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Memphis Joins JCC Maccabi Games® 2024, United Over 2,600 Jewish Teens Across Detroit and Houston for Epic Display of Sports, Jewish Peoplehood and Pride



Memphis represented well on and off the court, and it was an amazing experience to see our athletes compete and also be able to connect with other Jewish teens!

NEW YORK (August 21, 2024) – The JCC Maccabi Games® – the largest organized Jewish sports event in North America – brought together over 2,600 Jewish teen athletes, and more than 10,000 volunteers and spectators this month in Detroit and Houston for the 42nd annual Games. A signature program of JCC Association of North America, the Games are a transformative Olympic-style sports and Jewish identity-building experience designed to strengthen Jewish teens’ connections to global Jewish peoplehood, while building community in a joyful celebration of Jewish pride.

Hosted by the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit and the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC of Houston across two weeks from July

Largest Organized Jewish Sports Event in North America Celebrates 42 Years

28-August 9, thousands of Jewish teens participated from more than 80 delegations representing JCC communities throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as international delegations from Argentina, Great Britain, Hungary, Mexico, Ukraine, and an expanded Israeli delegation, including athletes from Sderot, who represented Gaza Envelope communities affected by the October 7 at-

(See JCC Maccabi Page 6)

Bornblum Mishpachot Kick Off New Year



Bornblum Jewish Community School kindergarteners put coins into their respective Mishpachot Tzedakah box.

One of the highlights of the year at Bornblum Jewish Community School is watching Dr. Daniel Weiss, Bornblum’s head of school, and Babka, the school’s mascot, sort the new students into their Mishpachot (families). This year’s sorting ceremony occurred on August 23 at Kabbalat Shabbat.

“It is one of the highlights of my year when Babka whispers into my ear, which family a student will join, and to see the excitement on our new students’ faces as I call out their Mishpacha and give them their T-shirt. The students then run to their Mishpacha where they receive a warm welcome to their new school family from each of the current Mishpacha members,” said Dr. Weiss.

The Mishpacha program, sponsored by Hal Newburger, is one of Bornblum’s most popular and impactful signature programs. “Now in its sixth year,

the Mishpacha program has evolved into an important social and educational component of a Bornblum education,” according to Sally Baer, Bornblum’s director of Student Services and assistant head of school. “It gives every child a sense of belonging from their first moment in the school.”

The Mishpacha program, which is loosely based on the Harry Potter House System that exists at schools across the country, was started at Bornblum by Dr. Weiss the year after he arrived. Speaking about the program, Weiss shared that, “The Mishpacha program is one of the most important initiatives implemented at Bornblum. We are living in an age where the social and emotional well-being of our children is a top priority. The Mishpacha program gives students not only that sense of belonging at school, but for our younger stu-



Iddo, a Bornblum Jewish Community School kindergartener, puts a coin into the Sakranut Mishpacha Tzedakah box.

dents, it gives them a feeling of security, knowing that there are students in every grade that care about them. And for our older students, it is a great opportunity to develop and display leadership skills, which will serve them in high school, college and life.”

Unlike the Harry Potter House systems that exist in many schools, the Bornblum Mishpacha program is not based on competition, but rather co-operation. It is also grounded in important Jewish values that Bornblum seeks to instill in every child. The eight Mishpachot at Bornblum are Manhigut (Leadership), Chochma (Wisdom), Chesed (Kindness), Kavod (Honor), Ometz (Courage), Masoret (Tradition), Hagshama (Achievement) and Sakranut (Curiosity).

Each family meets several times a month to participate in activities togeth-

er. Students sit with their Mishpacha at the school’s monthly community Kabbalat Shabbat, and they enjoy a Mishpacha Kabbalat Shabbat once per month as well.

“Last year, we added our monthly challah bakes where the parents of the Mishpacha leading the community Kabbalat Shabbat come together to learn how to make challah together. This year, the challah bakes have been transformed into Babka bakes.

“The Mishpacha program now goes beyond the students and engages our parents allowing them to get to know parents of students in different grades. The parents absolutely love the time together getting to know each other,” said Michal Almalem, Jewish Studies principal.

(See Bornblum Page 3)

MJCC 2024 Maccabi Experience



Bess Gescheit, Toby Gescheit, Hannah Krupp and Daphna Kam, the Memphis delegation dancers with some of their medals.

As we are already in planning mode for the 2025 JCC Maccabi Games, we wanted to recap the Memphis delegation’s experience at the 2024 Maccabi Games and Access.

Between Houston and Detroit, Memphis brought home 17 Gold, 9 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

In Detroit, Richard Lewis coached while Abby Lewis played on a girl’s mixed basketball team consisting of girls from Toronto, Ohio, New Jersey and San Jose. They finished the tournament with an undefeated record and a gold medal!

Toby Gescheit, Bess Gescheit, Daphna Kam and Hannah Krupp represented Memphis as dancers at the games, and between them brought home 11 medals.

Knox Sims, Chandler King and Daniel Kahane competed with an athlete from Arizona in 3 v 3 basketball bringing home a silver medal.

Ben Nichol brought home silver in doubles tennis.

Kenny Wertheimer and Sampson Knopf represented Memphis well on mixed teams in basketball and baseball.

Over in Houston, Zach Oser brought home medals in swimming, gymnastics, basketball and baseball; while Abby Goldberg brought home medals in baseball, basketball, gymnastics, swimming and bowling!

