



# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 17 NISSAN, 5784 APRIL 25, 2024 VOL. 102, NO. 32

## Memphis Kollel’s “Talmud Mastery” Teen Program and Trip



Participants outside the Lakewood Matzah Factory.

You were driving to the airport on I-240 behind a pickup truck. The truck’s tire kicked up a screw that someone had discarded on the highway, which flew into your windshield, cracking it. Who, if anyone, is obligated to pay for that damage? The truck owner? The person who dropped the screw? If so, how much?

Of course, the Talmud has the answers. Its pages are filled with discussion and debate about issues from the very practical to the esoteric. Besides for its ability to illuminate topics such as these, the importance of the Talmud in shaping and preserving Judaism cannot be overstated. Perhaps more than any other Jewish text, its words have been poured over, debated and expounded. Mastery of the Talmud has been the traditional rite of passage for anyone

aspiring for Jewish scholarship and erudition. Ensuring the next generation of Jews is fluent in its study is paramount.

With that in mind, the Memphis Kollel launched an exciting new extra-curricular program for high school boys called “Kinyan Gemara” – “Talmud Mastery.” The goal of this six-week program was to give the boys the confidence and satisfaction that results from being able to master a section of Talmud – reading, translating, punctuating and identifying each step of the Talmud flawlessly.

Spearheaded by Rabbi Yaakov Gelb, 20 enthusiastic young men between the 9th and 12th grades embarked on this journey of Talmudic exploration. Each participant received personalized attention, meeting individually with Rabbi Gelb to establish a six-week goal based on their skill level. Throughout the

program, Rabbi Gelb and other Kollel Rabbis provided ongoing support and mentorship, ensuring that each participant remained on track to achieve their objectives. Many of the boys actually chose the section of Talmud that discusses the underlying principles behind the resolution to our opening question about the cracked windshield.

At the end of the six weeks, each participant underwent oral testing to assess their mastery of the assigned Talmudic sections. Rabbi Gelb remarked, “The results were incredible. It was amazing to see how each of the boys worked diligently, outside of their regular school hours, to master their section of Talmud. The pride on each of their faces after passing their oral test was inspiring. This large group choosing to spend their free time mastering a section of Talmud is something that in my seven years here in Memphis I could never have imagined.”

To celebrate this tremendous accomplishment Rabbi Gelb took the boys on a two-day trip to New York and New Jersey. Much thought and time went into crafting an experience that would be both memorable and impactful, as well as a fitting celebration for their accomplishment.

The journey began with a flight to Newark, N.J., followed by a visit to the American Dream Mall, where the group enjoyed kosher cuisine and explored the mall’s renowned attractions. After that it was off to the Washington Heights section of New York City where the group

had the privilege of a private meeting with the world-renowned scholar and Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva University, Rav Herschel Schachter.

“Rav Schachter’s speech made us feel great about our learning. It was amazing to be able to introduce myself to such a high-level Torah personality,” remarked Akiva Levine.

After lunch in Washington Heights, the group traveled to Lakewood, N.J. where they enjoyed a delicious cookout. The evening concluded with a Talmud study session with lay leaders of the Lakewood Jewish community.

The following morning, at the crack of dawn, the boys joined hundreds of men in pre-Shacharit learning – a session that is part of the participants daily routine before they head off to work. Following breakfast everyone headed over to the Lakewood Matzah Bakery and observed the meticulous process of making hand-made matzah.

Gavi Lichter shared, “Touring the matzah bakery right before Pesach was great, we were able to watch from very close. It was cool to recognize the name Lakewood Matzah on the boxes of matzah for the community in my dad’s office.”

Then, it was off to the local Hatzalah Center, where they were given a glimpse into the 100% volunteer, life-saving EMS group that helps thousands of people each year.

From there they were treated to a

(See Torah Page 2)

## Beth Sholom’s Women’s Retreat Provided a Spiritual Reset and Personal Renewal for Participants



The Beth Sholom Woman’s Retreat: many participants called the weekend transformative.

By Sarah Ellin Siegel with Jeannie Ashford

I felt privileged to join Rabbi Sarit Horwitz and almost 60 other women at Beth Sholom’s Women’s Retreat on April 5-7 at Pinecrest Retreat Center.

It was a diverse group of women: Some called Memphis home forever; others just moved here or had returned,

because they couldn’t stay away. They affiliated as Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. There were Jews by birth, Jews by choice and those in the process of conversion. Ages ranged from 20-some-things to octogenarians, and there were mother and daughter pairs. The participants were single, divorced, married – including one to a woman (me); child-free, mothers, Latina, Ashkenazi, big,

small, tall, differently abled, athletic, couch-potatoes, musical, adventurous, anxious and bold.

“I loved how eclectic the group was at the retreat. It made the sharing of personal perspectives layered and rich,” said Jill Notowich.

The retreat focused on presence, connectedness, nature and Torah, with poignant *divrei* (words of) Torah delivered by Lauren Bender Tochner, Sara First, Linda Schlesinger and Rachel Shankman, and music led by Rabbi Sarit Horwitz and Dana Agranov.

Beverly Tsacoyanis described her retreat experience. “From breathing exercises, my first attempt at *hitbodedut* (Jewish meditation), a gentle yoga mini-class, prayer, text study and welcoming Shabbat, to singing along to Indigo Girls around a bonfire after Havdalah, I will take these memories with me into so many new and lasting friendships with other women on the retreat.”

This is the second women’s retreat or-

ganized by Rabbi Horwitz of Beth Sholom. (The first one was in 2023.)

“The women’s retreat is a powerful opportunity for participants to take a deep dive into Torah study, personal reflection and a meaningful Shabbat experience together,” said Rabbi Horwitz. “We so rarely give ourselves such a gift of time, and I wanted participants to nourish themselves in spiritual, prayerful and thoughtful ways.”

Many participants called the weekend transformative. Suzette Stone said, “I entered the weekend feeling stuck. Because someone noticed and listened, I was able to get clarity. It is rare to find places where you can be vulnerable. It was a gift.”

Susan Alexander Gross agreed, saying, “I enjoyed being around a like-minded community of women, and sitting and taking everything in. I gained a better perspective on how to improve

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Torah...  
(Continued From Page 1)



Rafi Somer and Rafi Goldkin in American Dream Mall.

private tour of the largest Yeshiva in America, Beis Medrash Govoha. They experienced the energy of thousands of students across multiple campuses, sitting side-by-side engaged in the study of Torah. They had a private audience with one of the Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Malkiel Kotler, grandson of the founder

of the Yeshiva. After hearing from Rav Kotler about the transformative power of Torah, the group stopped into a number of Jewish establishments Lakewood is known for. They marveled at the immense Kosher for Passover food section in Gourmet Glatt, were wowed by the array of Torah books and Judaica on sale in Judaica Plaza and enjoyed the kosher selection in the restaurants there.

That afternoon they drove to Elizabeth, N.J. where they enjoyed a delicious dinner at Avenue Grill before heading back to Newark Airport to catch their flight home.

As the thrill of the whirlwind of the trip they experienced fades, the memories, skills and confidence that they gained from the trip and their Talmud mastery will last for a lifetime. The next challenge the Kollel has for these boys – Kinyan 2.0 – has already been met with excitement from the boys and will push them to the next level on their journey to Talmud mastery.

