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Vision 2026: Temple Israel Launches Campus Renewal Project with Great Enthusiasm and New Leadership



Past President Laurie Meskin, Immediate Past President Leigh Baim Mansberg, President Wendy Rotter, and Sr. Vice President Helen Gronauer.

For 48 years, Temple Israel has called East Memphis home. Founded in 1854 and formerly located downtown, its controversial move to the suburbs is now a distant memory. Made possible by the generosity of its members and Abe Plough – a visionary leader of blessed memory – its tree-lined campus and buildings hold a sanctuary, chapel, social hall, gymnasium, and preschool in addition to gardens, classrooms, and administrative spaces.

Fast forward to today, and Mr. Plough’s generosity remains a driving force in Temple’s vision to be a sanctuary for prayer and inspiration, a vibrant center for Jewish learning, and a congregational home for living Torah.

Vision 2026 was announced during Temple’s Leadership Shabbat and

170th Anniversary on Friday, April 19, 2024, and a key component – the centerpiece Campus Renewal Project – is slated to begin this year. The nationally recognized architecture firm Collins, Cooper, and Carusi, whose portfolio includes a renovation and addition to Temple Sinai and interior renovations to Congregation Etz Chaim in Atlanta, Georgia, will bring extensive experience in synagogue design and campus master planning to this renewal project.

Consistent with findings from a cross-section of Temple members via a strategic plan survey, as well as visioning sessions, Collins, Cooper, and Carusi created a campus master plan reflective of the needs of a growing multi-generational membership. (Twenty

percent of Temple’s members have joined in the past five years).

“With Vision 2026, we will create a master plan to renew our campus and envision Temple not only as an inspirational place to worship but also as a community hub for friends and families to gather, learn, play, and explore,” shares incoming President Wendy Rotter, the 54th president of Temple Israel. “We will ensure that Temple Israel is a thriving congregation, a vibrant community of belonging, and we will invest in this sacred place and our congregation’s future.”

Renderings for the Campus Renewal were unveiled at the cocktail reception during Leadership Shabbat and the 170th Annual Meeting. Phase one of the Campus Renewal will update the Greenstein Sanctuary and Danziger Chapel and includes building an amphitheater for outdoor music and worship, with plans to be completed in time for next year’s High Holy Days.

The second phase includes a state-of-the-art renovation and expansion of its award-winning preschool, the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center, to meet the demands of 21st-century learning. Future phases will also include enhanced gathering spaces for members of all ages, all while addressing outdated infrastructure across the campus.

Fortifying this renewal is an inclusive leadership team that brings a passion for Jewish life and the community. “Meeting the needs of our spiritual family has never been more important,” says outgoing Temple President Leigh Mansberg. “I am so grateful to be a part of a board that has brought on such great leadership.” While Temple honors many outgoing trustees for their service and dedication including David Bearman – its longest-serving counsel of 22 years – its new slate of trustees and officers stand ready to guide their beloved congregation in fulfilling its mission and vision for the needs of today and future generations.

“Temple is in a unique position to be transformative, not only to its members but to the community at large, and part of being able to be that is looking at our campus in a new light,” shares Temple’s new Executive Director, Mark Gulner. “We recognize that people are looking for access that is safe, secure, and welcoming. The renewal project looks to achieve all of these things in a way that is both forward-looking while still giving reverence to those that came before us.”

In the shadow of the October 7th attacks in Israel and with rising anti-Semitism across the country, the Jewish community must do more than survive, it must thrive, shares President Rotter. “I have faith in our future: faith in the Jewish people and faith in Temple Israel. It is time for us to dream, to create a vision where Temple Israel and Jewish life flourish. We refuse to give up hope. Temple Israel is the hope.”

Temple Israel is incredibly grateful to co-chairs Laurie Meskin and Helen Scheidt, and the entire steering committee of the Campus Renewal Plan: Wendy Rotter, Billy Orgel, Nancy Robinson, Leigh Mansberg, Mark Finestone, Rabbi Greenstein, Dreifus and Levy, Mark Gulner, Scott Giles, Blair Trotz, and Laura Yacoubian. HW

Beth Sholom Tikkun Olam Committee Receives Two Grants from the Memphis B’nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program



Yaron Weiss (center) presents the two grant awards to Beth Sholom’s Tikkun Olam committee members Sheila Cohen (left) and Susan Moinester, (right).

Beth Sholom’s Tikkun Olam Committee received vital support for two of its flagship projects – a winter coat drive for students and the annual “Gift of Giving” holiday market at Coleman Discovery School – from the Memphis B’nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program, which announced its grant winners on May 1 at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Beth Sholom received two of the 13 grants awarded.

“We are thrilled to receive these funds,” said Susan Moinester, co-chair of Beth Sholom’s Tikkun Olam Committee. “One of the grants will help ensure that every one of the 650 students at Coleman in need of a warm winter coat will have one next winter. The second grant will allow us to purchase

lovely gifts that the students can pick to give to a parent or someone else they love at Christmas.” The grants are worth \$2,250 and \$1,250, respectively.

Grant recipients are selected by B’nai Tzedek teens, who are trained to lead the grant making process, beginning with formulating the grant application, reviewing proposals, interviewing grant applicants, and deciding which grants to give.

“I was so impressed by the knowledge of the B’nai Tzedek teens who interviewed us,” said Sheila Cohen, who, with fellow Tikkun Olam committee member Debbie Pelz, answered the teens’ questions during a Zoom interview last month. “Their questions were insightful. I can see these teens becoming

(See Grants Page 5)

My Teen Israel Experience



Brooke Sanderson (right) and her friends plant trees in the Gush Etzion.

By Brooke Sanderson

This past summer I had the amazing opportunity to spend five weeks in Israel, through one of NCSY’s many different summer programs, JOLT Israel. This leadership summer program for teens entering 11th grade in the upcoming fall, allows them to explore the land of Israel and have amazing Chesed (volunteer) opportunities, all while making friendships to last a lifetime.

There were kids from all over including New York, Boca, Toronto, Chicago, and many more. This summer the program was bigger than ever before with a total of 160 teens on the program, but that didn’t stop each one of us from having the most amazing summer experience.

The first night, they brought us to the Kotel where those of us who had never been to Israel before, were able to see the Kotel for the first time. This was especially special for me as I had never been to Israel before this summer. We started off the trip in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), went to the City of David tunnels, and then went to the shuk (markets) for our first Friday. Our first week was capped off with a day filled with hiking Masada, going to the Dead Sea, and hiking Ein Gedi.

The second week we moved up north to do our week of Chesed, where I worked with the siblings of kids with disabilities. The program was a meaningful week-long camp for the kids who were able to participate in activities like going to a water adventure park, planting trees, and learning about army tanks. We spent Shabbos in Hispin, in the southern Golan area, and then moved back down to Yerushalayim.

We went on many different hikes,

biking, caving, visited Chachamim’s (wise men) graves, and much more. We took a fascinating tour of the Old City along with the Kotel Tunnel Tours before starting a meaningful Tisha B’Av by going to Herodian. After a long fast, we went to a park overlooking the old city where we had a kumzitz (musical gathering) and sang beautiful songs to end a meaningful day.

The last week of the program was by far my favorite as we did so many cool activities that I had never done before. We went rappelling down the side of a mountain, camel riding, and a program-wide water tag. We then traveled down to Eilat for two days where we explored down south and went on a beautiful hike at four o’clock in the morning where we were able to daven by the sunrise. After a long week of intense programming, we had our final Shabbos where we learned with our advisors, sang, and hung out, and ended off the program by having a banquet to commemorate all the fun things we did over the course of the summer.

JOLT Israel was really the best summer ever, and it was an opportunity that I am so thankful to have had. It was so meaningful to be able to go on the five-week trip with people who are now some of my closest friends and be able to experience the land together.

I am so thankful to Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemskey Endowment Fund for affording me this opportunity that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Brooke Sanderson, daughter of Stacy and Josh Sanderson, is a junior at the Goldie Margolin School for Girls. Memphis Jewish Federation’s

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 10, 2024 / 2 Iyar, 5784 7:35 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. May 11, 2024 / 3 Iyar, 5784..... 8:36 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Kedoshim

Lemskey Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to offset the costs of her NCSY JOLT program. All rising juniors and seniors are eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2024 are open and can be accessed at jcpmemphis.org/lemskey-endowment-fund.

