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613 Attend Emotional, Hopeful Oct. 7 Commemoration by Memphis Jewish Federation



More than 600 people gathered at Baron Hirsch Congregation to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Oct. 7 tragedy.

By Shoshana Center

Remembrance. Unity. Hope. Those were the main themes of Memphis Jewish Federation's (MJF) emotional event commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Oct. 7 tragedy. Under strong security presence, as attendees entered Baron Hirsch Congregation (BH) on Monday, Oct. 7, they received a plastic tea light each with the name of someone lost in the massacre or ensuing war. After passing through a darkly draped tunnel with posters of hostages, guests took their seats, with small Israeli flags and a booklet, "Memphis Stands with Israel." The beau-

tifully crafted booklet features local efforts over the past year including the solidarity gathering, emergency campaign details, the march on D.C., and more.

The evening's program began with the crowd of 613 – the same number of commandments/mitzvot in the Torah – made up of a mix of Jewish Memphis, local elected officials and their representatives, and non-Jewish pro-Israel supporters, standing to sing Israel's national anthem, "HaTikvah." Then across three giant screens an incredibly powerful short film played, "We Are Not OK."

It showed scenes from the Nova Music Festival, hostages being kidnapped, horrible news headlines, terrible anti-Israel protests, and more sadness. It was painful yet important to watch.

Following Cantor Aryeh Samberg's passionate rendition of Kel Maleh Rachamim / Memorial Prayer, Nathan Lubin shared beautiful words about his late granddaughter, Rose Lubin (z'l) was a lone IDF border police officer who was killed protecting "the love of her life, Israel." She was only 20. Nathan explained that from a very young age,

Rose knew she wanted to make aliyah and join the IDF, which she did at 18.

"The reason to keep Rose's story alive," Nathan said, is for her legacy to serve as a "model that can make a difference in our community." A moving music video, "Lone Soldier," played – a fitting tribute to such a special person and those still fighting.

BH's Rabbi Ian Lichter then asked those in the crowd who have served in the IDF or have family members serving to rise, as applause broke out for their selfless service. Next, local congregational and communal rabbis and heads of schools stood together reciting in unison a declaration of unity, while photos of local advocacy events played on the screens.

The next part of the program focused on heroes. A music video in Hebrew, "Triangle," was shown, featuring Israelis and two separate blue triangles that when put together formed the Magen David / Star of David.

Adi Ben-Ezra, who moved with her family to Memphis just a year ago, talked about her cousin, Agam Berger, who's still held hostage in Gaza. On Oct. 7, Agam, an IDF soldier, was on the front line when the violence erupted.

"Agam's mom's message to us," Adi said, "is to know that Agam has deep emunah/faith in Hashem. We know from others that she has been consistently praying while in captivity and trying to keep Shabbat, refusing to cook for her captures on Shabbat." As quiet tears streamed down many, if not most,

(See Commemoration Page 2)

Israel, U.S. Nearing Consensus on Iran Strike



An Israeli Air Force Boeing 707 tanker aircraft fuels an IAF F-15 fighter jet, June 28 2011. Credit: Ofer Zidon/Flash90

(JNS) – Israel and Washington are closer to a consensus on the scope of Jerusalem's planned retaliatory strike on Iran, "Axios" reported last Thursday,

citing three U.S. and Israeli officials.

While the current plan is a more aggressive than Washington seeks, the gap between Israeli Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden narrowed during their call last Wednesday, according to a senior Israeli official.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, joined the two leaders on the call, during which Biden "affirmed his iron-clad commitment to Israel's security" and "condemned unequivocally Iran's ballistic missile attack against Israel on Oct. 1," per a White House readout of the call.

Biden previously said that he would oppose an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear and oil infrastructure, suggesting that such an attack would not be "proportional" to the 180-plus ballistic missiles that the Islamic Republic fired at Israel.

Nevertheless, a U.S. official told "Axios" that the allies were "moving in the right direction" in terms of solidifying an attack plan, with another American

The gap between Netanyahu and Biden has reportedly narrowed.

source confirming the administration was less concerned about the prospect.

In this respect, Israel's "Kan News" public broadcaster reported that Biden has offered Israel a "compensation package" if it refrains from striking certain targets in Iran, including "extensive diplomatic backing and additional military aid."

An Israeli official told "Kan," "We consider the United States to be our ally and are always ready to listen. At the same time, we will do all that's necessary to protect the citizens of Israel and

(See Consensus Page 2)

Commemoration...
(Continued From Page 1)



Local congregational and communal rabbis and heads of schools recite a declaration of unity.

of the attendees' faces, Adi made a final, impactful plea: "We implore you to do a mitzvah. In Agam's name, light Shabbat candles or make a donation."

After the Prayer for Hostages was said collectively, a lovely video message was shown, specifically for Memphis from released hostage Mia Schem.

Michal Almalem then shared stories about everyday Israelis transforming into heroes as they jumped into action on Oct. 7 – teachers and nurses becoming commanders and tank leaders. She also spoke about a female tank unit that saved a kibbutz that terrible day. With a message of tikvah/hope, Michal noted that we "hope for the safe return of hostages" and hope for the returned bodies of those we've lost, followed by a Hebrew music video about David & Goliath.

Teenagers from across Memphis' Jewish communities, schools, and synagogues then took to the dais with a message about standing united as Am Yisrael Chai.

Scott Notowich, chair of MJF's board of directors, and Laura Linder, presi-

dent/CEO of Jewish Community Partners, shared a final message to focus on hope, while thanking those involved in planning the evening's event. "Our efforts have made a difference," Laura said of the \$4.1 MJF raised in the immediate aftermath of Oct. 7.

To end the program, as Bornblum Jewish Community School 4th graders sang "Am Yisrael Chai," the crowd joined in while waving Israeli flags, as uplifting photos of happier times in Israel were displayed. On the way out, attendees picked up packets of red poppy seeds – often associated with remembrance and found throughout Israel – to plant at home.

The meaningful and, at times, understandably painful program was dedicated to mourning our tragic losses, expressing our unity, and embracing our resilient and hopeful spirit. Though it's true – we are not ok, our hearts are broken – we continue to pray for an end to our brothers and sisters' suffering, protection for our soldiers, and for peace as the nation of Israel lives on. **HW**

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. October 18, 2024 / 16 Tishrei, 5785 6:02 p.m.
Fast/Havdalah, Sat. October 19, 2024 / 17 Tishrei, 5785..... 6:57 p.m.

Sukkot Intermediate Day

Meet BBYO's Jeff Blumberg



Jeff Blumberg - 12th grade
Delta's 97th Regional S'gan
Member of Okeon AZA

My name is Jeff Blumberg, and I was recently elected as Delta's 97th Regional S'gan!

As Regional S'gan I help plan programs and events in all our chapters and help plan our conventions in the fall and spring.

