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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 21 SIVAN, 5784 JUNE 27, 2024 VOL. 102, NO. 41

Pace Cooper Elected to Lead Jewish Foundation of Memphis During Historic 30th Year



Pace and Aileen Cooper (center) with past and present Foundation Board

Jewish Foundation of Memphis (Foundation) board members unanimously elected Pace Cooper as its new Board Chair at its annual meeting on June 6, 2024. Mr. Cooper steps into this important role following local attorney Jason Salomon.

"This is an exciting time in the history

of the Foundation," said Laura Linder, President and CEO of Jewish Community Partners, the management arm of the Foundation. "We are embarking on our 30th anniversary at a time when charitable giving is at an all time high. Pace is the perfect person to step in to this important leadership role."

Mr. Cooper is well known throughout the Jewish and greater Memphis community for his leadership, his business acumen, and his philanthropy. In the greater Memphis community, Pace is recognized for his strategic role in bringing the Grizzlies to Memphis, for the growth of Cooper Hotels during his tenure as CEO, and his service as Chairman of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority in 2015.

In addition, Pace has served as Board President for Baron Hirsch Congregation, and Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South. He was also President of the Holiday Inn Owners Association and is a current member of the Hilton Advisory Board.

At the Annual Meeting, Mr. Cooper explained his motivation to serve as Foundation Board Chair, saying, "The reason I'm driven to lead at this time is to enjoy and build on the momentum that the Foundation is experiencing as it grows faster and stronger. The success of this Foundation will, in turn, lead to the success of our overall community, our agencies and the Memphis Jewry that has shaped everyone in this room. Together, this staff and this community can do special things to create a stronger and more vibrant Jewish Memphis."

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis was established in 1995 to serve as the endowment "back office" of the Memphis Jewish community. Working in partnership with 10 local Jewish organizations and hundreds of local philanthropic families, the Foundation now boasts more than 500 funds and \$180 million in assets. **HW**

Netanyahu Accuses Biden of Withholding Weapons. White House: We 'Do Not Know What He's Talking About.'



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, June 10, 2024. Credit: Amos Ben-Gershom/Israel Government Press Office

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – WASHINGTON – White House officials denied withholding weapons from Israel after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a video statement criticizing the Biden administration for an "inconceivable" delay in delivering weapons.

The exchange came following reports that the administration had pressured congressional Democrats to sign off on a major arms sale.

The statements last Tuesday are the

latest development in a long-running debate over American weapons shipments to Israel. Some Democrats are urging Biden to suspend the deliveries because of the mounting death toll in Gaza. Israel says it needs the weapons to defeat Hamas and bring the war to an end.

"When Secretary Blinken was recently here in Israel, we had a candid conversation," Netanyahu said [last] Tuesday in a video he posted on multiple platforms, referring to a June 10 meeting he had

with Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"I said I deeply appreciated the support the U.S. has given Israel from the beginning of the war," he said. "But I also said something else. I said it's inconceivable that in the past few months, the administration has been withholding weapons and ammunitions to Israel. Israel, America's closest ally, fighting for its life, fighting against Iran and our other common enemies."

Netanyahu said Blinken had told him, "The administration is working day and night to remove these bottlenecks. I certainly hope that's the case. It should be the case." Netanyahu also compared himself to Winston Churchill – a long-time role model of his – likening American aid for Israel to American weapons deliveries to Britain during World War II.

"During World War II, Churchill told the United States, 'Give us the tools, we'll do the job," Netanyahu said. "And I say, give us the tools, and we'll finish the job a lot faster."

American officials responded that they did not know what Netanyahu was referring to. While the administration held up shipments of large bombs due to concern over Israel's invasion of Rafah in Gaza, it has insisted that all other weapons shipments are continuing apace and that it is ensuring that Israel has the necessary firepower to fight Hamas.

"We generally do not know what he's talking about, we just don't," White

House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters in the daily briefing. "There are no other pauses, none, no other pauses or holds in place" other than the suspension of the 2,000-pound bombs.

Blinken echoed that message in a press conference with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. He declined to comment on his conversation with Netanyahu, and the State Department did not respond to a request for comment from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"With regard to 2,000-pound bombs, because of our concerns about their use in a densely populated area like Rafah, that remains under review," Blinken said. "But everything else is moving as it normally would move."

He added, "The president's been very clear from day one, that he will do everything he can to make sure that Israel has what it needs to effectively defend itself against these threats."

Last Monday, the "Washington Post" reported that key Democrats have signed off on the transfer of F-15 fighter jets to Israel following urging from the administration. New York Rep. Gregory Meeks, the ranking member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had held up the approval due to concerns about Israel's war conduct.

"I have been in close touch with the White House and National Security

(See Netanyahu Page 3)

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Federation Hosts Social Gathering for Jewish and Indian Communities



25 members of Jewish and Indian communities attended Federation's Social Gathering.

On Monday, June 10, 25 members of the Jewish and Indian communities came together to learn more about one another and to share foods special to their culture. During the Social Gathering, led by Project Understanding (an initiative of Federation's Community Relations Council, under the leadership of engagement subcommittee chair Margo Gruen), guests shared babka and Indian tea, and presented objects of special meaning.

Rachel Shankman, Community Relations Council education subcommittee chair, presented the Shabbat candle-

sticks given to her by her mother, a Holocaust survivor. An Indian Hindu guest shared her family's candelabra tower, used daily and during Diwali (also called "The Festival of Lights").

Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, Federation Executive Vice-President, remarked, "The gathering was very warm, and we found many areas of common ground. Thank you to Margo Gruen and Marla Shainberg for their efforts on behalf of this program. We look forward to further engaging with our friends from the Indian community." HW

Baron Hirsch Hosts Sept. 4, 2024, Kol Rena SoShuls Luncheon for Jewish Seniors



Baron Hirsch invites those age 64 and older to participate in the congregation's next Kol Rena SoShuls program, a Sept. 4 luncheon at the synagogue (400 South Yates Road) featuring delicious kosher food and musical entertainment provided by local musicians through the non-profit agency, Creative Aging.

The event will begin at noon.

Baron Hirsch's Kol Rena SoShuls luncheons are held almost every month throughout the year.

The lively music and friendly atmo-



sphere give local seniors a chance to see and meet friends, while enjoying a good meal and singing along to familiar, and fun, music.

Membership at Baron Hirsch is not required to attend. Admission costs \$5 and can be paid at the door.

Guests are asked to make reservations in advance by emailing gwen@ baronhirsch.org or by calling the synagogue office at 901-683-7485.

The Kol Rena SoShuls Fund at Baron Hirsch is a tribute to the memory of Rena Loskovitz, who was an active

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Weekly Torah Portion: Shlach





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and dedicated member of the congregation. The fund was generously established by Rena's children and their spouses – Dr. Lewis and Debra Loskovitz, Myrna and Myron Thomas, and Sandra and Dr. Ben Beatus – to help Baron Hirsch serve the needs of Jewish seniors in Memphis. **HW**

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Beth Sholom to Host a Pride Panel Discussion After Shabbat Services June 29

Beth Sholom Synagogue will mark the close of Pride Month by hosting an after-kiddush conversation with congregation members who identify as LGBTQ+ on Saturday, June 29 at about 11:45 a.m. The session is the shul's Social Action Committee's inaugural "Just for Kiddush" speaker series on social justice topics.

As the Just for Kiddush name implies, people are welcome to come after services and enjoy kiddush and stay for the event – although the shul hopes the public will use the opportunity to experience Shabbat at Beth Sholom.

Social Action Committee Chair Liza Levko explains that "The committee created the Just for Kiddush panel series to provide a platform for issues or actions that are in the self interest of our community. Kicking off with a conversation about being LGBTQ+ and Jewish only seemed natural, especially, since this will be the day after the anniversary of the Stonewall riot."

Sarah Siegel, who will participate in the panel with fellow LGBTQ+ congregants Pat Hewitt, Greg Miles and Nour

Carter, says, "Since October 7, many have seen the meme, 'Queers for Palestine is like Chickens for KFC.' Beth Sholom is offering the community a chance to get beyond memes that represent what I, and all of my LGBTQ+ Jewish friends, see as a misguided fringe, and to hear stories of LGBTQ+ Jews, living vibrant lives in Memphis."