If you would like to learn more about this program or any of the other programs and personalized study opportunities offered by the Memphis Kollel, please reach out to [info@memphiskollel.org](mailto:info@memphiskollel.org). [HW](#)

Delta Region BBYO Spring Convention



Delta Region hosted Spring Convention in Memphis for more than 75 teens from all our communities during the

first week of April. Teens participated in Jserve, which is the BBYO initiative to give back

THE Hebrew Watchman

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4/25/2024

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 26, 2024 / 18 Nissan, 5784..... 7:24 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. April 27, 2024 / 19 Nissan, 5784..... 8:23 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Pesach 3 intermediate day

to our communities and learn about important topics like Israel or Jewish history.

Mayaan, our Memphis Shlichah hosted an amazing cooking class for the teens making Israeli salad and hummus. Teens partook in a conversation around Israel and popular foods and where they originate from.

BBYO brought in a guest speaker who talked about Jewish history through deserts. Teens made their own egg cream drink, something that delis in New York

typically offer.

The teens had a great time with these hands-on experiences.

Teens elected a new 97/77 Regional Board, hosted separates and senior lives for graduating seniors. We closed the weekend with our famous Block Party full of silent disco, a March madness game, a Shuk full of regional/chapter swag and other activities.

As BBYO ends for the summer, we are excited for August and welcoming new members and new events! [HW](#)



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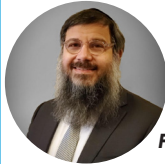
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# The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday April 29 and Tuesday April 30 there will be NO Lunch Service Due to the Passover Holiday.

The MJCC Senior Lunch Program will resume on Wed., May 1.

**Wednesday, May 1**  
**Field Trip to Dixon Gallery and Gardens.** The flowers should be in full bloom and should be absolutely beautiful! If the weather is inclement then we will go to the Gallery. There is no charge to enter the Garden or Gallery. ONLY \$2 for the roundtrip bus ride from the MJCC. Come for a terrific kosher lunch and a really nice outing.

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](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org) or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

## OBITUARIES

The Hebrew Watchman provides obituaries up to 500 words with a photo as a service to the Jewish community at no charge. Over 500 words there is a minimum fee. Please send us your information and we can help you edit.

## Retreat... (Continued From Page 1)

my daily life. The retreat was a great renewal.”

For Liza Levko, the Women’s Retreat provided a spiritual reset. “Connecting with other women in our community in different seasons of life and varied experiences is the epitome of *דור לדור* (*I’dor vador* - from Generation to Generation) Attending with my mom is just another bonus of living in Memphis. It heightens the sense of sanctuary created during the weekend.”

Her mother, Susan Levko, felt being with her daughter enhanced her experience. “Being at the retreat with Liza gave us the opportunity to share our Judaism, learn and grow together without distraction.”

Michele Kiel Less also spoke about the pleasure of attending the retreat with her daughter. “I was fortunate enough to share the weekend with my daughter, Jennifer. Her insights and connection to Judaism made the time even more special for me. It served as an affirmation of the continuity of faith through our women,” she said.

Beth Sholom President Naomi Katz said, “It was spiritually and personally fulfilling to share a weekend in nature davening, doing yoga and hiking, while making connections with Jewish texts and our roles today as daughters, sisters, spouses, mothers, friends, community members and leaders. Rabbi Sarit is a masterful teacher and discussion leader, and Beth Sholom and the greater Memphis Jewish community are blessed with a fabulous group of insightful women.”

Rachel Shankman explained why the Woman’s Retreat was so powerful. “In our complicated world, taking time to experience awe feels more important than ever, and it was this feeling of awe that filled me during the recent Beth Sholom women’s retreat,” she said. “The sense of awe inspired by a reminder of the Jewish women who have come before us from biblical days to today; the sense of awe that comes from being truly present with thoughtful compassionate women, some my children’s age, with whom I learned, prayed, and played in nature and the awe inspired by being led by Rabbi Sarit, who so exemplifies what it means to encourage all of us to embrace our Judaism and our sisterhood of women.”

Several participants talked about how connected they became over the weekend.

“When I signed up for the Beth Sholom women’s retreat, I was looking forward to a weekend escape to a beautiful, wooded setting and an opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation under the guidance of Rabbi Sarit, who is always engaging and inspiring,” said Gila Golder. “I didn’t know that I would also build strong connections with an incredible group of women. We prayed together, sang together, even cried together at times. I formed new relationships with women I might never have otherwise met, including many from different backgrounds and generations. The experience was uplifting in many ways, and I am so grateful to Rabbi Sarit and the Beth Sholom community for making it possible.”

Rebecca Wright Landau said she has never experienced such a range of opportunities for learning and connection. “The depth of knowledge and the perspectives of the other women who attended has made a lasting impression. I am truly changed in a positive way and am proud to have taken part in such a uniquely Jewish experience,” she said.

Other participants shared similar thoughts.

“The beauty of a weekend like this was celebrating Shabbat in the peace and quiet that only nature can bring, and the intimacy that sometimes only women can share. I especially appreciated the discussions that made me introspective and that challenged me,” said Dana Agranov.

“The retreat gave me a space to treasure the time spent with both old and new friends,” said Susan Stein. “Also, I appreciated that due to my low vision, a number of women guided and watched out for me.”

Amy Israel Pregulman explained that “Beth Sholom has been my home my whole life. Moving away from Memphis five years ago, we maintained our connection. Now that it is time to move back, I felt the Women’s Retreat would be an ideal way to reconnect. Rabbi Sarit and her team created a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment where we could rest, study and feel safe! I am excited to return to such a beautiful community of women!”

For Sonya Pevan Anderson, the retreat, “...reinforced my connection to Judaism and my faith and hope in my fellow Jews as I watched a newer generation of women!”

My own favorite moment of the retreat was belting out “*Mipi Et*” (From the mouth of God,) a song about God’s goodness sung traditionally on Shabbat and the Simchat Torah holiday) with Rabbi Sarit and a group of women after *Birkat Hamazon* (blessing after the meal) following lunch on Shabbat. How strong all of us were!

*Hineinu! (We are here) Dayenu! (It would have been enough!)* HW

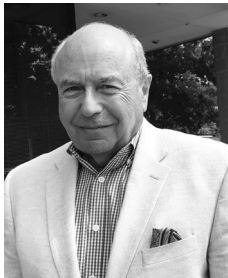
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# Recognizing Our Amazing Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service Volunteers

*“The fundamental ongoing communication of human value takes place when one person spends a piece of his or her life – some unique and irreplaceable amount of time – in relationship and service to the other.”*

~ Rabbi Yitz Greenberg

April is Volunteer Recognition Month. Now, while we experience the delights of spring, is a wonderful time to recognize the joy that our incredible volunteers bring to others through *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness).

Our dedicated and generous volunteers at the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (Fogelman JFS) at MJCC bring that joy in a variety of ways:

- Some help with activities of our revitalized and growing Inclusion and Diverse Abilities group for Jewish community members with disabilities. Programs include classes (like cooking) to build independence, and fun activities to engage in Jewish culture in a supportive setting.

- Some drive Jewish seniors and those with disabilities to appointments and activities (to supplement our paid Shabbat Shalom service).

- Some help Jewish seniors with needed shopping activities.

- Some help community members with simple household chores like putting up a curtain rod.

