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Israeli Music Soothes Bornblum's Soul



Bornblum students singing at Kabbalat Shabbat

By Dr. Cindy Dolgin

Reprinted with permission, Hebrew at the Center

Music quite naturally stands at the core of learning at the Jewish day school in the heart of Memphis, Tenn. After all, the city of Memphis is anchored by "Graceland," the legendary home of Elvis Presley, of blessed memory, arguably one of the greatest American songwriters, singers, and performers of all time. The Bornblum Jewish Community Day School is nourished by both Israel's and Tennessee's deep wells of lyrical and liturgical inspiration.

Since Israel was brutally attacked by Hamas on October 7th, many new Israe-

li songs of inspiration, determination, mourning, and hope have been written and recorded. As fast as Israeli radio stations get new songs out to the public, Bornblum's Hebrew faculty members integrate the new music into the teaching of Hebrew, particularly in the Middle School.

"Hebrew at the Center's Member School Highlight" (MSH) sat down with Michal Almalem, Bornblum's Judaic Studies Principal and the Hebrew teachers, Rinat Kremer, Sapir Pinto and Maya Sharabi, to learn how Israeli music is utilized to build Hebrew language and Israeli cultural proficiency, as well as strengthen Jewish identity. "MSH" wanted to know more about how learning emerging Israeli music over the past six months has benefited the teaching of Hebrew language and touched Bornblum's students, their parents, the wider Memphis community, and even the Israeli community of Memphis' sister city, Shoham.

Whereas instinct guides many good Hebrew teachers to believe that learning the Hebrew words and the beautiful melodies of Israeli music will bring students closer to Israel, and that learning some of the vocabulary will bring them even closer, the Hebrew teachers at Bornblum were able to add grammatical constructs, sentence composition, and perfecting multiple drafts for deeper student learning. As first-year Members of Hebrew at the Center, they requested of their coach, Nili Pinhasi, to help the teachers connect the teaching of Israeli songs, in Hebrew, to ACTFL's standards for second language acquisition. Once these techniques were applied to the first song, the teachers became increasingly adept at teaching Hebrew language and Israeli culture through music.

In middle school, Rinat, Sapir and Michal first play the music, then pull out vocabulary words that are already familiar, then add some new Hebrew vocabulary. Students then orally express and write in simple Hebrew their understanding of the meaning of the song, all while listening to the song again and

(See Bornblum Page 2)

A Bright Future for the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab and its Leadership





Executive Director Bobby Meadows and Past President Jeri Moskovitz announcing the keynote speaker.

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab hosted its Annual Meeting on April 16, 2024. Tuesday night was spent honoring the Home and its leadership as MJHR staff, board of directors and community members gathered in Gomez Auditorium to reflect on the many changes and impacts that have been made this year. The event began with words of encouragement from President Jeri Moskovitz and opening remarks from Executive Director Bobby Meadows who shared the accomplishments of the Home during Moskovitz's term. Meadows spoke not only of the opening of the Ronna K. Newburger Adult Day Center, but also the addition of outpatient therapy and the official promotion of Stephanie Williford to Assistant Executive Director.

Keynote speaker Don Shulman, past president and CEO of AJAS, shared information about Jewish-based care for seniors. Shulman's talk highlighted different plans and ideas regarding how to grow and strengthen care organizations while keeping Jewish values at the forefront of decision-making. MJHR is so grateful that he took the time out of his retirement to share the necessary information for the growth of the Home.

MJHR honored their board members and leadership through various awards and inducted Mitchell Lansky as Pres-



MJHR board members.

ident for 2024-2026. Moskovitz recognized outgoing board members, Mark Halperin, Howard Hayden, Nat Landau, Geri Lansky and Steve Wishnia, and gave them tzedakah boxes as a token of appreciation for their longtime service to the Home. Michael Wexler and Nathan Lubin were elected to serve on the board, and the Aaron Brenner Award, which acknowledges a board member who has been an outstanding servant to the Home, was given to Jennifer Roberts. Roberts has served on MJHR's board of directors for many years, works as the volunteer co-captain for their annual golf tournament, and attends many activities with residents throughout the month. She is always stepping up when the Home needs her and is a well-deserved winner of the Aaron Brenner Award. Mitchell Lansky closed out the evening with remarks to outline his plan for his term.

He shared at the annual meeting, "What makes my job as president relatively easy is the staff. I won't lie, the staff is just great, and this incredible board and the new members make the board even better. My goal coming in as president is to continue diversifying. The industry is changing, the world is changing, and we have to change with it if we want the Home to be here for 100 more years."

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. **HW**

Bornblum...

(Continued From Page 1)



Bornblum students singing at Kabbalat Shabbat.

again. Then the teachers introduce and teach one or two new grammatical structures that appear in the song. The next step is for the students to translate the song from its original Hebrew to English. At this point, students go back to their first Hebrew draft of the meaning of the [song] and improve upon it, writing a brief description of the song in English, to share with non-Hebrew speaking audiences.

Emergent Israeli music has been incorporated into daily prayer and into community-wide Kabbalot Shabbat at Bornblum, attended by parents and grandparents. Before a song is sung at Kabbalat Shabbat, one or more of the middle school children make a short presentation, in English, about the origins and meaning of the song. The songs taught this year include:

- Yeish Lochamim (יש לוחמים) •
- Im Machar Ani Meit (אם מחר אני מת)
- Giborai Al (גיבורי על) by HaTikva 6, full of Hebrew vocabulary about different professions that the students already knew.
- Hai the original version by Ofra Hazzah, compared and contrasted with the remix by Noa Kirel.
- *LaTzeit MeiDika'on* (לצאת מדיכאון)

After one Kabbalat Shabbat, the song LaTzeit MeiDika'on (לצאמ מדיכאון) organically became something of a schoolwide anthem, together with the video clips of soldiers coming back to their families after long stints in Gaza. The students were then challenged: the first student to memorize the entire first verse would get to sing it the following week as a solo. By the following week, the entire school had learned the chorus, and one student sang the first verse solo. Today, every student at Bornblum can sing the entire first verse. In March, when visitors came to Memphis from their twin city of Shoham, they were invited to hear the Bornblum students sing this song and were overcome with emotion to hear these American children singing this song.

At another Kabbalat Shabbat assembly, there was a display of ceramic hearts, created by the students, engraved with the names of each of the hostages, with a red balloon attached to each heart. When over 100 hostages returned home, each ceramic heart was given to the freed captive, creating a powerful and meaningful bond. The distribution of the hearts to returning hostages was coordinated through Bornblum's "sister school" in Shoham.

The war has tightened ties between Shoham's and Bornblum's middle school students, who have been paired up as WhatsApp buddies. To practice correct writing skills, the Bornblum students write in Hebrew and the Shoham students write back in English. They also make voice recordings to send back and forth, recording, blushing, erasing, and recording again, until their messages meet their own expectations of what is acceptable to send. When the Bornblum 8th graders travel to Israel in May, they will spend two full days with their friends in Shoham.

Maya Sharabi is the only member of the Hebrew department who does not teach in the middle school. As an early learning specialist, she wants her 1st and 2nd grade

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Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 3, 2024 / 25 Nissan, 5784	. 7:29 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. May 4, 2024 / 26 Nissan, 5784	8:29 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Acharei

students to experience the emotions of the war through music without scaring them. She returned to a classic Israeli childrens' song, "Eretz Yisrael Sheli." While teaching the vocabulary, grammatical structures, and music of this Hebrew song, she focused on the educational messages, including the need to rebuild, repave, and replant what was destroyed by Hamas in Israel, and that our brothers and sisters in Israel do these things with love and filled with hope for the future.

Much of what Bornblum's Hebrew teachers undertook would have hap-



I never understood why they put some words in color. Are you only supposed to read the ones in color? Should you be looking for a secret message? Are they trying to sell you on something? Anyway, if you never noticed it before, you're gonna notice it more now



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At one Kabbalat Shabbat assembly, there was a display of ceramic hearts, created by the students, engraved with the names of each of the hostages, with a red balloon attached to each heart.

pened whether they were Hebrew at the Center members or not. Their faculty is dedicated and strong, their relationship with the city of Shoham is well-established, and music is deep in the souls of every resident of Elvis' hometown, Memphis, Tenn. However, learning and incorporating the ACTFL scale and mindfully teaching Hebrew through authentic Israeli cultural materials has given the teachers a professional framework upon which to turn this terrible moment in Israeli history into specific growth opportunities in Hebrew language acquisition. HW

Chabad of Memphis Will Teach a Revolutionary New Course on Medical Decisions in Jewish Ethics

This spring, Chabad of Memphis will be teaching a groundbreaking course in medical ethics starting on Monday, May 13 and will continue on the following three (3) weeks on Tuesdays. This new course, titled "Decisions of Fate" will explore some of the most fascinating and relevant dilemmas in medical ethics through the lens of contemporary Jewish law.