Note: This essay was written before the horrific events of October 7. HW

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

Notice the change in scheduled dates!

Tuesday May 14

Rabbi Jeff Dreifus will discuss his recent trip to Israel with the Memphis Jewish Federation. Rabbi Jeff went on the recent Solidarity Trip with a group of both local lay leaders and rabbis. The trip has been called “Amazing” by many of the participants. Come hear the rabbi’s take on this terrific experience. The talk will be at 12 p.m. and open to the public following the Senior lunch. Please call the front desk at the MJCC 901-761-0810 to make your reservations.

Wednesday, May 15

MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon for May will feature The Steve and Shannon Duo! The Steve and Shannon Duo includes husband and wife team Steve and Shannon Johnston. The duo plays country, blues, and good old rock and roll. They have played at casinos, Beale Street clubs, and venues all around Memphis for years. Steve’s guitar playing and Shannon’s wonderful vocals

bring this duo to life. Performances are always upbeat and a fun way to enjoy the oldies! Come enjoy this duo and a great Kosher Meal all for only \$5! May’s luncheon is sponsored by The Avaline and entertainment is provided by Creative Aging.

Please call the MJCC Front Desk at 901-761-0810 and make your reservation. You do not need to be a member of the MJCC to attend!



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Monthly Luncheons at the MJCC

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Reservations are required by noon the day prior.

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

Marjorie Taylor Greene Says She Opposed Antisemitism Bill Because It Rejects ‘Gospel’ that ‘The Jews’ Handed Jesus to Executioners

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Georgia Republican who has been criticized in the past for her dalliances with antisemitic tropes and influencers, explained her vote against a bill defining antisemitism by saying that the bill it rejects the “gospel” that “the Jews” handed Jesus over to his crucifiers.

Greene’s opposition to the bill passed last Wednesday in the U.S. House of Representatives comes at a time when a number of conservatives are embracing ancient Christian anti-Jewish ideas. In one notable recent example, Candace Owens, a conservative influencer, broke ranks with Ben Shapiro, an Orthodox Jew who runs a conservative media outlet, in part over Owens’ seeming embrace of Christian antisemitic tropes, including that Jews imbibe blood.

The bill would define antisemitism for the purposes of using it to address complaints to the federal government that the civil rights of Jews have been violated. It drew some of its strongest criticism from progressive quarters over concern that the legislation would inappropriately inhibit criticism of Israel, such as the campus protests over the Israel-Hamas war.

But Greene, posting on X, formerly Twitter, laid out a different concern: that the bill threatened Christian expression.

“Antisemitism is wrong, but I will not

be voting for the Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023 (H.R. 6090) today that could convict Christians of antisemitism for believing the Gospel that says Jesus was handed over to Herod to be crucified by the Jews,” she said. “Read the bill text and contemporary examples of antisemitism like #9.”

In her tweet, Greene posts two photos: One focuses on the portion of the bill that adopts as part of its definition of antisemitism the 11 “contemporary examples of antisemitism” in the definition of antisemitism composed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The second photo highlights the ninth example, “using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.”

Her fellow far-right Republican, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, explained his no vote in similar terms on the same platform. “The Gospel itself would meet the definition of antisemitism under the terms of this bill!” Gaetz writes, and goes on to quote New Testament scripture that collectively blames Jews for Jesus’s killing.

In the years after the Holocaust, myriad Christian denominations played down or in some case repudiated the belief held for centuries that Jews were and remained collectively responsible for Jesus’s murder. The accusation of deicide was seen as one of the most potent drivers of antisemitic violence since time immemorial, and the Catholic Church in 1965 formally rejected the charge that Jews had killed Jesus.

In recent years, however, the accusation has reemerged as a cause to be championed among some far-right Christian sects. It informed Mel Gibson’s 2004 film, “The Passion of the Christ,” which stirred outrage among Jews.

In 2021, Pope Francis introduced restrictions on the Latin Mass, which calls for the conversion of Jews and accuses them of “blindness.” He cited the increasing popularity of the mass, fearing it would undermine Vatican II.

Greene is not [a] stranger to entanglements with Jewish organizations, earning criticism in the past for among other offenses, embracing a theory that the Rothschild family was using space lasers to start fires in California, and loosely invoking the Holocaust to describe perceived injustices against conservatives. She also spoke at a conference organized by Nick Fuentes, a Holocaust denier and antisemite.

In all, 21 Republicans and 70 Democrats voted against the antisemitism legislation last Wednesday. It was championed by House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican, whom Greene says she will try to unseat next week. **HW**

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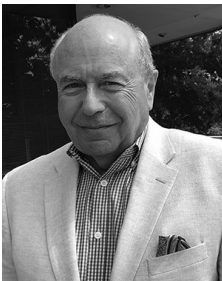


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Red Cross Official Exposed as Hamas Stooge

Ethan Abid
October 24, 2023 · 🧑



Red Cross official Haythem “Ethan” Abid holds a PLO flag at an Oct. 22 “Free Palestine” rally co-sponsored by “Montreal4Palestine,” which celebrated the Oct. 7 massacre. Source: Facebook.

By David Isaac

(JNS) – In the latest example of a deep-seated anti-Israel bias within the International Committee of the Red Cross, the head of the ICRC’s office in Algeria and director of the Libya subdelegation has been outed as a pro-Hamas shill.

Geneva-based, pro-Israel group U.N. Watch exposed the pro-terrorist sentiments of the ICRC official, who appears to be based in Montreal.

“Meet Haythem ‘Ethan’ Abid. He runs the International Red Cross in Montreal. His job is to be neutral. But Abid marches in ‘Free Palestine’ rallies, posts Hamas videos saying hostages love their captors and accuses Israel of ‘terrorism’ & ‘genocide.’ He says: ‘F**k neutral s**t,’” tweeted U.N. Watch’s Hillel Neuer on April 30.

U.N. Watch found numerous questionable posts on Abid’s Facebook page, including one from Oct. 24, 2023, in which he is seen holding a large PLO flag at a protest two days earlier.

The rally was co-organized by “Montreal4Palestine,” an antisemitic group, which posted on social media on Oct. 7, the day of the Hamas massacre, an image of a bowl of candy with the words “Celebration” and “The Journey has Begun.”

Hamas members regularly hand out candy to passers-by in the Gaza Strip after a successful terrorist attack.

On Oct. 27, 2023, Abid posted a flyer on Facebook for another anti-Israel rally co-sponsored by the “Palestinian Youth Movement,” which openly supports terrorist “martyrs.”

On Nov. 14, 2023, Abid posted a Hamas propaganda video on Facebook hailing the fact that Israel had not yet defeated Hamas.

In a Facebook post the day after the Oct. 7 massacre, he posted a photo of the 2000 killing of Muhammad al-Durrah in the Gaza Strip, even though the incident was exposed years ago as a staged “Pollywood” scene, in which no one was hurt.

“Abid’s intention was clear: He was attempting to justify the killing, maiming, raping and torture of innocent civilians that took place in Israel on October 7, as merited retribution,” U.N. Watch said.

The pro-Israel group said that if there were any lingering doubts as to Abid’s contempt for the ICRC’s policy of neu-

trality, his Facebook post on Oct. 18 puts them to rest: “F\$** neutral shit, to-day being neutral is taking a side.”

Having been exposed by U.N. Watch, Abid quickly deleted his Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.

U.N. Watch called for the immediate dismissal of Abid for violating ICRC’s code of conduct and values. “Humanity, impartiality, neutrality” are the values the Red Cross claims to live by, U.N. Watch noted.

Haythem “Ethan” Abid has now shut down his Facebook account. He shut down his LinkedIn.

Although he put his location as Montreal, apparently, he heads the Libya sub-delegation, from ICRC Algeria office.

The ICRC did not respond to JNS’s request for comment before publishing.

