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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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The 1929 Hebron Massacre: A Remarkable Family History Captured in a Can't-Put-It-Down Book



Aharon David Shainberg

By Shoshana Cenker

"Ghosts of a Holy War: The 1929 Massacre in Palestine That Ignited the Arab-Israeli Conflict," written by award-winning journalist Yardena Schwartz, features the incredible story of native Memphian Aharon David Shainberg (z'l), who was killed in the massacre, and its ties to the Oct. 7 tragedy.

Here's the remarkable story behind the book.

The second of five children born to Sam and Elizabeth Shainberg in Mem-

phis, Aharon David (known as David or Uncle Dave) decided to become observant. With encouragement from Baron Hirsch Congregation's Dr. Georges Bacarat, David left home to study Torah in a Hebron yeshiva.

At the time, David and his Jewish friends lived alongside Arab neighbors in peace in British-mandated Palestine in the 1920s. They worked, shopped, and even attended each other's weddings.

"There was no fear; the Jews never thought they'd be harmed," explained Jill Notowich, David Shainberg's great niece, who spearheaded the book project. "When the Mossad came to Hebron asking the head rabbi if the Jewish community would take guns as protection, the rabbi said, 'No, we don't need them."

But as anti-Semitic propaganda spread, tension increased, and Jews started to be murdered. The tragedy peaked on Aug. 24, 1929, with the mass murder of nearly 70 Jews – one of the worst pogroms outside of Europe. Some barricaded themselves inside their homes during the surprise attack, just like Oct. 7, 2023.

David lost his life at just 23 years old. "My great grandparents were devastated. They couldn't bring his body back

or mourn their child," said Jill. "Losing David fractured our family's beliefs in how they practiced Judaism, with various relatives being raised Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox."

Although Jill's grandfather, Herbert (David's brother known as Pops, Daddy, Uncle Herbert), didn't speak about the tragedy, there were lively conversations around the Shabbos table about Israel and Herbert's passion for supporting the Zionist movement. Herbert and his second wife (his first wife passed away) traveled to Israel several times. "They'd searched for David's grave, but couldn't find it," explained Jill. "Finally, with help from high-ups in the IDF, they found it – his name was misspelled on the tombstone: Sheinberg instead of Shainberg. It was devastating for my grandfather. It was then that we slowly started finding out about the story."

"Our family never talked about Uncle Dave; it was too painful," echoed Cindy Shainberg, David's great niece. "All we knew was that my dad's brother was killed in Israel. I wondered why Pops gave us Israel bonds and why he was honored at a bond banquet. We knew Israel was important, but we didn't get the personal, intimate connection until later."

Yardena Schwartz will discuss "Ghosts of a Holy War: The 1929 Massacre in Palestine That Ignited the Arab-Israeli Conflict" on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the MJCC at 2 p.m.

How does the family even know any of this from the 1920s?

A treasure trove of documents was discovered in a box in Hebron, detailing the family's life back then, including letters written back and forth from David and his parents, explaining the struggle of leaving his family and his joy in learning Torah: letters, telegrams, telexes, newspaper clippings, and a diary. David's parents passed most everything on to Herbert; Aunt Donna Goodman had the diary. When Herbet gave the documents to Jill's mom, Suzie Lazarov, Donna also gave her the diary – and everything ended up in Suzie's attic, which Jill later found. Upon the amazing discovery, Jill

(See **Hebron** Page 2)

MHA-FYOS Students Prepare for a Sweet New Year



MHA kindergarten students complete a bee math activity.

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

At Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South, the building is truly abuzz with the sights, sounds, and smells of Rosh Hashana, starting with the smallest students.

The Leach Early Childhood division teachers planned numerous hands-on experiences for the Pre-K through kindergarten students, beginning with a visit from a beekeeper, Mr. Rick Stone. Mr. Stone has a bee farm and came to speak to the students about his job as a beekeeper. He showed them all of the tools he uses and taught them some important safety tips. The children looked at different honeycombs from the bee farm and even got to touch the beeswax

with one finger. At the end of the presentation each child received a bottle of local honey from Mr. Rick's honey farm. This was followed by a challah bake and a Rosh Hashana themed Torah Time with the entire division.

In addition to divisional programs, each classroom engaged in exciting and educational Rosh Hashana activities. "Pre-K 3 students did a sink and float science experiment and made predictions about if they thought an apple would sink or float. They dropped different things into a bucket of water to see which stayed on top and which fell to the bottom. The children were so surprised to see that apples can float since

(See MHA-FYOS Page 2)



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Hebron...

