

**KEEP MEMPHIS JEWISH JOURNALISM ALIVE!**  
**SUBSCRIBE. ADVERTISE. CONTRIBUTE.**  
**901.763.2215**  
**INFO@HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM**

THE

Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM12 TAMMUZ, 5784JULY 18, 2024VOL. 102, NO. 44

# Federation Microgrants Facilitate Meaningful Impact



Numerous Church Health employees attended a film screening.

Since the October 7 massacre, Jewish communities across the globe and here in Memphis have witnessed and have been affected by an alarming rise in antisemitism. Memphis Jewish Federation (Federation) is working on several educational and programming fronts to counteract the harmful effects of antisemitic acts and attitudes.

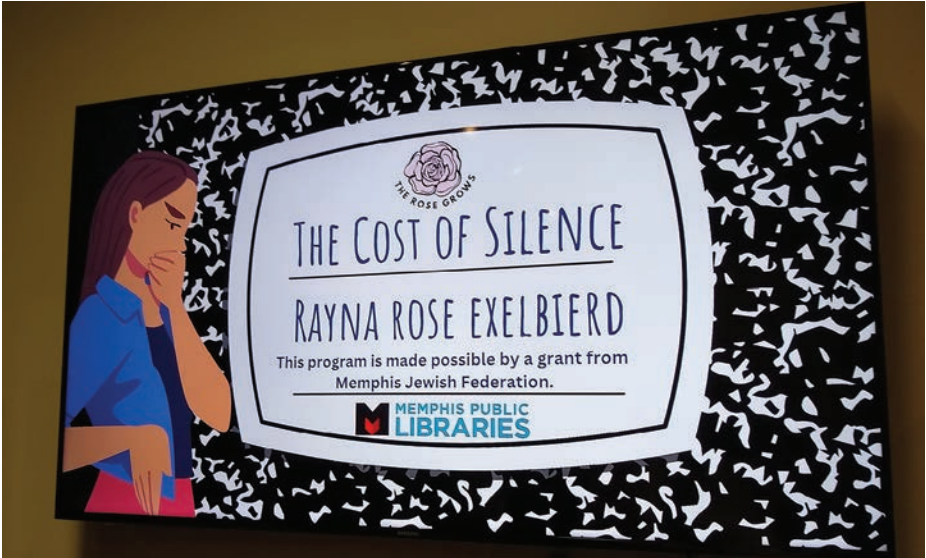
The Antisemitism Microgrants Initiative is one of Federation’s key programs, which gives local organizations monies for antisemitism awareness and education programs.

Recipients of 2023-2024 Federation antisemitism microgrants included Church Health, Facing History & Ourselves, Junior League of Memphis, the Benjamin J. Hooks Central Library, Memphis University School, and Memphis Friends of Israel. Margolin Hebrew

Academy and the Memphis Jewish Community Center also received microgrants.

Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, Federation Executive Vice-President, remarked, “I am particularly proud of Federation’s Antisemitism Microgrants Initiative. The funds awarded help Memphians build their understanding of what antisemitism means and what they can do to address it. We know these microgrants are creating positive change.”

In the broader Memphis community, the grants helped to support antisemitism workshops led by Facing History & Ourselves for local teachers and Junior League members, a Jewish cultural awareness session for teens attending a diversity camp at the Memphis Public Library, Memphis University School faculty and student participation at a state “Tearing Down the Walls” confer-



Rayna Exelbier hosts an educational workshop for teens at Memphis Central Public Library.

ence, and a film screening and discussion for Church Health staff.

Regarding the antisemitism workshop, Michelle Nixon, senior director of development for Junior League commented: “The ladies raved about it. The members have asked for another training session. Thank you for making this possible.”

In the Memphis Jewish community, the grants initiative supported Margolin Hebrew Academy (MHA) teens attending a national antisemitism conference, an intergenerational program at Memphis Jewish Community Center that provided strategies to combat antisem-

itism, and a Jewish-Christian antisemitism educational program sponsored by Memphis Friends of Israel.

MHA Executive Director Brandy Flack noted that the grant “... was instrumental in improving our high school’s staff approach to and awareness of antisemitism. It also helped implement a new antisemitism and anti-bullying curriculum for the high school.”

Microgrant applications for 2024-2025 are available at [jcpmemphis.org/antisemitism](http://jcpmemphis.org/antisemitism). For more information, contact Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein at [bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org) or call 901-767-7100. **HW**

# Registration Now Open for ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest

## Aug. 25 event at Baron Hirsch to offer activities for all ages

By Amara Levine-Reich

Attention, pitmasters! It’s time to register your team for the 33rd Annual ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest, which will be held Sunday, Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Baron Hirsch Congregation.

Nearly 40 teams are expected to compete for top honors in the barbecued ribs, brisket, chicken wings and beans categories, as well as overall BBQ grand champion. The teams’ delectable creations – which must be prepared at the synagogue under rabbinic supervision to ensure adherence to kosher dietary laws – will be judged blindly by a panel of barbecue aficionados. Prizes will also be given for creativity in team name and booth design.

“The ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest is truly the world championship of such events,” said Eric Mogy, who ran the event for more than 10 years. “Other cities have attempted to replicate the formula we developed in Memphis over 30 years ago, but ours remains the original and the highest honor.

“In years past, the competing teams have reflected the full spectrum of Jewish Memphis and the diversity of the local and national foodie community. The ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest is the rare occasion that brings people together to celebrate our Jewish and Southern culinary traditions and enjoy some friendly competition,” Mogy said.

Each registered team will have use of two grills and a smoker during the BBQ Contest. They will also have the opportunity to order their ingredients through the synagogue in advance of the competition.

Teams wishing to participate in the ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest must submit their registration by Thursday, Aug. 1. The signup form and team manual are available on the event website (listed below).

Food and fun for the whole family  
The BBQ Contest isn’t the only competition on the menu for Aug. 25. The event will also feature a basketball tournament and a kosher pickle eating contest (sponsored by Nahon, Saharovich,

& Trotz, Attorneys at Law).

The basketball tournament, sponsored by Elana and Josh Kahane, will include three-on-three game play and shooting contests for free throws (sponsored by Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC) and three-pointers (sponsored by Rick Baer Realty). Competitors will be grouped by age bracket, with contests for kids and adults. Advance registration is required; the tournament signup form and details are available on the website.

Throughout the event, kosher barbecued beef and chicken sandwiches, hamburgers and other tasty offerings will be available for purchase at the Cowsher Café. Additionally, the Kiddie Corral – sponsored by Baptist Medical Group and the Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children’s Hospital – will feature a variety of family-friendly fun, including a petting zoo, bounce house, train rides, face painting and more.

The ASBEE BBQ Contest and Festival continues a beloved tradition of more than three decades that was started by the legacy Anshei Sphard-Beth El



Emeth Congregation, which has joined forces with Baron Hirsch.

Highland Capital and Olymbec are presenting sponsors of the 33rd Annual ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival. Admission to the event is free, though some activities may cost a nominal amount. All are welcome to attend.

“Aug. 25 promises to be an exciting day of great food, entertainment and

(See ASBEE BBQ Page 2)



# How to Help Israeli Teens Enjoy a Break from the War

By Shoshana Cencer

As the war continues, school-aged Israeli teens are in desperate need of a respite. Some normalcy. A space to be a kid and enjoy the summer.

For Beis Yaakov girls in Israel in grades 7-11, Camp Shevach may be that place. For 10 blissful days in July, the teens will enjoy trips, color war, sports, fitness, nature explorations, performing arts, and more.

“Girls explore deeper aspects of themselves,” explained Shevy Resnick, director of Camp Shevach, “and each member of our staff is handpicked as ideal role models.”

The girls who have attended the camp have glowing remarks: “Camp lifts me up,” “It’s my happy place,” “Shevach is super inspiring,” “It’s the best family,” “We have fun and grow spiritually,” and “It’s such a warm atmosphere.”

The challenge, however, that many of the girls face is paying for such a fantastic camp. With families’ funds dedicated to various war efforts and perhaps some parents now unable to work, among other difficulties, the finances are a hardship, at ~\$1,000 per teen (~ 4,200 sh-kalim).

Camp Shevach is seeking sponsorships/donations to help send deserving girls to camp — so they can breathe, laugh, play. And maybe lighten the pressure of what it’s like living in a country dealing with its longest conflict since the 1948 War of Independence.

