PAGE 1 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS DUE NOW 901.763.2215 HebrewWatchman.com Celebrating 99 Years Happy Chanukah!



# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 25 KISLEV, 5785 DECEMBER 26, 2024 VOL. 103, NO. 13

# Giant Floral Menorah in Honor of Oct. 7 and Magic Show at Chabad's Menorah Lighting Celebration



Rabbi Levi Klein kindling the giant Menorah at last years community Chanukah celebration in front of the Memphis Chabad Center.

Once again this year, Chabad of Memphis will attempt to kindle the spark of Yiddishkeit (Jewishness) within each and every Jew with their bold public displays of Jewish pride.

"This year we have added a new twist to our Giant Menorah Lighting celebration, we will be kindling a giant outdoor floral menorah in honor of Oct. 7," said Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Memphis. "They tried to bury us, they didn't know we're seeds and we'd flourish and grow," she continued. "And we'll be having a special program in honor of Israel as well."

"It is a symbol of Jewish pride, as we come together to celebrate Chanukah as a united Jewish community and illuminate these dark times" said Rabbi Klein director of Chabad of Memphis.

"Everyone will also get to enjoy a special magic show by Memphis magician Michael Clayton as he performs his magic and illusions," added Mrs. Klein.

The festivities will get underway at 4 p.m., on Sunday, December 29, the Fifth Night of Chanukah, at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life located at 2570 Kirby Parkway.

"The festival is open to the public and all activities are free of charge" said Rabbi Klein, "and the Giant Menorah Kindling will be followed by Chanukah music, hot latkes, delicious donuts, hot apple cider, gelt, dreidels and more."

The holiday of Chanukah is a festival of victory and celebration for all times, highlighted by the kindling of menorahs each night of the holiday.

"It is a holiday replete with traditions and with display of Jewish pride and unity," said Rabbi Klein.

Chabad will be visiting the sick in the local hospitals making sure that those unable to make it to a Chanukah Party or celebration will not be left out of the Chanukah Spirit.

In its Chanukah outreach campaign, Chabad has also arranged for the erecting of several large menorahs around the Memphis area including each of the three lobbies at the Memphis international airport. They join hundreds of Chabad Centers across the globe that are staging similar massive public displays of the menorah and its symbolic lights. From Australia to Africa, Columbia to Hong Kong, The White House lawn to the world's largest menorah at Rockefeller Center in New York City, hundreds of thousands will experience the joy of Chanukah with Chabad.

"It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition," said Rabbi Klein. "In ancient times our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place."

For further information on any of the above events or if you have any questions related to Chanukah, please visit www.JewishMemphis.com or call Chabad at 901-754-0404. **HW** 

# Huge Laughs at the MJCC ~ The Living Room of the Jewish Community



A huge crowd showed up for huge laughs.

Many in our community would describe the Memphis Jewish Community Center as "the living room of the Jewish community." On December 15, the MJCC reminded everyone of how true that is to this day. The MJCC hosted A Night of Gifts and Comedy for adults and a DIY Menorah project event for children.

MJCC Board Vice Chair Jonathan Epstein said, "Food was good, room looked great, staff was friendly... Best of all, it did what I think the Center does better than anyone – bring every corner of the Jewish community together. Several people including a past president of Temple Israel and a past president of Young Israel came up to me and commented on how nice it was to see such a cross-section of the community in one place."

Over 250 were in attendance to laugh with comedians Ophira Eisenberg, Ester Steinberg and Noah Gardenswartz. Over 40 children in grades K-6 attended the DIY Menorah project which, in addition to MJCC staff overseeing the program, had a handful of BBYOers volunteering to help make the program the success it was.

For Ester and Noah, this was their second time performing for the Memphis community, having done a Zoom event in December of 2020. The event in 2020 came at a time when laughter was something we all needed as we were still in the height of COVID and not able to gather with friends. Now, in 2024, with the landscape for Jews around the world being what it is, we once again found ourselves needing a night of laughter in a room filled with members of our Jew-



A diverse Memphis crowd enjoyed good food, good entertainment and lots of laughter.

ish community. So, on December 15 at 6:30 p.m. the show began, and we got all the laughs we could handle for one and half hours.

Jeremy Weiser, chief operating officer of the MJCC, stated that one of the main goals of the event was to bring together as many people of differing ages and affiliations as they could.

"We definitely reached that goal seeing so many people here ranging as young as 21 all the way to their late 80s," said Weiser.

All those attending enjoyed drinks and food from Sam's Corner served family style at each table. Benjamin Orgel had this to say: "I had a wonderful time at the JCC's comedy night. Not only were the laughs hysterical, it was so fun being in a room with 250 Jews drinking,

eating and celebrating Hannukah at the JCC. I look forward to the JCC bringing in more events like this one to bring people together for great times like the other night."

"Everyone had a great time. Honestly, it's just nice to be in a room full of Jews for something fun and positive," said Arthur Malkin.

JCC Board Chair Judy Bookman said, "In addition to wonderful entertainment from three comedians and delicious snacks for everyone, it was wonderful to see so many from all segments of our Jewish community come together to celebrate the upcoming Chanukah season at our MJCC. I am so grateful that we have a gathering place where we can

(See MJCC Page 2)

#### MJCC...

(Continued From Page 1)



While the adults enjoyed a night of comedy, the kids made menorahconstructing memories

all share such happy moments."

While parents were laughing it up in the Belz Social Hall in the Orgel Family Performing Arts Center, their children were having a blast upstairs. The kids had pizza from Sam's Corner for dinner and then, different from the typical wood or clay DIY Menorahs, each child made their own menorah from a slab of granite.

"The goal here was to give children a menorah that they could proudly and safely use for years to come," said Weiser.

