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9 ELUL, 5784

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Chabad Announces the Launching of CTeen Memphis A Judgement-Free Zone for Young Jews to Connect and Grow



3000 Teens in Times Square at the International CTeen Shabbaton in New York City in February.

Chabad of Memphis announced the launching of a CTeen Chapter in Memphis, part of a worldwide network of Jewish youth groups with 814 chapters in 64 countries worldwide, aimed at providing a judgement-free zone for young Jews of all backgrounds to connect, grow and thrive. CTeen empowers teens to build meaningful relationships, explore their Judaism and become leaders in their communities.

“There’s this stereotypical notion that

teens are just reckless, immature and difficult,” says Rabbi Levi Klein, director of Chabad of Memphis. “That could not be further from the truth. Teenagers have insurmountable energy. At CTeen, we believe in the power of youth, and what we offer is a means of channeling that power in a positive and uplifting way.”

“CTeen is more than just a youth group – it’s a family,” said Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Memphis. “Our mission is to create a warm and wel-

coming space where every Jewish teen can feel seen, heard and valued. We’re thrilled to bring this vibrant community to Memphis and empower young Jews to deepen their connection to Judaism and each other, while enjoying fun and exciting activities at each get-together.”

“I am very excited about the opening,” said Sammy Stokar an 11th grader at White Station, who just moved to Memphis. “I was part of CTeen in Florida, and I’m looking forward to continuing to be part of CTeen, enjoying learning in a fun way and getting to know other Jewish teens.”

Chabad has enlisted the assistance of Esther Postylnik a sophomore at Rhodes College who has been a member and leader of CTeen in her hometown of Maryland, to help lead CTeen Memphis.

“Students will gain leadership skills, learn about their Jewish heritage, strengthen their Jewish pride and give back to the community, all within a warm Jewish atmosphere,” said Esther. “I’m so excited and looking forward to be able to be part of it.”

As part of the global Chabad network, CTeen Memphis will offer a unique blend of fun, education, and community service, inspired by the teachings of Judaism. CTeen’s programs and activities are designed to be engaging, interactive, and relevant to teens’ lives, including:

- Shabbatons and holiday events.
 - Community service projects.
 - Leadership development opportunities.
 - Workshops and discussions on topics such as self-esteem, stress management and Jewish identity.
- Chabad is creating a CTeen LOUNGE at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, a safe, relaxed and fun space that teens can come meet other Jewish teens to have fun and interact within a space that feels totally and completely their own.
- The new chapter is open to all Jewish teens that do not attend a Jewish school, regardless of affiliation or level of observance. CTeen’s judgement-free philosophy ensures that every individual feels comfortable exploring their Judaism, asking questions and learning from others.
- Join us and invite your friends to attend the CTeen Kickoff BBQ & Laser Tag event, on Sunday, September 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Chabad Center for Jewish Life at 2570 Kirby Parkway.
- Meet our dedicated team, learn about our programs, and experience the warmth of the CTeen community firsthand.
- To RSVP visit www.JewishMemphis.com/CTEEN
- For more information, contact Mrs. Rivky Klein at Rivky@JewishMemphis.com or 901-219-7004. **HW**

Generation Alpha Drives Sustainability at Bornblum



A Bornblum Middle student captures video footage in the Heather Samuels Butterfly Garden at Bornblum Jewish Community School.

Generation Alpha (born between 2010 and 2024) are causing huge shifts in the priorities of schools like Bornblum. For one thing, Alphas are committed to sustainability. “A recent statistic I saw brought home how passionate Alphas feel about the environment and sustainability,” said Mary Beth Beeber, Bornblum Middle’s science teacher and outdoor educator. “Recent research sug-

gests that as many as 81 percent of parents of generation Alpha kids say that their children have influenced their actions or consumption decisions, making them more environmentally aware.”

Bornblum’s leadership sees this influence at school as well. Daniel R. Weiss, Bornblum’s head of school observes that, “Over the past several years, under the guidance of Mrs. Beeber, Bornblum

has moved rapidly toward creating a more sustainable campus. These changes around campus are remarkable and are aligned with our students’ priorities.”

For example, according to Weiss, several years ago, the school created the Heather Samuels Butterfly Garden in an effort to create a beautiful and relaxing space on campus. Since then, working with students, Beeber has transformed the garden into a living laboratory and a Monarch Butterfly Way Station. According to Beeber, “We have planted large amounts of swamp milkweed on campus where Monarchs lay their eggs and the caterpillars feed, as well as many native flowers that feed the adult butterflies and other pollinators. We are helping to save an endangered species and at the same time, creating a living laboratory where students learn hands on.”

The school now uses its outdoor spaces to teach a wide variety of subjects, such as life cycles, reproduction, growth, habitats, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, mineral and soil composition and overall sustainability. “It is so much better for our students to have spaces right here on campus where they

can learn important science concepts through hands on learning,” says Beeber. And the gardens also provide an opportunity for student leadership. For example, this fall seventh graders will help each K-5 class create a Monarch habitat in their classroom, and together the school hopes to release hundreds of Monarch butterflies.

In another move toward sustainability, Bornblum has shifted from purchasing seedlings for its gardens to growing plants from seeds that are harvested on campus each year. The new Bornblum Seed Bank houses heirloom (non GMO) seeds harvested by students from the plants on campus. These seeds are stored inside over the winter and then planted in subsequent years.

“Our seed bank allows us to teach sustainable gardening practices to our students. They learn the life cycle of plants, and they learn the concept of seed storage and how creating a seed bank helps to ensure future generations will have access to native plants,” says Jill Cross, Bornblum’s director of cur-

(See Bornblum Page 3)

Pentagon: ‘We Have Not Determined that Israel has Violated International Humanitarian Law’



Pentagon Press Secretary U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder conducts a press briefing at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., June 18, 2024. Credit: U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alexander Kubitza/U.S. Department of Defense.