I was so excited to have the chance to take on these responsibilities, as BBYO has been a huge part of my life since I started high school.

As COVID finally ended almost four years ago, I began to go to my first BBYO chapter events with Okeon and couldn't get enough! I loved making connections, building friendships, and

that led me to give leadership a try.

My experience on not just regional board, but also chapter board, has been fulfilling and extremely fun!

Through BBYO I have gained many leadership skills that I know will benefit me in my life. Getting the chance to be an integral part of a teen-led organization taught me a lot about responsibility, communication, and dedication.

I think the most important thing, however, is the friends I have made on the board that I will cherish forever. BBYO is truly a unique program, and I'm so glad I have found my home here! **HW**

Concensus...

(Continued From Page 1)

the security of Israel."

Israel's Security Cabinet convened last Thursday night to authorize Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to determine the country's response to the Iranian attack.

Last Wednesday, Gallant said Israel's strike "will be powerful, precise and above all – surprising," adding that the Islamic Regime "will not understand what happened and how it happened."

Netanyahu had described the Iranian ballistic missile barrage as "a big mistake," one that it "will pay for."

"The regime in Tehran does not understand our determination to defend ourselves and to exact a price from our enemies," the premier said. **HW**

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Wounded Terrorist Tries to Seize Soldier's Rifle in Ambulance

(JNS) – Following the shooting and apprehension of a Palestinian terrorist at the Tarqumiyah checkpoint northwest of Hebron in Judea last Tuesday, the terrorist attempted to seize the weapon of a female soldier who had been accompanying him to the hospital.

The soldier prevented the terrorist from gaining control of her rifle and together with the other soldiers subdued him once again.

The terrorist received initial treatment at the hospital, Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, and was then handed over to security forces to be taken to a detention facility.

The incident took place at Shaare Zedek's ambulance bay. According to a statement issued by the hospital, Shaare Zedek's security team identified the serious event and assisted in subduing the terrorist.

The IDF Spokesperson's Office said following the incident: "Yesterday, IDF forces identified a suspect in the area of the Tarqumiyah checkpoint and detained him. After interrogating the suspect, it was revealed that he intended to carry out a stabbing attack. During his arrest, the suspect resisted, and the soldiers responded with gunfire.

"While receiving medical treatment for the gunshot wound, the terrorist attempted to grab a weapon from the military force accompanying him, but the force successfully prevented it."

Since the Hamas-led invasion of the northwestern Negev on Oct. 7, 2023, the issue of granting medical care to the detained terrorists of the Nukhba Force – the elite Hamas unit that spearheaded

the massacres a year ago – has been a source of debate in Israel. The controversy has caused clashes between protesters and police inside and outside the hospitals treating the terrorists.

Another terrorist being treated by an Israel hospital was part of the gang that murdered Matan Elmaleh, 26, from Ma'ale Adumim, and wounded six others in February.

The terrorist has been in a vegetative state at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem ever since, despite efforts by police and the hospital to have him removed. The military court ordered his family to pay a transport fee of 20,000 shekels (about \$5,300). The family refuses to pay, and so the terrorist remains in the hospital.

In May, a Hamas terrorist from the Nukhba Force received pelvic surgery at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center's Ichilov Hospital after he was initially refused treatment due to lack of proper planning on behalf of the security establishment.

In April, a Hamas terrorist was transferred from Hadassah Medical Center on Mount Scopus in the capital to Assuta Medical Center in Ashdod after protesters swarmed the Jerusalem hospital.

The previous health minister, Moshe Arbel, instructed all public hospitals in October 2023 to stop treating Hamas terrorists, but that rule has been suspended.

At the same time, the military detention center in Sde Teman, which was set up to house Hamas terrorists after the Oct. 7 massacres, is also responsible for the medical treatment of terrorists and has treated dozens since the war began. **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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



Monday October 21 NEW PROGRAM! 3D Flower Arranging

For the first time, Aubrey Overstreet of Mid-South Hobbies will bring kits for the group to construct and Paint 3D Flower Arrangements. Discover the enchanting world of Pop-Up Coloring Bouquets from Creative Studio, where you can savor the allure of botanicals without the fuss of planting or watering. Effortlessly bring these carefree plants and flowers to life by coloring in the pre-cut shapes and assembling them. Perfect for adding a vibrant touch to your surroundings or presenting as a thoughtful gift. Comes with pre-cut pieces and 7 dual-ended coloring markers in a delightful range of bright and lively colors.

This will be a fantastic intro to a new hobby! There is no charge for this activity, but reservations are needed as the supply is limited. This project follows the regular lunch. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to sign up for lunch and this fun-filled project!

Wednesday, October 23 Speaker: Lisa Shurden Topic: Preventing Falls in the Home

Many falls happen at home, where we spend much of our time and tend to move around without thinking about our safety. There are many changes you can make to your home that will help prevent falls and better ensure your safety. Ms. Shurden will discuss different measures one can take to help prevent falls. One study showed that 70% of seniors that go into the hospital, go in as a result of a fall. Please come hear this talk for you or a family member. No reservations for the talk are required.

Monday, October 28 Speaker: Rabbi Yosef Braha Ask the Rabbi

As the Jewish High Holidays are just ending, many have questions about them or any other topic. Rabbi Braha always makes this a fun and energetic time.

Wednesday, October 30 Special Program! End-of-Month Bingo!

Nice prizes, camaraderie, and a very enjoyable way to finish out a very busy month. Come for a nice lunch and have fun at BINGO!

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

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Congressman Kustoff Marks One Year Since Hamas' Barbaric Attack on Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) recently spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives to mark one year since Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel.

I rise today to mark the one-year anniversary of Hamas' vicious and horrific attack on Israel.

As we all know, in the early morning of October 7th, Hamas invaded and brutally attacked Israel and her people – murdering over 1200 innocent men, women, and children, including over 35 Americans. These terrorists violently took hostages, including Americans.

In the weeks after the attacks, I watched a 47-minute video taken on October 7th along with other member of Congress. All of us who saw the images and heard the words and the language of that day were horrified. The savagery, barbarism, violence, and pure hatred against Israel and the Jewish people is indescribable in that video.

Indeed, the world changed forever on that day.

Now, nearly one year later, Hamas still has innocent hostages captive and we continue to see a rise in antisemitism across the globe and in our own nation.

I am honored to serve as Chairman of the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group. I am also proud that the group is bipartisan. In July, I traveled to Israel to meet with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

When I was there, I reiterated that the United States House of Representatives continues to stand with Israel. I told Israeli leadership that our nation will ensure that Israel has the resources it needs to defend itself.

I also had the opportunity to visit Kfar Aza, a kibbutz in southern Israel, as well as the site of the Tribe of Nova music festival with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

I got to tell you, it was deeply moving to stand where Hamas invaded, and frankly, just murdered and butchered so many innocent Israelis. When I was there, I met and talked with family members and heard the real-life stories of those who survived, those who are being held captive, and those who were brutally and viciously mutilated and murdered.