Miles adds, "As Beth Sholom navigates the complexities of the modern world, thoughtfully grappling with difficult topics is more important than ever. The goal of the panel is to promote a variety of perspectives that we hope leads to additional dialogue among the community beyond the event."

Among the questions Levko plans to ask panel members are: whether being Jewish accelerated or delayed their coming out process; what are the common misperceptions about the LGBTQ+ community; and how the Jewish community can support the LGBTQ+ community.

Beth Sholom's Shabbat morning services start at 9:15 a.m. Kiddush generally begins at 11:30 a.m., and the panel discussion will take place soon after. HW

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, July 1 **Team Trivial Pursuit!**

As before we will split the room up into teams and see who the champions of Trivia are! Questions come from the Authorized edition of Trivial Pursuit, most of which come from their Boomer edition. Come test your knowledge. Prizes will be given to the winning

Wednesday, July 3 **Speaker: Peter Gicheru Topic: Fall Prevention**

One recent magazine article said that 70% of people over 60 that go into the hospital do so because of a fall! Please come hear several ways that falls can be prevented. Come for the lunch and stay for the speaker.

Thursday, July 4 and Friday July 5, The Senior Lunchroom will be closed. Have a great July 4th Weekend!

Monday, July 8 **Mystery Guest Speaker** Details to be announced later!

Wednesday, July 10 Special Double Program! Bingo and Ice Cream!

We will have a Special Bingo Event with the Mah Ani youth from the MJCC Camp joining us plus Ice Cream! Come have fun and engage with these energetic young people. They recently interacted with the Senior Lunch Group in a rousing Trivial Pursuit Game that had everyone joining together in an interesting quest for the right answer! It was a lot of fun for all!

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**

Netanyahu...

(Continued From Page 1)

Council about this and other arms cases for Israel and have repeatedly urged the Administration to continue pushing Israel to make significant and concrete improvements on all fronts when it comes to humanitarian efforts and limiting civilian casualties," Meeks said in an email to JTA.

"I continue to support the Administra-

tion's pause on certain munitions transfers due to concerns about ongoing civilian casualties in Gaza," he said. "The aircraft in question will not be delivered until years from now, and I remain supportive of Israel's right to defend itself against the real threats posed by Iran and Hezbollah."

A spokesman for Sen. Ben Cardin, the

Jewish Marylander who is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a longstanding and staunch Israel supporter, told JTA that "any issues or concerns Chair Cardin had were addressed through our ongoing consultations with the Administration, and that's why he felt it appropriate to allow this case to move forward." HW

You missed another one....



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Bowman Asked Rabbi for Photo to 'Show World I'm Friends with Jewish People'

(JNS) - Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.), a member of the progressive congressional "Squad," tried to bolster his image among Jews by soliciting "pics of us" from a rabbi, a screenshot of a spring 2022 text exchange provided to "Jewish Insider" reveals.

The representative, one of the most vocal in condemning Israel even before the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in southern Israel, had requested via text: "Do you have pics of us? So I can show the world I'm friends with Jewish people." "Jewish Insider" has kept the rabbi's name private at his request.

Rather than provide an image, he deflected, saying, "'Oh, I'm sure you guys have it. Don't worry about it," wrote the "Jewish Insider."

Bowman did not request photos from the rabbi again, who told the news outlet: "I was like, 'I don't want to be his court Jew.' That wasn't what I signed up

Justin Brasch, a Jewish Democrat who serves as a councilman in White Plains, N.Y., told "Jewish Insider" that Bowman "is not someone who wants to build bridges with Jews and the Jewish community."

Brasch said "he doesn't reach out. He doesn't reach back. He's not interested at all in the Jewish community."

Amy Paulin, a Democrat and member of the state assembly, said Bowman "doesn't tell the truth" since he had told her and others that he did not support the BDS movement before coming out in favor of the effort to destroy the Jew-

She described Bowman's BDS advocacy as "clearly antisemitic" and told "Jewish Insider," "I don't believe anything he says anymore."

The anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace has endorsed Bowman. In May, the congressman sought - and received - the endorsement of the BDS-supporting Democratic Socialists of America. HW

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Netanyahu Disbands War Cabinet after Centrist Party's Exit, Returning Israel to Pre-Oct. 7 Governance



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at a press conference on Oct. 28, 2023. Credit: Dana Kopel/Pool By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has disbanded the small

war cabinet he established at the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, reverting

to Israel's pre-Oct. 7 governing system. Netanyahu established the war cabinet days after Hamas' invasion of Israel when former Defense Minister Benny Gantz, a centrist rival, joined an emergency wartime government. The war cabinet had three voting members – Netanyahu, Gantz and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant – along with observers, and was tasked with making key decisions about Israel's military campaign in Gaza along with its battles on other borders.

Gantz's party left the coalition last week, and he stepped down from the war cabinet, amid disagreements with Netanyahu about plans for Gaza after the war.

The exit of Gantz's party means that the government has returned to its shape before the war – consisting of a mix of right-wing and religious parties, including hardline ministers. Some of those figures, such as far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, have pressed to join the war cabinet following Gantz's resignation.

Now, instead of the war cabinet, the fighting will be overseen by Netanyahu and Gallant along with the security cabinet, a small group of ministers that has traditionally made decisions about Israeli military policy. The change comes as U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein is in Israel to try to tamp down clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, the Lebanese terror group.

Ben-Gvir and another far-right minister, Bezalel Smotrich, are members of that group. Both are demanding an unfettered extension of the war, against popular opinion, which prefers a cease-fire deal that would return Israeli hostages, and have called for Israel to establish settlements in Gaza, which Netanyahu has thus far rejected. **HW**

Federal Probe of University of California, Davis Centers on Alleged Jew-Hatred

By David Swindle

(JNS) – On June 11, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it was probing the University of California, Davis for alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination on the basis of "shared ancestry," including religion.

The department and its Office for Civil Rights do not typically publicize the reasons for its investigations, though UC Davis provided JNS with a copy of the letter that the Education Department sent notifying the public school about the investigation.

"The complaint alleged that the university discriminated against students on the basis of their national origin (shared Jewish ancestry and/or Israeli) by failing to respond adequately to incidents of harassment and of these students and by subjecting them to different treatment," the department stated in the six-page letter.

The April 1 complaint centered specifically on social media postings from Students for Justice in Palestine, since Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, "threatening violence against individuals who support

Israel, mocking Jewish students and Zionists and containing threatening comments to Jewish and/or Israeli students at protests and other events on the university's campus," per the letter.

It added that UC Davis has allegedly "failed to hold SJP accountable under university policies applicable to all student organizations" and that the public school is accused of not requiring "student groups like SJP and Jewish Voices for Peace to comply with university policies for 'major events' and has not adequately responded to: the alleged ex-

clusion of Jewish and/or Israeli students from campus events; physical assaults, graffiti, and signage on campus hostile to Jewish and/or Israeli students; or known faculty statements against Jewish and/or Israeli students on university webpages and social media."

The department requested extensive documents from the university, including "a narrative response to the issues opened for investigation and a copy of any documents or data relied upon in the narrative or supporting the facts stated in the narrative," by July 12. **HW**

Florida Man Arrested for Threatening to Kill Jews



Old City Hall in Boca Raton, Fla. Credit: Ebyabe via Wikimedia Commons.

By David Swindle

(JNS) – The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department arrested Paul Thomas Morris, 26, on June 14 in Boca Raton, Fla., after two of his friends reported social-media threats to law enforcement

When Detective C. Wells arrived at Morris's residence, he spoke with the suspect's roommate, who showed him social-media postings of Morris's that included vowing to attack a synagogue and murder all the Jews, according to a probable cause affidavit that the sheriff's office shared with JNS.

Morris allegedly wrote on Instagram: "I want Hitler to come back to kill all the Jews."

He allegedly added on Discord, another social-media platform, that "I'm shooting up a synagogue, yes all Jews,"

and "If anyone is concerned about my well-being, this is where I am at: I want to scream 'Kill all Jews' at anyone I have ever known."

The suspect's roommate told the detective that Morris suffers from mental-health issues but had never before threatened violence, per the affidavit.

When Wells confronted Morris, the suspect said he knew why the detective was there and acknowledged that the two accounts in question belonged to him. He also conceded that the statements could be seen as threatening, according to the affidavit.

Morris reportedly described his psychological problems as "major depression."

