellow cake purse with the words "Bring Them Home" written in white "frosting" to raise awareness for the 100-plus Israeli hostages still held in Gaza. Gorelick also used the proceeds for one of her other creations – a rainbow sprinkle black and white cookie purse – to raise money for Zaka, Israel's volunteer emergency response teams.

"Everything I do is a little bit glitzy and glammy because that's who I am," Gorelick said. "My stuff is not for everybody – I get that. But if you like a little bit of sparkle and something to make you smile, I have something sweet and sparkly for you." **HW**

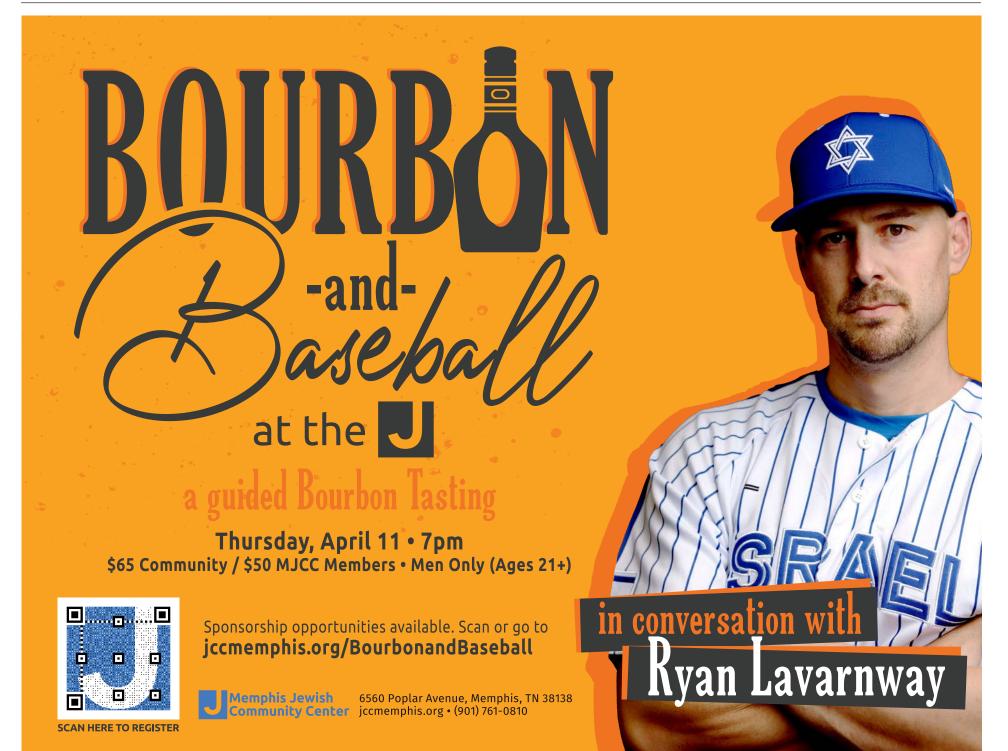


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