Memphis represented well on and off the court, and it was an amazing experience to see our athletes compete and also be able to connect with other Jewish teens!

While athletics is the main draw to Maccabi the event and purpose of Maccabi goes well beyond competition. Thank you for all the support and encouragement from the community, and we are looking forward to building a Memphis team for 2025! **HW**

(See more photos Page 6)

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9/5/2024



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. September 6, 2024 / 3 Elul, 5784 7:00 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. September 7, 2024 / 4 Elul, 5784 7:55 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Shoftim



Kenny Wertheimer and Sampson Knopf represented Memphis well on mixed teams in basketball and baseball.



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Bornblum...
(Continued From Page 1)

The Mishpacha program continues to expand in meaningful ways. This year, all tzedakah will be contributed through students' Mishpachot. A new tzedakah wall was installed over the summer with collection boxes for each Mishpacha. Four times during the year, the older students of each Mishpacha will present ideas for where to send the group's tzedakah. The full Mishpacha will then decide as a group where to send their charity.

"Our goal this year is to further expand and embed the Mishpacha program at Bornblum. There will be more opportunities for parents, grandparents, alumni, and even our board members who are members of Mishpachot, to engage with students and parents from other grades," said Weiss. "This is our Double Chai (36) anniversary and our Mishpachot are worth celebrating, because they have brought so much life to Bornblum." **HW**

**Temple Israel
Cub Scout Pack
25 Open House
Sunday Sept 8**

All boys, K-5th grade and their families are invited to attend Pack 25's Open House on Sunday, Sept. 8, from noon-2 p.m. at the Scout Building behind Temple Israel.

There will be kosher hotdogs with all the fixin's for lunch, a bounce house and games for the youth, and a new parent meeting to learn more about the program.

All registered scouts will get the age-appropriate Cub Scout Book.

RSVP or questions to Dr. Mark Clemmons at markpclem@aol.com or 901-483-6408.

For more information about Boy Scouts of America or the Scout Program, Google. Boy Scouts of America. **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 9
Speaker: Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, Director for the MJCC Center of Jewish Life and Learning.

Topic: Hearing the Sound of the Shofar

Rabbi Schacter-Gampel's talks are always some of the most popularly attended programs. No reservations are necessary.

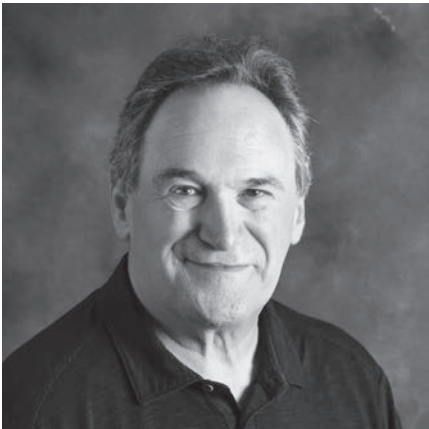
Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org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

Monday, September 11
Program: Video Remembering 9/11/2001

Most people remember exactly where they were when they first heard what was happening on 9/11/2001. Reservations are not needed for this important memorial video.

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Tennessee Holocaust Commission Welcomes New Chairman



Rabbi Mark Schiftan

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission is delighted to announce that Rabbi Mark Schiftan has been appointed as the new chairman of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission.

Rabbi Schiftan, who has been a dedicated member of the Commission for over 10 years, steps into this leadership role following his appointment by Governor Bill Lee.

As the son of Holocaust survivors, he had 23 years of service at The Temple in Nashville. Rabbi Schiftan brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance. He earned his Bachelor of

Arts magna cum laude from San Francisco State University, a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, and his Doctorate of Divinity and ordination from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rabbi Schiftan served as Senior Rabbi at The Temple in Nashville from 1999 to 2022, earning national recognition as one of the top 25 pulpit rabbis by "Newsweek." Now in retirement, he continues to make a meaningful impact as the Jewish Faith Student Advisor at Belmont University, where he guides and supports Jewish students, plans and leads on-campus services during Jewish

holidays, and oversees a monthly Shabbat service.

We look forward to Rabbi Schiftan's leadership and vision as he steers the Tennessee Holocaust Commission into a new chapter.

Three new commissioners also began their service to the Tennessee Holocaust Commission in July 2023. We are happy to introduce: Billy Orgel: developer and entrepreneur from Memphis; Lewis Reich: son of Holocaust Survivor and optometrist from Memphis, and Susan Adler Thorp: daughter of Holocaust Survivor and journalist from Memphis. **HW**

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**U.S. Postal Service to
Release 'Hanukkah
Forever' Stamp**



"Hanukkah Forever" stamp, 2024

(JNS) – The U.S. Postal Service has announced a "Hanukkah Forever" stamp to commemorate the eight-day Jewish "Festival of Lights."

Designed by Antonio Alcalá, it features an ocean-blue background, white hanukkah and nine floating yellow lights. USPS says the design uses "irregular lines to suggest a more human presence."

A first day of issue dedication ceremony will take place on Sept. 19, to be led by Michael Gordon, USPS government liaison director, at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C.

Music and activities are on the docket, and the event is free and open to the public; attendees are encouraged to register online.

The last celebrated release of a Hanukkah stamp was in 2022, featuring the work of American Judaica artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren. **HW**

Understanding Vitamin B12

By Cindy Katz, Nurse Practitioner

An elderly patient presented to the clinic complaining of fatigue and weakness. She also reported decreased activity and increased falls. During her work-up, a laboratory test revealed a significant deficiency in vitamin B12, a frequently misdiagnosed issue among older adults. Due to the symptoms and level of deficiency, treatment with B12 injections was prescribed. Three months later, she returned for follow-up and had a substantial improvement in symptoms, which allowed her to regain strength and resume normal activities. A significant clinical finding that improved her overall well-being.