Rabbi Levi Klein, the course instructor in Memphis, highlights, "Finding trustworthy guidance is important when navigating tough medical decisions. 'Decisions of Fate' offers an opportunity to proactively engage with these questions, providing the confidence and clarity needed to address important life decisions if and when they arise."

This four-week course invites our community to engage in a thoughtful study of medical ethics according to Jewish wisdom. From experimental treatments to the prospect of extending life, participants will gain an enriching perspective on how Judaism sheds light on these crucial questions.

The Memphis Jewish community will be joining tens of thousands around the world in hundreds of Jewish communities learning "Decisions of Fate" worldwide. This course has been developed by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute ("JLI"), the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI offers programs in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous international countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

Interested participants can visit www. MyJLI.com for registration and additional course-related information or call Chabad at 901-754-0404. The course is presented in partnership with the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. **HW**

Margolin Hebrew Academy to Hold its 74th Annual Scholarship Banquet

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

On Sunday, June 9, 2024, the Margolin Hebrew Academy will hold its 74th Annual Scholarship Banquet at Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

This year's Banquet theme, Israel, resonates deeply, emphasizing the school's steadfast commitment to the Jewish State. The evening's Guests of Honor will be the 19 MHA-FYOS Alumni heroes serving in the Israel Defense Forces during the Hamas War. The program will present a special Legacy Tribute to Sergeant Rose Lubin A"H, a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Jewish people. Rashki Kaplan, who is an MHA parent and works as the Fogelman JFS Director of Social Services, will receive the Eishet Chesed Award for her contributions to the school and community.

The event, which is chaired by Michal and Benjamin Wachtel and Shoshana and Benji Mehler, promises to be a uniquely special and meaningful evening.

The Banquet is a critically important fundraiser for the school. The funds raised allow MHA-FYOS to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for its students. Please consider submitting an ad for publication in the Ad Journal, either to show appreciation to our honorees, to congratulate a graduate for completing kindergarten, eighth grade, and 12th grade, to memorialize a loved one or to advertise your business.

It's been an incredible year at the Margolin Hebrew Academy. Nights of Torah, Celebrations of Learning, S.T.E.M. Expo, sports, and clubs such as Model UN and Student Newspaper are only a few of the added highlights in an MHA student's career. In the aftermath of October 7, the school also held several new programs including the fall Gratitude Gathering and a Community-Wide Parent Child Learning program. Within the next month, the school will gather for the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Parade and the kindergarten, eighth grade, and 12th grade graduations.

The Banquet will be an incredible culmination of another successful school year.

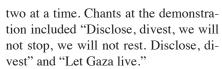
Tickets and sponsorships for the dinner and advertisements in the Banquet Journal may be purchased at www. mhafyos.org/journal. **HW**

NYPD Arrest Hundreds of Anti-Israel Activists Near Shumer's Brooklyn Home

(JNS) – New York City Police Department officers reported arresting approximately 200 people on April 21 in Brooklyn, N.Y., at Grand Army Plaza, one block from the home of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Even on the Island....

Protesters wore black T-shirts declaring "Jews Say Cease Fire Now" as law enforcement led them away in zip ties



It wasn't the first time that pro-Palestinian, pro-Hamas marchers directed their ire at Schumer; they first chose the location right after the terrorist attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

The activists started their march holding a banner representing a Passover seder plate. Morgan Bassichis, a member of the far-left, anti-Israel activist group Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), said to participants that "this will not be a seder as usual. These are not usual times."

The agitators escalated as some in the crowd shifted their attention to the streets, choosing to block traffic, which provoked long blasts from car horns. Those who ignored NYPD officers' warnings of potential arrest for refusing to move soon found themselves in zip ties.

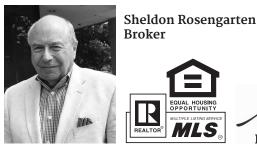
JVP confirmed that it had intentionally chosen the action to coincide with the Jewish holiday of Passover. **HW**



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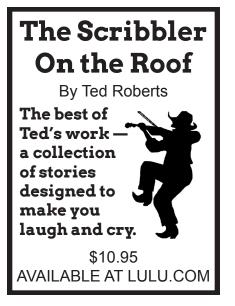
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In a First, Massachusetts Lawmakers Delay Budget Fight to Accommodate Passover Observance



Ten of the 14 members of the Massachusetts House Kosher Caucus, including Ruth Balser (fourth from right) in the Great Room at the historic statehouse on Beacon Hill, in Boston, April 24, 2024. Courtesy: Balser

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA) – In all other years, the Massachusetts House of Representatives begins its annual budget debate on the Monday after Patriots' Day, the state holiday that commemorates the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

But this year, lawmakers broke from their time-honored traditions and postponed the ritual – in deference to their Jewish colleagues.

That's because the first Monday after Patriots' Day this year was April 22, which coincided with the first night of Passover, when Jews around the world gather for the Passover seder.

When Rep. Ruth Balser realized that the traditional schedule would require her

to be away from her family on the first night of Passover, she and other Jewish representatives brought the calendar coincidence to the attention of the House's top lawmakers. Speaker Ronald Mariano and Aaron Michlewitz, the Jewish chair of the Ways and Means Committee, didn't hesitate to adjust the schedule, she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"They immediately said, 'We'll have to figure out a new way," recalled Balser, who represents the heavily Jewish suburb of Newton.

Rather than disrupt the whole schedule by moving [it] ahead by a full week, they embraced postponing the start of the debate to Wednesday, recognizing that some representatives hold two seders. (Many traditionally observant Jews would also refrain from working on Wednesday, because Passover starts with two days in which many activities are prohibited.)

And in another first, Mariano and his leadership decided to have a kosher-for-Passover dinner catered for all of its elected legislators, rather than offer it just to Jewish lawmakers, as has been done in the past.

So instead of the usual lasagna or Chinese food, dinner on Thursday was prepared by The Butcherie, a kosher grocery and caterer in Brookline, the area's historic Jewish neighborhood.

"It was fantastic," Balser said, shortly after she and colleagues shared chicken skewers, beef kebabs, roasted vegetables and Passover pastries. She added, "And of course, there was matzah."

The week of the budget debate is the only time during the legislative cycle that dinner is provided for the representatives, because they typically work all day and well into the night, Balser said. She said that in more than a quarter century serving in the legislature, she did not recall any time when the budget debate overlapped with the first days of Passover, which fell unusually late this year.

"Crafting the state budget is one of the most important things the legislature does," Balser said. She added, "There was a lovely feeling entering the Great Hall of the statehouse, with representatives who sat around tables, and everyone had matzah. It was really special." There are 14 members of the Kosher Caucus, the representatives who identify as members of the Jewish community – either born Jewish or married into Jewish families. They will work with their non-Jewish colleagues to vote on more than 1,500 amendments to the budget this week.

A spokesperson for Mariano told JTA that it was important for Jewish House members and staff to fully participate in the budget hearings, despite it falling during Passover, because of the current climate. Like many places, Massachusetts has experienced a steep rise in reported antisemitic incidents related to the Israel-Hamas war, including a string of home vandalism in Newton and a man who was arrested after allegedly threatening a synagogue over his support for Palestinians.

"Not only because we want to accommodate people of all religious and cultural backgrounds, but also because it's important that we stand with our Jewish friends during the recent rise in antisemitism that they continue to experience," the spokesperson wrote in a text message.

Balser, who has long grappled with the place of Jews in progressive politics, said the response felt significant at a time of anxiety for local Jews.

"The fact that the Massachusetts House of Representatives and in particular, its leadership, was very sensitive, and ... decided it was important to accommodate the Jewish calendar and traditions of a minority is very meaningful," she said. **HW**

American-Israeli Hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin is Seen Alive in Apparently Recent Video Released by Hamas



A protester holds a poster with a photo of 23-year-old U.S.-Israeli Hersh

Hamas vehicle at the Nova festival, where his best friend was killed after saving others who sheltered with them. But there had been no public signs of life since, including in reports from hostages who were released as part of a temporary ceasefire in November.