(Continued From Page 1) called Cousin Cindy Shainberg to help read the handwriting – the ladies were super close, having grown up together "attached at the hip."

Before that, Jill had only seen one article about her Great Uncle Dave that cousins Seth and Lisa Kaufman had given her, which she shared with the rest of the family.

The invaluable letters sat in Jill's office for years. Eventually, she and her husband, Scott, scanned each document into digital versions.

"We had planned for our youngest daughter and her cousin to have a b'nei mitzvah together in Israel with our families," shared Jill. "In Hebron, five generations gathered at Uncle Dave's grave to say Kaddish. There, we realized we have a legacy. Uncle Dave never had a legacy, he didn't have a chance. His life was cut short."

"I made a booklet with excerpts of the letters, and our cousin, Benjamin, who was the same age as Dave when he was killed, read them aloud as we crossed into Hebron," shared Cindy. "We went to the Hebron Heritage Museum that has an exhibition about the massacre. I'd seen some of the exhibits online, but it was so hard to see it in person. I just stood at the door crying, overwhelmed. The exhibit had gravestones that had been desecrated in the war; a light was shining on one stone. It happened to be Uncle Dave's. It was so special."

Seeing that the documents "tell a beautiful story of what was and what David's dreams were," Jill said, "we needed to do something with it."

Back in Memphis, she immediately began archiving the documents at Temple Israel. Temple's archivists were incredibly helpful during the two years it took to complete the project. "The papers started disintegrating," explained Jill, "so it felt good they were all protected."

During the archiving process, Jill was also in search of an author to write this incredible story. Rabbi Sarit Horwitz from Beth Sholom Synagogue had given Jill a book to read by Yossi Klein Halevi. Jill loved the book and emailed Yossi, attaching some letters, asking if he'd write their family story with its important Israeli history. Yossi wrote back within the hour saying the letters were "extraordinary." Though he wasn't able to write the book, he offered to help and invited Jill to the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

"On Jan. 1, 2019, Scott and I talked with Yossi, as we all enjoyed the kosher Dinstuhl's we'd brought him. I couldn't believe we were sitting in his office!" Jill said humbly. "Yossi then became a silent partner in his efforts to help us."

Other authors they looked into turned out not to be a good fit. Jill's attorney, who was helping navigate the intellectual property, was also a publicist and author – he connected her to Emmy-nominated writer Yardena.

"We Zoomed first, after sampling her writing – we appreciated her journalistic style," said Jill. "We then flew Yardena and her husband to Memphis, drew up a contract, and the rest is history."

The direction of the book, however, changed after Oct. 7 – "a different story needed to be told," Jill noted.

"Originally, the book was going to zoom in on a granular level to showcase living in Hebron, then zoom out to cover the American diaspora and the Shainbergs in Memphis, their connections to the Jewish community, Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC), Memphis/ Margolin Hebrew Academy, civil rights and Jim Crow era, women's suffragette — and pull it all together," Jill shared. "There's a story that was taken out about Pops taking me at 8 or 9 years old to a burger joint. We walked in the colored entrance not the white entrance. He told me about civil rights and what that entrance meant. I just sat there with my mouth open. He asked me, 'How does that make you feel?' And I said, 'This is horrible.' He responded, 'Exactly. I never want you to forget how that makes you feel.' Pops did things through example. He didn't talk about Uncle Dave because it was too painful. His brother had been butchered and beheaded. So, he lived his life through philanthropy and experiences for his grandchildren."

Coinciding with the book's release, Yardena will be in Memphis on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the MJCC at 2 p.m. for a discussion hosted by Jill about the book.

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the MidSouth, is presenting the program in memory of Aharon David Shainberg, z'l). The program is being held in partnership with the MJCC and Memphis Jewish Federation.

"My family is so grateful because Uncle David's story needs to be told!" said great niece Lisa Kaufman. "We're still fighting the same fight that murdered him in 1929."

David and his letters continue to have a huge impact on his family.

"He was an inspiration and a tragedy. We have several people named after David in our family," notes Jill. "This project has occupied my everything for 15 years. We definitely chose the right author in Yardena and stayed in touch with Yossi. With the same things happening now, Yardena draws parallels from the 1929 massacre to the 2023 tragedy. This book is bigger than our family." **HW**

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Weekly Torah Portion: Ha'azinu

MHA-FYOS...

(Continued From Page 1)

they seem a little bit heavy!" shared Early Childhood Director Katie Minner.