Let’s understand the role of vitamin B12 in our bodies:

Vitamin B12 is crucial for various bodily functions, including the production of red blood cells, DNA synthesis, and neurological health.

Several factors can contribute to vitamin B12 deficiency:

1. Malabsorption issues:
Conditions like Crohn’s disease and celiac disease can hinder B12 absorption.
2. Medication:
Drugs like metformin for diabetes or medications for acid reflux can decrease stomach acidity, affecting B12 absorption.
3. Age:
Some older adults cannot absorb B12 due to decreased stomach acid production.

4. Dietary insufficiency:
B12 is predominantly found in animal products; vegetarians or vegans are at a higher risk of deficiency.

Symptoms of B12 can manifest in various ways, including:

- Weakness and fatigue.
- Neurological issues such as numbness or tingling of the hands and feet, balance issues, and memory difficulties.
- Swollen or tender tongue.

Effective treatment of B12 deficiency utilizes a combination of dietary adjustments and supplements when necessary:

- Dietary Awareness is essential. Consulting a nutritionist can help identify B12-fortified foods for those with restrictive diets.
- Supplementation is necessary depending on the severity of the deficiency. Oral supplements or injections may be required.

Most cases of B12 deficiency are manageable with proper treatment, addressing both dietary intake and medical needs. Consult your healthcare provider if you believe you are B12 deficient and get an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.

Understanding the symptoms and causes of B12 deficiency and taking proactive steps toward prevention and treatment can significantly improve your overall health and wellbeing. **HW**

Israel Weighs Shutting Down Multi-Million-Dollar ‘Sky Dew’ Project

By Lilach Shoval

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Israeli defense officials are reevaluating the future of the military’s Sky Dew project, a high-altitude balloon system designed for aerial threat detection, following a series of setbacks including weather damage and an attack by the Hezbollah terror group.

Developed as a joint venture between Israel and the United States, the system integrates an aerial platform from American firm TCOM with an advanced radar system created by ELTA Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries subsidiary. It was designed to augment the Israeli Air Force’s detection and air defense capabilities, and its deployment for detecting advanced threats in northern Israel was announced with fanfare in November 2021.

At the time, officials touted the completion of a years-long development process, describing the aerial platform as “one of the largest of its kind globally.” The system was hailed as a critical asset for identifying and providing early warning of sophisticated threats.

During a March 2022 ceremony marking the IAF’s acquisition of the system, then-Defense Minister Benny Gantz declared, “This new system reinforces Israel’s defensive shield against both long-range and proximate aerial threats developed by our adversaries.” He emphasized that the balloon, as part of a multi-tiered defense strategy, would “maintain Israel’s regional edge and ensure the operational flexibility crucial for safeguarding our security.”

The IDF and Defense Ministry of-

ficially launched the Sky Dew unit in March 2022, staffing it with both career soldiers and conscripts.

Military statements at the time promised that the high-altitude balloon would provide extensive radar coverage, capable of detecting “advanced threats from multiple directions.” However, these lofty ambitions were grounded when it came to light in May 2023 that severe weather had rendered the system inoperable months earlier.

After a protracted repair process, the balloon was redeployed in January to support detection efforts, though it had not yet achieved full operational status.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant’s February 2024 visit to the Sky Dew base in northern Israel, where he reportedly “observed the aerial control capabilities for detecting various threats,” seemed to signal progress. Yet this optimism was short-lived. On May 16, Hezbollah successfully targeted the system with a drone launched from Lebanese territory.

In light of these repeated setbacks, defense officials are now seriously considering terminating the project. The vulnerability of the system, its high costs, and the excessive time required for repairs have all factored into this revaluation of a program that has already consumed millions in defense spending.

When reached for comment, representatives from the IDF and Defense Ministry stated, “We are currently reviewing the project’s future. Our decision will reflect the evolving security landscape and incorporate lessons learned from recent conflicts.” **HW**

U.S. Condemns Ben-Gvir’s Call for Synagogue on Temple Mount



Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir prays at the Kotel in Jerusalem’s Old City, after his visit at the Temple Mount, July 18, 2024. Credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90.

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – The U.S. State Department stated last Tuesday that it “strongly opposes” Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir’s call for construction of a synagogue on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount.

The proposed Jewish house of worship “on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount would demonstrate blatant disregard for the historic status quo with respect to the holy sites in Jerusalem,” Matthew Miller, the State Department spokesman, said.

“The ongoing reckless statements and actions of this minister only sow chaos and exacerbate tensions at a moment when Israel must stand united against threats from Iran and its proxy terrorist groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah,” Miller added. “They directly undermine Israel’s security.”

Ben-Gvir said in an interview with Israel’s Army Radio last Monday that Jewish prayer is allowed on the Temple Mount. That prompted a denial from the Prime Minister’s Office, which stated that policy on the Temple Mount is determined by the government and the prime minister.

“There is no change to the status quo,” Netanyahu’s office stated.

Under the “status quo” promulgated after Israel recaptured the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967, Jews are permitted to visit the Temple Mount but not to pray there.

During the interview, Ben-Gvir was asked repeatedly if he would build a synagogue on the Temple Mount. He replied “yes.”

Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were among the Muslim countries that officially condemned Ben-Gvir’s comments. The Temple Mount is frequently described as the third-holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina. It is the holiest site in Judaism and the former site of the two Jewish Temples.

Miller reiterated the Biden administration’s commitment to the Temple Mount status quo last Tuesday and called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to uphold the policy.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu’s Office has made clear that the actions and statements of Minister Ben Gvir are inconsistent with the government of Israel’s policy, and a number of responsible voices in the Israeli government have condemned them,” Miller said. “It is critical that the government of Israel continue to ensure its policy is adhered to.” **HW**

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By Ted Roberts

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Learn More About JLens at Foundation’s September 24 Seminar

Every March – June, shareholders of public corporations can file proposals and vote on issues affecting the company at its annual meeting. This process, referred to as “proxy season,” has increasingly been used by Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) activists to amplify their anti-Israel and hateful messaging.

Foundation’s partner, JLENS, in partnership with the ADL, jumped into action this year to thwart a proposal put forth by an Amazon shareholder group. According to officials at JLENS, the proposed resolution was viewed as containing inflammatory language and defamed Israel as an apartheid state.

Furthermore, the proposal, ostensibly aimed to uphold human rights, singled out Israel as the sole foreign country and was supported by false statements alleging that the Israeli government uses Amazon Web Services “to support the apartheid system under which Palestinians are surveilled, unlawfully detained, and tortured.” Because of this, it sought to end a \$1.2 billion cloud computing

agreement with Israel.

An aggressive campaign urging shareholders to “vote against” the Amazon shareholder proposal was launched. In addition to targeting shareholders, JLENS and ADL leaders held direct conversations with the largest proxy advisory firm that provides research to many of the world’s top institutional investors. As a result of their efforts, the advisory firm changed its position and only 16% of shareholder votes were cast in favor

(as compared to 34% in the year prior). Join JLENS managing director Ari Hoffnung and Jewish impact investing expert Michael Lustig on Tuesday, September 24 for a conversation about values-based impact investing. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Continuing education credit will be awarded to professional advisors in attendance for TN Licensed Attorneys & TN Certified Financial Planners. Register for the event

at tinyurl.com/JLenseminar or contact Larry Schaffer at 901-654-2151 for more information. Founded in 2012, JLENS empowers investors to align their capital with Jewish values and advocates for Jewish communal priorities in the corporate arena. Over 30 Jewish institutions have invested \$250 million in JLENS’ Jewish Advocacy Strategy since 2015. JLENS is part of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis’ investment platform. [HW](#)

Israel’s FM Calls for ‘Evacuation’ of Judea and Samaria Palestinians

By David Isaac

(JNS) – Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz last Wednesday called for “the temporary evacuation of Palestinian residents and whatever steps are required,” after the IDF overnight last Tuesday launched a large-scale anti-terror operation in Judea and Samaria.

“This is a war in every respect, and we must win it,” Katz tweeted.

“The IDF is working intensively starting tonight in the Jenin and Tulkarem refugee camps to thwart Islamic-Iranian terrorist infrastructures that have been established there,” he said.

Iran is working “to establish an eastern terrorist front” in Judea and Samaria, said Katz, following its proxy model in Lebanon with Hezbollah and the Gaza Strip with Hamas, by “financing and arming terrorists and smuggling advanced weapons from Jordan.”

He continued: “We must deal with the threat just as we deal with the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza.”

The Palestinian Health Ministry has reported at least 11 deaths so far in the IDF operation – six in Jenin and five in Tubas, a city northeast of Nablus (Shechem).

The IDF operation was launched following an uptick in terrorist incidents in the region, including the murder of a Jewish guard 10 days ago.

Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria have been calling for the army to take action, warning that an Oct. 7-like attack into Israel’s central region is only a matter of time if the problem is allowed to fester.

Israel Gantz, head of the Binyamin Regional Council and chairman of the Yesha Council, commenting on the IDF operation, said last Wednesday: “If we don’t do to Nur Shams what we did to Nuseirat [in Gaza], then God forbid, they’ll do to Bat Hefer [a village in central Israel] what they did to Be’eri [a kibbutz on the Gaza border decimated on Oct. 7].

“The time has come for us to face reality: Next to the beds of our children in Judea and Samaria, in Bat Hefer and Kfar Saba, lives a population that wants to kill Jews.” [HW](#)

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JCC Maccabi...
(Continued From Page 1)

tacks. The successful 2024 JCC Maccabi Games operated at full capacity once again, meeting the increased demand year after year and proving the continued need for meaningful moments of Jewish pride and connection, particularly in our current climate.

“Now, more than ever, we need to provide our younger generations with safe, positive, joyful Jewish experiences where they can explore and strengthen their connection to Jewish community, peoplehood and Israel,” says Samantha Cohen, senior vice president and director of JCC Maccabi. “The JCC Maccabi Games, as one of the largest gatherings of Jewish community in North America, do just that year after year, uniting thousands of teens for a transformative event through sport, service, education, and Jewish values, providing connections and experiences that will last beyond those available in their local communities. JCC Maccabi is a unique and powerful platform that delivered JCC Maccabi magic at a much-needed time. We must continue to unite around positive Jewish connection to build for our Jewish future.”