Since Oct. 7, the ICRC has come in for criticism from the Israeli premier on down, with the public consensus being that the International Committee of the Red Cross is at best a glorified taxi service (for hostages freed from Gaza) and at worst the most prominent of the consistently anti-Israel and biased so-called “humanitarian” groups.

Israelis blame the ICRC for failing to reach the hostages held by Hamas. Some 209 days into the war, the Red Cross still hasn’t managed to gain access to the remaining captives held by the terrorist group.

Israeli anger has intensified as reports emerge of the grim situation of the abductees, with reports of torture, sexual abuse, and lack of food and medical care. Israel says 133 hostages remain in Hamas’s hands, with many feared dead.

In late January, a senior Red Cross official sparked Israeli ire when he compared Israel to Hamas, saying that both parties refuse to allow visitations for prisoners.

In December, it emerged that the ICRC has been helping Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel receive “pay for slay” stipends from the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian Media Watch revealed that Palestinian prisoners fill out forms to receive the stipends, and the Red Cross delivers the paperwork to Ramallah.

The stipends are nothing more than a financial incentive to commit murder, Israel said. **HW**

\$485k Raised for Fraternity that Protected U.S. Flag from Anti-Israel Mob



Students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill walk through campus between classes, Feb. 6, 2019. Credit: Dennis Ludlow-Sharkshock via Wikimedia Commons.

By Miri Weissman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – A group of fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina are being celebrated for safeguarding a giant American flag from an anti-Israel mob intent on raising the PLO colors.

A GoFundMe page launched for the Pi Kappa Phi students has raised over \$485,000 from more than 14,800 donations as of 8:30 p.m. on May 2. The fund aims to “throw this frat the party they deserve” for their stand at the UNC-Chapel Hill campus this week, according to the fundraising site.

“Extremists across the country have invaded college campuses to make outrageous demands on weak university administrators,” the organizers wrote. “But amidst the chaos, the screaming, the antisemitism, the hatred of faith and flag, stood a platoon of American heroes.”

The confrontation unfolded last Tuesday when the campus, among numerous

others nationwide occupied by anti-Israeli demonstrations, was targeted by a pro-Palestinian student mob. Three dozen anti-Israel protesters were arrested by police on the UNC campus.

The protesters attempted to raise the PLO flag during a confrontation with counter-protesters on campus. That’s when the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brothers stepped in to protect the American flag. As the PLO supporters hurled debris and taunts, the fraternity members grabbed the U.S. flag to prevent it from touching the ground with students chanting, “USA, USA.” A barricade now protects it.

The incident highlights the charged atmosphere on many college campuses amid the recent surge in anti-Israel protests and activism related to the conflict in the Middle East.

Originally published by Israel Hayom. **HW**

OBITUARIES

The Hebrew Watchman publishes obituaries (up to 500 words) as a service to the Jewish community at no charge. Over 500 words there is a minimum fee.

Jewish Teen Movement Celebrates Centennial

(JNS) – As the Jewish teen movement BBYO celebrates its 100th anniversary on Friday, it marks more than just a milestone, according to its CEO Matt Grossman.

“It’s a testament to the enduring strength of community, resilience and the limitless potential of youth,” Grossman stated. “As we honor the legacy of the past and embrace the challenges of the future, we renew the commitment made 100 years ago to a mission more vital today than ever before – to create a world where every Jewish teen is empowered to lead, inspire and make a difference.”

A group of young men formed what was then called B’nai B’rith Youth Organization on May 3, 1924, in Omaha, Neb. The movement, per BBYO, went on to “shape the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jewish teens for the next century.”

The movement is calling its centennial “Forever Young.”

“BBYO is a place where Jewish teens form their fondest memories, develop leadership skills, establish lifelong friendships, advocate for causes they

care about and find meaning in their Jewish heritage,” BBYO added.

The movement started as the Aleph Zadik Aleph, a group for young men, in 1924. Two decades later, B’nai B’rith Girls became part of the movement. In 2001, BBYO separated from its parent body, B’nai B’rith Organization, and became a stand-alone nonprofit, headquartered in Washington.

To celebrate its 100th birthday, BBYO has planned a year of programming, including “large-scale” events in 10 cities, alumni reunions worldwide, a new alumni association. In February it held its convention – the “largest gathering in the world for young Jewish leaders,” it said.

Mark Cuban, the billionaire investor, philanthropist and former owner of the Dallas Mavericks, is an alumnus of Aleph Zadik Aleph.

“That’s the beauty of BBYO – if one of us falls, we all fall,” Cuban stated. “BBYO is right there to pick us up. That’s the way it was when I was a kid. That’s the way it is now.” **HW**

Federation Hosts Breakfast Briefing with Hillel’s Lisa Armony: Addressing Campus Antisemitism



Sophie Bloch, Lisa Armony, Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein and CRC Co-Chairs Jill Notowich and Janis Finan.

On April 18, Federation’s Community Relations Council (CRC) hosted a breakfast briefing on “The Current State of Campus Antisemitism,” led by Lisa Armony, executive director of Hillel International’s Campus Climate Initiative, and Sophie Bloch, director of Hillels of Memphis. Guests gained insight into the rise of antisemitism campuses across the country and what Hillel is doing to support Jewish students.

Hillel’s Campus Climate Initiative collaborates with college administrators to tackle antisemitism institutionally.

There has been a staggering 700% rise in antisemitic incidents over the past six months. Emphasizing that campus antisemitism mirrors societal trends, the focus shifted to institutional responses. Armony stressed that it is primarily the responsibility of administrators, not students, to address campus climate issues. Importantly, working proactively to address antisemitism benefits the entire campus community, not just Jewish students, underscoring the urgency for intentional action from colleges and universities. **HW**

Rick Scott: ‘Horrific’ Jew-Hatred, Violence ‘Like a Cancer’ on Campuses



Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) meets with Jewish and pro-Israel students at the George Washington University Hillel in Washington, D.C., on May 1, 2024. Credit: Office of Sen. Rick Scott

(JNS) – Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) shared his “disgust” over antisemitic protests on campuses during a meeting with pro-Israel and Jewish students at George Washington University’s Hillel last Wednesday.

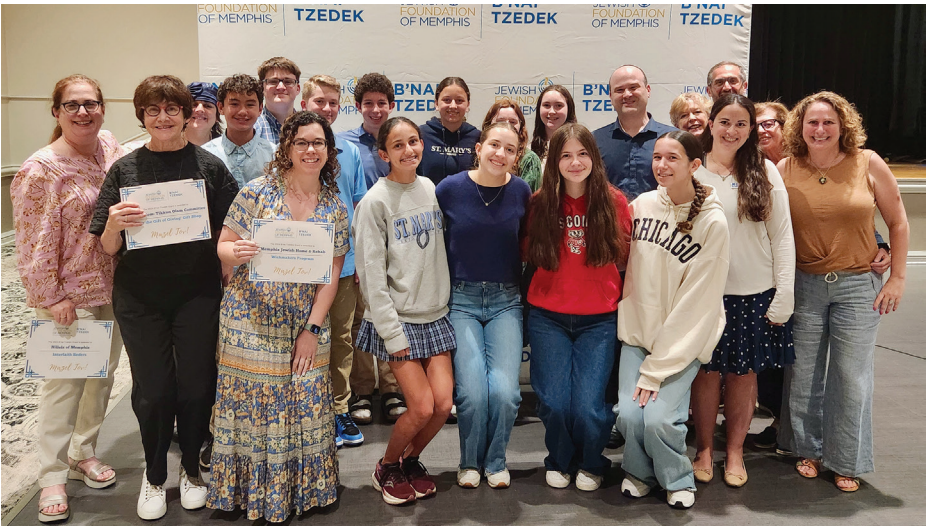
The senator’s daughter attended the school, located just blocks from the White House and U.S. State Department.

“What I am seeing on that campus today is something I never could have imagined,” he said. “Our Jewish students deserve to have a place where they can live and learn without fearing for their safety – starting with university leadership that has the backbone to stand for their safety, or step aside.”

He also commended the courage of the school’s Jewish and pro-Israel community “in the face of horrific antisemitism and violence that is spreading like a cancer across college campuses.”

