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The High Holidays Brought High Spirits During Yom Kippur at MJHR



Yom Kippur guests gather in the auditorium for Break Fast.

By Jasmine Williams

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) was thrilled to open its doors to the community to celebrate Yom Kippur with our residents last weekend. This past weekend was only the second Yom Kippur that MJHR was able to welcome outside guests since the COVID-19 pandemic, and it sure was a special time.

Services were held in the Belz Synagogue by Rabbi Ilai Grunwald and amazing volunteers. From Friday night to Saturday evening, the Home hosted over 25 people who performed the highest mitzvah of helping to form a minyan for the residents. They stayed in rooms across the Home and participated in services all day.

Every High Holiday, the volunteers show up with more excitement than they did the previous year, and they are always ready to serve and support the Home as much as they can. It is always great to see the community connect and interact with the residents as well. MJHR would like to thank the Grunwald family, the volunteers from the Kollel, and the Buring family for their special efforts to ensure our residents enjoyed a meaningful holiday.

Jacob Buring, a longtime volunteer, said, "It was amazing as always. Thank you to the staff for making sure it all happened. We can tell that word is getting out about our wonderful experience, and the next holiday season may

be a crowded one!"

During the traditional Break Fast on Saturday night, guests and residents had many delicious options to choose from including gefilte fish, hummus and fruit trays, and assorted desserts. Alongside the delicious and abundant dinner spread, there was an impressive ice sculpture to make the occasion feel as special as it was.

Bobby Meadows reflected on his 11th Yom Kippur as executive director. "The Home is unbelievably grateful to welcome the Jewish community and other guests to celebrate the High Holidays every year," he said. "There is no better feeling than seeing the residents excited to connect with our community mem-



Roxane, director of Dining Services.

bers, and the community members connect right back."

None of the High Holiday celebrations at the Home would be possible without the Ben and Larisa Baer Jewish Activities Fund. We are grateful to the Baer family for their support of Jewish enrichment at the MJHR.

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. Find more information at www. memphisjewishhome.org/giving. HW

Bornblum Middle Kicks off Artist-in-Residence Project



Artist Ephraim Urevbu speaks to Bornblum Jewish Community School students after their field trip to the National Civil Rights Museum on October 10 at his gallery, Urevbu Contemporary.

Thanks to the Cultures of Belonging grant from Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools, students at Bornblum Middle will have the opportunity to work with artist Ephraim Urebvu throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

Urebvu, originally from Nigeria, founded the South Main Arts District more than 25 years ago. For the past nine years, he has created powerful paintings, collectively known as, "The Naked Truth." The collection, which includes more than 150 original works, as well as a collection of tiles that merge art and technology, tells the story of the struggle for civil rights.

"My goal is to use my art as a vehicle to educate and open dialogue about the history of civil rights in America and to inspire others to use their own talents to tell their stories of struggle and survival," he explained.

With Urevbu's help and inspiration, students at Bornblum Middle will have the opportunity to learn about the struggle for civil rights and to look at Jewish contributions to this critical part of American and Memphis history. By the end of the year, each Bornblum Middle student will produce an art tile, embedded with technology, that will tell a story of the interaction between the Jewish and Black communities in the struggle for equality. The Bornblum Project is called: Tiles of Unity: Shared Stories of Solidarity.

"We are very excited that our students will have an extended experience with

(See Bornblum Page 3)



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Memphis Night of Jewish Learning



Attendees of the 2023 Memphis Night of Jewish Learning gather in the lobby of the MJCC in between sessions.

By Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel

As Jews, one of practices we share, regardless of denominational affiliation, is Torah study. We each look to the vast and ever-growing Jewish library for inspiration and meaning. Now in its second year, the Memphis Night of Jewish Learning, Sunday, November 10, will bring together Memphis community rabbis and educators to facilitate an evening of study. There are so many ways that each of us can connect to Jewish texts and ideas, and our hope is that you will find offerings that can enrich your Jewish connection.

The Memphis Night of Jewish Learning is also an opportunity for you to study with that educator or rabbi that you've always wanted to hear from, but never had the chance! Each teacher will be presenting their session twice to enable participants to choose from a variety of classes. The confirmed teachers for the evening are: Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown (MHA-FYOS), Rabbi Joel Finkelstein (Baron Hirsch), Rabbi Ilai and Sarit Grunwald (Torah Mitzion Memphis), Rabbi Sarit Horwitz (Beth Sholom), Rabbi Levi Klein (Chabad), Rabbi Ross Levy (Temple Israel), Rabbi Ian Lichter (Baron Hirsch), Rabbi Akiva Males (Young Israel), Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel (MJCC) and Dr. Daniel Weiss (Bornblum).

The doors of the JCC will open at 6 p.m., and the evening's first set of classes will start at 6:30 p.m. You can register at jccmemphis.org/jewishlife or by calling the front desk, 901-761-0810 (class #11114). Registration includes catered dinner and one drink ticket. HW

Meet BBYO's Meredith Epstein



Meredith Epstein ~ 11th Grade Member of River City BBG Delta Region's 77th MIT Mom

When going through the chapter selection process, I immediately knew River City BBG was where I belong. I knew a bunch of the girls in the chapter, and it was an added bonus that my mom was River City N'siah as a teen!

I have spent 2 years on the River City BBG board in various leadership positions. I spent 12 days this summer at CLTC (chapter leadership training conference). There I learned many ways to help lead River City BBG to success. BBYO has taught me many leadership skills that I know I will use later in my life.

After an amazing summer at CLTC, I was elected to be Delta Region's 77th MIT Mom. This means I am in charge of recruiting new members into BBYO throughout the entire region. I love BBYO because of the welcoming and loving community that I am greeted by at every event or convention. I also love meeting new teens from not just Memphis but all around the world. I will forever be grateful for every experience I am offered through this amazing program. HW



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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. October 25, 2024 / 23 Tishrei, 5785 5:54 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. October 26, 2024 / 24 Tishrei, 5785 6:49 p.m.

