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# Parents of Israeli-American Hostage Omer Neutra Lead Republican Convention in ‘Bring Them Home’ Chant



(L-R) Ronen Neutra and Orna Neutra, whose son is being held hostage by Hamas, speak during the third day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 17, 2024. Credit: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – MILWAUKEE – A dominant chant at the Republican National Convention last Wednesday was “Fight!” – what President Donald Trump said when he rose after an assassination attempt [the week prior], and what many convention attendees believe is needed to secure a strong future for the United States.

But for a few moments last Wednesday, another mantra took center stage: “Bring them home!”

The chant was led by Ronen and Orna Neutra, the parents of Omer Neutra, a hostage and a dual Israeli-American citizen held by Hamas in Gaza since Oct. 7.

“This was not merely an attack on Israel; this was and remains an attack on Americans,” Ronen Neutra said, noting that 45 of the 1,200 people murdered on Oct. 7 were Americans, as are eight of the remaining hostages, five of them

thought to be living.

Orna Neutra described Omer and recalled his birth in the United States nearly 23 years ago.

“Omer was born in New York City, in 2001, this was one month after 9/11,” she said in similar comments outside the arena earlier in the day. On the day of the terrorist attacks, she said, “I was eight months pregnant crossing over the Queensboro Bridge trying to get home from the city with Omer in my belly, just trying to get him out of harm’s way. And it’s just insane that 23 years later, he was caught in this vile terrorist attack.”

The Neutras were wearing “Bring Them Home Now” T-shirts, in keeping with the advocacy of hostage families and their supporters around keeping their loved ones in the public consciousness. In Israel, the message has morphed into a political statement calling for a deal that

would see the release of the hostages following an end to the war in Gaza.

The couple did not mention the ongoing negotiations over a deal in their comments. But Ronen Neutra revealed that Trump had called the couple personally shortly after Oct. 7.

“We know he stands with the American hostages,” he said. “We need our beautiful son back and we need your support.”

Trump has not commented extensively on the hostage crisis beyond saying that Hamas’ attack would not have happened had he been president at the time and saying that he does not believe many hostages remain alive.

Earlier in the day, the Neutras drew a crowd on an outdoor concourse in the convention complex when they spoke with Concerned Women of America about their plight. While Orna Neutra spoke, Madison Cawthorn, a former North Carolina representative who was unseated in 2022 following controversies that included backlash against a vacation to Hitler’s Austria retreat, passed by on his wheelchair. Perched on his lap was a slim blonde in a tight dress. Passersby, including people who had been listening to the Neutras, posed for selfies.

The theme of the third night of the Republican convention was “Make America Strong Once Again.” The Associated Press photo of Trump after the assassination attempt, furious and streaks of blood from where the bullet grazed his ear staining his face, has become a defining emblem of the entire conference.

Attendees also were shown footage of Hamas’ attack on Israel and from Iran’s missile assault on Israel in April, to make the case that Israel faces danger because of Democratic President Joe Biden’s weakness.

“When President Trump brokered the Abraham Accords and was moving the Middle East toward peace and cooperation, President Biden’s weakness and confusion led toward a terrible Hamas assault killing more than 1,200 innocent people in Israel,” former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich said in his speech.

“We need a president treating our friends as friends and our adversaries as our adversaries, understanding they only respect strength, not weakness,” said Lee Zeldin, a Jewish former New York congressman who ran a failed bid for governor in 2022, in his speech.

Zeldin mentioned Trump’s plan to replicate Israel’s Iron Dome anti-missile system, although it is not clear what protections it would provide a country not beset by rocket attacks, as Israel is.

“We must elect President Trump, whether building an Iron Dome defense shield at home, countering China and other bad actors abroad or securing our borders,” he said.

“He will make America strong and respected again,” Zeldin said, and alluded to the assassination attempt. “President Trump risks everything for us.”

Others invoking Trump’s purported toughness in defense of Israel included Shabbos Kestenbaum, who is suing his alma mater, Harvard University, for not doing enough to protect Jews on campus from pro-Palestinian demonstrators after Oct. 7.

“Let’s elect a president who will confront terrorism and its supporters once again,” Kestenbaum said.

The conference also honored the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill fraternity brothers who in April prevented pro-Palestinian protesters from pulling down an American flag. [HW](#)

# One Killed in Tel Aviv as Drone Shot from Yemen Explodes in City Center



Police congregate near the site of a drone attack in Tel Aviv on July 19, 2024. Credit: Ben Sales

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – TEL AVIV – A drone attack in Tel Aviv killed one person and injured several others as the regional scope of the Israel-Hamas war was brought home to Israel’s urban center.

The Houthi terror group in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack in the early hours of last Friday morning in central Tel Aviv, not far from the beach and the U.S. Embassy office here. It was the deepest strike into Israeli territory claimed by the Houthis, who have focused their attacks on ships in the Red Sea and on the southern port city of Eilat since Oct. 7. Israeli authorities said human error prevented civilians from being alerted to the drone.

The drone exploded in the air, according to police at the scene, and shrapnel from the bomb killed one man and injured several others. Damage from the blast was visible in broken windows on the upper floors of surrounding buildings, though conditions on the ground were mostly unaffected.

Miri Edri, a longtime resident of a building at the blast site, said she was awake to hear the boom and saw a nearby construction bin ignite as shrapnel flew across the area. She said she screamed upon hearing the explosion and is now surveying damage to the

(See **Drone** Page 3)



My Teen Israel Experience



Ari Taub, right, with friends at the Tel Aviv boardwalk.

Israel was always a special place to me, even though I had never visited. I thought about it as my second home away from home. The summer of 2023 proved to me that I was right; Israel is my second home. I felt so welcomed and everyone treated me like I was one of their own. The people on my BBYO summer trip made the journey there even better. Everything and everyone appeared super alive and bright. As soon as I walked outside, I could feel the energy of the Jewish State and felt connected to my roots.

While on my trip to Israel, we stopped in five cities – Jerusalem, Haifa, Tiberias, Tel Aviv, and Eilat – and then ended back in Jerusalem. All five cities were amazing but different. My favorite city was Tel Aviv, because it was so vibrant with amazing food, people, and beaches. I also had the unique opportunity to visit my Israeli family while I was in Tel Aviv.

The city I felt most connected to was Jerusalem, because besides Memphis, Jerusalem means the most to me. I was incredibly happy Jerusalem was the first stop on my trip. I had always dreamed of going to the Old City and more specifically, the Kotel. I felt connected to the Old City, especially the tomb of Abraham. When I entered the Kotel for the first time, it felt different from any place I had ever visited. I, a 16-year-old kid from Memphis, Tennessee, was walking in the footsteps of the ancestors before me and the ancestors before them. It felt like, and was, the most special place I had ever stepped foot in.