The exact date when the video was filmed is not clear, but several references suggest that it was made recently. In the video, Goldberg-Polin, the stump of his left arm visible below his elbow, says it has been almost 200 days – Wednesday is the 201st day since Oct. 7 – and references an upcoming holiday.

"It won't be a happy holiday for me,

Israeli media typically does not publish hostage videos, but the Goldberg-Polin family endorsed the release of the video showing Hersh, according to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group that formed after Oct. 7 to advocate for the hostages.

"Hersh's cry is the collective cry of all the hostages - their time is rapidly running out. With each passing day, the fear of losing more innocent lives grows stronger," the group said in a statement. "We cannot afford to waste any more time; the hostages must be the top priority. All the hostages must be brought home - those alive to begin the process of rehabilitation, and those murdered for a dignified burial. This distressing video serves as an urgent call to take swift and decisive action to resolve this horrific humanitarian crisis and ensure the safe return of our loved ones." In the video, Goldberg-Polin concludes with what he says is "the most important thing:" a message for his parents and sisters. His comments suggest that he is aware of the family's advoca-"I know you are doing your best to get me home as soon as possible," he says, adding, "I expect and hope to see you very soon."

Goldberg-Polin as people gather with signs calling for the release of hostages held by Hamas since Oct. 7, during a rally in Tel Aviv, October 28, 2023. Credit: Jack Guez/AFP via Getty Images

JTA Staff

(JTA) – Hamas has released a video showing one of the remaining American-Israelis that the terror group is holding hostage in Gaza, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, calling for the Israeli government to strike a deal to release the remaining hostages.

Goldberg-Polin, 23, was abducted Oct. 7 from the site of the Nova music festival after having his hand blown off by a Hamas grenade. His parents, Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin, have become some of the most prominent advocates for the hostages; Rachel has met with Pope Francis, Zoomed with President Joe Biden and spoken at the United Nations. Last week, she was named to Time magazine's list of 100 "most influential people" of 2024. His parents posted an appeal just hours after the video was released.

"Seeing a video of Hersh today is overwhelming," Jon Polin said, as he and Goldberg-Polin lean into the camera. "We are relieved to see him alive. but we are also concerned about his health and well-being as well as that of all of the other hostages and all of those suffering in this region. And we're here today with a plea to all of the leaders of the parties who have been in negotiations to date. That includes Qatar, Egypt, the United States, Hamas, and Israel. Be brave, lean in, seize this moment and get a deal done to reunite all of us [with] our loved ones and end the suffering in this region."

Hersh was filmed climbing into a

but I wish one for you," he says in Hebrew, with English and Arabic subtitles. Jews around the world have prayed for the freedom of the hostages in conjunction with Passover, which started last Monday night.

Goldberg-Polin also calls on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign after failing to strike a ceasefire deal with Hamas. Hamas has so far rejected every deal offered, though talks are ongoing.

Hostage videos are produced under obvious duress, and their release is widely considered a form of psychological warfare by Hamas. But they have also offered the only public signs of life for the hostages since Oct. 7. The new one comes at a time when reports have suggested that a larger number of hostages could be dead than previously confirmed. Goldberg-Polin says in the video that Israeli bombings had killed 70 "detainees like me."

Rachel Goldberg-Polin concludes video she and her husband posted with a message to her son.

"Hersh, if you can hear this, we heard your voice today for the first time in 201 days, and if you can hear us, I am telling you – we are telling you, we love you," she said. "Stay strong. Survive." **HW**

Biden Signs \$95 Billion Israel, Ukraine, Taiwan Aid Package into Law

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden signed a \$95 billion supplemental foreign aid package with billions of dollars for Israel into law last Wednesday.

"It's a good day for America. It's a good day for Europe. And it's a good day for world peace, for real," Biden said. "This is consequential."

Biden said that the aid to Israel would help prevent further attacks, like Iran's April 13 drone, cruise missile and ballistic missile attack on the Jewish state, which was almost completely intercepted by Israel, the United States and other partners without causing significant damage.

"I will always make sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself against Iran and the terrorists it supports," Biden said. "With this aid, the United States can help replenish Israel's air defense and provide other critical defense so Iran can never carry out the destruction it intended with its attack 10 days ago."

The bill passed the Senate late last Tuesday evening by an overwhelming 79-18 margin after the House approved the package last Saturday.

The final package combines four bills voted on separately in the House with \$61 billion for Ukraine; \$8 billion for Taiwan and countering China in the Indo-Pacific; and \$26 billion in Israel-related funding. The bill also imposes additional sanctions on Iran and Russia, and includes a measure designed to force the Chinese parent of the social-media platform TikTok to sell the popular video-sharing company.

The \$26 billion of Israel-related funding includes \$14.3 billion that would go directly to Israel, with \$5.2 billion devoted to procurement for the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Iron Beam rocket and missile-defense systems, \$4.4 billion for Israeli purchases from U.S. defense stocks and \$3.5 billion for the procurement of other advanced weapons systems.

U.S. Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federations of North America, also welcomed the inclusion of \$400 million in domestic supplemental funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which is designed to bolster security for synagogues, day schools and other at-risk locations. The program's annual funding was cut by 10% in the U.S. government funding bill that passed in March.

The Israel-related portion also earmarks \$9 billion for humanitarian assistance for Gaza and other international conflict areas.

Biden said last Wednesday that \$1 billion of that money would be deployed for Gaza as soon as possible.

"We're going to immediately secure that aid and surge it – surge it, including food, medical supplies, clean water," Biden said. "And Israel must make sure all this aid reaches the Palestinians in Gaza without delay."

Thirty-one Republicans voted for the legislation last Tuesday, nine more than when the Senate passed a similar version in February.

Biden first proposed a supplemental foreign aid package in October; however, the legislation stalled for months in the House and Senate over Republican disagreements about the need for U.S. border security measures and the decision to tie more divisive Ukraine aid to the overwhelmingly popular Israel and Taiwan provisions.

Last Tuesday's legislation was opposed by Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

Republican opponents of the bill were divided between those opposed to Ukraine aid, such as Vance and Hawley, and others like Cruz, who broadly supported the foreign aid funding but wanted the bill to address U.S. border security.

Democrats Merkley, Welch and Sanders all cited aid to Israel, and the leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as their reason for voting against the bill, with Sanders calling its passage a "dark day" in the Senate.

"I voted no tonight on the foreign aid package for one simple reason: U.S. taxpayers should not be providing billions "I will always make sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself against Iran and the terrorists it supports," the U.S. president said.

more to the extremist Netanyahu government to continue its devastating war against the Palestinian people," Sanders stated. "Enough is enough. No more money for Netanyahu's war machine."

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz thanked senators from both parties after the conclusion of the first day of Passover.

"The Israel aid package that now passed both houses of Congress is a clear testament to the strength of our alliance and sends a strong message to all our enemies," tweeted Katz last Wednesday.

"As we mark 200 days to the barbaric Oct. 7 terror attack by Hamas, Israel and the United States stand together in the fight against terrorism, defending democracy and our shared values," he stated, personally thanking Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senate Minority leader Mitch Mc-Connell (R-Ky.).

"The Israel-U.S. strategic partnership is unbreakable," Jerusalem's top diplomat said. **HW**



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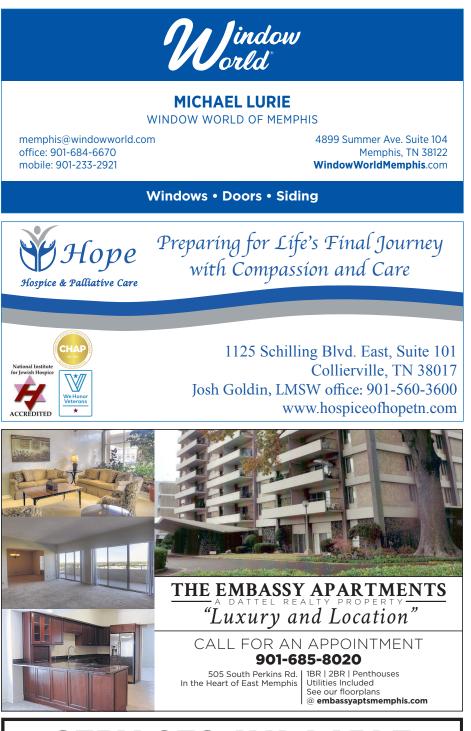


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Hundreds of Students Arrested from Texas to California as College Israel Protests Continue



Mounted police work to contain demonstrators protesting the war in Gaza at the University of Texas at Austin on April 24, 2024, in Austin, Texas. Students walked out of class as protests continue to sweep college campuses around the country. Credit: Brandon Bell/Getty Images By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – The governor of Texas cheered on the arrests of dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters at the University of Texas this week, as clashes with authorities broke out on campuses from Austin to Boston, Los Angeles, Atlanta, the Twin Cities and beyond.