> Simchat Torah **Weekly Torah Portion: Bereishit**

Man Charged with Hate Crimes for Car-Ramming Attack in Brooklyn

(JNS) - The Shmira Public Safety organization shared an online video depicting a driver yelling an antisemitic threat, accelerating his car towards a Jewish man and driving up on the sidewalk in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Police arrested Muhammad Hashim, 31, the man allegedly behind the wheel

who said "I'm gonna kill you f***** Jews," on Oct. 12 at 12:20 a.m.

Hashim had returned to the scene of the crime shortly after the incident, prompting Shmira patrol units to follow him, photograph the car and call the New York City Police Department.

The Jewish safety group says Hashim attempted to hit the 43-year-old Jewish man. According to police, the charges do not reflect that claim.

Prosecutors charged Hashim with reckless endangerment as a hate crime, second-degree reckless endangerment, aggravated harassment based on religion or race and criminal possession of a weapon, with an additional count of false personation added later. HW

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Bornblum...

(Continued From Page 1)

Mr. Urebvu this year. Not only will they learn about the Civil Rights Movement, but they will personalize that history by examining Jewish contributions and then creating art that speaks to what they've learned," says Jill Cross, Bornblum's director of Curriculum and Instruction.

According to Bornblum Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, "Our partnership with Mr. Urebvu is exactly the type of learning that makes Bornblum Middle such a unique and powerful place to spend the middle school years. Students have the opportunity to explore and interact with the world around them. to challenge themselves, and to create impactful projects that are informed by their Jewish heritage and values, while seeking solutions to important problems in our world."

Bornblum Middle students kicked off their year with Urebvu on October 10 with a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum and his gallery on South Main. At the museum, students received profiles of Memphis Jewish community members who were engaged with the Civil Rights Movement and participated in a scavenger hunt looking for intersections between the work of these Jewish leaders and the events described

in the Museum exhibits. They also had a session with Dory Lerner, museum educator, about the impact of the arts on the movement. Following the museum visit, students went to Urebvu's gallery where they processed what they learned at the museum and began to learn how to create art tiles.

In the second and third quarters of the year, students will have sessions with Urebvu and others who will teach them about the struggle for civil rights and Jewish voices that made a difference by working for equal rights for all Americans. They will also travel to Birmingham, where they will visit the historic Temple Beth El's civil rights exhibit and visit several key sites that were important in the struggle for equality.

In the final quarter of the year, students will work with Urebvu weekly to create tiles that reflect their learning. Each tile will have a QR code that will link to the research and stories the students create.

"We know our students are going to have a meaningful year with Mr. Urebvu, and we are excited that the product of their work, the art tiles, will become a permanent installation at Bornblum," says Dr. Weiss. "We can't wait to share updates and the final project with the entire Memphis community." 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 28 Ask the Rabbi

Speaker: Rabbi Yosef Braha

Join Rabbi Braha with one of his most popular, fun and energetic discussions. Many may have questions about the recent Jewish holidays or any other topic. This is a great way to get answers about all your questions.

Wednesday, October 30 **End of Month Bingo**

There will be 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!

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Monday, November 4 Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter Topic: Avraham's Journey Still **Resonates Within Us**

Come hear this dynamic speaker. No reservations are needed for the talk.

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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On Tour in South America, Paul McCartney Attends Yom Kippur Services in Santiago, Chile

By Juan Melamed

(JTA) - You could say he said sorry with a little help from his friends.

Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, attended Yom Kippur services last Saturday with his Jewish wife in Santiago, Chile. He had performed a solo concert there that Friday night, the beginning of the Jewish holiday of atonement.

Ariela Agosin, president of Chile Jewish Community, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that McCartney had arranged his attendance at the Círculo Israelita Synagogue through a friend but that very few in the congregation had been aware in advance that he would be present.

"It was very moving to have the presence of Sir Paul and his wife, Nancy Shevell, among us," Agosin said. "Of course, as a community we feel honored by their company and respect the moment of recognition they wanted to give by attending Yizkor, the memorial service of the deceased."

Shevell's father, Myron, died in 2022; her mother, Arlene, a cousin of Barbara Walters, died in 1991.

Photos taken in Santiago show Mc-

THE "WOW" HOUSE IS GONE!

Cartney and Shevell entering and leaving the modernist synagogue building, designed by Chilean Jewish architect Jaime Bendersky Smuclir, as well as wearing a white kippah while inside. McCartney left shortly after the service for Brazil, where he is due to play several concerts this week.

Claudio Epelman, executive director of the Latin American Jewish Congress, the regional branch of the World Jewish Congress, told JTA that McCartney's participation had provided valuable visibility for Jewish life in Chile, home to

an estimated 18,000 Jews.

"Paul's presence in a Jewish religious ceremony contributes to the consolidation of the interreligious diversity that Chile has," Epelman said. "That is a very valuable asset."

It is not the first time that McCartney has surprised Jewish worshippers by showing up at services with Shevell, a New York Jew whom he married in 2011. The day before their civil wedding, they attended Yom Kippur services at St John's Wood's Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London, the "Jewish Chronicle" reported at the time. He has also reportedly attended Yom Kippur prayers at New York City's Temple Emanu-El in the past.

McCartney's first wife, Linda Eastman, was also Jewish; the couple were married from 1969 until Eastman's death in 1998. In 2008, shortly after starting to date Shevell, a former member of New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority board, McCartney performed in Israel, saying while there that he supported a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His current tour, called "Get Back," has no planned stops in Israel, which banned The Beatles from performing in 1965 out of concern about the moral influence of the pioneering band.

Among the thousands of fans at Mc-Cartney's Friday night concert was Chilean President Gabriel Boric, a harsh critic of Israel and of Chilean Jews who support it. HW









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Hamas Chief Yahya Sinwar Killed in Gaza



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

(JTA) – Yahya Sinwar, the architect of the deadliest attack on Israel in its history, was killed in a firefight with Israeli forces

"Yahya Sinwar planned and executed the October 7th Massacre, promoted his murderous ideology both before and during the war, and was responsible for the murder and abduction of many Israelis," the army said last Thursday in a statement. "Yahya Sinwar was eliminated after hiding for the past year behind the civilian population of Gaza, both above and below ground in Hamas tunnels in the Gaza Strip."

