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HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 11 AV, 5784 AUGUST 15, 2024 VOL. 102, NO. 48

ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival Promises Great Competition, Food and Family Fun

By Amara Levine-Reich

A longstanding highlight of the Memphis community calendar, the ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival returns Sunday, Aug. 25 at its new home at Baron Hirsch Congregation (400 South Yates Road in East Memphis).

The 2024 event marks the 33rd AS-BEE BBQ Contest and continues a beloved tradition started by the legacy Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation, which recently joined forces with Baron Hirsch.

More than 30 teams from across the Memphis area and beyond will compete for top honors in categories that include best barbecued ribs, brisket, chicken wings and beans, as well as creativity in team name and booth design and theme. One team will also be awarded the designation of grand champion for overall performance throughout the competition.

The teams' delectable barbecue creations – all of which will be prepared at the synagogue under rabbinic supervision to ensure adherence to kosher dietary laws – will be blindly evaluated by a panel of esteemed judges representing a who's who of local celebrities, chefs, elected officials, community leaders and media personalities.



"The ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest is truly the world championship of such events," said Eric Mogy, who is co-chairing the event with Ryan Lubin and Alex Sukhodolsky. "Other cities have attempted to replicate the formula we developed here in Memphis over 30 years ago, but ours remains the original and the highest honor.

"The BBQ Contest is the rare occasion that brings people together from across the spectrum of our community to celebrate our Jewish and Southern culinary traditions and enjoy some friendly competition," Mogy said.

The BBQ contest isn't the only competition on the menu for Aug. 25. The

event will also feature a basketball tournament and a kosher pickle eating contest (sponsored by Nahon, Saharovich & Trotz, Attorneys at Law).

The basketball tournament, sponsored by the Kahane family, will include three-on-three game play and shooting contests for free throws (sponsored by Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC) and three-pointers (sponsored by Rick Baer Realty). Competitors will be grouped by age/height, with contests for kids and adults. The trophies for tournament winners will be presented by River City Pediatrics. Advance registration is available online (website noted below) and secures competitors their tournament T-shirt; walk-in entries will also be welcome.

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

The generous supporters of the 33rd

Aug. 25 event at Baron Hirsch offering activities for all ages

Annual ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival (including the Hebrew Watchman/Jewish Scene Magazine, serving as this year's media sponsor) are listed in the ad on the back cover of this issue.

Admission to the ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival is free (some activities may cost a nominal amount) and open to all. Parking on the Baron Hirsch campus during the event will be limited, due to many activities being held in the synagogue parking lot.

"Aug. 25 promises to be an exciting day of great food, entertainment and camaraderie," co-chair Ryan Lubin said. "We look forward to welcoming our contest competitors and hundreds of community members of all ages to the ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival at Baron Hirsch."

For more information, visit baronhirsch.org/asbeekosherbbq, email asbeebbq@baronhirsch.org or call Baron Hirsch at 901-683-7485 **HW**

U.S. Fighter Jets Arrive to 'Mitigate' Threats from Iran, Proxies



U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor fighter jets. Credit: U.S. Central Command/X

(JNS) – A squadron of United States Air Force F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jets arrived in the Middle East last Thursday to "mitigate the possibility of regional escalation by Iran or its proxies," the U.S. military confirmed.

In an earlier statement, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), the geo-

graphic command responsible for the Middle East, Central Asia and parts of South Asia, said that the planes were dispatched to "address" Tehran's anticipated attack.

The statement, which was shared on X, was modified to read "mitigate" some 30 minutes after it was first posted

online, JNS has confirmed.

U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors arrived in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility Aug. 8 as part of U.S. force posture changes in the region to mitigate the possibility of regional escalation by Iran or its proxies.

Israel's Security Cabinet, which is responsible for defense-related decisions and composed of senior ministers, was set to meet last Thursday night at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Both the Islamic Republic and its Lebanese terrorist army, Hezbollah, have vowed revenge for the targeted killings last week of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut.

The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen have also vowed to avenge last month's Israeli strikes on the port city of Hodeidah, which came after a suicide drone killed one Israeli and wounded several others in Tel Aviv.

The Jewish state and its allies, including the U.S., remain on high alert for attacks by Iran and its regional terrorist proxies, with Jerusalem's security es-

tablishment of the opinion that Hezbollah will attack first.

Israel's Channel 12 has reported that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah could see a window of opportunity in the "coming days." An intelligence effort is underway to identify the timing and nature of the attack.

Jerusalem is working to provide citizens with an adequate warning of an attack, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said last Thursday.

"The public's resilience allows us to make the right operational decisions. In the face of the enemy's attempt to sow fear, we must continue with routine life," he said following a situational assessment held at IDF Home Front Command headquarters in Ramla.

Last Monday, CENTCOM commander Gen. Erik Kurilla met with Gallant and Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi in Tel Aviv to mobilize a coalition to fend off the Iranian attack, similar to the one that helped the IDF defend against Tehran's unprecedented direct aerial attack in April. HW

My Teen Israel Experience



Raanan Vanderwalde in his tefillin davening at the Kotel.

By Raanan Vanderwalde

In the summer of 2023, I, like many other incoming juniors, traveled to Israel for a large portion of the summer. The program I decided to go on was Mach Hach: a five-week trip that focused on mainly touring different sections of Israel directed by Bnei Akiva. Throughout the trip I explored many parts of Israel and met a lot of kids from around the United States. All in all, I really enjoyed this five-week experience.

This Israel trip was not my first time in Israel. I had been in previous years on family trips, but I had never been by myself. It was not by chance that I stumbled into Mach Hach in particular; in past years I attended Camp Stone, a Jewish summer camp in Northern Pennsylvania, which is also directed by Bnei Akiva. Being involved with the program for many years, it was only fitting for me to attend their Israel summer program, a choice that I do not regret.

The main focus of the program was touring Israel, and I had the opportunity to see many sites in Israel I had never seen on my previous trips. One of my favorite locations was Eilat. Eilat is very far South and is out of the way of most Israel trips, but on Mach Hach we drove down to Eilat for a day of boating, swimming, and snorkeling. The day in Eilat was one of the highlights of my

Another highlight of my trip was the time we spent in the North. Some of the activities that I enjoyed in the North were Aqua Kef, a fun water park on the Sea of Galilee; rafting on the Jordan River; and the countless hikes that we went on where we saw many different views of Israel. Along with the fun activities, we also had very meaningful ones. Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum located in Jerusalem, was a difficult experience but one that could not be missed.

Going to Israel was not only a great way to see the Jewish land, but it was also a great way to meet new people. Many of the kids on my program live in many different cities around the country, providing me with the opportunity to meet new people and to make new friends. Traveling Israel with other kids my age was a whole new experience for me as compared to traveling Israel with my family. I shared many experiences with my friends, and I made memories that I will never forget.

One of the things that surprised me when I went to Israel was the lifestyle that people lived there. It was surprising to see so many Jews walking on the streets, a completely different world than that of America. For example, at the Mahane Yehuda Shuk (market) in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), almost everyone was Jewish, especially on Friday afternoon. It was surprising to see so many kosher restaurants; everywhere I went there was something for me to eat. This is just one of the many reasons why I love Israel.