JCC Maccabi plays a vital role in offering Jewish experiences to Jewish teenagers who otherwise would not have access to them. Sixty-four percent of teens involved in the 2024 Games are not engaged in other Jewish youth programming and the transformative JCC Maccabi experience is their primary link to Jewish life. Beyond sports, athletes engaged in volunteer and community support activities through JCC Cares, the service arm of the JCC Maccabi experience that brings to life the JCC Maccabi value of tikkun olam (repairing the world). Athletes also engaged with shlichim, or Israeli emissaries, from Maccabi World Union in Israel who led informal Jewish and Israel educational programming, connecting Jewish teens from across the globe.



Another timely component of the 2024 Games was the JCC Maccabi yellow ribbon medal campaign in which athletes who won medals in their competition dedicated a special medal to the hostages being held in Gaza and raised awareness about the Bring Them Home Now campaign.

The 2024 Games marked the evolution of the JCC Maccabi Access pilot from an experimental component to a regular feature at every set of the Games. This initiative provides Jewish teens and young adults who have cognitive and developmental disabilities with a meaningful and integrated JCC Maccabi experience. The three-year pilot has been a successful expansion of the JCC Maccabi experience, involving nearly 50 participants thus far, and continues to develop a strong foundation to be built upon for years to come.

Throughout the last four decades, the JCC Maccabi Games have engaged more than 510,000 people – positively influencing not only Jewish teen athletes’ lives but also those of spectators, coaches, and volunteers and host families of the communities that make the Games possible each year.

The success of JCC Maccabi following the COVID-19 pandemic is the result of an unprecedented investment of over \$6 million from a growing number of foundations, philanthropists, and JCC Association board members who share in the Games’ vision and understand its transformative effect on all those involved. The Marcus Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, RootOne, Seed the Dream Foundation, Samuelli Foundation, and the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combatting Antisemitism are some of the first to invest in this platform while supporting the future of JCC Maccabi and its plans over the next five years to grow substantially, expand reach, and deepen engagement and impact throughout the JCC Movement.

At the Games’ conclusion, JCC Association officially announced the host cities for the 43rd JCC Maccabi Games®

in 2025. The Tucson JCC in Arizona will host the JCC Maccabi Games and Access from July 27–August 1, 2025, and the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania will host the inaugural JCC Maccabi Campus Games in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh from August 3–8, 2025.

The events next summer will mark 25 years since the Tucson JCC first hosted the Games and will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the JCC, including 36 years on its current campus. The JCC of Greater Pittsburgh will return as host of the Games for the fourth time, partnering with the University of Pittsburgh to pilot the JCC Maccabi Campus Games. In this first-of-its-kind campus model, athletes will compete at the University of Pittsburgh in an Olympic Village-style atmosphere that includes housing, athletic competition, social and educational programming, and dining. [HW](#)

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Abby Goldberg and Zach Oser



Judy, Abby and Alan Goldberg at Maccabi Access in Houston.

Memphis BBYO Ends Summer with a Sizzle



BBYO at ASBEE BBQ on Sunday, August 25

On Sunday, August 25 BBYO teens were busy gearing up for events for the day. BBYO hosted a tent at the ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest and loved being on the grill to cook their own meat! Even with the heat, it was still so fun to be a part of the day with all the other Memphis Jewish community members.

After the BBQ, BBYO teens headed to Billy Hardwick’s Bowling Alley for the Fall Kickoff with over 50 teens in attendance. Teen enjoyed catching up with friends they hadn’t seen over the summer, talking with new friends and bowling. Teens had a great time and are looking forward to all the events BBYO has for the fall! [HW](#)



Fall Kick Off event on Sunday, August 25

“Good Food” Cookbook Author to Headline Pre-Rosh Hashanah Women’s Gourmet Dinner at Chabad

Chabad Women’s Circle has selected “Good Food” cookbook author Sina Mizrahi to headline their annual pre-Rosh Hashanah Dinner & Cooking Presentation. The event will be held on Monday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 2570 Kirby Parkway. The evening will include a full gourmet dinner including appetizer, entree and dessert, with a cooking presentation by Sina Mizrahi and inspirational thoughts about Rosh Hashanah by Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Tennessee. Recipes, ideas and food preparation tips for the holiday, as well as year-round prep tips, will be shared. Sina Mizrahi was born in Israel and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She loves bringing people to the table. She is passionate about cooking and connecting to her heritage through recipes and stories. Her cookbook, “Good Food,” celebrates her Sephardic Israeli and Moroccan background and includes recipes inspired by the various cities she has lived in. “Whether feeding a family on a busy

weeknight, preparing a Shabbos meal, or a holiday dinner for 20, Sina will share tips and advice that you can use in your home,” said Mrs. Rivky Klein. “I’m really excited about this year’s program. We get to hear from Sina as she discusses the culture that inspires her recipes, watch her prepare them as she shares her expertise and enjoy an evening of laughter and gourmet food, which will also include many Israeli and Mediterranean dishes. You will come away with new ideas and empowered to impress.” Sina is a wife and mother as well as a recipe developer and photographer. She looks forward to sharing in the blessings of good food and demoing recipes from her book. The cost for the evening is \$40 and includes dinner. Women and girls should RSVP by registering online at www.jewishmemphis.com/dinner by September 12, or by calling Rivky Klein at 901-219-7004. You can pre-order Sina’s cookbook, “Good Food,” on the registration page and get your own cookbook signed by Sina. [HW](#)

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Birthday Benefits Quiz

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

Remember when you turned 16 and rushed to get your driver’s license? Or earned the right to vote at 18 and enjoyed the privileges and responsibilities of adulthood at 21? There aren’t many legal changes associated with birthdays after that until you turn 50, and then there are plenty.

