

# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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## 2024 Yom HaShoah Commemoration Honors Present, Remembers Past



More than 430 people filled the MJCC Social Hall for the Memphis Jewish Federation's 62nd Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

Memphis Jewish Federation's 62nd Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration was marked with hope and sorrow. Guests experienced the joy of gathering in community and holding out hope for better days to come, while also acknowledging the heartbreak of the attack on Israel, the hostages still in captivity and the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.

Scott Notowich, Federation Board Chair, opened the program with welcoming remarks and led a moment of silence in memory of the victims of October 7 and its aftermath, which was followed by a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," performed by Cantors Ricky Kampf and Aryeh Samberg.

Dorothy Goldwin, a second genera-

tion survivor, and her daughter, Michelle Goldwin Kaufman, co-chairs of Federation's Holocaust Memorial Committee, welcomed guests and thanked local dignitaries, senior law enforcement officers, and elected officials for their attendance, including Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, the Mayors of Bartlett, Germantown and Lakeland, and State Representative Tom Leatherwood. Survivors, rabbis, war veterans, community leaders, cantors, and educators in the audience were also acknowledged.

Dorothy also thanked Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, Federation Executive Vice-President and Lorraine Wolf, Federation Manager of Community Impact, for their leadership, and thanked musicians Dr. Ken Boer and Amelia Boer. Student winners from the 15th Annual



Yom HaShoah keynote speakers Debbie Bornstein Holinstat and her father, Michael Bornstein.

Holocaust Art and Essay Contest were recognized, along with their teachers (See page 2 and 4).

This year's first place essay winner was Shuzhen Zeng, a senior at Houston High School. Lyara Greene, a seventh grader at Riverdale Middle School, and Yaheli Zalman, an eighth grader at Margolin Hebrew Academy, tied for first place in the art contest.

Michelle Goldwin Kaufman took the podium to introduce third generation survivor Shoshana Cenko and her children, Aiden, Kivi, and Lyla. To begin the

Candle Lighting, Shoshana and her children read bios in honor of living survivors and their family of blessed memory and for survivors of blessed memory.

During the Candle Lighting, a single candle is lit to represent a survivor and their family members who lost their lives in the Holocaust. Collectively, the six candles represent the six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust.

Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein remarked, "This year's Yom HaShoah

(See Yom HaShoah 4)

## MJCC Announces Major Gift and Naming of the Sandy and Jerome Goldstein Lodge



Sandy and Jerome Goldstein at the wedding of their daughter, Karen, to Jody Franklin in 1988.

The family of Sandy and Jerome Goldstein have given a major gift to be used for the outdoor building at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) to be named the "Sandy and Jerome Goldstein Lodge."

History: Sondra "Sandy" Lerner married Jerome Joseph Goldstein on June 25, 1950. Jerome was a native Memphian and Sandy lived here most of her life. Jerome was the older brother of Sandy's best friend, Donna Goldstein Goodman. Jerome's uncles, Herbert Shainberg and Nathan Shainberg, took part in founding the Memphis Jewish Community Center and both later served terms as board chair for the MJCC. Love for the community and service at the MJCC has been passed down from generation to generation. Jerome and Sandy both

served on the board and Sandy was the first president of the JCC Ladies Auxiliary. The Goldstein's love for and patronage of the MJCC, as well as support for the mission of connecting, engaging, and strengthening Jewish Memphis, continues with their descendants.

While Sandy was an only child and Jerome was one of two, they raised five children and had a "the more the merrier" outlook about gatherings at their home. Sandy and Jerry eventually took on Friday night dinners at their home when Minnie and Ben Goldstein handed over the reins. Their home and especially their yard was a venue for all family celebrations, especially their pool and volleyball court, along with tennis games next door at the home of Donna and Bob Goodman!

The sense of community fostered by

(See Goldstein Page 3)



# 15th Annual Holocaust Art and Essay Contest Winners



ART: First Place Tied Yaheli Zalman, eighth grader at Margolin Hebrew Academy.



ART: First Place Tied Lyara Greene, a seventh grader at Riverdale Middle School.

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## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 17, 2024 / 9 Iyar, 5784 ..... 7:40 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. May 18, 2024 / 10 Iyar, 5784 ..... 8:42 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Emor

## Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League



### Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League awards ceremony.

On May 6, the Special Olympics King Pins Bowling League had their annual awards ceremony at the Cordova Bowling Center.

Coach Ryan Silverfield attended the event where about 50 athletes received recognition for this past year.

At the event, Coach Ryan received an honorary participant award and a league T-shirt.

The league was founded in 1999 by David and Jane (obm) to allow these athletes to participate in this sport that they love.

The league bowls each Monday afternoon from September to May.

If you would like to volunteer this fall, you may contact David Ross at davidross5147@gmail.com or Rose Ross at rosebross@gmail.com. [HW](#)



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Goldstein...  
(Continued From Page 1)

Goldstein’s is synonymous with the mission and vision of the MJCC and why it is appropriate that a building intended for use by camp, youth, and family services and as a venue for events shall be named in memory of a couple who invested their time and resources into the MJCC and the community.

“This generous gift not only allows the MJCC to realize its goal of increas-

ing its indoor space for camp and other programming but is also an incredible and meaningful way to honor and celebrate the legacies of Sandy and Jerome Goldstein and their profound dedication to the MJCC,” said Larry Skolnick, MJCC president and CEO.

A date for the groundbreaking on the Goldstein Lodge will be announced in the future. **HW**

- CHILDREN:**

MIKE AND SHARON GOLDSTEIN

JEFF AND BUNNY GOLDSTEIN

LEIGH MCLEAN

SUE HIRSCHMAN

KAREN AND JODY FRANKLIN
- GRANDCHILDREN:**

DAVID GOLDSTEIN AND JESSICA BRADFORD

JULIE AND MIKE GOLDSTEIN

LEE PHELAN AND CAROLINE OLIVEIRA

- BEN GOLDSTEIN
- SAM GOLDSTEIN AND CHRISTA SIMONE
- ELI GOLDSTEIN
- JOHN MCLEAN
- AMANDA ROSE AND JEFF FULLER
- LULU MCLEAN
- JACK HIRSCHMAN
- JAKE FRANKLIN
- NATHAN AND MARGO FRANKLIN
- MOLLY FRANKLIN

- GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN:**
- ARCHER GOLDSTEIN
- ZACHARY GOLDSTEIN
- MORGAN GOLDSTEIN
- JULIE GOLDSTEIN
- MILLER GOLDSTEIN
- MARTIN PHELAN
- ALINA GOLDSTEIN
- SOFIA GOLDSTEIN
- OLIVER MCLEAN
- MINNIE ROSE FULLER
- JEROME FULLER
- JAMIE FRANKLIN

Jewish Federations: ‘President Biden is Wrong’

(JNS) – Some 24 hours after U.S. President Joe Biden told CNN that he would withhold military aid from the Jewish state if Israel attacked Rafah, the Jewish Federations of North America stated that “in threatening to withhold military aid from Israel, President Biden is wrong.”

“Daylight between the United States and Israel on military matters emboldens Hamas and other Iran-backed forces in the region, encourages their delay tactics and endangers the hostages by weakening Israel’s negotiating hand at a critical juncture,” it said.

JFNA added that Biden’s statements

about “civilians and humanitarian aid only serve to reinforce the false narratives anti-Israel and antisemitic extremists are violently spreading in campus protests.”