This trip was one that I will never forget. I saw many different parts of Israel, connected more to my Judaism in part by seeing a whole new Jewish lifestyle, and made many new friends from around the world. The experiences I had on this trip will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you so much to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for giving me a grant which helped me go on the trip of a lifetime.

Raanan Vanderwalde, son of Drs. Lindi and Ari Vanderwalde, is a rising senior at the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his Bnei Akiva Mach Hach Israel trip last summer.

All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2025 will open in November. HW

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. August 16, 2024 / 12 Av, 57847:28 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. August 17, 2024 / 13 Av, 5784 8:25 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Va'etchanan

Congressmen Cohen and Kustoff Announce Major Expansion of the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

Congressmen Steve Cohen (TN-9) and David Kustoff (TN-8) announced [last Thursday] that the state of Tennessee will receive a grant of \$5,896,203 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Forest Hill Irene Road. The state will also be reimbursed for the \$4,095,510 cost of fabricating and delivering burial receptacles used for the project. The grant will fund 6,470 preplaced crypts, 880 columbarium niches,

landscaping and irrigation. Congressmen Cohen and Kustoff voted for the appropriations law that funded the grant.

Congressman Cohen made the following statement:

"Expanding the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery with federal funds is the right thing to do considering the needs and expectations of our veterans and their families. It will help to ensure that veterans who want their final resting place to be with their brothers and sisters in arms have that wish honored."

Congressman Kustoff made the following statement:

"Our service members sacrifice so much to protect our nation and defend our freedom. We have an obligation to take care of our veterans in life and in death. I am pleased to see this funding go towards honoring our nation's heroes." HW



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Evidence Against UNRWA Staffers Stronger than UN Investigators Let On

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Several media outlets and critics of Israel noted that last Monday's release of results of an internal United Nations investigation stated that nine UNRWA staffers "may" have participated in Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre.

But a spokesman for the head of the United Nations later clarified that the conclusions were more definitive in nature.

Chris Gunness, a virulent anti-Israel former communications director for the scandal-plagued UNRWA Palestinian-only aid and social services agency, tweeted last Monday that "the UN investigation has found Israel's claims that UNRWA staff were involved in the 7/10 attack to be baseless. Allegations into more than half were rejected outright. Of the few remaining, the UN says there MAY have been involvement, not that there was."

Gunness, like others, used the official language of "may" to sweep away the findings.

But, pressed at a journalists' briefing last Monday, Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson to U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, conceded it went further than that.

Asked whether those nine UNRWA workers "likely or highly likely were part of the attacks," Haq responded, "I think that's a good way of describing it."

The investigators from the U.N.'s Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) insisted that without fuller evidence sharing from Israeli officials, they could not independently verify or corroborate the allegations, leaving doubt in the language of their findings as to

the veracity of the allegations.

Nevertheless, UNRWA announced it had terminated the nine staffers under question.

Haq said further steps would be taken regarding another nine accused staffers for whom insufficient evidence existed and one staff member for whom no evidence was delivered, according to OIOS. It is likely those staffers, if they are not deceased, will have their suspensions lifted.

Several Israeli officials and entities have insisted that the nine staffers who were "likely or very likely" to have participated in the massacre is the tip of the iceberg, with UNRWA-Hamas ties running deep.

Upon suspending funding for UNR-WA in January in the wake of Israel's allegations, the Biden administration announced it would wait until the OIOS investigation was concluded to announce whether it might restore its donations.

Since that time, Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, has passed legislation that would bar funding for UNRWA through at least March 2025, with additional bills potentially lengthening that time frame if passed through both houses and signed by Biden.

Fifteen other countries that also suspended funding have since restored it, largely after the release of a separate review of UNRWA's neutrality and hiring practices. Critics say the review, conducted in part by European agencies that had previously absolved UNRWA of the criticisms against it, was a whitewash. **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.

Some of the following programs are different than what was printed in the MJCC Scene.

Monday, August 19 Field Trip to tour The Avaline at River Oaks

The Avaline at River Oaks is currently undergoing an extensive renovation to enhance its facilities and services. The renovation, scheduled for completion in September 2024, aims to provide residents with an upgraded living experience that combines modern amenities with compassionate, professional care. The refurbishment includes redesigning living spaces, updating community areas and apartments, and integrating advanced health and wellness technologies. Please join us to tour this new beautiful facility. The MJCC Bus has limited seating so please make your reservations soon. The cost is only \$2 for the roundtrip bus ride from the MJCC.

Wednesday, August 21 The Larissa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Big Monthly Luncheon

The August luncheon will feature the music and vocals of the Julianne Thomas and Dom Fosco Duo. Julianne and Dom have been making music all of their lives. They each have many accomplishments in their long careers, but along the way, the best reward is the love of sharing what they do. Julianne offers a stirring vocal style with a joyful presence while Dom is an amazing instrumentalist on keyboard, sax and backgrounds. Their repertoire includes traditional jazz, standards, blues and



Julianne Thomas

R&B. Everyone will sing and smile, swoon over the tunes, and tap their toes while Julianne and Dom create a journey back in time that is "Unforgettable."

Julianne and Dom are available through the help of Creative Aging!

Reservations are required by Monday, Aug. 19.

The cost is only \$5 for the kosher lunch and the great entertainment! Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810.

Monday, August 26 Movie: "Catskills on Broadway"

For the first time, we will watch the movie in the newly renovated Theatre at the MJCC. "Catskills on Broadway," plugs into timely events of the day while taking the spirit of the Catskill performances of such talents as Woody Allen, Jerry Lewis, Joan Rivers, Danny Kaye, Milton Berle, Joey Bishop and Mel Brooks.

In 1991, comedian Freddie Roman and three of his "Borscht Belt" comedian friends became a surprise sensation in NYC with their show "Catskills on Broadway." In the summer of '93, Freddie brought the show to Atlantic City, this time with new cast member Louise DuArt. The show was a smash in AC and returned many times during the 90s. This is the first time this show has been seen since '93. Great Old Fashion Jewish comedy, many of us remember; free to the general public!

Come for lunch and the show or just for the show! We all need a good laugh nowadays.

Wednesday, August 28 Speaker: Rabbi Yosef Braha

Rabbi Braha will return with his popular program "Ask the Rabbi!" This gives everyone a chance to ask many of the questions they have been thinking of but were afraid to ask! "Why is this kosher and this is isn't!" "Why do men need to wear a Yarmulke?" Why, Why, and Why!

Come ask any question for the Rabbi you have been wondering about. It couldn't hurt.

Please join us from 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 at 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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Estate Planning What Constitutes Legal Incapacity in Tennessee?

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

If you are like us, or most Memphians for that matter, you despise the right lanes on Poplar Avenue.