Can you match these ages to the related federal benefits and tax responsibilities? One age will be used twice.

50 55 59½ 62 65 67 70 73 75

- ___ 1. Eligible for full Social Security benefits for those born in 1960 or later
- ___ 2. Earliest age to make catch-up contributions to a traditional IRA or an employer-sponsored retirement plan
- ___ 3. Eligible for maximum Social Security benefit
- ___ 4. Must begin taking required minimum distributions from most tax-deferred retirement plans, for those born from 1951 to 1959
- ___ 5. Eligible to enroll in Medicare
- ___ 6. Earliest age to make catch-up contributions to a health savings account
- ___ 7. Earliest eligibility age to begin taking reduced Social Security worker benefits
- ___ 8. Must begin taking required minimum distributions from most tax-deferred retirement plans, for those born in 1960 or later
- ___ 9. Eligible to withdraw money from a tax-deferred IRA or employer-sponsored retirement plan (for most employees) without incurring a 10% federal tax penalty
- ___ 10. Eligible to withdraw money from a tax-deferred employer-sponsored retirement plan without incurring a 10% federal tax penalty, for an employee who separates from service with the employer

For further information, visit [irs.gov](#), [socialsecurity.gov](#), and [medicare.gov](#).

Answers

- 1. 67
- 2. 50
- 3. 70
- 4. 73
- 5. 65
- 6. 55
- 7. 62
- 8. 75
- 9. 59½
- 10. 55 (50 or after 25 years of service for qualified public safety employees)

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IDF Recovers from Gaza Body of Soldier Slain on Oct. 7

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces last Wednesday recovered the body of a soldier who was slain battling Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7, the military announced.

The soldier’s family has been notified and, at their request, his name is not presently being made public.

“The entire nation mourns the terrible loss... and I send our condolences from the bottom of our hearts to his family,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last Wednesday night.

“I would like to thank the brave fighters and commanders of the IDF and Shin Bet for their important action. The State of Israel will continue to make every effort to return all our abductees, both alive and dead,” added the premier.

There are 107 hostages who remain in Hamas captivity in Gaza.

Last Tuesday, Qaid Farhan Alkadi, 52, from the Bedouin city of Rahat in the Negev Desert, was rescued from a tunnel in southern Gaza in a “complex operation.”

Alkadi, the father of 11 children, was released from Beersheva’s Soroka Medical Center last Wednesday afternoon.

He was held in captivity for 326 days since being abducted by Hamas from Mivtachim on Oct. 7.

Last week, the IDF recovered the bodies of six hostages kidnapped on Oct. 7 from a tunnel in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

In an operation involving the IDF and ISA, the bodies of Avraham Munder, Yoram Metzger, Nadav Popplewell, Yagev Buchstav, Chaim Peri and Alex Dancyg were located more than 10 months after the Hamas massacre. **HW**

U.S. Government Spends Record \$454 Million to Secure Religious Institutions Amid Rising Antisemitism



A security camera hangs across the street from the Park East Synagogue, in New York City. Jewish institutions are tightening security amid rising threats. Credit: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – The federal government will spend nearly \$150 million more this year than it did in 2023 to secure religious organizations, a jump aimed at addressing a rise in antisemitism since Oct. 7.

The Department of Homeland Security announced last week that it had allocated \$454.5 million this fiscal year toward the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which funds security enhancements at houses of worship and religious organizations. It is the largest sum ever allocated toward the program, and a significant increase from last year’s figure of \$305 million.

“The funds announced today will provide communities across the country with vital resources necessary to strengthen their security and guard against terrorism and other threats,” Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, who is Jewish, said in a statement. “The impact of these grants will be measured in lives saved and tragedies averted.”

Jewish organizations have historically championed the program, which began in 2005 with an allocation of \$25 million and has since grown exponentially. Most of the funding has historically gone to Jewish institutions such as synagogues, day schools, and other religious organizations – a trend that continued this year, according to the Orthodox Union.

The funds are available to all denominations facing credible threats, and in recent years Muslim and Black Christian institutions have applied for funds, often with the guidance of Jewish groups more experienced in the application process.

“The increased funding is not just financial support; it’s a vital response to the virus of antisemitism spreading across

our country,” Nathan Diamant, executive director for public policy at the Orthodox Union, said in a statement. “OU Advocacy spearheaded the creation of the NSGP, and we will continue fighting every day to make sure Jewish synagogues and schools can protect themselves.”

As organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League have documented a rise in antisemitism in recent years, Jewish groups have pushed for the security funding to grow. This year, as watchdogs and law enforcement agencies have reported a spike in antisemitic incidents since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war on Oct. 7, Jewish groups continued their advocacy, and Congress allocated a record amount to the program.

Initially, as part of a bipartisan budget deal, only \$274.5 million in funding was made available through the program this year, a decline from 2023 that sparked objections from Jewish groups. But that was later buttressed by an additional \$180 million in funding as part of the legislation that delivered additional aid to Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan.

“We were very concerned that the original level appropriated for this life-saving program would fall short amid the unprecedented spike in antisemitism, which is why we worked closely with appropriators and congressional leadership to include additional funds in the security supplemental,” Karen Paikin Barall, vice president of government relations for Jewish Federations of North America told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a statement. “Those additional \$180 million in nonprofit security funds will make an enormous impact on our community’s security.” **HW**

OBITUARIES



Lawrence Beck

Lawrence Beck, of blessed memory, 96, passed away on July 8, 2024, at his home. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., and was the son of Isidore and Gertrude Beck and beloved husband of Harriet Friener Beck, of blessed memory.