Haifa, Tiberias, and Eilat were the other three cities we visited. Although I didn't feel as connected to these cities as I did to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, they were still amazing. Haifa's culture and beaches were amazing. This was my

third favorite city. We had a fantastic first Shabbat in Haifa.

Tiberias was also very fun, despite a record-breaking heat wave while we were there. To stay cool, we did a lot of water activities while seeing historical sites and hiking. Eilat was also fun, but it was the hottest city we visited. In Eilat, we went banana boating, and we went to the pier/docks.

At the pier, I went on a slingshot ride with one of my friends; it was very scary. While in Eilat I had Glidah (the best ice cream ever.) On the way back from Eilat to Jerusalem, we stopped for the night and had a great experience at the Bedouin tents. After that night and experiencing their culture, we woke up super early to climb Masada. Masada was amazing, the sunrise was beautiful, and I learned about the history that occurred on the mountain.

Although I am not in Israel anymore, the summer of 2023 was the best summer ever. I was able to experience the country I had always wanted to visit, see the beautiful country and spend it with the best BBYO friends. I can confidently say Israel is my second home.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping make my BBYO Israel journey possible for me.

Ari Taub, son of Elissa and Dr. Marc Taub, is a rising senior at St. George's Independent School. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to offset the costs of his BBYO Ultimate Western Europe / Israel program. All rising juniors and seniors are eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2025 will open in November 2024. **HW**

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7/25/2024



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. July 26, 2024 / 20 Tammuz, 5784 ..... 7:49 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. July 27, 2024 / 21 Tammuz, 5784 ..... 8:48 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Pinchas

Israel's 'Air Force One' Leaves for U.S. – without the PM

(JNS) – Israel's new "Air Force One" – dubbed Wing of Zion – took off for the U.S. last Tuesday on its first official flight but will have to return to the Jewish state to pick up the prime minister.

The double transatlantic round trips on the \$200,000 flights come amid a reported tiff between the Prime Minister's Office and Israel Aerospace Industries

over the size of the new plane, which can sit 60 passengers, fewer than the expected entourage of aides, security detail and journalists accompanying the premier.

It was not immediately clear why the seating capacity issue was not ironed out in advance during the years when the Israeli Air Force Boeing 767-338ER widebody-twinjet airliner was being modified for its special role.

The first flight carrying security personnel and equipment ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress this week touched down in the U.S. last Wednesday. It will then make its way back to Israel to take the premier and his entourage to the U.S. trip.

Until now, Israeli presidents and prime ministers paying state visits flew on chartered flights, mainly operated by the national flagship carrier El Al.

The plane, which first arrived in Israel in 2016, has been the subject of political infighting for years, with the prime minister and his supporters arguing that it is a necessary safety measure, and detractors calling it a waste of taxpayer money and a symbol of corruption.

The aircraft was slated to make its debut on a flight to Dubai last year that was cancelled due to the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre and the ensuing war in Gaza against the terrorist organization. **HW**



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# Trump Names J.D. Vance, who Blamed Assassination Attempt on Democrats, as His Running Mate



**U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance, an Ohio Republican, speaks to reporters in the spin room following the CNN Presidential Debate between U.S. President Joe Biden and Republican presidential candidate, former U.S. President Donald Trump at the McCamish Pavilion on the Georgia Institute of Technology campus, Atlanta, June 27, 2024. Credit: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images**

**By Ron Kampeas**

(JTA) – MILWAUKEE – Donald Trump named as his running mate Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, who once worried that Trump could become an American “Hitler” but who this weekend blamed Democratic rhetoric for last Sunday’s assassination attempt on the former president.

The selection sets up Vance as an attack dog against those who are concerned that elements of Trump’s agenda and rhetoric echo hyper nationalist and authoritarian trends – a common concern among many Jewish liberals and Democrats.

Vance himself shared his own misgivings about Trump in a private message to a friend in 2016, writing that he was unsure about what to think about the then-candidate. “I go back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical asshole like Nixon who wouldn’t be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he’s America’s Hitler,” Vance wrote.

A spokesperson said the comment no longer reflected Vance’s views in 2022, when it was first reported during his Senate run. And in meetings with the Ohio Jewish community since his first campaign, Vance has said he prefers to battle extremists among Republicans privately.

Trump made his announcement last Monday, the first day of the Republican convention here, and cited Vance’s resume as a bestselling author of the autobiographical “Hillbilly Elegy,” a graduate of Yale Law School and a veteran of the Marines and a businessman.

Trump especially focused on what he sees as Vance’s Midwestern credibility in an election that will be closely fought in

swing states. Vance “will be strongly focused on the people he fought so brilliantly for, the American workers and farmers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota and far beyond,” Trump wrote in his announcement.

In an election in which the presidential candidates’ age has been a leading concern, Vance is notable for being 39 – exactly half Trump’s age. His 40th birthday is next month.

All together, that calculus appears to have shoved aside other close contenders for the role, including a pair with deeper ties to the Republican Jewish and pro-Israel communities, Sens. Tim Scott of South Carolina and Marco Rubio of Florida. Vance, his political career barely two years old, does not have much of a record on Israel – though he spoke two years ago at a convening of conservatives in Tel Aviv.

Vance has emphasized the threat that Iran, Israel’s enemy, poses to U.S. allies in the Middle East, and days after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, which inaugurated the current war in Gaza, he joined the entire Ohio delegation in a letter to Ohio Jewish Communities, a community relations group, condemning the attacks and antisemitism. The senator has criticized President Joe Biden for his efforts to influence Israeli policy, including on judicial reform and its war strategy in Gaza.

Vance was one of 15 senators to vote against sending Israel emergency defense aid in April and two years ago, though his opposition was focused on a much larger part of the proposed legisla-

tion: funding for Ukraine.

At a speech at the Quincy Institute in May, Vance sought to distinguish between U.S. funding for Ukraine and support for Israel.

“It’s sort of weird that this town assumes that Israel and Ukraine are exactly the same. They’re not, of course, and I think it’s important to analyze them in separate buckets,” the senator said.

He added: “A big part of the reason why Americans care about Israel is because we are still the largest Christian-majority country in the world, which means that a majority of citizens of this country think that their Savior – and I count myself a Christian – was born and died and resurrected in that narrow little strip of territory on the Mediterranean. The idea that there is ever going to be an American foreign policy that doesn’t care a lot about that slice of the world is preposterous.”

Vance appeared to be gaining steam [week before last], when Trump indicated that his son, Donald Trump Jr., who is close to Vance, would be giving a speech just prior to the formal nomination of the vice president last Wednesday. Trump Jr. persuaded his father to back Vance in the 2022 Republican primary, a nod that boosted Vance over Ohio’s former Jewish state treasurer, Josh Mandel.

