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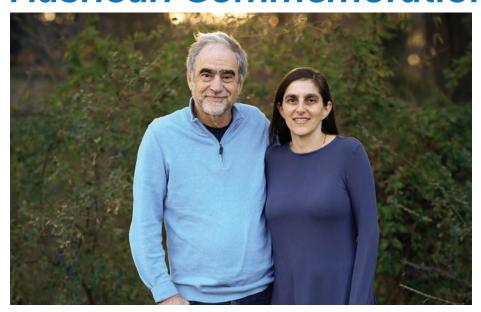


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Memphis Jewish Federation Announces 2025 Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Federation Holocaust Memorial Committee co-chairs father-daughter pair Harry Diament and Michelle Diament will emcee this year's Yom HaShoah program marking the 80th anniversary of liberation.

Memphis Jewish Federation invites the community to its 62nd annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration taking place this year on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ettelson-Wax Social Hall at Temple Israel.

Federation Holocaust Memorial Committee co-chairs father-daughter pair Harry Diament and Michelle Diament will emcee this year's program marking the 80th anniversary of liberation. Featured speaker is Second Generation survivor, Holocaust educator, author and filmmaker Anna Salton Eisen.

Harry is the son of Holocaust sur-

vivors Stefan and Henrietta Diament, of blessed memory. Harry has been an active member of Federation's Holocaust Memorial Committee for decades, previously serving as chair from 1993-1995. He still has vivid memories of attending the first Holocaust remembrance ceremony in Memphis in 1962, where a small crowd of Holocaust survivors and their families made up the majority of those in attendance, and his mother was one of the featured speakers. By contrast, the commemoration is now one of the Jewish community's largest events.

Harry and his wife, Mindy Diament,

of blessed memory, have three children, Michelle Diament, Steve Diament and Joel Diament, and four grandchildren. A past president of Solomon Schechter Day School, now Bornblum Jewish Community School, Harry has served on the boards of Memphis Jewish Federation and Beth Sholom Synagogue. He was featured in "Lives Restarted," a Federation-commissioned documentary about the experiences of Memphis Holocaust survivors. Harry is the owner of Diamond Printing Company, a family business for four generations. "Serving as a co-chair with my daughter, Michelle, is a privilege. I know my mother, Henrietta Diament, with whom Michelle had a special connection, would be extremely proud," Harry said.

Michelle and her husband, Shaun Heasley, have two children, Ari and Mira. She is co-founder of Disability Scoop, a national news site covering autism and developmental disabilities. Michelle has been a guest on NPR's "Here & Now" and her work has been published in "People," "AARP," "The Washington Post Magazine," "The Chronicle of Higher Education," "Gannett News Service" and more. She is a member of Beth Sholom Synagogue where she recently served on the rabbinic search committee.

"It's tremendously meaningful to continue the legacy of Holocaust remembrance in Memphis that my grandparents were integral in establishing, and

I'm honored to be doing this alongside my dad," Michelle said.

Anna Salton Eisen is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors and executive producer of the upcoming documentary film, "In My Father's Words" based on her books, "23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memoir," and "Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust." Anna is a co-founder of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, site of the January 2022 synagogue attack and hostage-taking incident. Both of her books are available for purchase in Memphis at Novel bookstore.

Federation continues to expand its Holocaust educational initiatives. Its annual art and essay competition is reaching new schools. For information about this year's contest, please go to www. jcpmemphis.org/holocaustartandessay. Through Hillels of Memphis, the awardwinning film "A Real Pain" was recently shown at Rhodes College. Requests for speakers on the Holocaust from areaschools continue to increase. And, through partnerships with Facing History and Ourselves and the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, second and third generation descendants are being trained in how to effectively transmit their parents' and grandparents' experiences.

For more information about the commemoration and Federation's other Holocaust awareness initiatives, please contact Lorraine Wolf at lwolf@jcpmemphis.org. HW

Eliana Light to Perform at Beth Sholom's Torah Fund Brunch on March 2



Eliana Light will be the featured performer at Beth Sholom's Torah Fund Brunch.

Beth Sholom's annual Torah Fund Brunch will take place Sunday, March 2 at 11 a.m. at the synagogue, featuring the talented Jewish musician/educator Eliana Light. Each year, Beth Sholom and other Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) sisterhoods raise thousands of dollars for the Torah Fund, which provides scholarships and supports other needs of the five Conservative/Masorti seminaries training tomorrow's Conservative rabbis and Jewish professionals.

The brunch will also honor two tireless contributors to Beth Sholom Sisterhood. Janet Rubin, programming co-chair, will receive the annual Woman of Valor award. Barbara Hellman, corresponding secretary of the Southern Region of WLCJ, will be recognized as the recipient of the Light of Torah Award, which she will receive at the WLCJ Southern Region Spring Conference in March.

It will be a homecoming of sorts for

Light, who grew up in Memphis and now lives in Durham, North Carolina. A graduate of the Davidson School of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she earned a masters in experiential education, Light has used song to lead t'fillah in synagogues, taught at conferences and graduate schools, written curricula, toured as an artist-in-residence, and recorded four albums of original Jewish music. She also is the founder of the Light Lab, which offers robust educational programs and produces The Light Lab podcast.

Noting that Light has titled her performance "Songs from the Heart," Susan Levko, Beth Sholom Sisterhood president, says, "Eliana's beautiful voice and moving music will leave a lasting impression on the heart. Guests will feel rejuvenated after listening to her."

The brunch is free with a Torah Fund donation, starting at \$36. Benefactor (\$180) and Guardian (\$300) donors will receive this year's beautiful Torah Fund pin, embossed with the phrase Am Yisrael Chai, or "The People of Israel Live." Guests are also welcomed to come to the brunch for a charge of \$50.