"Kan," Israel's government-run news agency, earlier quoted senior official sources as saying that DNA testing confirmed that the Hamas chief was one of three terrorists killed in a shootout last Thursday with Israeli forces in Rafah, the city on the Gaza-Egypt border.

"Kan" also reported that Israeli police have confirmed the killing through dental records held from the period Sinwar spent in an Israeli prison.

Photos of a man resembling Sinwar with part of his head blown off circulated on social media and the army had earlier said that it was seeking to confirm whether a slain man resembling Sinwar was indeed the terrorist leader.

Sinwar's possible death comes just over two months after he ascended to Hamas' top position, following the assassination attributed to Israel of the terror group's political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July.

Both before and since, U.S. officials vied Sinwar as the principal obstacle to a ceasefire that would include the re-

lease of hostages. His killing could accelerate the hostages' release and an end to the war in Gaza even as fighting has intensified in Lebanon and the threat of an Iran war still looms. A major success for Israel could also tamp down tensions between the Netanyahu and Biden governments.

There were official hints that Sinwar was killed. Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defense minister, posted on X a trio of portraits: A blank one with a red X, flanked by photos of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and Mohammed Deif, Sinwar's deputy, with red Xs over their faces. Israel in recent months assassinated Deif and Nasrallah.

"You will pursue your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword.' – Leviticus 26. Our enemies cannot hide," Gallant tweeted. "We will pursue and eliminate them."

The army released a photo of the heads of the army and the Shin Bet, the internal security service, consulting with each other in an aircraft, with no further explanation. Such photos have previously hinted at a major operation.

Sinwar plotted the Hamas invasion on Oct. 7, 2023, in which about 1,200 people in Israel were massacred and another 250 abducted. The attack launched a war that has roiled the Middle East and Israel's relations with the United States and much of the world. It has also resulted in the deaths of more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza, of whom a substantial portion have been civilians, and the displacement of almost all of the strip's 2 million residents.

Documents recovered by the Israe-li army and delivered in recent days to major Western news outlets revealed that Sinwar hoped to draw Iran and Hezbollah into the war, and hoped for Israel's demise within the next few years. Both entities intensified their engagement with Israel but resisted full involvement until recent weeks. Sinwar reportedly still hoped for the conflagration to metastasize and resisted deals for a ceasefire that would effectively require Hamas' surrender.

Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based terrorist group, intensified its rocket attacks on Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, leading to the evacuation of tens of thousands of Israeli and Lebanese civilians on both sides of the border. But the conflict in the north did not intensify until the summer. Israel assassinated Nasrallah and much of the Hezbollah leadership last month and continue to battle in Lebanon.

Jonathan Schanzer, vice president of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, said Sinwar's killing would be a game changer that could accelerate the release of some 100 hostages still held in Gaza. He noted that much of Hamas' leadership has been eliminated, with just Khaled Meshaal, the only name with international resonance, left alive in Qatar.

"If he's gone it leaves a huge vacuum," he said about Sinwar. "There is considerable leverage for the U.S. to force the release of hostages, to force surrender, to force the extradition of Meshaal to Israel, the U.S. or a third country."

Sinwar and his two companions were killed in a shootout last Wednesday with conscripted soldiers from a non-elite unit who did not know whom they were confronting, "Kan" reported. Despite recent reports that Sinwar was using hostages as a human shield, hostages were not found in the vicinity. Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had informed the

families that no hostages were known to be affected by the killing.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a leading group advocating for the families, applauded Sinwar's likely death in a social media post and said it should be seen as a path to securing the release of the remaining hostages, of whom about one third are known to be dead.

"While acknowledging the significant achievement, the families of the hostages express grave concern for the fate of 101 men, women and children, still held captive by Hamas, and urge leveraging this major achievement into an immediate deal to secure hostages' return," the group said. "We call on the Israeli government, world leaders, and mediating countries to leverage the military achievement into a diplomatic one by pursuing an immediate agreement for the release of all 101 hostages: the living for rehabilitation and the murdered for proper burial."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant called for Hamas to surrender and for the release of hostages, some of whom are believed to be held in the homes of families.

"Sinwar died while beaten, persecuted and on the run – he didn't die as a commander, but as someone who only cared for himself," Gallant said in remarks his office distributed on video. "This is a clear message to all of our enemies – the IDF will reach anyone who attempts to harm the citizens of Israel or our security forces, and we will bring you to justice."

Gershon Baskin, an Israeli who in 2011 helped negotiate the exchange of Sinwar among more than a thousand Palestinian prisoners for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, told "Kan" that any hostage deal would take at least a few days. Hamas officials, with whom Baskin still is in touch – although he said he was not able to reach any last Thursday – have previously told him that it would take at least three or four days of a total cease-fire to track down the hostages held in various places around the Gaza Strip.

Israel's war in Gaza has led to international opprobrium, which Israel says is underserved, including investigations launched against Israel and its top officials in international courts. The war, and Netanyahu's resistance to ending it, has also strained relations between the Israeli and American governments.

Schanzer said the killing would substantively shift U.S.-Israel relations. He noted that earlier this week the Biden administration had warned Israel that it needed to accelerate the entry into Gaza of humanitarian assistance or face the possibility of restrictions on weapons transfers in 30 days.

"Yesterday we were watching a spat evolve between the White House and Israel about Israel's freedom of action in Gaza over the next 30 days," he said. "That may be a moot point right now, because we already know that 23 out of 24 Hamas brigades have been destroyed. The top commanders are no longer alive. The infrastructure above ground has been destroyed. The underground infrastructure has been mapped almost entirely, and somewhere between 10 and 15% of that has been destroyed."

He predicted low-level counterinsurgency operations for now and stasis in the broader war until after the U.S. presidential elections next month, when regional powers may have a better idea of how to go forward in ending the war and rebuilding the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. **HW**

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The Kosher Nashville Hot Chicken Festival and Jewish Arts & Music Festival Return on November 3



Former Memphian Ari Zelig, along with Omer Netzer, Ada Pasternak, Them Vibes and Cantor Josh Goldberg, will perform at Nashville's 3rd Annual Jewish Arts & Music (JAM) Festival.