But doubts were cast last week on the nomination when Trump emerged from the assassination attempt in Pennsylvania with a pledge to cast aside what he had indicated would be a typically fiery speech for one that would preach unity.

Within an hour of the attempt – which grazed Trump’s ear, killed a supporter and gravely wounded two others – Vance was blaming Democratic rhetoric for the attack. The motive of the 20-year-old gunman, who was slain at the scene, is not known.

“The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs,” Vance said on X. “That rhetoric led directly to President Trump’s attempted assassination.”

Jewish Democrats have made similar warnings about Trump a central plank of their attacks on the candidate, this year and in the 2016 and 2020 elections. Halie Soifer, the CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, in a “Haaretz” op-ed recently said, “Biden vs. Trump Is a Simple Choice for American Jews: Democracy or Dictatorship.”

The Republican Jewish Coalition welcomed Vance’s selection, saying that he “will always stand with the Jewish community and with America’s key strategic ally Israel.”

Several left-wing Jewish Democratic groups meanwhile criticized Trump’s pick.

“J.D. Vance is a far-right extremist who denied the 2020 election results, supports a national abortion ban and voted against aid to Israel during its war with Hamas,” said Mark Mellman, president and CEO of Democratic Majority for Israel, in a statement. “As vice president, he’ll advance a MAGA agenda, whose north star is sowing division and hatred.”

J Street, the liberal pro-Israel lobby, said Vance would embolden the right-wing Israelis to whom he spoke in Tel Aviv. “The Israeli far-right and settlement movement now has an enthusiastic cheerleader on the Republican ticket,” President Jeremy Ben-Ami said in a statement. “It will be a disaster for Israel’s democratic future if he ends up in the White House.”

Liberal groups also have expressed concerns about elements of Trump’s current platform, particularly a pledge to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, and throughout the years have called him out for flirting with the far right. Trump also refused to accept the results of the 2020 election and has not said he will accept the results in 2024 should he lose.

Vance also has stoked concerns among traditional Republicans who favor a robust foreign policy. He has emerged as a frontline critic of defense assistance to Ukraine to repel its Russian invaders. He and others who opposed the assistance delayed for months an aid bill that included emergency funding for Israel.

Howie Beigelman, the CEO of Ohio Jewish Communities, which lobbies state officials, has said that Vance is a respectful interlocutor who listens to those who differ with him. “He’s always met with Ohio’s Jewish community, always taken meetings with pro-Israel advocates & given us probably the most unvarnished legislative truths,” Beigelman tweeted earlier this month.

Vance came under fire from his 2022 rival, former Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, for accepting an endorsement from Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a champion of the far right. She has repeatedly offended Jewish sensibilities by trivializing the Holocaust and peddling antisemitic conspiracy theories.

Beigelman at the time told Jewish Insider that Vance, in a meeting with Jewish community leaders, said that his way of confronting bigotry was “doing it in the way most likely to affect change, which isn’t always a public rep- rimand.” **HW**

## Jewish Leadership Responds to Rise in Neo-Nazi Demonstrations Around Nashville

**By Tony Garcia**

*Published: Jul. 17, 2024 Reprinted with permission.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WSMV) – Small groups of extreme, antisemitic men have organized a series of demonstrations in the last few weeks around the Nashville area and the Jewish community is calling for something to be done.

The Goyim Defense League (GDL), an anti-Israel group of white supremacists, is the latest to show up with Nazi flags and flyers in Nashville in the last few weeks.

- July 6 - The Patriot Front crossed over the Cumberland River and marched down Broadway.

- July 14 - the GDL marched down Broadway and a fight ensued with a lo-

cal bartender, resulting in arrests.

- July 15 - the GDL took over a bridge over I-65 in Madison, waived Nazi flags, and hung a large graphic sign over the side of the overpass.

- July 16 - the GDL broke up a Metro Council meeting, forcing council members to clear the room.

- July 16 - the GDL showed up outside the West End Synagogue and attempted a demonstration at the Temple.

“Our community and all Nashvillians are being threatened and our leaders must respond.” ~ Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville

The GDL operates out of Florida, according to the Anti-Defamation League, and their goal is to “expel Jews from America.”

The Anti-Defamation League describes the Patriot Front as “American nationalists,” who are fighting to preserve America’s identity as a “Pan-European nation.”

The Temple leadership responded to the demonstrations with words of encouragement for the Jewish community and praise for local law enforcement.

“We are grateful to our Temple staff, security patrol, and the Belle Meade and Metro Nashville Police Departments for their immediate action and attention to this matter,” the Temple Clergy said. “Together we remain strong and hope for the day when hatred will give way to love.”

The Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville is calling for more action from Nashville and Tennessee lawmak-

ers, as these incidents continue to be more commonplace.

“We have been warning our local and state elected officials to act, and thus far insufficient action has been taken to enforce our current laws,” the Jewish Federation said. “There is no mincing words. Our community and all Nashvillians are being threatened and our leaders must respond.”

The Jewish Federation plans to hold a community event on Sunday to show there is no place for antisemitism or hate in Nashville, according to a release.

The federation’s CEO, Rabbi Dan Horwitz spoke before the Metro Council meeting to further alert Nashvillians of the recent threat of anti-Jewish groups in the city. **HW**



# Adidas Said it Will ‘Revise’ 1972 Olympic Sneaker Campaign that Features Palestinian-American Activist Bella Hadid



A new campaign for Adidas features supermodel Bella Hadid wearing a reissue of sneakers from the 1972 Munich Olympics. Photos courtesy of Adidas. Design by Jackie Hajdenberg

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – Adidas said it will revise a campaign that features Palestinian-American supermodel and activist Bella Hadid modeling a sneaker recalling the 1972 Munich Olympics – the Games where 11 Israelis died in a terror attack by a Palestinian terrorist group.

Various Jewish and pro-Israel leaders and institutions said Hadid, who has been harshly critical of Israel in her activism on behalf of Palestinians, was an inappropriate choice to represent a sneaker associated with those games.

The official X account for the State of Israel posted about the 1972 campaign, accusing Hadid and her father, Los Angeles real estate developer Mohamed Hadid, of promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories and asking Adidas for comment.

“Eleven Israelis were murdered by Palestinian terrorists during the Munich Olympics,” the post said. “Guess who the face of their campaign is? Bella Hadid, a half-Palestinian model who has a history of spreading antisemitism and calling for violence against Israelis and Jews. She and her father frequently promote blood libels and antisemitic conspiracies against Jews.”

The American Jewish Committee also condemned the Adidas campaign on X, calling it an “egregious error.”

“For Adidas to pick a vocal anti-Israel model to recall this dark Olympics is either a massive oversight or intentionally inflammatory,” the AJC wrote. “Neither is acceptable.”