I must tell you that I am truly impressed by the resilience of the Israeli people, by their hope, and their strong morale against the barbarism that tries to stifle the will of Israel.

The United States stands unequivocally with our greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Israel fights an enemy that not only seeks the elimination of Israel, but more broadly, the elimination of Western values like freedom, liberty, and democracy.

Prime Minister Netanyahu told us as

much when he spoke right here giving an address to a joint session of Congress back in July.

It is so important that we come together and ensure that Israel has the resources and support they need to combat this evil.

We also continue to condemn the blatant and brazen forms of antisemitism that have arisen here, in the United States, and around the world.

Such hatred can't be tolerated in the halls of Congress, nor anywhere else in this country or the world.

This is a matter of good vs. evil and life vs. death.

Israel and the U.S. are committed to defeating Hamas and ensuring all the hostages are returned home.

But we can't stop there, we have got to work together to wipe terrorism off the face of the Earth and we must ensure Israel can live in peace with her neighbors. **HW**

Please check out Jewish Scene Magazine and The Hebrew Watchman on Facebook • Instagram • JewishSceneMagazine.com • HebrewWatchman.com

World Leaders Mourn Israeli Victims and Call for a Ceasefire on Anniversary of Oct. 7 Attack



France's President Emmanuel Macron holds a press conference at the 19th Summit of the Francophonie at the Grand Palais, Paris, Oct. 5, 2024. On the Oct. 7 anniversary he expressed his solidarity with "the pain of the Israeli people" on social media and met with the families of French hostages being held by Hamas. Credit: Ludovic Marin / AFP via Getty Images

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – Days after calling for a halt in arms shipments to Israel and earning a public rebuke from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his solidarity with “the pain of the Israeli people” on social media and met with the families of French hostages being held by Hamas.

More than 40 French citizens were killed when Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

On the first anniversary of the attack, Macron and leaders around the world marked the day, often seeking to strike a balance between acknowledging the victims in Israel – Hamas killed 1,200 people and took hundreds more hostage – and calling for an end to the war in Gaza in which more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed and most of the population has been displaced.

Meanwhile, demonstrators around the globe staged outpourings of grief, commemoration and various demonstrations of solidarity with Israelis and Palestinians, and expressed outrage over the expanding Middle East war.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris paid tribute to those killed and kidnapped on Oct. 7 – including dozens of American citizens – in

separate statements last Monday. They also condemned antisemitism in the United States and around the world over the past year.

Both Biden and Harris urged a ceasefire deal and noted the scale of death and destruction in Gaza. They did not explicitly blame Israel for that toll, instead saying that Hamas unleashed and exacerbated the casualties by hiding among innocent people. Biden said that he and Harris “support Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and Iran.”

In Europe, leaders pledged their support for victims of Oct. 7 with varying levels of pressure for a ceasefire.

The German chancellery in Berlin was draped with a yellow ribbon in honor of the Israeli hostages, as the names of killed and kidnapped Israelis were read in front of Brandenburg Gate. Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that Germany stood by Israel, but also called for a ceasefire and a “political process” to end the conflict. He said that Palestinians in Gaza “need hope and perspectives if they are to renounce terror.”

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer offered his tribute to the dead and said his country “must unequivocally stand with the Jewish community,” while

pressing for a ceasefire and “the removal of all restrictions on humanitarian aid” into Gaza.

In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni commemorated Oct. 7 in a speech at the Great Synagogue in Rome. She expressed strong support for Israel and denounced antisemitism in Italy. She also lamented the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza, saying they were “victims twice over: first of Hamas' cynicism, which uses them as human shields, and then of Israeli military operations.”

The Vatican marked the anniversary with a collection of funds for Gaza. In a letter addressed to Catholics in the Middle East, Pope Francis said, “I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits.”

The Spanish government, which has strongly criticized Israel's actions in the past, reiterated its condemnation of the Hamas attack and its solidarity with the victims. A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that “a ceasefire, the release of the hostages, access to humanitarian aid for civilians and an end to the violence are necessary.”

Beyond Europe, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attended a vigil in Melbourne. Argentina's Javier Milei, an outspoken friend of Israel, wrote “Bring them home now” in Hebrew and English on social media. Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya condemned the Oct. 7 attack and said that Japan was “gravely concerned” about Gaza's humanitarian crisis.

Other commemorations extended beyond the remarks of heads of state. In Budapest, 1,000 yellow ribbons, a symbol of solidarity with the hostages and their families, hung in public places around the city. And at a rural church in Thailand, the family of Watchara Sri-aoun – one of six Thais believed to be held hostage by Hamas – prayed for his safe return. He went to work in Israel four years ago to earn money for his father's medical expenses and clear his family's debt.

Across the world, rallies and vigils for Israel competed with demonstrations against the war and outpourings of support for Palestinians in Gaza.

Masses of pro-Palestinian demonstra-

tors marched against Israel's actions and U.S. military aid in New York City last Monday. In Central Park, thousands of pro-Israel rallygoers called for the release of the hostages.

Meanwhile, about 600 pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered at Lakemba Mosque in Sydney, Australia's largest mosque, amid a heavy police presence. Protesters demanding a ceasefire in New Zealand clashed with followers of the far-right Christian group Destiny Church.

London saw 40,000 pro-Palestinian demonstrators over the weekend, joined by thousands of others in Paris, Berlin, Rome, Manila, Cape Town and Washington, D.C. A man in D.C. set his arm on fire during a protest last Saturday.

Other rallies in support of Gaza moved through Pakistani cities, the Indian capital of New Delhi, the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, the Moroccan capital of Rabat and cities across Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, an especially harsh critic of Israel who has praised Hamas, focused a social media statement on the plight of Palestinians.

“What is dying in Gaza, Palestine, and nowadays in Lebanon is not just women, children, babies, innocent civilians; it is humanity [and] the international system that is expected to serve humanity,” he said.

Although France provides few arms to Israel, Macron said in a radio interview broadcast last Saturday, “I think that today, the priority is that we return to a political solution, that we stop supplying weapons to lead the fighting in Gaza.”

Last Sunday, Macron's office clarified that a halt to arms exports for use in Gaza was necessary to bring about a ceasefire and to “clear the way to the political solutions needed for the security of Israel and the whole Middle East.”

Netanyahu clapped back in a statement. “As Israel fights the forces of barbarism led by Iran, all civilized countries should be standing firmly by Israel's side,” it read. “Yet, President Macron and other western leaders are now calling for arms embargoes against Israel. Shame on them.” **HW**

Young Israel of Memphis Shares Rosh Hashanah Care Packages with U.S. Air Force Academy Cadets



Jewish U.S. Air Force Academy cadets receiving some of Young Israel of Memphis' Rosh Hashanah care packages.