By Rachel Clark

Two of the most anticipated events on the Nashville/Middle Tennessee Jewish Community calendar return on November 3, 2024.

All are welcome to the 9th Annual Kosher Nashville Hot Chicken Festival PLUS the 3rd Annual Jewish Arts & Music (JAM) Festival taking place at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on November 3. The events occur simultaneously on the lower soccer field by the outdoor pool. Gates open at noon sharp, and if you are planning to come for the Kosher Hot Chicken, we recommend you arrive early as chicken will be available during the 12-3 p.m.(ish) window, however the event will continue on beyond that

Tasting tickets will be needed for team samples, which can be purchased online

or at the gates. Before attending the Festival, please join us for the Kosher Hot Chicken Pickleball Tournament, held at the JCC on the outdoor courts by the pool. Learn more about the tournament at nashvillejcc.org/adultsports

JAM FEST will feature kosher food options – including Kosher Hot Chicken and several other food offerings. Rhizome Productions will be offering beer and non-alcoholic beverages for sale.

The Kosher Hot Chicken amateur teams will be on the field along with all the vendors and music stage this year, and we are excited to share that Hattie B's Hot Chicken will be on site with their food truck this year (Koshered by Rabbi Saul). They will be selling full servings and sides.

On the live music front, JAM Festival has another impressive lineup of talent!

Lineup Ari Zelig Omer Netzer Ada Pasternak Them Vibes Cantor Josh Goldberg

These events are made possible by dedicated volunteers that are passionate about this community, but we must thank our incredible donors that make it possible and FREE to attend. Thanks go out to the Gordon JCC, Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, Novick Law, Blackstone Brewing Co., Zander Insurance, Sherith Israel, The Temple, West End Synagogue, Congregation Micah, Tennessee Sign Company, The Kupin Group, and Rhizome Productions.

You can learn more about these events at www.nashjamfest.com. See you Sunday November 3, bring out the entire family and invite all of your friends! **HW**

Beverly Tsacoyianis, PhD, to Discuss 'Israel and the Concept of "Settler Colonialism" at Beth Sholom's Lehrhaus Speaker Series on October 29 at 7 p.m.



Prof. Beverly Tsacoyianis, a University of Memphis historian specializing in the Middle East, will talk about the connection between the concept of settler colonialism and antisemitism at a Lehrhaus Lecture at Beth Sholom on October 29.

The term "settler colonialism" is a concept in modern history rife with political implications in academia and in

activist circles protesting specific conditions around the world, from Australia and South Africa to Canada, the United States and Israel. Beverly Tsacoyianis, PhD., associate professor of history at the University of Memphis, will contextualize the concept and present arguments by various scholars to demonstrate connections to antisemitism when applied to the Arab-Israeli conflict when she speaks about "Israel and the Concept of 'Settler Colonialism,'" at Beth Sholom Synagogue on October 29 at 7 p.m.

Millions of Israelis, as well as Jews and Palestinians in their respective diasporas, are living in a time of war that personally impacts their health, safety, and sense of belonging in communities all over the world where rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and white supremacy have overlapped. Amid these humanitarian and political crises, conversations around the rise of modern nationalist movements and the process of anti-colonial and anti-imperial movements since World War I have occasionally devolved into heated debates around concepts such as "apartheid"

and "settler colonialism," with interest in comparing cases in other areas of the world to the birth of the Jewish State of Israel in 1948.

Dr. Tsacoyianis will discuss how the concept of settler colonialism has been applied by some to the Yishuv (early Jewish settlement in Palestine) and to Israel, what type of arguments scholars and political commentators have made for and against its applicability, and what the potential political ramifications are for Israeli and Palestinian communities.

Beverly Tsacoyianis focuses on the modern Middle East with interdisciplinary interests in disability, migration, trauma and gender. She wrote the 2022 CHOICE Academic Title Award-winning "Disturbing Spirits: Mental Health, Trauma, and Treatment in Modern Syria and Lebanon," published in June 2021 by the University of Notre Dame Press. She is currently co-editing a volume entitled "Disability History in the Modern Middle East," which will be published by Bloomsbury.

Dr. Tsacoyianis is a leading participant in two 2024 Diplomacy Research

Lab-funded projects. She is co-principal investigator with political science professor Dursun Peksen for "Civic Engagement and Education through Analysis of Conflict and Trauma" and is part of a multi-disciplinary team for a project titled "Role of Public Health Diplomacy in the 21st Century."

Professor Tsacoyianis has been teaching graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Memphis since 2013, including courses titled "the Ottoman Empire," "the Modern Middle East," "the Arab-Israeli conflict," "World since 1945," "Islamic History to 1405 CE," and "Islamic History since 1405 CE" as well as courses on the global history of science, medicine and technology. She is also the faculty advisor for the University of Memphis's Epsilon Nu chapter of the national history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta.

Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom takes its inspiration from The Free Jewish House of Learning, the school for Jewish studies and adult education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt in 1920. Lectures in this series are free and open to the general public. HW

Police Unable to Find Suspect in Theft of School Plaque Honoring Tree of Life

(JNS) – According to a spokesperson from Pittsburgh Public Schools, the district does not know who stole a plaque at Taylor Allderdice High School donated by the 2018-19 boys' basketball team in memory of the 11 Jewish worshippers shot and killed by a lone gunman at the Tree of Life*Or Simcha Synagogue on the morning of Oct. 27, 2018.

Law enforcement also doesn't seem to know when someone took the memorial from the school in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, the same neighborhood as the synagogue.

Officials say they ordered a replacement, and that "we remain committed to honoring the victims' memory and the importance of this memorial in our community."

On July 2, the Tree of Life synagogue received a bomb threat the FBI reviewed and determined not credible. On May 17, a judge denied the request for a second trial of Robert Bowers, the man convicted of the 2018 mass shooting. **HW**



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IDF Troops Build First Sukkah in Gaza Since 2005



A sukkah ahead of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot in the streets of a haredi neighborhood in Jerusalem, Oct. 13, 2024. Credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90.