Their menorahs included a moveable brass dreidel, candleholders, a stencil to color on the word Chanukah in Hebrew, and a transparent sticker of the MJCC logo so they can always remember where they made it. Parents, don't worry, they put felt pieces on the bottom so they won't scratch up your counter and table tops. After eating and completing their menorahs, the children played gym games on the basketball court.

Hila and Nir Shimony attended the comedy event while their son attended the kids' event and had this to say: "The evening was truly uplifting. Exactly what we all needed. The laughter was great, the company was fantastic, and the comedians were absolutely wonderful! What made it even more special was being able to bring our son along, allowing him to enjoy his own fun holiday time with his friends."

The MJCC hopes to have more social events for the Jewish community in the future to continue bringing everyone together and wishes everyone a Happy Hanukkah filled with light, love and tons of laughter. HW

# Trump 'Did a Very Good Thing' with Abraham Accords, Blinken Says

(JNS) - Antony Blinken, the U.S. secretary of state, gave President-elect Donald Trump credit for his efforts, under the Abraham Accords during Trump's first term, to help Israel normalize relations with some of its Arab neighbors.

"President Trump did a very good thing the first time around with the Abraham Accords with the United Arab Emirates, with Bahrain," Blinken told Willie Geist, Jonathan Lemire, Andrea Mitchell and Mike Barnicle of MSN-BC's Morning Joe in New York last

"Now the opportunity is there—and I know this is something that the president will be focused on-to broaden that out with the Saudis," the secretary

said. "The work that we've done on putting in place the elements of that deal, including what we and Saudi Arabia would do together, what they would do with Israel, all of that is now there."

Blinken told the MSNBC hosts that his "hope is we'll move as far as we can, but it won't be complete, but we'll be able to hand it over, and then the next administration can decide how it wants to proceed.

"This would be an extraordinary success over multiple administrations to actually change the region and the future for its people," he said.

The top U.S. diplomat also told the MSNBC hosts that "President Trump will want to get a good deal going forward" in Ukraine. HW

# Hebrew Watchman

Established September, 1925 By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

> **MAILING ADDRESS** THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Office: 901.763.2215 Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman **Editor and Publisher Larry Nieman** 

**Advertising Sales Director Toni Nieman** 

Office Manager & Subscriptions toni@hebrewwatchman.com

Rebecca Schudel

**Social Media Director** Web Development

**Editor and Publisher Emeritus** Barbara B. Goldberger

Herman I. Goldberger

**Editor and Publisher Emeritus** 

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50

Payable in Advance **Subscriptions** 

#### toni@hebrewwatchman.com **Submissions**

Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to info@hebrewwatchman.com

#### **Advertising**

For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or info@hebrewwatchman.com

#### **Simchas**

Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, engagement, anniversaries info@hebrewwatchman.com

#### **Obituaries**

901.763.2215

info@hebrewwatchman.com

The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

## THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

(USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT** 

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must give permission for any material contained herein to be copied or reproduced in any manner without express permission of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. The publication of any advertisement in this edition does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers' product, kashrut or services by this publication. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the publishers be held responsible for any



## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Dec. 27, 2024 / 26 Kislev, 5785.......4:37 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. Dec. 28, 2024 / 27 Kislev, 5785 ...... 5:37 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion: Mikeitz** 

# Adult Classes Restarting at the MJCC!

Beginning Bridge Lessons with **Debbie Jackson** 

January 9 - February 13, Thursdays at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

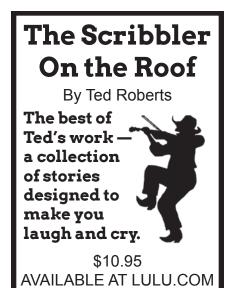
Beginning Bridge lessons taught by Debbie Jackson. Learn to play the world's greatest game! This class will teach you all the basics you need to start playing bridge like a pro. Bring your friends and learn to play this game. Call the front desk at the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to register. The new class number is 11597. Cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members.

**Beginning Mah Jongg Lessons with Melanie Mann** 

January 14 - February 11, Tuesdays at 6-8 p.m.

Beginning Mah Jongg Lessons taught by Melanie Mann. Melanie has been teaching this class for quite a while at the MJCC, as well as other places around town. We filled up her last class so please call in your reservations ASAP! Call the front desk at the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to register. The new class number is 11595. Cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. Bring your friends and learn a new game! 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, December 30 Special Program with Jeffrey Day, Local Magician

Jeffrey will be putting on an incredible Magic Show for just the Senior Lunch Bunch! He put on his show in July of this year and group has been begging to have him back again! Jeffrey Day, Magician Extraordinaire, demonstrates what audiences saw from as long as 150 years ago during "The Golden Age of Magic" (1837 - 1901). Most magicians have not seen or heard of the illusions that you will see in Jeffrey's one-man show, "The Mesmerist." The Light-Heavy Chest, the Rings, "Spiritualism" (mind reading), the famous "Zombie" levitation, and much more will be performed in front of your very eyes. Prepare to be MESMERIZED.

# Wednesday, January 1 No Lunch served in the Senior Lunch Room

The MJCC will be closed that day. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year! There will be the senior lunch the day before and the day after, December 31 and January 2. Reservations are needed on Monday the 30 for both!

#### Monday, January 6 Team Trivial Pursuit

This game will focus on General Trivia from the 1950s and 60s. Join a team. There are fun prizes for the winners and even for those that don't win.

# Wednesday, January 8 Field Trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their Monthly Luncheon

We will leave the MJCC and go to Baron Hirsch and bring the group back to the MJCC following the Lunch. Baron Hirsch also has entertainment from Creative Aging and Bingo following the entertainment.

Also pick up is available for those who need it that live around the MJCC. Call Steve Kaplan for more information at 901-259-9220.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at 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

## Baron Hirsch Synagogue SoShuls Luncheon on Jan. 8, 2025



Friends new and old enjoy a Baron Hirsch SoShuls Luncheon.