A spokesperson for Adidas told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the company would be “revising” the campaign for the shoe, called Adidas Originals SL72, in response to the criticism, although it did not specify how. The shoe is a replica of a style worn by athletes at the 1972 games.

“The Adidas Originals SL72 campaign unites a broad range of partners to celebrate our lightweight running shoe, designed more than 50 years ago and worn in sport and culture around the world,” the spokesperson said. “We are conscious that connections have been made to tragic historical events – though these are completely unintentional – and we apologize for any upset or distress caused. As a result, we are revising the remainder of the campaign. We believe in sport as a unifying force around the world and will continue our efforts to champion diversity and equality in everything we do.”

Hadid was among five celebrities, models and athletes hired as models for the new SL 72 campaign.

The revision marks yet another instance where the German-based athletic apparel company has faced public scrutiny over its representatives and design choices. Earlier this year, the typeface for the German soccer team DFB’s jersey number 44 (which is not currently in

use by the team, but which buyers can customize) was discovered to resemble the Nazi SS symbol. In 2022, Adidas broke ties with Ye, the rapper and designer formerly known as Kanye West, due to his multiple antisemitic comments.

Hadid, whose father was born in Nazareth, has been a vocal activist for Palestinians since long before Oct. 7, 2023, and frequently uses her large social media presence to advocate for and bring attention to pro-Palestinian causes. She and her sister, Gigi Hadid, have together donated \$1 million to support multiple Palestinian relief efforts in Gaza, including HEAL Palestine, Palestine Children’s Relief Fund, World Central Kitchen, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Hadid has occasionally shared misinformation about the Israel-Hamas war and received criticism for sharing social media posts downplaying the experiences of the Israelis held hostage in Gaza.

At the 1972 Munich Olympics, eight members of the Palestinian terror group Black September broke into the Israeli Olympic team’s residence, immediately killing one coach and one member of the weightlifting team, and took nine more Israeli team members hostage. All were killed during a botched rescue operation, as was a West German police officer.

The massacre was commemorated at the Olympics for the first time at the 2020 Games, held in 2021. This year’s commemorations in Paris are reportedly set to be held in an undisclosed location, due to security concerns. **HW**

# Estate Planning Why Can’t I Just Have a Will?

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

Due to TV shows and movies, the Will is the most famous Estate Planning document. The Will’s notoriety coupled with a general lack of education in the area of Estate Planning, causes many individuals and couples to assume incorrectly that a Will-based Estate Plan is sufficient to fully protect oneself, one’s family and one’s assets. As we have alluded to in previous articles, in most cases, a Will alone is *not* the ideal Estate Plan because it is not comprehensive or thorough enough to achieve an individual’s or couple’s estate planning goals. Here are some of the important pros and cons of Will-based Estate Plans in Tennessee:

Cons:

- 1. Probate Court:** One of the most important disadvantages of a Will-based Estate Plan is that when one dies in Tennessee with a Will-based Estate Plan, the Will and the individual’s Estate must go through a Probate Court case. Probate Court can be a lengthy and expensive process and can tie up assets for months or even years. This can be especially problematic if one’s heirs rely on the decedent’s assets to pay for expenses or bills. Importantly, Probate Court is often avoidable altogether with Trust-based Estate Plans.
- 2. Public record:** When one’s Will goes through Probate Court, the Will and the decedent’s Estate become a matter of public record. This means that at all times anyone can access a copy of the decedent’s Will, who inherited the decedent’s assets, who the creditors were against the decedent’s Estate to whom the decedent owed money before he or she died, any individual’s the decedent intentionally disinherited, etc....
- 3. Limited protection:** A Will-based Estate Plan does not provide as much protection as other types of plans. For example, if



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one becomes incapacitated and is alive but no longer able to manage his or her assets or medical decisions, Wills do not provide guidance or protection.

- 4. Taxes:** Will-based plans are often not the most tax-efficient Estate Plan. Depending on the size of one’s Estate, other types of plans, such as a Trust-based plans, are better suited to reduce tax liability.

Pros:

- 1. Asset Distribution Control:** After a Probate Court case, in Tennessee, Will-based plans enable one to have control over how the individual’s remaining assets are distributed. To do so, the individual must execute a valid Will as set forth in the applicable statutes and lay out who is to benefit from the individual’s Estate and the amounts and percentages each beneficiary is to inherit.
- 2. Simplicity:** A Will-based Estate Plan is typically simpler to draft than other types of Estate Plans.
- 3. Cost:** Compared to other types of Estate Plans, Will-based plans are often less expensive on the front end to establish.

As set forth above, there are certain pros to Will-based plans in Tennessee and such plans are, in our opinion, certainly better than no plan whatsoever. As established briefly herein, however, in addition to other cons, in Tennessee, Wills do have to go through the Probate Court process when the individual who executed the Will dies. In other words, although the Will is the most famous Estate Plan, it is usually not the ideal Estate Plan. **HW**





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# McLaughlin Social Justice Institute at Christian Brothers University Holds Holocaust Education Program



Dorothy with the CBU students.

Federation thanks Dorothy Goldwin, immediate past co-chair of Federation’s Holocaust Memorial Committee, for leading a Holocaust education program for students attending the McLaughlin Social Justice Institute at Christian Brothers University. The Institute offers social justice education for students from across the U.S. who attend a Jesuit university. [HW](#)



Dorothy Goldwin, immediate past co-chair of Federation’s Holocaust Memorial Committee, center, with Christian Brothers University students (above and left).



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# Georgian National Charged with Plot to Give Poison Candy to Jewish Kids in N.Y.

JNS Staff

(JNS) – Michail Chkhikvishvili, a Georgian national with neo-Nazi ties and whose aliases include “Commander Butcher,” was indicted for soliciting hate crimes and acts of mass violence, per a federal grand jury indictment last Monday.

The 20-year-old alleged leader of the Maniac Murder Cult was arrested in Moldova on July 6 and indicted in Brooklyn, N.Y. (He had spent time in New York.)

“As alleged, the defendant sought to recruit others to commit violent attacks and killings in furtherance of his Neo-Nazi ideologies,” stated Breon Peace, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. “His goal was to spread hatred, fear and destruction by encouraging bombings, arson and even poisoning children, for the purpose of harming racial minorities, the Jewish community and homeless individuals.”

According to the indictment, Chkhikvishvili started in November 2023 to plan a major attack in New York City on New Year’s Eve.

“The scheme involved an individual dressing up as Santa Claus and handing out candy laced with poison to racial minorities,” the Justice Department stated. “The scheme also involved providing candy laced with poison to children at Jewish schools in Brooklyn.”