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces soldiers have erected a sukkah in the Netzarim Corridor dividing northern and southern Gaza ahead of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, which started on Wednesday, Hebrew media reported.

It is the first time a sukkah has been built in Gaza since Israel disengaged from the enclave in 2005, forcibly removing some 8,000 Jews from their homes.

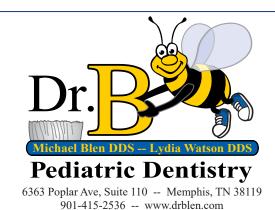
During the weeklong Sukkot holiday, which this year started at sundown on Oct. 16 and runs through Oct. 23, Jews erect festive booths across the Jewish state, in keeping with the biblical commandment of Leviticus 23:42-43 to "dwell" in sukkot to remember the Exodus from Egypt.

Amid the ongoing IDF campaigns against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in

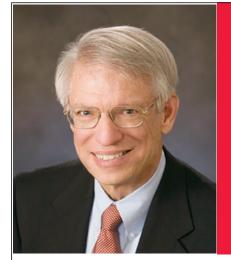
Southern Lebanon, the IDF Rabbinate is this year providing troops with a portable sukkah, which meets all the requirements of Jewish law but can be quickly assembled and disassembled in the field.

The Rabbinate also issued some 12,000 sets of the "Four Species" that have been checked by rabbis to ensure that every soldier can fulfill the holiday ritual of Leviticus 23:40 – a biblical commandment that involves waving a bundle of four plants (an etrog, or citron fruit; lulav, frond from a date palm; hadas, myrtle bough; and aravah, willow branch).

The Sukkot holiday is immediately followed by Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, which last year saw thousands of Hamas terrorists invade Israel, killing some 1,200 people, primarily Jews, while taking 251 captives to the Gaza Strip. **HW**







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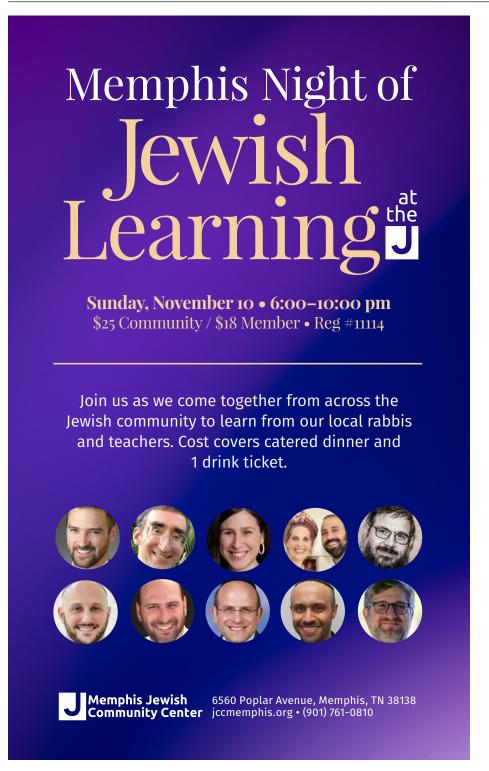
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Watch for These Hazards on the Road to Retirement

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

On the road to retirement, be on the lookout for hazards that can hamper your progress. Here are five potential risks that can slow you down.

Traveling aimlessly

Embarking on an adventure without a destination can be exciting, but not when it comes to retirement. Before starting any investing journey, the first step is setting a realistic goal. You'll need to consider a number of factors – your desired lifestyle, salary/income, health, future Social Security benefits, any traditional pension benefits you or your spouse may be entitled to, and others. Examining your personal situation both now and in the future will help you home in on a target.

While some people prefer to establish a lump-sum goal amount – for example, \$1 million or more – others find a large number daunting. Another option is to focus on how much you might need on a monthly basis during retirement. Regardless of the approach taken, be sure to factor in inflation, which can place unexpected curves in your path.

Investing too aggressively...

You may also encounter potholes when trying to target an appropriate rate of return. Retirement investors aiming for the highest possible returns might want to overweight their portfolio in the most aggressive – and risky – investments available. Although it's generally wise to invest at least some of a retirement portfolio in higher-risk

investments to help outpace inflation, the proportion and individual investment selections should be determined strategically. Investments seeking to achieve higher returns involve a higher degree of risk. Appropriate decisions will reflect your goal, your investment time horizon, and your general ability to withstand volatility.

...Or too conservatively

On the other hand, if you're afraid of losing any money at all, you might favor the most conservative investments, which strive to protect principal. Yet investing too conservatively can also be risky. If your portfolio does not earn enough, you may fall short of your goal and end up with a far different retirement lifestyle than you originally imagined.

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.

Giving in to temptation

Most people experience an unplanned detour on the road to retirement – the need for a new car, an unexpected home repair, an unforeseen medical expense, or the opportunity to take a long, exotic vacation.

During these times, your retirement portfolio may loom as a potential source of funding. But think twice before tapping these assets, particularly if the money is in a tax-deferred account such as an employer-sponsored plan or IRA.

Consider that:

- Any dollars you remove from your portfolio will no longer be working for your future.
- In most cases, you will generally have to pay regular income taxes on amounts that represent tax-deferred investment dollars and earnings.
- If you're under age 59½, you may have to pay an additional penalty of 10% to 25%, depending on the type of retirement plan and other factors (some emergency exceptions apply check with your plan or IRA administrator).

It's best to carefully consider all other options before using money earmarked for retirement.

Proceed with Caution



Prioritizing college over retirement

Many well-meaning parents may feel that saving for their children's college education should be a higher priority than saving for their own retirement. "We can continue working as long as needed," or "our home will fund our retirement," are common beliefs. However, these can be very risky trains of thought. While no parent wants his or her children to take on a heavy debt burden to pay for education, loans are a common and realistic college-funding option – not so for retirement. If saving for both college and retirement seems impossible, a financial professional can help you explore a variety of tools and options to assist you in balancing both goals (however, there is no assurance that working with a financial professional will improve investment results).