Now that the year 2025 is around the corner, come celebrate the new year at the Baron Hirsch SoShuls Luncheon on Wednesday, January 8 at 12 p.m. Let's celebrate the New Year with friends, good music and great food. We'll en-

joy plenty of food, conversation, musical entertainment and of course, Bingo games to follow!

SoShuls Luncheons are for people who are 64 years or older, and the cost for the luncheon is \$5 per person. Luncheon participants do not have to be members of Baron Hirsch Synagogue. Just make a reservation and come enjoy a delicious lunch, listen to live music, and socialize with new and old friends.

We'll have a tasty lunch, including hamburgers and all the fixings, French fries, cole slaw, baked beans and the delicious triple layer brownies for dessert. Why not have a summer picnic in January? Fun and delicious! What a good way to welcome the year 2025!

The Jeremy Shrader Duo will entertain the luncheon participants, courtesy of Creative Aging, a Memphis non-profit agency that provides artistic talent and opportunities for older adults. And after lunch, be ready to play Bingo and shout your winning game numbers.

Make your reservations for the luncheon by Monday, January 6, 2025. Just call the Baron Hirsch office at 901-683-7485, or send an email to gwen@baronhirsch.org. The SoShuls Luncheon is sponsored by Elaine Miner.

We are looking forward to having you join us, and please let us know if you plan to bring a friend or two. It will be great to be together to celebrate the New Year. Happy 2025! **HW** 

Have a Simcha?
share with
The Hebrew Watchman
readers
901.763.2215
info@hebrewwatchman.com

PAST ISSUES
NOW AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT
HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM
2021, 2022, 2023
thru October 2024

# THE HEBREW WATCHMAN Serving the Memphis community for 99 Years

## From Downtown...to Midtown...to Germantown...

















And beyond, I sell them all. From the oldest to the newest and everything in-between. And I sell homes in Gated communities, Condominiums, Contemporaries, Stately Traditionals, homes with lakes and Swimming Pools with homes attached! If you or someone you know is thinking of selling, talk to 2-3 real estate Brokers but make sure that I am one of them. Find out how Preparation, Presentation, Pricing and my highly successful Strategic Marketing Program can make the difference in whether you sit... or...SELL! And remember......

# When you want the job DONE, call Shel-DONE!



Sheldon Rosengarten, Broker

\*Awarded by the National Association of Realtors for 40 Years of Service.





Marx-Bensdorf

Life Member, Multi-Million Dollar Club Memphis Area Association of Realtors Cell 901.483.0546 • Office 901.682.1868 shelrose@memphisrelocate.com

PAGE 4 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# Estate Planning Dark Side of the Holidays: Protecting Against Grandparent Scams

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

Amid the celebrations and family gatherings of the holiday season, the specter of scams looms large, and perhaps the most insidious among them is the "grandparent scam." This deceptive tactic preys on the elderly, particularly grandparents' innate concern for the well-being of their grandchildren and seeks to exploit emotions and trust in a manner that can lead to financial catastrophe.

Picture this unsettling scenario: a latenight call from a distressed grandchild who claims to be in dire straits, arrested or injured in a foreign land. The plea is accompanied by a desperate request for financial assistance, with a fervent plea to keep the situation confidential from the parents. Alternatively, imagine receiving a call from a seemingly authoritative figure—a lawyer, doctor, or arresting officer-informing you of your grandchild's dire circumstances. Through this type of scam, the grandparent, out of concern and love, may hastily send funds to aid their seemingly desperate grandchild, only to discover later that they have fallen victim to a heartless scam.

The grandparent scam, a menace that has persisted for years, is on the rise and is exacerbated by social media. Scammers exploit social media platforms to gather detailed information about the grandparent and the grandchild and leverages family profiles to identify pressure points.

Unfortunately, the modern prevalence of oversharing on public forums only compounds the issue. Moreover, recent advancements in artificial intelligence technology enable scammers to mimic voices convincingly, which adds a confusing layer of sophistication to deceit.

So, how can one best shield themselves or their elderly loved ones from falling prey to such manipulative schemes? First and foremost, one ought to cultivate a heightened awareness of unfamiliar calls, particularly during the holiday season when scam attempts intensify. In addition, one should exercise caution when faced with requests for money, es-



901-763-2500 mendelsonfirm.com bwachtel@mendelsonfirm.com dm@mendelsonfirm.com

pecially in seemingly urgent situations. Scammers often employ high-pressure tactics, coercing victims into hasty financial transactions through methods such as money orders, gift cards, crypto or cash apps. Resist succumbing to the pressure, hang up, and promptly report the incident to local law enforcement. Subsequently, reach out directly to family members to confirm their safety and refuse to keep such calls a secret.

One can further fortify defenses on social media platforms by revisiting and reinforcing privacy settings by restricting access to personal information and thus minimize the potential for scammers to exploit such platforms. In the event of a suspicious call, refrain from volunteering information and force the scammer to reveal specific details, such as a grandchild's name, address and date of birth. Maintain composure, as scammers seem to thrive on inducing panic to compromise judgment.

To further arm yourself against scams, stay informed about the latest tactics. Resources such as those provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Better Business Bureau, and the American Association of Retired Persons offer valuable insights and tools for recognizing and reporting scams. Familiarize yourself with the signs of a potential scam and educate others, particularly older family members, about the dangers of grandparent scams.

By staying informed, spreading awareness, and utilizing available resources, we can collectively stand against scams and ensure a safer and more secure environment for our elders during the holiday season and beyond. Stay safe and Chag Sameach! HW

## **MOVING?**

Please let us know before you go! It's easy... info@hebewwatchman.com • 901.763.2215 PO Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846



# Three Years Since AIPAC Annual Event, Jewish Professionals Explore Conference Circuit



Audience listens to speaker in event space. Credit: crystal710 via Pixabay.