In the elementary school, each class delved into the meaning of Rosh Hashana as well as the laws and customs of the holiday in an age-appropriate way. In fourth grade, students spent two weeks on a Rosh Hashana unit in Dinim and learning different greetings in Ivrit. Upon completion of the unit, students made paper apple Rosh Hashana center-

pieces. Each apple featured one of the יהי רצון with the picture of the food, and one of the apples in the centerpiece had an appropriate Rosh Hashana greeting from each student to his/her family.

In fifth through eighth grade, students had a *Yom Iyun* (day of study) to focus on Rosh Hashana. The classes rotated between shiurim. Baron Hirsch Senior Rabbi Ian Lichter and Memphis Kollel's Rabbi Uriel Nashofer and Rabbi Naftali Zions each gave an inspirational talk to the students. After the learning portion, students created Rosh Hashana cards to deliver to Plough Towers and the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab.

The fifth and sixth grade boys class took an exciting approach to Rosh Hashana learning. They played a game of battleship, where every question they got right about Rosh Hashana and other class material they received additional "missiles" on the digital game board.

In high school, both the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys and Goldie Margolin School for Girls (GMSG) had a Yom Iyun in preparation for the holiday. Each Judaic Studies teacher taught a session about a different part of Rosh Hashana (laws, Torah reading, haftorot and tefilot).

The GMSG also had a panel with women about connecting to Rosh Hashana and the Days of Awe, as well as running a chesed activity with students at the MJCC Early Childhood Center.

All in all, MHA-FYOS students in Pre-K 3 - 12th grade are prepared and excited for a very sweet New Year! HW



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Baron Hirsch Congregation Distributes Rosh Hashana **Chesed Boxes**



Baron Hirsch Chesed Box volunteers

For more than 25 years the members of the Baron Hirsch Congregation have once again connected with the greater Memphis community by providing "Chesed Boxes" containing items to prepare a complete traditional dinner for the upcoming Rosh Hashana holi-

More than 90 families and individuals received the Chesed Boxes that were prepared and delivered by over 30 volunteers of all ages. The volunteers gathered at the synagogue on Sunday morning to pack and deliver the boxes. The recipient families were able to enjoy a special meal to celebrate the upcoming Jewish New Year.

Each year, those receiving services from Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service and Jewish residents of Plough Towers are the recipients of the program's Chesed Boxes.

Dr. Irv Cherny, chairman of this year's program said, "Our members, both young and old, were very excited to volunteer their time and efforts to prepare these boxes for families all over Memphis. The teen and pre-teen helpers, as well as the adults, were very excited and motivated knowing they were helping these families to enjoy a more meaningful holiday.

The project has generously and gratefully been assisted by the Joseph and Lyda Chesed Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis.

Anyone who would like to donate to offer additional support and/or participate can call the Synagogue office at 901-683-7485. HW

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, October 7 **Speaker: Kevin Payne Topic: New Medicare Challenges**

Kevin will talk about several changes in the Medicare Coverage for 2025. There will be a Question-and-Answer session following his talk. Come get good answers to any questions that you have.

Wednesday October 9 **October Big Monthly Luncheon**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon features singer Michelle Shrader as entertainment provided by Creative Aging! Michelle focused on training her voice for several years as a child before picking up the guitar at the age of 16. She had an aptitude for the instrument and began writing songs within six weeks of her first lesson and recording within six months. After moving to Memphis in 2006 to study classical guitar with Lily Afshar, the world-renowned guitarist at the University of Memphis, she fell in love with the city. Michelle is now a popular fixture in the local music scene performing her own songs and classical guitar selections; and she has been featured in local media including videos by Live from Memphis and Hotel Memphis. She regularly performs locally for many private events and at venues such as the Germantown Performing Arts Center. With her husband, trumpeter and singer Jeremy Shrader, Michelle sings jazz and bossa nova in small and large band settings. She regularly sits in with his country band, Big Barton, sing-



Michelle Shrader

ing songs by Gillian Welch (one of her favorites) and Patsy Cline. Michelle is a terrific entertainer that everyone will surely enjoy!

The kosher lunch and Michelle's artistry are only \$5.

Transportation in the area is also available. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 for additional information.

Monday, October 14 **Speaker: Kevin Flesner Topic: Preventing Strokes**

Strokes are one of the leading medical problems facing seniors. This is disturbing because around 80% of strokes are preventable. Please come hear this free, informative talk!

Reservations are only needed for the lunch.

Wednesday, October 16 **Trivial Pursuit Game Day!**

Come play another exciting Game of Team Trivial Pursuit! This edition will focus on past movies, music and news breakers! Nice prizes and a lot of fun. Come test your knowledge against other people. It's always a lot of fun, especially when the teams get close in scoring!

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis. org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday thru Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. HW

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We wish you a sweet New Year.