When we present seminars and workshops on estate planning, more particularly, what happens upon incapacity without a plan in place, we often use the example of a healthy, typical, midaged couple cruising down the right lane on Poplar when they are crushed by a drunk driver and, as a result, rendered incapacitated, or in some type of vegetative state. This example is effective because it highlights a point that many people disregard or fail to carefully consider, which is the fact that - whether due to mental health related issues, physical health related issues, an unexpected accident as in the Poplar case, cognitive impairment, etc. - one can become legally incapacitated at any age and at any time. In our experience, sadly, people often fail to plan for incapacity and assume that legal incapacity and disability are concerns reserved strictly for the elderly. We categorize this logic as the faulty, "it won't happen to me" logic. From a planning, legal and pragmatic perspective, for the incapacitated individual and for his or her family, incapacity without a plan is even worse than death without a plan. Incapacity without a plan leads to preventable expense and suffering for the individual and his or her family.

It is important to define our terms and explain what it means to be legally incapacitated in Tennessee. Tennessee Code Annotated and other statutes do not outright and explicitly define "capacity" or "incapacity." Tennessee conservatorship statutes, however, define a "person with a disability" as follows:

"Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older determined by the court to be in need of partial or full supervision, protection, and assistance by



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reason of mental illness, physical illness or injury, developmental disability, or other mental or physical incapacity." T.C.A. § 34-1-101

What happens in Tennessee when one becomes incapacitated without any plan in place? Who makes medical decisions (for example, whether to have a procedure, which medications to take, which physicians to see, etc.) for the incapacitated person? Who makes property decisions (managing accounts, paying the mortgage, liquidating assets, paying credit cards bills, etc.)? Who cares for the children of incapacitated parents?

The key understanding in this area is that without any plan in place should one, God forbid, become incapacitated, via a Conservatorship or living probate proceeding, a judge or jury – not the incapacitated individual nor his or her family – will determine who makes key medical and financial decisions for the incapacitated individual. We will further review the Conservatorship process in Shelby County in an upcoming article, but for now take our word that the Conservatorship process is a nightmare for families and is entirely avoidable with basic estate planning.

The bottom line for today is that anyone, regardless of age, net worth, or health status, can become incapacitated at any time and, in the event of incapacity, basic estate planning, via Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives, prevents the nightmare of the Conservatorship or living probate proceeding. **HW**

White House Slams Cori Bush's Threat to AIPAC to 'Tear Your Kingdom Down'



Rep. Cori Bush, a Missouri Democrat, gestures to the crowd prior to delivering her concession speech during a primary election watch party at Chevre Events, St. Louis, Aug. 6, 2024. Credit: Michael B. Thomas/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – WASHINGTON – The White House condemned as "inflammatory" a pledge by Missouri Rep. Cori Bush to AI-PAC that she would "tear your kingdom down," implying that heated rhetoric like hers could inspire political violence.

Bush, a member of the "Squad," the group of far-left Democrats that is harshly critical of Israel, lost a costly primary last Tuesday to St. Louis County prosecutor Wesley Bell.

Political action committees allied with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee spent more than \$9 million against Bush, making the election the third this cycle in which they have supported successful challengers to incumbents seen as hostile to Israel.

Bush, elected in 2020, told her followers after her defeat that it had "radicalized" her and said the groups that brought her [down] "should be afraid."

"There is nothing that happens in my life that happens in vain," she said, saying she would no longer be bound by the conventions of being a congresswoman. "And let me say this: AIPAC, I'm coming to tear your kingdom down!"

The phrase "tear your kingdom down" is in the title of a gospel hymn popularized by Shirley Caesar. In that song, the

phrase is addressed to Satan and describes an array of church figures who will participate in bringing him down.

Asked the following day about Bush's remarks, Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, pointed to President Joe Biden's remarks last month after an assassination attempt on his predecessor and the current Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump. (The motives of the gunman who shot at Trump at a Pennsylvania rally are not yet known. Secret Service agents returning fire killed the gunman.)

"The president has always been very clear, and very recently, after the assassination attempt of the last president, about lowering rhetoric," Jean-Pierre said. "It is important that we be very mindful of what we say. This kind of rhetoric is inflammatory and divisive and incredibly unhelpful."

Marshall Wittmann, AIPAC's spokesman, said the lobby would not be intimidated by Bush.

"We will not be deterred by those from the extremist, anti-Israel fringe in our efforts to strengthen America's alliance with the Jewish state," he said. "Voters across America are rejecting anti-Israel voices in favor of candidates who understand the vital importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship." **HW**

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Chattanooga Hosts First Jewish Food Festival, Nosh-A-Nooga

Nosh-A-Nooga, Chattanooga's first Jewish Food Festival, will be held Sunday, August 18 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Waterhouse Pavilion, 800 Market Street. The event is open to the public. Learn about Jewish culture through food. Tickets to sample foods are available at www. jewishchattanooga.com or at the door. For more information call 423-493-0270. This is an education service of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga.

Yummy Jewish food samples include brisket sliders, matzo ball soup, kugel, rugalach, challah and much, much more. Foods from Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions will be available to sample. Each food table will include definitions and a brief history about the food. Although no recipes will be available, traditional bakers and cooks will be on hand to talk about the food.

Did you know? Challah is the centerpiece of the weekly Shabbat table and many holidays. In medieval times, challah was a plain, simple bread. Braiding it began in 15th century Austria and Southern Germany, with Jewish housewives following their non-Jewish counterparts, who plaited the loaves they baked on Sundays. Braids also symbolized the Sabbath bride's hair. The wealthier you were, the more strands

you could have – a result of having more time, expertise and domestic help. Jews who came to the U.S. for a better life discovered an abundance of new and inexpensive ingredients like eggs, sugar and poppy seeds. Adding sugar created a much sweeter challah.

Did you know? Around the turn of the 20th century, a wave of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe arrived in America with hope for freedom from persecution and armed with recipes from their motherlands. Called "knish" by the Ukrainians and "knysz" by the Poles, this simple spherical dough pocket came to be known by its Yiddish derivative, knish, and in 1910, it officially went mainstream when the first knish bakery opened in New York City. Comprising a softball-size lump of dough that may be baked or deep-fried, a knish is traditionally packed with mashed potatoes or kasha (buckwheat grains). Pastrami, cheese, sweet potatoes, spinach, mushrooms, and caramelized onions, and combinations are common fillings; however, there are no rules when it comes to stuffing.

Taste these foods and find out about 14 others at Nosh-A-Nooga on August 18 HW

Dr. Adam Libby Joins Poplar Podiatry



Dr. Adam Libby

FOOT SPECIALISTS

Dr. Adam Libby has joined Dr. David Shainberg as a providing podiatrist at Poplar Podiatry.

Dr. Libby is a Memphis native and active in the Jewish community as a member of the JCC, Temple Israel and Baron Hirsch, while also serving as the podiatrist at Plough Towers and Church Health Center. He did his podiatry schooling at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine before completing his Podiatry Medicine and Surgery residency at St. Barnabas Hospital in Bronx, N.Y. He is board certified through the American Board of Podiatric Medicine and looking forward to the opportunity of serving our community.

Dr. Libby's office is conveniently located at 993 Reddoch Cove in East Memphis.