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New York State Man Calls for Emergency Services, Requests 'No Jewish' Medics



Ambulance in New York. Credit: Alan Batt/Pixbay

By David Swindle

(JNS) – An unnamed individual in Ramapo, N.Y., called to request medical care but when an emergency crew arrived, he insisted that no Jews be inside the ambulance for the trip to the hospital.

In a video posted on social media, audio from one first responder plays in which he asks a dispatch officer, "The

patient is requesting no Jewish providers on the ambulance. Can you see if we could accommodate?"

The answer: "Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate that request."

Yossi Gestetner, executive director and co-founder of the Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council, shared the exchange online.

"The incident happened on Sunday, Oct. 13, at around 7:40 in the evening," Gestetner told JNS. "There, a person claimed to have needed medical care on the street. Local/911 EMS (Spring Hill and Faist) showed up, so he started acting up. Both of those ambulance corps are largely staffed by volunteers who are visibly Jewish."

Gestetner said the man was checked after claiming that he was hit by a vehicle at an intersection but ended up walking away from the scene. **HW**



Point • Counterpoint (see page 10)

A Jewish and Former Democratic Congressman's Case for Electing Donald Trump in 2024

By Peter Deutsch

(JTA) – Voters weigh their values and priorities before casting their ballot for president. For me, achieving and maintaining peace in the world is the single most important issue to consider when choosing the president of the United States.

When we look at the last four years of the Harris-Biden administration versus the four years of President Trump's administration, there is no comparison. For the four years of Trump's presidency we had peace, but the world is very different today.

President Trump eliminated the funding to Iran when he withdrew the United States from the nuclear agreement with Iran. Iran was on its knees financially and could not fund its terrorist proxies, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis. Harris-Biden ordered the suspension of Iran sanctions, allowing as much as \$100 billion dollars to flow to Iran, money which has been used by Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis to kill Americans, Israelis, and citizens of many other countries.

President Trump designated the Houthis as a terrorist organization in January 2021. The Harris-Biden administration removed that designation one month later, before reversing course in January 2024.

Remember: Iran does not just want to destroy Israel; Iran wants to destroy the United States. In the Iranian parliament they chant: "Death to America – Death to Israel." Iran is trying to build nuclear warheads to put on ballistic missiles to attack the United States. Hundreds of those same ballistic missiles were sent by Iran directly at Israel.

President Trump had a credible policy of using American force when necessary, including eliminating Iran's terrorist mastermind, Oasem Soleimani, leader of the Iranian Quds Force. The Harris-Biden administration has effectively removed that policy. Iran attempted to assassinate President Trump on American soil and is plotting to assassinate former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former National Security Director John Bolton and other senior officials. These threats are credible and serious, according to recent reports. When the United States is seen as weak, deterrence fails and threats increase.

I think that there is a disconnect sometimes when President Trump says something that no other elected official would say. Sometimes we forget that President Trump is not a politician. Sometimes we forget that his election to president in 2016 was unprecedented in American history. He has said things that I would not say. Sometimes his sarcasm and attempts at humor offend people. But when we judge him on his actions, his policies and what he achieved for the American people, I think the picture is clearer.

I don't take any of this lightly. All four of my grandparents were Democrats their entire lives. My parents were Democrats their entire lives. None of the six ever voted for a Republican. I have been a Democrat since I registered to vote at 18. There is no one who can question my lifelong loyalty to the Democratic Party. In 2000, I wrote checks for more money to the Al Gore presidential campaign than anyone else in the United States. On Jan. 6, 2001,

I made the motion on the floor of the United States Congress to challenge the certification of the election of George W. Bush. I was a Democratic elected official for 22 years, 12 of which I spent in the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Florida.

Over the course of my career, I had the distinction of hiring and mentoring two future leaders of today's Democratic Party. Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, the former chair of the Democratic National Committee, was my chief of staff in the Florida state legislature, and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro was an aide in my congressional office.

Since leaving office in 2004, I have divided my time between Florida and Israel, where my children and grand-children live.

I have only voted for a Republican one time in my life, in 1980. I voted for Ronald Reagan when he ran against the incumbent Jimmy Carter, because Carter's policies of weakness and appeasement were an existential threat to America, Israel and the world. I will cast my second vote for a Republican on Nov. 5, 2024, for very similar reasons.

There are many other policy issues that voters may consider when electing a president. I am personally more aligned with President Trump's positions opposing illegal immigration and transgender students competing in high school girls' sports. As a founder of Hebrew-language charter schools, I favor school choice, a Republican-aligned idea that Democrat Bill Clinton did as president. Our economy was thriving under President Trump. He implemented many

ideas that "experts" said were crazy, but the fact is that his policies worked. President Trump also passed the bipartisan "First Step Act" regarding criminal justice reform that the "experts" said could never be passed (and Kamala Harris voted for that legislation).

Those are issues that matter to me. Other people may prioritize issues like abortion, health care or entitlement reform. Those are important national conversations for us to have. But I believe deeply that given the existential threats we face today, our security and our strength in the world are a prerequisite for those necessary conversations. When our economy is strong, when our military, intelligence and diplomatic advantages are clear, then our country, our allies and our values are secure. Under President Trump, we were much stronger and safer than we are today. We can't afford four more years of weakness and rising threats.

To me, the choice before voters this year is clear. The world is a very dangerous place due to the Harris-Biden administration's foreign policy. The world will become a much more dangerous place if Kamala Harris gets a promotion and is elected our 47th president. Under President Trump, the United States experienced four years of peace and prosperity. We can expect more of the same in the next four under a second Trump Administration.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media, nor The Hebrew Watchman. **HW**

Biden Updates Congress on U.S. Military's Mideast Posture

(JNS) – U.S. President Joe Biden updated congressional leadership last Tuesday regarding Middle East developments and U.S. military preparations in keeping with America's "longstanding commitment to Israel's security."

United States forces will remain in the region to serve important national interests, including protecting U.S. persons and property, against attacks from Iran and Iranian-aligned militias, he wrote.

The United States will continue to support the defense of Israel, an "ironclad" commitment, he added.

"In this context, I directed the deployment to Israel of a ballistic missile defense system and United States service members capable of operating it to defend against any further ballistic missile attacks," Biden wrote.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, pursuant to Biden's request, ordered a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery (THAAD) and about 100 soldiers to Israel over the weekend. Battery components began arriving in Israel last Monday.