One can donate to the Torah Fund online at jtsa.edu/torah-fund/ (please show your receipt when you check in at the brunch) or send a check payable to Torah Fund to Marcia Menuskin at 405 S. Perkins, #330, Memphis, TN, 38117.

Beth Sholom Sisterhood asks attendees to RSVP to Barbara Hellman at 901-490-1787 or bachellman@gmail. com. For more information about Torah Fund, feel free to call Marcia Menuskin at 423-413-1372. HW

Bar Mitzvah



Zachary Benjamin Califf

Zachary Benjamin Califf, son of Lindsay and Brian Califf, will become a bar mitzvah March 1, 2025, at Temple Israel. Rabbi Jeff Dreifus will officiate the service. To mark the occasion, Zach will lead the congregation in prayer, read from the Torah, chant the Haftorah, and deliver a D'var Torah.

Zach is in seventh grade at Lausanne Collegiate School where he is on the track and cross-country teams. Zach also plays drum and guitar in the Performance Band at School of Rock Memphis and takes vocal lessons at The Song Shack. Zach attends Jacobs Camp in Utica, Miss., and has done so every summer since 2018.

Zach chose to run the St. Jude 10k and raise money for St. Jude for his mitzvah project and plans to do so every year as a way to combine his love of running with an ongoing mitzvah project.

Zach is the grandson of Jenny and Larry Baer and Debra and Cary Califf. He is the great-grandson of Doris Califf and the late Butch Califf, the late Jackie and Robert Hirsh, the late Miriam and Isadore Baer, and the late Etta and Samuel Jacobson. HW





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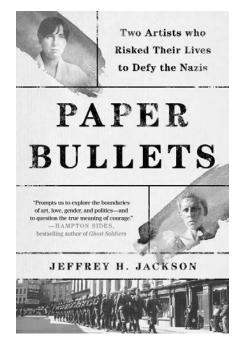
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Beth Sholom Lehaurus Lecture Moved to Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

The Beth Sholom Lifelong Jewish Learning committee has rescheduled its latest lecture, set for February 19, due to inclement weather.

The speaker, Dr. Jeffrey H. Jackson, will come to Beth Sholom on Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. to discuss his book, "Paper **Bullets: Two Artists Who Risked** Their Lives to Defy the Nazis." 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, March 3 **Field Trip to Mid-South Hobbies**

We will go on a very special Field Trip to Mid-South Hobbies, which has been gracious in providing art projects for the seniors for the past several months. They have also been here to show us how to use them! Now we will go there to see all the exciting things they have to offer. They have an incredible mix of things to see and do. They have everything from books, model trains, model kits, toys, games, hobbies, arts and crafts, clothes, and an incredible selection of remote control cars. Great for seniors and for their kids or grandkids! Should be a lot of fun for all. All of the articles about seniors keeping mentally fit mention starting new hobbies and learning new things is a plus. Reservations are required as the bus only holds 14. If anyone would like to meet us there, please



call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 so we have an idea of the size of the group to let them know.

Wednesday, March 5 Field Trip to Baron Hirsch for Lun-

The group will go on a field trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their monthly luncheon. Everyone so enjoyed their last luncheon with great food, terrific entertainment and a lively Bingo game that followed. You can ride the Senior Bus from the MJCC, be picked up if you are in the area, or meet us there. Reservations can be called in directly to Baron Hirsch at 901-683-7485 or call the front desk of the MJCC and be put on the list.

Monday, March 10 **Speaker: Kevin Payne with Humana** Topic: Last Minute Changes to Medicare

Kevin is always an engaging speaker with lots of great information that is needed! He will have handouts and will answer questions both during and after his talk. Medicare is always a changing landscape so come find out what exactly is going on.

Trump's Plan for Gaza Draws More U.S. **Skeptics Than Supporters**

(JNS) - More than six in 10 U.S. voters oppose U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal for an American takeover of the Gaza Strip and expelling Palestinians living in the Hamas-run territory, according to a poll released last Wednesday.

Trump's plan was opposed by 62% in the Quinnipiac University survey with only 22% in support. Another 16% did not answer or did not offer an opinion.

"The grand plan to transform a shat-

tered Gaza into a lavish American restoration project on the Mediterranean has many more skeptics than supporters," said Tim Malloy, a Quinnipiac polling analyst.

While Republicans backed Trump's plan by 49% to 32%, Democrats lined up 94% to 1% in opposition, as did independents by 66% to 17%.

Separately, U.S. voters disapproved of Trump's handling of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, 47% to 38%, with 15% not answering or expressing an opinion.

Again, Republicans lined up behind the president with 78% saying they approved of Trump's performance on that issue and only 9% dissenting. Democrats disapproved 87% to 4%. So did independents by 48% to 37%.

The survey of 1.039 self-identified registered voters was conducted Feb. 13-17 and had a margin of error of plus or minus +/- 3.0 percentage points. HW

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You may know how many Israeli inventions are central to our daily existence. From cell phones to modern medicine, Israel has tremendously impacted our everyday lives. Tal will talk about the exciting things going on today you may not be aware of. Have a great lunch and enjoy listening to this fun presen-

Topic: Israeli Innovations

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



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Baron Hirsch Synagogue SoShuls Luncheon March 5, 2025



Friends old and new catching up at the last SoShuls luncheon.



Baron Hirsch Synagogue's next SoShuls Luncheon will be on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at noon. People who are 64 years or older are invited to attend the SoShuls Luncheons. You do not have to be a synagogue member to attend the SoShuls Luncheons.

The menu will include baked barbecue chicken, a roasted potato medley and broccoli, with homemade meringue cookies for dessert. The cost of the luncheon is \$5 per person.

Creative Aging, a local non-profit agency, which connects local musical performers with a variety of Memphis community agencies, will provide the entertainment for the March SoShuls luncheon.

Baron Hirsch SoShuls Luncheons are sponsored by Elaine Miner.