“These outcomes go against the laudable aspirations President Biden enunciated this week, that ‘There is no place on any campus in America, any place in America, for antisemitism or hate speech or threats to violence of any kind, whether against Jews or anyone else,’” Federations added. “Even the strongest of allies sometimes disagree, but their mutual support should never waver.” **HW**

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, May 20**  
Rabbi Talk featuring **Rabbi Joel Finkelstein**, the Rabbinic Scholar at the Baron Hirsch Congregation  
**Topic: The Many Faces of Israel!**  
Rabbi Finkelstein previously served as rabbi at ASBEE for 25 years. Rabbi Finkelstein recently went to Israel, which will add insight to his talk. If you want to hear him and enjoy the daily lunch preceding his talk, please call the front desk at the MJCC, 901-761-0810, and make your reservation. The space is limited.

**Wednesday, May 22**  
Special Program! **Frank Shaffer** presents **THE HEALTH RHYTHMS DRUM CIRCLE!**  
The Healing Power of the Drum gives anyone the opportunity to experience the transforming power of music. You do not need any previous musical experience to be a member of a drum circle. All that is required is an open mind and an open heart. Come join the fun, and experience the many benefits that group drumming has to offer you. To make sure we have enough room for this often-requested program, please call the MJCC Front Desk at 901-761-0810 and register. Space is Limited. There is no charge for this program. This program is presented with the Help of Creative Aging.

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**

**Monday, May 27**  
No senior Lunch or program in observance of Memorial Day!

**Wednesday, May 29**  
Rabbi Talk featuring **Rabbi Noach Karp**, Director of Communal Engagement at Memphis Community Kollel.  
**Topic: Why are you Always Smiling?**  
Rabbi Karp, while relatively new to Memphis, already has a nice following! He is a very enjoyable speaker with a way of adding humor to all his presentations. Enjoy a nice kosher lunch and stay for the talk.



Frank Shaffer

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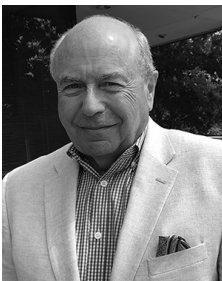


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Biden ‘Pacifying’ Jew-Haters, Says Ranking Senate Foreign Relations Committee Member

(JNS) – Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated last Thursday that U.S. President Joe Biden is prioritizing antisemites over a close U.S. ally in his threat to withhold weapons from Israel if it launches a military operation in Rafah, the southernmost part of the Gaza Strip.

“President Biden’s clear threat to Israel, made on network television, made it obvious that he and his administration are more concerned with pacifying anti-Israel, and often antisemitic, sentiment among potential voters than with supporting our close partner during a critical time of need,” Risch said.

Biden admitted to “blocking – at the 11th hour – a contract that was already approved by Congress, paid for by Israel, and manufactured,” the senator said. “This sale would actually reduce collateral damage in Rafah and elsewhere.”

U.S. partners and allies are watching the Biden administration’s actions closely. “Israel is our closest partner in the Middle East, and Iran and Hezbollah delight in seeing what President Biden is doing to publicly shame our ally,” he said.

“President Biden has given Hamas the greatest victory it could hope for; he has driven a wedge between the United States and Israel,” he added. **HW**



## Yom HaShoah... (Continued From Page 1)

Commemoration has special significance. Our community continues to be in pain caused by October 7, its aftermath, and the hostages being held in captivity by Hamas. We bring that present and real pain to this Commemoration, while we mourn during our remembrance of the Holocaust and its atrocities. Yet, we have hope. We bear witness to Michael’s survival story, and we know we can persevere and keep going.”

Pianist Dr. Boer and his daughter, Amelia, violinist, gave a moving musical performance and then keynote speakers Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat took the stage.

Debbie and her father Michael shared the story of Michael’s survival from Auschwitz. He was only four when he and his grandmother escaped, but he still has his prisoner tattoo on his forearm and showed it to the audience. The sadness and shock in the room was evident.

Debbie and Michael detailed Michael’s journey from a small town in Poland, where he lived in an open ghetto. When the Nazis declared that Michael’s town was to be cleansed of all Jews, he was forced into a cattle car with his mother, Sophie, father Israel, grandmother Dora, and older brother Samuel, and was taken to Auschwitz.

When they arrived, Michael was immediately separated from his family and sent to the children’s barracks, where he shared a small, hard sleeping space with dozens of other children. When remembering that time, Michael said, “The children were given very little to eat and many of us were slowly starving to death. My mother, at great risk to herself, would hide extra bread in her clothing and bring it to me.”

Debbie told the audience about her father’s liberation from Auschwitz and the miracle that made it possible for him to escape. His father had been killed and his mother was sent to a camp in Austria. Michael’s grandmother, Dora, was still alive, and kept him hidden. He became very ill, and Dora snuck him into Auschwitz’s infirmary.

She did not know there would be a camp death march, and the whole camp

was emptied.

However, Michael stayed safely in the infirmary, which had not been checked for prisoners.

When the camp was liberated in 1945, Michael and his grandmother escaped.

Debbie and Michael closed their presentation with a family photo showing Michael and his wife with their children, grandchildren, and other family members. Debbie remarked, “This photo shows 79 family members who are all connected to my father. His survival from Auschwitz led to this photo. If one person can make that level of impact on the world, imagine what we lost when 6 million Jews were murdered.”

Following the keynote speaker presentation, Dorothy and Michelle gave a heartfelt tribute in memory of Sam and Frieda Weinreich for their numerous contributions to Yom HaShoah commemorations during their lifetime. To further honor Sam and Frieda’s memory, Federation made a gift to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation and presented memorial certificates to Sam and Frieda’s daughters, who were in attendance.

Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, of the Memphis Jewish Community Center, led the audience in singing “The Partisan Song” in memory of Sam Weinreich, who performed the song at almost every Yom HaShoah Commemoration since 1962.

Tehillim (prayers) were led by second generation survivors Shelby Baum and Rebecca Gerber. Second generation survivor Harry Diamant led the Mourner’s Kaddish. The closing benediction was given by Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch Congregation.

To close the program, Eleanor Tallie Steinberg of Temple Israel invited former IDF soldiers to join her in front of the stage as she sang “Hatikvah,” Israel’s national anthem.

Lorraine Wolf said of the Commemoration, “Having Michael and Debbie as keynote speakers was such a privilege. We thank the Tennessee Holocaust Commission for helping to make that possible. We are also thankful for the 430+ community members who attended this year’s event.” **HW**

## First Place Holocaust Art and Essay Contest From Generation to Generation

By Shuzhen Zeng, senior at Houston High School

Run, keep running, and don’t ever stop running. Fear and adrenaline take over and one wrong move means the end. The end of the life you built, the family you love, and the times you cherish. While most of us can only imagine living such a horrific life, this was the reality of over 10 million European Jews during the Holocaust.

History is like an endless book that has pages filled with stories and human journeys. Tearing one page out would change every page that follows. This delicate connection between the past and the future raises questions about how different life could’ve been. What if Hitler didn’t rise to power? What if Germany did not take the blame for World War 1? What if the Nazi Party did not receive huge support? It’s easy to wonder about all the hypothetical situations and the “what ifs?” However, we cannot change reality. The reality is over 2 million Jews died as their lungs filled with poison gas, and 2 million were brutally murdered by mass shooting operations.

Around 1 million died from starvation, diseases, and violent beatings in concentration camps. Ultimately, around 6 million Jewish people were murdered by the Nazi Regime during the Holocaust. This is the history that we cannot change, but it is the history that we must pass down.