“We also need local and state leaders willing to condemn this behavior and take action against this hate,” he said, noting that Muriel Bowser, the mayor of Washington, D.C., is among those “refusing to do so.” **HW**

Grants... (Continued From Page 1)



Members of the Memphis B’nai Tzedek program and grant recipients at the Memphis Jewish Foundation of Memphis on May 1.

ing lifelong Jewish philanthropists.”

“We greatly appreciate the time and effort the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is putting in to make Memphis B’nai Tzedek a success,” said Moinester. “It not only helps the Jewish community today; it ensures that there will be philanthropic support in the future.” **HW**

Steve & Shannon Johnston Duo

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IDF Posts on Gaza Border Failed Routine Inspection on Oct. 4



Gazans wave flags and take photos next to a burning IDF tank on the Israeli side of the border fence with Khan Yunis, Oct. 7, 2023. Credit: Yousef Mohammed/Flash90.

(JNS) – A routine inspection of Israel Defense Forces posts along the Gaza border carried out 72 hours before Hamas’s Oct. 7 onslaught showed a severe lack of preparedness, Channel 12 reported last week.

According to the Israeli broadcaster,

only one IDF base managed to get a passing mark on the Oct. 4 audit. Aside from the Yiftah outpost near the seaside Zikim training base, all other positions failed the inspection.

Channel 12 detailed the results of an assessment of the Nahal Oz base, where

Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7 killed 66 soldiers and kidnapped six.

Troops failed to prevent unauthorized people from entering the base on foot or by car, entering the operations rooms, taking sensitive materials, stealing the keys to the armory and leaving with weapons.

The IDF in response to the report said the inspection was a “routine defense inspection that was carried out with the aim of improving the security of the bases, and not an examination of a scenario simulating a sudden attack of thousands of terrorists, as had occurred on Oct. 7.”

“The IDF has started the investigation into the events of Oct. 7 and what preceded them, and when this is concluded, the findings will be presented in a transparent way to the public,” added the statement.

Earlier this year, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi announced an internal probe into the military’s failures leading up to Oct. 7, calling the investigation a “duty and not a privilege.”

In January, Israel’s “Walla” news site cited military sources as claiming that while the IDF was aware of Hamas’s repeated attempts to blow up the security

The IDF stressed the inspection was “not an examination of a scenario simulating a sudden attack of thousands of terrorists.”

fence on the Gaza border in preparation for the Oct. 7 attacks, it opted to dismiss the rehearsals as a “provocation.”

Hours before Hamas’s attack, IDF intelligence learned that hundreds of terrorists in Gaza activated Israeli SIM cards in their phones.

The activations were detected around midnight on the night of Oct. 6, some six and a half hours before thousands of Palestinian terrorists breached the fence.

In October, “The New York Times” reported that Unit 8200, the IDF’s signals intelligence unit, stopped listening to Hamas’s handheld radios a year before the attacks, deciding it was a “waste of effort.” **HW**

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Setting Goals: The First Step in Creating an Investment Plan

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

We plan our weekends. We plan our weddings, careers, and futures. Planning not only helps set us up for successful outcomes in the future but can also help immensely in the present. It helps us define and refine our goals, align tactics, proactively address risks, and chart our progress.

Too often, however, the planning that could be the most valuable is overlooked. The same people who would not dream of embarking on a two-week vacation to Italy without an hour-by-hour itinerary may have just a basic outline of a plan for their retirement, which could last 20 to 30 years.

What drives this disconnect?

Many of us are intimidated by the thought of putting our plans on paper. Others fail to grasp the value of the planning process. One common mistake is thinking your situation is very simple and straightforward so you don't need a plan.

This misconception can stem from a misunderstanding of exactly what constitutes a plan and an assumption that planning ought to be comprehensive enough to meet the needs of the rest of your life. Planning should meet you where you are and reflect your current situation. Your investment goals and your plan will evolve with you over time.

Effective plans are generally the ones that take your individual circumstances and those of your family into account. They should start with your goals and objectives and may encompass planning for investments, retirement, taxes, and wealth transfer.

As you map out your goals, consider the following:

- Are you thinking of starting a business?
- Are you exploring buying a second home or is there another big purchase that you would like to make at some point in the future?
- Do you want to travel extensively after you retire?
- Have you promised your children or grandchildren that you'll help pay for their college education or for them to study abroad?
- Do you need to build or rebuild an emergency fund for unforeseen expenses?
- Is there a community program or charitable cause you'd like to support more robustly?

One way to express your goals is to think of them as your own personal story that you are intending to write. For example:

"Now that I have my first grandchild, I'd like to **save enough to help me comfortably retire** so I can **spend more time with my family**. My spouse and I have had a **lifelong dream of road tripping** across the country once I retire. As we get older, **I want to build up a savings fund for medical needs** and **start a legacy fund** to help financially support my children and my grandchild."

Or:

"I am passionate about **supporting local businesses** and have a goal of **opening my own restaurant** that partners with local vendors. I want to **have enough money to start the business**

while **helping grow our nest egg** in case we need to dip into it while we are starting out. If we're successful, I hope to **expand the business** by opening an additional location."

After identifying your goals, the next step is to understand how much money you will need for each goal. This information will help you determine your saving and investing priorities, your time horizon for each goal, and the amount of investment risk you're comfortable taking to achieve each goal.

There's no one-size-fits-all answer to achieve each goal. Life throws curveballs and your priorities may change; however, people who have a plan may be more prepared for life's events and feel more comfortable that their goals will be met.

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North Carolina Man Arrested, Charged with Threatening Georgia Rabbi

(JNS) – A 31-year-old man has been charged with threatening a rabbi in Georgia and faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia.

Ariel E. Collazo Ramos, who was arrested last Thursday at his High Point, N.C. home, allegedly mailed an antisemitic postcard to Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, of Temple Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue in Macon, Ga.

On Feb. 1, the rabbi received a "threatening postcard" at her home through the U.S. Postal Service, according to the indictment. The handwritten postcard, allegedly by Collazo Ramos, stated: "Is there a child rape, torture and murder tunnel under your house? We have the Zyklon B. Use Code 'GasTheJews' for 10% off!"

"The reverse side of the postcard displayed a hand-drawn image depicting a purported Jewish male wearing a rat costume and the words 'Jews are rats,'" the U.S. Justice Department added.

The FBI is investigating.

In August 2023, a Olathe, Kan. farmers market kicked out a neo-Nazi pepper salesman, who offered customers a deal if they used his "GasTheJews" discount code. [HW](#)

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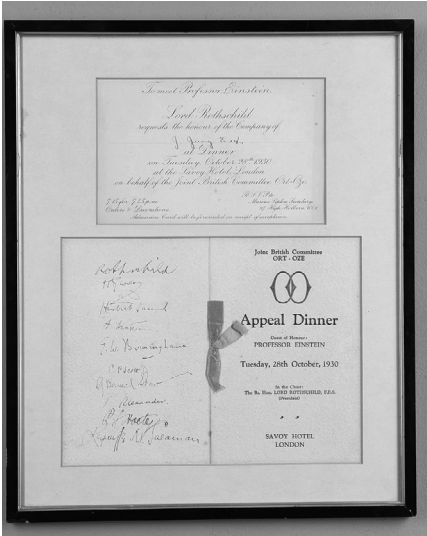
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Einstein-Signed Menu from 1930 Appeal for European Jews Up for Auction



A menu from an Oct. 28, 1930, fundraiser at the Savoy Hotel in London to support European Jews which is up for auction. Albert Einstein was among the signatories. Credit: Lawrences Auctioneers.

(JNS)—A menu from an Oct. 28, 1930, fundraiser to support European Jews as

the Nazis rose to power, which is signed by Albert Einstein, H. G. Wells, George Bernard Shaw and the second Lord Rothschild, is already going for nearly \$5,500, well above its pre-auction high estimate of some \$2,300.

The rare object, which comes from a private collection, is “a symbol of unity from a time of increasing oppression for the Jewish people in the years approaching the Second World War,” according to the United Kingdom-based Lawrences Auctioneers.

The auction house is selling the menu from a dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London in its March 21 Books, Maps, Manuscripts & Photography auction.