- Some make weekly deliveries of kosher meals, food pantry items and fruit to Jewish seniors.

Last year, these volunteers helped us get more than 9500 meals and an increasing number of pantry bags to community members.

- Some shop for kosher food items for our food pantry at the local food bank.

- Some visit or make regular telephone calls to isolated Jewish seniors.

- Some help make monthly special Shabbat experiences at local senior living facilities.

- Some do a combination of several different volunteer tasks!

We are also very grateful for the spe-

cial community partnership with the Tikkun Olam Committee of Beth Shalom Synagogue. Their volunteers generously provide thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and produce every week throughout the year to community members in our kosher meals and food pantry programs.

THANK YOU to each and every one of our Fogelman JFS Volunteers for your continued dedication and generosity. Each of you is precious to us, and we are so grateful that you have chosen to share your time and talents with us. Truly, we could not do what we do without you!

We’d love to invite new volunteers to join our Fogelman JFS volunteer team. We know that everyone is busy. Most of our current volunteers also volunteer in other areas, may also be working and have family responsibilities – so we try to communicate openly with our volunteers about what is needed each week and what time and resources it will take. We know volunteering is a “commit-

ment” – of time, energy, sometimes gasoline – but mostly, yourself. YOU make an impact. YOU make a difference!

Special areas of volunteer need:

- Transportation and shopping assistance are crucially important in a community that is so car-dependent, and where many seniors can no longer drive. Drivers and shoppers also help Jewish seniors maintain a sense of independence while helping with these challenging daily tasks.

- Also, our Inclusion program is growing! We need more volunteers to help with activities and to drive participants to Fogelman JFS/MJCC for programs.

Sound interesting? We invite you to become part of the amazing Fogelman JFS volunteer service team! For more information about the Fogelman JFS Volunteer Program, contact Audrey May, Fogelman JFS Intake, Referral and Volunteer Coordinator, at Fogelman JFS at 901-767-8511 or amay@jccmemphis.org. We look forward to having you join us! **HW**

## One Jewish Law School’s Unusually Flexible Study Program: Classes on Sundays Only

By Zev Stub

(JTA - Sponsored)

Shira Schneeweiss was working as a paralegal when she decided she needed more from her career.

During Covid, Schneeweiss had moved from Canada to New York and found a paralegal job at a law firm on Long Island. She hadn’t planned on going into law but found that she enjoyed her work and decided to study for the LSAT to pursue a law degree. The problem was she couldn’t afford to give up her job and take off three years to go to law school full time.

“I knew I wouldn’t be able to take off work and study full-time, but it was important to me to boost my career and work as an attorney,” Schneeweiss said. “Then I heard about Touro’s FlexTime program.”

The hybrid FlexTime JD program offered at Touro Law Center is a unique course of study that allows students to complete their courses on a flexible schedule without full-time classes.

The four-year program requires in-person class attendance just once a week, on Sundays. Students can complete the rest of their coursework – about 20 hours weekly – on their own time, asynchronously. After four years, students are qualified to sit for the bar exam. FlexTime JD is the only accredited law degree program of its kind with approval from the American Bar Association (ABA) and the New York State Education Department.

As with many programs at Touro, the program was designed with the needs of observant Jews in mind, and over 95% of students receive scholarships or some other form of financial support.

“Our program is designed to deal with the challenges that would prevent someone from going to a full-time program,” said Elena Langan, dean and professor of law at Touro Law Center. “It’s the only program of its kind in the country with classes on Sunday only, so it’s extremely flexible and very friendly towards the religious community.”

Touro University was founded in 1970 to offer college degrees to ob-

servant Jews seeking a place to study without having to compromise their religious principles. Today the university serves over 19,000 students across 35 schools in four countries, offering degrees in diverse fields ranging from liberal arts and Jewish studies to health sciences, technology, and business.

Touro University has offered a law degree since 1980, when it opened its Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center on Long Island, and Touro launched its FlexTime JD program in 2018 at its Central Islip campus in Suffolk County. Next year will be the first that the FlexTime program will be available in Manhattan, at Touro’s new Cross River Campus located at 3 Times Square.

“With the increasing popularity of the program, we started pushing to open another branch at Touro’s new Times Square location,” Langan said. “We’re now recruiting students for fall 2024, and there is already a strong response from both religious and secular applicants.”

The centrally located Manhattan campus offers glatt kosher food, does not hold any classes on Shabbat or Jewish holidays, and offers other accommodations for students’ religious needs. It’s also located in the center of the world’s most sophisticated legal market, enabling the law school to tap some of New York’s top lawyers as adjunct faculty and offer students opportunities for internships and pro bono assignments at some of the world’s best law firms. The law school’s board of advisors, comprised of legal practitioners from the public and private sectors, offers as mentors to students.

Touro Law is also home to the Jewish Law Institute, a center for the study and teaching of Jewish law that explores connections between Jewish legal traditions and American legal scholarship.

In the FlexTime JD Program, students must be in attendance on Sundays during the semester. It’s the lowest in-person class attendance requirement of any JD program in New York, according to Touro.

“There are programs out there that are

two days – Saturday and Sunday – but those don’t work for the religious community,” Langan noted. “There are other programs that are completely online, but if you do those, you can’t sit for the New York Bar without applying for and receiving a waiver from the New York Court of Appeals. This is a program created for the religious community that meets all of the requirements to sit for the bar in New York and other states.”

The convenience makes it a good option for people in non-law careers to add to their skills and attracts not just observant Jewish students but students of all kinds.

Abe Kopolovich, a 43-year-old physical therapist with 20 years of experience in a private practice in Brooklyn, decided to earn a law degree after obtaining two previous degrees at Touro.

“I always had a keen interest in the law, and my experience in healthcare affords me an advantage in seeing legal challenges in healthcare from a different angle,” Kopolovich said. “I am very excited about integrating the two areas of study and helping patients and clients in the future.”

Kopolovich’s son also went to Touro, to pursue an undergraduate degree in physical therapy.

As for his experience in the JD program, Kopolovich said, “The professors are great, the program is very flexible, and the deans are very good at taking care of any issues that come up.”

Touro Law offers internships with leading law firms, courts, and nonprofit organizations in and around New York City. The program includes practical guidance and lectures and presentations by leaders in their fields. Graduates of the FlexTime program can earn their degrees in four years, or three-and-a-half years if they attend summer classes.

Now in her second semester, Schneeweiss says the FlexTime program fits her lifestyle. She spends all day Sunday in class, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and does the rest of her work asynchronously, watching online lectures and doing the readings and assignments on

her own schedule.

“I started just a week after I got married, so I fell behind in the beginning,” Schneeweiss acknowledged. “But everyone has very busy lives outside of school.”

Among her classmates are students with demanding full-time careers, including doctors and a police officer, as well as mothers looking to enhance their careers. About 160 students are currently enrolled in the four-year program at Central Islip. Only a few are observant Jews. The Manhattan-based program starting next year expects to draw from the city’s observant Jewish community.

Touro accepts students with Bachelor of Talmudic Law (BTL) degrees and works to accommodate men studying in kollel or yeshiva programs as well as women who have left the workforce to raise families.

Ultimately, Touro Law’s FlexTime JD program aims to accommodate the demands of students from all backgrounds, according to Langan.