(JNS) – A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defense dissented from the suggestion that Israel had broken international law, prompted by the decision by the United Kingdom to suspend arms export licenses to Israel for 30 days.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the DOD press secretary at the Pentagon, spoke at a briefing last Tuesday discussing the steps used to ensure compliance with human rights.

“Those processes are ongoing. As of now, we have not determined at this point that Israel has violated international humanitarian law, but those assessments, to include those of the State Department looking at allegations, are still ongoing,” Ryder said.

The press secretary reported that last Sunday, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin had spoken with Israel’s Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant to express condolences for the six hostages murdered by Hamas.

“The secretary affirmed that Hamas leaders must be held accountable for the murder of these innocent civilians,”

Ryder said. “And Secretary Austin and Minister Gallant once again reaffirmed their mutual commitment to swiftly reaching a ceasefire deal to secure the release of all the remaining hostages.”

The Pentagon spokesman also addressed discussions about the role in hostage negotiations for control of the Philadelphi corridor and its strategic importance in preventing future terrorist attacks.

Ryder stated that he would not provide “my personal tactical assessment of the battlefield” and that “I’ll leave it up to the Israelis to talk about how best to do that.”

The possibility of another Iran attack against Israel also arose as a question.

“Iran has indicated that it intends to retaliate, so we will continue to take that threat seriously, and I’ll just leave it there,” Ryder said. “I’m not going to speculate or get into potential or hypotheticals, rather, in terms of when and if they may attack other than the fact that they’ve said publicly that they intend to retaliate.” **HW**

THE Hebrew Watchman

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9/12/2024



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. September 13, 2024 / 10 Elul, 5784 6:50 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. September 14, 2024 / 11 Elul, 5784..... 7:45 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Ki Teitzei

King Pins Ready for a New Season of Bowling

The King Pins Bowling League will begin its 26th year on Monday, Sept. 19 at the Cordova Bowling Center. The league began with six athletes in September of 1999. Today there are about 50 Special Olympics athletes that bowl each week.

The league gives these athletes an opportunity to both socialize with their friends and participate in a healthy sport no matter what their particular challenge

may be. The league also, in many cases, gives the parents the opportunity to visit with parents of the other athletes.

We are always looking for volunteers to cheer for the athletes. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. You may contact David Ross at 901-483-4017 or davidross5147@gmail.com or you may contact Rose Ross at rosebross@gmail.com. **HW**

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Bornblum...
(Continued From Page 1)

riculum and instruction.

As Beeber points out, “We are so excited, because the milkweed planted on campus this fall is the third generation of plants from the same progenitor seeds.”

Sustainability is also front and center with the new Go Green initiative in Bornblum Middle. During the first semester, middle school students will analyze various areas of campus to discover opportunities to make the campus more sustainable.

“Our students will be looking with a critical eye at our campus practices in places like the lunch spaces and the front office, to determine ways to reduce waste. Using the school’s design thinking methodology, students will work in teams to research and create solutions that they can implement throughout the school,” says Samantha Schmidt, Bornblum’s lead design thinking teacher.

When asked about the most important part of the Go Green initiative, Weiss responded that it, “puts students in the driver’s seat. They are choosing the priorities and projects that they and their generation are passionate about. It is another way that Bornblum is a place of innovation that teaches students how to impact the world around them.”

According to Beeber, “Creating a sustainable campus is a long-term project. There are so many opportunities, from sourcing green supplies, to composting food waste, to planting native trees and plants that clean the air and help control flooding and soil erosion. Most of all, it is an amazing way to educate and motivate students in ways that not only prepare them for their future but allow them to make a difference in their world now.” 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, September 16
Speaker: Rabbi Yosef Braha
Topic: Ask the Rabbi, High Holiday Edition

His talks are always some of the most popular attended programs. No reservations are necessary. Please come enjoy this terrific speaker.

Wednesday, September 18
MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon, featuring The Beverly Brothers!
Details to the right.

Thursday, September 19
Special Art Program
Thanks to a grant from B’nai Tzedek of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, The Senior Adult Program along with The Inclusion and Diverse Abilities Program will have four special Art Programs each month for the next four months!

Memphis B’nai Tzedek is the premier teen philanthropy program in Memphis. Founded in 2002 and named Outstanding Teen Foundation in 2005 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Memphis Chapter, B’nai Tzedek teaches Jewish teens to become philanthropists

The first art program will be on September 19 with Sally Rosenberg teaching us how to make a mezuzah.

The art program will be from 12 – 2 p.m.

There is no cost for the program, supplies included, thanks to the grant. All one needs to do is call the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810 to register for the program. Lunch is available at 11:30 a.m. for only \$2.

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

Have a Simcha?

share with The Hebrew Watchman readers

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MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheons for September and October!



The Beverly Brothers

Wednesday, September 18
Featuring The Beverly Brothers!
The Beverly Brothers perform harmony-based songs ranging from classic country to classic rock and roll favorites. This two-guitar duo always delivers a spirited, high-energy show that invites and incites audience participation. They are one of our most requested groups. They are also one of the most fun musical groups that the seniors love to hear. This month’s luncheon is sponsored by Town Village Audubon Park.



Michelle Shrader

Wednesday, October 9
Featuring The Michelle Shrader Duo

Michelle Shrader 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. We are excited to have her perform for our Monthly Luncheon!

Please call the MJCC front desk, 901-761-0810 to make reservations for these terrific luncheons and entertainment. Cost is only \$5! Transportation may be available in the MJCC Area. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 for details. HW

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An American Israeli’s Perspective Through Chesed in Wartime

By Shoshana Cenker

We’re introducing a new series in THW with firsthand accounts of Israelis who are promoting *chesed* (loving kindness) as the war rages on in the Middle East.