“It’s the best experience ever! Camp Shevach strengthened my ruchnius (Jewish connection), and it was crazy fun!” said camper Aliza Pinkus. “It gave



me the ability to let loose in a safe and secure place. We had stress all year — to me, camp equals happy, freedom, care-free!”

“Shevach is absolutely a concept and not just a camp,” added Tehillah, Aliza’s sister. “Camp to me means... home. It gave me strength for the year ahead.”

Camp Shevach is the place for all girls: wallflowers, leaders, life of the party, cool, nerdy, Torah learned, spiritual, out-of-the-box thinkers, and everyone in between.

“The flourishing, the growth, that’s real. The girls who don’t really believe they have what to contribute, the shy quiet girl standing on the sideline. They suddenly find themselves in an environment so explosive with positive energy, excitement, and true joy — without the usual judgmental stares and comments,” said Leah Schwartz, a Shevach supporter. “They find themselves suddenly able to let go, reach within themselves, and shock everyone with their beautiful, rich inner world — with their creativity, ability to sing, dance, paint, head a fierce hashkafic debate, act, throw incredible food fights, and more!”

To donate or sponsor a teen, please email Shevy at Shevachcamp@gmail.com [HW](#)

## ASBEE BBQ...

(Continued From Page 1)

camaraderie,” said Ryan Lubin, who is co-chairing the event with Alex Sukhodolsky. “We look forward to welcoming our contest competitors and hundreds of community members to the ASBEE BBQ at Baron Hirsch.”

For additional information about the event, contest registration and sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, visit [baronhirsch.org/asbeekosherbbq](http://baronhirsch.org/asbeekosherbbq), email [asbeebbq@baronhirsch.org](mailto:asbeebbq@baronhirsch.org) or call Baron Hirsch at 901-683-7485. [HW](#)

# Congressman David Kustoff Meets with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Addresses Members of the Knesset, and Visits Sites of Oct. 7 Attack

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN), Chairman of the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group, traveled to Israel at the invitation of Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana to officially launch the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group in Jerusalem.

Congressman Kustoff delivered a historic address to members of the Knesset

to reiterate the United States’ support for Israel’s efforts to eradicate Hamas and other Iranian-backed genocidal terrorist groups.

Following the address, Kustoff met with Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu, to discuss Israeli defense efforts in the North against Hezbollah and the success of the war in Gaza. Additionally, Kustoff reassured

# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

Established September, 1925  
By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
PO Box 770846  
Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Office: 901.763.2215  
Direct: 901.827.7244

[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)

Susan C. Nieman  
Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman  
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman  
Office Manager & Subscriptions  
[toni@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:toni@hebrewwatchman.com)

Rebecca Schudel  
Social Media Director  
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

The Hebrew Watchman is a  
Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency,  
and Jewish News Service

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
(USPS #807-360) is published  
weekly every Thursday  
for \$36 per year by  
JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc.  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
PO Box 770846  
Memphis, TN 38177-0846  
Periodical postage paid at  
Memphis, Tenn.

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to:  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
PO Box 770846  
Memphis, TN 38177-0846

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Memphis and Mid-South \$36  
Out-of-State \$50  
Payable in Advance

Subscriptions  
[toni@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:toni@hebrewwatchman.com)

Submissions  
Send editorial submissions  
(calendar items, news releases,  
event photos, and letters to the  
editor) at least 9 days prior to  
publication date to  
[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)

Advertising  
For advertising rates and specs,  
contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or  
[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)

Simchas  
Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs,  
birthdays, engagement,  
anniversaries  
[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)

Obituaries  
901.763.2215  
[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)


PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must  
give permission for any material  
contained herein to be copied or  
reproduced in any manner without  
express permission of THE HEBREW  
WATCHMAN. The publication of any  
advertisement in this edition does  
not constitute an endorsement of  
the advertisers’ product, kashrut  
or services by this publication. The  
opinions of contributors do not  
necessarily reflect those of THE  
HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the  
publishers be held responsible for any  
errors.  
7/18/2024



## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. July 19, 2024 / 13 Tammuz, 5784 ..... 7:54 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. July 20, 2024 / 14 Tammuz, 5784 ..... 8:54 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Balak



**Brian Lurie**  
Broker, Vice-President  
GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

Cell: 901.315.2298  
Office: 901.260.4780


[Blurie2003@gmail.com](mailto:Blurie2003@gmail.com)  
[BestRealEstateAgentinMemphis.com](http://BestRealEstateAgentinMemphis.com)  
[www.BluffCityBuilders.com](http://www.BluffCityBuilders.com)

**CRYE-LEIKE, REALTORS®**

LET ME SELL YOUR HOME!

“ Brian is a hard worker and is very dedicated to his profession. I am impressed with his work ethic, and his tenacious attitude toward getting our property sold! We would definitely recommend him to anyone interested in a top notch agent that will navigate the home selling/buying process! ”

SATISFIED CUSTOMER  
★★★★★

 Official Real Estate Agent of The Memphis Tigers

**BRIT-MILAH**  
RITUAL CIRCUMCISIONS



**Rabbi Levi Y. Klein**  
Certified Mohel  
Pediatrician Recommended  
Over 20 Years of Experience

Member of the American Board of Ritual Circumcision

[Mohel@JewishMemphis.com](mailto:Mohel@JewishMemphis.com)  
**901-754-0404**







# Democratic Socialists Pull Endorsement of Ocasio-Cortez after She Hosts Panel on Antisemitism



New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at a campaign rally in the Bronx, June 22, 2024. Credit: Luke Tress

By Luke Tress

(New York Jewish Week) – The Democratic Socialists of America dropped its endorsement of New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she hosted a panel discussion on antisemitism. The DSA said in a statement last Tuesday that it was rescinding its conditional endorsement of Ocasio-Cortez’s reelection campaign after she “conflated anti-Zionism with antisemitism and condemned boycotting Zionist institutions” during the discussion she sponsored last month. “This sponsorship is a deep betrayal to all those who’ve risked their welfare to fight Israeli apartheid and genocide through political and direct action,” the statement said. Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat, condemned antisemitism in the public

discussion with two Jewish activists – Amy Spitalnick, the CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and Stacy Burdett, a former senior official at the Anti-Defamation League and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. “Antisemitism, hate and violence against Jews because of their identity is real and it is dangerous,” Ocasio-Cortez said during the discussion. “When the Jewish community is threatened, the progressive movement is undermined.” She also accused her critics of “weaponizing” antisemitism, saying, “False accusations of antisemitism are wielded against people of color and women of color by bad-faith political actors.” Spitalnick lashed the DSA for pulling the endorsement. “The fact that our – nuanced, com-

plex, and frank – conversation on antisemitism is somehow beyond the pale for DSA should tell you everything you need to know,” she wrote in a post on X. JCPA, which promotes liberal causes, also supports Israel as the Jewish homeland and opposes efforts to undermine what it describes as “the Jewish people’s right to self-determination.” DSA said its National Political Committee had voted to endorse Ocasio-Cortez on June 23, two weeks after the panel, as long as she publicly opposed all funding to Israel, including for the Iron Dome missile defense system; opposed “all criminalization of anti-Zionism;” and backed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement targeting Israel. The national branch of the DSA said it had withdrawn the endorsement this week after receiving a request to do so from the party’s New York City branch and because Ocasio-Cortez was not meeting the party’s conditions. She will remain endorsed by DSA’s New York City chapter, the party said. The national branch of the DSA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on that discrepancy. DSA took issue with other actions by Ocasio-Cortez, such as voting in favor of a House resolution that acknowledged Israel’s right to exist, while praising some of her pro-Palestinian activities, including labeling the war in Gaza a “genocide.” Ocasio-Cortez is a member of the so-called “Squad,” a group of progressive lawmakers who are some of Israel’s

harshest critics in Congress. The war in Gaza has opened fissures on the left, and it has sparked tensions between Ocasio-Cortez and DSA in the past. The party’s New York branch has made anti-Israel activism a centerpiece of its politics since Oct. 7. New York City’s DSA sponsored an anti-Israel Oct. 8 rally in Times Square that was widely condemned by Democratic party leaders, including Ocasio-Cortez, who said, “It should not be hard to shut down hatred and antisemitism where we see it.” The party, and Ocasio-Cortez, backed the Democratic primary campaign of New York Rep. Jamaal Bowman, another member of the Squad who focused his campaign on Israel and pro-Israel funding for his opponent, George Latimer, a pro-Israel centrist. Bowman was soundly defeated in the primary vote last month, marking a significant setback for progressives. Hardline pro-Palestinian groups in the city have tacked further to the left, targeting progressive lawmakers for supporting President Joe Biden, who the activists accuse of backing a “genocide” in Gaza. As Ocasio-Cortez campaigned for Bowman at a rally in the Bronx last month, anti-Israel activists gathered on the sidelines to protest the event. Some of the protesters defaced Ocasio-Cortez campaign signs, writing “Zionist” and “Funds Israeli war crimes” across an image of her face. “AOC, you can’t hide, you’re supporting genocide,” they chanted. **HW**