The menu comes from a dinner, held by the Joint British Committee of the Societies for Promoting the Economic and Physical Welfare of East-European Jewry, ORT-OZE, at which Einstein was the guest of honor.

Einstein was seated between the renowned English writer H. G. Wells and the second Lord Rothschild, who chaired

the committee, at the event that drew more than 370 people, per Lawrences.

“The signatures here seem to correspond with the seating plan present on the reverse of the frame, and it seems likely that it was passed along the table for each delegate to sign,” it stated.

Other signatories include the Zionist leader and British politician Sir Herbert Samuel, the Anglican bishop of Birmingham E. W. Barnes, the British journalist and politician C. P. Scott, the Jewish professor and philosopher Samuel Alexander and the British-Jewish physician Radcliffe Salaman.

The dinner raised \$24,000, “which was used in providing vocational activity for the impoverished Jewish communities in Europe,” the auction house stated, citing reporting at the time in the “Jewish Telegraphic Agency.”

As George Bernard Shaw announced on the 2nd November in the “Jewish Telegraphic Agency” newspaper, the dinner was a great success and raised \$24,000, which was used in providing

vocational activity for the impoverished Jewish communities in Europe.

In October 1930, \$24,000 had similar purchasing power to \$448,606.55 in January 2024, per an inflation calculator on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Einstein spoke in German – which was translated live into English – about “the plight of the Jewish communities scattered throughout the world” at the event, adding that “We should not have survived as a community all the centuries if we had a bed of roses. Of that I am strongly convinced,” per Lawrences.

George Bernard Shaw toasted Einstein at the dinner. “Within the last month or so, there has come to me, and come to many of you, our visitor’s profession of faith, his creed,” the renowned Irish playwright said. “And that has interested me very much because I must confess to you that there is not a single creed of an established church on earth at present I can subscribe to. But to our visitor’s creed I can subscribe to every single item.” **HW**

House Passes Bill that Would Enshrine Contentious and Popular Antisemitism Definition into U.S. Law

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – A bill that would enshrine a popular and contentious definition of antisemitism passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a wide margin.

The Antisemitism Awareness Act mandates government civil rights offices to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism, which has been endorsed by hundreds of local governments, corporations and universities.

But the definition has also drawn criticism, because most of its examples of antisemitism involve criticism of the state of Israel, including calling it a “racist endeavor.”

The bill is moving forward at a time when criticism of Israel, and when it crosses over into antisemitism, have been in the spotlight. Protesters at the pro-Palestinian encampments on campuses nationwide have harshly criticized Israel, with some using language decried as antisemitic. The bill’s passage would mean the definition would apply when officials adjudicate Title VI complaints alleging campus antisemitism.

Supporters of the bill say it covers the range of ways antisemitism manifests in the present day. The definition’s opponents say it chills legitimate criticism of Israel.

Those critiques did not hinder the bill, which passed last Wednesday 320-91. Republicans voted 187-21 for the bill, and Democrats supported it 133-70. Eighteen members did not vote, split evenly between the parties.

An identical version is under consideration in the Senate, and while it is in its early stages, it too is likely to pass.

But opponents of the IHRA definition in Congress included New York Rep. Jerry Nadler, the House’s longest-serving Jewish Democrat.

“Speech that is critical of Israel alone does not constitute unlawful discrimination,” The Associated Press quoted Nadler as saying during a hearing last Tuesday. “By encompassing purely political speech about Israel into Title VI’s ambit, the bill sweeps too broadly.”

Kenneth Marcus, the chairman of the Brandeis Center for Human Rights and a Department of Education civil rights official under the Trump administration,

said that the bill, should it become law, would be a useful tool on campuses given the recent turmoil.

“From a federal perspective, this legislation won’t change current practice so much as it will reinforce it,” Marcus said in a statement, noting that both the Biden and Trump administrations have worked to combat antisemitism on campuses. “From a university perspective, however, there are few U.S. universities that are consistently applying the IHRA definition in appropriate cases. This legislation should put a stop to that.”

Americans for Peace Now, a dovish pro-Israel group, worried in a statement that the bill, should it become law, would be used “as a cudgel against the millions of Americans, including many Jewish Americans, who object to the

Netanyahu government’s decisions and actions,” referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s conduct of the war against Hamas.

How each lawmaker voted was not yet available, but a number, including Nadler, had said in advance they would oppose it. Others include Rep. Pramila Jayapal, the Washington Democrat who leads the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, said passing the legislation was a priority, but the Republican no votes were a sign of how difficult it is for him to control the party’s far right and also of the increasing tendency on the Republican far right to reconsider, if not embrace, long-scorned antisemitic tropes.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican who constantly clashes

with more moderate Republicans, said she would vote against, because she worried it would criminalize what she said was a Christian belief that the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus, a belief repudiated by many large Christian denominations. Others on the far right voting against included Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, who also recently voted against aid to Israel.

Other bills with bipartisan backing that would combat antisemitism are wending their way through both chambers of Congress, including one that would set up a coordinator to monitor and combat domestic antisemitism, a counterpart to the existing State Department envoy to combat antisemitism overseas, a position currently held by the prominent Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt. **HW**

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Israelis at Columbia, Yale Tell of Grim Reality for Jewish Students



Anti-Israel protesters on the Foggy Bottom campus of George Washington University in downtown Washington, D.C. on April 26, 2024. Credit: Andrew Bernard.

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Over the past two weeks, New York’s Columbia University has been in the headlines due to vast student protests in support of Hamas and its sponsor Iran, disrupting campus life and affecting daily routines. The issue has drawn responses from U.S. President Joe Biden and other American officials and politicians, as well as celebrities such as actor David Schwimmer, who asked to “show support for your Jewish neighbors, friends and colleagues,” saying that “silence is complicity.” Heated debates escalated on social media. Chants such as “burn Tel Aviv to the ground,” and “Oct. 7 will be every day,” undoubtedly targeting Jewish students, were repeatedly heard on cam-

puses, intensifying tensions and leading to violent incidents. This volatile situation, first emerging from Columbia, has now spread nationwide – with students setting up encampments and occupying buildings on campuses at the University of Michigan in the Midwest, California State Polytechnic University on the West Coast and Yale in Connecticut – refusing to leave, preventing Jewish students and even professors from moving freely around campus. “As extreme as the protests were, what truly bothered me and many of the Israeli and Jewish students, was the ridiculous, groveling way the university president and administration handled the situation,” 24-year-old Israeli com-

puter science freshman at Columbia Matan Ossy said. Columbia University President Minouche Shafik “did not stand by the deadlines and conditions she had set for the protesters, set up a team to negotiate with them and simply allowed them to take over the public space. The students she had suspended were allowed to attend classes via Zoom. The situation appeared to lack any mature leadership with 18-year-olds essentially steering the course of action and having the final say,” said Ossy. He also criticized members of the American-Jewish community taking part in the pro-Palestinian protests, using the slogan “not in our name.” “Not in our name? We all saw Hamas terrorists shouting ‘slaughter the Jews!’ as they were viciously murdering entire families on Oct. 7,” he said. “The atmosphere at Yale is better than other places – but that doesn’t mean it’s comfortable here,” said Meital Peleg Mizrahi, a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Economics. “A few days ago, protesters demonstrating in memory of a terrorist were dispersed, and in the ensuing confrontation, a woman was struck with a flagpole. This was a huge event on campus dedicated to a man who was a terrorist and murdered Jews,” she said. “As scholars, we rely on collaboration across all fields, especially research – and there is undoubtedly a boycott of Israeli post-docs, both covert and overt.