Meet Shlomo Pinkus, an American who made aliyah with his family 11 years ago. These days, he’s the global director for Epic, an organization based in Bet Shemesh that helps children who move to Israel acclimate through therapeutic mentorship. Now, Epic also helps kids and families with all kinds of trauma from the war – those who are displaced; whose family members have been killed; and those dealing with suicide.

The Pinkus family lives in the northern city of Karmiel, where sirens are often sounded, being so close to the Lebanon border. On a personal level, Shlomo has taken it upon himself to do whatever is needed for Israel’s soldiers and their families during this terribly difficult time. For this inaugural article, Shlomo shares an incredible story of Israelis helping our fellow brothers and sisters at this time of great need.

A couple months into the war, a message went out to the community saying ~400 soldiers had descended into Karmiel, and they needed food for Shabbos. “So, I dropped what I was doing and went to the grocery store. When I got there, it was flooded with residents. We’re like one big family in this city,” explained Shlomo over our Zoom call. “Frum Jews – Charedim, wives, kids –

filled the entire store, buying Shabbos food for these *chayalim* (soldiers) who were being housed on a local college campus. People even brought their own pots into the grocery for meat to make cholent. We all just filled grocery carts, emptying the store shelves.”

As the store closed, Shlomo walked outside with his groceries for the *chayalim*, and a soldier came over. With the store closed, Shlomo asked how he could help. The soldier said he needed challah for Shabbos. “I told him that my wife, Elisheva, was baking challah right now, and they could go together to get it. He told me not to worry about it, and he walked away, continuing his search for challah.”

As Shlomo finished putting the groceries in his car, the same soldier came back over and let Shlomo know he’d found one challah, but of course, he needed two for *Lechem Mishneh*. “So, I went home, grabbed our challot and took them with all the groceries I’d bought for the *chayalim* to the college where they were staying.”

That weekend, every single soldier was able to enjoy Shabbos thanks to the generosity and speed of the community. “Why do we do it,” Shlomo said, “we do it because we’re Jews.”

Next up in this series, Shlomo shares an incredible story of *chesed* involving an army base near the near Syria/Lebanon border.

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

Justice Department Says Russian Disinformation Campaign Targeted Israel and U.S. Jews



Credit: Getty Images

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A Russian disinformation campaign targeted Israel and American Jews in a bid to weaken support for Ukraine, including by creating a fake version of a Jewish newspaper, the U.S. Department of Justice has announced.

The sites and accounts aimed at Jews were part of a broader Russian propaganda effort that involved 32 internet domains and stretched into Mexico and Germany as well as the United States and Israel. According to a Justice Department statement, the campaign had the “aim of reducing international support for Ukraine, bolstering pro-Russian policies and interests, and influencing voters in U.S. and foreign elections, including the U.S. 2024 Presidential Election.”

The FBI’s Philadelphia Field Office is investigating this case, which the Justice Department announced last Thursday as part of a broad effort to head off potential Russian influence in the U.S. election in November. U.S. intelligence officials have assessed that the Russians want Republican Donald Trump to win.

According to an affidavit by an anonymous FBI field agent, the campaign included instructions for a plan called “The Comprehensive Information Outreach Project in Israel (and also Jewish Community Outreach in the US).”

Those plans, according to the field agent, disseminated Russian propaganda across multiple web domains, including some that mimicked genuine news websites, such as the “Washington Post” and the “Forward,” a Jewish publication (and syndication client of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The campaign included “Work with Israeli influencers,” activity across online platforms and “an operation involving the widespread posting of social media comments impersonating Israelis,” according to the affidavit.

An attached five-page memo said that Israel’s deep political polarization, primarily over the right-wing government’s proposed judicial overhaul last

year, made the country especially susceptible to Russian influence operations. The goal, the memo said, was to “rip Israel out of the general Western anti-Russian agenda,” in part by portraying Ukraine’s government and its Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelensky, as neo-Nazis – an allegation Russia has peddled since invading Ukraine in 2022.

“Under current circumstances, these goals could be achieved in a relatively short term, relying on forces that in fact exist within the country as well as in the Jewish diaspora in the United States,” the memo said. “Based on this, the key indicator of the effectiveness of the project will be an increase in the number of Israeli citizens supporting Russia in the fight against Nazism.”

The plan also laid out exactly how often its team should post on different platforms: memes or caricatures should be posted three times a day, while video clips should be shared three times a week. And it hoped its work in Israel would ripple out to exacerbate divisions among American Jews.

“It is also obvious that the Jewish population of the US is divided with regards to the issues of Ukraine and Israel, just as the population of Israel itself,” the document says. “Influencing the public opinion of Israel will impact the public opinion of Jewish voters in the U.S. prior to the 2024 Presidential Elections.”

This is not the first time Jews have been ensnared in Russian disinformation efforts. A 2020 study found that Russian trolls played a role in stoking antisemitism during tense moments in the United States. Investigations of Russian interference in the 2016 election often embroiled Russian Jewish oligarchs as well as figures such as Jared Kushner, Donald Trump’s son-in-law and adviser.

Russian campaigns have continued to rattle Jews: During the Paris Olympics, a viral video seemed to show a Hamas fighter threatening “rivers of blood” at the games. It was in fact produced by a Russian disinformation outlet. **HW**

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Iran Plotted to Assassinate Biden, Trump, Haley, Per FBI Document

(JNS) – Iran tried to hire assassins to kill politicians, including U.S. President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and former presidential candidate Nikki Haley, according to FBI documents, which the office of Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) released last Thursday.

“Bad actors are determined to wreak havoc on our country, and American political leaders across both parties are sitting squarely in the crosshairs,” the senator stated. “In this extraordinarily heightened threat environment, federal agencies ought to be laser focused on building up public trust and reassuring the American people of their efforts to carry out their protective missions.”

The PDF document of the report, which was reported widely and which has circulated on social media, is no

longer live on Grassley’s website. JNS sought comment from the senator’s office.