On or around Jan. 9, Chkhikvishvili wrote to an FBI informant posing as a recruit for Chkhikvishvili’s hate group that “Jews are literally everywhere,” and that the would-be recruit should attack on “some Jewish holiday” at “Jewish schools full of kids,” per the indictment.

“Dead Jewish kids,” he also wrote, per the complaint. He added that after publicizing a video of the attack on Jewish kids, his hate group “will become bigger than Al Qaeda once it drops.”

The accused told the undercover

agent how to make “ricin-based poisons in powder and liquid form, including by extracting ricin from castor beans,” per the Justice Department. “Some of the materials transmitted by Chkhikvishvili have been linked to radical Islamist jihadist groups and designated foreign terrorist organizations, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”

On or around July 11, 2002, Chkhikvishvili bragged in a message “that he harmed and attempted to kill a Jewish victim in Brooklyn, N.Y.,” per the complaint.

“I’m working in rehab center privately in Jewish family // I get paid to torture dying jew // I think I almost killed him today actually // If he dies soon that’s killstrike on me,” he wrote in a message, to which he attached “multiple images of his purported client in a hospital bed and bragged about harming the victim,” per the complaint.

The FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force

es found that the defendant had worked at a rehabilitation center in Brooklyn and was employed by an Orthodox Jewish family in July 2022 to assist a family member who has since died.

“Among other things, a member of the family positively identified the now-deceased family member in the photographs sent by Chkhikvishvili,” per the complaint, “and further identified a photograph of Chkhikvishvili shown to him by JTTF personnel as the individual the family had hired, stating that he believed the individual was from Georgia and that he went by the name ‘Michael,’ which is an English iteration of Michail.”

Chkhikvishvili faces up to 50 years in prison collectively for the four charges: soliciting violent felonies, conspiring to solicit violent felonies, distributing information about making explosives and spreading threatening communications. [HW](#)

# N.J. Man, who Made ‘Vile’ Anti-Jewish Threats, Sentenced to 26 Months

“We will never stop protecting the community from such disturbing, hateful conduct,” said U.S. attorney Damian Williams.

(JNS) – Nikolay Levinson, of Palisades Park, N.J., was sentenced to 26 months in prison and three subsequent years of supervised release last Wednesday for sending more than 40 threatening messages, including to synagogues.

The 41-year-old “sent vile racist, antisemitic and anti-Muslim threats for the sole purpose of instilling fear in innocent members of our community,” stated Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. “This

sentence should serve as a reminder that we will never stop protecting the community from such disturbing, hateful conduct.”

“Levinson sent the letters, which often contained racial epithets and Nazi

imagery, to businesses, schools, synagogues and individuals,” per the Justice Department. A former Maryland corrections officer, has been charged in the past for sending similarly hateful letters, including in 2017 and 2014. [HW](#)

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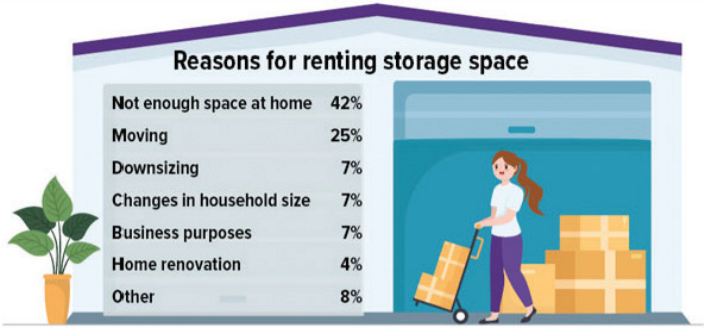
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It's estimated that almost one in five Americans leases a storage unit. In March 2024, the nationwide price for a climate-controlled storage unit averaged nearly \$150 per month. Storage renters may pay more than that for large spaces and at facilities in high-cost cities such as Los Angeles and New York.<sup>1</sup>

If you keep excess belongings stored away from home and well out of sight, this recurring monthly expense may not stay top of mind. However, finding the motivation to empty a storage space could create breathing room in your household budget and/or yield savings over time that helps you make progress toward important financial goals. For example, if you were to invest that \$150 per month in a college savings or retirement account, the balance could grow to \$25,963 in 10 years or to \$78,139 in 20 years (assuming a hypothetical 7% annual rate of return).

It may not be your favorite way to spend a weekend but decluttering the closets, garage, and living spaces in your home would be a good place to start. Prioritize and make room for the possessions and keepsakes you love most but resolve to let go of things that may not be worth keeping, especially if you must pay for storage indefinitely. Try to sell furnishings, housewares, toys, or clothing that you don't use reg-

ularly for some extra cash by posting ads with photos on resale apps, websites, or social media, or possibly by having a yard sale. If you can't sell certain items, you can feel good about giving them away to friends, neighbors, or a local charity.



Source: StorageCafe.com, March 2024

This hypothetical example of mathematical principles is used for illustrative purposes only and does not represent the performance of any specific investment. Fees, expenses, and taxes are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included. Actual results will vary. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments.

1) StorageCafe.com, March 2024

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# Indiana Man, who Threatened to Kill Jews, Called CIA 'Pathetic,' Sentenced to 15 Months

(JNS) – Jeffrey Stevens, 42 years old, of Fort Wayne, Ind., was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 15 months in prison last Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to threatening to kill Jews. After he is released, he will be supervised for two years.

Stevens used social media in November 2023 to “transmit a message to the Fort Wayne Police Department,” which included “a threat to kill individuals of Jewish faith with the suggestion that there was nothing the local police could do about it,” the U.S. attorney’s office for the Northern District of Indiana stated.

Per the Feb. 12 complaint, someone at an IP address registered to Stevens also wrote to the CIA that “I am going to shoot every pro-Israel U.S. government official in the head, and there is nothing you can do about it because you are the pathetic CIA.”

He added that, “I am going to make sure that every CIA member who is pro-Israel is eliminated. I am so confident that I will give you my phone number, and there is nothing you can do about it.” [HW](#)

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# Citing Attack on Trump, Netanyahu Demands Crackdown on What He Says is Incitement by His Opponents

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Citing the attempt last week-end on the life of Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is ordering law enforcement to reveal what it knows about anti-rightwing incitement.

“We are witnessing a flood of explicit threats of murder and violence against the prime minister and members of his family, and against ministers and public officials,” Netanyahu said last Sunday in remarks opening the weekly Cabinet meeting. “These are not just flagrant criminal offenses, they constitute a direct and explicit threat to democracy. But basically, apart from a few small exceptions, nothing tangible has been done.”

Netanyahu’s pretext was the assassination attempt at a campaign event in Pennsylvania last weekend against Trump, the former president who is running again. Trump was injured but has recovered. The motive of the gunman, who was slain, is not known but Netanyahu said he saw it as part of a worldwide rise of political violence.