As of 2024, the Holocaust occurred more than 90 years ago. Over time, the events of the past gradually fade away. The ink on the pages of our history books may smudge and blur. This is why we must retell the terrifying events of the Holocaust to future generations and ignite a flame within others to combat injustice.


We have a responsibility to ensure the preservation of the victims’ memories and prevent the horrors they endured from ever being forgotten. By upholding their memory, we pay honor to their



lives and strive relentlessly to ensure that a tragedy of such magnitude never repeats.

In informing future generations about the Holocaust, we also acknowledge the immense bravery displayed by those who risked their lives to save others. For instance, Johan van Hulst fearlessly transported Jewish children out of Germany through cargo. Chiune Sugihara forged counterfeit visas to aid Jewish refugees in their escape. Irena Sendler smuggled Jewish children out of Germany to safe shelters. When questioned and tormented by German authorities, she valiantly withheld the whereabouts of the children, prioritizing their safety over her own. These selfless and courageous individuals sacrificed their own safety to ensure the safety of others. By passing on these stories, we remind future generations that silence equates to complicity, and that individual actions, both in the past and present, possess the power to forever change the course of the future. Our role in society is to pass down the memory of the Holocaust, with the hope that our future children and grandchildren will emerge as compassionate leaders, ready to help others in times of darkness. So in the future, no human being should ever have to run for their lives like the Jews did.

No matter how many centuries go by, we must never forget the lives lost because of unchecked prejudice and hatred. We cannot allow history’s wounds to heal without leaving a lasting scar: a scar that serves as a reminder of our duty to build a world of understanding and peace. The story of the Holocaust was not simply a chapter in a history book, but a living, breathing testament to the indomitable human spirit and the urgent need for collective compassion and remembrance.

Work Cited <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-holocaust> **HW**





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## Your Health Is it Allergies, a Cold, or Something Else?

By Cindy Katz, Nurse Practitioner

Spring has arrived, and with it come flower buds, blossoming trees, and, unfortunately, higher pollen counts. You may develop sneezing symptoms, runny or stuffy nose, or itchy and watery eyes. You might wonder if it is a cold, flu, or another virus.

**How can you distinguish between allergies and illness?**

Have you been exposed to someone with the same symptoms? Then, most likely, they shared their germs with you, and you have a **cold** or other **virus**.

- Symptoms of sneezing, fever, headache, fatigue, and general aches and pains are likely cold or flu.

- Cold symptoms can last up to two weeks, and the flu usually lasts one to two weeks.

- Acetaminophen or ibuprofen is recommended to reduce fever and general aches.

Allergy symptoms last as long as the allergen that has triggered them is

present.

- Antihistamines, decongestants, and nasal steroids can help relieve the symptoms.

- See your healthcare provider for a referral to an allergist if you want to get testing.

**Practice Pearls:**

- See your healthcare provider if you develop a high fever or chest congestion that leads to shortness of breath or persistent cough.

- Be careful of drug overlap when taking multiple over-the-counter medications to treat the symptoms you may be experiencing.

- Use good hand washing and minimize time around someone coughing or sneezing.

- Be sure to stay current on all vaccines, including flu and Covid-19.

- Remember, antibiotic treatment is unnecessary unless an infection is confirmed. **HW**

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# Medical Debt and Parsha Behar



Celia Schaffzin  
By Celia Schaffzin

Medical debt in America is a really big challenge for many people. Four in 10 households in America owe medical debt, which reached a peak during the pandemic. For example, in just one town in North Carolina, 1,000 families accumulated almost \$5 million worth of medical debt. People with medical debt can lose things they need to survive, including their cars. African-American and Latina families are more likely to incur medical debt than other families.

Undue Medical Debt is a non-profit organization that raises money to purchase debt from collection agencies at reduced rates to then forgive that debt. A donation of \$100 can forgive \$10,000 of medical debt. Collection agencies sell medical debt for less money than the amount owed by the debtor, because it is unlikely that the debtor will ever be able to fully pay off the debt. Undue Medical Debt has forgiven over \$11 billion dollars’ worth of medical debt, helping over seven million people. Individuals who want to contribute can donate to Undue’s general campaign or start their own campaigns through Undue. One small church in North Carolina raised enough money to forgive over \$4 million of medical debt with Undue, just in their own area.

My bat mitzvah parsha is Behar. In Behar, God commanded Moses to celebrate the Jubilee every 50 years. The

Jubilee is a year where all debt must be forgiven. When I first talked with my mom about Behar and the Jubilee, she explained to me that many people owe debts for medical care, because they do not have medical insurance or simply cannot afford medical treatment that they or their family members might need. After our conversation, I listened to podcasts to learn more about medical debt and read news stories about the work that Undue Medical Debt does to help people affected by it.

Inspired by the Jubilee, I decided to devote my bat mitzvah project to teaching my community about medical debt and raising money to help people struggling with it. I most likely won’t earn this money on my own, and I will need help. I invite the Memphis Jewish community to donate to my campaign to purchase medical debt through Undue. Even though medical debt is a really big problem, you can really help. To donate, please visit my campaign at <https://unduemedicaldebt.org/campaign/celia901-49474/>.

Celia is the daughter of Kate and Danny Schaffzin and is a sixth grader at University Middle, the junior high launched a few years ago in collaboration with the University of Memphis and Memphis-Shelby County Schools. Her bat mitzvah service will be at Beth Sholom Synagogue on May 25, 2024. [HW](#)

# Visceral Reminder of Holocaust in Form of Cattle Car Exhibit in Washington

(JNS) – A cattle car exhibit on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., last week welcomed visitors, including elected and appointed officials, for an immersive learning experience about the Holocaust, as well as the dangers of antisemitism, intolerance and racism.

It was stationed from May 6 to May 9 near the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The traveling exhibit, organized by the nonprofit group Hate Ends Now, included a 20-minute, 360-degree immersive presentation and featured a rare collection of original artifacts. Its opening included an event with public officials and coincided with Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 6 that also marked the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Todd Cohn, CEO of Hate Ends Now, said the exhibit in “the capital of the free world during a time of alarming increase in antisemitism globally sends a powerful message, reminding us of

what happens when hate is allowed to go unchecked. People of all ages have a visceral reaction when they step foot in the cattle car and when it seemingly comes to life with the voices, pictures and stories of this dark era.”

Trained docents provided critical context and framed the presentation. Accompanying the exhibit were 25 original artifacts from the Holocaust, and visitors got to see and hear firsthand accounts of survivors, all in the backdrop of a replica of a World War II-era cattle car used to transport Jews and other targeted groups to concentration and death camps.

“Amid sharp increases in antisemitism across the country, the need to bring the cattle car to more people is greater than ever before,” said Cohn. “Particularly for people who do not connect as much with a textbook or museum or don’t otherwise have access to educational opportunities like this, the exhibit is especially important. It is the perfect learning experience.” [HW](#)



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# Biden Reportedly Delayed Saying He Withheld Arms from Israel Until after Holocaust Speech



U.S. President Joe Biden delivers the keynote address at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Annual Days of Remembrance ceremony on May 7, 2024, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Credit: Adam Schultz/White House.

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden delayed revealing that he ordered an arms shipment to Israel be paused last week until after he delivered a Holocaust remembrance day address at the U.S. Capitol, the Associated Press reported.