“It’s a great program for anyone with a busy schedule to enhance your career,” Langan said. “We see a lot of individuals using the degree to move up in their current company or change positions. We also have students who already run businesses or work in banking, where knowledge of issues related to compliance and regulations can be very valuable.”

One other bonus, according to Langan: Students at Touro do not need to apply for scholarships. When they apply for admission at Touro, they’re automatically considered for scholarships, and students with exceptional academic performance can receive additional financial aid.

To learn more about Touro’s FlexTime JD Program, visit [www.tourolaw.edu/flexjd](http://www.tourolaw.edu/flexjd).

*This story was sponsored by the Touro College and University System, which supports Jewish continuity and community while serving a diverse population of over 19,000 students across 30 schools. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team. HW*



# Baron Hirsch Congregation Distributes Passover Chesed Boxes



Volunteers packed and delivered Chesed Boxes to almost 90 families.



For over 25 years the members of the Baron Hirsch Congregation have connected with the greater Memphis community by delivering “Chesed Boxes” containing items to help prepare a complete traditional dinner for Passover Seder.

This year, almost 90 families received the Chesed boxes that were prepared and delivered by over 40 volunteers of all ages. The volunteers gathered at the Synagogue on Sunday, April 14 to pack and deliver a variety of items to the recipients, provided by Wendy and Avron B. Fogleman Jewish Family Service at the MJCC and residents of Plough Towers.

Dr. Irv Cherny, chairman of this year’s program said, “Our members, both young and old, were very excited to volunteer to participate in this program of Chesed. Many of the helpers have been part of this project since its inception.”

The volunteers were very excited and motivated knowing they were helping these families to enjoy a more meaningful holiday.

Baron Hirsch’s Chesed project chooses Passover and Rosh Hashana as the Jewish holidays to assist families to ensure they have the basics to celebrate with the traditional items to enjoy a more meaningful holiday meal.

Two of the longtime volunteers, Miriam and Bernard Danzig, have a special connection to the Chesed project. Miriam was one of the Baron Hirsch members who help create the program some 25 years ago, and Bernard, having served as the executive director of Plough Towers, really enjoys returning to reminisce about his career at the facility.

Funding for the program comes from the generosity of several families of Baron Hirsch members. If you would like to help donate to future Chesed projects, please call the synagogue office at 901-683-7485. **HW**

# Divided Senate Ends Impeachment of Mayorkas, Jewish Homeland Security Chief

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Voting along party lines, the U.S. Senate buried impeachment proceedings targeting the Jewish Homeland Security secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas.

All 51 senators caucusing with Democrats voted last Wednesday to adjourn the impeachment before proceedings started. All 49 Republicans voted against adjourning, with one voting present on one count of impeachment.

The vote brings to an end attempts to impeach Mayorkas over how he has handled undocumented migrants entering the United States from Mexico. The impeachment in the U.S. House of Representatives barely passed in February, 214-213 – and even then, the first vote failed. Rep. Mike Johnson, the Republican from Louisiana who is speaker, had to bring it up for a vote a second time.

Jewish groups had expressed alarm at the impeachment process, noting repeated invocations during the impeachment hearings of the Great Replacement theory, a baseless conspiracy theory whose original version claims that Jews are behind an effort to replace the popu-

lations of majority-white countries with immigrants of color.

“This impeachment effort was nothing more than a cynical political stunt that further normalized deadly antisemitic, white supremacist ‘invasion’ and ‘replacement’ conspiracy theories,” Amy Spitalnick, the CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, a liberal-leaning community relations group, said in a statement.

A record number of migrants have been crossing the U.S.-Mexico border recently, and Republicans charged that the border is out of control because Mayorkas is willfully ignoring existing laws. They say the situation amounts to the high crimes and misdemeanors necessary for impeachment.

Democrats said Mayorkas is carrying out Biden administration policy, which does not meet any criminal standard, and that he has scored successes in managing the border situation.

Impeaching Mayorkas was a key political aim of former President Donald Trump, whose campaign this year for reelection has focused on the border crisis. **HW**

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# Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemetery Is Rededicated



The rededication ceremony, took place at the graves of Lester and Jeanette Zalowitz.

By Shoshana Cenker

On Sunday, March 31, several dozen Memphians gathered at the Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemetery at 4431 Horn Lake Road in Southwest Memphis for a rededication ceremony and sheimos burying.

“With the combination of the Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation with Baron Hirsch, we’ve focused even more of our energy on the perpetual care of our two cemeteries. After many years, the Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemetery was in need of attention and the completion of that work was the opportunity to re-dedicate the cemetery,” explained Jonathan Epstein, president of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Cemetery & Charitable Fund. “During the move from our longtime home on East Yates North and during the past several

years of the pandemic, we accumulated dozens of boxes of sheimos in need of appropriate burial. This event provided an appropriate time to do this as part of the rededication.”

As it’s the sacred duty of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth (ASBEE) to assure that both the Anshei Sphard and Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemeteries are preserved in perpetuity, an extensive renovation was completed over the past year. The work included installing new fencing and a new granite monument sign, paving the parking lot, removing numerous dead trees and limbs, and demolishing the caretaker’s house and chapel that were severely damaged and uninhabitable.

The rededication ceremony, took place at the graves of Lester and Je-

nette Zalowitz and began with Mr. Epstein welcoming the group, followed by Cantor Aryeh Samberg reading Tehillim (Psalms), then remarks from Rabbi Joel Finkelstein, rabbinic scholar at Baron Hirsch and the longtime rabbi of AS-BEE. He spoke about the history of the Anshei Sphard and Beth El Emeth Congregations.

Here’s some of that incredible history Rabbi Finkelstein shared.

“The Beth El Emeth in its first life was founded in 1862 as a breakaway from the Children of Israel, as that congregation became more Reform and eventually became Temple Israel. That Beth El Emeth kind of died with the yellow fever epidemic in 1879, though it met in various halls throughout the 1890s. The graves from those folks are found at Baron Hirsch’s (BH) cemetery, which somehow subsumed the Beth El into their midst. Even the early rabbis are buried at BH; and the founder, Jacob J. Peres, is actually buried at the Temple Cemetery.

“In 1917, a bunch of folks bought or were given the old Temple building on Poplar, and it was named Beth El Emeth. It was this congregation that made this cemetery around 1929. One of its great presidents was Lester Zalowitz a’h, who served as president from 1962-63. His wife, Jeannette, who grew up in small town Mississippi, but understood all the more so the importance of a Jewish life, served as sisterhood president of the combined ASBEE later on. It was Lester as president of Beth El and Kolman Katz as president of Anshei, who talked about merging, which they eventually did in 1966, until the grand building went up in 1970.”

Rabbi Finkelstein gave special recognition to the Zalowitz family, many of whom attended the meaningful event, including Stuart and Carol Zalowitz and Sam and Kathleen Zalowitz, for their family’s generosity toward the cemetery, devotion to ASBEE, and helping

with the transition to joining BH.

“The Zalowitz family has shown tremendous dedication to the upkeep of the Zalowitz Beth El Emeth cemetery. The legacy of leadership in this family is inspiring,” said Rabbi Finkelstein. “The recent improvements to the cemetery help ensure that we honor those interred there, and that it continues to be one of our great heritage sites in Jewish Memphis. The cemetery was dedicated by the burying of books in 1928 as indicated on a monument there, and now it has been rededicated with the burial of books again almost 100 years later!”