May it be sweet for all our brothers and sisters in Israel.







GHOSTS of a HOLY WAR

The 1929 Massacre in Palestine That Ignited the Arab-Israeli Conflict

YARDENA SCHWARTZ





Award-winning journalist at Yardena Schwartz Wardena will launch her new book

Sunday, October 13th • 2:00 pm

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Equity REITs: Is There Room for Real Estate in Your Portfolio?

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

An equity real estate investment trust (REIT) uses the combined capital of many shareholders to buy and operate residential, commercial, and industrial income properties. Equity REITs of all stripes are listed on the major indexes and traded like stocks, so investors may receive a stable income derived mostly from real estate rents without having to finance and manage properties on their own. However, REIT share prices can be volatile and are sensitive to changes in interest rates.

You can buy shares in individual REITs, just as you might buy shares in any publicly traded company, or you can invest through mutual funds or exchange-traded funds. The option to invest in a REIT fund may also be available in your tax-deferred workplace retirement plan. In 2023, it's estimated that 50% of American households were invested in REITs through one or more of these channels.¹

Income and diversification

A REIT must pay out at least 90% of its taxable income each year as shareholder dividends. And unlike many companies, REITs generally do not retain earnings, which is why they may provide higher yields than many other types of equity investments. In 2023, equity REITs yielded 3.9%, on average, compared with 1.4% for stocks in the broader S&P 500 Index.²

The real estate industry's business model and distinct property markets offer a risk-return profile that differs from the other stock market sectors. In some respects, REITs are a unique asset class, and because their share prices do not al-

ways follow the movements of stocks or bonds, they can be a helpful tool to broaden asset allocation and increase diversification. Over the 10-year period ending in 2023, equity REITs had a 76% correlation with the S&P 500 and 56% correlation with the corporate and government bond market. Correlations are even lower over 30 years.³ (Diversification and asset allocation are methods used to help manage investment risk; they do not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.)

Performance Match-up: REITs vs. Stocks



Source: National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, 2024. REITs are represented by the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index. U.S. stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Composite Total Return Index. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific security. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

Rate-driven volatility

Rising interest rates typically reduce demand and may push down values across property markets, and falling rates tend to have the opposite effect. REITs are directly impacted by the level of interest rates because they depend on debt to acquire rent-producing properties. And in a high-rate environment, REIT dividends tend to be less appealing to investors when bonds are offering similar yields.

For these reasons, REIT shares struggled in 2022 and well into 2023, but prices rebounded near the end of that year after Federal Reserve projections indicated that rates had likely peaked. The return on listed equity REITs was 11.4% in 2023.⁴

Despite concerns about pockets of distress in the commercial real estate market, the prospects for listed REITs may continue to improve as interest rates settle. As a group, listed REITs entered 2024 with solid balance sheets, healthy debt ratios, and access to capital markets, so they could be in a good position to take advantage of buying opportunities.⁵

The return and principal value of all investments fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investments seeking to achieve higher yields also involve a higher degree of risk. There are inherent risks associated with real estate investments that could have an adverse

effect on financial performance. These risks may include a deterioration in the economy or local real estate conditions, tenant defaults, property mismanagement, and changes in operating expenses (including insurance costs, energy prices, real estate taxes, and the cost of compliance with laws, regulations, and government policies).

Mutual funds and ETFs 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.

1–5) National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, 2023

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"EREV: The Night Before" to Commemorate the October 7 Attack on Israel



Dr. Ari Zelig

On Sunday, October 6, the eve of the anniversary that has since forever changed our homeland of Israel and Jewish people, Temple Israel invites the community to commemorate, to heal, and to strengthen the bonds that make our people so resilient and compassionate.

The evening of solidarity and introspection will begin at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel on October 6.

"This is not just an event; it is a gathering of hearts and minds committed to honoring the past while looking forward to the future," said Rabbi Micah Greenstein. "It is a chance to celebrate the strength and unity that have defined us as a Jewish people in the face of adversity. We look forward to your presence."

With music's profound ability to heal and unite, the candlelit program will

feature singer-songwriter Dr. Ari Zelig. He attended Tel Aviv University for medical school, and Israel has "always been a huge part of my soul." After the October 7 attacks, his heartache and pain led to the creation of the songs that he will be performing at the commemoration event at Temple Israel ("Rest In Peace," "Bring Them Home," and "Our Hearts Will Beat Again").

"I am all about crafting lyrics and melodies that speak to the soul," reflects Zelig. "Music is my lifeline and the universal language that helps us all cope with the highs and lows."