“There seem to be two Bidens,” wrote Abe Foxman, director emeritus of the Anti-Defamation League, the one who “spoke at the Holocaust event, who flew to Israel during war against Israel” and who supported Israel militarily and financially,” and the “political Biden, who engages in party politics – telling Israel it has [a] right to defend itself – but we will tell you when and how.”

“What is so egregiously offensive is that Biden thought that his antisemitism and Holocaust speech would make his abandonment of Israel more tolerable,” wrote Mark Dubowitz, CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed in congressional testimony last Wednesday that the Biden administration paused a “shipment of high payload munitions” to Israel, amid objections from Washington to a proposed Israeli ground operation against Hamas in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

The AP reported that the shipment consisted of 3,500 bombs weighing 2,000 and 500 pounds.

Biden told CNN in an interview last Wednesday that he would cut off American-supplied munitions to Israel if it went into Rafah. “I made it clear that if they go into Rafah – they haven’t gone in Rafah yet – if they go into Rafah, I’m not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities – that deal with that problem,” Biden said.

The paused arms shipment was first reported last Sunday, but the AP reported that the National Security Council sought to keep the news from the public “until it had a better understanding of the scope of Israel’s intensified military operations in Rafah and until Biden could deliver a long-planned speech last Tuesday to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.”

During that speech, Biden repeated his claim that his support for Israel’s security was “ironclad.”

**Disappointment, dismay**

Ted Deutch, CEO of the American Jewish Committee, wrote that Biden “should not take steps that could impair Israel’s ability to prevent Hamas from attacking it again and again – as its leaders have promised.”

The leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations stated that it is “deeply disappointed and dismayed by President Biden’s counterproductive remarks regarding the potential cessation of congressionally mandated aid to our ally Israel.”

“Congress recently approved this aid with a bipartisan supermajority, which should signal to the Biden administration that support for Israel in her existential war remains strong,” added Harriet Schleifer and William Daroff, chair and CEO respectively of the Conference of Presidents.

“Yesterday, I commended the president for his speech; he stressed that ‘it was Hamas that unleashed this terror’ and started the war. But today’s threat to withhold arms from Israel betrays this truth,” wrote Nathan Diament, executive director for public policy at the Orthodox Union. “It undermines Israel’s ability to defeat Hamas and gives Hamas leverage and hope to survive.”

“It also puts a deal to free the hostages

– including American hostages – further out of reach and potentially prolongs the war,” Diament added.

**‘Mockery of our credibility’**

Republicans and some Democrats have sharply criticized Biden for pausing the arms shipment during Israel’s ongoing war against Hamas.

“We’ve seen that iron bend under the heat of domestic political pressure from his party’s anti-Israel base and the campus communists who decided to wrap themselves in the flags of Hamas and Hezbollah,” said Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) last Wednesday.

“We stand by allies. We don’t second guess them,” Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) wrote. “Biden’s dithering on Israel weapons is bad policy and a terrible message to Israel, our allies and the world.”

“As the leader of the free world, America cannot claim that its commitment to Israel is ‘iron-clad’ and then proceed to withhold aid from Israel,” wrote Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.). “The mixed messaging makes a mockery of our credibility as an ally. No one will take our word seriously.”

“How in the hell do you criticize Israel for being imprecise in its bombing and then refuse to deliver them what they’re willing to pay for to make the bombs precise?” Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) told “Jewish Insider” after Biden’s interview. “I mean, my God.”

“The Biden decision to halt weapons transfer to Israel over Rafah was made some time ago. But Biden didn’t announce [it] before, because he didn’t want it to get in [the] way of his big Holocaust Remembrance Day speech,” wrote Arsen Ostrovsky, the CEO of The International Legal Forum. “This is just below contempt. Unconscionable. Inexcusable.” **HW**

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# Argentine-Israeli Hostage Lior Rudaeff is Declared Dead as Number of Hostages Known to Be Living Dwindles



Lawmakers, Jewish leaders and others hold posters of the remaining Argentinean hostages in Israel during an event at parliament in Buenos Aires, May 7, 2024. Credit: Juan Melamed

By Juan Melamed

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) – Lior Rudaeff’s cousin was on the way to an event in Argentina’s parliament to demand his release from Hamas captivity when she got the news: The Israeli army had determined that Rudaeff, 61, had died on Oct. 7, and that his body had been held hostage by Hamas for the last seven months.

The news came amid mounting revelations that of the roughly 130 hostages held since Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel, more than had previously been known are likely to be dead. Before this month, the Israeli army had notified the families of 35 hostages that their loved ones had been determined to be dead.

In the last week, three additional hostages have been announced to have died on Oct. 7: Rudaeff; Dror Or, a father from Kibbutz Beeri whose wife was also killed; and Elyakim Libman, who had been working security at the Nova music festival where hundreds of young people were murdered.

Additionally, Hamas has repeatedly scaled back expectations about how many living hostages it can release in the event of a ceasefire deal. This week, the terror group announced unilaterally that it had agreed to a deal that Israel said was different from what had been on offer; one key difference was that Hamas said it wanted to include dead hostages in the first 33 released. Already, Israel had softened its demands after coming to understand that there were not 40 living hostages in the first categories eligible for release under any deal: women and children, elderly men and the sick and injured.

The revelations come as tense negotiations toward a mutual deal are ongoing, and as Israel carries out what it says is a limited invasion of Rafah, a southern Gaza city packed with refugees that Israel says is Hamas’ last stronghold.

Many in Israel and abroad are calling for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to strike a deal to end the fighting and bring home the hostages. In Argentina, politicians from multiple parties, Jewish leaders and the Israeli ambassador, Eyal Sela, all participated in the parliamentary event last Tuesday to call for the release of the hostages.

They carried photos of the Argentine-Israelis who remain hostages: Shiri and Yarden Bibas and their sons, Ariel and Kfir, David Cunio, Ariel Cunio, Eitan Horn, Iair Horn and Rudaeff.

Micaela Rudaeff canceled her partic-

ipation in the meeting after learning of her cousin’s death but sent a message.

“It’s been 214 days since Lior has been dead,” she said. “It is difficult to understand what the families of those kidnapped are experiencing. All the kidnapped people have to return to their homes now, healthy, safe and alive. Lior is not coming back alive.”

Lior Rudaeff moved to Israel from Argentina with his family when he was 7. An ambulance driver and volunteer medical services provider, he was a father of four and grandfather of two. He was kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak, a community with many Argentine citizens, after telling his family he had been hurt while fighting Hamas attackers. Five others were killed on the kibbutz on Oct. 7 and five others, all Argentine-Israelis, were released during a brief ceasefire in November. **HW**

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# Estate Planning WHY CREATE AN ESTATE PLAN?

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

As discussed in various ways throughout our previous articles, Estate Planning applies to everyone, regardless of age or net worth, in different ways and at different times throughout an individual’s life. More specifically, Estate Planning applies to anyone who owns a home, has children or grandchildren, has been divorced, owns a business, or expects to receive an inheritance.

As a refresher, here are seven (7) examples of areas proper estate planning serves to protect:

1. INCAPACITY: Proper planning enables one to control and designate who will manage the individual’s or couple’s affairs in the event of disability or death. When one fails to plan properly in the State of Tennessee and becomes incapacitated, through a Conservatorship court case, a Probate Judge will determine who makes key decisions (medical and property) for the incapacitated individual.