At some schools, students took over campus buildings, while others were seeing protest encampments spring up for the first time. Hundreds of people have been arrested as police and campus authorities have cracked down on the student protests in a growing number of places.

Meanwhile, the University of Southern California announced last Thursday that it was canceling its graduation ceremony altogether, shortly after it barred its valedictorian from speaking after pro-Israel groups raised alarm about her social media profile.

The latest incidents come a week after mass arrests, suspensions and evictions of pro-Palestinian students at Columbia University, inspiring copycat protests at other colleges that have flummoxed administrators in many cases. The sight of armed police officers sometimes violently disrupting so-called "Gaza solidarity encampments" has drawn comparisons to similar crackdowns on Vietnam Warera campus protests, particularly at Kent State University, where members of the National Guard killed four protesters and wounded nine more in 1970.

Three of the murdered Kent State students were Jewish, including Allison Krause. Last Wednesday, her sister, Laurel, condemned Columbia's president, and other university heads, for their handling of the Gaza protests, urging them to allow student protests without the prospect of police intervention. "In 1970 failures of Kent State University leadership enabled the massacre, which left 'Four Dead in Ohio," Krause, who today runs a Kent State narrative project and has advocated on behalf of Palestinians, said in a statement. "Our institutions must learn from these past mistakes to not use militarized responses against unarmed, peaceful student protesters by calling in the National Guard, bringing in State Troopers or deploying Police in riot gear." The protests have become a canvas for politicians of all stripes, who have made appearances on campuses to advance their own agendas. Republican politicians have urged drastic interventions to quell what they describe as antisemitic unrest. Some progressive Democrats, including Reps. Ilhan Omar

and Rashida Tlaib, appeared in protest encampments.

And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose handling of the war with Hamas has drawn fierce condemnation not only from international bodies but also from many Israelis, also denounced the campus protests.

"What's happening in America's college campuses is horrific. Antisemitic mobs have taken over leading universities," he said in a statement last Wednesday, insisting, "It has to be stopped," and praising authorities who have taken action against protesters.

One of those who has is Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who last Wednesday praised state and local police for breaking up a protest at the University of Texas at Austin. Authorities arrested at least 57 people on campus.

"Students joining in hate-filled, antisemitic protests at any public college or university in Texas should be expelled," the Republican stated on the social network X last Wednesday. He later added, "These protesters belong in jail."

Secure Community Network, a program that provides security training and resources for synagogues and other Jewish community structures, said last Thursday it was tracking 33 different "anti-Israel" campus protests across the United States and Canada. The group characterized them as "protests calling for terrorism and violence against Jews," and urged schools "to implement no-tent, no-encampment policies and enforce a zero-tolerance policy on assaults against students or police." Despite some reports that Abbott had called the National Guard in to break up the Austin protests, a spokesperson for the National Guard told local news outlets last Thursday that it had not been dispatched to campus. Yet calls to deploy the guard against student pro-Palestinian protesters have been growing on the right in recent days, with House Speaker Mike Johnson urging the White House to do the same after visiting Columbia's campus last Wednesday. (On Thursday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said it was "up to the governors to decide.") Other Republican senators have taken up the call as well, including Ted Cruz, Tom Cotton and Josh Hawley. Most of the charges against the arrested protesters in Austin were quickly dropped. More than 500 students had staged a walkout demanding that the

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(See Students Page 7)

Students...

(Continued From Page 6)

state's flagship public university divest from Israeli weapons manufacturers.

Last month, Abbott took a harsh line against his state's protesters by requiring schools to revise their free-speech policies to punish "the sharp rise in antisemitic speech and acts on university campuses." He specifically cited the Palestine Solidarity Committee, which organized the UT protest, as an antisemitic group, and singled out the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," which many Jewish groups say is a call for Israel's destruction, as an antisemitic phrase.

UT's Hillel director expressed alarm for Jewish students' safety on social media prior to the protests and advised Jewish students not to counterprotest. On Instagram last Tuesday, Texas Hillel Executive Director Rabbi Stephanie Max accused the protesters of "making use of a Jewish holiday and observance to promote a hateful agenda" and said she had received assurance from the university that "there will be no tolerance for disruption or behaviors misaligned to University policy and the Governor's executive order."

After the protests last Wednesday, Max said it had been "an incredibly challenging and sad day on campus" but did not comment on the protests or the arrests directly. She continued to encourage the school's Jewish community to participate in Passover events through the rest of the holiday. A statement sent late last Wednesday by the campus Chabad also emphasized its Passover events over the protests, referring only to "what happened on campus today." A pro-Israel UT student group sang and danced thanking the officers who broke up the encampment.

Other Jews at the university criticized the state's response as excessive and a violation of free-speech protections. UT history professor Jeremi Suri, who describes himself as half-Jewish and half-Hindu, told the "Tribune" that the response was an "attack on students," who he said were "not shouting anything antisemitic."

UT's president, Jay Hartzall, defended the crackdown in an email to students. "Today, our University held firm, enforcing our rules while protecting the Constitutional right to free speech," he wrote, adding, "The protesters tried to deliver on their stated intent to occupy campus."

Another Southern campus with a large Jewish population was also in turmoil last Thursday, as local and state police at Emory University in Atlanta reportedly used tear gas, rubber bullets and tasers to break up a campus pro-Palestinian protest, where they accused protesters of trespassing.

A reported 15 people were arrested at Emory, whose student body is around 20% Jewish; the university said the demonstrators are "not members of our community."

Atlanta's chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, an anti-Zionist group, announced last Thursday that it "stands in full solidarity" with the Emory protesters and accused police of having "violently escalated an entirely peaceful encampment." One of the arrested was the chair of the school's Philosophy department.

Other campus protests also devolved into arrests, with more than 100 members of an Emerson College encampment in Boston arrested last Wednesday and at least 93 arrests at USC, according to reports.

At the University of Minnesota, nine members of a protest were arrested last Tuesday as police cleared out the encampment as the university insisted, "We support the rights of all members of our University community to speak and demonstrate peacefully." Omar, a Minnesota Democrat and fierce critic of Israel whose own daughter was arrested during the Columbia protests last week, spoke in support of the protesters prior to the arrests.

"People who tell us we are wrong for being out here, they're going to be footnotes in the history books," Omar told the crowd on campus, according to reports. "Follow your gut and know that what we are doing, the voices that we are raising to save lives in Gaza is just and righteous and morally correct."

Mirabai Dornfest, a student protester, identifies as Jewish and told Minnesota Public Radio she was especially moved to join the protests during Passover, "the Jewish holiday of liberation."

"I think it's very in line with my morals and with the morals of a holiday to protest for liberation of the Palestinian people," Dornfest said.

Aggression has unfolded in both directions. Protesters at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt took over two campus buildings this week demanding that the school "disclose all holdings and collaborations" with what a local pro-Palestinian group called "the zionist entity," and "cut all ties with Israeli universities." In response, the university announced last Wednesday that it was locking down its campus through at least the weekend.

Videos from Humboldt, located near the Oregon border, showed students clashing with police officers in riot gear; authorities also told news outlets that "hateful" graffiti, causing damage in the "millions," had been tagged around campus. The school has a small Jewish population of around 150 students and a Chabad house, but no Hillel.

Antisemitism was also visible at some protests, including the targeting of Jewish campus buildings. Video from a protest at Tulane University in New Orleans, obtained by JTA, shows protesters chanting, "Hillel, you can't hide. You're committing genocide." (Tulane Hillel did not respond to an immediate request for comment.) "The Jewish News of Northern California" also reported that one speaker at a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of California, Berkeley, claimed that "Jewish women" such as Betty Friedan "sometimes imported Zionist political operations" into American feminism.

The U.S. Department of Education also announced several new federal Title VI "shared ancestry" discrimination investigations at Columbia and a handful of other schools last week, including Hunter College in New York and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. It is the second active investigation at Columbia; New York Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik used the specter of Title VI violations in calling last week for Columbia to be stripped of federal funding.

The origins of the new complaints were not immediately known, but schools are also being investigated for alleged discrimination against Muslim and pro-Palestinian students. Another recently opened investigation, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, follows a complaint revealed last week to have been filed by Palestine Legal.