On June 15, a judge set Morris's bail at \$25,000, though he remained in jail last Monday, per WPTV. **HW**

Mississippi Man Pleads Guilty to Threatening, Stalking Jews

(JNS) – Donavon Parish, 29, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court last Tuesday to cyberstalking harassment, admitting that he was motivated by Jew-hatred, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Parish, of Hattiesburg, Miss., made threats over the phone to synagogues and Jewish businesses in Pennsylvania in April and May 2023.

"The Philadelphia Inquirer" reported that he targeted three synagogues and

three Jewish-owned delis, including calling one deli more than 15 times.

"He repeatedly referenced the genocide of approximately 6 million Jewish people during the Holocaust, stating, among other things, 'Heil Hitler,' 'all Jews must die,' 'we will put you in work camps,' 'gas the Jews' and 'Hitler should have finished the job,'" per the U.S. Justice Department.

"The calls were reported to a local police department and when an officer called Parish's number back, he answered, prosecutors said," the "Inquirer" reported. "The officer asked if Parish had called the deli, to which Parish said yes, and then declared that 'all Jews need to die' and 'Heil Hitler.' When the officer asked Parish for his identifying information, he hung up."

The "Inquirer" added that one of the synagogues that Parish targeted runs a pre-kindergarten and religious schools.

"Cyberstalking is already a serious violation and targeting victims based on their religion is a hate crime, which makes it that much more abhorrent," stated Jacqueline Romero, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. "We and our partners will continue to work to hold accountable anyone who criminally misuses today's technology to spread hate and fear."

Parish, who will be sentenced on Sept. 24, faces up to 15 years in jail, three years of supervised release, a \$1.5 million fine and a \$600 special assessment, per the Justice Department. The FBI assisted in the investigation. **HW**

Three Boys Indicted for Antisemitic Rape of 12-Year-Old Girl in Paris

(JNS) – Three boys were indicted last Tuesday for the rape of a 12-year-old Jewish girl a few days earlier in an incident that has shocked France's Jewish community.

The teenagers, two aged 13 and one 12, were indicted for gang rape, death threats, anti-Semitic violence, attempted extortion, invasion of priva-

cy, violence and insults, "Le Figaro" reported.

Last Saturday afternoon, the girl, who had spent the afternoon with friends, was crossing Henri Regnault Park in Courbevoie, a Paris suburb, when she came across two boys, one of whom she vaguely knew.

They blocked her way and forced her

to follow them to an abandoned daycare center. A third boy joined them and started insulting the girl as a "dirty Jew," the teenagers told police.

One of the attackers held a lighter next to her face and threatened to burn her. They forced her to perform vaginal, anal and oral sex on them, and threatened to kill her if she told anyone, "Le Figaro" reported.

Afterwards, the girl made her way home and told her parents what had happened. A friend who was with her when the boys took her was able to give a detailed description of the suspects, who police confirmed were at the crime scene through images from security cameras. **HW**

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Estate Planning Selecting Trustees and Other Fiduciaries - How to Make the Right Choice

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

When discussing and designing the blueprint for a Will or Trust, clients often ask us "who should we appoint as Successor (backup) Trustees, Personal Representatives or Executors?" or "what factors should we consider in appointing Successor Trustees or Executors?" Trustees are individuals in a trust who are tasked with carrying out the terms of the trust and, sometimes, investing and maintaining trust assets. Trustors are the individuals who set up the trust and typically appoint Successor (backup) Trustees. Successor Trustees play a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth implementation of a trust when the Trustor is no longer able to manage assets due to incapacity or death. Here are three (3) general areas we recommend Trustors consider when appointing Successor Trustees:

Consideration 1 - Trust

Trust is the number one attribute we advise our clients to consider and look out for in appointing Trustees or other fiduciary appointments. It may seem cliché or obvious, but individuals with integrity who speak and act the truth are typically ideal Trustees and fiduciaries. When a Trustor is no longer competent or alive to manage his or her assets, it is paramount that the individuals appointed to step in the Trustor's shoes - the Successor Trustees - are trustworthy individuals. So, whether it be family members, friends, or corporate institutions, we advise our clients to first ask, "can I trust this entity with my legacy?" If the answer is "no," or if there is even a modicum of hesitation, said entity is likely not the correct entity to appoint as your Successor Trustee, Executor or fiduciary.

Consideration 2 - Financial Know-How

Financial acumen is another attribute to assess when selecting Trustees. Trustees often make financial decisions related to trust assets and investments. Depending on the type of trust and the trust's terms, Trustee duties may include investment decisions, discretionary distributions, or even hiring financial professionals to manage trust assets on behalf of beneficiaries.

Trustees with financial maturity, a solid grasp of financial principles, and relevant experience are more likely to make sound investment choices and properly manage trust assets.

Consideration 3 – Should a Co-Trustee Be Appointed?

In many cases, it's advisable to appoint a co-Successor Trustee to work alongside other designated Trustees, such as family members or close acquaintances. While one Trustee may lack financial expertise, they may compensate with a strong bond with beneficiaries or the family. In such instances, a co-Trustee, which could be a corporate entity like a bank or a trust department, can provide support in areas where the primary Trustee may lack experience or knowledge.

A co-Trustee often introduces an additional layer of oversight and accountability to the trust administration process. In some trusts, co-Trustees are required to make unanimous decisions, which fosters checks and balances, es-

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pecially concerning asset and investment management. This collaborative approach ensures that the Trustor's wishes are upheld and minimize the risk of financial mismanagement.

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All in all, the appointment of Successor Trustees or Executors is a key element of estate planning. Trust, financial acumen, and the potential inclusion of a co-Trustee are all factors to consider when making these choices. By carefully evaluating these attributes, Trustors can rest assured their legacy will be managed responsibly and in accordance with their wishes, which provides peace of mind for themselves and their bene-

Celtics Win Title, but Jewish 'NBA Countdown' Host Malika Andrews is Finals' Breakout Star



Malika Andrews reports before Game 3 of the 2024 NBA Finals between the Boston Celtics and the Dallas Mavericks at American Airlines Center, June 12, 2024, in Dallas. Credit: Tim Heitman/Getty Images

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – As millions of basketball fans tuned into ABC last Monday night for Game 5 of the NBA Finals, they saw a Jewish star front and center - though she doesn't play for the Boston Celtics or Dallas Mavericks.

Malika Andrews, 29, is the host of ABC's "NBA Countdown" pregame show as well as ESPN's marquee "NBA Today" program. The Oakland native and current denizen of Los Angeles has enjoyed a meteoric rise as a basketball reporter and TV personality since her start at ESPN in 2018.

Andrews, originally hired as a reporter for the network's news website, was tapped as ESPN's sideline reporter during the 2020 playoffs. The games that year were held in unusual circumstances: a quarantined "bubble" that was created in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Andrews was believed to be the youngest reporter to receive the assignment.

In May 2022, Andrews won the Sports Emmy for Outstanding Personality/ Emerging On-Air Talent. The following month, she became the first woman to host the NBA Draft, a role she has since reprised annually.

Andrews was born into an interfaith and interracial family: her mother, Caren, an art teacher, is white and Jewish; her father, Mike, a personal trainer, is Black and not Jewish. Caren told "J. The Jewish News of Northern California" that Malika and her younger sister, Kendra, who covers the Golden State Warriors for ESPN, both identify as Jewish.

Andrews, who has opened up about her childhood struggles with mental health and an eating disorder, studied communications at the University of Portland and went on to work at the "Chicago Tribune" and "The New York Times" before joining ESPN. Prior to attending college, Andrews also briefly worked in the San Francisco law firm of her Jewish grandfather.

At ESPN, Andrews succeeded fellow Jewish personality Mike "Greeny" Greenberg as host of "NBA Countdown." In response to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency inquiry last Monday, ESPN said Andrews' schedule was too packed amidst the Finals and next week's NBA Draft for an interview.

She has not spoken publicly about her Jewish identity. But in late 2022, in the aftermath of NBA star Kyrie Irving's antisemitism scandal, it came up when she interviewed Rabbi Erez Sherman, the senior rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles and the host of the "Rabbi on the Sidelines" sports podcast, on "NBA

In the segment, Sherman referenced Andrews' Jewish and Black identities, encouraging her to use her platform to help build bridges between the Jewish and Black communities.