2. LONG TERM CARE: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to plan for long term care and long-term care expenses. Nursing homes today can cost as much as \$125,000 per year or more. Thus, a long-term stay can impoverish wealthy families. With proper planning, however, one can shelter assets and keep most if not all of the family’s wealth intact. Because over two thirds of those who reach the age of sixty-five (65) will be placed in a nursing home for some period of time, in many cases, long-term care planning is essential to preserving the individual or couple’s assets.

3. PROBATE COURT: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to avoid Probate Court during the individual’s lifetime (as discussed briefly in “1.” above) and when one dies. As mentioned in previous articles, Probate Court is public, expensive, time-consuming and, whenever possible, in our opinion, should almost always be avoided.

4. CREDITOR PROTECTION: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to protect assets inherited by heirs from lawsuits, divorces and other potential claims.




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5. INCENTIVE PLANNING: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to impose discipline upon and incentivize children and/or grandchildren who may not be capable or experienced in asset management. Proper planning ensures that children and/or grandchildren spend their inheritance wisely and receive their inheritance in the right ways and at the right times throughout their lives. Otherwise, children and grandchildren will receive their inheritance in one lump sum as soon as they reach the age of eighteen (18), which, in our experience, is typically before heirs are mature enough to do so. Proper planning shields inheritance from inexperience and mismanagement by including specific conditions, incentives and rewards in the plan.

6. SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING: Proper planning enables individuals and couples to provide for Special Needs children and grandchildren. Special considerations and planning are needed to avoid the loss of governmental benefits for Special Needs individuals and beneficiaries.

7. LIMIT FIGHTING WITHIN THE FAMILY: Sadly, in our experience, once money is involved in an estate, beneficiaries and heirs often fight over their inheritance, which often leads to lengthy and expensive estate litigation. Proper planning enables individuals and couples to prevent or discourage such fights and challenges and can even work to bring the family together at the time of death or incapacity. **HW**





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# What’s Required of the Executor of an Estate?

*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*

Being named as the executor of a friend’s or family member’s estate is generally an honor, but settling an estate can be a difficult and time-consuming job. Each state has specific laws detailing an executor’s responsibilities. If you are asked to serve as an executor, you may want to research the legal requirements, the complexity of the estate, and the potential time commitment. You should also consider seeking the counsel of experienced legal and tax professionals. An executor generally has the right to be compensated for services and reimbursed for expenses; fees vary depending on the situation.

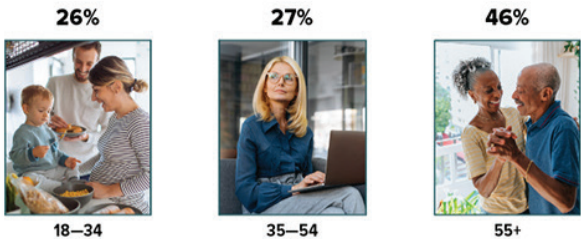
### Typical duties

The executor of an estate (referred to as a personal representative in some states) is named in the deceased’s legal will. An executor typically must file a petition for probate, the legal process for establishing the validity of the will. Some estates may not require probate, depending on size, types of assets, and state laws. If there is no will, there is technically no executor, but the probate court will appoint an administrator or personal representative to carry out the same duties. If the deceased created a letter of instruction, it should include much of the information needed to close out an estate, such as a list of documents and their locations, contacts for legal and financial professionals, a list of bills and creditors, login information for important online sites, and final wishes for burial or cremation and funeral or memorial services.

### Where There’s a Will...

Almost two out of three Americans think it’s important to have an estate plan, but only one out of three actually has a will or other estate planning document. The most common reason for not having a will is simple procrastination. Not having a will can make it much more difficult to settle an estate.

### Percentage of Americans with a will, by age group



Source: Caring.com, 2023

Here are some duties you might take on as an executor.

- Arrange for funeral and burial costs to be paid from the estate.** Collect multiple copies of the death certificate from the funeral home or coroner. They may be needed to fulfill official obligations, such as presenting the will to the court for probate, claiming life insurance proceeds, reporting the death to government agencies, and transferring ownership of financial accounts or property to the beneficiaries.
- Handle any government benefits and file tax returns.** The funeral home will typically notify the Social Security Administration. Federal benefits received after the date of death must be returned. However, Social Security benefits are paid a month behind, so a payment in the month of death for the previous month would not have to be returned. You may have to file final personal income tax returns for the deceased, estate income tax returns, and estate tax and gift tax returns if applicable.
- Protect assets while the estate is being closed out.** This might involve securing a vacant property; paying the mortgage, utility, and maintenance costs; changing the name of the insured on home and auto policies to the estate; and tracking investments.
- Inventory, appraise, and liquidate valuable property.** You may need to sort through a lifetime’s worth of personal belongings and list a home for sale.
- Notify potential creditors and pay any debts or taxes.** You may have to publish a notice to potential creditors, as directed by the probate court and state law. Debts such as medical bills, credit card balances, and taxes due should be paid out of the estate. The executor and/or heirs are not personally responsible for the debts of the deceased that exceed the value of the estate.
- Distribute assets according to the estate documents.** Proceeds from life insurance

policies and retirement accounts generally go directly to named beneficiaries. You typically must wait until the end of the probate process to distribute remaining assets. Trust assets can usually be disbursed right away without court approval. The executor has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the estate and its beneficiaries. This means you could be held liable if estate funds are mismanaged and the beneficiaries suffer losses. If for any reason you are not willing or able to perform the executor’s duties, you have a right to refuse the position. If no alternate is named in the will, an administrator will be appointed by the court. This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2024 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. Investment and Insurance Products are: Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested **HW**

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# Orpheum Volunteer Ushers Inspired by “Come From Away” Story

The Orpheum Theatre Group is pleased to announce a special community-wide necessities drive in conjunction with the Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO) Volunteer Ushers inspired by the special return engagement of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical “COME FROM AWAY” June 21-23.

In 2019, members of FOTO attended the screening of “You Are Here: A Come From Away Story” – a documentary featuring the stories from the community of Gander in Newfoundland Canada who displayed incredible hospitality when 7,000 strangers were diverted there on September 11, 2001. This true heart-warming story of kindness would become the basis for the Broadway musical “COME FROM AWAY.”

“We were inspired to do what they did, to take care of strangers,” said Cindi Maglothlin, Volunteer Manager at the Orpheum Theatre Group. “We wanted to give back to our community after being touched by this incredible story.”

Since 2019, FOTO members have collected necessity supplies annually to support different organizations throughout the city mirroring the hospitality shown by Gander residents the day they welcomed the world to their small town.

And now FOTO is inviting the community to assist in these efforts. From May 9 to June 23, there will be supply drop-off boxes in the Orpheum and Halloran Centre collecting donations for Lester Community Center in Binghamton, an ongoing community partner organization with the Orpheum Theatre Group. Donations will be collected at both venues Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., continuing through June 23. Donations can also be made during all public Orpheum and Halloran Centre events. For a full list of suggested items, please visit <https://orpheum-memphis.com/cfadrive>. Anyone who donates will have access to a special 30% offer (for select seats and performances) to see “COME FROM AWAY” at the Orpheum this summer. For more information visit [orpheum-memphis.com/comefromaway](http://orpheum-memphis.com/comefromaway).

The national tour of “COME FROM AWAY,” the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical about the true story of the small town that welcomed the world,

will make its return to Memphis for a limited engagement June 21-23. “COME FROM AWAY” tickets are on sale now and available at the Orpheum box office (203 S. Main St.), Ticketmaster, by visiting [orpheum-memphis.com](http://orpheum-memphis.com), or by calling 901.525.3000. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by emailing [groups@orpheum-memphis.com](mailto:groups@orpheum-memphis.com) or by calling 901.529.4226. The Memphis engagement of “COME FROM AWAY” is locally sponsored by Simmons Bank.