It severely limits our work, bordering on impossible,” she added. She related getting an invitation to celebrate the “successful Palestinian resistance of Oct. 7” mere days after the attack. “Isn’t it clear that murder and rape are not ‘resistance’?” she said. “Apparently, it’s not as clear as I thought.” Renny Grinshpan, a video creator and a Columbia alumna, caused an uproar on social media when she tore up her diploma in protest against the university’s inaction toward the violent demonstrations against Israel. “Today, I’d like to renounce my degree. Those students who shamelessly glorify Hamas and yet face zero consequences for doing so represent your values now – and they should be your graduates,” she asserted. “After months of harassment, Jewish students are now being physically blocked from entering classes by protesters. Jewish students need to take their classes remotely. This is ethnic cleansing of Jews on an Ivy League college campus in 2024,” said Grinshpan. The almost unprecedented New York City Police Department raid on Columbia’s Hamilton Hall eventually led to the arrests and evacuation of the anti-Israel demonstrators. However, for students like Ossy and Peleg Mizrahi, it is not a matter of if, but when, the wave of Jewish hatred will hit their campuses with renewed ferocity. *Originally published by Israel Hayom. HW*

‘Order Must Prevail,’ Biden Says in First Address on Anti-Israel Campus Protests

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden will protect both free speech and the rule of law, he said last Thursday in his first formal remarks about ongoing anti-Israel encampments on college campuses. “We are not an authoritarian nation where we silence people or squash dissent. The American people are heard,” Biden said in a three-minute speech. “In fact, peaceful protest is in the best tradition of how Americans respond to consequential issues. But neither are we a lawless country.” “We’re a civil society, and order must prevail,” he said. White House spokesmen previously issued statements condemning violence and antisemitism, but Biden’s only previous public statement about the protests was a brief interaction with reporters in April. He condemned both “the antisemitic protests” and “those who don’t understand what’s going on with

the Palestinians.” Since that comment on April 22, the situation on college campuses across the country has escalated dramatically, with anti-Israel student protesters barricading themselves in a Columbia University academic building and a university staff member claiming that he was held “hostage.” At the University of California, Los Angeles last Wednesday night, police arrested more than 130 people after days of confrontations among anti-Israel protesters, counter-demonstrators and the police that at times turned violent. Biden drew a clear line last Thursday between First Amendment-protected free speech and the violence, vandalism and intimidation of Jewish and pro-Israel students on dozens of American college campuses. “Violent protest is not protected. Peaceful protest is,” Biden said. “Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows,

shutting down campuses, forcing the cancellation of classes and graduations. None of this is a peaceful protest. Threatening people, intimidating people, instilling fear in people is not peaceful protest.” “There’s the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos,” the president added. Biden also said there was “no place in America for antisemitism or threats of violence against Jewish students” and condemned “Islamophobia or discrimination against Arab-Americans or Palestinian-Americans.” “As president, I will always defend free speech, and I will always be just as strong standing up for the rule of law,” Biden said. Biden took two brief questions from the press after his remarks, replying simply, “No,” when asked if the protests had made him reconsider any of his Middle East policies or whether the Na-

tional Guard should be called in to deal with the protest encampments. Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), chair of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said that Biden’s remarks were “meager.” “President Biden and college administrators are operating from the exact same playbook. Instead of taking a stand against antisemitic encampments and other incidents engulfing college campuses, all they do is parrot the same tired platitudes,” Foxx stated. “Jewish students deserve meaningful actions, not just empty words,” she added. “Those should include directing the Education Department to make Title VI investigations of these campuses and consequences for any violations found a top priority.” Foxx added that she expects to hear “concrete plans” from Miguel Cardona, the U.S. education secretary, when he testifies next week. **HW**

Jewish Comedian’s Show Canceled Due to ‘Pro-Terror Mob’

(JNS) – On April 23, the Comedy on State homepage listed a performance scheduled for May 2 with Michael Rapaport. “Special engagement,” it stated, per an archived version of the site. “No passes or promotions.” The Madison, Wis. venue, which bills itself as the city’s “premier comedy club,” canceled that performance this week, and all references to the Jewish comedian on its website yield error messages. “Madison bows to bullies. Michael Rapaport’s sold-out comedy shows in Madison, Wis. have been canceled following threats from the pro-terror mob,” wrote Aviva Klompas, a former head of speechwriting at Israel’s mission to the United Nations.

“The mob is screaming about the right to free speech, and here they are trying to silence a comedian just because he is Jewish,” Klompas added. (Rapaport responded to her post and confirmed the show had been scrapped.) Todd Richman, co-chair of the Democratic Majority for Israel, wrote that if venues in Arizona and Chicago had “stayed strong and not succumb to the pro-Hamas anti-Israel ‘potential protesters’ and cancel Matisyahu, then maybe Comedy On State in Madison, Wis. might not have been cowards and had the guts not to cancel Michael Rapaport.” “When will these institutions stand up for what is right?” he wrote. “Welcome to America, where Jewish artists

are banned from performing. They said it couldn’t happen here in this amazing country, but I guess so many were wrong. Welcome to the 1930s Nazi Germany.” The Madison comedy club reportedly emailed ticket holders to say “In light of the current environment downtown, marked by escalating protests and a contentious nature of the dialogue surrounding current affairs, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Thursday show with Michael Rapaport.” “The safety and well-being of our audience members, staff and community are our top priorities, and we believe this decision is in the best interest of all involved,” the venue reportedly stated. Rapaport was one of 450 Jews in the

Michael Rapaport has supported Israel publicly and spoken out about Jew-hatred.

entertainment industry to sign a letter denouncing the speech that film director Jonathan Glazer gave at the Academy Awards ceremony in which he said “Right now, we stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people.” He also spoke at the “March for Israel” rally in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 14. **HW**

In ‘Unfrosted,’ Jerry Seinfeld Plays with His Food



Drew Tarver as Pop, Mikey Day as Crackle, Kyle Mooney as Snap and Andy Daly as Isaiah Lamb (of Quaker Oats) in a deliciously dumb set piece. Credit: John P. Johnson/Netflix © 2024

By PJ Grisar

This article originally appeared on Forward, reprinted with permission.

In the lead up to Jerry Seinfeld’s directorial debut “Unfrosted,” the world witnessed a high-fructose bloodbath.

At the Pop-Tarts Bowl in Orlando, college football players competed for the opportunity to devour a sentient Pop-Tart, who happily waved as he descended into a giant toaster, appearing on the other side as a Grand Guignol communion for the hungry athletes, who tore into its strawberry guts as Donna Summer’s “Hot Stuff” piped through the stadium.

The memes were quick, the sentiment confused. Was Pop-Tarts a brand in crisis? Had it forgotten that its target market is children? A similar perplexity surrounded Seinfeld’s new Netflix film, inspired by jokes from his act, about the origin story of the familiar perforated breakfast pocket. Who was it for?

In a late scene in “Unfrosted,” Seinfeld’s Bob Cabana, a product developer at Kellogg’s in the 1960s, invites a pair of men from Madison Avenue (Jon Hamm and John Slattery – any resemblance to Don Draper and Roger Sterling is purely intentional) to make their ad pitch. Their presentation includes packaging of pin-up models gazing seductively at the consumer.

“You know we’re a kid’s cereal company, right?” Kellogg’s boss Edsel Kellogg III (Jim Gaffigan), chimes in.

Unlike Seinfeld’s previous cinematic venture, the instantly memeable “Bee Movie,” “Unfrosted” is not for the kinderlach, who will surely miss much of its Kennedy-era references. Rather, the movie sings with the sensibilities of adults who refuse to grow up.

Set in Battle Creek, Michigan, the nucleus of American breakfast innovation, the movie follows the contours of “The

Right Stuff” as Cabana, who perhaps not incidentally shares a name with an astronaut, courts his partner, Stan (Melissa McCarthy), luring her away from her job making space food at NASA to assemble a shelf-stable pastry, cryptically codenamed “The Dingus” – a possible play on Oppenheimer’s “Gadget.”

Across the way from Kellogg’s HQ is competitor, Post, headed by Marjorie Post (Amy Schumer, playing one of the film’s few real people), also hard at work on a processed toaster-friendly foodstuff. The two companies engage in corporate espionage and tense, sugary-goop experiments as they jockey to hit store shelves first. The resulting antics incorporate elements of “The Godfather” as it adds five cereal families, a milkman mafia and a sugar drug lord named El Sucre to the mix.

A sendup of the emerging genre of movies about stuff – “Air,” “Flamin’ Hot, Barbie” – Seinfeld, who co-wrote the script with Spike Feresten, Andy Robin and Barry Marder, takes aim at much more than just the feel-good, Oscar-bait sponcon. And however much it appreciates its core product, the film is more than just a 90-minute commercial. Or at least not purely a commercial for Pop-Tarts.