For appointments patients can call 901-681-9141. **HW**

Adam B. Libby, DPM Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Medicine Phone: 901-681-9141 Fax: 901-681-9149 www.poplarpodiatry.com

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U.S., British Ambassadors Skip Nagasaki Ceremony After Israeli Envoy's Presence is Nixed



A stock photo of the Peace Statue in Nagasaki, Oct. 18, 2008. Credit: Burden/ Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – The ambassadors to Japan from the United States and Britain are snubbing a ceremony commemorating the 79th anniversary of the United States dropping a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki because the mayor of the city declined to invite the Israeli ambassador.

The mayor, Shiro Suzuki, said that the presence of the Israeli ambassador at the ceremony last Friday would have posed security risks, "The New York Times" reported.

The U.S. ambassador, Rahm Emanuel, who is Jewish and who has Israeli parents, told the newspaper that the explanation seemed disingenuous, noting that Israel's envoy was present, without incident, last Tuesday at a similar ceremony at Hiroshima.

Suzuki recently called for an immediate ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza, which Israel rejects without a deal to release hostages held by Hamas. The mayor has likened the suffering in Gaza to the bombing of his city, which his parents endured.

Nagasaki has kept Russia and Belarus off its invite list since Russia invaded Ukraine. Emanuel and the British ambassador, Julia Longbottom, both said in statements to the "Times" that placing Israel and Russia on the same plane was unfair, because Hamas launched the current war with an invasion, just as Russia had with Ukraine.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israel's self-defense is not morally equivalent," Emanuel said. Keeping Israel off the list "creates an unfortunate and misleading equivalency," said Longbottom.

Gilad Cohen, Israel's ambassador to Japan, decried not being invited as "regrettable."

"Israel is exercising its full right and moral obligation to defend itself and its citizens and will continue to do so," Cohen said in a statement he posted on social media. "There is no comparison between Israel, which is being brutally attacked by terrorist organizations and any other conflict, any attempt to present it otherwise distorts the reality." HW



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Trump Says Ye 'has a Good Heart' in Interview with Jewish Streaming Star Adin Ross



Adin Ross attends a basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Sacramento Kings at Crypto.com Arena on January 18, 2023, in Los Angeles, California. Credit: Allen Berezovsky/Getty Images

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) - Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said that Ye, the rapper whose antisemitic tirades prompted international furor and led to the collapse of his career, is "a really nice guy" with a "good heart."

Trump made the comments last Monday during a wide-ranging interview with right-wing Jewish video game streamer Adin Ross, whose large audience allows him to land prominent interviewees.

The former president's comments were reflective of his long, close relationship with the artist formerly known as Kanye West, who publicly endorsed Trump before declaring in 2022 he was going to go "Death Con 3 on Jewish people." Ye's remarks, which later included a series of admiring comments about Adolf Hitler, inspired a spate of antisemitic acts across the country including graffiti reading "Kanye Is Right About The Jews."

Shortly after Ye lost his billion-dollar contract with Adidas over his comments, Trump hosted him for a dinner at which the Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes was also in attendance, drawing heavy criticism.

Trump made only brief comments about Ye during the [last] Monday stream, which was also marked by the 24-year-old Ross giving him a Tesla Cybertruck and a Rolex watch – a possible violation of campaign finance laws. The Ye remarks came when Ross put a photo of the musician on his computer screen and asked Trump for his immediate reactions to him.

"He's really complicated. Let's say 'complicated,'" Trump said about Ye. "He is a really nice guy, but he can get himself into trouble, and he can get some other people. But he's got a good heart."

Elsewhere in the interview, which took place on the streaming platform Kick, Trump repeatedly said Israel would not currently be threatened with an attack from Iran if he were president.

"I've heard that Israel's going to be attacked tonight. If I were president, nobody would even be talking about that word because it wouldn't happen. 100%," he said. Later he remarked that "if the election weren't rigged" - referring to the 2020 election, which Trump falsely claims was stolen - "we wouldn't have that attack on Israel."

Like Trump, Ross – a South Florida native and a nexus of the growing young, online right – has a history with Ye. He approached the rapper about appearing on his Twitch channel in 2022, after Ye's antisemitic comments went public, but the interview never happened. Ross later claimed that while the interview would have done "crazy numbers," he wouldn't allow Ye to use it to denigrate Jewish people, to which Ye reportedly responded, "You Jews aren't going to tell me what I can and can't say."

Yet Ross, who boasts streaming audiences in the millions, has also facilitated antisemitic voices throughout his streaming career. He was permanently banned from Twitch in 2023 after showing viewers a stream of unmoderated comments, including antisemitic posts; he has also said on his streams that he doesn't know what fascism is.

He also hosted Fuentes in 2023, challenging him on the large number of reported antisemitic hate crimes and asking him, "Why do people hate Jews?" (In response, Fuentes suggested that Jews stage antisemitic hate crimes for attention and said, "I do believe Jews are doing the work of Satan.")

Earlier this year Ross also defended New York Jets player Sauce Gardner after he said Jews "run the world" during one of his livestreams. While Gardner soon apologized, Ross maintained he "did and said nothing wrong," adding, "You said Jews run the world in a good way, which is true."

Meanwhile, Ye has been making bids to return to the fold since appearing to apologize to the Jewish people last year, and was also recently praised by Adidas' new CEO even as he's continued to flirt with antisemitism. This week he released his latest album, "Vultures 2," in collaboration with rapper Ty Dolla \$ign. He has recently been photographed wearing clothes promoting Burzum, a Norwegian metal band whose frontman, Varg Vikernes, is a neo-Nazi and convicted murderer who has authored extensive antisemitic writings. HW

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A Popular Belgian Author Wrote He Wanted to 'Ram A Sharp Knife' through Every Jew He Meets. He Says it Was Satire.



The author Herman Brusselmans is seen at a soccer game in Gent, Belgium, in February 2016. Credit: VI Images via Getty Images

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – An influential Belgian author is being sued by the European Jewish Association after he wrote that Israel's bombing of Gaza made him want to "ram a sharp knife through the throat of every Jew" he meets.

Herman Brusselmans, a popular novelist and public intellectual who appears regularly on television, sparked turmoil in Europe's Jewish community with his weekly column in the Belgian magazine "Humo" last Sunday. The satirical piece describes Brusselmans' vengeful sentiment toward Jews in response to the death of Palestinians in Gaza.

"I see an image of a crying and screaming Palestinian boy, completely out of his mind, calling for his mother who is lying under the rubble, and I imagine that boy is my own son Roman, and the mother is my own girlfriend Lena, and I get so angry that I want to ram a sharp knife through the throat of every Jew I meet," wrote Brusselmans, who has a reputation for provocative and obscene language.

He added, "Of course, you always have to remember: Not every Jew is a murderous bastard, and to give shape to that thought I imagine an elderly Jewish man shuffling down my own street, dressed in a washed-out shirt, fake cotton trousers and old sandals, and I feel sorry for him and almost get tears in my eyes, but a moment later I wish him to hell."