"Wow, you need to tell that story," Sherman told Andrews, who did not respond. "You need to get us together. You need to tell young people in Black communities, in Jewish communities. And by the way, I think it's important, not all Jews look like me."

Ilene Keys, the Andrews' childhood cantor at Temple Sinai in Oakland, said Andrews' tenacity was evident back in 2008 when, as an adolescent, she was preparing for an early appearance in front of a crowd.

"I knew back when we were studying for her bat mitzvah that she was a force to be reckoned with," Keys told "J." "I'd like to think that her connection to the Temple Sinai community helped to shape who she is and gave her the confidence to be the leader that she is today." HW



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Tzav 9, Sanctioned by the U.S., Denies Attacking Aid Convoys



Aid trucks on the way to the Gaza Strip. Credit: Tzav 9

By Amelie Botbol, Akiva Van Koningsveld

(JNS) – A spokesperson for Tzav 9, which has been sanctioned by the United States for allegedly attacking humanitarian aid convoys on their way to Gaza, has denied any involvement and told JNS that a different group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"We have been relating to the blockade peacefully, using our right to free speech to protest against the hijacking of humanitarian aid by Hamas. We deplore the torching of the trucks and the violence," Rachel Touitou told JNS last Sunday.

"We don't understand these sanctions, and we will fight them. We are not criminals; we are civilians in a sovereign country. Our right to protest in a democratic country should be sacred," she

The Tzav 9 movement spearheaded the initiative to block humanitarian aid from entering Gaza throughout the war.

The U.S. State Department sanctioned Tzav 9 ("Order 9"; Tzav 8 refers to the IDF emergency call-up order) last Friday, describing it as "a violent, extremist Israeli group that has been blocking, harassing and damaging convoys carrying lifesaving humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians in Gaza."

In a press statement announcing sanctions, the U.S. State Department referred specifically to a May 13 incident during which "Tzav 9 members looted and then set fire to two trucks near Hebron in the West Bank carrying humanitarian aid destined for men, women, and children in Gaza."

Touitou said that the day of the incident, another group took responsibility.

"It was not Tzav 9, but the Biden administration did not bother to check. If they had, they would have realized that everything we do is non-violent," she

Regarding the May 13 incident at the Tarqumiyah checkpoint near Hebron, JNS found that calls to stop the aid trucks were spread through WhatsApp groups with hundreds of members, most notably through a community run by the "Lo Nishkach [We Will Not Forget] Headquarters," which claims to unite several right-wing activist groups in Judea and Samaria.

The Victory Youth ("Noar Hanitzachon") group, which is part of the We Will Not Forget Headquarters, denied involvement in a statement to JNS.

Asked about suspects in the case, the Israel Police did not say whether the attacks could be linked to any established

organization, instead referring JNS back to the U.S. administration for comment.

The U.S. State Department refused to comment on how Washington had established Tzav 9's alleged role in the violence and referred JNS to spokesman Matthew Miller's initial June 14 announcement.

The State Department sanctioned Tzav 9 pursuant to President Joe Biden's Feb. 1 Executive Order 14115, which states that sanctions can be applied to individuals who "threaten the peace, security, or stability" of Judea and Samaria.

The majority of Tzav 9's protests have taken place inside Israel's pre-1967 borders, including at the Kerem Shalom Crossing and Ashdod Port near Gaza. The group's activists come from all over the country, with spokesperson Touitou being a resident of central Israel.

Touitou noted the group is consulting with its legal team to understand the implications of the sanctions.

"The aid is used to serve the enemy and its tunnels. The Biden administration sanctions Israeli citizens instead of sanctioning pro-Hamas citizens on U.S. campuses," she said.

"We represent the majority of the Israeli population who believes we should prevent Hamas from hijacking aid. Secretary of State Antony Blinken himself said in October that if he knew Hamas was doing so, he would condemn it," she added.

Touitou said Tzav 9 has nevertheless paused the blockade on trucks as it no longer seems efficient. "Gaza is flooded with humanitarian aid from all directions. We are moving forward with other strategies such as meeting with ministers," she stated.

"As it stands, we have no control over the aid once it crosses into Gaza. If there's no neutral and impartial organization to monitor it, then it should be the IDF that makes sure that it goes to the right people," she continued.

"Whoever controls the humanitarian aid controls Gaza – and right now it's Hamas," said Touitou.

Tzav 9 activist Yael Sabrigo, the niece of Lior Rudaeff, who was murdered on Oct. 7 and whose body is being held in Gaza, told the "Ynet" news outlet last Monday that she was shocked by the sanctions.

"We do not engage in violence. We respect the police and the drivers – we did not have anything to do with setting the trucks on fire," she said. **HW**

Have a Simcha?

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Miami Mayor Helps Remove Anti-Israel Graffiti from Kosher Bagel Shop



Video of a man who vandalized a kosher bagel shop in Miami, June 2024. Credit: Miami Police Department.

(JNS) – Surveillance camera footage showed a man in a dark hoodie and shorts spray-painting "free Palestine" in red multiple times on the windows and door of Holy Bagels & Pizzeria, a kosher restaurant in Miami, as well as tearing down an Israeli flag.

The anti-Israel vandalism last Sunday was the fourth time one of Josh Nodel's restaurants has been vandalized, WSVN reported. Previously, his kosher Miami Beach shop, Bagel Time Cafe, was targeted.

Nodel told the television station that the graffiti was "devastating" and "disgusting," but that it would not deter his support for the Jewish state.

"We won't go to the gas chambers like happened in the Holocaust," he told WSVN.

This is the fourth time that one of Josh Nodel's restaurants has been vandalized due to his support for the Jewish state.

Nodel told the television station that he plans to fight anti-Israel fire with pro-Israel fire. "When they hurt us, we put more – we put two more flags, three more flags, five flags," he said. "We stand behind the war, we're not going to stop. We've got to do what the mission is, to get the hostages back home."

WSVN reported last Monday that Francis Suarez, the mayor of Miami, was one of several city officials who helped clean up the graffiti.

"Graffiti is not acceptable anywhere. It's against the law, but in particular when it's hateful and meant to offend a particular community, one that is a big part of our city," he told the television station. "I just felt it was my responsibility to come here and do this as quickly as possible."

Roy Altman, a U.S. district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, also pitched in.

"I decided to come out here because my grandparents lived through the Holocaust. This is how it started in the 1930s, with spray-painting and targeting of Jewish businesses, Jewish homes and Jewish families," he told WSVN. "We will never allow it to happen again in our country." **HW**

Missouri Judge Rejects Suit by Interfaith Clergy, Including Rabbis, that Challenged Abortion Ban

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A Missouri judge upheld the state's abortion ban last Friday, rejecting efforts by a group of 14 interfaith clergy, including rabbis, who sought to protect reproductive rights by suing the state on religious freedom grounds.

The faith leaders, among them five rabbis from multiple Jewish denominations, filed their suit in January 2023. They charged that lawmakers who voted to ban nearly all abortions acted according to their personal religious beliefs, violating the separation of church and state enshrined in Missouri's constitution. The so-called "trigger bill" went into effect after the Supreme Court removed federal abortion protections in 2022 in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

In his decision last Friday upholding Missouri's ban, St. Louis Circuit Court Judge Jason Sengheiser argued that the language of the state's abortion law is "similar" to the language of the state constitution, which also includes language like "Supreme Ruler of the Universe" and "Almighty God."

Sengheiser also noted that the bill paraphrases language famously found in the Declaration of Independence stating that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life..."

The petitioners had argued in their lawsuit that the bill established its own religion. But Sengheiser wrote that the main argument of abortion opponents is not exclusively a religious belief.

Hillary Weiss Samuels
Jeremiah McGuire
Sorrelle Dattel

"The Court does not accept Petitioners' argument that the determination that human life begins at conception is strictly a religious one," Sengheiser wrote. "While the determination that life begins at conception may run counter to some religious beliefs it is not itself necessarily a religious belief."

In a statement issued last Friday, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, speaking on behalf of the clergy members, said they "respectfully" disagreed with the judge's decision and would be discussing next steps with the faith leaders.

"Missouri's abortion ban is a direct attack on the separation of church and state, religious freedom and reproductive freedom," Americans United said in their statement. "Missouri lawmakers made clear that they were imposing their personal religious beliefs on all Missourians when they enacted these laws."