#### By Anna Rahmanan

(JNS) – Three years after the American Israel Public Affairs Committee nixed its annual policy conference, which it held each spring in Washington, D.C., during the COVID pandemic, Jewish professionals are still experimenting on the Jewish conference circuit, trying to replace what was the central place to see and be seen, network and shop for clients.

Stan Steinreich, who founded and runs an eponymous consultancy, told JNS that he is having success at the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly, which was held Nov. 10 to 12 in Washington.

"It has been an important place to connect with Jewish community and Israeli leaders from around the world," he said of the Federation event.

Many of the attendees at the Federation event this year "mourned the loss of the AIPAC conference but considered this event akin to that gathering in terms of networking and learning, albeit not at the same size and scale, yet," Steinreich said.

Attending the AIPAC annual event was valuable for Steinreich, given the "sheer magnitude" of the gathering. "We had so many prospective clients to sit down and talk with," he told JNS. "It was a worthwhile investment from a business perspective."

Steinreich told JNS that the Z3 annual conference, a program of the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, Calif., and the annual Jewish National Fund and Anti-Defamation League events are also good places for Jewish professionals.

"What made the Federation's General Assembly different was it being in D.C. and having the feel and environment of the old AIPAC conference," he said. (JNS sought comment from AIPAC.)

Shoshana Bryen, senior director of the Jewish Policy Center, attended many conferences before the pandemic and was a speaker at AIPAC's last major event

"People have changed," Bryen told JNS. "We used to do a lot of smaller, in-person meetings and lunches—50 or so people—but now we do webinars. We get far more people that way—100-175 every week, and it costs much less."

The Jewish Policy Center does most of its programming on Capitol Hill online, "and people seem to like it better," Bryen said.

Although online events are more useful and cost-effective, "there are strong benefits to having people talk in person," she told JNS. "The exchange of ideas and information is often better. I

just don't think it is viable right now."

Rebecca Leigh, an educator and editor, found past AIPAC conferences to be "good at gathering everyone across the political aisle." Leigh, who told JNS that she is "someone who deeply appreciates the intersection of progressive activism and Jewishness," attended the national J Street conference this year, hoping "to hear how this conference tackled issues that matter to Israel and the U.S.-Israeli relationship while inspiring discussion among like-minded folks."

She liked the "thoughtful, productive dialogue" but told JNS that, at times, she found the "overly political focus" at J Street served to "subvert the broader Jewish cultural or spiritual themes" about which many attendees are curious.

"J Street is ideologically closed off, which tends to keep the conversation thin," she told JNS.

#### **'Strength in the collective'**

In recent years, AIPAC has been hosting smaller gatherings—including for top donors—that pale in comparison to the annual event, which used to feature up to 18,000 attendees.

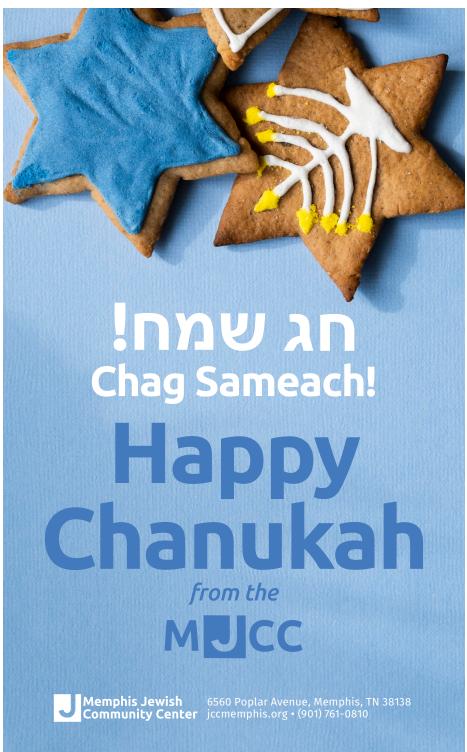
Brandon Fish, director of community relations at the Charleston Jewish Federation, attended the Federation gathering in Washington in November, which he told JNS was "one of the most well-attended in recent history."

"I think the reason is that after Oct. 7, Jews are feeling more alienated in response to discord with what is happening in Israel and the overall antisemitism," he said. "These conferences are a chance to be together and find strength in the collective, to remember that we are part of a national and international group of people that are well organized and doing good work in the community."

Since the pandemic, some regular Jewish conferences have disappeared "because people got used to interacting virtually," Fish said.

Shira Hutt, executive vice president of the umbrella Federation group, told JNS that attendance at the recent General Assembly was the highest in the past seven years. She said this reflects "the moment we are in, not just in terms of Israel but the ripple effects.

"My sense is many of the people that attended the AIPAC policy conference are also connected to other organizations like ours, and they have continued to attend those conferences," she said. She wasn't sure if the Federation feels "a bigger sense of responsibility" since AIPAC stopped holding its major event, she said, "but we do consider it a major thing." HW