The movie throws back to mid-century innovations with its crew of “taste pilots,” including the creator of the Schwinn bicycle, soft-serve pioneer Tom Carvel and Chef Boyardee himself, brought over to inspire Bob and Stan. (Thomas Lennon, as the German-born inventor of sea monkeys evasive about his whereabouts in the 1940s, suggests a sort of kitschy Operation Paperclip.)

Would-be thespians playing cereal mascots, led by Hugh Grant as an Oxbridge-accented Tony the Tiger, revolt in a scene briefly reminiscent of Jan. 6. Dean Norris appears as Nikita Khrush-

chev with Bill Burr as JFK, heading for a sugar-spiked Cuban Missile Crisis. A descending helicopter knocks the block off a Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robot and Cabana finds a Baby Ruth in the pocket of a suit worn by William Howard Taft.

Everything is tossed at the wall and, like Pop-Tarts’ gooey filling, much of it sticks.

Amid a sea of celebrity faces – including a former senator – and gags with a formidable hit rate, Seinfeld is giving cinematic life to what he’s always excelled at: asking “What’s the deal” with things most people dismiss as trivial beyond consideration.

The stand-up who called out the arrogance of a cereal for calling itself “Life,” gives us a funeral scene where a character is buried in cornflakes and the widow presented a free prize folded like a flag. The actor who delivered an indelible line read of the name “Newman,” applies the same seething rage to the word “xanthan.” The avowed admirer of junk adults aren’t supposed to eat brings a childlike wonder to a phony history of an invention that forever upended the cereal aisle.

For all the bitter headlines he generated in April while kvetching over “P.C. crap,” this is a Seinfeld who only cares for what doesn’t matter, making for the rare vanity project that is actually enjoyable and even a touch sweet.

The world of “Unfrosted” is one where Walter Cronkite (Kyle Dunnigan) cracks open the Silly Putty when he’s off camera and moans about his marriage. It’s a universe that is thoroughly unserious and disinterested in making any sort of a statement. It’s a breath of fresh air away from a lot of hot air.

Render onto Jerry what is his – a galaxy of the irrelevant that he fills with new, absurd meaning. It’s nice to see him playing with his food again. **HW**

Report: Turkish Terrorist Traveled to Israel with Official Delegation



Israeli rescue forces near the scene of a stabbing attack, in Jerusalem’s Old City, April 30, 2024. Credit: Jamal Awad/Flash90

(JNS) – The Turkish terrorist who carried out an attack in Jerusalem last week, moderately injuring an Israeli policeman,

was visiting the Jewish state as part of an official delegation organized by Ankara’s Ministry of Religion, the “HaKol HaYehu-

di” news outlet reported last Thursday.

Hassan Saklana, 34, an imam (Muslim prayer leader) from Urfa in southeastern Turkey, stabbed a Border Police officer outside the Old City’s Herod’s Gate last Tuesday after entering Israel through Jordan a day earlier, according to reports.

Urfa, a city of almost 600,000 people near the Syrian border once known as Edessa, is known as a hotbed of Islamic radicalism.

“HaKol HaYehudi” said Saklana left the delegation, which was staying at the New Capitol Hotel in eastern Jerusalem and carried out his attack.

Ankara’s Ministry of Religion regularly sends official delegations to Israel as a way to establish a Turkish presence throughout the country’s capital, including in the Old City, the Temple Mount and the nearby Tomb of Samuel.

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding the future of such tours in the wake of the attack.

Turkey’s Minister of Religious Affairs, Ali Erbaş, in March called on Muslims to boycott Israeli products in solidarity with “our brothers and sisters” in Gaza, where the Israel Defense Forces are fighting Hamas.

The top cleric also claimed that “grandchildren of Holocaust survivors are massacring Muslims” in Gaza and called on the entire Islamic world to unite against the Jewish state, according to Turkish media reports.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has shown extreme hostility to Israel since the Hamas-led massacre of Oct. 7 in which thousands of Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, wounded and kidnapped, with widespread atrocities documented. **HW**

Teenage Girls Arrested for Walking with Israeli Flag on Temple Mount

(JNS) – Two Israeli teenagers were detained by security forces last Wednesday morning after one of them wrapped herself in the country’s national flag at Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, Judaism’s holiest site, rights activists said.

The two girls, reportedly friends from Otniel in the South Hebron Hills of Judea, were taken to a nearby police station in handcuffs and banned from the site for an unknown period, according to “Arutz 7.”

Tom Nisani, the executive director of Beyadenu – Returning to the Temple Mount, said: “The Israeli government needs to decide whether the Temple

Mount is in our hands or the hands of the [Jordanian] Waqf.”

“There is no legal or moral reason to arrest Jews who walk with the Israeli flag on the Temple Mount. On Yom Ha’atzmaut, we will all raise flags on the Temple Mount,” he added.

On Israel’s Independence Day, which will be marked on May 13-14, hundreds of activists intend to visit the Temple Mount carrying Israeli flags, in defiance of the status quo agreement with Jordan that has governed the Jewish holy site since the 1967 Six-Day War ended.

Under the status quo, the day-to-day

administration of the Mount is overseen by the Waqf, an Islamic religious trust, while the Israel Police is responsible for security. The display of flags of any kind is prohibited, though this rule has rarely been enforced on Palestinian Arabs.

“It’s no coincidence that the Hamas terror group named its [Oct. 7] Simchat Torah massacre after the Temple Mount. This is a national and religious conflict, and so far, the State of Israel refuses to internalize this and demonstrate true sovereignty on the Temple Mount,” said Nisani.

“The raising of the Israeli flag on the

mount [should] be done by the government and the security forces themselves; this hasn’t happened, so we decided that the time has come to do it ourselves,” he told “Israel Hayom.”

According to Beyadenu, 500 people have already committed to coming on May 14, and more are expected to join. The group purchased a large billboard near Tel Aviv’s Ayalon Highway to recruit more participants.

More than 4,000 Jews ascended the Temple Mount during Passover, which ended on Monday, breaking records from previous years. **HW**

Jewish Professor at Dartmouth Thrown to the Ground by Police as 90 Pro-Palestinian Protesters are Arrested

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A past chair of Dartmouth College’s Jewish studies department was thrown to the ground, handcuffed and reportedly arrested during a stand-off with state riot police at the site of a campus pro-Palestinian encampment late last Wednesday.

In footage circulating on social media, historian Annelise Orleck can be seen being dragged to the ground by police and handcuffed following a harsh exchange of words. Ninety protesters were arrested in total as Dartmouth joined dozens of other colleges and universities across the United States in cracking down on their encampments.

“Those cops were brutal to me,” Orleck wrote on the social network X following her arrest. “I promise I did absolutely nothing wrong. I was standing with a line of women faculty in their 60s to 80s trying to protect our students. I have now been banned from the campus where I have taught for 34 years.” She also wrote that the cops “tried to hurt me. They did hurt me. And they seemed to enjoy it.”

Students at Dartmouth announced their intention to create an encampment last Wednesday, two weeks after the protest movement’s first encampment went up at Columbia University. Within an hour of the first tent going up, the students got an “arrest warning” from the school, and riot police arrived and began moving in an hour later, according to a timeline in the student newspaper. Orleck’s arrest took place about four hours into the showdown, which ended several hours later.

The escalation at Dartmouth was particularly notable for flying in the face of the public image the Ivy League school has cultivated since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

Many other schools – including fel-

low Ivies like Columbia and Harvard – have faced turmoil since the war’s start, including criticism from alumni alleging an inadequate response to Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel and protests from students angry about Israel’s ensuing war on Hamas.

Dartmouth, on the other hand, heavily touted its efforts to cultivate civil dialogue about the conflict among students and faculty, an approach that won the school a profile on “60 Minutes” and plaudits from the U.S. secretary of education. It is the only Ivy League university not to have had a federal discrimination investigation over antisemitism opened against it since Oct. 7.

In a statement last Thursday morning, Dartmouth President Sian Bellock acknowledged that students and faculty were among those arrested. She defended the arrests, saying protesters had ignored the university’s attempts to broker a resolution.