Per the widely reported document, an agent of Iran had “drawn a diagram on a whiteboard” to show a would-be assassin how to carry out the attack.

“The FBI does not comment specifically on documents allegedly disclosed without authorization,” a bureau spokesperson told JNS. “Public disclosure about sensitive, ongoing national security investigations and potential cooperation from subjects is irresponsible and undermines the FBI’s ability to conduct thorough investigations and enforcement actions that keep Americans safe.”

“It also puts lives at risk, especially when you are dealing with an adversary like Iran,” the spokesperson added. **HW**

Guterres Slammed Over ‘Crocodile Tears’ for News Hamas Killed Six Hostages

(JNS) – António Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general who has long been accused of Jew-hatred and anti-Israel bias, drew widespread criticism last Sunday for what he did not say in a statement about the six hostages, whom Hamas killed and whose names were released the prior night.

“I will never forget my meeting last October with the parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin and other hostage families,” Guterres wrote. “Today’s tragic news is a devastating reminder of the need for the unconditional release of all hostages and an end to the nightmare of war in Gaza.”

Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, wrote that, “Hamas just murdered six Israeli and American hostages by shooting them in the head. Why can’t you say so? Why can’t you condemn them?”

“Save your crocodile tears for someone who has an ounce of respect for your leadership,” wrote the Israeli diplomat Yaki Lopez.

“Won’t even say ‘Hamas.’ Won’t con-

demn the terror group that took Hersh, held him hostage for 330 days and murdered him,” wrote AIPAC. “Says it all.”

Israel Nitzan, a former Israeli diplomat, called the statement “cowardly and morally flawed,” adding, “why can’t Mr. Guterres condemn Hamas for brutally executing innocent hostages?”

“Hamas. The word is Hamas. Hamas did this. Say it,” wrote Matthew Levitt, a senior fellow at The Washington Institute and director of its counterterrorism and intelligence program.

“Resign. Your failure to pressure, or even acknowledge Hamas, emboldened them,” wrote Esther Panitch, a Georgia state representative who is Jewish. “They know you are spineless.”

Arsen Ostrovsky, CEO at The International Legal Forum and senior fellow at the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy, called Guterres “a pathetic and cowardly excuse for a world leader,” who “can’t even bring himself to name Hamas or condemn them.” **HW**

Lawsuit Argues for Right of Churches and Nonprofits to Endorse Candidates

(JNS) – The National Religious Broadcasters, the conservative organization Intercessors for America and two Baptist churches say the prohibition on tax-deductible charities endorsing politicians for office infringes on their First Amendment rights.

Lawyers representing the group filed a lawsuit last week to challenge the so-called Johnson Amendment, a 1954 law that prevented churches from engaging in politics. They argued that the IRS selectively enforces its prohibitions on nonprofit 501(c)3 groups endorsing candidates.

The filing stated that the plaintiffs “believe that nonprofit newspapers have a clear constitutional right to make such endorsements or statements” and that therefore they “simply contend that they should also have the same freedom of speech.”

The suit says that “hundreds of newspapers are organized under 501(c)(3), and yet many openly endorse political candidates.” **HW**

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Roasted Mushrooms.....	\$18
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Potato Kugel.....	\$28

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1 lb. serves 2-4

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On Day One of the RJC, Speakers Slam Biden and Call for Hostages' Release



JNS CEO and Jerusalem bureau chief Alex Traiman interviews broadcast news analyst Mark Levin at the RNC Annual Leadership Summit in Las Vegas, taking place from Sept. 4-6, 2024. Photo by Izzy Salant.

By Izzy Salant

(JNS) – Hundreds of attendees from around the United States, Israel and other nations gathered at the Venetian in

Las Vegas last Wednesday for the first day of the three-day RNC Annual Leadership Summit, featuring major Repub-

lican speakers, lawmakers and Jewish community leaders.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp was initially slated to speak but had to withdraw at the last minute due to the school shooting outside Atlanta.

This year, the convention comes almost a year after Oct. 7 and on the heels of the murder of six hostages in the Gaza Strip, including Israeli-American Hersch Goldberg-Polin, a fact that carried through everyone's speech.

"We mourn for the brutal murder" of the hostages, Norm Coleman, chairman of the Republican Jewish Coalition, told the crowd. "We are heartbroken for the people of Israel."

The sentiment of missing hostages was apparent in the ballroom as the convention kept one table blocked off, empty and illuminated to represent the estimated 95 hostages still being held in captivity.

"Like all of you, I am heartbroken," said Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), "We must bring them all home, now!" The crowd

then joined in unison chanting "Bring them home," a rallying cry for the return of the men, women and children Hamas kidnapped as part of its terrorist onslaught in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

Ernst, who is not Jewish, has led numerous initiatives in Congress in support of the Jewish state. She spearheaded legislation calling for the IRS to investigate charities linked to anti-Israel organizations and last month led a congressional trip to Israel, when their delegation visited the Druze village of Majdal Shams that was attacked by rocket fire from Hezbollah in Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of 12 children.

"Israel has every right to defend herself. Period. Hamas must be destroyed. Period. Iran must be held accountable. Period. And our remaining hostages must be freed and reunited with their loved ones. Period," she said.

Also last Wednesday, Alex Traiman, JNS CEO and Jerusalem bureau chief held an exclusive interview with broadcast news analyst Mark Levin. **HW**

Jewish Federations Security Network to Collaborate More with Federal Intel Agencies

(JNS) – The leading nonprofit promoting enhanced safety for Jewish communities in North America will expand its resources by joining as one of the first two charities in a program usually reserved for Fortune 500 companies, the Public-Private Analytic Exchange Program led by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The Secure Community Network announced its participation in the group,

which also features the FBI, NSA, Amazon, Meta, Disney and Citibank. The exchange program includes 60 government participants and representation from 64 private sector entities.