AUTHORED BY SELWYN GERBER

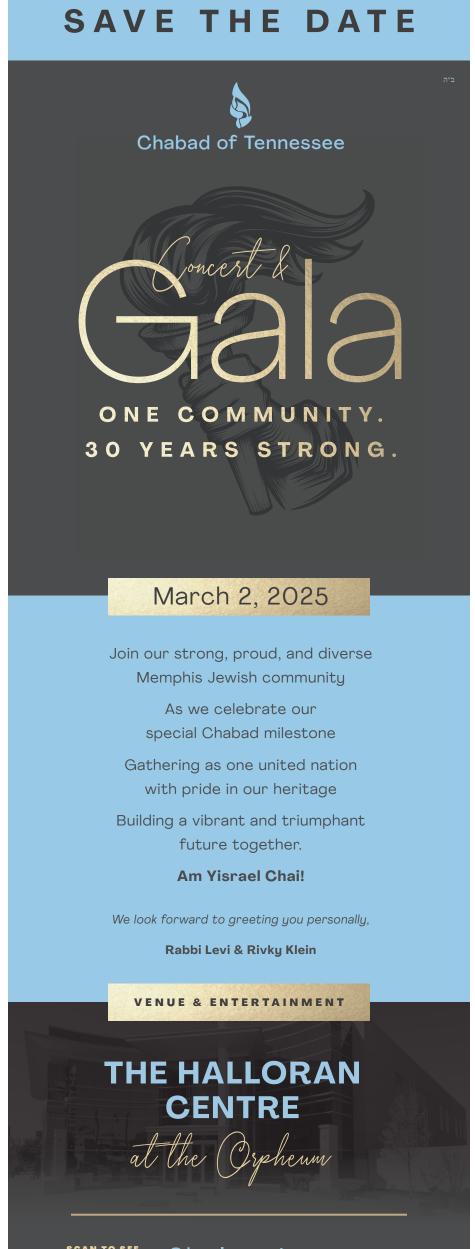
AND JONATHAN GERBER

Call for your

complimentary copy

Always read and rely exclusively on offering documents before investing. Past performance may not recur. All investing involves risk

MANAGEMENT IRMS





# Shulem Lemmer

Famed singer and cantor whose voice uplifts souls—the first Hasidic artist to sign with the major record label Universal Music Group.

"His music is able to reach across cultural divides and touch people of diverse faiths and backgrounds"

TABLET MAGAZINE

PAGE 6 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# **T-shirts** mugs



hats koozies and more...

**Toni Nieman** 901.674.6740









Michael D. Kaplan **Neil Harkavy** Jason D. Salomon Jason M. Goldstein **Jeremiah McGuire Sorrelle Dattel** 

#### Of Counsel

Laurie A. Cooper Steve R. Graber Alan L. Kosten

Ronald M. Harkavy (Retired) Raymond Shainberg (1930-2018)

**HARKAVY SHAINBERG** KAPLAN PLC ATTORNEYS AT LAW

901.761.1263 6060 Poplar Ave STE 140, Memphis, TN 38119 www.harkavyshainberg.com



\*\*\*\*

**EXCEPTIONAL** 

**SERVICE!** 

Rick was extremely helpful when looking at homes and had so many

ideas and suggestions when seeing the homes. Rick responded to emails at a very timely manner and was

always available to answer questions

and get papers sent out immediately.

Rick was fantastic to work with and

was able to get my contract signed,

closed within a month! Wow! Thank

Blair B

inspection, work done and house

you Rick for all you did to help me

with the home buying process!

Ready to make your real estate dreams come true?

Contact Rick Baer Realty today.

(901) 495-2217 www.RickBaerRealty.com

Rickerickbaerrealty.com

1028 Cresthaven Rd Suite 206, Memphis, TN 38119

901.495.2217

We want to take this opportunity to wish the Memphis Jewish community

# A Happy Chanukah



The Board of Directors, Residents and Staff

# Plough Towers

Thank you for your support!

# Happy Hanukkah



LAURELWOOD SHOPPING CENTER
4568 Poplar Avenue Memphis 38117 901.767.5464



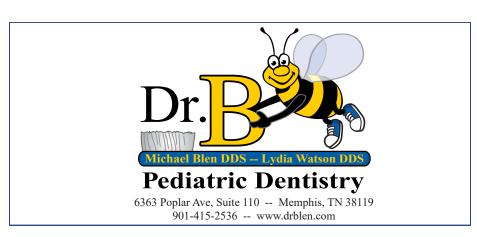
# Wishing you and your loved ones Happy Chanukah!

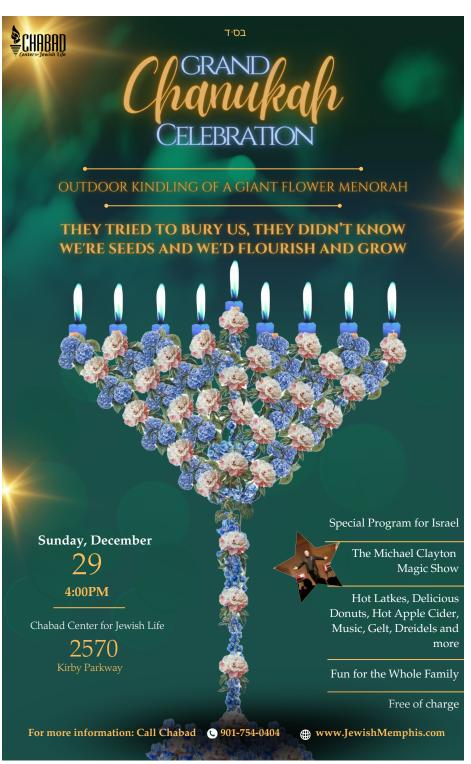


2700 Union Avenue Extended Memphis, TN 38112 901-452-6400 • info@canalefuneraldirectors.com









PAGE 8 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# Can You Put the Brakes on Rising Auto Insurance Premiums?

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

When your auto insurance policy renews, chances are that your premium will be going up, possibly by a lot. Rates vary by state and location, but nationwide, premiums increased more than 18% between July 2023 and July 2024.

Higher vehicle prices and repair costs (including parts and labor), more accidents, a rising number of fraud cases and lawsuits, and severe weather events have affected the bottom line of insurers, leading to across-the-board rate hikes. That's not good news for your wallet, but there are still steps you can take to help make your premiums more affordable.

Review your coverage. A good time to review your auto policy is before it renews, but you can make coverage changes or shop for new insurance at any point. Auto insurance rates vary greatly from company to company, so shop around. While price is important, you'll also want to select a financially sound company that offers great customer service. If you're happy with

your current insurer, call the company or your agent to explore additional ways to save money.