During the sheimos ceremony, Rabbi Finkelstein explained that Jews bury books, because we don’t want them to be discarded or desecrated. Our spherim (books) that have G-d’s name in them are buried to give them the same respect as a person, which shows our love for Torah and G-d.

To conclude the sheimos burial, Cantor Aryeh Samberg recited a few verses from Tehillim 119, which reflects the love of Torah. He also recited the “kel maleh rachamim” memorial prayer to end the entire ceremony.

“One of the greatest gifts we have is the amazing legacy left to us by our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents who blazed the trail for our Memphis Jewish community,” Mr. Epstein shared. “To be able to mark this occasion at the graves of two pillars in the history of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, was incredibly moving. It was especially poignant as it so closely coincided with the combination of AS-BEE and Baron Hirsch in March of last year. Mr. Zalowitz, OBM, understood the power of combining resources and despite the difficulty of the decision for ASBEE to stop operating as a stand-alone congregation, it’s my hope that our grandchildren look back at our decision as having a similar impact on the modern orthodox community in Memphis.” **HW**



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# Rachel Goldberg-Polin, Alex Edelman Among Jews on “Time’s” 2024 ‘Most Influential’ List

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – The mother of 23-year-old Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was taken hostage by Hamas on Oct. 7, is one of nearly a dozen Jews on “Time” Magazine’s 100 “Most Influential” list, couched among comedians, writers, music producers, athletes, business executives and politicians.

Since Oct. 7, Rachel Goldberg-Polin has become one of the most prominent and indefatigable voices advocating for the release of Israeli hostages held captive in Gaza. She has attended an audience with Pope Francis, Zoomed with President Joe Biden and spoken at the United Nations, in addition to cultivating a devoted following on social media.

“I want to thank “TIME” for my inclusion on the TIME100 and for recognizing the significance and gravity of the hostage crisis and the need for the world to advocate on their behalf, until each one is returned home,” Goldberg-Polin said in a statement.

“I pray this platform will help compel the world not to forsake these remaining 133 souls, who hail from 25 countries, 5 religions and range in age from 15 months to 86 years old, and who have now been held captive in Gaza for 194 days,” she added. “We must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of these human beings, along with the suffering of all innocents in Gaza.”

Other Jewish figures on this year’s list include comedian Alex Edelman; author James McBride; Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle; and musician and producer Jack Antonoff. Here’s what you need to know about this year’s Jewish notables.

Jack Antonoff is a music producer known for his work with artists such as Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey, The Chicks. He’s also a musician himself, as the lead singer of The Bleachers and the former guitarist and drummer in the band Fun.

Yoshua Bengio is a Turing Prize-winning Canadian computer scientist specializing in the social and ethical impact of artificial intelligence. He was born in France to a Moroccan Jewish family, including a father who performed in Judeo-Arabic.

Tory Burch is a New York-based fashion designer whose designs popularized the travel ballet flat in the 2010s and whose brand has seen a renaissance of cool in the past year. The Tory Burch Foundation has also provided more than

\$100 million in loans to women entrepreneurs and promotes gender equality.

Alex Edelman, who grew up Orthodox in the suburbs of Boston, has had a banner year, with his standup special “Just for Us,” about his infiltration into a white supremacist meeting in New York, premiering on HBO earlier this month after seven years of touring, including on Broadway. Edelman has said he is considering making his next special about Israel, but the past six months have affected his thinking.

Larry Ellison is the co-founder of software company Oracle, currently serving as its chief technology officer. He famously refused to have a bar mitzvah, because Hebrew school conflicted with baseball practice.

Ynon Kreiz is the Israeli-born CEO of Mattel. His recognition that the company possessed intellectual property geared to children “second only to Disney,” as he told the “New Yorker,” paved the way for the mega box office hit “Barbie” in 2023.

James McBride, the son of a Jewish mother and African-American father, won two National Jewish Book Awards for 2023 for “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store,” a book about Black and Jewish residents in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. His 2013 novel “The Good Lord Bird” about abolitionist soldiers at Harpers Ferry in 1859 was adapted for a miniseries in 2020, and starred Ethan Hawke, who wrote McBride’s entry for the Time 100.

Maya Rudolph is a comedian and actress and “Saturday Night Live” alum. She learned via a 2016 episode of PBS’ “Finding Your Roots” that her great-grandfather moved to Pittsburgh from Vilna in 1902 and was a founding member of a synagogue in his new city.

Norah Weinstein is the co-CEO of Baby2Baby, a nonprofit organization that provides items like diapers to parents in financial need. Her own children attended a Jewish preschool in Los Angeles, and she has said she is inspired by the Jewish concept of tikkun olam.

Not Jewish but ... Javier Milei is the recently elected president of Argentina. He is Catholic but recently said at an event in Miami that his grandfather was told he was Jewish. Milei is close with Rabbi Shimon Axel Wahnish, whom he has nominated to be Argentina’s ambassador to Israel, and has said he hopes to convert to Judaism one day. **HW**

# Herzog Gives Talmud Volume that Survived the Holocaust to Yad Vashem



Israeli President Isaac Herzog (left) and the Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan at the ceremony at the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, April 17, 2024. Courtesy: Yad Vashem.

By Etgar Lefkovits

(JNS) – A rare volume of the Talmud printed before World War II and found unscathed in a historic Munich beer hall after the Holocaust was given to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum last Wednesday by the family of President Isaac Herzog.

The Pesachim Tractate of the Babylonian Talmud has been in the family’s possession for the last eight decades; it will be permanently displayed at the museum in Jerusalem.

The book was discovered amid many other religious artifacts in the Bürgerbräukeller beer hall in Munich in 1945 and was entrusted to Rabbi Yitzhak Halevi Herzog (1888-1959), grandfather of the current president of Israel. The rabbi was the chief Ashkenazic rabbi of Eretz Israel and a prominent religious leader during the pre-state period.

The Bürgerbräukeller was where Adolf Hitler launched the Beer Hall Putsch in November 1923, and where he announced the re-establishment of the Nazi Party in February 1925. In 1939, the beer hall was the scene of an attempted assassination of Hitler and other Nazi leaders by Georg Elser.

The tractate discusses topics related to Passover and the Passover sacrifice.

It was passed from Rabbi Herzog to his son, the sixth president of Israel, Chaim Herzog (1918-1997), and his

wife, Aura (1924-2022). The family subsequently decided that Yad Vashem was the proper place for the book’s safe-keeping.

“The tractate’s journey embodies, in many ways, the story of a family, my family, but above all, it tells the story of a nation and the story of a people,” Herzog said at Yad Vashem last Wednesday. “A people who rose from ashes and built a home. Not just any home, but one with strong roots that run deeper than any disaster, and whose branches, though well-known, continue to grow, bear fruit and climb ever higher.

“This is a story of destruction and rebirth; of mourning and rebuilding; of darkness and light; of redemption and freedom,” he added.

Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan said, “By including this rare artifact in the Holocaust History Museum we can illuminate the vibrant tapestry of Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Europe and the subsequent horrors.

“Its unveiling, just before Jews around the world gather at their Seder tables to recount the Exodus from Egypt and our emergence as a nation, is especially poignant. As we fulfill the timeless commandment to remember the past, we affirm the enduring perseverance of the Jewish people throughout the ages,” Dayan said. **HW**



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# Invest More Confidently in Volatile Markets

*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*  
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When financial markets fluctuate, perhaps in reaction to world events, inflation, or a change in interest rates, even the calmest investors can start to question their financial strategies.