Temple Israel's High Holy Days Cantorial Soloist Happie Hoffman, Cantorial Soloist Eleanor Tallie Steinberg and Music Director Emily Groff Heilborn will also offer selections that evoke hope and courage. The evening will include traditional and contemporary pieces that resonate with our collective memory and spirit.

Temple Israel clergy including Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Rabbi Jeff Dreifus, Rabbi Ross Levy and guest Rabbi Rinat Safania from Israel will share reflections about the impacts of the October 7 attack, the resilience of those affected, and the ways in which our community has come together to support one another.

This event is free, and all ages are welcome. Please register at timemphis. org/calendar. HW

THANK YOU

Raised

\$4.1 M

for Israel
Emergency
Campaign

Secured

\$3.9 \|
in pledges for
2024 Annual
Community

Campaign

Renovations completed at Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center at University of Memphis for Hillels of Memphis Added

30

new members
to the Ben Gurion Society
(BGS), whose members
give \$1,000 or more to
the Annual Campaign

Added

new members

to Lion of Judah, a

women's philanthropy
group with members
giving \$5,000 or more to
the Annual Campaign

Increased young family and young adult engagement at events such as Reunion,
Pajamakkah, and Purim Party

Led
40
WOMEN
from diverse
congregations in a
Spiritual Journey
to Vienna, Prague
and Berlin

Increased grants
budget by
\$350,000
to support
security, community
relations, seniors,
antisemitism education
and leadership
development

Provided

2,300

Memphis school
students
with presentations led
by Holocaust survivors
and second and third
gen survivors

Held

600

person solidarity
gathering
just days after
October 7 attack

Brought

180
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
to D.C. to the
March for Israel and
attended meetings
with elected officials

Hosted
Yoga for
Israel
event which raised funds
and brought community
together for healing

Led Israel Solidarity
Mission for

Community members
and local rabbis

Sent two
Federation
Board
Board
members
to Washington, D.C. to
advocate for legislation
to support Israel,
confront antisemitism
and help ensure
security funding

Partnered with
TN Federations
to secure
\$750,000
in security funding
from state budget
for houses
of worship

Built interfaith and relational ties with the Hindu, Chinese, and Sikh communities

Provided
support for
THE
PERSPECTIVE,
a magazine
by and for
Memphis Jewish teens

Supported a trip
to Israel for

local law
enforcement
partners

Provided numerous security-related training sessions for nearly

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Established

AL

NeW

Lion of Judah

endowments

\$250,000 and Above

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An American Israeli's Perspective Through Chesed in Wartime

By Shoshana Cenker

We're back with another interesting story from Shlomo Pinkus. Last week, we shared his journey with his son to a remote, hard-to-find IDF army based on the Syrian border to deliver hot food to soldiers, while checking on a friend's

Our next story describes a scary incident that Israelis face as the war con-

Living in Karmiel northern Israel, the Pinkus family often hears explosions while their house shakes due to nearby missile attacks. But this time, Shlomo's daughter, 17-year-old Tehilla, was coming back from visiting her grandparents in Modi'in. Tehilla had taken a train, which has more security checkpoints than buses, up to Tel Aviv – about 30 minutes away on the railway.

At home, Shlomo's wife, Elisheva, suddenly ran toward him, handing him the phone. There was an attack in Tel Aviv. Where Tehilla was.

"There was yelling and sirens, and no one knew if it was a missile or shooting attack. People hit the ground, others hid, some ran off the train," said Shlomo. "I quickly decided that Tehilla should hide and told her to go from the second level of the double-decker train to the bottom level and get under benches and tables. This way, if it was a missile attack, she'd be protected by the concrete platform and walls, and if it was a shooting, the angle of the bullets going into the train wouldn't be able to get to where she was, again protected by the concrete even if the bullets permeated the train."

Shlomo and Elisheva stayed on the phone with Tehilla for 15 minutes.

"The conductor then announced that it had been a missile attack and Tel Aviv was declared a red zone," Shlomo added. "Additional stops in Tel Aviv were not allowed, so the train basically floored it about 30 minutes north, away from Tel Aviv to a safer area. Elisheva and I had to wait until Tehilla got to that stop. You can imagine what that's like for parents. Had the train not continued, I'd have gone to pick her up, but the train was faster than I could have gotten to her by car."

Here's the chesed aspect. Had Tehilla's dad not been available, she could have turned to her fellow Israelis for help. While chesed of money and needed items like food and socks and boots are important for soldiers and displaced families, there's also the chesed of people helping each other.