The delicious food and musical entertainment combine to make attending the SoShuls luncheon a great way to spend the afternoon. Lively Bingo games will follow the luncheon.

We look forward to having you join us for a fun afternoon and a great meal! Please make your reservation as early as possible by calling 901-683-7485 or by email to gwen@baronhirsch.org. **HW**

Florida Man Arrested after Shooting 2 Israelis He Thought were Palestinians



Ari Ribay (left), one of the victims of the shooting, speaks to the media. (Screenshot)
By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Police in Miami Beach have arrested a Jewish man who shot at two people in a car, thinking they were Palestinian.

They were actually Israeli tourists.

The man, Mordechai Brafman, 27, opened fire on the two men last Saturday night, firing 17 shots. Local reports say he told police that "while he was driving his truck, he saw two Palestinians and shot and killed both." Israeli media have identified Brafman, a plumber, as Jewish.

In fact, the men, a father and son, survived with injuries to their forearm and shoulder, respectively, and were taken to the hospital.

The man who was shot in the shoulder, Ari Ribay, posted on Facebook that he and his cousin Yaron were driving in Miami when a truck pulled up beside them, and the driver began to spray bullets at them. Footage showed bullet holes in the car and Ribay coming out with a bloodstained shirt.

Before learning the shooter was Jewish, Ribay posted last Sunday morning that he believed the shooting came from a "nationalist motive." He also posted a photo of himself hooked up to monitoring devices in a hospital bed.

"They shot me and my father in the car [with] 12 bullets," he wrote. "One hit me, and I and my father are here in the hospital in Miami. My father is in shock and horror. We need your help."

In 2023, a local TV channel identified Brafman as a "frequent customer" of Bagel Time Cafe, a local kosher restaurant whose Israeli and American flags had been torn down.

"It's absolutely abhorrent to see this kind of vandalism for not only showing pride for Israel, but pride for the United States," he said at the time.

He has been charged with attempted murder and was due to appear in court last Monday. His attorney said in a statement last Monday that at the time of the shooting, he was "experiencing a severe mental health emergency. It is believed that his ability to make sound judgments was significantly compromised." **HW**

Desantis Appointee to Florida University Board Under Fire for Comments about Jews, Women

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A professor and conservative activist nominated by Gov. Ron DeSantis to chair a Florida university board is in political hot water last week over a series of tweets counting the number of Jews, women, seniors and gay lawmakers among Senate Democrats and lamenting that there were too few "straight, white non-Jews" available to lead or reform the party.

The bipartisan rebuke of Scott Yenor comes as DeSantis and the nation's other leading conservatives have mounted a broader attack on higher education with a particular focus on its diversity initiatives, an effort Yenor is aligned with.

Yenor, a political science professor at Boise State University in Idaho, was chosen by DeSantis to serve as the head of the board of the University of West Florida in Pensacola. But he's drawing attention for a series of social media posts last month in which he remarked that Democrats had "pretty slim pickin's" for "national leadership or for reforming the party" because so many of the party's senators "rose to power on identity politics."

He went on to criticize Senate Democrats for "only" having "six straight, white non-Jews."

"Nine are Jews, two of whom are women and four of whom are 65-years-old or older," Yenor, a fellow of the right-wing think tank Claremont Institute who has authored several papers criticizing diversity efforts in higher education, remarked about Senate Democrats. He allowed that "the three male Jews under sixty could also fall into the category of party reformers," apparently referring to Sens. Brian Schatz, Adam Schiff and Jon Ossoff.

Yenor has a deeper history with the antisemitic far right, as well. Last year, "The Guardian" reported that he secretly ran a short-lived website in Idaho from 2021-22, which trafficked in stories going after local Pride events and other topics. In this context, Yenor had spent months trying to recruit a conservative writer and DeSantis booster, Pedro Gonzalez, who previously made numerous antisemitic and racist posts on message boards. (Yenor also paid Gonzalez to deliver a lecture at Boise State in 2021; he told "The Guardian" that Gonzalez turned down the website job offer.)

DeSantis has continued to defend Yenor against antisemitism charges but is meeting bipartisan pushback. Last Tuesday the state Senate, in a rebuke of Yenor's remarks, removed him from consideration to serve in a separate position on a research board affiliated with the university.

Yenor's appointment to chair the UWF board also requires confirmation from the state Senate, though he can serve as chair in the meantime.

Jewish Republican state Senator Randy Fine, a rising right-wing star who is no stranger to inflammatory rhetoric, is among Yenor's most vocal opponents.

Last week Fine, who is expected to win the race for a U.S. House seat in a deep red district in April, called Yenor an "idiot." Last week, he tweeted, "Antisemites have no place in Florida's universities, let alone as its leaders," and added his name to a condemnation of Yenor by the state's Jewish legislative

caucus.

"Yenor implied that only non-Jewish white men are viable political leaders," the caucus wrote, urging DeSantis to reconsider the appointment. The letter continued, "At a time when antisemitism is rising nationwide, our state must take a firm stance against those who seek to marginalize or disparage any community."

Yenor's comments have drawn scrutiny along with past statements that colleges had become "citadels of our gynocracy" and other remarks attacking "independent women," including one saying they are "more medicated, meddlesome and quarrelsome than women need to be." Students and lawmakers alike rebuked his comments, with hundreds of protesters on the UWF Pensacola campus opposing him.

Yenor has insisted that his remarks were not antisemitic. He told "Jewish Insider" that he "was saying that Democrats would not abide having Jews in leadership roles, based on the Josh Shapiro experience," referring to presidential candidate Kamala Harris's decision to pass up the Jewish governor of Pennsylvania as her 2024 running mate

His posts did not mention Harris's decision, nor clarify, other than his mention of "identity politics," why straight, white men are in a better position to lead or reform the party.

Last Tuesday on X, Yenor said he's "been an ardent supporter of Israel and the Jewish people in my career" and called criticisms of his comments "a deliberate mischaracterization by dishonest media & the left actively working to prevent the reform of Florida's institutions."