But volatile markets can present opportunities to review and reaffirm investment strategies, says Tracie McMillion, head of global asset allocation strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

“Financial markets are frequently volatile – that’s their nature,” she says. “Even so, during periods of uncertainty, investors may start to question their investment decisions. Having a plan in place can provide the guard rails to help steer through and beyond the volatility.”

In addition to reaffirming and focusing on your plan, here are some strategies you can use to help weather economically turbulent times.

### Match your investments to your time horizon

The simplest way to feel more comfortable about your investments is to align them with your financial calendar, no matter what happens in the financial world this month or year.

For example, do you need some of your money fairly soon or want it close at hand in case of an emergency? If so, McMillion says you should consider investments such as cash holdings and short-term bonds that shouldn’t lose much, if any, value over the short term.

On the other hand, if you won’t need some of your investment money until you retire multiple years in the future, equities or longer-term bonds are worth

a closer look. Those investments carry more risks but also offer potentially better returns.

### Know what to expect from your investments

Some investors lose confidence because they don’t fully understand how their investments work. In that case, McMillion says, some knowledge of typical asset behavior is a good thing.

Consider reading up on different types of investments and asking questions of your financial advisor. Once you know how your investments are more likely to perform in certain financial markets, you can help ensure that your investment strategy is in line with your tolerance for risk.

### Tune out the noise

By “noise,” McMillion means the constant barrage of financial reports and other news events from the 24/7 news media. “Investors usually don’t need to react to the everyday financial news, no matter how topsy-turvy things may seem,” she says. Keep your long-term goal in mind.

### Regularly revisit your plan

There’s no such thing as a completely set-it-and-forget-it investment strategy, McMillion says. It’s always smart to check in regularly with your investment advisor.

“Your life circumstances may change, or your financial goals could shift,” she says. “You can feel much more confident that your investments are doing their job if you review them regularly with your advisor.”

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# House Passes a Dozen Pro-Israel, Anti-Iran Bills Days after Missile Attack

*By Andrew Bernard*

(JNS) – The U.S. House of Representatives passed a dozen pro-Israel and anti-Iran bills and resolutions this week, in the wake of the Islamic Republic’s missile attack against the Jewish state on Saturday.

Lawmakers passed two bills last Monday that target Iran’s finances and a third that would deny tax-exempt status to U.S. charities that fund foreign terrorist organizations.

The House passed nine bills and resolutions last Tuesday designed to support the Jewish state and combat Iran.

Most of the bills passed overwhelmingly, facing opposition only from members of the so-called “Squad” of left-wing Democrats and other members of the Progressive caucus. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), a libertarian who typically opposes all foreign policy legislation, was the lone Republican ‘nay’ vote on each bill except the Illicit Captagon Trafficking Suppression Act, where he was joined by Reps. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) and Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.).

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) stated last Tuesday that the flurry of legislation was “designed purposefully to increase the likelihood of a deadly regional war or worse.”

“The Republican Majority is explicitly leveraging a series of bills to further escalate tensions in the Middle East,” she said. “I will oppose any cynical effort to further inflame tensions, destroy a path to peace in the region and further divide the American people.

The most divisive of the dozen was the “No U.S. Financing for Iran Act,” which passed the House 294-105 last Monday, splitting the Democratic caucus. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) was one of 104 Democrats who voted against the bill. (Massie was the other “nay” vote.)

The measure would restrict the U.S. Treasury Department, Export-Import Bank of the United States and the International Monetary Fund from conducting certain transactions related to Iran.

Opponents of the bill said that the legislation would have unintended consequences for international development financing and would place unnecessary scrutiny on U.S. businesses in their transactions with the Export-Import Bank.

The House also passed a resolution last Tuesday declaring that the phrase “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is antisemitic, by a vote of 377-44.

The house majority leader’s weekly schedule lists five other pro-Israel and anti-Iran bills that have yet to be voted upon.

That list does not include the supplemental foreign aid package for Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan, which Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-La.) has said he will put forward later this week as separate bills.

It’s not clear whether the Democratic-controlled Senate will take up the House legislation passed last Monday and Tuesday. Unless the bills secure unanimous consent, they would likely take weeks to vote on in the upper chamber. [HW](#)

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# Meet the Jewish Activist Fighting for the Rights of People with Disabilities

By Larry Luxner

(JTA - Spnsoreded) From an early age, Eric Rosenthal was passionate about human rights and the idea of tikkun olam – repairing the world.

He ascribes his interests to his Jewish roots and upbringing in places like Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Niger, and Italy, the remote postings where his father’s career as a U.S. government aid official took the family.

When Rosenthal started on his career path to become an attorney, in Washington, D.C., in the early 1990s, he identified one group of people whom he felt were being left behind by human rights organizations: those with disabilities.

“This is one of the greatest overlooked human rights problems in the world today,” Rosenthal said. “Tens of millions of people in the world today are still locked up, out of public view. The challenge is enormous.”

He eventually launched his own nonprofit organization to help them: Disability Rights International, which documents abusive practices around institutionalizing adults and children with disabilities, and campaigns to end institutionalization of children altogether. It also sues in international courts to protect victims of abuse and ensure their full inclusion in society.

Rosenthal says he was inspired to become an activist on this issue by the grassroots efforts of civil rights activists in the 1970s and ‘80s – especially parents of children with disabilities.

Disability activists and lawyers worked to shut down places like the Willowbrook mental health facility on New York’s Staten Island. In 1972, Geraldo Rivera, then a young TV news reporter, described it in an infamous TV exposé as a snake pit for 5,300 residents, “filled with children lying on the floor, naked and smeared with their own feces.”

“But it was the disability activists, the parents of kids with disabilities and the civil rights lawyers that made change happen; that inspired me,” Rosenthal said. “When I entered law school at Georgetown University, I wrote a paper about how human rights laws applied in such institutions as well, and how the world needed to address these terrible abuses. Back in law school, I dreamed up a plan to use international law to close down the snake pits of the world.”

Outside of the United States, he soon discovered, abusive treatment of those with mental health conditions was even more widespread.

For his first job after law school, Rosenthal went to Mexico to investigate abuses by the military against indigenous people. At a psychiatric hospital in Mexico City, he saw inmates surrounded by barbed wire, hosed down rather than given showers and forced to fight over scraps of food. Later on he traveled to Hungary, where he observed children in orphanages locked in cages.

“The staff didn’t even refer to them as human beings,” he said. “I learned that when people are unaware that those with disabilities have rights, they’re unaware they have anything to hide.”

Rosenthal says he found little interest in abuse of the disabled among mainstream organizations concerned with human rights abroad.

“There was lots of literature about the political abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union, where dissidents were put in hospitals as a way to discredit them,” Rosenthal recalled. “Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the State Department would describe 1,000-bed psychiatric facilities where people

were locked up against their will and given these horrible medications. But their report was always about the two or three dissidents there – while overlooking thousands of other people because they were perceived as having disabilities or mental illness.”

Rosenthal launched Disability Rights International in 1993 and soon began bringing the world’s attention to their abuse using a combination of public advocacy and lawsuits.

“I realized that if I didn’t do it no one would,” he said.