Israel's military campaign in Gaza following Hamas's attacks on Oct. 7 has killed close to 40,000 Palestinians. Palestinian health authorities, the United Nations and the World Health Organization say the majority have been civilians; Israeli officials say they believe the casualties have been half combatants and half civilians.

The high death toll has drawn criticism from world leaders, inflamed global opinion against Israel and triggered a surge in antisemitic incidents across Europe. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights found 400% increases in antisemitic incidents reported by various Jewish umbrella organizations.

Prominent rabbis and Jewish groups have accused Brusselmans of normalizing violence against Jews under the cloak of satire.

"We know this is a shock-jock journalist, who pushes the boundaries," said Rabbi Menachem Margolin, who heads the EJA. "But publicly expressing his desire to stab the throat of any Jew he comes across is psychopathic. Given his popularity and infamy, it is also an invitation for others to do likewise."

The EJA, which represents hundreds of European Jewish communities, has announced it is suing Brusselmans for "incitement to murder" and demanding his suspension from "Humo."

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis and the exiled chief rabbi of Moscow, likewise decried both Brussel-

mans and "Humo" for "creating a toxic environment that can lead to real-world violence."

"While, of course, the government and military of Israel are their own distinct entities and have no official link to Jewish communities outside of Israel, we object to this author's desire to stab a Jew in the throat for that murderous image alone, not for mixing Israelis and Belgian Jews together," Goldschmidt said in an op-ed for the Jewish News Syndicate.

Brusselmans called the accusations "completely crazy" and argued that his imagery of taking a knife to Jews' throats was metaphorical.

"With my column I wanted to say that when something is done to your loved ones for no reason, you are filled with total anger," he said to the Belgian news service VRT.

His editors have also defended the column. "With satirical writers such as Herman Brusselmans, the writing should never be taken 100% literally," said "Humo's" editor-in-chief. "That is why the editorial staff did not intervene in the text of our columnist."

But that defense wasn't enough for Unia, an anti-discrimination public institution in Belgium, which joined the EJA in filing a complaint against Brusselmans.

"Boundaries have been crossed," said Unia's spokesperson Carol Poncin. "In our opinion, what he wrote is clearly antisemitism." **HW**

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Should You Buy or Lease Your Next Vehicle?

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

New vehicle prices have skyrocketed these past few years, with the cost averaging well over \$48,000 toward the end of 2023. These increased costs, coupled with rising interest rates, mean that buying a vehicle can take a significant bite out of your budget. If you are in the market for a new vehicle, you might be wondering if leasing it would save you money.

As a rule, if you plan on keeping a vehicle for a long period of time, it makes more sense to buy it. But if having the latest technology and safety features is important to you, leasing might be the best option, allowing you to drive a new vehicle every few years. To help you decide, you should also determine how each option fits into your lifestyle or budget. Here are some points to consider

Ownership

When you buy a vehicle, you usually finance a portion of the purchase price and pay it back over time with interest. When the loan term ends and the vehicle is paid for, you own it. You can keep it as long as you like, and any retained value (equity) is also yours to keep.

When you lease a vehicle, you don't own it – the leasing company does – so you do not have any equity built up once the lease is over. At the end of the lease term, you can choose to either return the vehicle or buy it at its residual value, which is set forth in the lease. If you end up returning it early, the dealer may require you to pay a hefty fee. If you still need a vehicle at the end of the lease term, you'll need to start the leasing (or buying) process all over.

Monthly payments

If you finance all or part of your new vehicle purchase, you will have a monthly payment that will vary based on the amount you finance, the interest rate, and the loan term. When comparing loans, it's important to look at the total amount of money you will end up paying over the life of the loan. While a longer loan term may give you a more affordable monthly payment, you will end up paying more money over the loan term.

In general, monthly lease payments are usually lower than monthly loan payments since you are mainly paying for the vehicle's depreciation during the lease term as opposed to the purchase price. This means that leasing may allow you to drive a more expensive vehicle than what you could otherwise afford.

Mileage

How much do you plan on driving? When you buy a vehicle, you can drive it as many miles as you want. However, a vehicle with higher mileage may be worth less if you plan to trade it in or sell it at some point down the road.

Vehicle leases come with up-front mileage limits, typically ranging from 12,000 to 15,000 miles per year. If you exceed these limits, you can end up incurring costly penalties in the form of excess mileage charges.

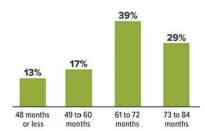
Maintenance

When you sell your vehicle, condition matters, so you may receive less if it hasn't been well maintained. As your vehicle ages, repair bills may be greater, something you typically won't encoun-

ter if you lease.

Generally, you will have to service a leased vehicle according to the manufacturer's recommendations. In addition, you'll need to return your vehicle with normal wear and tear (according to the leasing company's definition). Anything above normal wear and tear may result in excess charges.

Share of new vehicle loans, by loan term



Source: Experian, 2023

Up-front costs

When you buy a vehicle, the up-front costs you incur may include the cash price or a down payment for the vehicle, taxes, title, and other fees.

The up-front costs associated with leasing a vehicle may include an acquisition fee, down payment, security deposit, first month's payment, taxes, title, and other fees.

Additional buying vs. leasing tips

Keep the following tips in mind when determining whether or not to buy or lease a vehicle:

- Shop wisely. Advertised deals may be too good to be true once you read the fine print. Make sure you fully understand all terms or conditions.
- Negotiate. To get the best deal, be prepared to negotiate the price of the vehicle and the terms of any loan or lease offer.
- Run the numbers. Calculate both the short-term and long-term costs associated with each option.
- Factor in any tax incentives or implications. This is especially true if you plan to use your vehicle for business or are shopping for an electric vehicle.

1) Kelley Blue Book, 2024

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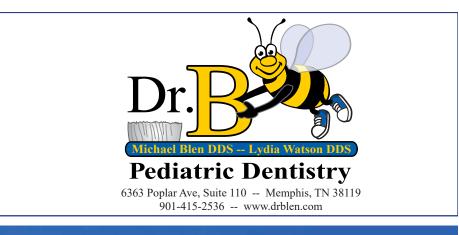
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Emergency Blood Shortage: Red Cross Supply Drops 25%

MEMPHIS, Aug. 5, 2024 – The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces dangerous levels of heat and people head out for final summer travel plans. Since July 1, the Red Cross national blood supply has fallen by more than 25%, and blood donors of all types, especially those with type O blood, are urged to give as soon as possible to help patients receive lifesaving medical care.

Heat impacted more than 100 blood drives in July in nearly every state where the Red Cross collects blood – compounding other seasonal obstacles to blood donation, such as travel and summer activities. Together these factors contributed to a shortfall of more than 19,000 blood donations in July. At the same time, hospital demand for blood products remains strong. Blood products are being sent to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. Right now, type O inventory is so low, distributions of this vital blood type are reduced below what hospitals count on.

"It's critical hospitals have both type O positive and O negative blood ready to go for patients in the most life-threatening situations," said Dr. Eric Gehrie, executive physician director for the Red Cross. "Type O is especially important for victims of accidents and other trauma who are receiving emergency treatment. Now is the time for donors of all blood types to give and ensure hospital shelves can be restocked before any impact to patient care."