“The incident that occurred in the U.S., many said the writing was on the wall,” he said. He then drew a line between the attack on Trump and protests that have dogged Netanyahu for the last year and a half. “We are seeing the writing on the wall. We are seeing the writing in the squares. We are seeing the writing on social media.”

Netanyahu singled out for criticism Attorney General Gali Baharav Miara, with whom he has clashed over separate criminal charges against him. “This is your job,” he said of prosecuting alleged inciters.

At the meeting, Netanyahu screened

90 seconds of protest leaders speaking at the rallies that have dogged him since his return to office in December 2022. Protests at first targeted Netanyahu’s proposed reforms of the judiciary and then, after Hamas’ deadly invasion on Oct. 7, turned to his failure to prevent the attack and so far to secure the release of the hostages taken captive by Hamas.

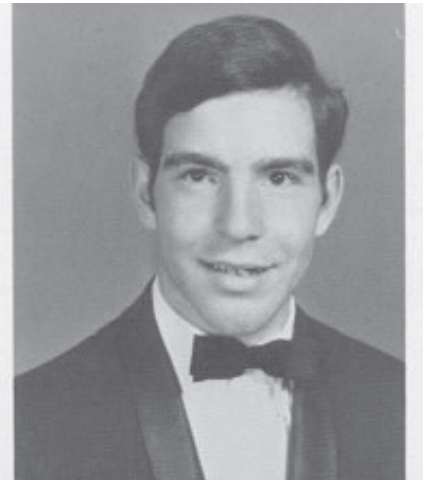
Some speakers in the video said they wished for Netanyahu’s execution while others engaged in rhetoric typical of Israel’s political ferment, including accusing Netanyahu as being as damaging to Israel as its enemies – a gambit that Netanyahu has deployed for decades, including in the most recent election.

Without providing evidence, Netanyahu said threats in Israel are overwhelmingly against the right, although leaders from the left and center also routinely face threatening rhetoric, and the most prominent assassination in Israeli history was of a left-wing leader, Yitzhak Rabin, by a right-wing gunman. Netanyahu has for decades bristled at criticism that he did not sufficiently condemn incitement against Rabin, then his rival, before the assassination in 1995.

“Each time the subject changes but it is directed against the right,” he said last Sunday, chiding the opposition for not condemning the alleged incitement. “But the senior figures do not open their mouths; neither do they condemn.”

Amos Harel, a senior security analyst for the left-wing newspaper “Haaretz,” accused Netanyahu of using the attempted assassination of Trump for political gain, saying “Netanyahu is one of the most protected head of states in the world.” **HW**

## OBITUARIES



Dr. Evan William Murray

Dr. Evan William Murray of Memphis, Tenn., died peacefully on Monday, July 15, 2024, at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. Dr. Murray, who was 71 years old, was the son of Dr. Murray Nathaniel Murray and Beatrice Engelberg Murray.

Evan graduated from White Station High School, Southwestern College (now known as Rhodes College) and medical school at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Murray was an infectious disease specialist in private practice for many years prior to his retirement.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Murray Nathaniel Murray, his

mother, Beatrice Engelberg Murray, and his brother, Dr. Gary Lee Murray (Lisa).

He is survived by his two brothers, Dr. Ian Murray and Robert Murray (Marianne), both of Memphis, and seven nieces and nephews.

Evan was a lover of all animals and always had cats and dogs as pets. He had an infectious laugh, and he greatly enjoyed being around family and friends and going to sporting events of all kinds before his health problems limited his activities.

Evan loved all sports, especially the University of Memphis Tigers where he attended both football and basketball games for over 50 years. He played college baseball for Southwestern College and enjoyed doing the play-by-play announcing for the university’s football and basketball games. He coached baseball for many years at Temple Israel. Many of his former players are now in their 60s. Evan also loved playing fast-pitch softball.

Services were held Wednesday, July 17, 2024, with burial in Beth Shalom Memorial Gardens. Canale Funeral Home had charge. The funeral was live streamed.

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

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# Bar Mitzvah – Don’t Be Silly



*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**

I just flipped through Maimonides 613 mitzvahs and not one said you had to be a bar mitzvah teacher to join the elect. But I say to myself, he’s NOT the final authority. HE, the celestial judge, considers it a mitzvah, I’m sure of it. Else why do I always win my football bets made on Wednesday – NOT Shabbos – the weekend of one of my bar mitzvahs? And that’s why I do it.

So, I mingle professionally, let us say, with the candidates, their parents, and their rabbis – the latter happy that I relieve their schedules. I notice some disturbing trends. The first one is my greatest gripe. As an old comedian – I think Jimmy Durante – used to say, “EVERYONE WANTS TO GET INTO THE ACT.”

Behavioral scientists have long noticed an affinity between the human mouth and the electronic microphone or in days of yore, the megaphone.

They can’t stop. Why is that dangerous? Because the day belongs to the kid – not parents, not the Sisterhood, not even the rabbi. By the time the poor bar mitzvahee is ready to deliver his speech, the only product the congregation can understand, (you think they know the Haftorah trope?) the audience is waterlogged. Drowned in a flood of loving words. And love is like the watermelon; too much and you’re stuffed, bloated, and it has no taste. Yes, we know – with some exception – parents love their children. Twenty minutes of insistence in front of 200 people is inappropriate unless the bar mitzvah candidate just got out of criminal confinement, and they want to welcome him back into the bosom of the family. And of course there’s the Sisterhood president, who swaps a \$15 gift for a 20-minute lecture that we hear every month. And maybe there’s Aunt Sayde from New York – she, too, has a commentary, advice, counsel to young Bennie.

Then there’s the rabbi, inspired by non-membership candidates, who also pontificates. Sometimes, though, they’re wise enough to cut it short so the kid can have his day.

This gets us to the cardinal sin, which broaches every rule of good taste. “The Thank Yous” of the bar mitzvah speech.

I’ve heard them all:

1. Thanks to the Georgia Highway Department for manning the roads so my Uncle Joe could drive in from Atlanta. And a special love ya to the anonymous workers who built the bridge over the Looschatchee so Uncle Joe didn’t have to wade across the river in his \$75 polyester suit.

2. Thanks to Pilot James W. Dougherty, who safely piloted my grandparents from Milwaukee. Thanks to his family, too, who I know love him.

3. A strong and heartfelt thank you to Joe Thermo, who maintains our synagogue’s environmental system that allows us to enjoy 70-degree comfort. And thanks to his son, Ezra, who assisted him and will soon graduate from Southwest Tech.


Oh sure, there’s always a two-nano-second expression of gratitude to the bar mitzvah teacher who can’t fly airplanes, or build bridges, who only devoted a year of his life to this mitzvah that Maimonides (some sage) didn’t list as a mitzvah. I’d love to review HIS speech. Wonder if he thanked the shul janitor?