Mr. Beck was an outdoorsman who enjoyed boating, water skiing and fishing. He was a Boy Scout and a member of Chi Delta Tau at Temple Israel. He graduated from Central High School and received his bachelor’s in economics from Southwestern College (Rhodes College). He was always patriotic; he served in the U.S. army and was stationed in Munich, Germany. He loved music, travel, photography, history and collecting.

He worked alongside his father, Isidore Beck, at I. Beck women’s wholesale clothing business, which was in business for 80 years. His mother and his wife also joined them working in the family business. He was a longtime member of Temple Israel and Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth synagogues and

was an associate member of Haddasah.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Harriet. They were devoted to each other, their family, friends, and community and were married for 54 years. Mr. Beck was also preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law, Dr.’s Vivian and Hy Gildenhorn, and his in-laws, Reuben and Henrietta (Tootsie) Friener, of blessed memory. He is survived by his children, Bruce Beck (Lillian), Louisa Beck, and Dana Beck Zipperstein (Eddie), and grandchildren Isaac and Gabriella Zipperstein, each with whom he shared a special connection.

Mr. Beck was a gentleman through and through. He was a good and honorable man who was a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren who all adored him. He is greatly missed and will be remembered for his honesty, kindness, charitable contributions, the care he gave and his loyalty to his family, country and friends. Services were held at Anshei Sphard Cemetery. **HW**

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On White Nationalist’s Show, Georgia State Official Kandiss Taylor Said Jews are ‘Controlling Everything’



Kandiss Taylor, GOP Chair of Georgia’s 1st Congressional District, in an episode of her podcast, “Jesus, Guns and Babies.” Credit: Screenshot By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – A Republican state party official in Georgia appeared to agree with the host of a white nationalist TV show who said Jews run the government, responding, “They’re controlling everything.”

Kandiss Taylor, who chairs the Republican Party in her southeast Georgia congressional district, appeared on a mid-February episode of “The Stew Peters Show,” whose namesake host lives in Florida and has a history of promoting antisemitic rhetoric and Holocaust denial. Peters and Taylor discussed the arrest of a man accused of vandalizing a

rainbow crosswalk mural in south Florida honoring the LGBTQ+ community.

In the episode, which the liberal media watchdog Media Matters for America reported last Monday, Peters said, “No more funding our own demise – bioweapons and forever wars from the Jewish lobby that basically runs our entire government. And they run this as well, don’t they?”

Taylor responded, “Yeah they run this. 100%. They’re controlling everything.”

The comments were condemned by

Georgia’s only Jewish state representative, Democrat Esther Panitch, who called on the state Republican Party to condemn the exchange.

“Ok, @GaRepublicans, it’s time to show the Jewish community of Georgia that you reject antisemites. Let me know if I can be of assistance,” she wrote on X.

“We always knew she was extreme,” Panitch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “I just didn’t realize her extremism went after Jews. I mean, I’m not surprised, but I was not aware of these specific comments.”

Panitch also told JTA that nobody from the Georgia Republican Party had reached out to her about Taylor’s comments.

“You can’t pretend to be a friend to the Jews, or to support us, and allow your officials to make these statements without any remarks,” she added.

This is not the first time this month that Taylor has been in the public eye for comments about religious discrimination. In an Aug. 17 episode of her podcast, “Jesus, Guns and Babies,” Taylor said that only Christians should be permitted to run for elected office.

“We shouldn’t be electing anyone in government – local, state or federal – that is not a Christian,” Taylor said. “That is how we take back this nation.”

In a now-deleted post from October

2023 screenshot by Media Matters, she responded to a post on X that said, “This has become very clear to anyone who can see: The Democrat Party has been overtaken by Marxist trash who hates Jews.”


In her reply, Taylor wrote, “Hey, We have some Marxist trash using our R who pander to the Jews. Not much difference.”

In a statement posted to X, Taylor declared her opposition to antisemitism and support for Israel and Jews. She did not directly address the exchange with Peters.

“I have been made aware of the Media Matters hit piece on me,” Taylor wrote. “I want to state unequivocally that I support the State of Israel, that I support the Jewish people around the world, and that I categorically reject antisemitism in all forms. I have been proud to stand with the Georgia Republican Party on supporting Israel and rejecting antisemitism whenever and wherever it occurs.”

To Panitch, Taylor’s statement isn’t enough.

“This isn’t an apology,” Panitch said. “The fact that she’s in leadership at the Georgia GOP says that they do not take the antisemitism within their ranks seriously. They can use whatever platitudes they want, which I appreciate for them saying anything, but if they’re going to allow their members to say that Jews control the world, without any repercussions, then they’re just words.” **HW**



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Hamas Leader Calls for Suicide Attacks in Judea and Samaria



Hamas political bureau chief Khaled Mashaal speaks with BBC Middle East editor Jeremy Bowen in Qatar, 2015. Source: Screenshot.

(JNS) – Hamas leader abroad Khaled Mashaal last Wednesday called for a return to suicide terror attacks against Israelis in Judea and Samaria.

During a video address to a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, Mashaal said, “Resistance operations in the West Bank are escalating despite the harsh conditions,” according to CNN Arabic.

“We want to return to martyrdom operations. This is a situation that can only be addressed by open conflict. They are fighting us with open conflict, and we are confronting them with open conflict,” he continued.