The complaint details discriminatory behavior the legal aid group says 18 Muslim students suffered at the hands of pro-Israel students and groups including Canary Mission, which publishes the names and personal information of people (including private citizens) the site's anonymous owners deem threats to Israel. The complaint also claims that a UMass student had showed up to pro-Palestinian protests chanting "Kill all Arabs."

The complaint means UMass Amherst joins a small list of other schools, including Columbia and Harvard, that have been investigated for both antisemitic and Islamophobic allegations since Oct. 7.

Despite the turmoil, most Jewish campus professionals have maintained that Jewish students remain safe on campus.

"Jewish students have no reason to leave College Hill," Rabbi Josh Bolton, executive director of the Hillel serving both Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design, wrote in a letter to the campus community last Wednesday night as an encampment at Brown took hold.

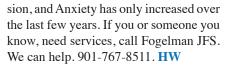
"In fact, they have every reason to stay put, to gather for Shabbat, and to express themselves proudly as Jews members of a global family, rooted in Eretz Yisrael." HW

Mental Health Awareness Month FJFS: We Are Here For You

It's okay to not be okay. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service is here to listen. Throughout the month of May, Fogelman JFS staff will be working hard to spread awareness. Doing things such as wearing green to raise awareness, handing out stickers with phrases such as "going to therapy is cool" and "grow through what you go through," and creating an interactive wall stating "It makes me happy, when skies are grey" for members of the MJCC community. Fogelman JFS will be making phone calls and reaching out to individuals about needs and services as well.

what someone is going through. Our words matter," says Rashki Osina, Director of Social Services at Fogelman Jewish Family Services.

1 in 5 adults experience mental illness and suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 in the United States. Mental illness, Depres-





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Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

The beginning of a new year is often a time when we look at the progress we've made toward our goals and set or reset goals so we can continue to see improvement. Physical well-being tends to top the list of resolutions, but financial well-being is just as important.

As you're considering your goals and developing new money habits, think about ways to pay yourself first. This is about prioritizing your long-term financial well-being. Here are four actions that can help you define this strategy in a way that works best for you.

1. Determine your "money jobs" – what you want your money to do

"Money jobs" are the things we want to accomplish with our money. They can be short-term, like buying a car or home, or long-term, like funding retirement.

Michael Liersch, head of Advice & Planning at Wells Fargo says, "When we align what we want to accomplish in life with our money, it can clarify whether money is truly working hard for us to get us to where we want to go. But that requires us to be intentional about what we want in our life [and] the jobs we want money to do for us."

Once you assign a purpose to your money, you should have a better understanding of why you should pay yourself first. You might even consider naming different accounts after specific money jobs: New Car Fund, New Home Fund, etc. With a clearer purpose, you may better prioritize your spending and giving to help ensure your overall investment plan is on track.

2. Keep down or pay off debt

A clear next step for how you pay yourself first is chipping away at any debt you may have. Over time, this should free up more funds to save or invest toward your money jobs.

There are two approaches to paying down or paying off debt: logically or emotionally.

Logically, it makes sense to apply the "avalanche method" by first tackling debts with the highest interest rates or heaviest tax implications, such as credit card debt or loans against a 401(k) plan. The amount you'll stop spending on interest is extra money in your pocket.

Another logical approach is the "snowball method," when you give yourself a quick win by paying off the smallest debt first and then adding that payment amount to the next debt in line to keep the momentum going.

Emotionally, you might consider starting with the debt that makes you the most uncomfortable, such as medical debt that reminds you of a past health crisis. Paying off emotionally negative debt may help ease your concerns and put you in a more optimistic mindset overall, establishing a better frame of mind to reach other financial goals.

Regardless of the strategy you choose, it can help to discuss debt prioritization with a financial advisor, who will be able to help you strategize.

3. Take small actions

Simple changes to your spending habits could make a big difference as you work toward your goals. For example, it can help to review all of your subscriptions (streaming services, magazines, the gym, etc.) and cancel the ones you don't use or don't really love. Paying attention to your habits when it comes to small purchases can be like giving yourself a bonus every month after you cancel.

This isn't to say you should eliminate spending money on things you like; this is suggesting that you be mindful of where your money is going. If a purchase isn't offering long-term benefits and you decide it's not that important to you, perhaps the money should instead go toward one of the goals that you know is more important.

A financial advisor can help you take an aggregate look at your savings accounts, spending, and investments. With that point of view, you might see some obvious places where additional savings can occur.

4. Invest for your future, even amid challenges

Unexpected financial events happen

to everyone, whether it's a change in your kids' activities or education suddenly getting pricier or a parent having a big health-related expense they can't handle.

At these times, remember the airplane rule: Put on your own mask before helping others. Try to stick to the investment plan you have established, and when things pop up, review the plan with an advisor to see how you might be able to make adjustments to help others without derailing your progress toward your goals.

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Your Health The Mediterranean Diet

By Cindy Katz, Nurse Practitioner

As a healthcare provider, I often encounter patients seeking advice on improving their diet for better health. There are so many different options available, but the Mediterranean Diet has emerged and earned the title of one of the best overall diets.

Instead of adhering to a restrictive or confusing dietary plan, the Mediterranean Diet is a lifestyle change. It is among the few diets with quantitative research backing up its health benefits.

Studies show that the Mediterranean Diet can help reduce your risk of developing cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. It is also beneficial in lowering blood pressure and reducing arthritis inflammation. Its origin is believed to be in the communities neighboring the Mediterranean Sea, mainly Greece and Southern Italy. beans, lentils, fish, olive oil, nuts, seeds, and whole grains.

• You can still have poultry, eggs, low fat cheese, and yogurt in limited amounts, as well as lean cuts of red meat, and red wine.

• You need to avoid added sugar, processed meats, and refined grains like white rice and white flour.

Why is this Diet Good for Me?

• If you are overweight or on the verge of developing high blood pressure or diabetes, this is the time to get serious regarding your food choices.

• It is a lifestyle change for a reason and a choice to be proactive and preventative in your healthcare needs.

When adhering to this diet, you must be mindful of your caloric intake. If you are trying to lose weight, always consume fewer calories than you actively use. The Mediterranean Diet offers many options for meal planning. Get creative, design your meal plans and recipes, and make this a change in your diet that you can adhere to with just a bit of effort. **HW**

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What can you eat on the Mediterranean Diet?

• The emphasis of your diet should include all kinds of vegetables, fruits,



Biden Hosts Freed Israeli Child Hostage Abigail Edan in Oval Office



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with freed Israeli child hostage Abigail Edan, April 24, 2024. Credit: X/President Biden.

(JNS) - U.S. President Joe Biden hosted in the Oval Office last Wednesday freed Israeli child hostage Abigail Edan, who was released from Gaza on Nov. 26 on the third day of a truce between Jerusalem and Hamas.

"Last year, we secured the release of Abigail, a 4-year-old who was being held by Hamas. She's remarkable and recovering from unspeakable trauma," Biden wrote on X last Thursday.

"Our time together yesterday was a reminder of the work we have in front of us to secure the release of all remaining hostages," he added.

A White House official was reported as saying that during the meeting, the president "simply let her play like any 4-year-old. She played in the Oval Office and crawled under the table with the famous picture of Kennedy as a child."

When Edan was freed, Biden noted that she had turned 4 during her 49 days in captivity.

"Today, she is free, and Jill [Biden] and I, together with so many Americans, are praying for the fact that she is gonna be alright," the U.S. president said at the time. "You know, she's free and she is in Israel now. And so those who are wrapping Abigail in love and care. The supportive services she needs. She's been through a terrible trauma."

"You know, her mom was killed in front of her when her kibbutz was attacked by Hamas terrorists on October the 7th," continued Biden. "Abigail ran to her dad, who then was gunned down, gunned down as well while using his body to shield little Abigail. She then ran to a neighbor for help, where they were all taken hostage."

"What she endured is unthinkable," he added. "Thank God, she's home. I just can't imagine the enjoyment. I wish I were there to hold her."

Biden and 17 other world leaders issued a joint statement last Thursday calling on Hamas to immediately free all of the hostages and to accept a ceasefire.

"We strongly support the ongoing mediation efforts in order to bring our people home," the leaders stated. "We reiterate our call on Hamas to release the hostages and let us end this crisis so that collectively we can focus our efforts on bringing peace and stability to the region." HW

IAEA: Tehran Could Build Nuke *in 'Weeks, Not Months'* (JNS) – Iran could make a dash for including from

the bomb in a matter of weeks, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said last Monday, adding that Tehran's activity "raises eyebrows."