"There's lots of good happening in Israel; people caring for each other. In Israelis' hearts and minds, there's no right party, no left party - we are Am Yisrael Chai right now," said Shlomo. "The news tries to spin it saying it's 50% right, 50% left. From what I've seen, most people are in the middle, as one K'lal Yisrael family. Where we live in Karmiel, there are about 500 frum families of 50,000 people, all of whom live here together happily. Most everyone seems to be on the same page - achdut, united for Israel. It's beautiful to see."

Know a chesed superstar in Israel? Email ShoshanaAY@gmail.com HW



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Texas 'Goyim Defense League' Member Charged with Threatening to Lynch Nashville District Attorney



An FBI agent listens to the operation pre-briefing for Operation Dead Hand in Los Angeles on Jan. 30, 2024. Credit: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(JNS) – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee charged David Aaron Bloyed, of Frost, Texas, last Friday with threatening to lynch Glenn Funk, the district attorney in Nashville, Tenn.

The 59-year-old, who is a member of the antisemitic Goyim Defense League, faces up to five years in prison, per the Justice Department.

Members of the GDL protested in downtown Nashville on July 14, as part of a "name the nose" tour, per the complaint. It adds that a member of the antisemitic group was arrested and charged with aggravated assault after hitting an employee at a bar with a metal flagpole bearing a swastika flag.

Bloyed posted nearly the same threats against the Nashville prosecutor as were expressed in posts from social-media handles known to be tied to the Goyim Defense League, according to the 12-page complaint. The posts also included references to killing Nashville Jews.

When the FBI subpoenaed information from Bloyed's social media account, it learned that his account identified "the Jews" as among his enemies. "It's the Jews," he repeated a second time in his list of enemies, per the complaint.

"In a functioning democracy, we simply cannot tolerate threats of violence against elected officials," stated Henry Leventis, U.S. attorney for the middle district of Tennessee. **HW**

OBITUARIES

Nancy Ann Coplon

Nancy Ann Coplon (nee Eno) passed away peacefully at her granddaughter's home in Memphis, Tennessee, on the afternoon of Sunday, September 15, 2024. Her husband of 70 years, A. Leon Coplon predeceased her in December 2022.

Nancy was loved by all, especially her eight grandchildren who called her Mamie and her six great-grandchildren who also joined that chorus.

Nancy was the oldest of 11 children born to Wilbur and Helen Eno. She was born in Rutland, Vermont, on January 18, 1934. She often reminded us that it was 40 below zero on the day of her birth. As the big sister in a large family, she assisted many of her siblings as they grew up and established their own lives.

She spent most of her early life growing up in Schenectady, New York. This is where she met her lifelong companion, Lee Coplon. They were married on January 10, 1953.

They spent the early years of their marriage living in Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn in New York City. They later lived in Detroit, Michigan, and near San Francisco, California. In 1958 they moved to Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1960 they moved to Nanuet, New York, and resided there for 45 years before moving to Memphis, Tennessee.

They are survived by their four chil-

dren, Sherry, Michael, Steven (Debra), and Melanie (Jay), her eight grand-children, Anna (Garret) Suen, Laura (Timothy) Weaver, Sarah (Caleb) Barlow, Elizabeth Coplon, Jonathan Coplon, Jocelyn Schreyer, Ethan Schreyer, and Jackson Schreyer, and her six great-grandchildren. Her children will always appreciate her care and her presence and commitment to their well-being and are grateful for their mother and father who made many sacrifices for them throughout their lives.

In the late 1970s she received an associate degree in Social Work from Rockland Community College. She spent many years volunteering at the Nanuet Senior Center. Lee and Nancy Coplon also served as leaders of the NAMI of Rockland County including terms as president.

She will be remembered as a very giving person – to her children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren, extended family, and friends. As her health waned, she was surrounded by visits from these who cared for her and who will miss her deeply.