# Anne Frank Statue in Amsterdam Tagged with ‘Gaza’ Graffiti



A statue of Anne Frank in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Nov. 26, 2010. The statue was defaced with graffiti reading “Gaza” on July 9, 2024. Credit: Gus Maussen via Creative Commons

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A statue of Anne Frank in Amsterdam was defaced last Tuesday, with the word “Gaza” painted in red on the base. The statue sits in a public park near the famous annex where Frank and her family hid from the Nazis, and where they were later discovered. Mayor Femke Halsema condemned the graffiti, and police are investigating. “How can you bring yourself to do such violence to her memory?” Halsema wrote on social media. “Whoever it was, shame on you! There is no excuse for this. No Palestinian is helped by defacing her precious image.” The graffiti is the latest of a growing number of incidents in which pro-Palestinian activists appear to be associating the war in Gaza with the Holocaust. The Amsterdam statue was not the first Holocaust or Anne Frank memorial in Europe to be defaced since Oct. 7. In November, a pro-Israel Anne Frank

mural in Milan, Italy, depicting the Jewish Holocaust victim holding an Israeli flag, was covered with graffiti reading “Gaza Free.” Around the same time, a Holocaust memorial boulder in Copenhagen, Denmark, was covered with graffiti and a nearby amphitheater was painted with an image of the Palestinian flag and the words “Free Gaza.” Some Holocaust sites in the U.S. have also been targets of pro-Palestinian activists. Earlier this month, the phrase “Genocide in Gaza” appeared written in pen on Seattle’s Holocaust Museum; police determined the act was not a hate crime. Many pro-Palestinian activists have charged Israel with committing genocide in Gaza – an accusation that Israel and its supporters vehemently deny. Recently the University of Minnesota hired a scholar who accused Israel of genocide to direct its Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies before rescinding the offer amid backlash. **HW**

**Subscribe Now • Don't Miss An Issue**

**In Town \$36 • Out of State \$50**

**The HEBREW WATCHMAN**

**901.763.2215 • info@hebrewwatchman.com**

**HebrewWatchman.com**

**Audubon Square Condo**

**for rent**

**Newly remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath**

**(one bedroom could be used as an office)**

**Completely furnished**

**Ground floor**

**901-338-4818**

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- **Driver**—Courteous and reliable person to take you anywhere you need to go in Memphis and surrounding areas: Dr’s appointments, Shopping, Errands, Airport. Available weekdays and weekends.
- **House Sitting and Dog Sitting**—Responsible adult available to stay with your dogs while you are away. I love dogs!

**Contact Rick Danzig: 901-337-6009**



# The Story Behind Debbie Friedman’s Beloved ‘Mi Sheberach’ Melody

By Lior Zaltzman

This originally appeared on Kveller. Reprinted with permission.

I didn’t grow up listening to Debbie Friedman, and I’m kind of jealous of everyone who did. The late Jewish musician from Utica, New York, revolutionized the way many American Jews connect with Judaism, giving catchy, heartrending and rousing tunes to accompany Jewish prayers, holidays, Hebrew letters and concepts. Her folk tunes made these words more accessible to everyone, and more equitable, especially for women.

Perhaps her most well-known and widest-spread tune is her melody for “Mi Sheberach,” a prayer for healing – a tune that always tugs at the heartstrings and words that are almost always needed for healing broken hearts, minds and bodies.

“My objective is to involve people in the experience,” Friedman once said about her music. “I try to make prayer user-friendly. Because the music is in a familiar genre, people are able to make the connection between the music and the text. The real power is in the poetry of the liturgy, how moving and stirring it can be, connecting us to our deepest and most precious ideas, hopes and fears.”

Like many of her songs, Friedman wrote her “Mi Sheberach” melody for a particular person, a friend who was celebrating her 60th birthday in a Simchat Chochma (celebration of wisdom). “My friend was having a very difficult time in her life, and a number of her friends were also struggling,” Friedman recalled. “Yet she had arrived at this age, and she was determined to embrace it.” The text was perfect for the occasion: a call for the one who has blessed our forefathers and foremothers to bless someone with healing and strength and enlivening in their bodies and soul.

Since it was introduced to the Reform movement more than three decades ago in 1993, it became, according to My Jewish Learning, “the fastest adopted liturgical melody in the Reform and Conservative movements.”

That friend was Marcia Cohn Spiegel, a woman who dedicated her life to talking about difficult topics within the Jewish community – from addiction to domestic violence. Friedman collaborated on the song with Rabbi Drorah Setel, who like Friedman herself, cared about making Jewish liturgical text more accessible to all genders, and was deeply immersed in the AIDS crisis, one that affected many of their friends. The words of “Mi Sheberach” felt complicated in light of the epidemic.

“How, we wondered, could we ask for refuah sh’leima, for a ‘complete healing,’ for people who had what was at the time a terminal illness? It seemed not only cruel but contrary to the Jewish prohibition against knowingly praying for something in vain,” Setel shared with the “Forward.” “We thought it would be more appropriate to focus on the possibility of spiritual healing, an experience of wholeness and blessing even in the face of death. We kept the rabbinic phrase refuah sh’leima but re-defined it as the ‘renewal,’ rather than the repair, of body and spirit.”

Perhaps my favorite tidbit of the many tidbits about this song and prayer is that Mandy Patinkin has admitted to singing it to his dog every day. In a video shared on his social media, Patinkin, of Broadway and “Homeland” fame, enumerated the three prayers he would sing to his dog, Becky, to his son, Gideon, who happened to have had Debbie Friedman play at his bar mitzvah. Patinkin and Friedman were close friends for many years: They had an “immedi-

ate connection,” he recounted in a tribute event at the 92nd Street Y in New York. “She just enveloped me with her love,” he shared, “and that friendship just grew and grew and grew.”

They had a lot in common, he told the crowd, saying they were both at their best “when we would just be simple, and clear, and be a hose where the music came in and the words and the music just came out.”

The music does seem to just come

out of Friedman when you watch her sing. Every time she sang “Mi Sheberach” in concert, she would sing it twice. Once just her, singing for healing for the crowd, and once, together, singing in unity. That way, everyone in the room got to have a blessing of healing.

It has been over a decade since Friedman’s passing, but every day since then, her memory has not been just a blessing, but has brought healing and peace to Jews across this nation. **HW**

### NEW OWNER & OPERATOR



Call today to schedule a tour!  
901.557.0695

Best Value in East Memphis!



Scan the QR code for pricing, floor plans, services & amenities, and much more!

Assisted Living starting at \$4100  
Memory Care starting at \$5500

Reserve now to receive up to \$13,500+ in credits and benefits!

Opens Summer 2024



## THE AVALINE

at River Oaks

1645 W Massey Blvd | Memphis, TN  
theavaline.com | 901.557.0695

## Have a Simcha?

share with The Hebrew Watchman readers

901.763.2215

info@hebrewwatchman.com



## RICKI'S COOKIE CORNER

Proudly serving the Memphis community for more than 30 years.

Check out our updated website

Call Ahead for Special Orders



Cookies, Cakes, Challah, Brownies, Tins and more.  
Handmade Pizza Every Tuesday.  
Now offering New Yorker Bagels

5068 Park Ave Memphis, TN 38117  
901.866.2447 • rickiscookies.com

# BECAUSE PEACE OF MIND IS EVERYTHING®

## RVW WEALTH

### 3 KEY ELEMENTS

1. PORTFOLIO RETURNS
2. MINIMIZING COSTS
3. TAX MINIMIZATION

The RVW Team bring you the *insights* of seasoned economists and investment advisors, the *bottom line* focus of CPAs and the *tailored portfolio* design of accredited financial planners.