The Red Cross is working with hospitals around-the-clock to meet the blood needs of patients – but can't do it alone. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In Memoriam Ann Rosenberg

The UNITED STATES HOLO-CAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM mourns the passing of Founder Ann Rosenberg. As a dedicated philanthropist and an early supporter of the Museum, Ann, along with her late husband Marcus, a Holocaust survivor, was deeply committed to promoting Holocaust education and its important lessons for future generations. The Museum sends heartfelt condolences to her children Helen, Steven, Lizzie, her son-in-law Gregg Kanter (husband of Ann's late daughter, Sheri Rosenberg), and their families.

Stuart E. Eizenstat, Council Chairman Allan M. Holt, Council Vice Chairman Sara J. Bloomfield, Museum Director Jed M. Silberg, Associate Chief Development Officer **HW**

•••••

As a thank-you, those who come give blood, platelets or plasma Aug. 1-31, 2024, will get a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Help.

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Chapel Hill

8/21/2024: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Chapel Hill UMC, 316 North Horton Parkway

Shelby

Collierville

8/26/2024: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Collierville Community, 4674 Merchants Park Circle

Memphis

8/19/2024: 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., New Covenant SDA, 4335 Horn Lake Road

8/20/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Chapter Memphis, 1399 Madison Avenue

8/27/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Chapter Memphis, 1399 Madison Avenue **HW**

OBITUARIES



Marilyn ("Lynn") Loket Kline

Marilyn ("Lynn") Loket Kline, 89, was born on April 29, 1935, in Memphis, Tenn., to the late Harry S. Loket and late Minnie Samuels Loket and died on August 6, 2024.

Lynn, wife of the late Robert P. Kline, M.D., is survived by her children, Lee (Liane) Kline, Alan (Nancy) Kline and

Cathy Kline Poulin (Jon Poulin, z"l), six grandchildren, Benjamin (Ashley) Kline, Emily (Eddie) Cherry, Alexandra (David) Lockhart, Jennifer (Andrew) Epstein, Aaron (Lindsay) Poulin and Evan Kline, eight great-grandchildren, Brody and Leo Lockhart, Jack and Charlotte Cherry, Jordyn and Hannah Poulin and Charlie and Margo Epstein, her sister Evelyn Snyder (Martin Snyder, z"l), cousins, nieces and nephews.

Lynn, a long-time office manager at her husband's medical practice, was active in many community organizations including past president of Temple Israel Sisterhood, board member of the National Council of Jewish Women and a Lifetime Member of Hadassah. Her boundless energy and her love and devotion to her family, especially as 'Grandma," will be greatly missed.

Donations may be made to Temple Israel Sisterhood, Church Health Center or a charity of your choice.

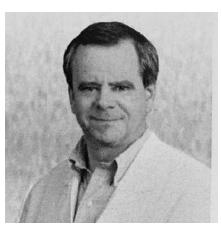
Services were held Thurs., Aug. 8, 2024, in Levy Cooper Chapel with burial at Temple Israel Cemetery.

cated himself to caring for patients for four decades. He was admired and respected by his colleagues and patients for his expertise, compassion, and devotion to his profession.

Outside of his medical career, he enjoyed time spent outdoors and fly fishing with his friends and family. He also enjoyed watching college sports and had an amazing recollection of historical sports occurrences. But most of all, he enjoyed being with his family. He was very proud of the two daughters and son that he and Suzy lovingly cared for and raised, and his face would light up with a huge smile anytime he was talking about them. He considered them his proudest accomplishment in his 71 years of life.

Dr. Young will be remembered for his kindness, captivating laugh, impressive intelligence, dedication to his patients, and his love for his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Winston Young, his daughters, Jennifer Young and Margo Domico (Adam), his son, Winston Young, and his granddaughter, Sophia Domico, and his sister, Lisa Joyce (Dan), of Little Rock, Ark. **HW**



Dr. Mark Scott Young

Dr. Mark Scott Young, 71, passed away on July, 19, 2024.

He was born in Little Rock, Ark., to the late Perry and Marie Young.

He attended Hall High School before further pursuing his education at Southwestern (Rhodes), where he graduated in 1976. It was in Memphis that he met Susan, his dedicated and loving wife of over 48 years.

After completing medical school at UAMS College of Medicine in Little Rock, Dr. Young returned to Memphis to begin his career in Internal Medicine at St. Francis Hospital, where he dedi-

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Navigating Tense Waters, Kamala Harris Listens to Pro-Palestinian Activists and then Shushes Them



Current Vice President and 2024 Democratic Presidential nominee Kamala Harris speaks to several thousand attendees at her presidential campaign rally at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Romulus, Michigan, Aug. 7, 2024. Credit: Adam J. Dewey/Anadolu via Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – In the space of an hour or so last Wednesday, Kamala Harris both listened to and shushed pro-Palestinian activists, in a raw display of the fine line Democrats must walk while war rages between Israel and Hamas and a presidential election looms.

Harris met with pro-Palestinian activists in Detroit, a metropolitan area thought to house the largest concentration of Arab Americans, leading to competing claims about whether the vice president and presumptive presidential nominee agreed to consider an arms embargo on Israel.

The tumult reflects the tightrope Harris must navigate between two of her party's natural constituencies, Arab Americans and Jews, as well as other groups on either side of Israel's current war, and comes just a week and a half before the party's convention in Chicago.

What should be a crowning moment for Harris, her coronation after a historically rapid ascent to the party nomination, threatens to be defined by planned pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian street rallies and protests. Additionally, families of hostages held by Hamas and advocates for the medical professionals tending to the tens of thousands of Palestinian wounded want prime time spots at the convention.

Harris' experience last Wednesday offered a taste of how challenging it might be for her and other Democrats to navigate the tensions. An hour after Harris reportedly told pro-Palestinian activists in their meeting that the carnage in Gaza was "horrific," she shut down a pro-Palestinian chant at her rally, staring at the protesters and glowering in a clip that has gone viral.

"Kamala, Kamala, you can't hide! We won't vote for genocide," a clutch of protesters chanted as Harris spoke at a hangar at a Detroit airport.

Harris at first acknowledged the protesters and their right to speak out. "I'm here because we believe in democracy. Everyone's voice matters, but I am speaking now, I am speaking now," she said to applause.

She returned to her topic, the radical changes she said her rival, Donald Trump, would bring if he were elected, but the protesters chanted unabated for 30 seconds.

That prompted a sharp rebuke from Harris.

"You know what?" she said. "If you want Donald Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking." She leaned back and glowered at the protesters as the rally erupted into applause and cheers.

The same dynamic played out before her speech. The founders of the "Uncommitted" movement, which encouraged Democrats to withhold votes in the primaries to register unhappiness with the Biden administration's support of Israel, briefly met with Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

"The Vice President shared her

sympathies and expressed an openness to a meeting with Uncommitted leaders to discuss an arms embargo," Uncommitted said in a press release.