Ezra Weinberger, the group's communications and marketing manager, told JNS that in 2023, the organization had recorded 5,404 threats and referred 1,619 for reporting to law enforcement. "This direct access to intelligence and

best practices is crucial given the sharp rise in threats," he said.

"We are honored to join this distinguished group of security professionals across government and the private as well as nonprofit sectors," said Michael Masters, national director and CEO of the Secure Community Network, in a statement. "SCN's involvement is a testament to the gold-standard intelligence and information-sharing efforts, and the

outstanding network of security professionals and experts supporting Jewish communities across the country."

He added that "the chance to collaborate with our partner members in the AEP not only expands SCN's network and capacity but lends our unique lens and expertise through our efforts to protect the Jewish community, and our work with the broader faith-based community." **HW**



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The Economic Impact of an Aging World

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

During the week of June 10, 2024, French markets were rocked by a government bond sell-off after a strong showing by the far-right National Rally party in the European Union election. With polls suggesting the National Rally party may win a plurality of seats in the upcoming French parliamentary election, investors feared a promised social spending program – including a reduction of the minimum retirement age from 64 to 60 – would further strain the already struggling French economy.¹ By contrast, when France raised the retirement age from 62 to 64 in 2023, aiming to strengthen the economy, workers took to the streets in protest.²

The French conflict over the retirement age reflects a fundamental social and economic issue throughout the developed world. Put simply, the world population is getting older, which means the percentage of workers in the population who can drive the economy and support old age pension and health-care programs is gradually diminishing.

The U.S. Social Security program is a prime example. In 1960, there were 5.1 workers paying into the program for each beneficiary. In 2024, there are 2.7, projected to drop to 2.3 by 2040. Because of this demographic shift, Social Security no longer pays for itself and has been partially supported by trust fund reserves built up when there were more workers per beneficiary. The reserves are projected to run out in 2033, at which time program income would cover only 79% of scheduled benefits unless Congress takes action to increase funding.³

Medicare faces a similar challenge. The Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund reserves, which help pay for Medicare Part A inpatient and hospital care benefits, are projected to be depleted in 2036, at which time payroll taxes and other revenue will pay only 89% of costs. Part B medical benefits and Part D prescription drug coverage are automatically balanced through premiums and revenue from the federal government’s general fund, but they will require an increasingly larger share of the federal budget unless economic growth outpaces spending.⁴

Longer lives, fewer children

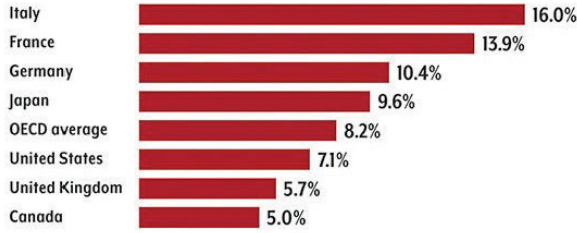
The shift to an older population is driven by two demographic trends: people are living longer and having fewer children. One in six people in the world will be age 65 or older by 2050.⁵ The United States is already at that level, with more than 17% of the population age 65 or older in 2022, projected to reach almost 23% by 2050.⁶ Many other developed nations are even older. In 2022, the median age in the United States – the age at which half the population is older and half younger – was 38.9, the highest on record.⁷ In 2021 (most recent data), it was 48.4 in Japan, 46.8 in Italy, 44.9 in Germany, and 41.6 in France.⁸

The fertility rate – the average number of children born to each woman – has dropped throughout the world, due to a variety of factors including education, access to birth control, employment opportunities, and lifestyle choices. In the developed world, a fertility rate of about 2.1 is considered the replacement rate at which a country’s population remains

stable. (It is slightly higher in developing nations with higher mortality.) Most developed countries have been below replacement since the 1970s, so they have depended on immigration to maintain or grow population.⁹ The U.S. fertility rate was 1.62 in 2023.¹⁰ Although fertility is higher in developing countries, it is dropping. Based on preliminary data, one academic study suggests that the global fertility rate may be near or below replacement for the first time in human history.¹¹

Global Pension Spending

Many advanced economies devote a large share of gross domestic product (GDP) to government spending on old age and survivor benefits – and the share is likely to grow as the population continues to age.



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2023 (2019 data, includes non-cash benefits)

Challenges and solutions

Spending on programs for an aging population is already straining economies throughout the world, and the economic pressure will increase as populations continue to age. The burden is not only the cost of the programs, but also the potential for lower production and tax revenue from a workforce that is smaller in proportion to the total population. This is likely to drive up government debt, and increased government borrowing, along with competition for a smaller pool of workers, may lead to higher inflation.¹²

So far, government programs to encourage couples to have more children have not had a significant impact, and there is no clear correlation between the fertility rate and child-care and housing costs, student debt, employment, religious beliefs, or local laws governing contraception and abortion. This suggests that the decision to have fewer children is more deeply ingrained in fundamental lifestyle choices. For developed countries, immigration may continue to provide a larger workforce, but recent immigration to developed nations has tended to be unskilled workers.¹³

The funding gap for government pension programs such as Social Security can be addressed by a combination of solutions that may be politically unpopular but are unlikely to derail the broader economy: higher retirement ages, increased payroll taxes, and means testing for wealthier beneficiaries.¹⁴ The larger question is how to keep growing the global economy. This may require increased worker productivity driven by new technologies and greater integration of older workers into the workforce.

U.S. worker productivity increased at an annual rate of 2.9% in the first quarter of 2024, well above the annual average since the end of World War II. If this trend continues, it could help balance some productivity lost as older people exit the workforce. Americans are already working longer – about one out of five of those age 65 and older were employed in 2024, almost double the number in 1985.¹⁵ The long-term solution may require rethinking the traditional model of a career, with more opportunity for lifelong learning and late-life career development. Studies indicate that working longer may help prevent cognitive decline, but it also could help balance the macroeconomic effects of global aging.¹⁶

Projections are based on current conditions, subject to change, and may not come to pass.