The United States helped Israel fend off Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel on Oct. 1.

"Our shared success on October 1 included downing dozens of incoming Iranian weapons before they could harm civilians in Israel," Biden wrote.

U.S. forces also downed rockets during the April 13 Iranian attack, the first-ever direct attack on Israel from Iranian territory.

The president also updated congressional leadership on the positioning of U.S. forces in the region, including the extension of time at sea of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

The USS Abraham Lincoln CSG replaces the previously extended USS Theodore Roosevelt CSG.

"We also have deployed additional destroyers, including some that are ballistic missile defense-capable; the guided missile submarine USS Georgia, the USS Wasp Amphibious Ready Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit, multiple fighter and attack squadrons of Fourth and Fifth Generation Fighters including F-22, F-15E, and F-16, as well as A-10 attack aircraft; and other forces," Biden wrote. **HW**

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Point • Counterpoint (continued from page 9)

An Israeli-American Activist's Case for Electing Kamala Harris

By Esther Sperber

(JTA) – I was born and raised in Israel, the oldest of 10 siblings, in a liberal-minded Orthodox Jewish family. I love my family, a diverse gang of smart people who respect one another even when disagreeing. Politically we are a mixed group. Some of us are fiscally conservative or libertarian. Others are traditional liberals who believe in a social safety net.

Although only three of us live in the United States, we are all American citizens and eligible voters in the November elections. We share a concern for the State of Israel and for the safety of Jews in the United States.

Like many in the United States, we know this election is important. We are shaken by the events of the last year, after the horrific attack on Oct. 7, 2023, in Israel and the rise of antisemitism in the United States. My votes in November must address these concerns along with my values. I will vote for Kamala Harris – for myself, for my siblings here and for my family in Israel.

Vice President Harris shares many of my values, including an unflinching commitment to reproductive freedom and unshakable respect for the dignity of all people. The Biden-Harris presidency prioritized clean energy in the Inflation Reduction Act and rebuilding America's infrastructure. The Child Tax Credit cut child poverty in half and their administration added 7.9 million jobs. But even for those who do not prioritize these policies, Kamala Harris is a person you can trust. She is conscientious, responsible and defends the rule of law.

President Biden and Vice President Harris have demonstrated their ironclad commitment to Israel. I clearly remember how moved I was while listening to President Biden on Oct. 10, 2023, saying, "Let me say again ... anyone thinking of taking advantage of this situation, I have one word: Don't. Don't. And let there be no doubt: The United States has Israel's back." These statements went beyond words. They were backed by large aircraft carriers and billions of dollars in aid and military support (which Republicans – including JD Vance – delayed for six months). As an organizer for the Hostages Families Forum, I have heard firsthand how committed Biden and Harris have been to the hostages' families, and the warmth and empathy they express.

But Israel's safety does not depend on military accomplishments alone; security is achieved by forging alliances and international agreements. Israel benefits from U.S. leadership. In April, we saw this in action, when a coalition of the United States, France, moderate Arab allies and Israel collaborated to destroy nearly all of the Iranian-launched missiles before they reached Israel's airspace. When Iran directed another barrage of ballistic missiles toward Israeli cities on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the United States and other partners stepped up again to help defend the Jewish state.

This didn't happen by accident or in a vacuum. It was possible, in part, because President Biden and Vice President Harris restored international and diplomatic trust after the erratic and unstable Trump presidency.

Experts in security, including 741 bipartisan former national security officials, endorsed Harris for president, calling Trump "impulsive and ill-informed." "This election is a choice between serious leadership and vengeful impulsiveness," they wrote. "Vice President Harris would make an excellent Commander-in-Chief, while Mr. Trump

has proven he is not up to the job."

To be sure, Trump's impulsiveness can at times benefit Israel – moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem and finalizing the Abraham Accords were examples of that. But he has not described his vision for the region, most likely because he does not have one. I worry what an isolationist, "America First" ticket would do when Israel needs America's help. Only four of Trump's 44 Cabinet-level appointees endorsed him, an alarming statement from those who worked with him most closely during his presidency.

In the United States, many Jews worry about the rise of antisemitism, and Vice President Harris is one of our strongest champions. She served as a key driver behind the nation's first-ever national strategy to counter antisemitism. Doug Emhoff, her Jewish spouse, has emerged as a forceful voice against the epidemic of Jew hatred. "Part of fighting hate is living openly and proudly as a Jew and celebrating our faith and our culture," he said in August. What could be a better example of living "openly and proudly as a Jew" than having the "First Mensch" in the White House?

In 2022, Donald Trump hosted the white supremacist Nick Fuentes and Kanye West for dinner at Mar-a-Lago. Trump and Vance repeatedly denigrate immigrants, Muslims and women. Last November, Trump promised to "root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country." As Jews, we know what happens when that type of hate speech continues unabated, because it tends to end up targeting us as well.

Trump recently, and not for the first time, trafficked in explicitly antisemit-

ic rhetoric, claiming that if he loses the presidential elections, "The Jewish people would really have a lot to do with that." Blaming Jews, a minority group, for the election results is blatantly antisemitic. When you remember the Trump MAGA supporters' reaction to his loss in 2020, when you recall the horrors of Jan. 6, this statement is terrifying.

The challenges the next president will face at home and abroad are vast. The solutions are not simple. But the values that will guide Kamala Harris are clear. She is the responsible, honest and steadfast president that my family in the United States and in Israel need.

I will be voting for Harris because she will support each of my brothers and sisters. She will fight antisemitism for Shevi who lives in Princeton, New Jersey, and protect LGBTQ rights for my lesbian sister, Avigail. She will maintain freedom of religion for David, soon to be a Reform rabbi, and affirm the U.S. commitment to Israel's security for Yossi, an educator and military hawk. She will expand healthcare coverage for Sara, who is a social worker, and care for the dignity of all people for my sister, Shoshi, a lover of all humans. She will promote responsible economic policies for Yehuda, a business entrepreneur, and defend reproductive freedom for Shuli, who studies victims of sexual

I am excited to vote for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz because they share my values, and they will protect my family and our people.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media, nor The Hebrew Watchman. **HW**

USAID Package Found in Hezbollah Weapons Cache

By David Isaac

(JNS) – Evidence that U.S. aid has found its way to terrorists in Lebanon emerged almost as a footnote in a video of a Hezbollah weapons cache posted to X on Oct. 13. A box marked "USAID" (United States Agency for International Development) appears in the background.