Jewish clergy nationwide – in Florida, Indiana and Kentucky as well as Missouri – have been fighting in court for reproductive rights since the Dobbs decision. Many have cited alleged religious freedom violations. An Indiana Court of Appeals ruled in April that the state's religious liberty protections may extend to those seeking an abortion, but the case will likely go to the state Supreme Court for a final ruling.

Sengheiser's decision was made the day after the U.S. Supreme Court voted in favor of protecting federal access to medication abortion. **HW**

Alan L. Kosten

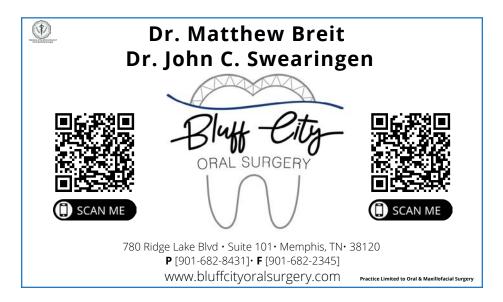
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Shipwreck Found Off Israeli Coast the Earliest Ever Discovered



(JNS) – The most ancient ship ever found in the deep sea has been discovered off Israel's northern coast, shedding light on trade more than three millennia ago and revealing the existence of advanced navigation skills in that era, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced last Thursday.

The 3,300-year-old ship's cargo, including hundreds of intact amphorae, was located 55 miles from shore at a depth of just over 1 mile, the state-run archaeological body said.

The dramatic find was uncovered during a standard seafloor survey last year by a leading natural gas company.

Sample vessels from the cargo were positively identified as coming from the Late Bronze Age Canaanite period, according to the IAA.

"The ship seems to have sunk in crisis, either due to a storm or to an attempted piracy attack – a well-known occurrence in the Late Bronze Age," said Jacob Sharvit, head of the IAA Marine Unit.

He called the find "a world-class, history-changing discovery."

"This find reveals to us, as never before, the ancient mariners' navigational skills – capable of traversing the Mediterranean Sea without a line of sight to any coast," he said. "To navigate they probably used the celestial bodies, by Canaanite jars are exposed to daylight after more than 3,300 years on the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. Credit: Emil Aladjem / Israel Antiquities Authority.

taking sightings and angles of the sun and star positions."

Only two other shipwrecks with cargo are known from the Late Bronze Age in the Mediterranean Sea, and both were found relatively near the shore, according to the IAA.

Based on the earlier finds, the academic assumption until now was that trade at that period was executed by safely moving from port to port, keeping the coastline within view.

"As part of our ongoing activity to discover and extract natural gas from the deep sea, we conduct surveys that check different parameters, using an advanced submersible robot to scour the seafloor," said Karnit Bahartan of the Energean hydrocarbon exploration company, which chanced on the site.

"About a year ago, during a survey, we saw the unusual sight...what seemed to be a large pile of jugs heaped on the seafloor...and when we sent [the IAA] the images it turned out to be a sensational discovery, far beyond what we could have imagined," she said.

The jugs were the most efficient means of transporting relatively cheap and mass-produced products such as oil, wine and other agricultural products such as fruit, said Sharvit.

The finds from the ancient ship will be displayed to the public in Jerusalem. **HW**

Where Will You Live as You Grow Older?

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

Many people would rather not think about the consequences of aging in general, much less the possibility that they might need help meeting their daily medical or personal needs in the future. Yet recent research projects that most Americans (56%) who are age 65 or older will require long-term care support and services in their lifetimes.¹

For this reason, there may come a time when you rethink the practicality of your living situation. And planning ahead could help ensure that you will have access to the type of care you need, in the setting that you prefer, as you age. Here are some common options to consider.

Your home

Given a choice, you might prefer to receive care in your own home, as it offers a measure of independence in a familiar environment. Family caregivers, friends, or paid workers could assist with everyday tasks, and professionals such as nurses and home health aides could provide home health care. In addition, a variety of community support services may be available, including adult day-care centers and transportation services.

Assisted living facilities

If you want to remain independent but need some help with activities of daily living on a regular basis, you might choose to live in an assisted living facility. These home-like facilities offer housing, meals, and custodial care (help with bathing, dressing, housecleaning, etc.) but generally not medical or nursing services.

Continuing care retirement com-

Also known as life plan communities, CCRCs provide a range of services – from independent living to full-time skilled nursing care – all in the same location, allowing you to age in place. The housing options offered by CCRCs may include townhouses or cottages for independent living, assisted living apartments, and nursing home accommodations.

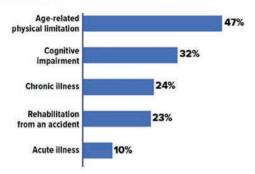
Nursing homes

Nursing homes are generally the most expensive (and least desirable) option, but they are often a last resort for those with serious health conditions who can no longer take care of themselves. State-licensed nursing facilities offer more specialized skilled care, custodial care, and intermediate care – which is for individuals who were hospitalized and require rehabilitation and additional support until they are well enough to return home.

1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2022

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After IDF Criticism, Netanyahu Reiterates Commitment to Hamas's Destruction

(JNS) – Israel's government and military remain fully committed to eliminating Hamas terrorist rule in the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office clarified last Wednesday evening.

The statement came after Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Channel 13 News that the government's war goal of ending Hamas rule in Gaza can only truly be accomplished by putting in place a viable alternative.

"The Security Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has defined the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities as one of the war's goals," stated the Prime Minister's Office. "The IDF, of course, is committed to this," the statement continued.

Hagari told Channel 13 that "Hamas is an idea" and that as such "anyone who thinks it can be eliminated is wrong."

What can be done, he said, is to "foster something else. Something that will make the population aware that someone else is distributing food and managing public services. Who will that be? What will it be? That's for the politicians to decide. But to truly weaken Hamas, this is the way."

The military spokesman stressed that the Iran-backed terrorist organization is "rooted in the hearts of the people" of Goza.

The IDF is close to defeating Hamas's final battalions in Rafah in southern Gaza, said Hagari. However, asked about efforts to return the remaining 120 hostages held in the Strip, he said it would be "impossible" to return all captives through military operations, adding that they should be freed "another way."

Israeli Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi, a member of Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party, tweeted in response to Hagari's interview, "The words of the IDF Spokesperson this evening are only a sign of the lax commanding spirit of the chief of staff and the defense minister."

"Instead of thinking that he is still [Benny] Gantz's and [Gadi] Eizenkot's bureau chief and talking from their throats, the IDF spokesperson should concentrate on strengthening our fighters," he wrote, in reference to Hagari's roles under the two former IDF chiefs of staff, who now serve in the opposition National Unity Party.

Following Netanyahu's statement, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit issued its own clarification, emphasizing that the army is "committed to achieving the goals of the war as defined by the Cabinet" and that it has been working on this "throughout the war, day and night, and will continue to do so."

IDF soldiers "fight with determination and persistence to destroy the military capabilities and the governmental and organizational infrastructure of Hamas in Gaza, a clear military goal," it added.

Hagari's comments, the military claimed, "referred to the destruction of Hamas as an ideology and an idea, and this was said by him very clearly and explicitly. ... any other claim is taking things out of context."

Meanwhile, a senior Hamas official told Qatar's "Al Jazeera" last Thursday that Hagari's words were "an admission that [Israel] has already failed.

The spokesman's "frank confession" will convince the international community that "the Hamas movement will remain in the political scene and will be a permanent part of the social fabric and the fabric of resistance," said Ghazi Hamad, a senior leader of the terror group.

Hagari's apparent criticism comes amid a growing dispute between the political and military echelons regarding the "day after" Hamas in Gaza.

The government led by Netanyahu is set to discuss a proposal under which the military would administer Gaza for six months to a year following the war, the "Kan News" broadcaster reported last month.

The plan under consideration calls for civilian rule through the IDF Civil Ad-

ministration and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, with local Arab companies providing services.

According to "Kan," Jerusalem is considering a gradual transfer of control to local bodies not considered hostile to the Jewish state.

Netanyahu said during an interview that aired on May 9 that he is seeking to establish a rule "by Gazans who are not committed to our destruction, possibly with the aid of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other countries that I think want to see stability and peace."

The defense establishment has stressed the need for the government to announce a clear alternative to Hamas, warning that a lack of decision-making could lead to the Iran-backed terror group returning to power.

Earlier last week, the IDF drew rebuke from elected officials after it announced daily 11-hour "tactical pauses" in military operations along a key aid route in the southern Strip.