Last Wednesday, DeSantis defended his pick of Yenor during a press conference in Tallahassee. Asked about Fine's criticisms of the pick, the governor instead went after the legislator, a onetime friend turned political enemy.

"I stand by the appointment of Scott Yenor. He has been a champion for the types of reforms at universities we need," DeSantis said, according to local reports. "I don't think he's antisemitic at all."

Then, regarding Fine, the governor added, "Let's just consider the source: that same senator called me antisemitic." DeSantis went on, "I just think it's misplaced criticism. I think it's part of a separate political agenda."

(Fine has gone after DeSantis for, in his view, failing to do enough to stop white supremacists in the state, and for making a state visit to Ireland, which has been a harsh critic of Israel.)

DeSantis also recently filled the New College of Florida with his own political appointments in a successful bid to remake the school's academic mission. The school, which used to be known for a progressive approach to education, has tacked markedly more conservative in the months since DeSantis's appointees took over, and is now offering a class on "the Woke movement." Alan Dershowitz, the Jewish law professor, author, pro-Israel activist and firebrand, is headlining a new "Socratic Stage Dialogue Series" at the college this spring and also serving as commencement speaker. (The speaker series also features a talk on the Hebrew Bible.) HW

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Estate Planning

Will I Lose Control Over My Assets When I Put Them In My Trust?

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

Many individuals worry that by creating a trust and transferring assets into it, they may forfeit control over or access to those assets. While this concern is valid for certain types of trusts, the level of control and accessibility largely depends on the specific trust structure chosen. In this article, we will provide an overview of two types of trusts: (1) Revocable Living Trusts and (2) Irrevocable Trusts.

(1) REVOCABLE LIVING TRUSTS

Revocable Living Trusts offer much greater control than Irrevocable Trusts over assets "funded" (legal term for "put into") into the trust because the couple or individual who set up the trust typically act as the initial trustee(s), or individuals who manage and carry out the terms of the trust. In the case of a Revocable Living Trust, the couple or individual who set up the trust maintain(s) complete access to and immediate control over the assets transferred into the trust.

Here are just a few of the key reasons why a Revocable Living Trust is often the ideal plan for a couple or individual:

1. AVOIDING PROBATE COURT:

When property and assets are held in a Revocable Living Trust, they can pass to beneficiaries without going through probate, which can be a lengthy and costly process.

2. PRIVACY: Unlike a Will, which becomes a matter of public record when

it is probated, a Revocable Living Trust allows for the distribution of assets outside of court and in private.

3. INCAPACITY PLANNING: A Revocable Living Trust can provide for the management of assets in the event of incapacity. If one becomes unable to manage his or her own affairs, the person designated as successor trustee takes over management of the trust assets without court involvement.

(2) IRREVOCABLE TRUSTS

As its name suggests, except under limited and specific circumstances, Irrevocable Trusts cannot be modified or voided. When one establishes an Irrevocable Trust, for the most part, the Grantor(s) (the legal term for the individual or couple who establish the trust) typically relinquishes direct access to and immediate control over the assets held within the trust. If that is the case, why would one ever establish an Irrevocable Trust? There are several important circumstances and reasons why an Irrevocable Trust is often the ideal plan for an individual or couple. Here are two (2) common reasons:

1. FEDERAL ESTATE TAX - Individuals or couples whose estate exceeds the threshold for the Federal Estate Tax can use Irrevocable Trusts to shield assets from the Federal Estate Tax. Assets held in an Irrevocable Trust are typically not considered part of the Grantor's estate for estate tax purposes, which



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may render those assets immune from the Federal Estate Tax altogether.

2. SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING AND BENEFIT PROTECTION -

A second key area where Irrevocable Trusts play a major role is for special needs individuals or anyone who receives "means tested" governmental benefits. Irrevocable Trusts preserve eligibility for the special needs or disabled individual and enable said individual to benefit simultaneously from other assets. In these cases, individuals can remain eligible for Medicaid or other governmental benefit programs and still benefit from other assets without those additional assets counting against the individual under the government's "means tests." In other words, assets held in this type of Irrevocable Trust are not counted against the individual under the government's "means tests" as pertains to eligibility for governmental benefits. HW

Pro-Israel Democrat Group Denounces Michigan Candidate Who Said Dems 'Not The Jewish Party'

(JNS) – Al Williams, a candidate to chair the Democratic Party in Michigan, drew a reproach from a pro-Israel Democrat group for stating at a Feb. 4 online meet-and-greet that "this is not the Jewish party. This is the Democratic Party."

"There are more voices than just Zionists in this party," Williams added. "There are more voices than just Jewish Americans within this party. There are more voices than just those anti-Arab American voices within this party."

Williams also accused the Jewish state of "genocide" and said there should be an arms embargo against Israel.

Mark Mellman, the president and CEO of Democratic Majority for Israel, stated last Wednesday that the candidate's comments "are deeply offensive and should be disqualifying."

"Good Democrats don't traffic in antisemitic stereotypes about Jewish loyalty or falsely portray Jewish Americans as 'anti-Arab American.' Williams' effort to deny Jewish Americans a home in our party should be definitively rejected by all Democrats and all Americans," Mellman stated.

"The Democratic Party has and must continue to be a home for all Americans," he added, "including those with a diversity of religious and ethnic backgrounds. The path to electoral victory is through unity, not the division and exclusion Mr. Williams promotes."

Mellman urged Williams "to immediately withdraw from the race for chair, apologize for his indefensible remarks and seek out meaningful conversations with the Jewish community to understand why his comments are so wrong and so harmful." HW





Memphis Conference for Jewish Women to Offer Inspiration and Practical Wisdom

On Sunday, March 16, 2025, Jewish women from across Memphis will gather at the Memphis JCC for the inaugural Memphis Conference for Jewish Women, a day dedicated to inspiration, learning and personal growth. Organized by the Memphis Jewish Experience (MJX), the event will feature a dynamic lineup of speakers and workshops designed to provide practical tools for navigating life's challenges while strengthening personal and communal connections.