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Do you remember how nice it felt to receive a care package from home when you were away at camp or school? What if you were a U.S. Jewish serviceman / woman during the season of Yom Tovim (Jewish Holidays)? Can you imagine how lonely it must feel to be away from family and friends during such a special time of the year? Now imagine how that Jewish man / woman in uniform would appreciate receiving a care package before Rosh Hashanah.

For the seventh year in a row, Young Israel (YI) of Memphis played a role in lifting the spirits of some of our country's brave Jewish troops, who were far away from a normal Yom Tov setting. For the last six years, Rabbi Shaul Rappeport (whom I knew from Pennsylvania) was the Jewish chaplain stationed at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colo. During each of those years, YI sent Captain Rappeport Rosh Hashanah care packages to share with the greatly appreciative Jewish cadets at the USAFA.

When I reached out to Rabbi Rappeport during this past summer, I learned that the time had come for him to be assigned to a different USAF post on the West Coast. The new Jewish chaplain who would take over at the USAF Academy was named Rabbi Alan Kahan. I reached out to Major Kahan and told him how YI has been sharing Rosh Hashanah care packages with the USAFA's Jewish cadets for the past six years. He was touched by our Shul's concern for the Jewish cadets, and Rabbi Kahan was excited to help us continue this beautiful tradition.

Prior to Rosh Hashanah 5785 / 2024, in partnership with Memphis' own Ricki's Cookie Corner, YI sent Chaplain Kahan 30 Rosh Hashanah care packages – consisting of Ricki's signature cookies and challah rolls (along with other sweet treats and YI Shanah Tovah cards) – to distribute to Jewish cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy. YI also sent a special gift of challahs and cookies for the Kahan family to enjoy over Yom Tov.

On Rosh Hashanah, the care packages were distributed to the very appreciative Jewish USAF Academy cadets. In a subsequent email to me, Major Kahan wrote: "The cadets loved the care packages – and so did my family! Your Shul's gifts enhanced many people's Rosh Hashanah. We used them for Kid-dush on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, so I took a picture of two cadets just before Yom Tov began. Thank you for spreading Simchat Yom Tov [festive joy] far beyond Tennessee's state lines!"

Additionally, after sharing Ricki's delicious baked goods with Chaplain Rappeport and his family for the six years they were stationed in Colorado, YI felt it would be meaningful to send them some challahs and cookies to enjoy during their first Rosh Hashanah in California. We included a note thanking them for their service to our country and the airmen / women of the USAF and wished them the best of success in their new home.

After receiving our gift package, Chaplain Rappeport sent me the following thoughtful email:

"Dear Rabbi Males and YI of Memphis, the treats from Ricki's arrived and will be safely stored in our freezer until Rosh Hashanah. The kids were both relieved and excited. With all the frequent and drastic changes in their lives as military children, seeing these familiar items arrive from Memphis was a great source of joy and stability for them. I cannot thank you enough! Best wishes for a sweet New Year!"

Young Israel of Memphis thanks Ricki's Cookie Corner (www.rickiscookies.com) and each of the generous sponsors who brought this heart-warming project to fruition.

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached via email at: rabi@yiom.org **HW**

'Nobody Wants This' Renewed for a Second Season on Netflix – with More Jews on Board



Kristen Bell as Joanne and Adam Brody as Noah in "Nobody Wants This." Credit: Stefania Rosini/Netflix

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) — A second season of "Nobody Wants This" is coming, whether Jews want it or not.

The Netflix series, about an interfaith relationship between a rabbi (Adam Brody) and a non-Jewish, agnostic podcaster (Kristen Bell), has proven a massive hit for the streaming platform, even as its depiction of American Jewish life – which includes an overbearing Jewish mother figure (Tova Feldshuh) who derisively refers to Bell's character as a "shiksa," and a shrill Jewish sister-in-law (Jackie Tohn) – is stuffed with enough stereotypes to fill Canter's Deli.

"It wasn't really something I was thinking about too much," series creator Erin Foster, who converted to Judaism and based the series on her own life, told

JTA's partner publication, "Hey Alma," about her show's depiction of Jewish women. Foster, who married Jewish record-label owner Simon Tikhman, has also insisted the show was a "positive Jewish story." She said she made sure to staff the writers' room with people who were born Jewish, and she defended some of the characterizations in the series.

A real-life rabbi – the one who converted Foster – consulted on the show's portrayal of Judaism, and more Jews are also joining the show's tent for its second season. In its last Thursday announcement of the renewal, Netflix revealed that Jenni Konner and Bruce Eric Kaplan, two Jewish alums of the HBO series "Girls," will executive-produce the new season of the rom-com and serve as showrunners, taking over duties from Foster. A third Jewish executive producer, Konner's colleague Nora Silver, is also joining.

"It's a dream to be working on 'Nobody Wants This,'" Konner said in a statement. Kaplan, likewise, called it "such a unique and beautiful show." Foster, who is returning as an executive producer and will continue to write on the show, said, "Justice for healthy relationships being the most romantic!"

A date for the second season's release has not yet been made public. **HW**

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Incredible New Israeli Mental Health Center, Created Out of Unimaginable Pain



Dorothy Goldwin with Tami Raviv and Dr. Kfir Feffer at Temple Israel's presentation.

By Shoshana Center

A new institution in Israel is providing desperately needed mental health services, thanks to the tremendous dedication of three remarkable people, as they manage their own devastation. The Niv Nirel Center (NNC) is a pioneering, world-class trauma and rehabilitation facility, offering state-of-the-art treatment to victims of combat-related trauma.

Tami Raviv, Dr. Kfir Feffer, and Doron Krakow have been and continue to be instrumental in NNC coming to fruition, in astonishing time. The three embarked on a two-week trip in September – mostly in the Northeast U.S., with a final stop in Memphis.

Why Memphis? Memphians Kara and Paul Bierman were visiting their son in Israel recently, when they met Doron. After learning about the trio's trip, the Biermans offered to host their presentation in Memphis. Memphian Dorothy Goldwin learned about NNC from her

Israeli cousin, Tzippy, who works at NNC. Dorothy reached out to Temple Israel's Rabbi Micah Greenstein to host a presentation. So, Memphis was added to the itinerary.

Temple hosted an afternoon presentation of "Healing the Trauma," on Sept. 21; the Biermans hosted an evening presentation that night. The information Tami and Kfir shared was at once crushing, unthinkable, and hopeful.

Kfir is a psychiatrist, NNC's head of treatment and crisis prevention, and IDF reservist. Tami, who runs NNC's family and marriage counseling department, is the mother of Niv, who tragically lost her life on Oct. 7; Niv's fiancé, Nirel Zini, was also killed – both at their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Rather than planning a wedding, Tami planned their funerals.