That led to calls for a clarification from pro-Israel figures, alarmed at the notion that a Harris administration would consider cutting defense assistance to Israel.

"If Kamala Harris does not directly and unequivocally reverse her reported promise to anti-Israel group in Michigan that she 'is open to request' to consider arms embargo to Israel, she will lose significant support from American Jews and Democrats that support Israel!" tweeted Abe Foxman, the former Anti-Defamation League national director who in 2020 campaigned for President Joe Biden.

Direct and unequivocal came soon enough. Harris "has been clear: she will always ensure Israel is able to defend itself against Iran and Iran-backed terrorist groups," Phil Gordon, Harris's national security adviser, said in a tweet. "She does not support an arms embargo on Israel. She will continue to work to protect civilians in Gaza and to uphold international humanitarian law."

Shelley Greenspan, Biden's Jewish outreach director, amplified Gordon's statement. "The VP does *not* support an arms embargo on Israel," she tweeted, quoting Gordon's tweet.

A campaign aide to Harris pointed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to Gordon's statement and said Uncommitted's claim that Harris expressed openness to an embargo was "inaccurate."

"Since Oct. 7, the Vice President has prioritized engaging with Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian community members and others regarding the war in Gaza," the aide said. "In this brief engagement, she reaffirmed that her campaign will continue to engage with those communities. The Vice President has been clear: she will always work to ensure Israel is able to defend itself against Iran and Iran-backed terrorist groups."

Harris replaced Biden as the nominee last month after Biden pulled out of the race. She already had emerged as tougher on Israel than Biden, who has been close to the country for most of his career – at least rhetorically. That soon came into focus days after she assumed Biden's mantle as the likely nominee.

After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last month in Washington, Harris said in a press conference that she "will not be silent" in the face of Palestinian suffering.

That spurred hope among pro-Palestinian activists that Harris would be more amenable to their cause.

Even after Gordon shot down Uncommitted's claim that Harris would entertain an arms embargo, the group appeared hopeful that she represented a shift, and did not back down from their claim that she was open to the idea.

"We found hope in Vice President Harris expressing an openness to meeting about an arms embargo, and we are eager to continue engaging, because people we love are being killed with American bombs," the group's founders, Layla Elabed and Abbas Alawieh, said in a statement.

"When we told Vice President Harris that members of our community in Michigan are losing dozens and hundreds of their family members to Israel's assault in Gaza, she said back: 'It's horrific,'" their statement said. "It's clear to us that Vice President Harris can lead our country's Gaza policy to a more humane place. We hope she will meet with us so we can move forward to discuss an arms embargo."

Jewish and Arab Americans are both constituencies that vote in substantial majorities for Democrats. Harris will likely need both to best Trump in a close election, particularly states like Michigan that have significant Jewish and Arab American populations.

The constituencies have come together in the past – pushing back in 2017 against Trump's ban on visitors from a number of Muslim majority countries, for instance. But they have largely stood against each other when it comes to the war in Gaza and how Israel has conducted it.

The tensions likely won't abate before Aug. 19, when Democrats convene for their convention in Chicago. A number of pro-Palestinian groups have planned rallies. At least one pro-Israel group, the Israeli American Council, has applied to Chicago authorities to mount a pro-Israel march near the convention but has so far been rebuffed, Jewish Insider reported.

Uncommitted wants the convention to give a prime-time speaking slot to medical professionals from Gaza. The families of American-Israeli hostages still held by Hamas also want a slot, having received one last month at the Republican convention.

A spokesperson for the Harris campaign did not respond to a query as to whether either or both requests would be granted. **HW**

Trump Claims He Would Have Gotten Iran Nuclear Deal in Second Term

(JNS) – Former U.S. President Donald Trump at a press conference last Thursday claimed that had he won re-election in 2020, he would have made a new deal with Iran to prevent the Islamic Republic from acquiring nuclear weapons.

"I would have had a deal done within one week after the election with Iran," Trump said. "Iran can't have a nuclear weapon. It's very simple. We would have gotten along with Iran. I was looking forward to it."

"I was fine with Iran," Trump added.
"You know, we hit them a couple of times pretty hard, but we would have been fine with Iran."

Trump touted his Israel-related accomplishments after he was asked a question about U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris agreeing to meet with a protest group that wants an arms embargo

placed on the Jewish state and repeated a line he has frequently used that Jewish-Americans considering voting for Harris should "have their head examined."

"I gave them Golan Heights, I gave them the capital of Israel, Jerusalem, I even built the embassy. I gave them no Iran deal," Trump said, referring to his 2018 withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Iran nuclear deal signed in 2015. "The problem is they didn't do anything with it. Iran was broke."

It was not clear from his remarks whether he was referring to Israel, the Biden-Harris administration or Jewish-Americans.

Harris's national security advisor, Phil Gordon, wrote on social media last Thursday that Harris opposes an arms embargo on Israel. **HW**

Ohio Man Charged with Hate Crime in Attack Outside DC Synagogue

(JNS) – Brent Wood, 35, of Toledo, Ohio, was charged with a hate crime for allegedly attacking Jews outside the Orthodox synagogue Kesher Israel in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

A federal grand jury indicted Wood on three counts "of obstructing by force or threat of force a person's enjoyment of their free exercise of religious beliefs, while using a dangerous weapon," according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Wood is accused of yelling "Gas the Jews" at congregants outside the syna-

gogue on Dec. 17 and "spraying a noxious aerosol," according to the U.S. Justice Department.

He faces up to 60 years in jail for the three counts. He is currently a fugitive in a case of simple assault before D.C. Superior Court, according to the department. **HW**

Brent Wood, 35, faces up to 60 years in jail for the attack at Kesher Israel in Georgetown.

As Iran Attack Looms, Competing U.S., Russian Roles Surface

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – As tensions between Israel and the Iranian axis mount in the Middle East, the United States and Russia are playing increasingly prominent and competing roles in the region.

Russia's dependence on Iran has significantly intensified in light of its ongoing war against Ukraine, which it appears to have recently repaid by helping the Islamic Republic increase its readiness for further direct conflict with Israel

Faced with the depletion of its own missile stockpiles, Russia has turned to Iran for critical supplies. Iran has reportedly provided Russia with around 400 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, including models from the Fateh-110 family, which are crucial for Russia's operational capabilities. Additionally, Iran has supplied thousands of drones, notably the Shahed-136, which have been used extensively in Ukraine.

Iran's support for Russia extends to significant production assistance. The Islamic Republic has helped establish a production factory on Russian soil dedicated to manufacturing 10,000 Iranian-designed drones a year, according to a February report by Defense One.

It appears as if the payback from Russia is materializing. According to a report by "The New York Times" last Tuesday, Russia has begun delivering advanced radars and air-defense equipment to Iran. There are also unconfirmed reports that Iran has received electronic warfare systems from Russia to enhance its defenses. Meanwhile, Tehran continues to press Russia to deliver SU-35 fighter jets.

At the same time, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reportedly advised Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to exercise restraint following the July 31 assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Tehran has blamed Israel for the killing and threatened to retaliate. According to Reuters, Putin, through Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Russian Se-

curity Council, recommended that Iran avoid striking Israeli civilian targets.