- 1) Bloomberg, June 16, 2024
- 2, 16) The New York Times, January 21, 2023
- 3) 2024 Social Security Trustees Report
- 4) 2024 Medicare Trustees Report
- 5, 8–9) United Nations World Population Prospects 2022
- 6–7) U.S. Census Bureau, 2023
- 10) National Center for Health Statistics, April 2024
- 11, 13) The Wall Street Journal, May 13, 2024
- 12) Bloomberg, May 21, 2024
- 14) Social Security Administration, September 27, 2023
- 15) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024

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OBITUARIES



Jonathan Lee Biller

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, on January 7, 1969, Jonathan Lee Biller passed away on August 31, 2024.

He leaves behind his mother, Margaret C. Biller, his brother, Daniel H. Biller (Tara), sister Caroline Biller Bernstein, and 5 beloved nieces and nephews. Jonathan is predeceased by his father, Stephen H. Biller.

Jonathan graduated from Christian Brothers High School, attended UT Knoxville, and the Memphis College of Art. While at the Penland School for the Arts, Jonathan fell in love with North Carolina, made it his home apprenticing with glass artist masters, and subsequently custom built his own hot shop enabling him to blow glass when assistance was not available. While continuing his art

career, he found work pursuing his hobby of landscaping and in construction.

Jonathan’s artistic creations reflect his love of the female form and animals. A close look at each piece reveals subtle messaging, self-portraits, and figures within the larger. He played with color, light and darkness.

Jonathan was a gentle, sweet, generous and courageous soul. He was an artist, talented creative, intelligent philosopher, passionate music lover, animal whisperer and rescuer. Justice and fairness, passed down from his father, was paramount. He was charismatic and kind. He never met a stranger, lit up the room when he entered, and connected people. He had a natural way with children that was evident in his interactions with his nieces and nephews while teaching art and glass blowing.

Jonathan collected and maintained lifelong friends. Friends in North Carolina and beyond became his family. He was uninterested in status, class, race and creed. Life with Jonathan was filled with laughter, mischief and fun.

We will forever hear Jonathan’s voice and see his trademark smile.

Jonathan will be missed dearly. He would want you to celebrate his life and live courageously as he did. May his memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the JONATHAN LEE BILLER FUND at Mitchell County Animal Rescue, PO Box 308, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. **HW**



Diane Mednikow Greenberg

Diane Mednikow Greenberg passed away peacefully at the age of 87, on August 1, 2024. Diane was born on October 3, 1936, in Chicago, Ill., to David and Dorothy Mednikow.

She moved to Memphis, Tenn., with her family at a young age. During high school, she shared her love of animals working as a horse-back riding instructor. She graduated from Central High School in 1954 and attended the University of Alabama.

She married Alfred Greenberg in 1959 and stayed happily married for 62 years. They raised two children, Robin and Randy. Diane helped her husband with his construction company, Alfred Greenberg Homes, serving as bookkeeper and design consultant. She loved working

with children and became one of the first preschool teachers at the MJCC. After retiring from teaching, she worked part-time at the Germantown Library.

Diane had a joie-de-vivre about her, even at a young age. She brought smiles to everyone’s faces and surrounded herself with friends and family. Diane loved drawing and painting, cheering on the Crimson Tide and attending musicals. She enjoyed traveling with her family.

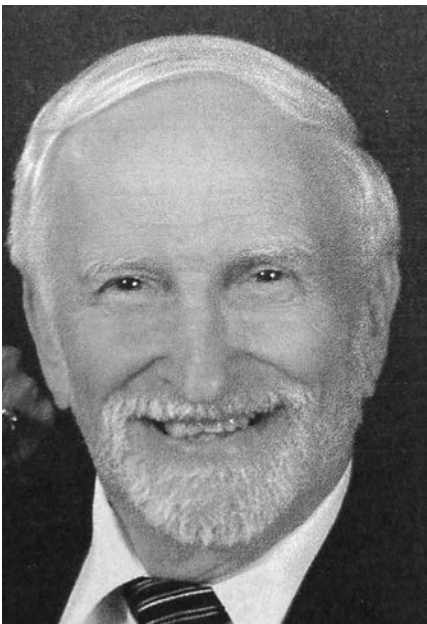
Her favorite memories are of her family gathering together to play games. She passed this love of playing games down to her children and grandchildren. She was so proud of being a grandmother and great-grandmother. She was always her grandchildren’s biggest cheerleader.

Diane is survived by her two children, Robin Pohlman (Jeff) and Randy Greenberg (Derna), grandchildren Andrew (Heather), Devon, Paola, Abby (Jimmy) and Alex, and great-grandchildren Oliver, Evelyn and Sophie.

She is preceded in death by her parents, David and Dorothy Mednikow, her siblings, Buddy Mednikow and Dawn Kay, and her husband, Alfred Greenberg.

Services to celebrate Diane Greenberg’s life were held on Sun., Aug. 4, 2024, at Temple Israel Chapel & Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to her favorite charities: Temple Israel, St. Jude or Imagination Library. **HW**



Mark Cohen

Celebrating a life well lived, Mark Cohen was born on April 2, 1927, and died on September 3, 2024. While these are important dates, the most important are those in between.

He was born in Memphis to Lilly and Dan Cohen and lived most of his life here. Mark had an eventful childhood and eventually went to work for Nat Buring Packing Company. He was called to service in the Army and served in the 101st Airborne Division. He was a sergeant when he returned home where his job was kept waiting for him.

Mark had a great love of sports, especially baseball. Nat Buring owned the Memphis Chicks baseball club, and Mark got his dream job as manager of the Russwood ballpark. In that capacity he often got to practice and unofficially play with many famous players and would tell stories of “catching” for some of the greatest pitchers. He often regaled his family with stories of meet-

ing Jane Russell, Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, Rocky Marciano and a host of others who appeared there. He would also share how the police came to take him to his beloved ballpark the night of its historical fire. With the fire and the decision not to rebuild the ballpark, his dream job ended though he continued to work for the same company in both Memphis and New Orleans.