Inspired to honor Niv and Nirel, Tami started researching and connected with Kfir. They found a beautiful location on



Kara and Paul Bierman host a presentation at their home.

the Mediterranean in Neurim. The space needed a lot of work, so the team began implementing a three-phase plan. In just 20 days, with a slew of construction volunteers and supporters, part of the facility opened on Aug. 1 to begin treating victims. Until now, there had not been a formal organization in Israel for PTSD and other mental health services.

In Memphis, Kfir and Tami spoke about their experiences from Oct. 7, the work they're doing to treat those impacted, and the future need for mental health services in Israel.

"I can't begin to describe the program, it was so powerful. Hearing from Kfir and Tami – what they've been through and how they unbelievably opened this holistic health center – was touching, hard, sad, and full of hope," shared Dorothy. "I feel such a special connection to have a dear cousin overseeing the family and couples division of this much-needed center. I know how helpful this will be to the healing process for these soldiers and their families."

Kfir talked about a case in which a soldier was staying with his grandmother. The soldier needed constant monitoring, alluding to a suicide risk. Since his Holocaust survivor grandmother didn't sleep much, she stayed up with him nightly. Kfir realized that people weren't asking how the families of soldiers were coping – the grandmother's response: "We're not OK." Kfir then understood that the scope of mental health needs was massive, affecting soldiers, family, and friends. While Israel has experienced wars, this is different, he said. The continued battles and horrors – bodies cut open, burned babies, violent sexual assaults – are beyond gut-wrenching.

Tami knows the inconceivable details of Niv and Nirel's brutal murders. Nirel's dad wanted the couple buried together. During their funeral, where thousands of Israelis gathered to pay

their respects, it was raining, but there was interestingly no rain over Niv and Nirel's graves.

"Their presentation and the work of the Niv Nirel Center was heartfelt, impactful, and so meaningful," said Kara. "Tami, Kfir, and Doron were so impressed by the warmth and passion of the Memphis community, Tami said they literally felt the 'hug and support' from all of us."

As for Doron, he and his wife, Janet, recently made aliyah; they have three sons. The couple has been helping their son, Aaron, an IDF soldier – he and his wife, Zoe, recently had a baby. While caring for his grandson, Doron heard about Tami and Kfir through his son's friend. "We felt helpless on Oct 7. Traumatized and sick," said Doron, an incredible fundraiser, activist, and former president/CEO of the JCC Association of North America. "Helping raise funds for NNC gave me something I could do."

Established in memory of Niv and Nirel, NNC has partnerships with the Ministry of Health, The Joint Distribution Committee, New York's Columbia University, the Veterans Administration in Cincinnati, and several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

The Niv Nirel Center needs additional funds to complete its building and continue helping the scores of Israelis who need mental health services, expecting to treat 1,500 patients a year at capacity. "The war goes on and the number of those in need will only continue to grow, while treatment and care will be required for years to come," added Kara. "Paul and I feel we were gifted an opportunity to directly impact a solution to a very severe problem affecting Israel's greatest resource, our soldiers, who put their lives on the line to protect our homeland. Please join us by giving today."

To donate: <https://my.israelgives.org/en/fundme/Nivnirelcenter> **HW**



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Chabad to Host Grand Sukkah-Fest Family Celebration



Children enjoying the Petting Zoo at last year's Chabad SukkahFest.

Chabad of Tennessee will be hosting its annual Grand Sukkah-Fest Family Celebration on Monday, October 21 at 5 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life at 2570 Kirby Parkway.

"There will be lots of food, fun and activities," said event coordinator Rivky Klein.

There will be a full spaghetti and meat-sauce supper with cotton candy desserts and sno-cones. There will also be an interactive petting farm where everyone can hold, feed and play with the animals. Kids can enjoy the Bounce N' Fun inflatables and a unique Bubble Immersion Experience.

"In addition to the food and fun it is an opportunity to make a blessing in the newly built enlarged Sukkah and shake the lulav and etrog," said Chabad of Tennessee Director Rabbi Levi Klein. "Plus, there's l'chaim for adults and music for all to add some joy to the holiday."

"The event features lots of food and fun for the entire family," said Rabbi Klein. "Everyone should feel free to invite a friend and come celebrate."

The cost is \$15 per person (with a \$75 family max).

RSVP at www.JewishMemphis.com/Sukkahfest ASAP or call Chabad at 901-754-0404. **HW**

Enjoy Soup, Salad & Song in the Sukkah at Beth Sholom



Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel will bring his spirited singing to "Soup, Salad & Song in the Sukkah" at Beth Sholom on October 22 at 11:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by Beth Sholom Sisterhood.

Beth Sholom Sisterhood is hosting a festive lunchtime get-together in its Sukkah on Tuesday, October 22 at 11:30 a.m. The highlight of "Soup, Salad & Song in the Sukkah" will be a special sing-along with Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel on guitar. Rabbi Abe is the director for the Center of Jewish Life and Learning at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Anyone who has had the pleasure of hearing him sing and play knows how delightful it is to sing with him.

"I'm looking forward to spending a fun afternoon eating, schmoozing, and, of course, singing with Rabbi Abe and my friends in the Sukkah," says Barbara Hellman, Sisterhood programming co-chair. "Rabbi Abe's enthusiasm and talents are guaranteed to entertain all."

A dairy/vegetarian lunch will be served. The cost is \$5 for Beth Sholom Sisterhood members and \$10 for guests – all genders are welcome. To register, please visit bsholom.shulcloud.com/form/sisterhoodsukkah-event.html. **HW**

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Real Estate Commission Changes Around the Corner

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

In March 2024, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reached a landmark \$418 million settlement after losing an antitrust lawsuit filed by a group of home sellers. As many as 50 million people who paid commissions on homes sold in recent years could receive a small amount from the class-action settlement. The powerful industry group also agreed to change long-standing practices related to sales commissions.¹

Background

For decades, many real estate agents have had little choice but to join NAR and follow its rules regarding local Multiple Listing Services (MLS) — the databases used by most brokers to list information about properties for sale. Listing brokers typically cooperated with buyer's agents and split the commission paid by the seller, with the amounts communicated via the MLS in fields that were only visible to agents.

Plaintiffs claimed that NAR (and brokers that require agents to be NAR members) conspired to artificially inflate commissions through an industry-wide practice requiring the seller to pay commissions to brokers on both sides of the transaction. They believed this helped to uphold a nationwide standard of five to six percent of the sales price, which is significantly higher than the commissions paid in many other countries.²

Practice changes

Effective August 17, 2024, NAR will implement the following new policies related to how real estate brokers are compensated to handle transactions.³

1. Commission offers for buyer's

agents can no longer be required or appear in the MLS, though they are still permitted. Listing agents can advertise specific commission offers on brokerage websites and over the phone, text message, or email. Home sellers and their agents will negotiate directly with buyers and their agents regarding compensation.