1790 Kirby Parkway, Suite 127 | Memphis, TN 38138  
Tel: 901.443.4000 • Visit RVWWealth.com

Call Selwyn, Jonathan Gerber, or Jesse Picunko



**THE WEALTH BLUEPRINT**  
AUTHORED BY SELWYN GERBER AND JONATHAN GERBER

Call for your complimentary copy



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**LARGEST MONEY MANAGEMENT FIRMS**  
2021

Always read and rely exclusively on offering documents before investing. Past performance may not recur. All investing involves risk.



# Director of National Intelligence Warns That Iran is Funding Anti-Israel Protests in U.S.



Nominee for Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines testifies at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill January 19, 2021, in Washington, D.C. Credit: Melina Mara-Pool/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – WASHINGTON – Avril Haines, the director of national intelligence, said Iran was seeking to interfere in the U.S. election and was stoking

protests against Israel as it wages war with Hamas, including through funding demonstrations. “In recent weeks, Iranian government

actors have sought to opportunistically take advantage of ongoing protests regarding the war in Gaza, using a playbook we’ve seen other actors use over the years,” Haines said in a comment posted to the DNI website. “We have observed actors tied to Iran’s government posing as activists online, seeking to encourage protests, and even providing financial support to protesters.”

Haines, who is Jewish, said that Iran’s activities should not taint genuine protesters or inhibit robust speech. She said targeted protesters may not be aware they are interacting with a foreign government.

“I want to be clear that I know Americans who participate in protests are, in good faith, expressing their views on the conflict in Gaza – this intelligence does not indicate otherwise,” she said. “Moreover, the freedom to express diverse views, when done peacefully, is essential to our democracy, but it is also important to warn of foreign actors who seek to exploit our debate for their own purposes.”

The statement did not specify which protests were funded and what is the extent of the funding. Florida’s government and multiple lawsuits have alleged that U.S.-based bodies, including groups that have organized some of the campus protests, are aligned with Hamas, the terrorist group that launched the war on Oct. 7, and which receives funds and backing from Iran.

Iran also funds other terror groups in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, and it attacked Israel directly earlier this year, prompting a direct Israeli retaliation.

Last week, the Anti-Defamation League and a prominent law firm filed a suit alleging that Iran, Syria and North Korea abetted the Oct. 7 attackers; the suit seeks financial compensation for the attack’s American victims.

Haines’ statement said Iran’s support of protests was one piece of its efforts to interfere with American democracy. American security agencies have tracked foreign interference from Russia, China and Iran since at least 2016, when Donald Trump was elected. Federal agents in 2021 filed charges against two Iranian hackers for interference in the election the previous year, in which, according to a U.S. attorney, they sought “to undermine faith and confidence” in the vote.

“Iran is becoming increasingly aggressive in their foreign influence efforts, seeking to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions, as we have seen them do in the past, including in prior election cycles,” Haines’ statement said. “They continue to adapt their cyber and influence activities, using social media platforms and issuing threats. It is likely they will continue to rely on their intelligence services in these efforts, as well as Iran-based online influencers, to promote their narratives.”

There have been separate charges filed over the years against agents working for Iran for mass hacking attacks on Americans, one as recently as February. One of the largest operations, revealed in 2019, was allegedly led by a former U.S. Air Force intelligence specialist. [HW](#)



**Now Enrolling!**

## Teen Talmud Torah

 **BETH SHOLOM**  
SYNAGOGUE

Teen Talmud Torah is an exciting learning program geared towards 7th through 12th graders (divided into two cohorts). Through several curricular units, our teens will delve into Jewish text study and gain an understanding of how Judaism speaks to the issues in their lives.

**Tuesday evenings from 6:15-8:00 pm, beginning 8/20. Kosher dinner provided.**

For more information, reach out to Rabbi Sarit Horwitz  
(901) 683 - 3591  
[rabbisarit@bsholom.org](mailto:rabbisarit@bsholom.org)

 **BETH SHOLOM**  
SYNAGOGUE

## Religious School

**WHY CHOOSE US?**

Our religious school is designed to provide our children with the skills to become active and committed Jews, in an environment that is loving, energizing and intellectually rich. We welcome families of diverse Jewish backgrounds.

Our program includes Torah study, Hebrew, Jewish values, holidays, Jewish history, lifecycles, and so much more.

**Open for Registration**

**SCHOOL TIMES**

- Thursday afternoons, 4:30PM - 6:30PM
- Shabbat mornings, 9:30AM - 12PM

**open to non Beth Sholom members!**

**JOIN US**

for more information, reach out to Rabbi Sarit Horwitz  
(901) 683 - 3591  
[rabbisarit@bsholom.org](mailto:rabbisarit@bsholom.org)







## Who said homes are not selling?



1721 Bryn Mawr Cv.



5313 Wilton Ave.



5470 Brantford Rd.



816 Eaton St.



## I've sold these 6 homes in the last 30 days!



615 Massey Pt.



2415 Howard Rd.

**Ready to join the "Sold Club"?**  
**Contact Rick Baer Realty today.**  
(901) 495-2217  
[www.RickBaerRealty.com](http://www.RickBaerRealty.com)  
[Rick@rickbaerrealty.com](mailto:Rick@rickbaerrealty.com)  
1028 Cresthaven Rd Suite 206, Memphis, TN 38119



# CNN Fires Pro-Hamas Freelancer After Watchdog Exposé

(JNS) – CNN will no longer accept work from a Gaza-based freelance journalist who was previously employed by Hamas and boasted about his ties to the U.S.-designated terrorist organization on Facebook, according to the HonestReporting media watchdog.

Abdel Qader Sabbah “provided material used in stories for us and other outlets over the past nine months, during which time our own journalists have been barred from entering Gaza independently,” a spokesperson for CNN said last Wednesday, in a statement cited by the pro-Israel NGO.

“We have reviewed this material carefully and are comfortable that it meets our standards,” the spokesman continued. “We were not aware of this individual’s historical social posts and recognize that they are highly offensive,” he added, saying that CNN would no longer use his work.

Last Tuesday, HonestReporting published an investigation that showed Sabbah photographed himself with a senior Hamas leader, served in a Hamas-run

body to which he also provided video work, praised murderous terrorists and shared anti-Israel propaganda.

The report noted that, in 2018, the freelance “journalist” posted a selfie taken with Hamas leader and co-founder Mahmoud A-Zahar, whom he referred to as “commander Abu Khaled Al-Zahar, literature teacher.”

Al-Zahar wrote a book titled “The End of the Jews,” which glorifies historic violence against Jews and praises the Holocaust and Nazi Germany.

Sabbah – whose Facebook profile mentions “military service” in 2013 – shared a picture of himself wearing the uniform of the General Training Directorate, which trains Hamas’s “security” apparatuses in Gaza.

He later produced a promotional video for the Hamas-run body, which was shared on the official page of the terrorist group’s Interior Ministry.

Sabbah in 2014 also commemorated “hero” suicide bomber Izz al-Din al-Masri, who during the Second Intifada blew himself up in a Sbarro pizzeria

in downtown Jerusalem, murdering 16 innocents, including two U.S. citizens.

During the May 2021 Hamas rocket war (“Operation Guardian of the Walls”) against Israel, Sabbah shared the terrorist organization’s press censorship guidelines. One of the Hamas instructions he shared read, “Not filming the sites of the fighters, and the places where rockets and mortar shells are launched.”

Six months before Hamas’s Oct. 7 massacre in Israel, he posted a propaganda video by the group’s “military” wing, titled “Ready.”

HonestReporting noted that Sabbah’s work has also been featured by the Associated Press wire agency, which distributed his photos from the Gaza Strip to its thousands of clients in October-November 2023. AP did not immediately respond to questions from the NGO.

“What’s clear is that someone like Abdel Qader Sabbah cannot be considered an objective journalist. His posts expose him as a Hamas mouthpiece, at best, or a serviceman affiliated with a

proscribed terror group, at worst,” the Jerusalem-based media watchdog said in an article.