During a subsequent Cabinet meeting, the premier was said to have told ministers, "We have a country with an army, not an army with a country," Channel 13 News reported last Sunday. "In order to achieve the elimination of Hamas, I have made decisions that aren't always accepted by the military echelon," he said. **HW**

'We Cannot Look Away,' Kamala Harris Says after White House Screening of Sheryl Sandberg Documentary on Oct. 7 Sexual Violence

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – WASHINGTON – Vice President Kamala Harris screened "Screams Before Silence" at the White House last Monday, in part to refute denialism of Hamas' sexual violence as exposed in the documentary produced by Sheryl Sandberg.

"We cannot look away and we will not be silent," Harris said ahead of the screening, to a room packed with representatives of women's and human rights groups. "My heart breaks for all these survivors and their families and for all the pain and suffering from the past eight months in Israel and in Gaza."

Sandberg, the former chief operating officer of social media giant Meta, produced the film to counter denialism of sexual violence that took place on Oct. 7, when Hamas terrorists massacred more than 1,200 people in Israel, and the sexual assault endured by some of the hostages Hamas terrorists abducted that day.

"Some pretty mainstream people are either ignoring or worse denying this happened," Sandberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the screening.

"So this aspect I think, gets to the heart of what people need to believe to understand what happened and what this kind of terror really is."

Sandberg's public condemnation of rape as an act of war in November and the subsequent documentary represent some of the most potent efforts in a broad campaign to call attention to the use of sexual violence on and after Oct. 7, which is a war crime. Jewish advocates pressed the United Nations for months to acknowledge and condemn Hamas' use of sexual violence before the body did so in March. A number of international women's organizations were also slow to recognize the sexual violence of Oct. 7, said Sheila Katz, the National Council of Jewish Women CEO who was present at the screening and counting the non-Jewish organizations in the room.

"Sheryl now has given us a platform to show interviews of what took place to make sure that more people can call this out and more people can engage with it," Katz said in an interview. Amit Soussana, a former hostage and one of the sexual assault survivors who is extensively interviewed in the film, appeared at the event.

"Being in captivity means having no control over your mind, body or soul," she said. "You have absolutely no control over what happens to you. All your basic human rights are taken from you. Even your feelings are completely controlled by someone else."

Soussana revealed after her release that one of her Hamas captors had assaulted her. "The sexual assault I experienced should never happen to any human being under any circumstances. No one should ever be sexually violated, and there are no justifying circumstances for these crimes," she said.

Soussana seemed to want to reassure the audience she was in recovery. "I don't see myself as a victim, I am a strong, independent woman, and no one can change that," she said, adding, "It will always be a part of my story, but in time the trauma will subside."

Harris and Sandberg both called for

an end to the war and the release of the hostages, of whom as many as 80 are thought to remain alive. "President Biden and I have made clear Hamas needs to accept the deal that is on the table for a ceasefire, which would bring the hostages home and lead up to a permanent end to hostilities," said Harris, who said she feared that more accounts of sexual violence would emerge as more hostages are freed.

President Joe Biden has blamed Hamas for the current impasse for the U.S.-proposed deal, which would start with a temporary ceasefire and an exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners, and then would possibly end the war. The Netanyahu government has not made clear whether it accepts the terms.

Harris framed the event as part of an initiative she is spearheading on raising awareness about conflict-related sexual violence. A panel of speakers of experts on sexual violence spoke that included Nadia Murad, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate who is a survivor of the Islamic State's genocide of the Yazidi people. **HW**

San Jose Sharks' Ryan Warsofsky Becomes First Jewish NHL Head Coach in 32 Years By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – For the first time in more than three decades, an NHL team will have a Jewish coach.

Last Thursday, Ryan Warsofsky was named head coach of the San Jose Sharks after previously serving as an assistant coach with the team. At 36, he is also the youngest coach in the 32-team league and faces a key decision early in his tenure: The Sharks, who had the worst record in the NHL last season, have the top pick in next week's NHL draft.

"This is an exciting time for myself, my family and the Sharks organization to move forward," Warsofsky said in an emotional introductory press conference last Monday afternoon.

Warsofsky's promotion adds onto the growing Jewish presence in the league, whose postseason is crescendoing to a

close this week as the Edmonton Oilers face the Florida Panthers in the Stanley Cup Finals. There were at least 15 Jewish players on the ice this season – from the Oilers' winger Zach Hyman to brothers Jack, Luke and Quinn Hughes to the Sharks' own center, Luke Kunin.

Warsofsky is a native of Marshfield, Mass. His brother, David, who played parts of five seasons in the NHL, told the Canadian Jewish News' "Menschwarmers" podcast that their father is Jewish and that growing up, his family celebrated Hanukkah with their grandparents.

Warsofsky played one professional season in 2011-2012, split between a number of lower-level leagues in the U.S. and the Netherlands. He began his coaching career the following year as an assistant at his alma mater, Division III

Curry College in Milton, Mass. From there, he spent five seasons, including two as a head coach, with minor league teams before moving up to the American Hockey League, where he led two different teams over four seasons and won two championships.

He joined the Sharks as an assistant coach in 2022. Last year, he served as an assistant coach for Team USA in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship, where the U.S. team finished fourth.

The last time the league saw a Jewish coach was during the 1992-1993 season, when NHL veteran Bob Plager served as head coach of the St. Louis Blues for all of 11 games, according to the Jewish Baseball Museum (which tracks notable Jewish moments in other sports as well).

Before Plager, the most notable Jewish NHL coach was Cecil Hart, who led the Montreal Canadiens for nine seasons in the 1920s and 1930s and won backto-back Stanley Cup titles in 1930 and 1931. The NHL's Hart Memorial Trophy, given annually to the league's most valuable player, was donated by Hart's father, David. Hart is also a member of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

But soon, Warsofsky may be joined by another Jewish head coach. To get the Sharks job, he beat out Jeff Halpern, an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Lightning since 2018 who has been linked to multiple head coaching vacancies in recent years, including the Sharks'. Halpern played 14 seasons in the NHL and is a member of the Greater Washington Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. **HW**

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My Wife, the Personal Trainer



Editor's note: This story is being reprinted in memory of Ted Roberts in appreciation of his longtime service as a newspaper columnist.

Ted Roberts

My Personal Trainer Wife She's the love of my life She's my personal trainer wife

Don't go to the gym today; instead go grocery shopping with your wife. You'll get more exercise.

Students of wife-directed grocery tours say you are sure to burn at least a thousand calories. Maybe more if the wife is hunting the exotic ingredients of a festive meal.

My fat friend, Rob, lost 10 pounds in a single month, with only three grocery tours. They call him shinnybob now, in fact some health organizations have forsaken their facilities full of equipment and sponsored multiple grocery store tours.

I know it has helped me, like we're on

aisle 2 and she sends me to fetch garlic powder – she thinks maybe on aisle 12.

But she has no idea where it is. So, you have to prowl the aisles 2 through 12: the distance of 10 or so football fields. You're lucky she didn't need a 50-pound sack of potatoes only 500 yards away on 7. Or maybe you are not so lucky since 1000 yards with a 50-pound sack of taters equals 2 hours on a stationary bike or 20 reps with an 80-pound bar bell. There are many forms of healthy exercise.

Why not a 5-pound sack of sugar on the next aisle. Or an 8-ounce box of cereal from the aisle we are on. No, she needs that 50-pound sack of potatoes that's a half-mile away: she's my personal trainer wife you know.

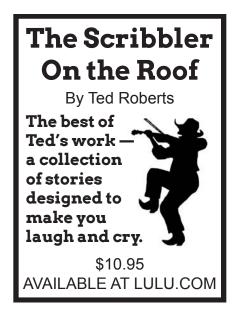
But that's not the end of your workout. The potatoes or other exercise equipment (groceries) have to be stowed in the car and eventually brought into the house (You can postpone it into tomorrow and stretch your workout to a 2-day muscle maker. That doesn't hurt a bit.)

Once in a while she pressures me to accompany her to Marshalls or Target. But I, the wily workout devotee, know such a workout is not near as healthy as

my grocery program. What kind of exercise is it to lug a half-pound sweater from the store to car and then from car to house? Big Deal!