**About Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO):**

Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO) is a not-for-profit civic organization that coordinates volunteer support for the Orpheum Theatre Group. For over 40 years FOTO has generously given of their time as volunteer greeters, ushers, ticket takers, and tour guides. In 2017, FOTO was recognized by The Broadway League, the presenter of the Tony Awards, with a Star of Touring Broadway Award honoring them for their exceptional hospitality that has made Memphis and the Orpheum among the most anticipated stops on tour through the homecooked meal they prepare for every Broadway cast & crew. “The Cast Party: A Collection of Recipes by the Friends of the Orpheum” includes the most celebrated dishes FOTO has made for this award-winning meal and can be purchased at [orpheumgiftshop.com](http://orpheumgiftshop.com).

**About Come From Away:**

Broadway’s “COME FROM AWAY” is a Best Musical winner all across North America! This “New York Times” Critics’ Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

**About the Orpheum Theatre Group:**

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

## Police and Protesters Clash in Amsterdam as Successive Pro-Palestinian Encampments Roil City

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Police in Amsterdam warned people to avoid a canal and thoroughfare in the city’s center as an effort to remove a pro-Palestinian encampment there turned violent last Wednesday.

Rioters tossed ammonia, an irritant that could cause permanent sight damage, at police moving into the encampment, Amsterdam’s police said last Wednesday in a tweet, adding, “Police call on everyone to go home. We are acting to stop this violence.”

Video streaming on Dutch news sites showed police in riot gear pushing back against protesters wearing Palestinian scarves. At one point, three police pulled a woman off of an earth mover clearing away the encampment.

The clashes came a day after police raided an encampment at the University of Amsterdam, one of a growing number of European universities to replicate the pro-Palestinian demonstrations that have rippled across U.S. campuses for the last several weeks. The protesters want the universities to cut ties with Israel and its institutions.

Video has circulated of the pro-Palestinian protesters striking pro-Israel counter-protesters with planks of wood at the university.

In March, pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated against the presence of Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the opening of the country’s new National Holocaust Museum. **HW**

### OBITUARIES



Sophia Shore

Sophia Shore, 89, of Saint Charles, Ill., formerly of Memphis, Tenn., died on May 6, 2024, at Jennings Terrace nursing home in Aurora, Ill. She is survived by her sons, David Evensky (Liliya) of Livermore, Ca., and Devin Evensky (Lisa) of Geneva, Ill., her nephews, nieces and five step-grandchildren.

Sophia was born in Mexico City on January 5, 1935, to Leizer and Pessia Shore, both of blessed memory. Along with her brother, Moris Shore, and her sister, Bella (Shore) Lansky, Sophia spent her first years in Mexico before moving to Memphis, where the family settled to be near family already living in the area. Sophia graduated from Humes High School, where among her classmates was a young man named Elvis Presley. She attended Memphis State College for two years before marrying. Sophia spent most of her career as a legal secretary, but the pinnacle of her career was with the then-fledgling startup, Federal Express, where she worked in a variety of roles including her proudest achievement working in a key role with the team implementing the new Management by Objectives program. After almost a lifetime in Memphis, Sophia and her beloved “Kitty” moved to Saint Charles, Ill., to live near her youngest son, his wife and children.

One of Sophia’s true loves was ballroom and round dancing, where she actively competed and made her own costumes. She even opened her own dance studio in Memphis.

Aside from her family, Sophia was proud of her legacy, which protects women in the workplace by setting the precedent establishing front pay awards as compensation for victims of gender discrimination.

Despite the personal impact she faced, Sophia stood up to Memphis’ largest corporation. Sophia won the ground-breaking case, doing most of the legal work on her own and for years, delighted in driving around Memphis in her little red sports car with the license plate “THXFRED,” a reference to that company’s CEO.

Until her final days, Sophia enjoyed staying up to date on current events and never held back her political opinions and thoughts. She was never without her smartphone and iPad, and enjoyed watching videos on YouTube, especially opera and cantorial choirs.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 9, 2024, at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery.

The family requests that any donations / memorials be made to a charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

### Gail Sue Ecker Wener

Mrs. Gail Sue Ecker Wener passed away peacefully on April 30, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn., after a long illness. She was born on February 15, 1945, to Michael and Helen Ecker in Knoxville, Tenn.

She attended the University of Tennessee where she met her husband, Lester, and moved to Memphis soon after where she continued her studies at Memphis State University. They were married for 57 years and had one son, Michael.

Gail is survived by her husband, Lester, and her son, Michael, (Shirley).

She was laid to rest at Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn., on May 2, 2024. **HW**

### Alan “Ron” Wilk

Alan “Ron” Wilk passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from a short illness.

He was born on December 14, 1940, in Pittsburgh, Pa., to Annabelle and Harry Wilk. He moved to Memphis when he was 13 years old.

As a youth, he was an active member of BBYO and would eventually become an active member of B’nai B’rith as an adult. He was an advisor to Fortas AZA and president of Sam Schloss Lodge, among many of his other positions within the organization. He was a member of Baron Hirsch Synagogue, where in the past he enjoyed daily services and helping in any way possible. Prior to retiring, he was co-owner of M. E. Strauss Brokerage Company, where he was a meat broker for over 40 years.

He was a kind person with a gentle soul who believed that all people should be treated equally. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Debby Levitch Wilk, and is survived by two daughters, Julie Campbell and Marla Wilk. He also leaves behind two grandchildren, Brittnee Campbell and Josh Campbell, a sister, Arlene Fisher, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was loved by so many and will be missed tremendously. **HW**

### OBITUARIES

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# A Fable: Adam Sees the Light



*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

Can you imagine Adam – G-d’s first human creation in Eden’s green meadow? See him, newly minted. His fresh body gleaming, and his mind totally empty of facts, attitudes, and opinions – as empty as Eden is of thorn bushes – ready to begin its lifelong task of accumulation of data and weaving that data into an intellect. He turns slowly 360 degrees, a full circle, and takes in grass and forests, and flowers, and mountains, and brooks, all covered by a blue dome.

As he registers every throb of the new creation in the lush, green grass of Eden and wonders at his consciousness – as flimsy as the few white clouds that sail above him. He looks closer and sees the songbirds. And look, there are small creatures in the grass and larger ones hopping and bounding amongst trees. Truly, a brave new world full of creatures unlike himself that are necessary for him to understand – he who at birth has no identity and a head full of inexperience. Then he chances to stare into that copper disc that illuminates his new

world. It beams over all.

Still sitting on the green Savannah and swiveling his head in all directions, because the Lord of creation has put a potion called curiosity into his bloodstream; unappreciated at the time by Adam, but destined to nourish his intellect. So much to see that it took many hours to inscribe it all in his heretofore blank brain like the honeybee fills his comb with nectar.

Then among his recording of his surroundings, he made an alarming observation. That bright orange thing was no longer straight ahead. The trees on the far horizon appeared to consume it. And he could no longer see the sharp outlines of trees and mountains. In fact, the creatures that had been joyfully bounding in the woods were no longer visible to him. Darkness was replacing light. He trembled. Even a partially stocked brain knew that somehow darkness meant blindness and blindness was death. And as the trees pulled more and more of the light below the horizon, Adam’s blindness increased. He chose to run to escape this danger, but he fell over a large boulder. He rose, only to run into a tree. He resumed his running – somewhere there must be light, and he must find it. He was cold and blind and fearful all at once.