Try to avoid downgrading to the minimum coverage required by your state. That could leave you financially vulnerable if you have an accident. If your vehicle is leased or financed, you'll likely be required to maintain a certain level of insurance.

Look into discounts. These vary by state and insurer but may include discounts for low annual mileage, insuring multiple vehicles or bundling policies with the same company, installing anti-theft or other safety devices, completing driver training courses, and having a safe driving record. Some insurers offer discounts for participating in a usage-based (telematics) program that uses driving statistics uploaded from an app or tracking device to adjust rates based on driving habits.

Raise your deductible. You may be able to save money by choosing the

highest deductible you can afford. Your deductible is the dollar amount you agree to pay out of pocket if you have an accident that is your fault. According to the Insurance Information Institute, raising your deductible from \$200 to \$500 could save you 15% to 30% on collision and comprehensive coverages, while raising it to \$1,000 could save you 40% or more.<sup>2</sup>

Get quotes when car shopping. Before deciding on a vehicle, find out how much it will cost to insure — certain makes and models will be more expensive. For example, premiums for electric vehicles may be substantially more than for gas-powered vehicles, in part because repair costs are higher. The vehicle's value, age, safety record and features, and where it will be located may also affect your premium.

- 1) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024
- 2) Insurance Information Institute, 2024

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2024 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Investment and Insurance Products are: Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency

Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate

Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested, HW

# Annual Concert to Protect Our Aquifer Fights the Power with Folk Music



Headliners Shakura S'Aida, Tim Easton, Steve Forbert and Tom Rush (from left) shared the stage, trading the spotlight every few songs then sitting back to enjoy one another's songs.



Chicago-based singer/songwriter and violinist Anne Harris performs alongside local powerhouse Marcella Simien at the Concert to Protect our Aquifer, the most recent entry in Barbara and Bruce Newman's long running annual Acoustic Sunday Live series.



#### **Advisors**

# Changing jobs, switching employers, or retiring?

Don't leave your 401(k) or 403(b) unattended

#### Mike Stein

Managing Director – Investments 6075 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN 38119 Direct: (901) 761-8151 michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com

Wells Fargo Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice.

Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC Insured NO Bank Guarantee MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. © 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0720-04236



Two venerated veterans of folk music share the stage. Steve Forbert performs a number while Tom Rush looks on.

#### By Matt Timberlake ~ Photo Credit: Laura Jean Hocking

On a rain-soaked night in Cooper-Young, a crowd of 350 community activists and folk music fans, two groups with considerable cross-over, gathered at First Congregational Church to honor an age-old tradition – pushing back against social injustice with music.

"My wife, Barbara, and I have been doing the annual Acoustic Sunday Live concert series for three decades. The last six or seven years have been done to benefit Protect Our Aquifer," said Bruce Newman, whose law firm represents a large roster of musicians, many of them rooted in the folk/Americana world. He also hosts Bruce's Folk Song Fiesta on community radio station WEVL. Clearly, he understands the artform's poten-

tial as an agent for meaningful change.

"When it comes to our city's water supply, the concerns are ongoing. We have Ford's Blue Oval project, and right now the conversation is all about AI and Elon Musk," said Bruce. "A lot of industries seem to be following that trend, with growing companies constantly needing to pump more and more water and puncturing the aquifer. We want industry in Memphis, but we want them to be careful with our famously wonderful water. I think folk music has a role to play."

By 'we,' he means local nonprofit Protect Our Aquifer, which was founded in 2016 to protect the Memphis Sand Aquifer, a vital regional resource that

(See Concert Page 9)

#### Concert...

(Continued From Page 8)



Canadian Blues singer Shakura S'Aida snaps a selfie during a duet with Memphis' own Marcella Simien, flanked by their guitar players.

supplies all of west Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and parts of eastern Arkansas with what's often regarded as the best drinking water in the country. Memphis is the largest metro area in the U.S. that relies solely on groundwater to meet residential, industrial and agricultural needs.

"Music itself is almost like the water issue," said Bruce. "People like a song because whether they vote left or they vote right, good music is good music. Liking music is non-political and so is loving the water Memphians get from the aquifer. The water benefits all of us."

This year's concert was co-headlined by 60s folk scene pioneer Tom Rush, Meridian, Mississippi-raised Steve Forbert, Canadian Blues chanteuse Shakura S'Aida, and Nashville-based multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter Tim Easton, who took the stage together, swapping songs and exchanging banter. Chicagoan Anne Harris, a virtuosic violinist and songwriter, and local treasure Marcella Simien opened the show.

"Water is one of the Earth's most treasured resources, right up there with breath," said Marcella. "I love what Bruce and Barbara have been able to do to bring the community together around this cause. Music has a way of providing this extra layer of strength or fearlessness. It makes you feel emboldened, empowered, courageous, inspired. Songs are such an incredible way to connect with each other and communicate important ideas."

The audience was clearly invested in both the music and the cause. Filling the main sanctuary of First Congo, every seat was occupied, with many standing behind the last row, singing along and calling back to presenter and performer remarks about the aquifer with rowdy hoots and cheers.

"Music has always been a powerful tool for rallying people around important issues, and folk music in particular has played an outsized role in social change," said attendee Ken Steinberg, a major supporter of Memphis' live music culture, and with his wife, Jill, a spon-



Tim Easton captivated the crowd of 350, creating a lot of sound for one performer. His vocals, harmonica, and even whistled melodies danced atop his unique and intricate guitar playing.

sor of the concert. "The exceptional water that we get from the Sands Aquifer is something that could benefit every single Memphian for generations if we are able to safeguard it. The Concert to Protect our Aquifer is an important part of getting that message out to people. Lucky for us, Bruce and Barbara are also able to pack the line-up with incredible talent year after year."

Reflecting on another successful year of using music to fight the good fight, Bruce evoked the concept of Tikkun Olam.