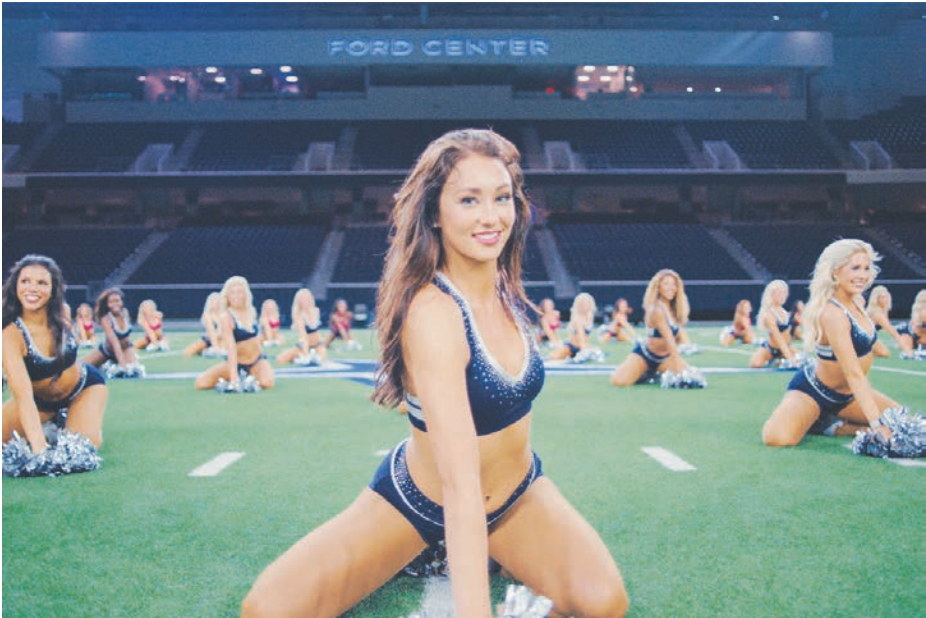
In November, HonestReporting raised questions about how much six freelance photojournalists working for AP and “The New York Times” knew about the Hamas-led terrorist massacre ahead of time.

“Is it conceivable to assume that ‘journalists’ just happened to appear early in the morning at the border without prior coordination with the terrorists? Or were they part of the plan?” asked the group.

In February, the National Jewish Advocacy Center filed a lawsuit against AP due to its payments to the reporters who joined Hamas on Oct. 7.

The suit states: “There is no doubt that AP’s photographers participated in the October 7th massacre, and that AP knew, or at the very least should have known, through simple due diligence, that the people they were paying were longstanding Hamas affiliates and full participants in the terrorist attack that they were also documenting.” **HW**

# Judaism Gets a Surprising Shoutout in the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Netflix Docuseries



Courtesy of Netflix

By Evelyn Frick

There are few things that feel less Jewish than the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. The DCC – or America’s sweethearts, as they’re known – are a group of 30-40 tall, supremely thin, deeply tanned and mostly blonde dancers. The football team they cheer for make their home in the heart of conservative, Christian Texas. That’s not to say that cheerleaders or tanned, blonde women or football players can’t be Jewish or that Jews don’t live in Texas. There is no one Jewish look, occupation or place that Jews live.

But the point still stands. There don’t seem to be any current Jewish DCC. (Though queer, Jewish and Australian former DCC Jinelle Esther is absolutely worth checking out.) And in Netflix’s new docuseries “America’s Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders,” a series, which follows the cheerleaders from audition to training camp to making the team, Christianity takes a prominent role.

In the beginning of episode four, titled “God Loves Dallas,” a group of DCC veterans attend a service at a Texan megachurch. As the pastor preaches about having a vision and purpose for your life (presumably through Jesus), the audio cuts over DCC director Kelli McGonagill Finglass – who herself is Christian – watching training camp candidates cheer on the field. In episode six, DCC team leader Claire facilitates a locker room prayer circle, telling oth-

er cheerleaders about the importance of forgiveness as a Christian.

So the fact that Judaism is included in “America’s Sweethearts” is some serious whiplash.

In episode five, viewers get a rare look at Kelli at home. The usually made-up-to-a-tee director, who was a DCC herself in the ’80s, has her hair in curlers and dons leggings. The first Cowboys game of the season is looming, and she needs to look over the cheer practice schedule. But first, she sits out in her serenity garden to feel close to God. Giving the audience a tour, she points out a statuette of a sleeping dog.

“This is where my Sugar’s laid to rest,” Kelli says of her late dog. “She’s here and I’ve got 18 flowers around her because my husband’s Jewish, and 18 means life in Hebrew.”

Not only does Judaism get a shout-out but the information is correct and also wholesome?! Baruch Hashem!

ICYMI, the Hebrew word “chai,” spelled with the letters chet and yud (חַי), means “life” in English. Per My Jewish Learning, “Chai also refers to the number 18. That’s because each Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent, and the sum of chet (numerical value of 8) and yud (numerical value of 10) is 18. As a result of its connection to the word for life, the number 18 is considered a special number in Jewish tradition.”

The moment is a brief one, and yet it offers a sweet glimpse into the inter-

faith household Kelli shares with her husband, Joel, and their kids, Ryan and Samantha. Social media provides slightly more context, with Kelli sharing the family’s 2022 Easter-Passover celebration and Ryan wearing a chai necklace in multiple Instagram posts.

It’s refreshing to see the world of the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders become intentionally more inclusive across the board in “America’s Sweethearts.” The CMT reality show “Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders: Making the Team,” a forerunner of the new docuseries, always felt particularly white, Christian and fatphobic. By contrast, “America’s

Sweethearts” spotlights Kelli’s interfaith Jewish home and a Desi rookie candidate named Anisha, and features Kelli telling the women that they need to properly fuel their bodies.

Of course, “America’s Sweethearts” isn’t the end-all-be-all representation of any marginalized identity. Nor is the Dallas Cowboys organizations’ treatment of their cheerleaders above reproach. (Feel free to Google how much DCC cheerleaders make and seethe.) But in a show that is perhaps the pinnacle of Americana, seeing Judaism simply exist in that context is an unexpected bonus. **HW**



Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.

David J Ross, Agent  
8317 Cordova Road, Suite 101  
Cordova, TN 38016  
Bus: 901-795-9067  
www.davidjross.net

I’m your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm  
Bloomington, IL  
2001878





# ESG Investing in the Spotlight

**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**

It’s probably safe to say that most people choose an investment with an eye toward adding financial value to their portfolio. Over the past two decades, however, many investors have added another layer of values in making investment decisions. The most common criteria are related to environmental, social, and corporate governance issues, typically referred to as ESG factors.

More recently, ESG investing has become controversial, primarily due to large institutional investors such as universities and pension funds using ESG factors to construct their portfolios. Critics say that this approach compromises potential returns, while proponents claim that better ESG practices may help lower risk and provide more stability without sacrificing performance.

As an individual investor, the choice to apply personal values to your investments is entirely up to you, and it may be helpful to know more about this approach.

**What’s in a name?**

Values-based investing was originally called Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), and this term is still commonly used. Other terms, often using the SRI acronym, include sustainable and responsible investing; sustainable, responsible, and impact investing; or simply sustainable investing. The emphasis on ESG factors developed as a way to analyze companies in constructing funds or portfolios.

SRI and ESG are often used interchangeably, but some analysts see them as two separate practices. According to this view, SRI takes more of a pure values-based approach in screening poten-

tial investments; for example, it might screen out companies involved in tobacco, weapons, or fossil fuels extraction and screen in companies that produce “green” products or focus on financial inclusion or health. ESG looks at these factors more in terms of risk management and financial performance; for example, a company with poor labor relations could face a workers’ strike and a company with poor waste management could be fined or constrained with government regulations.

**Investments and performance**

ESG strategies are often applied by professional managers for large institutional investors, but individual investors might consider these factors when developing their own portfolios. Along with screening individual stocks, investors can choose from more than 650 ESG/sustainable funds.<sup>1</sup> As with any fund, it’s important to understand the objectives and criteria for choosing investments. Funds labeled ESG, sustainable, or socially responsible can vary widely in their objectives, in how they define and evaluate ESG factors, and in how strictly they apply selection criteria.

It’s difficult to assess the effect of ESG factors on investment performance, because there is no standard definition of what companies or investments should be included in an ESG analysis. A review of more than 1,000 research studies published from 2015–2020 reported that 33% of studies that focused on investment results found a positive correlation between ESG and performance, 26% reported a neutral impact, 28% were mixed, and just 14%

found a negative correlation.<sup>2</sup> The S&P 500 ESG index, which includes more than 300 of the S&P 500 companies based on ESG scores, outperformed the full index in eight out of 10 years from 2014 to 2023.<sup>3</sup>

**Top Issues**

In 2022 (most recent data), about \$8.4 trillion of professionally managed U.S. assets incorporated ESG criteria in choosing investments and/or filing shareholder resolutions. These were the leading criteria used by money managers, based on the value of assets to which they were applied.