2. Prior to touring homes, buyers will have to discuss and set compensation directly with their own agents, as sellers do with listing agents. They will be asked to sign written representation agreements that outline the agents' services (e.g., showing property, negotiating offers, transaction management) and how much they charge. This is to help ensure that buyers are fully aware of the costs they could be responsible to pay.

Implications for buyers and sellers

These changes are intended to allow more room for negotiation and spur competition, which could conceivably help lower costs for sellers. Commissions have always been baked into transaction prices, so in markets where sellers' costs fall, home prices would likely be reduced as well.

Some economists believe commissions could drop as much as 30% if buyer's agents face pressure from potential clients to discount their fees, but savings of this magnitude aren't guaranteed.⁴ The impact on real estate commissions will ultimately depend on market conditions, which can vary greatly by location, and how sellers, buyers, and agents respond to the new practices.

Like other businesses, brokerages have overhead that includes rent, lia-

bility insurance, marketing, and other operating costs. Most individual agents must split sales commissions with their brokers (from about 60/40 up to 80/20 for the most productive agents), or they pay fees to the company.

A buyer's agent sometimes shows property to clients over a period of days to months and may write numerous offers for deals that never come together. Many experienced buyer's agents — long accustomed to receiving the same commission as the listing agent — may be reluctant to work for less, even if they must justify their value more regularly.

Buyers will determine the commission for their own agents, but the money may or may not come out of their own pockets. For example, it's possible that an offer could be made contingent on the seller paying the buyer's share of the commission or include a request for a general credit toward closing costs in the amount needed to pay the buyer's agent. Current lending guidelines and regulations would prevent most buyers from adding commission costs to their mortgages. A rule pertaining to VA loans, which specifically prohibited borrowers from paying agent commissions, has been temporarily suspended.⁵

In some cases, sellers might agree to cover buyers' commissions, as it has long been customary and could still be in their best interests. Nationwide home prices have risen more than 50% since 2019, and high interest rates have made mortgage payments much less affordable.⁶ This means sellers with equity tend to be in a better position to pay commissions than potential buyers, many of whom may struggle to come up with enough cash for the down payment. For these reasons, a seller who's willing to pay all or some of the buyer's commission may receive more offers, and a higher final price, than one who refuses to do so.

First-time buyers in particular — who were responsible for 31% of existing

home sales in May 2024 — may have more confidence and make more informed decisions if they work with a trusted professional.⁷ But many will need help from sellers to pay their agents' fees, putting them at a bigger disadvantage than ever against buyers with more access to cash in competitive markets.

Negotiating commissions among all parties is likely to make it harder to strike deals in general, so buyers may have to search longer and write more offers before they are successful. It's also possible that sellers will see little change in commission costs in the coming months, while the market is in flux. But in time, the new rules could spark innovation that creates new business models and expands lower-cost options.

1) The Wall Street Journal, March 15, 2024

2, 4) The New York Times, May 10, 2024

3, 5, 7) National Association of Realtors, 2024

6) The Wall Street Journal, June 27, 2024

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'Serve the Nation, Kill a Jew' Graffiti Written on Prominent Buenos Aires Monument

By Juan Melamed

(JTA) — An antisemitic slogan with a long history in Argentina was discovered graffitied onto a monument in a Buenos Aires park last Wednesday, unnerving local Jews.

The graffiti, reading "Serve the nation, kill a Jew," was inked onto a column of a monument to Simon Bolivar, historically considered "the Liberator" of South America, in Parque Rivadavia in the Argentine capital. A Jewish star stood in for the final word of the slogan.

Argentina's leading Jewish organization, known as DAIA, filed an official complaint, and the municipality swiftly cleaned up the graffiti in the afternoon, shortly after it was discovered. DAIA condemned the "serious anti-Semitic graffiti" and said it was one of more than 500 antisemitic incidents the organization had recorded this year, amid a spike following Oct. 7, 2023.

Argentina has a Jewish population of nearly 200,000, the largest in Latin America. The vast majority live in the Buenos Aires area.

"Today Parque Rivadavia woke up like this," Federico Ballan, the president of the district that includes the park, wrote on social media as he shared a

picture of the graffiti. "We are already working to clean it up. The complaint has already been filed and we are going to do everything in our power to identify these criminals."

A close variant of the phrase has a long history on the country's far right. The Nationalist Liberation Alliance, a World War II-era Argentine movement affiliated with the Nazis, used the phrase, and it was later employed by Tacura, a fascist movement that was active in Argentina in the decades following the war.

It has appeared more recently as well. A decade ago, residents in the town of General Paz received tax bills with the phrase written on them. The city official responsible for the printing was ultimately sentenced to a suspended jail term and was ordered to apologize and learn about the Holocaust.

The graffiti was discovered the same week that Jews in Buenos Aires marked the first anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel. An event organized by the country's largest Jewish organizations drew 15,000 attendees, according to the country's Israeli Embassy. There was a pro-Palestinian demonstration in the city the same day. [HW](#)

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A German Town's Memorial Stones for Nazi Victims are Stolen on Oct. 7 Anniversary



Three of 10 Stolpersteine, or Stumbling Stones, memorializing Jews murdered by the Nazis that appeared in Zeitz, Germany, before they were stolen on Oct. 7, 2024. Courtesy: Sebastian Striegel

By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – Ten stones that memorialized victims of the Holocaust in a German town were discovered to be missing last Monday, the one-year anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks on Israel.

Residents in the eastern German town of Zeitz woke up to find that all of the town's "stumbling stones," called "Stolpersteine" in German, had been dislodged and stolen. The brass plaques had been lodged between cobblestones in front of the houses where Jews lived before the Nazis deported and killed them.

Stumbling stones like those in Zeitz have been placed across Europe and serve as a memorial to Jews and others persecuted by the Nazis, listing their names, birthdates and what is known

of their fates – including their arrests, deportation to concentration camps and death.

In November 2023, weeks after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas War, four stumbling stones that marked the residences of Jews in Rome were defaced with black paint or burned.

The stones stolen from Zeitz were laid in various locations across the city, which has just over 30,000 residents. They commemorated the lives of Siegfried Fürst; Bertha Mendelsohn, née Bachmann; Emma Esther Mendelsohn, née Bachmann; Siegfried Mendelsohn; Dr. Gustav Flörshiem; Hilda Flörshiem, née Hamburger; Ingeborg Flörshiem; Auguste Lewy, née Hesse; Hermann Blumenthal; and Lydia Blumenthal, née



Stolpersteine memorials were stolen from various locations in Zeitz, Germany, on Oct. 7, 2024. Courtesy: Sebastian Striegel

Weissmann.

The city of Zeitz and the Stolpersteine for Zeitz initiative have organized a fundraising campaign to replace the stumbling stones and planned a memorial march for Oct. 19 that will pass all the locations of the stolen stones.

Zeitz officials reacted with horror at the missing stones. Götz Ulrich, the county governor, called the crime "unforgivable and never excusable" in a statement on X last Tuesday. "Whoever did this also wants to tear the #Holocaust out of our #CultureofRemembrance," he wrote.