"We believe everybody should leave the world a better place," he said. "I have grandchildren now, and I worry about whether they're going to have clean water. This is an issue that impacts all of us in this community, and folk music is an excellent method for gathering people around the idea that we all benefit from the water in our aquifer." **HW** 

## **SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- **Driver**—Courteous and reliable person to take you anywhere you need to go in Memphis and surrounding areas: Dr's appointments, Shopping, Errands, Airport. Available weekdays and weekends.
- House Sitting and Dog Sitting—

Responsible adult available to stay with your dogs while you are away. I love dogs!

Contact Rick Danzig: 901-337-6009

# Leading Memphis Law Firms to Merge

On January 1, 2025, two of Memphis' leading law firms will become one. Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC and Williams McDaniel, PLLC, will merge, forming one of the city's premier full-service law firms.

The combined firm will be known as **Harkavy McDaniel Kaplan & Salomon P.C.**, a move that positions the new firm to boost its legal practice, especially in the areas of estate planning and probate, real estate and litigation.

"This merger is a good fit for both law firms since there are many similarities in the nature of the work that we do," said Michael D. Kaplan, Member of Harkavy Shainberg. "Merging the firms is based on a sound business strategy that will produce even greater client value."

The new firm of Harkavy McDaniel will have 14 attorneys with a 10-member support staff. Williams McDaniel will move its offices from 717 South White Station Road into Harkavy Shainberg's offices at 6060 Poplar Avenue in the heart of the East Memphis business district

"The quality of the Harkavy Shainberg lawyers, their practice areas and clients make this merger a super match for us," said Stephen McDaniel, Partner at Williams McDaniel. "We found in Harkavy Shainberg a firm with strong client relationships and the same passion and commitment for helping clients succeed. It will be a great move, not just for the firm but for our clients as well."

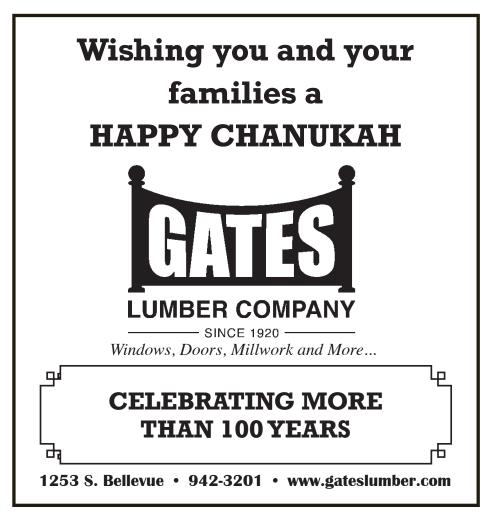
Following the merger, Jason M. Goldstein will become Harkavy McDaniel's President and Manager.

Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC is a full-service law firm founded in 1963 that has developed a diverse client base, including individuals and family groups, sole proprietorships, financial institutions, large and small public and private corporations, partnerships, joint ventures and limited liability companies. The firm's clients include various business sectors such as banking, manufacturing, real estate lending, distribution services, health care, real estate development, real estate management, construction, communications, wholesale and retail businesses.

Williams McDaniel, PLLC founded nearly 60 years ago, is a boutique law firm that specializes in estate planning, trust and estate litigation, and trust and estate administration. **HW** 

Have a Simcha?
share with The Hebrew Watchman readers





PAGE 10 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# Embark on a Transformative Israel Trip with Chabad of Memphis



Part of the Memphis Group in front of the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron on the last Chabad Israel trip in 2023.

Rabbi Levi and Rivky Klein of Chabad of Memphis, in partnership with JLI (the Jewish Learning Institute), are excited to announce a unique opportunity to participate in a life changing Israel experience. They will be leading another amazing Israel trip from March 17 to March 24, 2025. This exclusive eight-day experience fosters unity and connection, leaving a lasting impact on participants' hearts, minds, and souls.

Past participants have shared that this

was the best travel experience of their life, JLI did an amazing job of putting together a trip that newcomers and repeat visitors alike could experience Israel in an uplifting, amazing, and fun way.

"It is an opportunity to rediscover Israel in a new light while showing solidarity with the people of Israel," said Rabbi Levi Klein.

Participants will be visiting soldiers on the front lines, former hostages and communities affected by the war. They will connect with key figures including chief rabbis, military leaders and prominent political figures, gaining an insider's perspective on modern-day Israel, including its challenges and triumphs. They will get to walk along Israel's ancient cobblestone streets and step into the heart of history, exploring the land where our ancestors once lived, and imagine life as it was in their time, surrounded by the places and views that shaped their world.

In addition to many touring and volunteer opportunities, participants will also enjoy a seamless premium journey from the minute they arrive in Israel with dedicated concierge service and experience the utmost in comfort with first-class accommodations at luxurious hotels.

"You'll get to indulge in five-star gourmet cuisine, and engage in the finest educational and entertainment offerings that Israel has to offer and experience firsthand the incredible variety of foods Israel has to offer," said Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad.

From fine aged wines and fresh falafel to unique Israeli sweet treats, the options are endless, and participants will get to taste an array of unique flavors that set Israel's cuisine apart.

Reserve your spot today for a transformative journey of unity and shared responsibility.

The Land and Spirit Israel trip is truly an experience of a lifetime. To secure your spot, you're encouraged to make an online reservation as soon as possible.

For more details or to register, please visit: www.LandandSpirit.org and use code JewishMemphis25 to join the Memphis group.

If you have any additional questions or would like to attend an informational meeting about the trip, call Rabbi Levi Klein at 901-754-0404. HW



# Which Oil Burns Brightest? A Hands-On Chanukah Adventure with Memphis Kollel!



#### Preparing to make olive oil.

Olive? Avocado? Canola? Soybean? Sesame? Butter? Which of these fuels produces the clearest, brightest flame? If you don't know, just ask any of the 30 enthusiastic children who joined the Memphis Kollel's Sundays with Torah-*Live* program this past weekend!