Source: US SIF Foundation, December 2022

**Limiting the universe**

Although many companies and funds consider ESG factors, focusing on these strategies limits the total universe of available investments and could make it more challenging to diversify and maintain your desired asset allocation. Like all investments, SRI/ESG stocks and funds entail risk and could lose money, and there is no guarantee that an SRI/ESG investment will achieve its objectives.

*Diversification and asset allocation do not guarantee a profit or protect against loss. Funds are sold by prospectus. Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other information about the investment company, can be obtained from your financial professional. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to invest.*

- 1) Morningstar, October 25, 2023
- 2) NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business, August 2021 (most recent data)
- 3) S&P Dow Jones Indices, 2023. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2024 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Investment and Insurance Products are:  
Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency  
Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate  
Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested [HW](#)

WELLS FARGO

Advisors

2024 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors

Mike Stein

We are proud to announce that Mike Stein, Managing Director – Investments was recognized on the 2024 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors List. This recognition serves as a reminder that we are committed to working every day toward the financial success of our clients.

Putting client’s interest first

Mike Stein

Managing Director – Investments

6075 Poplar Ave

Memphis, TN 38119

Direct: (901) 761-8151

michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com

tps://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael.stein

2024 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors: Awarded April 2024; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 6/30/22 - 6/30/23 (Source: Forbes.com). The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors rating algorithm is based on the previous year’s industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria.

Wells Fargo Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice.

Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC Insured | NO Bank Guarantee | MAY Lose Value

©2023 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. CAR-0123-01920



Preparing for Life’s Final Journey  
with Compassion and Care



National Institute for Jewish Hospice



ACCREDITED

1125 Schilling Blvd. East, Suite 101  
Collierville, TN 38017  
Josh Goldin, LMSW office: 901-560-3600  
[www.hospiceofhopetn.com](http://www.hospiceofhopetn.com)



THE EMBASSY APARTMENTS

A DATTEL REALTY PROPERTY

“Luxury and Location”

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

901-685-8020

505 South Perkins Rd. | 1BR | 2BR | Penthouses  
In the Heart of East Memphis | Utilities Included  
See our floorplans | @embassyaptsmemphis.com



Michael Blen DDS -- Lydia Watson DDS

Pediatric Dentistry

6363 Poplar Ave, Suite 110 -- Memphis, TN 38119  
901-415-2536 -- [www.drblen.com](http://www.drblen.com)



# Hebrew University Launches New English-Taught Undergrad Program to Attract Jewish Students from the U.S.



**A new immigrant, an Israeli and an international student strolling together at Hebrew University’s Safra campus at Givat Ram, in Jerusalem. Courtesy: Hebrew University**

**By Zev Stub**

(JTA) – Early in her senior year in high school in Washington D.C., Elie Ravitz-Basser realized that the Israel-Gaza war would upend her college plans.

“I applied to four universities in the United States early in the fall, but everything changed after October 7,” she said. “At that point, I decided to attend college only in Israel, surrounded by people who share my Jewish values.”

Ravitz-Basser is set to start her bachelor’s degree this fall in Jerusalem, pursuing a double major in English and Liberal Arts at Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School. She’ll be part of a brand-new, three-year undergraduate degree program, offered in English for the first time at Hebrew University.

“This is a unique opportunity to study in Jerusalem and immerse myself in the Israeli culture,” Ravitz-Basser said. “I’m excited about the classes I’ll be taking, and I feel a deep connection to my great-grandparents, who came to Israel from Poland in the 1920s with the vision of reestablishing their homeland.”

Ravitz-Basser is among many recent high school graduates who have reconsidered their college plans in light of the anti-Israel protests that swept across U.S. campuses this year. For her, the breaking point came during the violent protests and encampments that spread from coast to coast this spring, many of which were seen as not just anti-Zionist but antisemitic.

“That made it clear that I wouldn’t attend any college where I couldn’t feel safe without hiding my identity,” she said.

Hebrew University is not just a top-tier Israeli academic institution but also consistently ranks among the top 100 universities in the world. As it prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary next year, the university has long offered a wide variety of programs in English for international students, including semester- and year-long programs for undergraduates as well as about 40 different master’s programs.

However, the new three-year undergraduate program in English marks the first time overseas students can complete an entire BA degree at the Jerusalem institution.

“The Rothberg International School has been developing this program for a few years,” said Naama Oryan, director of Hebrew University’s International Marketing Division. “Our original goal, which remains unchanged, was to offer a top-tier academic program that celebrates the diversity of Jerusalem and Israel. Students now have the option of studying for a BA in English at HUJI. We will support them and make HUJI their home away from home while they’re here.”

Degree tracks are available in English, Business, and Liberal Arts, and all undergraduate students are required to pursue a double major.

“We offer it this way to encourage our students to engage in multidisciplinary learning,” Oryan said.

About 25-30 students are expected in the first year, primarily from North America but also from Japan, India, France and Germany. Additionally, some new immigrants to Israel who prefer to take classes in English will join. Classes begin in November, right after the Jewish holiday season.

Unlike other programs, students have the option to transfer their credits from the English program to the university’s regular Hebrew tracks in their second year, allowing them to better integrate Hebrew classes as their language skills improve. Additionally, they have the option to take Hebrew classes to further enhance their language proficiency.

The tuition cost is one of the program’s biggest selling points. The undergraduate program costs \$15,000 per year – a fraction of the price of most U.S. colleges. Master’s degrees typically range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year.

After securing scholarships for U.S. students, Ravitz-Basser expects to pay about \$7,000 for her tuition in the program.

“Many of the U.S. colleges I applied to were around \$85,000 a year,” she said. “That’s amazing.”

These scholarships are made possible in part through American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU), the university’s American fundraising and promotional affiliate, which raises an average of \$60 million annually to support Hebrew University. AFHU operates six offices across the United States and promotes the university through donor events and public relations efforts.

Hebrew University accommodates a diverse student body of 25,000 across six campuses in Israel, including three in Jerusalem and one in Rechovot. Approximately 10% of its students hail from overseas, representing over 90 countries worldwide.

Beyond academics, campus life at Hebrew University offers robust student support services and a wide range of extracurricular activities, from yoga classes and Shabbat programs to parties and Jewish learning opportunities. “Our office of student life has significantly

## OBITUARIES

**Hugh Mitchell Goldberg**

Hugh Mitchell Goldberg died June 19, 2024, at the age of 84. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., to parents Bernice and Harold Goldberg on May 12, 1940, moving to Tupelo, Miss. at age 6.

He graduated from Tupelo High School, where he developed a love of hunting and fishing from his parents, along with his brother, Bubba. After high school he moved back to Memphis, where he would meet his bride of 62 years, Sherry Belz Goldberg. They would go on to make a beautiful family of three sons, Alan (Judy) Goldberg, Stuart (Kathy) Goldberg, Hal (Michelle) Goldberg and eight grandchildren, Zoe Harkavy (Alex), Zach (Alyssa), Zarah, Hunter, Abby, Ben, Drew and Emma Goldberg.

He was a dedicated realtor for 45 years, a diehard University of Memphis sports fan, avid golfer, an active member of Baron Hirsch synagogue and known to many as “Uncle Mitch,” when he was Peres adviser from 1977-87.

The family requests donations be sent to Baron Hirsch Synagogue or the charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

.....

expanded its services in recent years, now providing 24/7 support for nearly all student needs to ensure they feel cared for and at home,” Oryan said.

The university campus serves as a vibrant hub where students encounter Israel’s diverse population, encompassing Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze. Despite political tensions, relationships between Jewish and Arab students have remained peaceful throughout the war. Approximately 20% of the university’s student body consists of Christian and Muslim Arabs, reflecting their proportional representation in Israel’s population.

Applications for the upcoming school year are still being accepted, and remaining spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested students can find more information or attend an online open-house event at [www.studyinjerusalem.com](http://www.studyinjerusalem.com).

This article was sponsored by and produced in collaboration with American Friends of the Hebrew University, a national nonprofit that connects the passions of Americans to talent at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This story was produced by JTA’s native content team. **HW**

# Mayim Bialik is Producing a Movie about Yeshiva U Basketball’s Historic 50-Game Winning Streak



**Coach Elliot Steinmetz instructs his Yeshiva University’s men’s basketball team. Credit: YU Athletics**

**By Jacob Gurvis**

(JTA) – From 2019 to 2021, the Yeshiva University men’s basketball team embarked on a 50-game win streak – vaulting to the top of the NCAA’s national Division III rankings and enrap-

turing Jewish fans across the country.