My lovely wife never ignores me when it's time for a grocery marathon. But sometimes she "forgets" to mention the purpose of the trip: "Come on hon, take a ride with me." I jump in the passenger seat and soon realize, by the route, that we're headed to that gym where they sell sacks of potatoes as well as 2-ounce bottles of garlic powder. Too late (and I went to a real gym yesterday) what am I going to do? Bail out? Sometimes I develop a headache, that usual ally of unresponsive wives, and must be taken home immediately. Of course, my personal trainer, when she gets home won't excuse me from the car to kitchen segment of the workout. But I do ask her: "Why do we need 50 pounds of taters?" Why not a couple bags of chips? I get a stare in return and a speech on the benefits of weightlifting.

Once I jumped in the car around lunch time for a "juicy hamburger smothered in lettuce, tomato and mayo" and ended up wrestling a 100-pound coffee table into the trunk – then dragging it into



the living room. Better than a destination-free ride on a stationary bike says my personal trainer wife. She knows what is best for me. That's why she takes me shopping. I'm a lucky man.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. **HW**

Former Peace Activist Kidnapped by Hamas: 'I Don't Believe in Peace'

(JNS) – A longtime peace activist who was kidnapped from southern Israel by Hamas on Oct. 7 and held hostage for 53 days told the BBC last Wednesday that she had lost her belief in coexistence with the Palestinians.

"I don't believe in peace, I don't, sorry," Ada Sagi said in her first interview with the British press since being freed in November. "I understand Hamas don't want it."

Sagi, a 75-year-old member of Kibbutz Nir Oz on the border with Gaza, learned Arabic to make friends with nearby Palestinians and taught others the language as a way to promote reconciliation with Gaza.

On Oct. 7, Sagi was kidnapped from the kibbutz during the Hamas-led invasion and was held in a family home in Gaza until she was released as part of the hostage-for-ceasefire deal with Hamas on Nov. 28.

Sagi told the BBC last Wednesday that, in the wake of the worldwide response to Hamas's massacre, she now believes the world hates Jews.

In interviews with Israeli media earlier this month, the former captive revealed that Hamas is paying Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip up to 70 shekels (\$19) a day to watch over Israeli hostages taken on Oct. 7.

Asked on June 2 by Israel's Channel 12 News what would motivate a Gaza family with children to imprison Jews, Sagi said: "Money.

"I asked the owner of the apartment twice; he and the children looked after us. I saw that the apartment owner was receiving Israeli cash," she said. "He was pleased the day that [hostage] Elad Katzir came to us, after 33 days, because I understood he received [payment] per capita."

Sagi recalled an exchange with her captor. "He said: 'I want a better future for my children and wife. I want to buy visas and not stay here; I want to go to Europe.' He said: 'I am uninvolved.' I said: 'How do you mean uninvolved if you took my freedom, and I'm sitting here in your apartment?""

According to Sagi, Palestinians who also work receive 20 shekels (\$5) a day to guard the hostages, while unemployed students get a payment of 70 shekels (\$19) from the terrorist organization for doing the same.

Sagi told Channel 12 that the youth

she encountered during her 52 days in Gaza were "thrilled to go to their parents and bring them the money."

In March, Nir Oz resident Irit Lahav, who used to belong to a group of volunteers who would drive Palestinians in need of medical treatment from Gaza to Israeli hospitals, told local media that she had come to understand that Hamas terrorists represent the Palestinian people.

"I used to think Palestinians were good people, like you and me. That Hamas were thugs who got in the way of the population's desire for a good life," said Lahav. "After Oct. 7, I realized I was wrong."

Kibbutz Nir Oz was among the hardest hit during Hamas's Oct. 7 assault. One in every four residents was either killed or kidnapped. **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Hybrid Israelis

By Howard Weisband

Dr. Micah Goodman is a prominent Israeli educator, researcher, philosopher, author, and frequent podcaster. On a podcast in March, he used the term "hybrid Israelis." These Israelis he described as "very patriotic (read conservative) and very liberal, and they feel comfortable... living in this tension. They might feel comfortable also with different tribes, secular and religious, soft right, soft left, to build the new coalition that could rebuild Israel."

(Quoted from the AI transcript of the Dan Senor podcast "Call Me Back," March 6. If you are a podcast listener, Senor's interviews are highly recommended. He co-authored two books "Start-Up Nation" and "The Genius of Israel," and he's a keen commentator of the Israeli scene.)

Goodman returned to the Senor podcast on June 17 in a fascinating interview titled "Divisions in Israeli Society," wherein he examined his belief that October 7 and the current war will reshape Israeli politics. He emphasized societal realities that often are underlying the tensions among political players and parties.

Pessimistic about the short term,

Goodman is optimistic with the long term. He says that Israelis don't trust the current "pure right-wing Government," yet there remains a solidarity among the people, the hybrid Israelis, who back the overall goals of the war.

These hybrid Israelis include those left of center through those right of center, those who are religious, and those who are secular. It is these people who are traumatized by the pure right-wing Government presently in power. First there was the trauma of the radical judicial reform brought to light soon after the Government came to power. Then since October 7, the Israeli people showed true solidarity with the war effort, while ironically the Government is showing cracks and a possible internal break-up. Seemingly, the electoral base is looking for early elections.

These tensions are now coming to a head during the war, perhaps because of the war. Goodman categorizes these tensions, and others, as "the traumatic memory of a pure right-wing Government." This will have an ongoing impact upon the electorate and future elections, the results of which will impact coalition building in the coming months and years.

Goodman provided an analysis of the Haredi sector and how it is being affected by the war. While more flexible options for a stronger Haredi draft are being discussed and to a large extent being opposed by Haredi rabbis and politicians, Goodman observes that the younger Haredi community members are wanting to oppose many of the initiatives of their elders. However, they still are unable to confront these issues publicly due to Haredi norms and values.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to deflect attention away from the draft law, Hare-di politicians, led by Shas, have reintroduced their efforts to pass the "Rabbi Law." According to the "Jerusalem Post" editorial of June 19, criticizing the initiative, the proposal would "give the Chief Rabbinate and the Religious Services Ministry (headed by Shas) control over appointments of government paid municipal and neighborhood rabbis, instead of the current system where the cities themselves have the power to appoint their rabbis."

Understandably, local city officials, politicians themselves, throughout the country have risen in opposition to such legislation. They are joined by a signif-

icant number of Likud Knesset and coalition members, including Nir Barkat, who have announced that they would not support the bill. That forced Netanyahu to withdraw the bill, realizing he didn't have the numbers to approve it. Aryeh Deri, leader of Shas and normally an ally of Bibi, is angered and threatening to withdraw from the coalition.

The Prime Minister countered in a public video message as reported by the "Times of Israel" on June 19, in which he said: "We are at war on several fronts, and we face great challenges and difficult decisions. Therefore, I strongly demand that all coalition partners get a grip and rise to the occasion."

Upcoming elections? Maybe. Stay tuned.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

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Israelis Seeking Green Cards Face Hostile Questions About IDF Service



An Israeli passport with visa and entry stamps. Credit: Israel Travel

(JNS) – Israelis applying for U.S. green cards (permanent resident cards) are reporting the introduction of a new line of questioning regarding their military service.

While visitors to the United States have been asked basic questions about their military service before, it appears the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has singled out Israelis with a new policy.

Attorney Liam Schwartz, head of the relocation department at Tel Aviv-based law firm Goldfarb, Gross, Seligman & Co., told "Ynet" the new policy is "intended to 'catch' military personnel and police officers who participated in arrests in Judea and Samaria."

The hunt for information may also be used "by the authorities for the purpose of formulating their position in relation to acts defined as genocide," he told "Ynet."

Yuval, identified as a senior manager at a Silicon Valley high-tech firm, received a letter from U.S. immigration services demanding more information about his military service before it could reach a final decision in his case.

"You must submit an affidavit under oath, describing your military service," the letter stated. "As part of this affidavit, the following questions must be addressed: Did you participate as a combatant in battles during your military service? If so, please describe your activity/role in these battles."

It also asked for details about his command, whether he ever guarded detainees and the types of weapons and explosives he used.

"For me, the feeling is as if questions were copied from the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague," he said.

Yuval was given 87 days to submit the

affidavit or face deportation.

Those applying for visas at a U.S. Embassy outside Israel also may face a grilling, "Ynet" reported, offering the example of Roital, who decided to continue a European trip to America.