Today the Washington-based organization has offices in Ukraine, Mexico and Britain and helps bring international attention to abuses worldwide. In 2013, Rosenthal won The Charles Bronfman Prize for his work. The \$100,000 annual award – celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year– recognizes a Jewish humanitarian under age 50 whose work “is grounded in their Jewish values and is of universal benefit to all people.”

For the last two years, Rosenthal, now 60, has been focusing a lot of attention on Ukraine. Over 100,000 children are currently trapped in Ukrainian institutions, according to Rosenthal, and have been subject to even more serious human rights abuses since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

“People with disabilities are especially at risk in times of war and other emergencies,” he said. “But international donors and humanitarian relief groups too often overlook those people. If you have a kid with a disability in Ukraine there’s very little support, so families are under great pressure to institutionalize their children. Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, that’s been a primary focus of my work.”

Rosenthal’s family originally comes from the western Ukrainian town of Drohobych, which before World War II was inhabited mostly by Jews.

“I’m personally very inspired by my Jewish background. It’s not a coincidence that I was drawn to Ukraine. My family is from there, including my grandmother, who was diagnosed with manic depression,” he said.

Rosenthal said Jewish values help guide his work.

“The one line in the Torah that always meant the most to me was the commandment to protect the stranger, because we ourselves were strangers in the land of Egypt,” Rosenthal said. “You can view that literally, because we work to defend the rights of people we consider strange, people who never quite fit in – those with mental disabilities who are often kept out of mainstream society.”

Another area of focus is Latin America – especially Argentina, Colombia,

Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay. Disability Rights International recently won a major case before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission establishing a right to community integration of children and adults with disabilities.

“I was at an institution in Mexico where we found a garage with 95 kids and adults not allowed to go outside,” Rosenthal said.

Some of the most disturbing encounters during his career occurred when Rosenthal visited a psychiatric hospital in Istanbul and saw patients subjected to electric shock treatment without anesthesia.

In Serbia, Rosenthal once found a child tied to a bed with his arms and legs left to waste away. Those in charge didn’t think they were doing anything wrong.

“People in the room didn’t believe this was torture because the intent was not to cause the child pain,” he said.

Rosenthal’s work is not limited to abuses overseas. In Washington, Dis-

ability Rights International is working to advance the International Children with Disabilities Protection Act of 2023 – a far-reaching piece of legislation that would establish an office in the State Department to assist disability and family organizations abroad and promote policies that help disabled children avoid institutions and make the transition to independent living. The bill won Senate approval last year and has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives but has not yet been passed.

“We will need a good strong push from disability activists and other supporters,” Rosenthal said. “But if we get this thing through Congress, it will have a massive worldwide impact on our issues.”

*This story was sponsored by and produced in partnership with The Charles Bronfman Prize, an annual prize presented to a humanitarian whose innovative work fueled by their Jewish values has significantly improved the world. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team. HW*

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# ‘Gaza Stores Full; Markets Overwhelmed with Goods’



Armed and masked Palestinians seen on trucks loaded with international humanitarian aid entering Gaza through the Israeli Kerem Shalom Crossing, in the southern Gaza Strip, April 3, 2024. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90.

By Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – As the United States and other countries pressure Israel to increase food aid to Gaza, Israeli officials familiar with the situation say Gaza has been overwhelmed by food aid. Israeli officials harshly criticize American representatives, led by Ambassador David Satterfield, accusing

them of echoing the lie about “starvation in Gaza.”

Every evening at 8 p.m., a quadrilateral forum takes place with representatives from Israel, the United States, the United Nations and Egypt, where a daily report on the humanitarian situation in Gaza is provided.

Israel is represented in this forum by the Defense Ministry’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). The Americans are represented by the Special Envoy for Middle East Humanitarian Issues David Satterfield. Together, they count how many trucks were inspected and entered the Strip, how many unloaded their contents inside and how many did not, as well as the extent of hunger in Gaza.

“There is no food shortage in Gaza, and there never was,” said an Israeli official familiar with the details. “The stores are full, the markets are bursting with goods, fruits, vegetables, shawarma, pitas – there is everything. Do you know why they no longer loot convoys? Because there is no shortage. The quantities entering are not normal.”

Recently, COGAT Commander Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian issued an unusual statement: “Israel does not constitute a bottleneck when it comes to providing humanitarian aid. The U.N. needs to do the job it is charged with and do it properly.”

This is just the tip of the iceberg of what officials dealing with aid think behind closed doors.

“There is no need to open a passage in northern Gaza, no need to open the port

of Ashdod, and also no need for an air corridor in Gaza – because there is no lack of food. The air corridor is a crazy operation, the airdrops are unnecessary – they are expensive and the quantities are small, but they photograph well. The United Nations cannot distribute what enters, so why would more be needed?” said an Israeli official familiar with the data.

Despite this data, last week Satterfield told the American Jewish Committee (AJC) that “there is an immediate risk of starvation, for most if not all 2.2 million people in Gaza.” This, despite the fact that in the three previous days, around 300 trucks entered the Strip per day.

Israel believes that the way senior Biden administration officials express themselves echoes the false claims of Hamas supporters in the United States, as if a genocide was taking place in Gaza.

“The rhetoric of Satterfield and others is shocking,” said an official in the field of public diplomacy. “The only explanation for the disparity between what they know and what they say must be political. They say what will be pleasant for voters to hear. Incidentally, you can see that the policy in practice does not change.”

Originally published by Israel Hayom. HW

# Israel Reportedly Strikes in Iran, Days After Fending Off Iranian Missile Attack



An Iranian missile is intercepted over Tel Aviv on April 14, 2024. Credit: Tomer Neuberg/Flash90

By JTA Staff

(JTA) – Five days after fending off a sweeping direct attack by Iran, Israel has struck back by bombing Iranian territory, according to several reports that cite an unnamed U.S. government source.

The exact site of the strike early [last] Friday morning Iranian time is unknown, but explosions were reported in the area of Isfahan, a city with a major air force base. Fox News and CNN, also citing unnamed U.S. sources, reported that the strikes were “limited” in scope and did not target Iran’s nuclear facilities.

The reports at first seemed to indicate

a major escalation in armed conflict between the two countries and raise fears of a broader regional war. Before this week, Israel had battled with Iranian proxies, but the two countries had never fired at each other directly.

But in the hours after the strike, a top Iranian official reportedly said he did not anticipate any retaliation by Iran, suggesting that efforts may be underway to cool tensions that have been ratcheting up for weeks.

A major escalation took place weekend [before last] , when Iran fired hun-

dreds of missiles and drones at Israel in response to an Israeli strike on Iranian military officials in Syria. Israel, together with a coalition of allies, shot down nearly all of the missiles and avoided fatalities in Israel.

Since then, Israel had indicated that it would retaliate directly against Iran despite warnings from the Biden administration not to do so. Now, Israel’s strike appears to have happened. Before the strike, Iran vowed to retaliate against any strike on its soil.

According to Israel’s Army Radio, there was a single strike in Isfahan, but the Israeli attack seems to have concluded. Iran has closed much of its airspace.

“There was an attack, it ended an hour ago and since then it’s been relatively calm there,” correspondent Doron Kadosh said on Army Radio last Friday morning Israel time. He added that in Israel, there was no change in instructions to civilians.