Zeitz Mayor Kathrin Weber said, taking the date of the vandalism into account, she saw it as clearly "politically motivated" and called it "an attack on our democracy."

Sebastian Striegel, a member of

state parliament from the Green Party, also posted images of places where the stumbling stones were ripped from the ground. In coordination with the Zeitz Alliance for Diversity and Democracy and the Stolpersteine for Zeitz initiative, Striegel said he is offering a reward of 1,000 euros for information that leads to the arrest of the perpetrators and the return of the stones.

Federal police have taken over the investigation to track down those responsible.

As in other parts of eastern Germany, the far-right Alternative for Germany party has become increasingly popular in Zeitz. AfD won the most seats of any individual party on the city council in June's municipal election, with nearly 30% of the vote. The party's rise has spread fear among German Jews. **HW**

'Lady In Red,' Nova Festival Survivor, Reflects on Oct. 7 Attack



Israel Border Police officers rescue people during Hamas's attack on the Supernova music festival near Kibbutz Re'im, Oct. 7, 2023. Credit: Courtesy of Neta David.

By Adi Nirman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – The haunting image of Vlada Patapov, known as the "Lady in Red," fleeing the Supernova music festival massacre on Oct. 7, 2023, became one of the most iconic visuals of the tragedy.

Now, a year after the Hamas attack at Nova that claimed more than 360 lives and saw 40 people taken hostage, Patapov has opened up about her experiences and ongoing struggles.

In an exclusive interview with "MailOnline," Patapov, a 26-year-old mother and wedding planner, expressed her deepest regret, "If I had one wish, it would be to have told everyone at the festival one hour before the attack that something was going to happen so everyone could have got away."

Patapov, who was initially feared dead or missing, has been grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and survivor guilt. "I survived but others weren't so fortunate. I think about that. It weighs on my mind," she said.

She has been undergoing therapy and counseling to cope with the trauma,

finding solace in speaking with others who shared her experience.

However, the ongoing war in the region has added to her distress. "Sometimes I think who can help me when all this is still going on around us, and the fear is still here and it's still real," Patapov said.

During the attack, her primary concern was staying alive for her daughter, Romi. "She will be four soon and for a quarter of her life she has known only war," Patapov lamented.

Patapov, who attended the festival at the last minute with her boyfriend, Matan, and a friend named Mai, found herself separated from Matan during the chaos. She saw friends being shot and killed as terrorists opened fire on the crowd. It took nearly 24 hours before she could reunite with her daughter at home.

Patapov emphasized the importance of resilience. "We can't let the terrorists win. We can't be weak – we must remain strong for Israel and for the hostages who are still in Gaza," she said.

She expressed concern about the current security situation, mentioning rocket attacks from various fronts and the fear of terrorist attacks in daily life.

She marked the anniversary quietly at home with her family, prioritizing her daughter's well-being. "When Romi hears the sirens, she is so scared, she starts crying," Patapov explained.

Reflecting on the broader impact of the Hamas-led attack, Patapov expressed empathy for the hostages still held in Gaza and their families. "Who would have thought we would still be in this situation a year on?" she questioned.

The Oct. 7, 2023, attacks left about 1,200 people dead, mostly civilians, and some 250 others taken hostage. There are 101 hostages still captive in Gaza, including 97 taken on Oct. 7. **HW**

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Forgiveness



*Editor's note:
This story is being
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By Ted Roberts

Yom Kippur is over. And I'm feeling pretty good about the state of my soul. I approached everybody I had cheated, insulted, and ___ over the year. They all forgave me except one schliemel who I yelled at, cursed, and gigantically insulted because he thinks X instead of Y is going to win the election. (I'll apologize for that next year.) Meanwhile, I know – given my record – I'm in the Book of Life!

Then my comfort index was shaken by my Christian secretary. She asked a simple question: "Let's say you're a saint," she says, "and have already apologized for what you screamed at your wife when she served you the raw meatloaf?" But after you were through regurgitating tonight's meatloaf and last week's over-peppered chicken you sat her down, looked her straight in the

eyes and begged her forgiveness. Now it's the ten-day gap between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Ten short days to correct a year of misbehavior. And so many competing faux pas to address. "Must you go back," she asks, "and ask forgiveness from your poor wife who doesn't have a clue about meatloaf production?" And in reparation should you bring her a meatloaf cookbook? And maybe there and then bake a beautiful, smoking, well done meat loaf? Basic question: Must you apologize during the ten days of grace? An excellent question. I told her it depended on the magnitude of your sin.

The whole conversation stimulated my Jewish imagination. I was Maimonides, who said that G-d practiced triple entry bookkeeping; a Book of Life, a book of MAYBE, and the dark, gloomy Book of Death. But what about me, I thought. Why didn't I have a book, "The Book of Stupidity" wherein I noted every injustice I had practiced on my fellow man and woman? (My granddaughter insisted that the time I dropkicked the cat between the two sofa sections should also be noted.)

My book should list date, incident, and my apology/forgiveness if one was offered. (Acts of grandfatherly dis-

cipline would be omitted since these were provoked by kids, not me.) Then at Rosh Hashana time I could audit my book for forgiveness calls. Should I go back, since I asked forgiveness for a \$50 overpayment utility bill, which slipped through the city's accounting system – it was really \$100.

But as I began to attack my list, I reflected that justice is a two-way street. Why was nobody calling me and asking forgiveness? There must have been dozens of sinners who had maltreated me, and they were as quiet as the dust in the tomb of Hamen. Maybe that would make up for some of the calls I neglected. I figured if ten sinners ignored their pleading with me and I neglect five of my obligations, I would still end up in that glowing Book of Life.

Only ten days. How could you cram a year's mistakes in 240 hours? Each moral variation (I prefer that phrase to "sin") was very complex and needed much talk to put in perspective, like when I borrowed my neighbor's riding lawn mower. (He was out of town.) I forgot to tell him – three gallons of gas at \$3.29 per gallon – and I forgot to tell him that upon returning the machine I pruned his petunia bed. So many details. And after all, the Lord's Book of Life

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was finite, too. Seven billion potential sinners – some, unlike me, were multiple transgressors. Imagine the thickness of that book? It would make the Humash look like a TJ Maxx pamphlet. Some minor sinners would have to be omitted. Why not me?

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

U.S. Slaps Sanctions on Iran's 'Ghost Fleet' Oil Tanker Network

(JNS) – The U.S. Treasury Department announced last Friday that it imposed sanctions on Iran's "ghost fleet" of tankers and shipping companies that the Islamic Republic uses to sell oil.

The department designated 23 vessels and 16 companies for participating in Iran's efforts to contravene U.S. sanctions.

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that the new sanctions were part of the "severe consequences," which he had threatened Iran would face after its Oct. 1 ballistic missile attack on Israel.