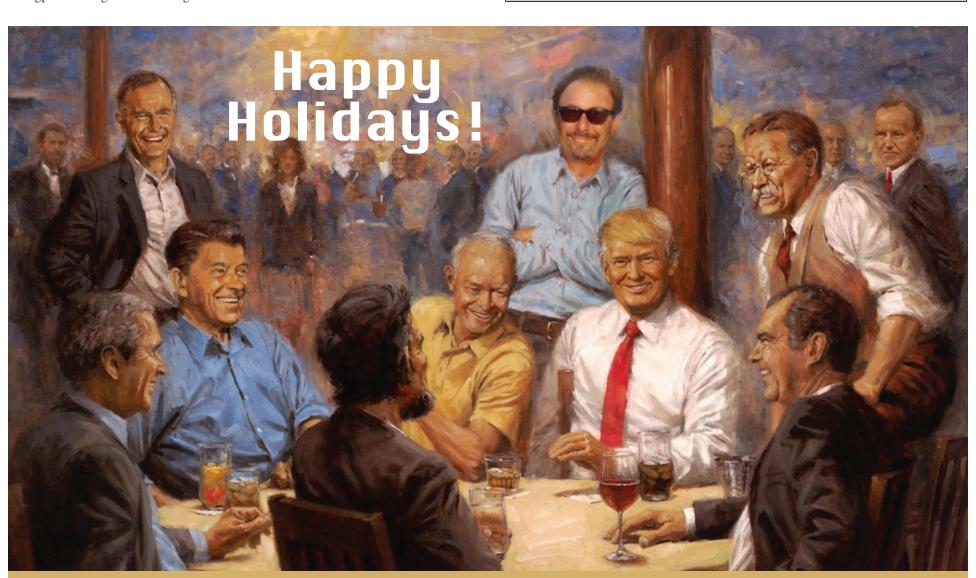
She was preceded in her death by her parents, Wilbur and Helen Eno, and her sister, Carol.

Memorial donations can be made to NAMI of Rockland County, New York, or the Jewish National Fund. **HW**

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Daniel Sallis Murrell, MD

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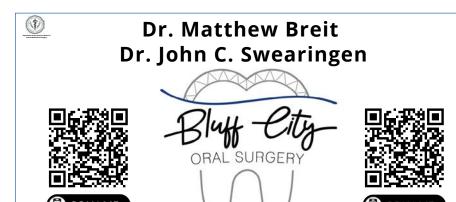
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Send Best Wishes to our Relatives and Friends for A New Year filled with Health, Happiness and Prosperity

L'Shanah Tovah

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Extend Greetings and Best Wishes to our Relatives and Friends for A New Year Filled With Health and Happiness



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Democratic Candidate Runs Against TN's District 8 Incumbent for Congress



Sarah Freeman

By Shoshana Cenker

Meet Sarah Freeman, democratic candidate for Congress. Below, she shares some of the issues her campaign is focusing on. (Q&A has been edited for brevity.)

The Hebrew Watchman: Why are you running for U.S. Congress in Tennessee's District 8 against incumbent David Kustoff?

Sarah Freeman: I'm running because West Tennesseans deserve much better than what the Republican eightyear incumbent has in store for us. Though we share a faith in Judaism, our ideology and politics could not be further apart.

I stand for our democratic institutions, the rule of law, a truly representative government, a Supreme Court bound by ethical restraints, and the Constitution. I believe that quality and affordable healthcare and public education are basic human rights. As an educator, I know the challenges of West Tennessee's underfunded healthcare systems and rural and urban schools. Federal funding should be used to bring these facilities and services to a higher level and to expand vocational training.

THW: Explain your slogan: "A champion for change in West Tennessee."

Sarah: I'll do my utmost to protect, through federal legislation that cannot be overridden by local or state governments, the rights of all without regard to race, class, gender, religion, ethnicity, gender identification, and sexuality. I'll use federal power to support student loan forgiveness and raising the minimum wage. I'll support unions and workers' rights. I'll allow the "2017 Trump Tax Give-Away" to expire and redirect the trillions returned to our revenue base toward protecting Social Security. As a mother and grandmother, the preservation of our environment is a top priority - we must take steps now to limit pollutants that contaminate our air, water, and soil.

I'll support the passage of common sense gun laws that recognize that we love our children more than we love our guns. Properly stored handguns for personal protection and hunting rifles should remain available through regulated and recorded sales with legal permitting and universal background checks. Assault-style weapons, "ghost guns," and bump stocks should be prohibited, and guardians of minors who engage in gun violence should be held legally accountable.

Reestablishing Roe as the law of the land must be accomplished; it may take the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment. As a Gold Star family, my brother was killed in Vietnam, I know the sacrifices that our military and their families have made. Veterans deserve to be treated with honor and respect and receive their much-deserved benefits and healthcare.

THW: How have you advocated against bullying and gun violence, fought for voting rights and neighborhood protection?

Sarah: In 1998, a horrific school

shooting occurred in Jonesboro, where my family had moved. The boy perpetrators were in the same age group as my two children. As for root causes, bullying and an overly permissive gun culture had been factors. I began speaking out, writing letters to the local newspaper, and addressing how the community could improve the safety of our kids in school. Some deeply resented my efforts, and we moved to Tennessee to protect my family.

I became heavily involved in challenging a massive rezoning that would have endangered our neighborhood, especially kids who biked or walked to school. I organized with my neighbors to fight City Hall; it was an arduous and hard battle. I learned a lot about local politics, government, and Shelby County's rickety election system. After we won our zoning fight, I joined a team of voting rights activists to reform the election system.