The box, also featuring the logo of the World Food Programme (WFP), a United Nations organization, is not even remarked upon by an Israel Defense Forces officer as he details the weaponry his men found in Southern Lebanon.

Those arms included anti-tank guided missiles, heavy and light machine guns, ammunition and other military gear.

Yona Schiffmiller, director of research at NGO Monitor, a Jerusalem-based watchdog group, which has long warned about the dangers of U.S. aid being diverted to terrorists, told JNS that he can't recall seeing another more concrete example illustrating the danger of sending aid without proper oversight.

"We've certainly seen, over the years, a number of instances where USAID and the State Department gave support to organizations that glorified terrorists and promoted violence," he said. "But there's obviously a substantive difference between that and actual aid materials winding up in the hands of U.S.-designated terrorist organizations."

In this instance, Schiffmiller said it appears that the aid first went to a U.N.

agency and then was redirected to Hezbollah further downstream.

It points to the need for "very strong U.S. oversight" to ensure the ultimate beneficiaries aren't affiliated with terrorist organizations, he said.

"It's not sufficient to just say we're signing off on a U.N. project," he added. "The United States needs to know who the ultimate beneficiaries are."

The video comes in the wake of growing concerns among lawmakers that U.S.-taxpayer funded assistance meant for distressed civilian populations is finding its way to the world's worst actors

In an Oct. 9 letter, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), questioned Samantha Power, the administrator of USAID, about more than \$1 billion in U.S. humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip that has likely been misused.

He urged her to suspend the funding based on "credible reporting" that Hamas took the aid for itself.

Prompting Cotton's letter was US-AID's Sept. 30 announcement that it would provide \$336 million in additional humanitarian aid for "the people of Gaza and the West Bank affected by the ongoing conflict."

The problem of humanitarian aid ending up helping anti-humanitarian actors crops up in Gaza, Lebanon and Judea and Samaria, Schiffmiller said.

He's seen it with U.S. policy in Ye-

men as well, where regulations make aid susceptible to falling into the hands of terror groups.

"All sorts of waivers have been given that would allow payments to be made to Houthi-controlled institutions by humanitarian actors," he said.

The WFP received \$80 million in U.S. funds since Dec. 2023 for its Lebanon operations.

As NGO Monitor calls for more U.S. anti-terror oversight, WFP and groups like it call for less. WFP asserts that it infringes on "humanitarian principles," said Schiffmiller.

Schiffmiller has warned the U.S. Congress about taxpayer funds going to Palestinian Arab NGOs that celebrate violence, most recently in written testimony on May 14 to the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

In 2021, NGO Monitor produced a report, "USAID-funded Palestinian NGOs: Introducing Children to Convicted Terrorists," that included many examples of U.S.-funded groups who lauded convicted terrorists as "role models," praised "specific acts of terrorism" and encouraged children to support violence and the taking of hostages.

That report supplied examples from 2015 to 2019, according to Schiffmiller. It came in tandem with a Government

Accountability Office (GAO) report on an audit of USAID to Judea, Samaria and Gaza for the same period, which found that "in a number of instances, USAID did not properly implement anti-terror vetting regulations," he said.

USAID declined to comment for this report.

However, it emerges from a July 25 report by the USAID Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG), which provides independent oversight of USAID's programs, that in Gaza, USAID relies on partners to report "alleged misconduct."

This is largely due to U.S. Embassy travel restrictions, which prevent U.S. government personnel from traveling to Gaza, preventing USAID staff from monitoring first-hand agency-funded programming.

More than \$100 million of USAID assistance goes through U.N. organizations, it said.

While these organizations are required to report abuse, most only report a "small percentage" of allegations to USAID OIG.

Schiffmiller said in his testimony before Congress that U.S. vetting must include robust standards, "even when NGOs receive U.S. funds via a U.N. agency."

U.S. taxpayer funds must be kept out of the hands of organizations that celebrate terror, glorify violence and promote antisemitism, he said. **HW**





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IDF Chief at Base Hit By Hezbollah: 'We Continue to Fight'



IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi addressed soldiers and commanders at the Golani Brigade training base in northern Israel after a deadly Hezbollah drone strike on Oct. 13, 2024. Credit: IDF. (JNS) – IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi arrived at the Golani Brigade training base last Sunday night shortly after a deadly Hezbollah attack, conducting an initial briefing with commanders.

The drone strike killed four soldiers and wounded dozens more at the base located near Binyamina in northern Israel.

"We are at war, and an attack on a training base on the home front is difficult and the results are painful. You

operated well to treat and evacuate the wounded and injured. Embrace the bereaved families, accompany the wounded and strengthen the commanders and soldiers," Halevi said.

"We continue to fight and train for what lies ahead. The Golani Brigade has recorded many achievements in the war and dealt resolutely with difficult situations – continue on the path of this legacy," he continued. HW

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SARAH FREEMAN LLS House District 8

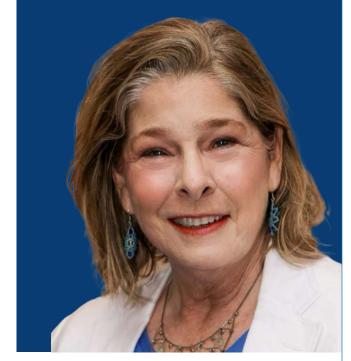
U.S. House, District 8

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- To uphold the rule of law, equally and fairly, and oppose those who place the powerful above the law
- To assist those in need and oppose those who callously disregard them
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- To give young people a chance for full, happy, and prosperous lives
- To improve public education, healthcare, and the environment
- To empower working families to be strong and secure
- To support NATO and our allies

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