In Yemen, Russia's involvement has deepened, with the "Middle East Eye" citing United States officials on Aug. 2 regarding the presence of Russian military intelligence in the country. Russian officers are reportedly advising the Houthis on targeting vessels in the Red Sea.

Parallel concerns have been raised about potential Russian arms supplies to the Houthis, as raised in a report by CNN the same day, with Russia reportedly canceling at the last minute plans to supply the Houthis with weapons. The Russian supplies were intended as a means of pressuring Washington over its support for Ukraine. The cancellation followed U.S. and Saudi pressure on Moscow, according to the report.

Russia's support for Iran highlights its intent to counter U.S. influence and strengthen its foothold in the region, which is already significant due to Russia's near decade-long military presence in Syria, on Israel's doorstep.

Conversely, the United States has been attempting to stabilize the region through a mix of intensive diplomacy and a military presence, which has mostly focused on defensive missions, with limited offensive strikes on Iranbacked forces in Yemen and Iraq.

In recent days, the United States has again boosted its military presence and posture in the Middle East. Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), which is responsible for the Middle East, visited Israel last Monday for joint situational assessments with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. The three discussed defensive and offensive operational plans ahead of the expected Iranian-axis attack.

The Pentagon announced on Aug. 2 the deployment of additional military assets to the Middle East, including F-22 Raptor fighter jets, ballistic missile defense-capable Navy cruisers, and de-

trovers.

According to Professor Robert Freedman, a leading U.S. expert on Israel, the Middle East and American foreign policy, "Russia does not want an Israeli-Iranian war, as it demonstrated in April."

Such a war "would pose problems of choice for Russia and, most likely, interfere in Iranian arms deliveries to Russia," he told JNS.

Freedman, who has advised policy-makers in the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Israeli Defense Ministry and the Israeli Foreign Ministry, added that, "Despite having an air base and a naval base in Syria, Russia simply does not have the firepower

the United States has in the region."

Indeed, he continued, "it has withdrawn some of its assets from Syria and its Black Sea fleet, badly hurt by Ukraine, seems bottled up there."

Thus, "The display of U.S. power in the region will reassure U.S. allies, not just Israel, and may serve to deter Iran from a larger response to the Haniyeh assassination than they would have liked," he said.

One thing appears clear going forward: As war continues to rage in both the Middle East and eastern Europe, the world appears to once again be witnessing the rise of global blocs locked in confrontation. **HW**



Anti-Israel Activists Protest London Performance of 'Fiddler on the Roof'

(JNS) – Pro-Palestinian demonstrators targeted patrons near a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" in at Regent's Park Open Air Theater in London last Monday, accusing the audience of being "Zionist."

The show went on, despite anti-Israel protesters waving Palestinian flags at a musical set that replicated shtetl life in Russia. A spokesperson for the theater said the musical "went ahead as planned."

"Fiddler on the Roof' isn't just a Jewish musical: It's the family story of most Jewish families in this country. Holding an anti-Israel protest there is pure antisemitism," said Dave Rich, director of policy for Community Security Trust.

"Pro-Palestinian protest at a performance of 'Fiddler on the Roof in London' tonight," the Combat Antisemitism Movement stated. "The play has nothing to do with Israel. It has nothing to do with Zionism. Targeting a symbol of Jewish culture shows that these people hate Jews."

The modern-day State of Israel was established in 1948. The play depicts the lives of a Jewish family set in the Pales of Settlement in Imperial Russia around 1905. **HW**



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Hamas Picks Gaza's Yahya Sinwar to Replace Slain Political Leader Ismail Haniyeh



Yahya Sinwar at the opening of a new mosque in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, Feb. 24, 2017. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/ Flash90

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) - Yahya Sinwar, the architect of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and

the highest-ranking leader of the terror group still alive, has been selected to helm Hamas' political bureau going forward. The group announced the selection last Wednesday, a week after the assassination in Tehran of its political leader, Ismail Haniyeh. Haniyeh is believed to have been killed by a bomb orchestrated by Israel, which had vowed to kill Hamas' leaders wherever they could be found but has not claimed credit for Haniyeh's death.

The move means that Sinwar, who is thought to be hiding in Gaza, has consolidated authority after a long-running tug-of-war within Hamas' leadership. Haniyeh, who lived comfortably in exile in Qatar and interacted with world leaders, was seen as more open to ceasefire talks, though he never agreed to any deal following a brief pause in November.

Sinwar, born in 1962, came up through the ranks of Hamas' morality police and is seen as a hardliner even within the organization. He is perceived as wielding significant authority even as he is on the run from Israeli strikes.

Sinwar learned fluent Hebrew and much about how Israel operates during two decades in an Israeli prison after he was convicted of murdering Palestinians who had collaborated with Israel. During his incarceration, he was diagnosed with and treated for a potentially fatal brain tumor. He was released in 2011 as one of more than 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners swapped for a single captured Israeli soldier and in 2017 succeeded Haniyeh as Hamas' leader in Gaza.

Israeli officials said Sinwar's promotion bears out the war they have been waging against Hamas since Oct. 7.

"The appointment of arch-terrorist Yahya Sinwar as the new leader of Hamas, replacing Ismail Haniyeh, is yet another compelling reason to swiftly eliminate him and wipe this vile organization off the face of the earth," tweeted Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz. HW

Shin Bet Exposes More Social Media Profiles Iran Uses to Lure Israelis

(JNS) – The Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) has published a list of fake online profiles Iran set up to lure Israelis into conducting espionage.

In a statement made previously, the agency said, "The use of the method of contacting Israeli citizens through social media networks, under the false pretense of the identity of the person making the request, is a well-known method of operation of the Iranian intelligence agencies."

The profiles revealed this time by the Shin Bet include Telegram users, channels and bot accounts with the following usernames:

Itamar201020, Gal01110, Mariiyam1997, PAnderson198, hadas99, Ramon_nkl96, צבא העם (people's army), VIP EMPLOYMENT, עבודה באזור י-ם והסביבה (work in Jerusalem and the area) and יפה עובדים – דרושים עובדים (employees wanted – Haifa).

The Shin Bet is monitoring these accounts and their activities, as well as other accounts and channels where Iranian intelligence has posted messages offering job opportunities. The agency has asked the Israeli public to be "vigilant, report suspicious messages from unknown sources to security agencies,

avoid sharing personal details, and refrain from clicking on links from unidentified sources."

In mid-July, a Vizhnitz Chassid and resident of Beit Shemesh, west of Jerusalem, by the name of Elimelech Stern was charged with illegal contact with a foreign agent, after he was contacted by one of these fake accounts set up by Iranian intelligence, and allegedly carried out various tasks at its request.

According to charges filed at the Jerusalem District Court, Stern first came into contact with the agent, who identified himself by the name "Anna Elena," through the Telegram encrypted messaging app.

The Shin Bet also said previously that many online profiles linked to Iran have been discovered in recent months and that authorities continue to collect intelligence information on the "elements behind their operation." HW

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