An ideal bar mitzvah should spotlight the child – not publicize the love of his family – a tasteless display. Did we think they hated him? It’s his day – not theirs. It should be designed to accent

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By Ted Roberts

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responsibility and his newfound skills and obligations. Distractions should be held to a minimum. And maybe the highway department didn’t build that bridge just to keep Uncle Joe dry.

And none of the above is worthwhile without a heavy dose of inspiration and pride – so lacking in today’s kids – along with Torah and/or Haftorah.

And I’ll finish with a secret. A successful bar mitzvah program should end with the teacher experiencing a small measure of additional pride, too.

*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*

## Jerusalem Choir, with Jews and Arabs, Wows U.S. Talent Show

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – A youth choir composed of Jews and Arabs has advanced to the second round of “America’s Got Talent” after an impressive audition on last Tuesday night’s episode of the NBC show.

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus, made up of singers from east and west Jerusalem, delivered a stirring rendition of Philip Phillips’s song “Home,” earning enthusiastic approval from all four

“America’s Got Talent” judges and a standing ovation from the live audience, the “Jewish Chronicle” reported last Wednesday.

Judges Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Sofia Vergara and Howie Mandel all gave emphatic “yes” votes to the group, praising their performance and message.

One choir member described the group’s mission to the judges, saying,

“We believe through music and through working together and talking to each other, we are taking a step forward into building that amazing future where there is justice and there is freedom and there is equality and there is inclusion.”

When asked by Klum about their plans for the \$1 million prize money, another member responded, “We will create more spaces just like these choruses so people can meet people who are

different from them.”

Cowell commended the group, saying, “You made something very complicated – beautiful through friendship.”

Mandel said that their performance gave him “goosebumps” and called it a “world anthem.”

Vergara described the performance as “heartwarming” and “inspiring.”

*Originally published by Israel Hayom. HW*

## ISRAEL INSIGHTS One, Two, or Three States for Two Peoples?

**By Howard Weisband**

The new British Government was sworn in on July 9. On July 14, Israel welcomed the newly installed British Foreign Secretary, David Lammy. The Associated Press on that date reported that David Lammy said the ongoing war in Gaza is “intolerable” and stressed in meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leadership that Britain wants to assist with diplomatic efforts in “securing a cease-fire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution. Further, “Lammy demanded Israel halt settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem and said that the Palestinian Authority needs to be “reformed and empowered.”

My first reaction was to feel that Mr. Lammy, five days into his new position, was speaking with “chutzpah.” Should he not have been here to see, learn, discuss, determine, rather than demand? Second, in the midst of war, while I understand his call for a ceasefire, I seriously question his linking that to a two-state solution. Yes, the PA needs to be reformed and empowered, but does he suggest how to do that; does he understand the history and realpolitik of a two-state solution.

To be fair, I have also had the same question of President Biden and Secre-

tary Blinken and other world leaders. But I was taken aback by the chutzpah of the Foreign Secretary after merely five days in office.

Respectfully, why does Mr. Lammy think that today’s PA is prepared to accept the existence of Israel as the Jewish State, and then agree that two states should live in security and peace next to one another... given that Arab history, charters, and proclamations in reality express otherwise?

Is he not aware that his own nation sponsored the Balfour Declaration in 1917 calling for both a Jewish state and an Arab state, but that was rejected by the Arab population? Surely he is aware of the 1947 partition plan of the U.N., again calling for two states, refused by Arab states and the Arabs in Palestine. They went to war rather than to the conference table.

The Oslo Process in 1993, was seemingly accepted by the PLO, the strongest faction within the PA, but it quickly decided that terrorism and intifada were more central to their future than a peace process. More recently, the Abraham Accords were decryd by the PA as a sell-out.

Furthermore, the realpolitik aspects of “two states” are even more complicated.

As I have often commented, there

is no two-state solution at the present; there are three states: Israel and two others, the PA to our immediate west and Hamas likewise to our east. That’s why Israel’s goal in this war to eliminate Hamas as both a terror and a political entity is correct.

Moreover, surveys show that Palestinian support for Hamas, read radicalism at best, terrorism at worst, has increased. Indicative is a brief published on March 22 of this year by the Washington DC Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD). “Palestinian support for Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza remains high, according to a Palestinian poll released on March 20. That support has increased since the Iran-backed terrorist group attacked Israel on October 7. The poll, published by the Ramallah-based non-profit Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, also indicates that Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas and his faction have grown even more unpopular since the war in Gaza started.”

According to the poll, only seven percent of Gazans blamed Hamas for their suffering. Seventy-one percent of all Palestinians supported Hamas’s decision to attack Israel on October 7... Fifty-nine percent of all Palestinians thought Hamas should rule Gaza, and 70 percent were satisfied with the role

Hamas has played during the war.

More telling are the comments of two FDD officials:

“While Secretary of State Antony Blinken travels across the Middle East talking about a two-state solution... , the main impediment to such schemes remains the same: a radicalized Palestinian population that supports terrorism against Israel instead of peacemaking.” ~ Richard Goldberg, FDD Senior Advisor

“Palestinians are living in another reality – one in which Hamas did not commit atrocities on October 7 and one in which Hamas did not march the Palestinian national project off a cliff. This perception gap will further complicate Israel’s day-after plans.” – David May, FDD Research Manager and Senior Research Analyst

The day after will come. When, how, and what are the critical questions.

*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*



# Israeli Soldiers are Finding Judaica in Gaza — and Trying to Locate the Items’ Owners



Or, a soldier fighting in Gaza, displays a seder plate he found in the territory. Courtesy of Or.

By Deborah Danan

(JTA) – The commander of a small Israeli military drone unit in Gaza was on a routine reconnaissance mission with his team in an apartment in Rafah when one of his soldiers came across an object that looked strikingly out of place: a wood laminate challah board framed with the biblical injunction to “remember the Shabbat” in gold lettering, in Hebrew and English.

The commander knew that he was allowed to take property only if he needed to use it to fight the war, which didn’t apply here. But he wasn’t sure what to do.

“We’re definitely not allowed to take them as souvenirs or anything like that,” said the soldier, named Yoya. Military regulations prohibit soldiers from giving their full names to the press. “Stealing is forbidden, and it’s also immoral. But in this case, when I saw that this was a Jewish item I said, ‘this can’t be theirs.’”

So he tried to locate the owner of the challah board by posting a photo of it on Facebook. While the post garnered 1,400 reactions and nearly 250 com-

ments, nobody claimed the ritual object.

Similar posts have cropped up in the more than eight months since Israel began its ground invasion of Gaza at the end of October. Two weeks before Passover, another post made the rounds on social media – and was published in an Israeli news outlet – calling for the owners of a Seder plate found in a home in Khan Younis to claim their lost property.