Sullivan said that the sanctions involve "new and significant measures to more effectively target Iran's energy trade."

"The new designations today also include measures against the 'Ghost Fleet' that carries Iran's illicit oil to buyers around the world," Sullivan stated. "These measures will help further deny Iran financial resources used to support its missile programs and provide support for terrorist groups that threaten the United States, its allies and partners."

Iran uses a variety of methods to try to conceal the origin of its oil for sale on the global market, including falsifying ship location data to disguise oil transfers in the Persian Gulf, conducting ship-to-ship oil transfers and using foreign corporations to forge cargo documents to mask the Iranian origin of pe-

troleum shipments.

Much of this oil is then sold to China, which does not recognize U.S. sanctions on Iran. Last Friday's sanctions announcement notes that Iran has sold millions of barrels of oil to Chinese refineries but does not include new designations of any Chinese companies.

Critics, including former President Donald Trump, allege that these tactics and the Biden administration's failure to enforce existing sanctions have allowed Iran to reap billions of dollars in profits to fund its ballistic missile and nuclear programs and to support terrorist proxy groups throughout the region.

Nearly all of the vessels sanctioned

by the Treasury last Friday are included in a database of 459 Iranian ghost fleet tankers maintained by United Against Nuclear Iran, a nonprofit that advocates tougher U.S. measures against the regime.

Jason Brodsky, UANI's policy director, argued that last Friday's sanctions don't do enough to punish Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel.

"I remember when Jake Sullivan promised 'severe consequences' for Iran's regime," Brodsky wrote. "While welcome and overdue, sanctions are easy for U.S. policymakers to impose. Combining sanctions with kinetic action and diplomatic pressure is what's needed." HW

ISRAEL INSIGHTS A Different Rosh Hashana

By Howard Weisband

Little did we know on Rosh Hashana a year ago what this Rosh Hashana would be.

As I write on October 9, Israel has been at war now for over a year. A daily barrage of rockets, drones, and missiles continues to rain down on Israel. 101 hostages are still held in Gaza. Our own people on the northern border and those on the Gaza border have become internal refugees.

The surreal has become real.

Following the October 7 intelligence and operational failure, the IDF immediately regrouped and took control in both the south and the north. I do not intend to review here details that are available throughout media sources within hopefully objective reporting, nor will I repeat what I've written in the past. Alternatively, I'd like to share a few brief vignettes of my own experience during the past week surrounding the Rosh Hashana holiday.

A week ago, on October 2, I was working on completing this column when the war came directly to Jerusalem and throughout central Israel via a second large Iranian ballistic missile attack,

the first having been in April. The sirens sent us and all others to our safe rooms or shelters. Our own safe room in our home doubles as my study and a guest room. We watched live Israeli news on my tablet and saw missiles being intercepted in real time, offering prayers and thanks that like in April few injuries and minor damage had occurred. Israel's elaborate three-tiered missile defense system worked to perfection.

Again the surreal became real.

We were occupied in our safe room checking in with our immediate family members in Israel that all were home and safe. Then I turned to sending texts to family and friends abroad, "reporting from our safe room," and responding to their messages. That occupied my time and attention throughout the evening even after the all-clear signal arrived. Needless to say, that column didn't get completed last week.

As of this writing, we still await Israel's careful, strategic response to Iran as was done in April.

Rosh Hashana. We participated in a relatively small yet very meaning-

ful service. The chazan, a friend and a computer guy, has a beautiful voice. He knows how to draw us into his prayers and songs. Moreover, his sons and grandsons are equally talented, and they form a small choir around him.

Meanwhile we knew that Israel was at war; there is no holiday break. Reservists were being called up even on Rosh Hashana, mainly to go north. One of the sons of the chazan was in that very situation. He came to the service in his army uniform and was one of the small choir surrounding his father. At noon he stepped to the side of his father, received a hug and kiss, walked to his mother to receive the same, and off he went with their blessings. A very touching, memorable moment, and a very different one.

We spent the duration of Rosh Hashana and Shabbat with family and friends. Sunday, October 6, it was back to a somewhat normal routine. Third and last vignette....

As we often do on Sundays, I picked up our granddaughter, a second grader, from school that afternoon. The school is walking distance from our home, with

a mandatory stop in between for an ice cream cone. While walking, she looked up at me and said (in Hebrew) "Sabba (Grandpa), you know that tomorrow is October 7?" Taken a bit by surprise, I marveled that the date was seared into her young mind and that she had to be sure that I knew as well.

I told her that yes, I know, and reminded her that last year on October 7 it was Shabbat and Simchat Torah. So in a different way, Simchat Torah this year will be a kind of second October 7.

I wish all a Shana Tova u'Metuka, a Happy, Healthy, and Sweet New Year, and a Chag Sameach, a Happy Sukkot.

May it be a better year.

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

Kosten Foundation Kick It 5K Kicks Off Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month on October 27



Pancreatic Cancer Survivors at previous Kick It 5K.

The Kosten Foundation’s 14th annual Kick It 5K fundraising event funds pancreatic cancer research and is set for October 27, 2024, just in time to kick off Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in November. The Kick It 5K is presented by Baptist Memorial Health Care and will be held at Shelby Farms Park beginning at 1 p.m. Runners, walkers, or anyone who would like to support the race can register and/or donate to the cause on the event’s website at <https://kickit5k.raceroster.com/>.

“We are thrilled to host our 14th annual Kick It 5K on Sunday, October 27, to kick off November’s Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month,” said Alan Kosten, chairman of the Kosten Foundation.

“This event has always been about more than just raising funds; it’s about bringing the community together to support each other and to make strides in pancreatic cancer research.”

In honor of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, the Kick It 5K will feature a pre-race ceremony led by Rabbi Jeff Dreyfus honoring pancreatic cancer survivors and those lost to pancreatic cancer. Members of the Kosten Foundation’s pancreatic cancer support group will speak, survivors in attendance will be recognized, and the names of friends and family lost to the disease will be read aloud as a tribute. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.



5K team capturing the day’s moments at the photo booth.

Runners or walkers may register for \$40 to participate in the 5K run or 1-mile walk and enjoy One & Only BBQ after they run or walk. Participants will also enjoy celebrity emcee Ron Olson, live entertainment, MemPops on-site, and a complimentary photo booth. The Kick It 5K is the Kosten Foundation’s largest fundraising event with last year’s race raising \$150,000 to fund three research teams dedicated to finding a cure for pancreatic cancer.

The Kosten Foundation has raised and donated more than \$2.5 million to pancreatic cancer research programs. The Foundation hosts a free monthly support group meeting for pancreatic cancer patients, survivors, and anyone



else affected by the disease. Those interested in learning more about the Kosten Foundation’s mission or sponsoring the Kick It 5K can find more information on their website at kostenfoundation.com. [HW](#)




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