And the Lord G-d saw his fear and took pity on him. Ah, we need a light for the night, thought the mind of G-d wherein dwells all the mechanisms of

the universe. Therefore, he flung the full moon into the midnight sky. Adam stopped. Only a small improvement. Now at least he could see the river, which lay in his path. But still the garden’s beauty seemed blurred in dusky yellow. So, the lord flung millions of points of light into the sky. They helped but a little.

The good Lord, who made the heart of Adam, understood the heart of Adam. This fear of nighttime blindness needed more than moon and stars.


The Creator spoke in Adam’s ear the secret of day and night. How they revolve like all things in nature; life and death, the seasons, the great architecture of the galaxies. But Adam’s mind could not accommodate the voice of his maker. It was like talking to the beasts. He needed one of his own kind. The ragged hole of fear in Adam’s soul could only be filled by a helpmate. Thus, Adam slept, and G-d made Eve.

She stood beside him and pointed to the horizon where the earth had swallowed the sun. Her eyes expressed no fear, only wonder. They sank to the grass in each other’s arms – huddled like two babes. Neither knew anything except the warmth of the other. They watched and waited. Their fearful eyes focused on the Pine tree where they had last seen the sun. Would it ever return to bless them with light and warmth? They dozed, frightful, but full of the need

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By Ted Roberts

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to sleep. Then Eve, feeling a warmth at her back and noticing the lightening of the black sky, laughed the first exultant laugh of creation and put her hand to Adam’s face in order to turn it to the life-giving light behind them. “It returns, it returns,” she whispered with awe; “but not where it was eaten by the earth.” They stand, they face the rising sun, and then they lift their faces to heaven – wherein the laws of nature are made – to thank He who gave them life and light and warmth. Around them all living things hummed a hymn of hope.

*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*

## Local Rabbi Among 3 People Arrested in Altercation at Manhattan Pro-Palestinian Protest

### By Luke Tress

(New York Jewish Week) – A New York rabbi and real estate developer was arrested last Tuesday and charged with assaulting pro-Palestinian protesters.

Reuven Kahane, 57, was charged with assault in the 2nd degree, an NYPD spokesperson told the “New York Jewish Week.”

Two demonstrators were also arrested in the incident. Maryellen Novak, 55, was charged with criminal mischief and unlawful assembly, and John Rozendaal,

63, with criminal mischief.

The altercation is the latest fallout from the pro-Palestinian encampment at Columbia University. About 25 members of a campus pro-Palestinian alliance had gathered at the corner of Park Ave. and 72nd St. on the Upper East Side last Tuesday morning to picket a Columbia trustee’s residence. The protest group, Columbia University Apartheid Divest, was a leader of the encampment.

According to police, Kahane was in his vehicle near the scene, and as demonstrators were leaving, two people be-

gan arguing with Kahane and damaged his vehicle. Rozendaal was crossing a street when he “started banging on the front” of the vehicle, a police spokesperson said.

Police said Kahane “tapped” one of the demonstrators, who was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. All three arrested individuals are residents of Manhattan.

Kahane is a real estate investor and Orthodox rabbi. He is a relative of Meir Kahane, an extremist rabbi from New York who led the Jewish Defense

League and was later barred from the Israeli Knesset for racism. Meir Kahane was assassinated in New York in 1990.

Reuven Kahane did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but his name and age match those of an individual quoted as Meir Kahane’s cousin in a 1990 article in the “Los Angeles Times.” His grandfather, Levi Yitzchak Kahane, was Meir Kahane’s uncle.

Kahane pleaded not guilty last Wednesday, was released and is set to appear in court again in June, court records showed. **HW**

## ISRAEL INSIGHTS Dangerous Dilemma

### By Howard Weisband

Bring Them Home Now!  
Taking Rafah Is Essential to Defeat Hamas.

Are we living with mutually exclusive goals, or can both be achieved somewhat simultaneously?

On May 8 as I write this column, “The Jerusalem Post’s” latest update says: “The IDF continued its limited Rafah operation on Wednesday while holding back from a larger operation pending the ongoing hostage negotiations with Hamas.”

Our Passover holiday was enjoyable, with much time spent with family and good friends, but marred by clinging to the news as much as possible: where are the rockets falling and what is happening with the hostage negotiations? In the days following Passover, trying to get back into a regular routine, the same questions remain.

Bring our hostages home now... is what everyone of us feel and want.

“The Wall Street Journal” editorial on February 14 was correct when it said that “Taking Rafah is Essential to Defeat Hamas.” It followed that up on May 6 with an editorial which was titled “Why Israel Must Take Rafah.”

The recent evil, cynical manipulation of the western media by Hamas was evident once again when the headlines recently claimed that Hamas had accepted the ceasefire deal that would release our hostages.

The devil is in the details as is often said, except that these details were merely those put forward by Hamas themselves. They were not the negotiated details that the United States, Qatari, and Egyptian officials had been working on and presented to Israel and Hamas. Israel was ready to move forward, even pause the entry into Rafah and the war itself.

Then came the “sinister alternate proposal” labelled on May 8 by David Horowitz, founder and editor of “The Times of Israel.” “The Hamas proposal, however, is structured to enable it to release very few of the hostages in return not only for an end to the IDF’s campaign in Gaza and its survival and return to full power there, but also for a planned surge in support for Hamas in the West Bank, the further neutering of the Palestinian Authority, and the potential major escalation of violence against Israel in and from the West Bank.”

Thus Hamas ended the negotiations... at least for the time being.

An excellent analysis of the current situation was presented by Tamir Hayman, of the Institute for National Security Studies, (May 7): “In the absence of an agreement or compromise by Hamas, it is detrimental for Israel to continue the static situation we were in. It is positive that new energy has entered the campaign. The [capture of the] border of the Gaza Strip and the Rafah crossing are extremely important achievements, while the ongoing dismantling of the battalions is of secondary importance.”

Further, Hayman laid out four immediate objectives to the Rafah operation:

1. Increasing operational pressure on Hamas to improve the chances of a better deal;
2. Blocking the border between Egypt and Rafah to prevent future smuggling of weapons to Hamas;
3. Taking control of the Rafah crossing as an expression of Hamas’s loss of sovereignty;
4. Dismantling the four battalions of the Rafah Brigade: Taking out operatives and commanders, as well as neutralizing the underground tunnels.

In a May 6 interview with Israel 103 FM radio, Ya’akov Amidror, a former major general and national security adviser of Israel, was asked if he saw a real chance for change in the Middle East. “When talking about the Middle East in the future, it’s impossible to say there’s no chance. But there is a massive strategic flaw because this plan assumes that Hamas and the military force of Hamas will not be eliminated completely from Gaza... we need to show the world that those who commit acts like Hamas have will have their military force eliminated. It should be obvious.”

As difficult and dangerous that the dilemma is, Israel must continue to strive to utilize strength to bring our hostages home while decisively defeating Hamas.

*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*



# Schumer, ‘Squad’ Members Praise Biden for Halting Weapons Aid to Israel

(JNS) – Major American Jewish organizations, Republicans and even some congressional Democrats have criticized U.S. President Joe Biden’s statement in a CNN interview that he would deny weapons aid to Israel if it attacks Rafah.