In December, Yoya’s brother, Elisha, also an IDF soldier, found a Hanukkah menorah in the shape of a hamsa, a hand-shaped symbol, in a home in Khan Younis. The post said, without elaborating, that the menorah had “probably been taken on October 7” amid looting during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel.

Other troops who have encountered Judaica in Gaza have made the same assumption. Maj. (res.) Maor Lavi likewise found a menorah in what he described as the home of a terrorist in Gaza City’s Shejaiya neighborhood, alongside weapons, military uniforms and equipment. Lavi told Israel’s public broadcaster Kan that he had a “gut feeling” it was stolen on October 7.

“Next to the bed, we just saw the menorah sticking out on top of one of the dressers. We took it,” Lavi said. “I would really want to return it to its owner and find the person, the family it belongs to.”

His unit lit the menorah on the seventh and eighth nights of Hanukkah. Shortly after the incident, Lavi, a father of four, was killed.

In response to inquiries, the Israel Defense Forces detailed its regulations regarding seizing property, though it did not specifically address the issue of Judaica. More broadly, Israeli military looting has been an issue during the war.

In February, IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi called on soldiers “not to take

anything that is not ours – be it a souvenir or a piece of military equipment.” Three months later, Israel’s Military Advocate General, Maj-Gen Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, announced that the IDF was investigating 70 incidents of suspected violations of the laws of war by IDF soldiers, including looting. Several soldiers have been indicted for alleged looting from Palestinians in recent years – including during operations in Gaza.

“As part of the fighting and subject to the military protocols, it is possible to use enemy property for military necessity, as well as take property that belongs to the terrorist organizations subject to the protocols regarding booty of war,” the spokesperson said. “Taking property in ways that are not in accordance with army protocols is prohibited by law. Incidents in which forces did not behave in accordance with protocols and the law will be examined.”

Lt. Col. (res) Maurice Hirsch, former director of the IDF’s Military Prosecution in the West Bank, noted that while there is no way to fully ascertain whether the menorah and objects like it were stolen, nor whether they were taken on Oct. 7 or beforehand, there is evidence of looting of Israeli homes and businesses by Palestinians on October 7. Prior to the attack, more than 18,000 Gaza Palestinians worked legally in Israel, so it’s possible they acquired the items then.

According to its author, Asa Kasher, violations like looting fly in the face of the IDF’s Code of Ethics, which stresses the “purity of arms.”

“It means that you use your military force only for certain purposes, for the purposes of fighting a war which is justified,” he said. “And looting is using your force in a wrong way, and therefore it is absolutely forbidden.”

But Kasher said that given the sheer

scale of the current war – in which 300,000 reservists were called up in addition to regular soldiers – isolated incidents of looting, even if they number in the dozens, are statistically negligible and not indicative of the military’s broader conduct.

“It’s not the IDF. It’s the criminal margins that are expected if you have that quantity of people participating,” he said.

In the case of Jewish ritual artifacts, there is “cause to believe that they have been stolen and so soldiers would be entitled to seize those items and attempt to return them to their lawful owners,” Hirsch said. He added that as they attempt to return the items, the soldiers need to provide detailed documentation of where the objects were discovered, so that if the original owners were not identified, the artifacts could potentially be returned to the place from which they were taken.

He added however, that the IDF may harbor concerns over making exceptions for Judaica and ritual items, which “could give rise to a lapse of judgment by the soldiers where they would be taking property, which is not even reasonably thought to be stolen – and that’s looting.”

Kasher asserts that a formal procedure should be in place for handling such items, where soldiers report them up the chain of command rather than taking them to their homes. “If taking the item is justified, it must be done by the state, not by the soldier,” he said.

To date, the seder plate and menorahs all lay unclaimed. Still, that hasn’t dampened Yoya’s hope to find the owner of the challah board.

“I really wish we’ll find who it belongs to, because it definitely doesn’t belong in Rafah,” he said. **HW**

## Meta to Restore Images of Hostages after Claiming ‘Dangerous’ Content



A photo showing Liri Albag, Karina Arie, Agam Berger and Daniela Gilboa shortly after their kidnapping from the Nahal Oz Israeli military base on Oct. 7, 2023. Credit: Courtesy of the Hostages Families Forum.

By Adi Nirman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Meta has agreed to restore a post removed from the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Instagram account featuring previously unseen images of five female hostages abducted from the Israel Defense Forces’ Nahal Oz base on Oct. 7.

Meta had removed the post, citing “dangerous individuals and organizations” as the reason.

The images, published for the first time last Tuesday, show the five hostages in the early days of their captivity. They appear injured and bruised and are sitting on mattresses with a picture of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the background. The families authorized the release of these photos to raise awareness and create pressure for a hostage release deal.

In response to the removal, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum shared Meta’s notice with a single-word

comment: “Really?”

Meta’s VP of Communications, Maayan Sarig, later clarified the situation: “This case differs from our policy on removing hostage content produced by Hamas. The image of the captive female field observer soldiers doesn’t violate our policy because it wasn’t produced or published by Hamas. The IDF found it, and the hostages’ families distributed it as proof of life and to raise awareness. We will restore the image to accounts where it was removed.”

Meta’s policy states: “In an effort to prevent and disrupt real-world harm, we do not allow organizations or individuals that proclaim a violent mission or are engaged in violence to have a presence on our platforms.”

As of noon last Thursday, the post had not been restored.

*This is an edited version of an article originally published by Israel Hayom.* **HW**

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**SCHEDULE of EVENTS**

**Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00–10:30am Pickleball 101 Workshop  
10:45–11:45am Cardio Pickleball  
**\*\* Dink Off Party Event \*\***  
5:30–9:00pm Men’s Doubles Tournament

**Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00–10:30am Women’s Skill Workshop  
10:30am–12:00pm Pickleball Skills Challenge  
12:00–1:00pm Cardio Pickleball  
2:00–3:30pm Adaptive Pickleball Clinic  
5:30–9:00pm Women’s Doubles Tournament

**Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00–10:30am Intermediate/Advanced Clinic  
10:30am–12:00pm Pickleball 101 Workshop  
1:00–2:00pm Cardio Pickleball  
2:00–3:30pm 3 and Me Pickleball Clinic  
3:30–5:00pm 4 and Me Pickleball Clinic

**Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00–5:00pm 3 and Me Pickleball Clinic  
**\*\* Free Play \*\***

**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am–3:00pm Mixed Doubles Medium Flight  
10:00am–4:00pm Mixed Doubles Top Flight  
12:30–1:30pm Youth Pickleball Clinic: **Ages 7–9**  
1:30–2:30pm Youth Pickleball Clinic: **Ages 10–13**