This year's theme, "Rising Above," focuses on developing resilience, joy, and a deeper sense of fulfillment. The conference will bring together women from all backgrounds for engaging sessions on topics ranging from Jewish wisdom and personal development to health, relationships and holiday preparation.

The keynote speaker, Batya Feigenbaum, has inspired audiences across North America with her remarkable life story. Born with a spinal cord injury that left her a partial paraplegic, Batya overcame significant challenges to become an educator, speaker and leader in Jewish education. Her address will focus on perseverance, faith and the ability to find happiness despite adversity.

Miriam Karp, assistant director of Jewish Engagement for MJX, expressed her enthusiasm for this year's keynote. "I have had the privilege of hearing Batya Feigenbaum speak before, and her words leave a lasting impact," Karp said. "She has an incredible ability to inspire audiences with her warmth, honesty and unwavering positivity. I am looking forward to seeing how she will uplift and empower the women in our community."

Beyond the keynote address, the conference offers a variety of workshops covering topics relevant to Jewish women. Sessions include: **Timeless Heroines: The Lives and Legacies of Sarah**

and Ruth – An exploration of the lives of these pivotal Jewish women, led by Talia Nissan. Three Steps to True Happiness - A practical follow-up to the keynote address, where Batya Feigenbaum will share concrete strategies for cultivating joy and resilience. Parenting in Practice: Blending Tradition with Today's **Tips** – Lynn Jakubowicz, a mother of 12, offers insights into raising children with a balance of Torah values and modern parenting strategies. Marriage Through Torah – Lessons on relationships drawn from biblical personalities, also presented by Lynn Jakubowicz. Women's Health & Wellness – Sessions on pelvic health and nutrition, led by experts Sigi Sharabi and Leah Goodfella. Passover **Prep & Seder Enrichment** – Practical guidance from Sarah Ardestani and Miriam Karp on organizing for the holiday and making the seder experience engaging for all ages.

The conference will begin with registration and refreshments at 10:30 a.m., followed by workshops, a gourmet lunch and a dessert reception. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experienced speakers while also engaging in meaningful discussions with fellow participants.

"This event is a rare opportunity for Jewish women to take a step back from their daily routines and invest in their personal growth," Karp said. "It's about learning, connecting and leaving with practical insights that can positively impact their lives."

The Memphis Conference for Jewish Women will take place on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Memphis JCC, 6560 Poplar Ave.

For registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit memphisjx.org/upcomingevents, mkarp@memphisjx.org, or call 410-504-3125. **HW**

YJP's Celebrate the New Year for Trees: A Tu B'Shvat Gathering





On Wednesday, February 12, the MJX/MJCC young professionals (YJP) celebrated Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, with an engaging and memorable evening. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and discussions centered around the holiday's themes of nature, agriculture, and connection to the land of Israel.

The event featured Tal Nezry, the MJCC Community Shlicha, who shared personal experiences of growing up in Israel, enriching the understanding of the holiday's significance. Guests sampled delicious fruits of Israel while participating in a discussion about humanity's relationship with trees and the agricultural world. A short video from Rabbi Sinclair provided insights into the holiday, and Rabbi Noach Karp shared reflections from his trips to Israel, emphasizing the importance of blessings before meals.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, attendees enjoyed Israeli wines and participated in spirited games of pool, foosball, ping pong and basketball shootout.

The successful event was made possible by the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Center for Jewish Life and Learning and MJX:The Memphis Jewish Experience. Stay tuned for upcoming MJX Young Professional (singles or young couples ages 21-42yrs old) events, including the Shabbat Connect Dinner on March 7 and Purim celebrations.

If you'd like to hear more about MJX programming visit: memphisjx.org or email: info@memphisjx.org **HW**

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What's New for 2025?

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

To help you stay informed, here are five changes you can look forward to in the new year.

Higher catch-up contributions for some. As of January 1, individuals ages 60 through 63 may be able to make increased catch-up contributions (if offered) to their workplace plan. The catch-up amount for people age 50 and older is \$7,500 for 2025, but for people ages 60 through 63, the limit will be \$11,250.1

Cap on out-of-pocket Medicare drug costs. A bit of welcome news for people with Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage – a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription costs takes effect on January 1.² People with Part D will also now have the option to pay out-of-pocket costs in monthly installments over the course of the plan year instead of having to pay all at once at the pharmacy, which may help make it easier to manage prescription drug

Automatic enrollment for new workplace retirement plans. Businesses that have adopted 401(k) and 403(b) plans since the passage of the SECURE 2.0 Act in December 2022 are now required to automatically enroll eligible employees at a contribution rate of 3% to 10%. After the first year, this rate will increase by 1% each year until it reaches 10% to 15%. New companies in business less than three years and employers with 10 or fewer employees are excluded, and other exceptions apply. Employees may opt out of coverage or elect a different percentage.

REAL ID deadline. The deadline for getting a REAL ID is May 7 (although the TSA has announced that enforcement may be phased in). As of that date, every air traveler who is at least 18 years old will need a REAL ID-compliant drivers license or identification card or another TSA-acceptable form of identification for domestic air travel and to enter certain federal facilities. Other TSA-acceptable documents are active passports, passport cards, or Global Entry cards. Standard drivers licenses will

no longer be valid ID for TSA purposes, but enhanced drivers licenses from certain states are acceptable alternatives. Travelers who don't have a REAL ID by the deadline could face delays at airport security checkpoints. Visit the TSA website at tsa.gov for updates and information.