Some members of Congress have come to the defense of the president, who reportedly sought to keep the withheld weapons under wraps until after he had delivered a talk about the Holocaust in the U.S. Capitol.

“I believe that Israel and America have an ironclad relationship, and I have faith in what the Biden administration is doing,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) told reporters.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) wrote that Biden “is right to halt bomb deliveries to this extreme Israeli government. But this must be a first step.” He added that Washington “must now use all its leverage to demand a ceasefire, stop attacks on Rafah and secure delivery of massive humanitarian aid throughout Gaza.”

Biden’s decision was an “important step in the right direction,” according to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) wrote that he was “pleased to see that certain offensive arms deliveries have since been paused” and encouraged the administration “to continue to be wary of transferring weapons that could be used in offensive military actions that result in significant civilian casualties.”

Five members of the so-called progressive “Squad” of far-left members of Congress weighed in.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) responded to a social media post by the former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, who said that Biden had “lost his mind” and is helping Hamas win.

“Biden has not ‘lost his mind.’ He is upholding the word of the U.S.,” Ocasio-Cortez wrote. “There are 1.3 million people in Rafah. You do not need to slaughter them to go after Hamas. Biden stated the U.S. red line was Rafah. It would make us weaker and the world less safe to let Bibi, or anyone, cross it.”

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) wrote that Biden’s claim that U.S.-made bombs have been used to kill civilians in Gaza “is what young people across the country were protesting for, and finally, the needle has moved in a significant way.”

“We have to keep standing for what is right,” wrote Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.). “Organizing is working. Protesting is working. Keep fighting for a ceasefire now.”

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) praised Biden’s decision. Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) called it “the right and just thing” for him to do.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) also supported the president’s decision.

“An invasion of Rafah would leave untold death and destruction in its wake – including massive civilian casualties and devastating impacts on the delivery of humanitarian aid – while undermining efforts to release the hostages,” Van Hollen stated.

“Today’s commitment from the president makes clear that the United States will not be complicit in this suffering and follows through on his repeated warnings to the Netanyahu government,” the Maryland Democrat added. “American support must be used in line with our interests and our values.”

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), who is Jewish, stated that it is not unprecedented for presidents, of both parties, to condition military aid to Israel.

“While Israel has the right and obligation to defend itself, there is no reason we should provide additional destructive offensive weapons that are likely to be used in an invasion of Rafah,” Schatz stated. “Israel must target Hamas in a much more precise manner that prevents avoidable civilian death and suffering. President Biden drawing a clear line about America’s strategic and moral imperatives is in keeping with decades of bipartisan American foreign policy practices.” [HW](#)

# Reporter Scolds State: ‘I Was Under the Impression that You Guys Didn’t Speak to Hypotheticals’

(JNS) – Matt Lee, the Associated Press diplomatic writer who asks the first questions at U.S. State Department press briefings, pressed the Foggy Bottom spokesman last Thursday about U.S. President Joe Biden’s threat to the Jewish state.

Biden said that Washington would withhold weapons from Israel if the latter launched a major operation in Rafah – Hamas’s last remaining stronghold in the southernmost part of the Gaza Strip.

“Isn’t it ‘if?’ Isn’t there a big ‘if’ in here?” Lee asked Miller.

“I was under the impression that you guys didn’t speak to hypotheticals,” Lee said. “Every time you’re asked any question that’s got the word ‘if’ in it or it’s not something that has already happened, you refuse to answer. And now, all of a sudden –.”

“I wouldn’t say every time,” Miller said. “Wouldn’t say every time.”

“Pretty much,” Lee said. Miller responded, “Look, this – I – so just to be – I know we should be serious about this.”

“I am not trying to be making light of it,” Lee said. “You guys have made or the president has made a policy prescription, apparently, based on something that hasn’t happened yet.”

Miller said there is “a very real difference, obviously” between his getting a hypothetical question in the briefing room and “something that we’re engaged with a foreign government that they say they intend to do. And we treat those differently for quite obvious reasons.”

“Okay, so you’re saying you won’t tell us the full truth but you will – anyway,” Lee responded.

During a May 7 State Department

briefing, Miller said, “So I’m not going to speculate about some hypothetical scenario that may happen in the future.” He added: “In terms of what might happen, I’m just not going to speculate on that or comment on such a hypothetical.”

“I think that gets me into a double hypothetical, and I’m going to decline even to engage with the first part of that hypothetical question, let alone the second,” he said at an April 16 press briefing. “I’ll leave it at that.”

At an April 15 press briefing, Miller said “I’m just not going to speak to hypotheticals.” On April 3, he told reporters, “It’s hard to comment on that without getting into a hypothetical.”

“So first of all, I’m not going to discuss hypotheticals and what might happen,” Miller said at a March 14 press briefing. “I would never do that with respect to anything, as we’ve – as others in this room have heard me say for the last few days when I’ve gotten other hypothetical questions.”

On March 13, Miller’s boss U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken twice told reporters he wouldn’t engage in what-if questions. “I’m not going to engage in hypotheticals,” he said. He responded to another question: “I’m not going to get into any other hypotheticals about Rafah or where that goes.”

On March 25, a reporter prefaced a question by imploring Miller: “I hope you don’t call this a hypothetical.”

The words “hypothetical” and “hypotheticals” appear more than 450 times in the briefings section of the State Department website and overwhelmingly involve a Foggy Bottom official declining to comment. [HW](#)

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# Gottheimer, Bipartisan Congressional Group Tour U.S. Holocaust Museum

By David Swindle

(JNS) – A group of 22 members of Congress visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., last Wednesday and discussed the origins of antisemitic conspiracy theories.

Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Rep. David Kustoff (R-Tenn.), Rep. Anthony D’Esposito (R-N.Y.), Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Ill.), Rep. Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) and Rep. Max Miller (R-Ohio) toured the museum with other legislators and House Chaplain Margaret Grun Kibben.

The 90-minute event began with a presentation by Danny Greene, an adjunct professor of history at Northwestern University, discussing “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” forgery that has fueled hate against Jews for more than a century.

“Six months after the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust and in the face of skyrocketing antisemitism, walking through these exhibits is a solemn reminder that there is no room for silence in the face of hate,” Gottheimer, the primary organizer of the tour, told JNS. “We must never forget, and we must work together to combat all forms of antisemitism and extremism – on college campuses and across our nation.”

The congressman said it was “a true privilege” to co-host my colleagues for a bipartisan tour of the museum.” He

described viewing the exhibits as “a solemn reminder of the lives lost during the Holocaust and the devastation that antisemitism can reap. Now, more than ever, we must work together to combat antisemitism – on college campuses and everywhere in the United States.”

Commenting further on the recent campus chaos fueled by pro-Hamas protesters, Gottheimer told JNS that “the First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and assembly, but not freedom to harass and intimidate other students. On campuses across our nation, I expect to see leadership stop the double talk and start acting.”

Gottheimer told JNS that he has called on administrators to “discipline harassers. Restore civility on campus. Encourage peaceful, constructive, civil dialogue. As [U.S.] President [Joe] Biden highlighted, we must respect students’ right to peacefully protest so long as they do not interfere with their classmates’ safety and ability to learn.”

Last Tuesday, he posted on X a 33-second video featuring antisemitic postings he had received following his increased outspokenness in defending the Jewish people.

“It’s a disgusting reminder that antisemitism is alive and well,” he wrote. “Antisemitism and all forms of hate have no place in our country. Don’t be silent. It takes all of us to tackle hate.” [HW](#)



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