She applied for a tourist visa at an American consulate in Western Europe.

"I was in an interview that lasted more than half an hour, and all the questions referred to my combat service. The interviewer was very curious about my training and skills in weapons and explosives and wanted to know details about the reserves in Gaza," she said.

"In the end, the guy left the window for about 10 minutes, I could see he was talking passionately with someone else. He returned, handed me the passport, said, 'You are not eligible for a visa today' and closed the window blinds."

Ofer, vice president of North American marketing for a real estate company, told "Ynet" about his experience two weeks ago with customs officials upon entering the United States.

Arriving at Los Angeles International Airport, he was ushered into a room for further interrogation after presenting his Israeli passport.

"They opened my laptop. Looked up a Google Chrome account with the name of my [IDF] unit and called a translator. There was nothing classified there. Just correspondence about the unit's treatment of evacuees from several localities. It's just that there was a lot of such correspondence. I sat for four hours until they decided I could collect my things and leave," he told "Ynet."

"In the meantime, I missed the con-

necting flight, and I waited another six hours until the next flight. I travel so much to the United States, I have never been bullied like this as an Israeli," he said.

When viewed in the context of other moves against Israeli citizens by the Biden administration towards Israel, it is a reasonable assumption that the inhospitable stance towards Israeli visitors comes directly from the White House.

The State Department has sanctioned Israeli individuals and groups, most recently Tzav 9, an Israeli organization protesting against aid trucks to Gaza, arguing that the supplies end up in the hands of Hamas.

In a June 14 press statement announcing the sanctions, the U.S. State Department described Tzav 9 as "a violent, extremist Israeli group that has been blocking, harassing and damaging convoys carrying lifesaving humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians in Gaza."

Mark Zell, chairman of Republicans Overseas Israel, who announced that he would take the U.S. government to court for sanctioning four Israelis in February, told JNS that the executive order was an "overreach" by the Biden administration.

"None of this falls under U.S. jurisdiction," he said. "The Biden administration is trying to shut down organizations such as Tzav 9 and Regavim using an executive order, which is improper, illegal and unconstitutional."

Regavim monitors and pursues legal action against illegal Arab construction in Judea and Samaria. **HW**

Israelis Believe Themselves Less Divided Than in 2023

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Although Israeli society is divided in many ways, Israelis see themselves as more unified in 2024 than they were in the prior year in several areas, according to data from the Pew Research Center.

Many fewer Israelis (28%) see "very strong" conflicts between Israeli Jews and Arabs this year than did last year (46%). Israelis are also less likely to see intense conflict between religious and non-religious Jews (18% compared to 29%), and among those on the political left and right (24% to 32%) in 2024, compared to 2023.

Pew surveyed 1,001 Israelis, all over the age of 18, face-to-face between March 3 and April 4. It did so in Hebrew and Arabic but was unable to poll people in Gaza and Judea and Samaria "due to security concerns."

In other ways, Pew reported significant divides between Jewish and Arab Israelis, including the belief that the national government is doing what's in the country's best interest. Some 61% of Jewish Israelis (up from 53% in 2017) had that trust in the national government, while Arab Israelis were less likely (23%) to do so compared to in 2017 (44%).

Jewish Israelis were also likelier in 2024 (93%) than in 2007 (77%) to say that the Israel Defense Forces was having a "very" or "somewhat good" impact on how things are going in the state, while the number of Arab Israelis who thought the Israeli military is having at least a "somewhat good" influence dropped from 57% in 2007 to 34% in 2024, according to Pew's data.

In 2024, Jewish Israelis were likelier to see new communities in Judea

and Samaria as helpful to Israeli security (49% in 2024 compared to 31% in 2013), and they were less likely in 2024 to believe that an independent Palestinian state could coexist alongside Israel (19%) than in 2023 (32%).

According to the new Pew data, Jewish (74%) and Arab (9%) Israelis had the most favorable views of Yoav Gallant, the defense minister, within the coalition government, followed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – whom 51% of Israeli Jews saw favorably, compared to 7% of Arab Israelis – and then Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich (45% favorable among Jews and 5% among Arabs) and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir (42% and 1%, respectively). National Unity Party leader Benny Gantz had a 56% favorability rating among Jewish Israelis and 30% among Arab Israelis.

Arab and Jewish Israelis were about evenly concerned about their own security in Judea and Samaria.

Some 94% of Jewish Israelis were at least somewhat concerned about violence against Jews in Judea and Samaria, and 70% were "extremely" or "very" worried. Sixty-seven percent of Arab Israelis were at least somewhat concerned about violence against Jews in Judea and Samaria, with 43% expressing extreme concern.

Those numbers flipped with respect to Arab safety in Judea and Samaria. Some 93% of Arabs were at least somewhat concerned about violence against Arabs in Judea and Samaria (73% were "extremely" or "very" worried). In comparison, just 39% of Jewish Israelis had that concern at least somewhat (and just 19% were very worried). HW

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Israel Rejects UN Official's Explanation for Leaving Hamas's Use of Human Shields Out of Report



Virginia Gamba, special representative of the U.N. secretary-general for children and armed conflict, briefs reporters at U.N. headquarters on June 13, 2024. Credit: Mark Garten/U.N. Photo

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jewish state's mission to the United Nations reacted harshly to a U.N. official's claim that a limited word count was responsible for the exclusion of Hamas's usage of human shields from a controversial blacklist that included Israel.

Virginia Gamba, special representative to U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres for children and armed conflict, briefed reporters last Thursday about the annual Children and Armed Conflict report, which is also known as the "list of shame."

JNS asked Gamba why the report she compiled contained only one sentence on Hamas's use of human shields, which is central to the terrorist group's military strategy and to understanding the casualty toll of Gazan children in Israel's war against Hamas.

"If we put everything in the annual report on every situation, it will have at least 1,000 pages," Gamba told JNS. "We have to choose very carefully what makes it to the report or not, if the figures must go there, as much context as possible."

"But we have always been deterred from putting into context each one of these paragraphs because of word count," the U.N. official added. "Perhaps by saying it here, I will be heard."

Gamba said that she asked for waivers on the word count for her annual report, which is dictated by U.N. Security Council resolutions and other restrictions, and which she called "inappropriate."

"It is mostly a financial issue and an issue of a standard across the U.N. system," she said. "I'm not saying that if I had more room, you would have more answers."

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs didn't buy that explanation.

"As was evident in the press conference and as was stated by Israel time and again, the CAAC report is riddled with methodological problems, double standards and inaccuracies," the ministry stated.

"Limited word count and budget restrictions are a pale excuse for the U.N.'s basic failure, of making a grotesque and false moral equivalency between Hamas and the IDF," the ministry stated. "This is yet another glaring example of the moral bankruptcy the U.N. has reached under Secretary-General Guterres's leadership."

'Hamas has been exploiting Palestinian children'

Gilad Erdan, Israel's U.N. ambassador, stated that "the fact that the secretary-general doesn't care that Hamas uses children as human shields and wants them to be killed and ignores that Hamas has been exploiting Palestinian children for terror attacks says everything one needs to know about his bias and hatred of Israel."

"The secretary-general's illegitimate report, which doesn't focus on Hamas's use of children as human shields, is fundamentally distorted," Erdan added. "All the secretary-general has done is incentivize terrorists around the world

to involve children in their terror attacks."

"Sadly, more children will be killed because of the secretary-general's distorted and immoral approach," the Israeli diplomat said.

JNS also asked Gamba about part of the report on children maimed by tear gas inhalation, which appeared to apply only to the Jewish state. Such inhalation appeared to account for the majority of the alleged Israeli maiming violations, but, JNS noted in its question, does not seem to fit the report's definition of maiming. JNS also asked about other alleged violations related to access to medical care, which the report seemed to leave unexplained.

Gamba did not address reporting of tear gas violations directly. She told JNS that there are co-chairs of the working group, or task force, assigned to each country on matters related to the Children and Armed Conflict report, and it is up to them to report violations to her. Those reports use what she admitted are outdated guidelines.

"The monitoring and reporting methodology is unique in that it is a standard, it is old," she said. "It is from 2005, but it has to be kept very strictly, and it is very strictly done."

Regarding the reporting of denial of medical care, Gamba told JNS that she ordered clearer technical reporting guidelines to be used in the future and that Israel had been cooperative with her in improving the process throughout last year. **HW**



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