“The enemy has opened the conflict on all fronts, seeking us all, whether we fight or not. The enemy says, ‘I am crazy,’ and it is up to the nation to assume its responsibilities. I reiterate my call

for everyone to participate on multiple fronts in the actual resistance against the Zionist entity.”

The “military wings” of the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist groups took responsibility for a failed suicide bombing attack in south Tel Aviv earlier this month.

In a statement, Hamas vowed to continue to carry out suicide attacks “as long as Israel continues its massacre and policy of assassinations in Gaza.”

The bomber, who was killed in the blast, was a Palestinian from the area of Nablus (Shechem) in central Samaria.

The Israel Defense Forces launched a large-scale counterterrorism operation in the Jenin and Tulkarem areas of northern Samaria overnight last Tuesday, involving hundreds of troops as

well as air support.

Mashaal also criticized U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, accusing the Americans of supplying Israel with “weapons of destruction.”

“America abandoned the July 2 paper [U.S. President Joe Biden’s Gaza ceasefire proposal] then blamed Hamas, knowing that the one who disrupted the agreement was [Israeli Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu, who has a personal agenda, in addition to the Zionist agenda that America and some Western countries unfortunately support,” he said.

Mashaal, who was said to have been considered to replace slain politburo head Ismail Haniyeh but instead was passed over in favor of Hamas leader in Gaza Yayha Sinwar, stressed that the Hamas movement abroad “puts its trust in the leader Yayha Sinwar who the Zionist intelligence is chasing to harm and kill him.”

Hamas still holds 108 hostages in Gaza, including 104 of the 251 hostages taken on Oct. 7 – 34 of whom are deceased, according to the military.

Last Tuesday, Israeli security forces rescued Qaid Farhan Alkadi from a Hamas tunnel in southern Gaza.

In March, Mashaal said that Hamas would not release any hostages until Israel ends the war, withdraws its troops, allows all Gazans to return to their homes and lifts the blockade on the coastal enclave.

“Inshallah [‘God willing’], we will de-

feat them in the field and in the negotiating battle,” said Mashaal, adding that the group is also fighting “intense battles” in the media and in the political sphere.

The terrorist leader reiterated that “in the negotiations, we insist on stopping the aggression, withdrawing from Gaza, returning the displaced to their places, especially in northern Gaza, providing all necessary relief, shelter and reconstruction, and ending the siege.

“We will not release their prisoners [the hostages] until we achieve these goals,” Mashaal vowed.

Late last year, speaking to France’s “Le Figaro” daily from his residence in Qatar, Mashaal predicted that “sooner or later, the United States will argue that Hamas is a reality and enjoys legitimacy among the people. We must learn from history. The Americans accepted the Taliban. [PLO founder] Yasser Arafat even won the Nobel Peace Prize,” he noted.

Hamas’s Oct. 7 massacre “shocked world public opinion, and polls in the United States show increased support for the Palestinian cause” in its wake, he concluded, adding that Hamas’s terrorist army in Gaza would not be destroyed as it had “passed the credibility test against Israel.”

In January, Mashaal restated his rejection of Israel’s right to exist, saying that the Oct. 7 mass murder “turned the idea of liberating Palestine from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea into a realistic idea that has already begun.” **HW**

Memphis Kollel to Begin Year of Programming for Teenage Girls



The Memphis Kollel will be starting the second year of its initiative aimed at engaging and inspiring teenage girls in the broader community. Under the talented guidance of Mrs. Aliza Gelb, the Kollel’s monthly programs, “Culinary Creations” and “Middos and Munch,” have flourished, providing meaningful (and tasty!) experiences for the young women of Memphis.

Mrs. Gelb has successfully blended Torah learning with creative food-making activities, creating an enriching environment where young girls can grow

both spiritually and personally. Her programs have been extremely well attended and widely praised.

“Culinary Creations,” designed for 7th and 8th grade girls, introduces participants to a new culinary project, allowing the girls to explore their creativity in the kitchen while also delving into Torah teachings. The hands-on approach has been particularly effective in fostering a sense of camaraderie and engagement amongst those in attendance.

For high school girls, “Middos and Munch” offers a unique blend of ethi-



cal discussions and culinary adventures. Mrs. Gelb’s ability to weave meaningful conversations about middos (character traits) into the fabric of each session has resonated deeply with the teens. The program not only imparts valuable life lessons but also provides a space for the girls to bond over shared experiences.

The success of these programs is a testament to Mrs. Gelb’s dedication and innovative approach.

“Our goal was to create a space where girls could learn, grow, and connect in a meaningful way,” said Mrs. Gelb. “Seeing the enthusiasm and growth in each participant has been incredibly rewarding.”

“I look forward to Middos and Munch each month,” shared Dahlia Siegel, a 12th grader at the GMSG. “The middos we learned about will have a lasting im-

pact on me.”

Rabbi Yosef Braha, director of the Memphis Kollel, expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Gelb’s contributions. “We are incredibly grateful to Mrs. Gelb for her hard work and dedication,” he said. “She pours her unique culinary talent, attention to detail, and love of the young women of our community into each of these events. She has brought an exciting new dimension to the Kollel’s youth programming.”

The Kollel is excited to restart these impactful programs and expand their reach to benefit even more young girls in the community and plans are already underway for the upcoming year.

For more information about how to sign up for these programs, please reach out to rabbibraha@memphiskollel.org. [HW](#)



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