New credit scoring risk model for mortgages. In late 2025, lenders are expected to begin using VantageScore 4.0 and FICO Score 10 T (instead of Classic FICO) to qualify borrowers. These new credit scoring models will provide a more precise assessment of credit risk.3 Models will consider trended credit data (an analysis of a customer's behavior over time or historical payment and balance information) and other data not previously considered as part of the Classic FICO score, such as rent, utility, and telecom payments. This change will potentially help more applicants qualify for mortgages.

- 1–2) These are indexed annually for inflation so may rise each year.
- 3) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, 2024

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After Rebuke from Far-Right French Leader, Steve Bannon Denies that His Straight-Armed Gesture at CPAC was a Nazi Salute

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Steve Bannon, the former senior adviser to President Donald Trump, denied that his straight-armed, palmdown gesture at a prominent conservative gathering was a Nazi salute.

Bannon's gesture at CPAC, which closely resembled one made by current Trump adviser Elon Musk at an inauguration rally last month, has drawn criticism from multiple Jewish groups for "normalizing" right-wing extremism.

But it has also received a rebuke from the far right: Jordan Bardella, the president of National Rally, a French farright party, canceled his appearance at CPAC in protest of Bannon's gesture.

"Yesterday, while I was not present in the room, one of the speakers out of provocation allowed himself a gesture alluding to Nazi ideology," Bardella said in a statement. "I therefore took the immediate decision to cancel my speech that had been scheduled this afternoon." National Rally, co-founded by a Nazi SS commander and led for decades by a man convicted of antisemitic hate speech, has worked to shed its antisemitic image and present a more approachable face to French voters as it has recently gained popularity.

Bannon lashed back at Bardella, telling a French reporter on the sidelines of the conference that Bardella was "unworthy to lead France. He's a boy, not a man." Bannon added that Bardella "wets himself like a little child."

Bannon, who airs far-right nationalist views as the host of an influential podcast, also said that the gesture was not Nazi salute.

"No, it was a wave, it was a wave like I did all the time," he said. "I do it at the end of all my speeches to thank the crowd."

Musk ignited a torrent of criticism last month when he made a similar ges-

ture, which many but not all perceived to be a Nazi salute, following Trump's inauguration. Ten days later, a priest and far-right political activist was kicked out of his Anglican church for making the salute at a pro-life rally.

Jewish groups criticized Bannon following his gesture, which came at the end of a speech in which he also said "The future of MAGA is Donald Trump. We want Trump in '28," a reference to Trump running for a third term, which would be unconstitutional.

"Last night Steve Bannon sent a clear message to white supremacists and neo-Nazis as he performed a fascist/Nazi salute and yelled at the CPAC crowd to 'fight, fight, fight!'" read a statement from the Nexus Project, a liberal group that focuses on antisemitism. The group lamented that "the growing normalization of neo-Nazi signaling and rhetoric from figures

close to the president is stunningly dangerous – particularly for American Lews."

Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the liberal Jewish Council for Public Affairs, also condemned the "Nazi-style salute" and said the gesture was "part of a broader normalization of extremism." Earlier in the week she criticized remarks by Vice President J.D. Vance in which he rebuked German political parties for isolating the far-right party Alternative for Germany.

On X, the Anti-Defamation League did not reference the gesture but tweeted, "Steve Bannon's long and disturbing history of stoking antisemitism and hate, threatening violence, and empowering extremists is well known and well documented by ADL and others. We are not surprised but are concerned about the normalization of this behavior." HW

OBITUARIES



Gladys Ray Allen Edelstein

Gladys Ray Allen Edelstein, age 92, died peacefully at her home on February 14, 2025. Mrs. Edelstein is survived by her daughter, Andrea Lynn Edelstein-Gunn (John Gunn) of Clarksville, Tenn., and son Steven B. Edelstein of Chicago, Ill. She was proceeded in death by her husband, Dr. Sidney M. Edelstein, and daughter Adrian R. Edelstein. Mrs. Edelstein is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and her brother, Dr. Lee Allen of Memphis, Tenn.

Mrs. Edelstein, originally from Memphis, Tenn., was a citizen of Madisonville, Ky., for over 50 years. She was active within her community, especially her neighborhood where she served as the treasurer of the Ridgewood Homeowners Association for 25 years. Mrs. Edelstein was extremely active in the Woman's Club of Madisonville and enjoyed volunteering for the numerous events the organization sponsored and was recently recognized for her many years of service.

Mrs. Edelstein enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and discussing numerous subjects, notably politics. She always was the first to remember special events in people's lives whether it be a birthday or anniversary. Mrs. Edelstein will always be remembered for her energy, spirit and devotion to her husband and children.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Woman's Club of Madison-ville, P.O. Box 1171, Madisonville, KY, United States, 42431, wclub42431@gmail.com. **HW**



Nadolyn Rayfield Schoenfeld

Nadolyn Rayfield Schoenfeld passed away peacefully with her family by her side on February 16, 2025, after a brief illness. Nadolyn was born on June 18, 1938, in Memphis, Tenn., to Maurice and Sarah Wolfe Rayfield. She graduated from Central High School and attended the University of Tennessee briefly before returning to Memphis. In November 1959, she married optometrist, Dr. Edwin Schoenfeld, her husband of more than 60 years.

She dedicated her life to taking care of her family and enjoyed celebrating Jewish traditions. She loved her dogs, with a fondness for schnauzers, her last one being a rescue.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2020. Nadolyn leaves behind her daughter, Karen Rothschild, (Benno) of Atlanta, Ga., and Jacqueline Kamin (Ehud) of Memphis.

Donations can be made to the Humane Society of Memphis in her memory. **HW**

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Google Calendar No Longer Shows Holocaust Remembrance Day and Jewish American Heritage Month

By Ben Sales

February 12, 2025, (JTA) – Google Calendar has removed International Holocaust Remembrance Day and Jewish American Heritage Month from its default display in the United States, part of a broader removal of cultural and ethnic observances from the app.