After retirement, he became an artist, and he and his wife opened Carousel Stained Glass.

Several of the pieces were displayed and sold at the Peabody and Mud Island. In later years, he enjoyed creating beautiful mandala-like drawings, solving word and number puzzles, feeding the birds and working in the garden with Jo Ann, the love of his life and wife of 54 years, 10 months and 2 days. To paraphrase a song, some days were tragic, but most were magic, but it was a good life all of the way. It was a life well lived.

Mark is preceded in death by his parents, Anna Belle “Lilly” Morris Cohen Bouldin and Dan Cohen, brother Maurice “Sunny” Edall, grandsons Daniel Lee and Patrick LoCoco.

He will be forever remembered by his loving wife, Jo Ann Cohen, sister Marilyn Cohen Lee, children Bart Cohen (Heidi), Karen White, Elise Cohen, Melanie LaBorde (Mark), Patricia Lee (Lonnie), Anita Stevenson (Doug), 13 grandchildren, including Warren, Ben, Forrest, Mark, Matt, James, Adam, Karen, Eric, Jacqueline, Isaac, Skye and Tristan, 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be directed to St. Jude, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Nora’s Home 8300 El Rio St, Houston, TX 77054. **HW**



Howard Barry Spector

Howard Barry Spector died Saturday, August 31, 2024, at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House in Collierville. He was 83 years old.

The son of the late Jean and Irving Spector, Howard was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and Stamford, Conn. He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he met and married Joan Millen Spector. They moved to Memphis where they raised their family and lived happily until Joan’s passing in November of 2016. In time, Howard reconnected with and married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Sternlieb Spector.

A devoted husband, father, uncle, grandfather, brother and Tennessee Volunteer, Howard worked diligently and tirelessly to support his family, traveling extensively as a senior executive

for Guardsmark, Inc. for more than 30 years and worked in trips to Knoxville to cheer on his beloved Vols.

Howard always had a deep connection to Baron Hirsch Synagogue, and after his retirement he dove into volunteering – leading the charge to feed the homeless, heading up the security committee, and serving on the board, along with attending classes and webinars, always striving to improve his knowledge and connection. In 2018 Howard was honored to receive the Sam Abraham Memorial Member of the Year Award, in recognition of his achievements and dedication to the community and congregation.

Howard leaves behind his wife, Sharon Spector, his children and stepchildren, Stephanie (Joel) Sklar of Memphis, and Frannie (Mark) Coplan of Atlanta, Karen (Lance Levy) Folb, Jeff (Debi) Folb and his grandchildren, Drew Sklar, Benjamin Sklar, Emily Levy, Hanna Levy and Drew Levy. He also leaves his sister, Barbara Angel of Bainbridge Island, Wash., nieces and nephews, Roxanne Angel, Claire Angel and Lance Odermat, Jacob and Kristi Angel, and many beloved great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Services were held Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at the Sam Abraham Chapel in Baron Hirsch Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to Baron Hirsch Synagogue or to a charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

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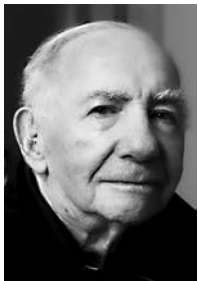
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Torah Study and the Monks



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

Ted Roberts

We have two contrasting themes – neither perfect – that run through Judaism. First is our worship of scholarship that comes from the sub-theme of Torah study. The highest calling – the scholar. The Torah hochem, who dedicates his life to the exclusion of all other activities to the study of G-d's book. Can you see him in his rude home bent over a table, candle sputtering? Torah and Talmud open. It's way past bedtime, but his eyes and mind are wide open to admit the light of the holy word. He may

have missed supper, too. But he lives in a world with neither supper nor sleep. In the old world and even today in some corners of our 21st Century world, this is the ideal bridegroom that solicitous parents dreams of for Becky. Respected by all. Want to understand Judah's behavior toward Tamar? Just ask your scholar, respected by all. The Christian parallel to this intellectual is the monk – withdrawn from a world of getting and spending.

Now, Judaism has another hero. Quite the opposite. Probably born of Chasidic origins. He does not study the Holy Books. In fact he reads no book. He'd prefer whistling a rural tune and watching the clouds chasing each other. He may even be illiterate. But his heart is as pure as Elijah's. Many pseudo-midrashim flutter around him. For example, he's the poor, dumb shepherd boy who whistles in Shul. The congregation is shocked until the Rabbi points out that

we speak to G-d in many tongues – all of which G-d understands – including whistling.

The Christians, too, have this stereotype. A writer – a very famous writer – Anatole France tells the story of a juggler who seeks shelter in a monastery for the winter. He observes, with frustration the monk's contribution – the copying of holy manuscripts, stained glass windows for churches. The lessor-skilled work the garden for both their fellow monks and the neighborhood poor. But what can this unskilled juggler do? His only skill – his best trick – is three oranges, two knives, and a grapefruit in continual motion. He rushes to the chapel. And in front of the Virgin Mary offers up his skill. The spectators are horrified until they see their sainted lady bend down and wipe the sweat off his brow. Oddly enough, a very Chasidic story except for the object of the juggler's veneration. There are many similar stories

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of the pure-hearted, but unskilled worshiper. I bet Anatole France had been reading Midrashim.

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

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ISRAEL INSIGHTS National Priorities vs Personal Priorities

By Howard Weisband

This the most difficult column I have chosen to write. It is merely days after the IDF found in an underground tunnel in Gaza the bodies of six of our people, Hamas hostages, brutally murdered by their captors.

Funerals have already taken place, including that for 23-year-old Hersh Goldberg-Polin, z"l, a dual American Israeli citizen. His burial was in Jerusalem where the family lives. Thousands attended. Readers are no doubt especially familiar with his story especially given the international advocacy on his behalf and for all the hostages by his

parents, Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg.