As part of this engaging educational series, Rabbi Yaakov Gelb led an unforgettable morning that got everyone ready for Chanukah. The event was



## Comparing the different flames.

packed with hands-on activities, including experimenting with different fuels, crushing real olives with mortars and pestles, and sending every child home with a vial of authentic olive oil—crafted from the very olives they had helped crush. Along the way, Rabbi Gelb wove together fascinating lessons and critical halachot (laws) of Chanukah, making the mitzvot come alive.

"It was truly an epic morning of hands-on learning," shared Rabbi Yosef Braha, director of the Memphis Kollel. "Watching the children's faces light up with excitement as they learned through doing was priceless. There's no better way to make Torah knowledge stick than through immersive, interactive experi-

Interested in learning more about these programs or other Memphis Kollel Youth Programming? Reach out to Rabbi Yosef Braha at rabbibraha@ memphiskollel.org and join the move-

ences. These lessons will last a lifetime." This program is part of the Memphis Kollel's ongoing Sundays with Torah-Live series, held approximately every three weeks. These events combine the highly acclaimed TorahLive videos with creative, hands-on materials to foster a fun and interactive environment, ensuring the lessons take root in the minds and hearts of children who attend.

ment of bringing Torah to life! HW

# Elevating the Human Spirit

#### **Watch Them Thrive with In-Home Care**

The specially trained caregivers at Comfort Keepers provide meaningful, in-home care so seniors can live independently. From providing companionship to caring for those with dementia, we're here to help your loved one thrive and give you peace of mind.

### 901-207-8209

Home + Life + Care | ComfortKeepers.com

Comfort Keepers of the Mid-South, 5668 S Rex Rd #200, Memphis, Tennessee 38119

#### In-Home **Care Services**

- · Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- · Respite care
- Safety solutions

**MOVING? PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!** 901.763.2215 info@hebrewwatchman.com

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### **Muriel Forman Turner**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Muriel Forman Turner on December 13, 2024, at the age of 100 years, 8 months.

Muriel was born on March 9, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York. She married her childhood love, Dr. Robert Forman in 1945, and they moved to Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1954 where they raised their three children, Michael, Evie and Andy. They moved to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1975.

Muriel was remarried to Arnold Turner in 1984. She remained in Memphis until her passing.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed cooking, traveling, knitting, and had a love for classical music. She was active in the local PTA in Clarksdale and later was involved with the choir at Temple Israel as well as the Sisterhood and their many projects.

Muriel had wonderful friends throughout her life that she treasured deeply, but most of all, it was her family that was her whole world.

She was preceded in death by Dr. Robert Forman, Arnold Turner, and Andy Forman.

She is survived by Michael Forman (Shirley), Evie Greenberg (Alvin), grandchildren Scott Forman, Philip Forman (Kristi), Elyse Greenberg and Robert Greenberg (Eve) as well as great-grandchildren Mathew and Michael Forman and extended family, Renee Warren and her son, Michael.

The family kindly requests that any donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in her memory. HW

## Houthis Shouldn't Be Surprised by Israeli Response, Pentagon Says

"As for any potential future operations, I'd refer you to Israel," a U.S. Defense Department spokesman told reporters.

(JNS) - Given that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Houthis that they will pay a heavy price, a reporter asked the Pentagon if it assesses that Israel might target the Yemen-based group next, after Hezbollah and Hamas.

"I won't speak for Israel in terms of its operations. They certainly have a right to defend themselves, and as you know, the Houthis have launched missiles and drones toward Israel," Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the U.S. Defense Department press secretary, told a reporter at the Pentagon's Dec. 19 press briefing.

"The Houthis should not be surprised if Israel exercises its inherent right of self-defense," Ryder said. "But as for any potential future operations, I'd refer you to Israel."

A reporter asked if the Biden administration believes that Israel's attacks on Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon "might put the agreement at risk."

Ryder said that Washington continues to assess that the ceasefire agreement

"We believe in everyone's interest to ensure that that ceasefire continues," he said. "We'll continue to consult closely with partners in the region, to include Israel and Lebanon, toward that end." HW

# Thank you for your promise... now we need your payment

Together, we are building and sustaining a vibrant Jewish community. Your pledge payment helps us continue this vital work now, and for generations to come.

## Pay your pledge by:

- scanning the QR code
- check
- Venmo (@jcpmemphis)
- calling 901-767-7100



# **TOGETHER WE ARE**





With over 20 years in mortgage lending, Scott Sorin has the know-how to make it happen! Whether you're eyeing a new home, refinancing, need a unique jumbo loan or portfolio lending, Scott is here to explore **every financing path** with you.



**Scott Sorin** NMLS: 40975 Regional VP | Business Dev. Mobile: (901) 378-2244 ssorin@mutualmortgage.com



**Reverse and more!** 

Conventional Financing

Flexible Loan Options:

Jumbo

FHA / VA

Portfolio

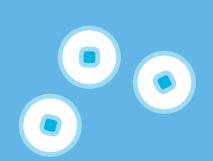
Let's connect today! I'm ready to help achieve your homeownership goals.

**⚠** Equal Housing Lender **EXPIRATION 11/2027** 

Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc., NMLS ID 1025894. 3131 Camino Del Rio N 1100, San Diego, CA 92108. Toll Free #: (877) 978-1922. Subject to Credit Approval. For licensing information, go to: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org

PAGE 12 | DECEMBER 26, 2024 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

















May every candle bring light and peace to your home and across the Jewish world. Happy Hanukkah.



901.767.7100

jcpmemphis.org



feel strong feel confident feel your best.

All your rehab needs in one place: **Home.** 



















Inpatient | Outpatient | Physical Speech | Occupational | Aquatic