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Mariano Grossi told "Deutsche Welle" that Iran is "weeks rather than months" away from having sufficient

including from Iran, he noted. "A very high official said, in fact, 'We have everything, it's disassembled.' Well, please let me know what you have?" Grossi said.

The comment came after Ali Akbar Salehi, a former head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said that Tehran has all the pieces for a nuclear weapon "in our hands." When asked about reports of the possible revival of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran, Grossi told "Deutsche Welle" that the IAEA was committed to promoting dialogue. Last Sunday, the "dpa" German news agency reported that Iran is in contact with the Biden administration about restarting moribund talks, with the Islamic Republic's U.N. mission coordinating with the Americans.

Rep. Omar 'Enormously Proud' of Daughter over Anti-Israel Protest

(JNS) – Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) said she was "enormously proud" of her daughter Isra Hirsi, who was suspended from Barnard College in New York City over her involvement in an anti-Israel tent protest on campus.

"I am enormously proud of my daughter. She has always led with courage and compassion, from organizing a statewide school walkout on the 20th anniversary of Columbine [the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado] at the age of 15, to leading the biggest youth climate rally at our nation's Capitol at 16, and now pushing her school to stand against genocide," Omar wrote on X Saturday, in reference to Israel's war against Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

"Stepping up to change what you can't tolerate is why we as a country have the right to speech, assembly and petition enshrined in our constitution," she added.

Hirsi, 21, announced on X Thursday: "I'm an organizer with CU Apartheid Divest @ColumbiaSJP, in my 3 years at @BarnardCollege I have never been reprimanded or received any disciplinary warnings I just received notice that I am 1 of 3 students suspended for standing in solidarity with Palestinians facing a genocide."

She wrote that "those of us in Gaza Solidarity Encampment will not be intimidated," and "we will stand resolute until our demands are met." She then called for "divestment from companies complicit in genocide."

Hirsi was one of more than 100 peo-

ple arrested and summoned for trespassing after a group of demonstrators set up a "Gaza solidarity encampment" at Columbia University to protest Israel's war with Hamas terrorists in Gaza following the murders of 1,200 people, and the kidnapping of more than 250 men, women and children in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

Barnard is the sister school of Columbia College.

Columbia University president Minouche Shafik called on the New York City Police Department to forcibly clear the unauthorized anti-Israel protest encampment on the school's South Lawn last Thursday.

"They have interfered with the operation of the university, refused to identify themselves, refused to disperse, set up tents on campus space, failed to comply with policies and damaged campus property," Shafik wrote in her letter requesting NYPD assistance. "With great regret, we request the NYPD's help to remove these individuals."

The Columbia Jewish Alumni Association wrote last Thursday that the unauthorized protests continue to disrupt academic life at the university.

"For those unfamiliar with Columbia University campus, this mayhem is directly in front of the library and several dorms," wrote the group, which noted that final exams begin in less than 10 days. "You don't have to be Jewish to be deeply concerned about the academic priorities of professors who condone and encourage this." HW

Woman Wounded in Terror Stabbing in Central Israel



A woman was seriously wounded in a terror stabbing in Ramle in central Israel, April 26, 2024. Credit: Magen David Adom

enriched uranium to manufacture a bomb.

In late December, the agency said Iran had tripled its uranium enrichment level to 60%, which is just a short technical step away from 90% weapons-grade.

"I have been telling my Iranian counterparts time and again ..., this activity raises eyebrows and compounded with the fact that we are not getting the necessary degree of access and visibility that I believe should be necessary," he said.

'When you put all of that together, then, of course, you end up with lots of question marks," added Grossi.

In February, Grossi accused Tehran is being less than forthright regarding its nuclear program, saying the Islamic Republic was "presenting a face which is not entirely transparent when it comes to its nuclear activities. Of course this increases dangers."

There had recently been a rise in "loose talk" about nuclear weapons,

Earlier this month, Tehran threatened to reconsider its official nuclear doctrine amid a direct conflict with Israel.

Tehran engaged in a direct attack on the Jewish state for the first time on April 14, launching a massive drone and missile assault. Israel allegedly responded with a strike on an Iranian air base on April 19.

The IAEA is expected to issue its next report on Iran's nuclear progress in June. HW

(JNS) - An 18-year-old woman was seriously wounded on Friday afternoon in a terror stabbing in Ramla in central Israel.

Magen David Adom emergency medics treated the victim at the scene before evacuating her to Shamir Medical Center (formerly Assaf Harofeh Hospital) in Be'er Ya'akov.

An armed civilian reportedly shot dead the terrorist.

Earlier this week, Israel Defense Forces soldiers foiled a Palestinian terror attack near Hebron in Judea.

Troops killed two terrorists near the Beit Einun interchange after one opened fire and the other attempted to stab soldiers.

No Israelis were injured.

Last Sunday, Palestinian terrorists in northeastern Samaria opened fire at Kibbutz Meirav in northern Israel.

The attack caused no injuries but damaged a building in the community, the IDF said. HW

OBITUARIES

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A Pioneering Jewish Rock Band Got its Start in 1965; They're Still Slowly and Steadily Turtling Along



Singers Howard Kaylan "Eddie" (L) and Mark Volman "Flo," circa 1976. Credit: Getty Images

By Jim Sullivan

This article originally appeared on Forward, reprinted with permission.

Against the odds, the Turtles carry on. The group, formed by Jewish singer-guitarists Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan in 1965, began helming a multiband tour comprising '60s rock groups in 1984. It kicked up again in 2010 and has continued under the banner of the Happy Together Tour – "Happy Together" being the Turtles No. 1 hit from 1967.

This year's 38-date tour – the Turtles alongside The Cowsills, Jay and the Americans, The Association, Joey Molland's Badfinger and the Vogues – begins June 1 in Biloxi, Mississippi, and runs through Sept. 2 in Puyallup, Washington.

But the Turtles now are not what they were then.

Kaylan was forced to drop out in 2017 due to heart issues and back problems. He was replaced by singer Ron Dante, best known as the voice behind the Archies' "Sugar, Sugar." And last year, Volman revealed that he had Lewy Body Dementia, the same debilitating disease Robin Williams had and Ted Turner has. Volman, who was diagnosed in 2020, revealed his condition to "People" magazine less than a year ago. (LBD leads to a decline in thinking, reasoning and independent function and may include changes in attention and alertness and recurrent visual hallucinations.)

"How are you feeling?" I asked Volman recently when he spoke to me over the phone from his Nashville home.

"Oh, I'm dealing with it," he said. "It was a little frightful at the beginning, but I'm doing fine."

Does it affect your performance?

"I don't know if I'm the right one to ask but I don't believe so. In fact, we've now done three years of tours with it, so it's been a learning experience. But it's been fine."

The musicians that back all the singers have been with the tour from the beginning, Volman said, as has guitarist-musical director Godfrey Townsend who has previously played with Cream's Jack Bruce, The Who's John Entwistle and Eric Carmen, among them. "He takes the show and makes it all come out on stage," Volman said.

I last spoke to Volman, who underwent successful throat cancer surgery eight years ago, in 2018. He explained his partner Kaylan's absence this way: "He's taking time off for some health issues. Right now, our main emphasis is just hoping we can get Howard back, mentally, physically, everything. It's been a tough few years. The doctors wouldn't let him [tour]. They didn't want him to fly, they didn't want him to take buses."

Though Kaylan, 76, is not part of the tour, it has his blessing, Volman says. As to whether Kaylan is off the touring circuit forever, Volman, who just turned 77, says, "Uh, I don't say anything is permanent with Howard. Ron [Dante] has been with us about five or six years now. The audience was mostly surprised when he joined the show, and he does a really excellent job. He has definitely a modern approach, yet we try to keep it close to exactly what we would do with Howard."

Volman likens the show to a Broadway show that uses a stand-in as one of the lead performers: "The part of Howard Kaylan is being played by Ron Dante and Ron is the lead vocalist of the Turtles," he said.

The Turtles kind of West Coast music has been described as "sunshine pop." Optimism reigns on the tour, not just with the Turtles but with the other groups as well. "Yes, I totally agree with that," Volman says. "It makes it fun year-to-year where the lineup changes up just enough so we've got a little bit of the artists we've had in the past and some artists that haven't done much touring with the show."