Meanwhile we try and go through our normal paces of life, albeit as I've often described my feelings these days, "with half a heart and half a head."

We have had genuine joy in the past for the hostages and their families who have returned home either through agreements or "deals," or daring rescue operations by the IDF and our security services following October 7, and there is deep pain for those that have been murdered or died in captivity. Now we pray for and work toward the return of the remaining hostages.

The anguish and pain are even greater for the six hostages most recently brutally murdered, each shot in the back of the head, because Hamas terrorists realized that the IDF was closing in on them, perhaps a day or two away from another rescue operation.

At the same time, we feel another deep pain, a troubling one within our society: who is to blame?

The root cause, the blame if you choose, is the absolute evil and jihadist ideology of Hamas which, so violently and tragically came to the fore on October 7.

As I've stated before, there certainly were intelligence and operational failures within the security, military, and political establishment of Israel, individually and collectively. Some reckoning in that regard has already taken place even in the throes of war, and more will come.

But the pain today in Israel has intensified as it simultaneously has taken an added route. Many hostage families, opposition politicians, various media sources, and large numbers of good Israeli citizens have taken to blame specifically the Prime Minister and the Government for the deaths of the six hostages and others, as well as the continuation of the war.

Why? Because Israel has not made a ceasefire agreement. But agreements require two parties to agree. Can we truly

have an agreement with Hamas, who demand that Israel withdraw all its forces from Gaza including the Philadelphi Corridor so they can reposition, rearm, and possibly move hostages into Egypt and elsewhere?

I believe that our national priority at this moment is to remain in Gaza including at the border with Egypt.

At the same time, I truly understand the personal priority of the hostage families and their efforts to seek the release of their loved ones.

These priorities are not now in synch, rather they are clashing in a very painful manner within Israeli society. And unfortunately, they are not being handled with sensitivity, sufficient understanding, and open communication.

I do not see an immediate answer nor solution, and that also pains me.

I see misplaced international pressures on Israel, but insufficient pressures on other actors such as Iran, Qatar, and ultimately Hamas. That I see as a necessity.

The alternative in Gaza, perhaps leading to a solution, might be an international buffer and peace-keeping presence led by the United States with certain Europeans, plus the direct involvement of the Islamic countries of the Abraham Accords particularly engaged with the Palestinian people. The involvement of the UN must be averted in this instance.

Until strong, understanding and sensitive leadership, both in Israel and in the international community, can work toward a practical solution in Gaza, these national and personal priorities will continue to clash, painfully so.

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

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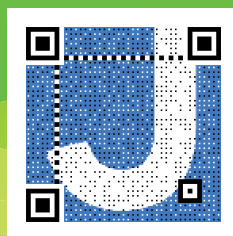
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SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

Wednesday, September 25th

9:00–10:30am Pickleball 101 Workshop
10:45–11:45am Cardio Pickleball
**** Dink Off Party Event ****
5:30–9:00pm Men's Doubles Tournament

Thursday, September 26th

9:00–10:30am Women's Skill Workshop
10:30am–12:00pm Pickleball Skills Challenge
12:00–1:00pm Cardio Pickleball
2:00–3:30pm Adaptive Pickleball Clinic
5:30–9:00pm Women's Doubles Tournament

Friday, September 27th

9:00–10:30am Intermediate/Advanced Clinic
10:30am–12:00pm Pickleball 101 Workshop
1:00–2:00pm Cardio Pickleball
2:00–3:30pm 3 and Me Pickleball Clinic
3:30–5:00pm 4 and Me Pickleball Clinic

Saturday, September 28th

12:00–5:00pm 3 and Me Pickleball Clinic
**** Free Play ****

Sunday, September 29th

9:00am–3:00pm Mixed Doubles Medium Flight
10:00am–4:00pm Mixed Doubles Top Flight
12:30–1:30pm Youth Pickleball Clinic: **Ages 7–9**
1:30–2:30pm Youth Pickleball Clinic: **Ages 10–13**

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Appetizers

Chicken Soup (1 qt.) **\$20**

Entrees

Sweet & Sour Meatballs	\$65
Topped with Pineapples	
Honey Glazed Salmon	\$75
Roasted Turkey with Gravy	\$65
Sliced Pot Roast Beef	\$65
Topped with carrots, potatoes, and au jus	

Sides

Sweet Noodle Kugel	\$35
Roasted Mixed Vegetables	\$35
Garlic Sauteed Green Beans	\$35
Dill Baby Carrots	\$35

Desserts

Chocolate Chip Cookies	\$15
One Dozen	
Chocolate Brownies	\$15
One Dozen	
Honey Cake	\$15
Challah Loaves	\$15

All items are by the half pan, and serve 10-15 people. Email orders to byarbrough@memphisjewishhome.org, by Tuesday, September 17th.

Pickup will be on Wednesday, October 2nd from 11:00am-2:00pm.



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- Common Sense Gun Laws

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR U. S. CONGRESS, TENNESSEE’S DISTRICT 8

I am a devoted Democrat and Jewish supporter of the state of Israel. As we await a resolution to the hostilities in Israel and Gaza, I believe that we should also celebrate our diaspora, remembering that Judaism is not represented by one state or nation but thrives in communities around the world. We are a diverse and resilient people with a long and too often tragic history. My growing family and I are proud members of the extensive Jewish community in the Memphis area.

As a candidate for U.S. Congress, I am seeking to represent West Tennessee, to heal this region by bringing more civility and understanding into our political discourse and interactions and make the world a better place. I am a lifelong educator who believes that many of our public schools need federal funding to assist them when local and state governments fail. The same is true of healthcare. With new economic opportunities on the horizon, vocational education programs and student loan debt forgiveness are crucial for a prosperous future. Social Security must be protected!

Please support me.

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