The removal is being noticed now as companies across the United States roll back a range of diversity, equity and inclusion measures following the Trump administration's directives against DEI. But Google told tech news outlets in recent days that the changes to the calendar date back to mid-2024 and have to do with workload rather than government policy.

"Some years ago, the Calendar team started manually adding a broader set of cultural moments in a wide number of countries around the world. We got feedback that some other events and countries were missing – and maintaining hundreds of moments manually and

consistently globally wasn't scalable or sustainable," the tech giant, which is valued at \$2.3 trillion, told The Verge.

In addition to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Jan. 27, and Jewish American Heritage Month in May, the observances that no longer automatically appear include Pride Month and Black History Month. Since Donald Trump assumed the presidency, some official commemorations of International Holocaust Remembrance Day have been canceled amid the crackdown on DEI.

The changes to Google Calendar came to public attention the same week that Google Maps changed the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, the new name Trump proclaimed. On Feb. 7, the White House barred an Associated Press reporter from a briefing after demanding that the news organization alter its style guide to reflect the new name. **HW**

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IDF: Ariel and Kfir Bibas were Murdered by Hamas, but 3rd Body is Not their Mother Shiri



Israelis hold photographs of Shiri, Kfir and Ariel Bibas at a gathering calling for their release at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, on November 28, 2023. Credit: Miriam Alster/Flash90

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – This is a developing story.

The Israeli military has confirmed that the two deceased children released by Hamas last Thursday are the hostages Ariel and Kfir Bibas. But the military said that a third body is not that of their mother, Shiri.

The military said the country's National Institute of Forensic Medicine, in collaboration with police, could not identify the body.

"During the identification process, it was determined that the additional body received is not that of Shiri Bibas, and no match was found for any other hostage. This is an anonymous, unidentified

body," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. "This is a violation of utmost severity by the Hamas terrorist organization, which is obligated under the agreement to return four deceased hostages. We demand that Hamas return Shiri home along with all our hostages."

Last Friday, Hamas acknowledged that there may have been an "error or overlap in the bodies" and said it would investigate. "We will examine these claims with complete seriousness" and will "announce the results clearly," the group said, according to CNN.

In a statement last Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that "Hamas will pay the full price" for breaking the ceasefire deal. He called the return of the wrong body a "brazen violation of the agreement."

"In an indescribably cynical way, they did not return Shiri along with her children, the little angels," Netanyahu said. "And they put in the coffin the body of a Gazan woman. We will act with determination to bring Shiri home, together with all of our hostages, living and dead alike."

The Israeli military statement, issued in the early hours of last Friday morning in Israel, was the latest shock in a whirlwind of strife and tragedy for Israel. And it came as Israel was preparing for the release of six living hostages on Saturday.

Shiri Bibas and her two young sons, Kfir and Ariel, were taken hostage in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack and became faces of the captives' plight and the movement to free them. Their husband and father, Yarden Bibas, was taken captive separately and released alive earlier this month.

Hamas had said in November 2023 that Shiri, Ariel and Kfir had been killed in an Israeli airstrike; Israel investigated that claim but had not confirmed it. Now, the IDF statement said Hamas murdered the boys in November 2023.

"IDF representatives informed the Bibas family that their loved ones, Ariel and Kfir Bibas, have been identified," the statement said. "According to the assessment of professional officials, based on the intelligence available to us and forensic findings from the identification process, Ariel and Kfir Bibas were brutally murdered by terrorists in captivity in November 2023."

The week prior, Hamas announced that it would be returning their bodies to Israel. Last Wednesday, the Israeli government confirmed it would be receiving their bodies. But shortly afterward, relatives of the Bibas family said they had not given permission for the government to announce that Shiri, Ariel and Kfir were dead.

Four coffins returned to Israel last Thursday morning. One of the bodies was quickly confirmed to be hostage Oded Lifshitz, 84. The remaining three were widely assumed to belong to Shiri and her children, and people across Israel and the world publicly mourned their deaths.

Now, the IDF is demanding that Hamas release Shiri Bibas.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Bibas family during this incredibly difficult time and remain committed to doing everything possible to ensure Shiri and all the hostages are brought home at the earliest opportunity," it said in a statement.

Last Friday morning, the boys' aunt posted a grieving message on Facebook.

"Sorry Luli, sorry Firfir," Ofri Bibas wrote, using nicknames for the boys. "You didn't deserve any of this. We will miss you forever. We are not giving up on your mom, Shiri." **HW**

'Lost 55 Pounds': Devastating Health Impact of Captivity Revealed



An advertisement sponsored by the Israeli consul general in New York showing three Israeli hostages who were released on Feb. 8, 2025, which will be on display in Times Square, New York City, February 2025. Source: Screenshot.

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Hostages freed from Gaza are showing severe health impacts including dramatic weight loss of up to 25 kilograms (55 pounds), significant muscle deterioration, and complex medical challenges that will require long-term rehabilitation, medical experts told the Knesset Health Committee last Monday.

The testimonies revealed disturbing details about the conditions of captivity and their lasting effects on physical and mental health.

Dr. Michal Mizrachi, director of medical treatment for returned hostages at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center's Ichilov Hospital, provided a comprehensive update to the Knesset Health Committee regarding four returned hostages treated at the facility.

The patients – Keith Siegel, Gadi Mozes, Iair Horn and Ohad Ben Ami – exhibited severe malnutrition characterized by at least 20% weight loss, alongside significant deterioration of both fat

and muscle mass.

"While we fortunately did not observe refeeding syndrome, likely due to improved nutrition provided before release, the patients still face significant nutritional deficiencies requiring rehabilitation and ongoing care," Mizrachi explained.

"We've documented substantial functional impairment, including dramatic decreases in physical capabilities resulting from prolonged inactivity."

Pre-existing medical conditions received only intermittent and partial treatment during captivity, Mizrachi noted.