THW: How has serving on government committees honed your leadership and advocacy skills?

Sarah: My experiences on the Shelby County Democratic Party's Executive Committee taught me how to elect leaders who will work hard for their constituents. Winning an open seat on the Tennessee Democratic Party Executive Committee opened my eyes to Tennessee's extraordinarily undemocratic political system, undergirded by gerrymandering and the worst voter suppression laws in the nation. Tennessee was Democrat Blue until 2010. It will take strong voting rights legislation in U.S. Congress to break the chains of Tennessee's system of disfranchisement, especially of our military whose ballots come in by the thousands after 7 p.m. on Election Day, rendering them null and

THW: Briefly talk about your conversion and how you practice Judaism today.

Sarah: When I questioned religious teachings as a child, my open-minded mother said, "G-d also gave you a brain. You don't have to believe anything that you don't truly believe."

I met Jews, students and faculty, for the first time at the University of Iowa. As an undergrad, I was permitted to take a graduate class on the Old Testament and loved it. I studied Maimonides' "The Guide for the Perplexed" taught by a local rabbi and was advised in my honors thesis by Dr. Linda Kerber. I met my future husband through my shadchan roommate. For my thesis, I focused on an incredible Jewish activist from North Carolina, Gertrude Weil. My conversion was facilitated by a Reform rabbi in Raleigh, N.C.

Not long ago, my husband and I visited relatives in Israel and were extremely happy that our two grown children went to Israel through the revived Birthright program. My family belonged to Conservative shuls in Durham, N.C. and Germantown, Tenn.; we recently joined Temple Israel, in Memphis. We look forward to attending services and praying, as always, for peace.

THW: Tell us about your professional experience.

Sarah: I'm a professor at Arkansas State University's history department. I've commuted since 1998, when we moved from Jonesboro after the school shooting. I've published two books on Tennessee women, with my co-editor Dr. Beverly Bond, and numerous chapters and articles on southern women's history.

The TN District 8 for Congress election is on the Nov. 5 ballot.

For more info or to donate to Sarah's campaign: votesarahfreeman.com

The Hebrew Watchman reached out to Senator David Kustoff's campaign office and has not heard back to date. We will publish his Q&A when we receive it. HW

Netanyahu Departs to Address UNGA in NY



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, depart for the United States, Sept. 26, 2024. Credit: Avi Ohayon/ GPO

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu departed early last Thursday morning for the United States, to address the 79th Session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York City last Friday.

The premier did not speak to the press before boarding the 'Wing of Zion' plane at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Netanyahu left immediately after convening the Security Cabinet amid the intensifying war with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz will stand in for Netanyahu during the latter's trip abroad. The prime minister was to fly back to Israel last Saturday night, according to a statement from his office.

U.S. President Joe Biden delivered his final address to the General Assem-

bly last Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the anniversary of Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre, he called on world leaders not to "flinch from the horrors" of that day.

"Any country would have the right and responsibility to ensure that such an attack could never happen again," said Biden.'

He called on Israel and Hamas to accept the ceasefire-for-hostages that he first outlined in May and that has stalled ever since. **HW**



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With the very recent arrival of our grandchild, I am reminded of the wonders of life, so new and fresh to him. Instinctually, the family has come together to love, protect, and celebrate him. Of course, we are all envisioning his future and praying for his world to be one of peace, joy, love, respect, and freedom.

We pray that the environment will be preserved and healed so that our glorious planet will inspire and sustain him.

We also pray that with his arrival, he brings an increased desire to make the world a better place.

There must be hope for such a future.

As we will soon be reflecting on our imperfections, infractions, and "running to do evil," I would like to propose a truce in this political season from the mean, ugly, hateful rhetoric, the demonization of Jews, Muslims, Evangelical Christians, immigrants, etc., and the calculated efforts to turn neighbor against neighbor.

There is no place in my race for U.S. Congress for hate. I fundamentally disagree with my Republican rival on many issues, but there is no place for hatred and incitements to violence. Strong differences of opinion, yes, absolutely, but not anger, brutality, and inhumanity.

Believing in law is a central part of Judaism--moral law, civil and criminal law, and the laws of nationhood and international relations. If we did not believe in divine law, we would not ask forgiveness for breaking these laws.

How we treat each other, especially when we disagree, is covered by those laws that require human beings to be respectful and

charitable, and with humility. For love and forgiveness are not weaknesses; quite the contrary, they are divine.

SARAH FREEMAN

for District 8