During the '60s Volman and Kaylan, performing under the name Flo & Eddie contributed to that, sang both with Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention and on their own as a duo, making satire part of the package. They released four albums on Reprise and Columbia during the early-mid '70s. The Happy Together bill falls on the breezier, poppier side of the spectrum, focusing on 1967, the year "Happy Together" topped the charts, "She'd Rather Be with Me' went to No. 3 and "You Know What I Mean" hit No. 12.

Is the Happy Together tour, in effect, a human jukebox? I asked.

"That's a really good way to put it," Volman said, when we talked six years ago. "It works so well because the audience knows that when you come to the show our emphasis is on hit records, not B-sides and collectibles. This tour is all known, well-played hit songs. Everybody does their best to adhere to that and it's been a successful philosophy."

It is, certainly, unabashed nostalgia.

"You start to realize as time goes along, you're able to stand back and see how fortunate we've been to live this one thing we wanted to do – to be on stage and sing," he said. "And the fact that we're still able to do it, it's really kind of eerie. If you'd told us [back in the '60s] we were going to be in our 70s doing this show, I think we would have had you put in a hospital. Who knew then that the generation of our songs was going to live on through this tour? We get to sit back and put this show on, knowing these people are going to hear the best 35-to-40 songs we have to bring."

In terms of Jewish cultural impact on their music or the show, Volman doesn't answer directly about himself and Kaylan, but says, "The history of the Jewish audience and the pop music of the early-mid '60s fits into [the framework]." He figures Jay and the Americans – whose four original members were all Jewish – "hold that part of that show and bring in the New York scene that comes with it."

And, as to the Flo & Eddie effect – the duo had songs that zinged the players in the industry they were part of — Volman avers, "Well, the music the Turtles made, it was characteristically, definitely, had a tongue-in- cheek attitude and that doesn't change." **HW**

Israeli Police Arrest Author Ayelet Waldman and 6 Others in Gaza Border Protest



bis, #rabbis4ceasefire, to show the world, the people of Gaza, and their fellow Jews in Israel, and around the world what Judaism teaches: justice, lovingkindness, peace, mercy, liberation," he said. considered by international health officials to be on the verge of a famine more than six months into the war launched Oct. 7 by Hamas.

Instead, he said, they wanted to make

Ayelet Waldman, center, during a protest at Erez Crossing open the Israel-Gaza border, April 26. 2024. Credit: Tomer Neuberg/Flash90

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Israeli police arrested Ayelet Waldman, a Jewish American author, while she was with a group trying to deliver relief to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Waldman, who is Israeli-born, was one of seven people arrested last Friday morning at a protest action organized by Rabbis for Human Rights, and one of five Americans. Two were released before Shabbat, organizers said, but Waldman was still in custody at the police station in Ashkelon, a city near the Gaza border.

Her husband, Michael Chabon, also a noted novelist, expressed concern about her status on Instagram. "She was there in the company of a group of American rabIn video Chabon posted, Waldman is seen bearing a bag of rice as she walks toward Erez Crossing, on the northern Gaza-Israel border. A policeman blocks her way, and she persists in trying to skirt him.

The other Americans arrested include Rabbi Alissa Wise, a founder of Rabbis for Ceasefire; Rabbi Alana Alpert, a Detroit-area congregational rabbi; Ilana Sumka, a longtime activist and rabbinical student; and Kobi Snitz, a mathematician.

The State Department, the Israeli police and the Israeli Embassy in Washington did not return requests for comment. Miriam Messinger, a spokeswoman for Rabbis for Ceasefire, said that the organizers contacted the U.S. Embassy about the arrests.

Rabbi Andy Kahn, a Brooklyn-based rabbi who joined the protest, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the protesters did not expect to be able to deliver aid to Gaza Palestinians, who are a point timed for Passover about the plight of Palestinians who have been displaced by the war.

"Passover is a holiday of liberation and is a holiday, which focuses on food and how it is related to liberation," he said in an interview. "Bringing food aid was a part of our Passover observance, in calling attention to need in Gaza, to the need for a ceasefire, and exchange and release of hostages and a permanent end to this conflict."

Waldman and Chabon are known for their works written and produced separately and jointly. Waldman is known for her 2007 novel, "Love and Other Impossible Pursuits," and for her Mommy-Track mystery series. She and Chabon are developing a TV series based on his novel, "The Yiddish Policeman's Union."

They have also been active for years in the advocacy for Israeli accommodation with Palestinians and with protests critical of Israeli actions. **HW**

Peacock's 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' Tackles a Holocaust Love Story Based on Real Events



Jonah Hauer-King as Lali Sokolov and Anna Próchniak as Gita Furman embrace in Auschwitz in the first episode of Peacock's "The Tattooist of Auschwitz." Credit: Martin Mlaka/Sky UK

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – A Holocaust romance, sparked when a prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau is forced to tattoo a number on another prisoner's arm and they fall in love at first sight, sounds almost implausibly uplifting for a story set in a concentration camp.

But "The Tattooist of Auschwitz," a new television series, is based on two Slovakian Jewish prisoners – Lali Sokolov and Gita Furman – who really did meet at Auschwitz, survive, marry and move to Australia together after the war. The six-part drama premiering May 2 on Peacock and Sky draws from a 2018 novel of the same name by Heather Morris, who interviewed Sokolov over three years before his death in 2006.

"It's what drew me in, when I read the book a few years ago – that something like this could happen was so surprising," Jonah Hauer-King, who plays young Lali at Auschwitz, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Any kind of love at first sight is surprising, let alone in a context like this."

Alongside Hauer-King, known for his role as Prince Eric in Disney's live-action "The Little Mermaid," Academy Award nominee Harvey Keitel plays Lali's older counterpart in his late 80s, recounting his experiences to Morris (Melanie Lynskey) from his home in Melbourne shortly after Gita (Anna Próchniak) has died. Directed by Tali Shalom-Ezer and executive produced by Claire Mundell, the series will also feature an end-title song by the legendary Jewish artist and EGOT holder Barbra Streisand. "Love Will Survive" is Streisand's first recording for a TV series, set to release on April 25 ahead of the series premiere.

"Because of the rise in antisemitism around the world today, I wanted to sing 'Love Will Survive' in the context of this series, as a way of remembering the six-million souls who were lost less than 80 years ago," Streisand said in her announcement. "And also to say that even in the darkest of times, the power of love can triumph and endure."

"The Tattooist of Auschwitz" joins a crop of World War II-period TV series inspired by buzzy bestselling novels. Hulu recently launched "We Were the Lucky Ones," based on Georgia Hunter's 2017 novel about her Jewish family's dispersion across the world. And in just the past year, Netflix adapted "All the Light We Cannot See" from Anthony Doerr's 2014 war novel and aired "Transatlantic," about Varian Fry's mission to rescue Holocaust refugees, based on Julie Orringer's 2019 book "The Flight Portfolio."

Like the other networks, Peacock has billed its series as "inspired by the real-life story," with the added interest of a real-life romance "in the most horrific of places." But preserving the authenticity of Lali's story in a TV show, based on a novel that fictionalized his testimony 12 years after his death, comes with a new set of challenges – especially when the novel was critiqued for inaccurately portraying life in Auschwitz.

Morris's "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" raised eyebrows from the Auschwitz Memorial in 2018, which said the book "cannot be recommended as a valuable position for those who wish to understand the history of the camp" and is "almost without any value as a document."

A report from Wanda Witek-Malicka of the Auschwitz Memorial Research Center said the book's "based-on-facts" marketing, combined with its international success – selling over 12 million copies with translations into more than 40 languages – raised concern that many readers might treat it as a historical source on the realities of Auschwitz, despite several errors and misleading representations.

These inaccuracies include the number that Lali was forced to tattoo on Gita's arm in the story's pivotal scene. In the book, she is branded with the number 34902, but Gita herself said in a testimony to the USC Shoah Foundation that her number was 4562, a claim supported by evidence from the Auschwitz Memorial.

Witek-Malicka also disputed a plot line in which Lali obtains penicillin for Gita's typhus in January 1943, saying this event was "impossible" because penicillin only became readily available after the war. Elsewhere, the book depicts a revolt by the "Sonderkommando," predominantly Jewish prisoners who were forced to work in the gas chambers and crematoriums. Though the Sonderkommando did revolt at Auschwitz in 1944 and set fire to one crematorium, the book says they blew up two.