“Protestors pitched a ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ and physically prevented its removal despite multiple opportunities to avoid arrest,” Bellock wrote. She added, “Last night, people felt so strongly about their beliefs that they were willing to face disciplinary action and arrest. While there is bravery in that, part of choosing to engage in this way is not just acknowledging – but accepting – that actions have consequences.”

Attempts to reach Orleck were not returned by press time; a Dartmouth magazine says the labor and gender-studies historian was appointed Jewish Studies chair in 2005. (She has published research on the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire of 1911, a galvanizing moment for Jewish labor.)

A Dartmouth spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the

school did not want Orleck barred from campus.

“As we have advised the faculty member, we are taking every reasonable step to ensure she can continue teaching classes,” the spokesperson said. “We are also clarifying the conditions imposed by the bail commissioner, noting that Dartmouth had no intention of seeking Prof. Orleck’s exclusion from campus, and we will promptly request that any errors be corrected.”

Jeff Sharlet, a bestselling author and fellow Jewish faculty member at Dartmouth, told JTA that he spotted state riot police at the protest even though the college said it only called in local police.

To Sharlet, the encampment on campus was an “inclusive” and non-objectionable protest that the school should have respected.

“They were not obstructing anything. There was no argument they were obstructing anything,” Sharlet said. “There wasn’t hate speech. Maybe there was, a few times, a ‘River to the sea’ chant.” He added, “If we get to the point where a few students chanting ‘From the river to the sea’ requires long guns on a college campus, that’s not good for us as Jews, as Americans, as educators of students.”

(Many Jews and Israelis view the phrase, a mainstay of pro-Palestinian protests, as a call for Israel’s destruction.)

Sharlet said Orleck had been videotaping the police and that an officer had grabbed her phone from her. Her attempts to ask for the phone back formed part of the exchange glimpsed in the video. Orleck was charged with resisting arrest and kept in handcuffs for an hour, he said. Police also arrested two Dartmouth student journalists.

Current Jewish Studies chair Susan-

nah Heschel, who also observed the protests, said they had initially sprung up from a separate graduate student strike related to labor issues. Heschel, who has been a public face of Dartmouth’s Israel dialogue initiative, said that Orleck “intended to be arrested.”

“She put herself in the place where everyone was told, if you are in this place, we will arrest you,” Heschel told JTA. “And she stayed in that place, whereas others left.”

Heschel said the night’s unrest didn’t affect her outlook on Dartmouth’s ability to lead campus dialogue on Israel and Jewish issues and said the Jewish studies department remained immensely popular with students: “Show me another school where there’s a waiting list for Medieval Jewish History,” she said.

Inspired by protests at Columbia, Gaza solidarity encampments have sprung up at campuses nationwide in the last few weeks and prompted all manner of concern from universities and Jewish groups. Thousands of protesters have been arrested, while a small number of schools have struck deals with their activists that will see them make moves toward considering divestment from Israel and other concessions.

The campus remains safe for Jewish students, Sharlet said, adding that many Jews were a part of the protests. “I’m not an anti-Zionist. This is not ‘Jews versus protesters.’ I feel so strongly about this,” he said.

Heschel said she remained encouraged by Dartmouth’s role in the national dialogue.

“It’s like a marriage,” she said. “There may be times we have an argument. It doesn’t mean the marriage is over. We’re still doing what we want to do, which is teach our students to collaborate.” **HW**

Trump: Reaching a Two-State Solution Now ‘Very, Very Tough’

By Troy Osher Fritzhand

(JNS) – Former U.S. President Donald Trump signaled that he would be opposed to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a wide-ranging interview with “TIME” magazine published last week.

“Most people thought it was going to be a two-state solution. I’m not sure a two-state solution anymore is gonna work,” the former president said.

“There was a time when I thought two states could work. Now I think two states is going to be very, very tough. I think it’s going to be much tougher to get. I also think you have fewer people that liked the idea. You had a lot of people that liked the idea four years ago. Today, you have far fewer people that like that idea,” he added.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, an ardent opponent of Palestinian statehood, tweeted in response to the interview, “I congratulate the former U.S. president and presidential candidate, a clear supporter of Israel, Donald Trump, for his clear words and his return from his support for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

“A Palestinian state would be a terrorist state that would endanger the existence of Israel and the international pressure to establish it is an injustice on a historical scale of the Western countries who are willing to endanger the only Jewish state due to internal political interests.”

He went on to state that, “I hope and pray that more leaders in the world will discover the courage and integrity shown by presidential candidate Trump to change their position, will withdraw

from turning their backs on the State of Israel and will resolutely join hands with us in the fight we are leading in the name of the free world against radical Islam that threatens the peace of the entire world.”

In the same “TIME” interview, Trump pointed out his criticisms of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu, saying he “never forgot” how Netanyahu “dropped out” of the attack that killed Iranian Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani four years ago. He also said he “had a bad experience with Bibi” in 2020.

The Oct. 7 massacre, in which Hamas murdered over 1,200 people, “happened on [Netanyahu’s] watch,” said Trump, “And I think it’s had a profound impact on him, despite everything. Because people said that shouldn’t have happened. They have the most sophisticated equipment. They had – everything was there to stop that. And a lot of people knew about it, you know, thousands and thousands of people knew about it.”

Netanyahu “rightfully has been criticized” in connection with Oct. 7, he added.

Trump’s positions on the war in Gaza have fluctuated over the past few months. In an interview with “Israel Hayom” in March, the former president said that he supported Israel’s defensive war against Hamas and that he would have responded to the Oct. 7 attack in a very similar way. At the same time, he warned that the longer the war dragged on, the worse things would get for Israel.

“You have to finish up your war. To

finish it up. You gotta get it done. And, I am sure you will do that. And we gotta get to peace, we can’t have this going on. And I will say, Israel has to be very careful, because you’re losing a lot of the world, you’re losing a lot of support, you have to finish up, you have to get the job done. And you have to get on to peace, to get on to a normal life for Israel, and for everybody else,” he said.

Trump’s “TIME” interview comes as the United States has been upping efforts to bring about normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. A planned normalization agreement would include a security pact with the United States, civilian nuclear assistance and diplomatic recognition of Israel – contingent on Israel committing to a concrete plan, with a deadline, for the creation of a Palestinian state, something Netanyahu has so far rejected.

With an eye on the U.S. political calendar, the Saudis want to move in the next couple of weeks, hoping to generate bipartisan support in the Senate before the November election, according to “The New York Times.” Should Trump reclaim the presidency, the chances of Democrats in the Senate voting for a normalization deal could vanish, according to the report.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was in Israel last week, has made a path to a Palestinian state a priority in his conversations in the region. Speaking at the King Abdul Aziz International Conference Center during his trip to the Arab kingdom, Blinken told World Economic Forum President Borge Brende, “I think the single big-

gest, most effective rebuke to both Iran and Hamas would be Israel having normal relations with every country in this region and the realization of a Palestinian state.”

“The very concept of a Palestinian state is deeply flawed and detrimental to regional stability,” Knesset member Dan Illouz of Netanyahu’s Likud Party told JNS. “It is imperative that we vehemently oppose its establishment. As awareness grows about the inherent risks and dangers posed by such a state, we must actively work towards ensuring that it never becomes a reality. Our unwavering stance against a Palestinian state must be resolute and uncompromising,” he said.

Israeli Energy Minister and former Foreign Minister Eli Cohen chimed in on X, writing last Thursday “There will be no sustainable peace with Saudi Arabia without victory in the war. In the Middle East, no one makes peace with the weak.”

Knesset Member Ohad Tal responded as well, saying, “I thank President Trump for standing up for truth and morality. After the massacre of Oct. 7, there is no more doubt: Establishing a Palestinian state will be a reward to terrorism and lead to the dismantling and destruction of the only Jewish state.”

Mark Zell, chairman of Republicans Overseas Israel, added “Many have questioned where President Trump stands now on Israel, the Palestinians and Judea & Samaria. President Trump’s statement in the “Time” interview confirms unequivocally that he sees American and Israeli interests are aligned.” **HW**