At least some in Israel had hoped for a more significant attack on Iran. “Lame,” Itamar Ben-Gvir, the far-right government official, tweeted after the strike.

Fears of regional conflict were already elevated following Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel. In addition to fighting Hamas in Gaza, Israel has been locked in a smaller-scale exchange of fire with the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, an

Iranian proxy.

Following the late-night attack on Israel weekend [before last], a statement from Iran’s mission to the United Nations said, “The matter can be deemed concluded” – but vowed a “considerably more severe” response if Israel committed “another mistake.” The statement also warned the United States to stay out of the conflict.

The United States led a multinational effort to defend Israel during the missile attack. But President Joe Biden reportedly warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the United States would not support or participate with an Israeli attack on Iran. A parade of world leaders visited Netanyahu in recent days to discourage an escalation, but Netanyahu insisted that Israel, not its allies, would determine its response to the missile attack.

Iranian state media reported last Thursday that the country’s military was prepared to respond forcefully to a new attack.

“The Zionist enemy’s nuclear facilities have been identified, and the Islamic Republic has accessed the necessary data on all targets,” a commander in the Iranian military told IRNA, a state network. “To respond to their possible action, we have fingers on the trigger to launch powerful missiles to destroy the identified targets.” HW

# ‘Take Matters into Your Own Hands’ When ‘Pro-Hamas Mobs’ Block Traffic, Tom Cotton Says

(JNS) – Drivers who find themselves stuck in front of “pro-Hamas mobs” blocking traffic should “take matters into your own hands to get them out of the way,” Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) wrote.

“It’s time to put an end to this nonsense,” he added.

In another post, he endorsed video footage of people forcefully dragging protesters out of a road. “How it should be done,” he wrote.

An opinion columnist for “The Philadelphia Inquirer” with more than 85,000

followers on social media wrote that Cotton was “advocating the murder of dissenting Americans who are trying to end the slaughter of Palestinian children through civil disobedience.”

Dumisani Washington, founder and CEO of the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel, also rejected Cotton’s post but did so without claiming it was a call for murder.

“You could use your position as a U.S. senator to help force/empower law enforcement to do their jobs and arrest the terrorist-supporting idiots block-

ing traffic and shutting down airports,” Washington wrote.

“Cops know they’ll get arrested for enforcing the law. The people know they’ll be arrested for ‘taking matters into their own hands,’” he added. “Hell, criminals are assaulting police officers (in blue cities/states) and nothing happens to them. Do better, senator.”

“Mr. Cotton ignited furor in 2020 with an opinion essay in “The New York Times” in which he called for the use of military force to put down riots across the country amid a rash of civil

“Get them out of the way,” wrote Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.). “It’s time to put an end to this nonsense.”

unrest that followed the death of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed by the police in Minneapolis.” “The New York Times” reported. HW



# A Walk in Jerusalem after the Doomsday that Wasn't



Shoppers strolling at the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, April 14, 2024. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

By Gary Wexler

(Jewish Journal via JNS)  
Seven hours after the booms started last weekend, after crowding into the safe room of my friends' home on maybe three hours' sleep, I walked out onto the streets of Jerusalem at 8 a.m. following Iran's aerial bombardment of Israel. I saw the city untouched, people moving everywhere, running, bicycling. The delivery trucks were en route, the fruit and vegetable market was open. I took a deep, life-affirming breath.  
I thought how Israel and the Jewish people faced down annihilation just a

few dark hours ago, and that I am so proud of this country. With all its drawbacks – and there are too many – Israel knew how to work with its allies and protect its existence and its citizens so impressively.  
I'm proud of the Israel Defense Forces – the commitment of its soldiers and its technological superiority. I'm realizing after this experience, while I am teaching here for the semester, how even more bonded I am to this place.  
I walked farther. Life was happening in every direction. How important it is, I

thought, that we have our Jewish homeland. Because of it, we are not the defenseless people we were a century ago and had been since the Roman conquest.  
I hope this government realizes what it has just demonstrated to the world and the admiration it is garnering even among its enemies for the unparalleled ability it showed to thwart its most insidious and strongest foe.  
I believe all those haters are reeling in both anger and awe, seeing their hopes dashed and Israel standing tall. The world saw another nation try to destroy Israel and the Jewish people with a relentless force of death and destruction. I hope the Israeli government takes advantage of the reality of this new perception and doesn't make stupid moves.  
**Essential to victory**  
The communication war is an integral piece of the bigger war. It is essential to the overall victory. And after the aerial defeat of the looming disaster, Israel and the Jewish people's communication strategy has changed. We have a new reality.  
Today, the world, as much as it may not want to, again sees us as strong and unbeatable. With this perception, we no longer have to respond to our enemies' baseless accusations of genocide, apartheid, colonialism – all those empty defamations of our national character.  
No matter how many hundreds of thousands of marchers chant "From the River to the Sea," Israel has again proved it isn't going anywhere.  
Those protesters, those campuses,

that TikTok garbage, those Students for Justice in Palestine, those IfNotNow traitor Jews – and the behind-the-scenes countries, funders and organizers of this campaign, who don't show their faces – have just learned that they are not going to bring Israel down.  
(And maybe, just maybe, those extreme left-wing Jewish organizations who will not mention "Israel" but only "Israel-Palestine" will understand it's "Israel and the Jewish people." "Palestine," which may become its own entity, is not part of ours.  
They're all wasting their time.  
The countries will be better off building their societies on progress, rather than hate. The students will be better off studying and pursuing careers that fight world poverty and dengue fever, rather than expending their energies lining up behind lies and shouting their heads off.  
Our Jewish communication strategy has to position us as a strong and creative people, charismatic and smart, values-driven believers and pursuers of truths, not cowed by lies, not defensive against baseless accusations. Our strengths can overwhelm the weakness of their manufactured false realities.  
Gary Wexler was recently honored by the National Library of Israel with the creation of The Gary Wexler Archive, a 20-year history of Jewish life told through the advertising campaigns he created for Jewish organizations in the U.S., Canada and Israel. Originally published by the Jewish Journal. **HW**

Please check out Jewish Scene Magazine and The Hebrew Watchman  
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Memory in the Living Room, in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Join Maayan Naor, MJCC Community Shlichah, and others as they gather to hear the story of a Holocaust survivor, light candles, and have a discussion.

Ages 16+ • Wed 6:30–8:30pm | 5/8 | Free | 10449

**Tekes Yom Hazikaron B'ivrit**

Ceremony (all in Hebrew with English Subtitles) honors the memory of the fallen soldiers of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and victims of terrorist attacks in Israel.

Ages 12+ • Sun 7:00–8:30pm | 5/12 | Free | 10450

**Raise a Glass for Israel**

Join us for a guided Israeli wine tasting by the Memphis Wine Society, and to meet our special guests from Israel. Kosher dietary laws will be observed.

Tue 7:00–8:30pm | 5/14 | \$10 fee/ \$0m | 10444

**Taste Of Memory  
(Matkon Im Zikaron)**

A heartfelt cooking class where we will cook a favorite recipe of a fallen Israeli soldier to honor their memory.

Wed 6:00–8:00pm | 5/15 | \$15 fee/\$10m | 10452

**Israel Independence Day  
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For the full schedule, scan or go to  
[www.jccmemphis.org/IsraelWeek](http://www.jccmemphis.org/IsraelWeek)