The sexual relationship between an SS commander and a Jewish prisoner in the book also raised questions for Witek-Mailcka, who said the possibility of such a long-term relationship was "non-existent." She also pointed out that the building where the characters supposedly rendezvoused was only completed in January 1945 and never put into use.

Meanwhile, Lali's son Gary told "The New York Times" he was bothered to see his father's name misspelled "Lale" in the book.

Some of these inaccuracies have been

corrected in the TV series, which depicts Gita's original number and corrects the spelling of Lali's name. But Shalom-Ezer told JTA that she relied heavily on the judgment of Morris, who worked as a story consultant for the show.

"Heather devoted her life to this," Shalom-Ezer told JTA. "I'm not just talking about the last three years of Lali's life, when she spent three times a week sitting with him for hours, listening to his story – all the 11 years it took her to find a publisher for the book and even later, she just devoted herself to this. So I felt confident enough that I believe her, that she's trying to tell us the story in the most genuine way she can, as close as possible to his truth."

Morris herself has said that she did not aim to write an academic historical account, only to share Lali's memories of his life.

"It is Lali's story," she told "The New York Times" in 2018. "I make mention of history and memory waltzing together and straining to part, it must be accepted after 60 years this can happen, but I am confident of Lali's telling of his story, only he could tell it and others may have a different understanding of that time but that is their understanding, I have written Lali's."

In its TV form, "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" nods to the fickle nature of memory, particularly the memory of a traumatized person. Sometimes the viewer sees one version of events – for example, Lali discovering that a younger friend was selected for the gas chamber at random – and then the older Lali remembers a different story, in which his own number was on that selection list, only changed to his friend's after the Nazis employed Lali as a tattooist.

The character Lali shares some of these revisions with the character Morris. Others come to him after she has left, when he is alone and haunted by the dead who occupy his kitchen at night. The series shows Lali talking to these ghosts, bargaining with his memory and making deals with the guilt of survival.

"I think that this is the nature of trauma, it creates a kind of dissociation from what happened so you cannot really remember it correctly," said Shalom-Ezer. "So the team and I, we thought that this is the most authentic way to portray a man with a trauma that for the first time is trying to share his story with someone." **HW**

Former Employee Used AI to Frame Baltimore School Principal as Antisemitic and Racist, Police Say By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A former athletic director of a Baltimore-area high school was arrested last Thursday morning and charged with using artificial intelligence to fake antisemitic and racist comments supposedly made by the school's principal.

The case was part of a growing body of AI-generated impersonation incidents, which experts say is a newfound worry in a growing, barely regulated field of technology. This was an unusual instance of faking antisemitic comments in order to damage a public figure's reputation.

Baltimore County police charged Dazhon Darien, formerly of Pikesville High School, with disrupting school activities. Authorities said he had used the school's network to access OpenAI software allowing him to fake a recording attributed to principal Eric Eiswert, according to the "Baltimore Banner," a local nonprofit newsroom. In the recording, a voice sounding like Eiswert says, "If I have to get one more complaint from one more Jew in this community, I'm going to join the other side." The voice also made racist remarks about Black students. Pikesville is in the center of greater Baltimore's Jewish community.

The recording spread on social media in January and was also sent to at least three district teachers, including one who told police she forwarded it to a student knowing they would quickly spread it online. An email address linked to Darien sent the audio to various sources.

Some in the community were quick to attribute the comments to Eiswert, who is white, alluding to a history of tension with minority communities. "I am in no way surprised by his comments in this recording," Deray Mckesson, a prominent racial-justice activist from the Baltimore area who said he had had Eiswert as a high school teacher, wrote on the social network X in January. He called for Eiswert to "be fired immediately" and for his teaching license to "be permanently revoked."

Superintendent Myriam Rogers said the comments were "highly offensive and inappropriate statements about African American students, Pikesville High School staff, and Pikesville's Jewish community."

But Eiswert denied making the comments, and questions were soon raised about the voice's authenticity. Both the local authorities and the school district soon mounted investigations. Eiswert has not worked at the school since they began, although the district would not say if he was removed from his position.

In March, AI experts told local news the audio was most likely faked, citing its flat quality and lack of consistent breathing sounds.

"From the beginning of this incident, the recording seemed odd and suspicious," Howard Libit, executive director of the Baltimore Jewish Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last Thursday. Libit said this was why the organization had held off on any initial comment.

"I am appreciative for the police and school system taking the time to investigate and to apparently get to the bottom of what really happened," Libit added. "It is scary to see how AI can be manipulated like this and do such damage to a school community and an individual. We have enough incidents of antisemitism and racism in our communities without things like this."

In the charging document, the police note that Eiswert suspected that Darien created the fake recording as payback after his contract was not renewed. **HW**

Two More Hostages, Including an American Israeli, are Seen in Video Released by Hamas



A hostage poster showing Keith Siegel can be seen at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport. His wife Aviva was freed from Gaza in November, but posters from when they were both hostages can still be found if one looks carefully across Israel. Credit: Jane Gabin

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Hamas released its second hostage proof of life video in a week, this time featuring Omri Miran and Keith Siegel, as pressure mounts on the terrorist group to accede to the terms of a ceasefire and hostage release.

Siegel, 64, is one of several American-Israeli hostages among the 130 or so still held by Hamas. The families of Siegel and Miran, 47, said Saturday through a group representing the families of hostages that they did not oppose media posting and describing the 3.5 minute video.

Both men appeal to Israel's leaders to end the fighting. "There is at times a sense that things are a mess," Siegel said. "I call on the prime minister and the whole government to participate in negotiations, to get to a deal soon." Miran says, "The time has come to come to an agreement that will get [us] out of here alive."

The video comes just days after another appeal by Hersh Goldberg-Polin, another American Israeli being held hostage.

U.S. negotiators say the roadblock to a hostage release lies with Hamas, which has rejected a deal that would trade the hostages for Palestinians held prisoner in Israel and a ceasefire that would last at least six weeks, as well as the entry of humanitarian aid with fewer restrictions.

Last week, the Biden administration spearheaded a statement from the 18 countries with citizens among the hostages calling on Hamas to accept the agreement. Israel said it was pleased by the statement.

Hamas wants a guarantee that Israeli

troops will fully withdraw from the enclave. "We express our disappointment that the statement [by the 18 countries] failed to address fundamental issues affecting our people," it said in a statement it posted Saturday on Telegram. "It notably omitted the urgent need for a lasting ceasefire and the complete withdrawal of the occupation troops from Gaza."

Hamas launched the war on Oct. 7 when it massacred hundreds of people inside Israel and abducted more than 250. More than 130 hostages remain, although it is not known how many are alive. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched counterstrikes, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been displaced. International health officials say the enclave is on the verge of famine.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he is determined to go ahead with a planned major operation in Rafah, a city on the Gaza-Egypt border, which is believed to be the last redoubt of Hamas' armed forces, and which is also where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the strip have sought refuge.

Netanyahu has faced mass weekly protests, including on Saturday night, for not doing enough to come to a deal to free the hostages. Yehuda Cohen, the father of Nimrod Cohen, a soldier held hostage in Gaza, on Saturday told reporters that the families' anger extends to other members of the Cabinet, who are reported to favor more flexibility to achieve a deal, but face resistance from Netanyahu.

"We tell Benny Gantz and Gadi Eizenkot, every hostage who entered Gaza alive and comes out dead, the blood is on your hands," Cohen said at a press conference in Israel broadcast by the government-run Kan broadcaster. "Netanyahu sabotaged every deal again and again and you were silent."

In the video, Hamas interpolates the statements by Siegel and Miran, delivered as they sit against a dark background, with footage of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant saying increased military pressure will release the hostages.

Hamas follows those statements with titles in Hebrew saying that has not been the case.

"Military pressure did not succeed in freeing your sons," one title says. "It killed dozens of hostages held by us and kept dozens of others from celebrating Passover with their loved ones."

The camera lingers on Siegel as he collapses into tears recalling how much he enjoyed Passover with his family last year. Siegel grew up in Durham, North Carolina.

The video ends with the warning, "Do what is needed before it is too late."

Siegel's family released their own video after Hamas released the proof of life. His daughters, Ilan and Shir, urged people to turn out at the protests, which Keith Siegel said he has seen while in captivity.

"Seeing my father today only emphasizes to all of us how much we must reach a deal as soon as possible and bring everyone home," Ilan said. "I demand that the leaders of this country watch this video and see their father crying out for help."

His wife, Aviva, who was abducted and released in an exchange 51 days later, concludes the video: "Keith, I love you, we will fight until you return." **HW**



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