Now, the Y.U. Maccabees’ historic run is headed to the big screen, courtesy of Mayim Bialik, the Jewish actress and former “Jeopardy!” host.

“The Maccabees,” a film by Bialik’s Sad Clown Productions, will spotlight the team’s coach, Elliot Steinmetz, a lawyer who has coached the team since 2014, according to Deadline. It will focus on players’ dedication to Judaism as they embarked on the streak.

In a statement to Deadline, Bialik spoke of announcing the film in what “has certainly been a complicated year,” adding that “what remains true is that stories of Jewish ingenuity, perseverance, and resilience are necessary more than ever.”

The film’s writer, Matt Ritter, said he hopes “The Maccabees” dispels negative perceptions of Jews at a time of rising antisemitism.

“I too have been troubled by the barrage of antisemitism in the world and one thing that has always bothered me was the negative portrayals and stereotypes,” he wrote on Instagram. “It feels like we’re either Holocaust victim or Schlub. Well this team of exceptional

athletes and winners at Yeshiva University did something really special. They went on an epic winning streak led by a Coach who shares my determination to prove Jews can be whatever we want: including great athletes.”

Steinmetz told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he is aware of the project but is not heavily involved, and declined to comment further.

At the time, Y.U.’s streak was the longest active winning streak in men’s college basketball, and garnered significant national attention for the flagship modern Orthodox university.

Ryan Turell, a guard and the star of the team, went on to play two seasons with the Motor City Cruise, becoming the first Orthodox Jew in the NBA’s minor league, called the G League. He is now headed to play professionally in Israel’s top basketball league. Turell was also featured in an Amazon Prime documentary last year about the G League. **HW**



# Trump Apparently Hit but Safe after Shooting at PA Rally, which Left Shooter and Attendee Dead

JNS Staff

(JNS) – July 13 – Former U.S. president Donald Trump was rushed off stage – apparently bleeding from his ear – after shots were fired at a political rally of his in Butler, Pa.

The president lifted his fist in the air as Secret Service agents walked him off stage. The Butler County district attorney Richard Goldinger told the “Associated Press” that the shooter is dead and another attendee of the rally was killed.

“President Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders for their quick action during this heinous act,” stated Steven Cheung, a spokesman for the president’s campaign. “He is fine and is being checked out at a local medical facility. More details will follow.”

“An incident occurred the evening of July 13 at a Trump rally in Pennsylvania. The Secret Service has implemented protective measures and the former president is safe,” stated Anthony Guglielmi, chief of communications for the U.S. Secret Service.

“This is now an active Secret Service investigation and further information will be released when available,” he added.

David McCormick, a Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, told “Politico” that he was sitting in the front row at the event, and someone appeared to be shot behind him.

“All the sudden shots started to crack, someone behind me appears to have

been shot,” McCormick told the publication. “There’s lots of blood, and then the Secret Service were all over President Trump.”

Live video footage of the event appeared to show Trump clutch his ear mid-sentence as pop sounds could be heard and Secret Service agents rushed on stage to protect him.

Secret Service agents appeared to yell “get down” repeatedly as they rushed to the stage, with more apparent shots ringing out. Someone either picked up by the microphone on stage or in a live feed said, “what are we doing?”

Secret Service agents appeared to say, “Are you ready? On ‘move.’ Move!” Before anyone moved, soldiers with rifles and bullet proof vests came up on stage.

Someone said, “Shooter’s down. Good to move. We’re clear. We’re clear.”

One of the Secret Service agents said, “I’ve got you sir,” as Trump appeared to say, “Let me get my shoes.” As he walked off, apparently on his own, Trump raised a fist above the agents protecting him, to applause, cheering and chants of “USA.”

As he was taken into a black SUV, the former president again raised a fist.

“God protected President Trump,” wrote Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

“Extraordinary,” wrote Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas). “God bless President

Trump.”

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) stated, “I am horrified by what happened at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania and relieved that former president Trump is safe. Political violence has no place in our country.”

“This should horrify every freedom loving American. Violence against presidential candidates must never be normalized,” wrote Nikki Haley, a member of Trump’s former administration and a former candidate for president. “We are lifting up Donald Trump, the entire Trump family and all in attendance in prayer.”

A pool reporter asked U.S. President Joe Biden if he had been briefed on Trump being shot.” He responded, “no,” per the pool report. “He then didn’t respond to a question about how his meeting with leader Schumer went.”

A subsequent pool report noted that “the president has received an initial briefing on the incident at former president Trump’s rally.”

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, wrote that “violence targeted at any political party or political leader is absolutely unacceptable. It has no place in Pennsylvania or the United States.”

Shapiro said that he has been briefed on the situation and that the state police are on the scene “working with our federal and local partners.”

“Lori and I are praying for President Trump, the Secret Service officers who protected him, those attending the event and all of the first responders still on the scene,” he added.

The Republican Jewish Coalition referred to the “attempted assassination of President Donald Trump” as “an abomination.”

“Violence has absolutely no place in our politics,” the RJC said.

“We pray for refuah shleimah – a complete recovery and healing – for President Trump. We know President Trump will return stronger and more determined than ever to Make America Great Again.”

“There is no place for political violence of any kind in America, and I condemn whoever is responsible for this attack,” stated Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-R.I.), ranking member of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement and Intelligence. “I urge everyone to remain calm.”

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who is a U.S. Senate candidate, wrote that he was “horrified by this apparent assassination attempt. There is no place for political violence in our democracy. Absolutely none.”

“Grateful for the swift response by law enforcement and Secret Service,” he added. “Wishing President Trump a swift recovery.” **HW**

# IDF Targets Hamas Terror Master Mohammed Deif in Gaza Strike



**A photo of Hamas terrorist Mohammed Deif (right) found on a laptop during Gaza operations and released by the IDF, Jan. 7, 2024. Credit: IDF**  
**By Charles Bybelezer**

(JNS) – The head of Hamas’s terror army, Mohammed Deif, was targeted by an Israel Defense Forces strike in the southern Gaza Strip last Saturday morning.

Deif and Rafa’a Salameh, the commander of the terror group’s Khan Younis Brigade, were targeted in a building above ground close to the al-Mawasi humanitarian zone and the city of Khan Younis.

“The [Israel Air Force] carried out a strike in an area where two senior Hamas terrorists and additional terrorists hid among civilians. The location of

the strike was an open area surrounded by trees, several buildings, and sheds,” said the IDF.

In a joint IDF and ISA activity based on precise intelligence, the IDF’s Southern Command and the IAF carried out a strike in an area where two senior Hamas terrorists and additional terrorists hid among civilians. The location of the strike was an open area surrounded by trees.

The two men were hiding out among civilians but were not embedded within encampments earmarked for displaced Palestinians, the military added.

No Israeli hostages were being held in the vicinity, according to local reports.

It remains unclear whether Deif and Salameh were killed in the attack.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office released a statement last Saturday afternoon noting that he had previously issued “a permanent directive to eliminate senior Hamas officials.”

“The prime minister was briefed on all developments and continues to receive regular updates,” the Prime Minister’s Office said.

Netanyahu was set to hold a situation assessment with top security brass to discuss the development.

Earlier, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant met with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) chief Ronen Bar.

Deif, 58, the head of Hamas’s al-Qassam Brigades “military wing,” is said to have directed the Oct. 7 invasion and massacre of some 1,200 Israelis. On Oct. 11, Israel hit the home of Deif’s father, killing his brother along with his brother’s wife and children.

The IDF has pursued Deif for two decades. In a 2014 effort to kill him during “Operation Protective Edge,” Deif escaped but lost his wife and infant son.

In January, the IDF released a picture of Deif outdoors holding a drink and U.S. bills, found on a laptop during operations in Gaza. The image shows Deif

missing one eye, purportedly due to Israeli attempts on his life that he narrowly escaped.

On Oct. 7, Deif called on Arabs and Muslims across the Middle East to “set the Earth on fire under the feet of the occupiers [Israel].” In the audio message, he dubbed Hamas’s multi-pronged attack “Operation Al-Aqsa Deluge” and called to “expel the occupiers and demolish the walls” of the Jewish state.

In March, Hamas released another recording attributed to Deif, with Arab media claiming it was taped during the Oct. 7 massacre.