(Refeeding syndrome, a metabolic disturbance that occurs as a result of reinstitution of nutrition in people who are starved, severely malnourished or metabolically stressed, can cause neurologic, pulmonary, cardiac, neuromuscular and hematologic symptoms.)

Dr. Hagar Mizrachi, head of the General Medicine Division at the Ministry of Health, highlighted improved coordination with the Red Cross's medical team.

"We're actively sharing our findings about necessary treatment adjustments. Their care extends until the handover to the IDF, a period ranging from minutes to 40 minutes," she said. She also announced the establishment of a specialized clinic for returned hostages in Kirvat Gat

Professor Hagai Levine, who heads the Health Department at the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, emphasized the need for systematic monitoring of returnees' health conditions.

"Consider dental health – poor nutrition and lack of dental hygiene could lead not only to dental problems but potentially to cardiac and other systemic health issues. We need comprehensive monitoring to develop appropriate responses."

Dr. Levine further addressed emerging challenges: "We're preparing for casualty reception this week, requiring specialized protocols. The case of Ofer Kalderon, who contracted severe influenza upon return, highlights the need to reassess our infection control measures. We must consider vaccination protocols for both returnees and their families and evaluate their immune status."

Lee Gat, vice president of strategy at Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan, drew on the hospital's extensive experience with returnees from multiple deals and rescue operations:

"The correlation between captivity duration and health deterioration is clear. Our medical teams are deeply concerned about the impact of each additional day in captivity on both physical and mental recovery potential. Time is critical, and we're witnessing the severe consequences of prolonged captivity."

Shimi Kalderon provided insight into his nephew, Ofer's, condition: "Ofer, who lost 25 kilograms [55 pounds], is expected to return to Kfar Maccabiah [the hotel complex near Sheba Medical Center where released hostages have stayed after leaving the hospital] today. He re-

cently battled severe flu and pneumonia, requiring isolation from his children. The Sheba medical team provided round-the-clock care until his condition stabilized."

He detailed Ofer's conditions in captivity: "They began force-feeding him before release. His diet included rotten vegetables and occasional half-pitas with cheese. In 484 days, he saw daylight only once, during a three-hour period with his daughter, Sahar. Showers were limited to once every two or three days."

Einav Mozes Orbach, Gadi Mozes's daughter-in-law, shared the family's perspective: "The reality exceeds our worst fears. While we're immensely relieved to have him back and surrounded by care, hearing about his experiences is devastating. Beyond the physical and cognitive trauma, he repeatedly expresses feelings of abandonment and betrayal by his country and government, emotions that burn as deeply as the abuse by Islamic Jihad."

Carmit Palty Katzir provided a sobering account of her mother, Hanna Katzir, who died following her release: "My mother entered captivity taking one blood pressure medication. After 49 days without it, she returned with severe cardiac issues, arrhythmias and respiratory failure. The contaminated conditions in Gaza – polluted water, air and deadly fungi – contributed to her decline. She lost basic functions – walking, standing, using the bathroom, breathing independently. She was sedated and ventilated for months before succumbing to these complications."

Palti Katzir also highlighted the bureaucratic challenges facing families: "I remain unrecognized as a victim of hostile actions, despite exposure to psychological terror and traumatic footage. The impacts extend beyond physical health – my mother lost not just her life, but in her final days had to process the loss of her husband, son, kibbutz and entire community."

Originally published by Israel Hayom. **HW**

Jeff Goldblum Wants to Be a Cantor in 'Nobody Wants This' Season 2



Credit: Frazer Harrison/Getty Images

By Lior Zaltzman

I was honestly heartbroken when Jeff Goldblum's latest Netflix show, the addictive Greek mythology retelling "Kaos" in which the Jewish star played the one and only Zeus, was canceled.

But as they say, when one TV door closes, the steps to the TV bimah open (that is what they say, right?). That's right, Jeff Goldblum just made the ultimate case to be cast as a cantor in the next season of Netflix's "Nobody Wants This," and I am one billion percent sold. Dear Netflix overlords, don't let this magical spiritual opportunity slip away. You must let Jeff Goldblum (the Wizard of Oz himself!) play a cantor – it'd be a mitzvah.

It all happened at the red carpet for the Critics Choice Awards, where both Adam Brody and Adrien Brody won for their very different but very Jewish roles – a hot rabbi for the former, a haunted Holocaust survivor and architect for the latter. Adrien even jokingly got up when Adam's name was called. But before all that, our favorite "Nobody Wants This" Jewish mom Esther (apologies to Tovah Feldshuh, we're terrified of Bina) aka Jewish actress Jackie Tohn, was interviewed with Jeff Goldblum and his wife on the red carpet and gave us a few minutes of unadulterated magic.

"Variety's" Marc Malkin made the first move by urging Goldblum to be in the next season of "Nobody Wants This." "You could be the cantor," he insisted. Instead of replying with words like mere mortals do, Goldblum, along with the equally resplendent Tohn and his wife, Emily, started singing the traditional Jewish blessing over candles.

"Baruch ata adonai, eloheinu melech ha'alom," they chanted, "asher kidshanu bemitzvotav, vetzivanu, lehadlik ner shel..." The three paused, momentarily confused about whether they should say this blessing over Shabbat or Hanukkah candles, but Tohn and Goldblum seemed to decide together that it should be, "ner shel Critics Choice." I think they may have started a new holiday, and I hope they sing this blessing on Yom Critics Choice every year. (Or at every awards ceremony? Jackie, Emily and Jeff, we need you to light some candles at the Oscars later this month, please!)

We can't deny this would be the perfect casting – you honestly wouldn't even need to change the "Jurassic Park" star's name – because who wouldn't want to go to a synagogue with Cantor Jeff Goldblum?! Plus, we know that he loves the Yiddish music of Joel Grey's father, comic singer Mickey Katz. I am off to picket at the Netflix offices until this becomes a reality. HW



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