“Our people in Jordan and Lebanon, in Egypt, Algeria, the Maghreb, in Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and in all parts of the Arab and Islamic world,” said Deif in the 35-second audio clip. “Begin marching today, now and not tomorrow, towards Palestine, and do not let borders, regulations or restrictions deprive you of the honor of jihad and participation in the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque.”

Deif has commanded the Al-Qassam Brigades in Gaza since the 1990s and orchestrated a series of terrorist attacks on Israelis. He also oversaw Hamas’s armament program, tunnel project and attempts to kidnap Israelis and use them as bargaining chips to secure the release of Palestinian security prisoners. **HW**

# Candace Owens Doubts Mengele Experiments, Calling Them ‘Propaganda’

(JNS) – Far-right political commentator and talk-show host Candace Owens, who was let go from “The Daily Wire” in March over anti-Jewish rhetoric, dipped her toe into antisemitic waters once again.

She called the torturous “experiments” on Jewish and other prisoners held by Nazi Germans and undertaken by Dr. Josef Mengele during World War II and the Holocaust “bizarre propaganda.”

Owens said last week that “some of the stories, by the way, sound completely absurd.”

Mentioning an account of humans cut in half, Owens asked: “Why would you do that?” She then quipped: “Literally, even if you’re the most evil person in the world, that’s a tremendous waste of time and supplies.”

She asserted that “just sounds like bizarre propaganda.”

Social-media users pushed back, in-

cluding Arsen Ostrovsky, CEO of the International Legal Forum, who wrote that Owens “has totally lost the plot and gone full-blown neo-Nazi.”

The Combat Antisemitism Movement called her statements “utterly repugnant.”

In response, Owens explained the broader context and purpose of her statements, claiming that Zionists “have polluted American minds to believe that we must defend Israel out of morality

and the evils of the Holocaust.”

Further explaining her intent, she wrote that “learning about how many people who committed holocausts and mass murders were protected by Israel is disruptive to that narrative.”

The StopAntisemitism watchdog group asked, “Her senile remarks echo the dangerous rhetoric of her friend, Kanye West, raising the question: Is she vying for the title of ‘Antisemite of the Year?’” **HW**



# Democrats Clash Over Aid to Israel at Meeting of Party Platform Committee



President Joe Biden speaks during a Saint Patrick's Day event with Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in the East Room of the White House, March 17, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Credit: Samuel Corum/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – WASHINGTON – The committee drafting the Democratic platform heard clashing visions of what the party's Israel policy should be, with two witnesses urging continued military aid and one urging cuts.

Last Tuesday's online meeting, convened by a subcommittee of the Democratic platform committee, underscored a dilemma the party faces as it heads into their August convention.

Any change to the robustly pro-Israel language in the Democrats' 2020 platform could alienate Jewish voters and donors who are already rattled by months of protests against Israel's war in Gaza and increasing criticism of Israel's actions among Democratic lawmakers.

The Biden campaign, on the other hand, is seeking to stem discontent on the party's left with the president's support for Israel. That backlash has been especially pronounced in swing states such as Michigan where there is a substantial Arab American population. Fights also erupted over the Democratic platform's Israel policy section in 2012 and 2016.

The Democratic platform meeting, one of several that will take place before the convention in Chicago, also came a day after the Republican Party published its platform, which includes unmitigated support for Israel as well as anti-immigrant language and pledges to erode the separation of church and state, both of which have long unsettled Jewish Americans.

Speaking in favor of continued assistance to Israel were Halie Soifer, the CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, and Dana Stroul, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense who is now a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank highly regarded by Israel's defense establishment.

Stroul said President Joe Biden had reversed much of the damage that former President Donald Trump's isolationist bent caused to U.S. deterrence in the Middle East. She cast U.S. support for Israel as part of the fabric of a robust defense policy. And she stressed that Biden coupled his support for Israel with plans to bring relief to the millions of Palestinians displaced by the war.

"The focus on human security and rights is why the Biden-Harris administration is pushing Israel to formulate a credible plan for Gaza's recovery and stabilization," she said. "Palestinian civilians deserve a future without the stranglehold of Hamas governance, as well as a viable political horizon for a state of their own alongside the Jewish democratic state of Israel."

Soifer spoke of how closely Israel is

held in American Jewish hearts. Her remarks signaled that changing the platform could cause damage for the Democrats among one of their most loyal constituencies.

"Eighty-two percent of Jewish voters identify as pro-Israel and have an emotional attachment to Israel, and 74% approve of President Biden's handling of the war with Hamas, according to a November poll," Soifer said, adding that the polling by the Jewish Electorate Institute and others also showed broad American support for the U.S.-Israel relationship. "The Democratic Party platform language on Israel should not be diluted from the strong starting point of four years ago."

Elianne Farhat, who is of Lebanese and indigenous American descent, is the executive director of TakeAction Minnesota, a grassroots activist group. She described the U.S. Navy evacuating her from Lebanon in 2006, when she was visiting family during the Israel-Hezbollah war of that summer.

"I know what it is like when our country uses our immense power to promote good as well as when it misuses that power to spread pain, suffering and genocide," she said. "I know what it's like to have bombs paid for with my tax dollars falling on my head."

Farhat, who is also a leader in the "Uncommitted" movement, which urged Democratic primary voters to vote

"uncommitted" to protest Biden's Israel policies, cited polling whose source she did not identify to back her claim that cutting assistance to Israel would be popular and reach disaffected voters.

"I'd ask you to consider the overwhelming sentiment among our constituents: 80% of Democrats support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, 52% of Americans and 62% of Biden voters advocate for halting arm sales to Israel," she said. "These numbers are reinforced by tens of thousands rallied nationwide."

She urged the United States to advocate an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and an embargo on arms sales to Israel.

Platforms are non-binding but reflect a party's priorities. Soifer in a text to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency predicted the platform would continue to support defense assistance for Israel.

"The Democratic Platform language on Israel in 2020 included an ongoing annual commitment of U.S. security as-

stance to Israel," she said. "In 2024, this commitment stands, and should be updated to reflect President Biden and Democrats' staunch support of Israel in the aftermath of the horrific Hamas attacks of October 7, including an unprecedented increase in emergency security assistance for Israel of \$14.3 billion."

The structure of the hearing, which lasted several hours, saw each presentation followed with friendly questions from members of the drafting committee who are sympathetic to the witness's point of view. Jeremy Bash, a former top defense official in Democratic administrations who is now a consultant, spoke to Stroul and Soifer. Keith Ellison, the Minnesota attorney general who was a prominent critic of Israel when he was in Congress, spoke to Farhat.

The platform must be complete by the beginning of the convention, when it will be formally approved on the floor. The convention starts on Aug. 19. [HW](#)

LOOK FOR YOUR 2024-2025  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL  
ARRIVING BY MAIL SOON!  
RENEW NOW at [HebrewWatchman.com](https://HebrewWatchman.com)  
or see page 3 to mail a check.

**MEDICARE SPECIALIST**  
STEVE BAER  
...  
901.237.4207 | [stevenfbaer@gmail.com](mailto:stevenfbaer@gmail.com)

- Check if your current rate is competitive
- Help with people aging in to Medicare
- Licensed with all of the major carriers

**As always . . .**  
**Your long term care, life and annuity specialist**

**Comfort Keepers.**  
Elevating the Human Spirit™

**Watch Them Thrive with In-Home Care**

The specially trained caregivers at Comfort Keepers provide meaningful, in-home care so seniors can live independently. From providing companionship to caring for those with dementia, we're here to help your loved one thrive and give you peace of mind.

**901-207-8209**  
Home + Life + Care | [ComfortKeepers.com](https://ComfortKeepers.com)  
Comfort Keepers of the Mid-South, 5668 S Rex Rd #200, Memphis, Tennessee 38119  
© 2022 CK Franchising, Inc. An international network where most offices are independently owned and operated.

**In-Home Care Services**

- Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- Respite care
- Safety solutions





# CONFRONT ANTISEMITISM

Join Federation’s efforts  
to address antisemitism.

Apply for a grant of up to \$3,000  
for programming that raises  
awareness of antisemitism  
and aids in countering  
its harmful effects.

**Apply today:**  
[jcpmemphis.org/antisemitism](http://jcpmemphis.org/antisemitism)

[#erasehateinmemphis](https://twitter.com/erasehateinmemphis)

- For more information:**
- [bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org)
  - 901-767-7100



# BLUFF CITY

## FENCE CO.

- EST. 1972 -

BLUFFCITYFENCE.COM - 901.767.8080

Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates

