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Chabad of Tennessee Celebrates 30 Years of Community and Connection with Gala & Concert at Halloran Centre at the Orpheum

The Memphis Jewish community eagerly anticipates an unforgettable evening as Chabad of Tennessee marks its 30th anniversary with a grand gala event. This milestone celebration, to be held at the prestigious Halloran Centre at the Orpheum on Sunday, March 2, promises a night of elegance, inspiration, and heartfelt gratitude.

Over the past three decades, Rabbi Levi and Rivky Klein have transformed Chabad of Tennessee into a vibrant center of Jewish life, uniting the Memphis and broader Jewish communities with warmth, purpose, and unwavering dedication. This gala aims to honor their legacy of fostering connection, instilling pride, and igniting hope, while also looking forward to building an even stronger and more vibrant future together.

“As we mark 30 years of Chabad of Tennessee, we’re not just celebrating a milestone – we’re honoring the relationships, memories, and moments of meaning and growth that have brought our community together,” says Rabbi Klein. “We are reaffirming our commitment to our mission of ensuring that every Jew in Memphis feels connected Jewishly and spiritually.”

The evening will feature a special performance by the internationally acclaimed Jewish singer Shulem Lemmer. He has made history as the first born-and-raised Charedi Jew to sign a major record contract with a leading label, Universal Music Group. Known for his soul-stirring voice and ability to connect with audiences of all backgrounds, Lemmer’s music will elevate the celebration, leaving attendees inspired and uplifted. Indulge in a sumptuous kosher culinary experience, carefully crafted by a renowned out-of-town caterer. The exquisite menu promises to delight your senses, reflecting the elegance and sophistication that define Chabad’s exceptional events.

This gala is an evening you won’t want to miss – a chance to reflect on Chabad of Tennessee’s incredible journey and be part of its next chapter. Mark your calendars and RSVP for this spectacular event, on Sunday, March 2 at the Halloran Centre. To become a partner or sponsor for this momentous occasion, for more details, and to RSVP, visit www.JewishMemphis.com/gala

Together, let us celebrate Chabad of Tennessee and its immeasurable impact. [HW](#)



8 Hostages, Including 5 Thai Nationals, Return to Israel Following Chaotic Scenes in Gaza



Arbel Yehud, an Israeli hostage held in Gaza, is made to traverse a dense crowd of terrorists before being handed over to the Red Cross outside Yahya Sinwar’s house in Khan Younis, Gaza, Jan. 30, 2025. Credit: Hani Alshaer/Anadolu via Getty Images
By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Eight hostages returned to Israel in two separate releases last Thursday, following scenes of chaos and intimidation as the terror groups that abducted them handed them over to the Red Cross.

Agam Berger, the last woman soldier remaining in Gaza, was released first, after Hamas forced her to walk across a stage and pose with a certificate. In Israel, she was reunited with her family and was set to be reunited with the

four other women soldiers with whom she had been held until their release last Saturday.

Gadi Mozes and Arbel Yehud, civilians who had been abducted by the group Palestinian Islamic Jihad, were released separately. They were made to walk through a dense crowd of Hamas supporters in front of the home of slain Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Khan Younis before reaching representatives of the Red Cross.

Additionally, five Thai nationals who were not part of the current ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas also returned to Israel, where Israeli President Isaac Herzog met with the Thai ambassador. Three Thai nationals remain hostages in Gaza, of whom two are known to be dead.

Islamic Jihad released a video of Yehud and Mozes, neighbors from Kibbutz Nir Oz, embracing before their release. According to Israeli media, Yehud’s reunion with Mozes marked the first time she had seen another Israeli since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Mozes, 80, was one of the oldest hostages remaining in Gaza. He had previously been seen alive in a hostage video released by Islamic Jihad in December 2023; another hostage seen on tape that day was later found dead. His partner, Efrat, was murdered on Oct. 7.

Yehud was abducted with her partner, Ariel Cunio, who remains a hostage in Gaza, as does his brother, David, whose wife and children were released in a previous ceasefire in November 2023. Yehud’s brother, Dolev, was murdered on Oct. 7.

Condemning the chaotic scenes from Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered a delay in the release of the Palestinian security prisoners that Israel had committed to free in exchange for the hostages, until Hamas and mediators could assure him that hostages released in the future would be safe.

The number of hostages remaining in Gaza is now 82, of whom 23 are set for release during the current ceasefire. Another release was scheduled to take place last Saturday. [HW](#)

My Teen Israel Experience



Margalit's bus group went to an army base and made a barbeque for the Chayalim.

Margalit Goldkin, daughter of Amy Goldkin and Alan Goldkin, is a junior at the Goldie Margolin High School for Girls. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to offset the costs of her NCSY GIVE Israel program. All rising juniors and seniors are eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2025 are open and can be accessed at Lemsky Endowment Fund | Jewish Community Partners (jcpmemphis.org)

By Margalit Goldkin

This past summer, I had the opportunity to go on NCSY GIVE – an all-girls Chesed (volunteering) program traveling Israel for five weeks. While NCSY GIVE is life changing every year, this summer was especially impactful because of the tragedies that happened since October 7, 2023, and the hurt the entire Jewish nation was experiencing. The girls on this program came from across the United States as well as Israel to spend the summer together, giving back to the Jewish people.

On the first day we headed to a senior care home. At first, we were a bit nervous but once we got into the activity it was very inspiring. Upon arrival, we quickly started talking, dancing, singing, and finding innovative ways to communicate with the seniors, like playing with balloons. There was a man in the home named Ezra who had a love for singing, and we had the opportunity to hear him sing, which was a special. He was sweet and his voice was powerful. We all slowly joined with him and had a Kumzitz (singing) that was full of beautiful Achdut (unity); he started crying happy tears.

The next place we headed was Shalva, an amazing organization for kids with special needs. We learned about and experienced what goes on while playing with younger special needs kids. It was not easy at first, and we struggled with communication. At one point, a 3-year-old girl became frustrated because we could not understand what she wanted, and we did not know Hebrew sign language. Eventually, the teacher provided help for us, and it was an amazing experience. The kids were cute and had so much love to give us.

Another great organization we were privileged to help with was Efrat, a group devoted to supporting mothers considering abortion because of various difficulties. Efrat specifically helps with sustaining the mother and the child through this tough time ensuring the mothers are comfortable in taking their first step toward motherhood. Efrat provides mothers with everything needed for their child, including strollers, car seats, and cribs. We helped pack boxes of diapers, wipes, and supplies needed for their childcare, along with handwritten notes thanking the mothers for raising the future generation of K'lal Yisrael (The Jewish People.) Efrat puts hope into the world, gives strength to our nation and was inspirational to me by making everything come to life.

Visiting Har Hertzl (Mount Hertzl known as Mount of Remembrance) was an extremely powerful day. We barbecued for Chayalim (IDF soldiers) and heard from the wife of a reserve soldier about her experience when the war began. Har Hertzl was very emotional and hard especially because of my personal connection to the army. My brother is in the army, and I was scared for my brother but also proud to know he is a hero because of what he is doing for our

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Feb. 7, 2025 / 9 Shevat, 57855:17 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Feb. 8, 2025 / 10 Shevat, 5785 6:14 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Beshalach

country and home. Walking through the cemetery, reading the stories, and hearing about the war was also difficult for me. There was another girl on the program who had an older brother in the army, and I was grateful not to be alone during this tough time as we were able to support each other. We sang a powerful Acheinu (prayer for freeing the captives) and ended the trip by writing letters to ourselves to get later in the summer.

After shedding a lot of tears, we headed to an army base to cook barbecue for the Chayalim. When we arrived at

the base, they explained soldiers nearby stopped by the base to get food and drinks. Slowly after we started cooking, the soldiers stopped by for delicious hamburgers, rested on the couches, and talked about what they were doing. Throughout the day we saw what the army truly does for us and how strong they are while risking their lives all the time.

On the second to last week of GIVE, we traveled down south to Ofakim (city in the Southern District of Israel, west of Beersheba) with all three GIVE buses. Ofakim was one of the places that was attacked and experienced the terrors of the war. One of the amazing stories from the war was about a woman who lived in Ofakim and who had Hamas terrorists in her house. She fed them cookies and food while they kept her hostage. She was full of bravery and Bitachon (trust and confidence.) She and her husband were in the house, contacted and waited for the police while feeding the terrorists and having tremendous faith. It was an amazing story to hear as we stood outside her house.

We were divided into multiple groups to help the community of Ofakim. My group headed to the market and handed out candy and drinks and talked to people to cheer them up on an extremely hot day. I had a conversation with a woman who was originally from Los Angeles and moved to Israel a couple of years ago. She lived in Ofakim when

(See Teen Israel~Margalit Page 3)



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Teen Israel ~ Margalit...
(Continued From Page 2)

the war started and while watching everyone flee from their homes and evacuate the town, she decided to stay. She told us she could not leave her home, because she had animals that she could not leave behind. This story was amazing and special to hear, because Ofakim was her home, and where she wanted to be, and she did not leave. When I heard this, it reminded me of how so many people are making Aliyah. Many ask, why would someone make Aliyah in the middle of the war? The answer is because we all love Israel and will stay

in Israel through everything showing strength for our nation. All together we have something unbreakable.

GIVE showed me the wonders of Eretz Yisrael (Lord of Israel) through Chesed (kindness) we saw Hashem’s beautiful world and heard beautiful stories about our nation. GIVE impacted me in endless ways, and I am grateful for the girls and advisors who made the experience happen. I am grateful to Hashem that I was able to see Israel for the first time and had the opportunity to help our homeland.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NCSY GIVE Israel trip possible. **HW**

Netanyahu Reportedly Planning to Meet Trump at White House Next Week

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington next week, Hebrew media reported last Tuesday.

While Netanyahu’s visit to the United States has not been finalized, the reported plans are for him to depart on Sunday and return two days later.

Asked about possible prospects for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians by reporters aboard Air Force One last Monday, Trump revealed he would be discussing the issue with Netanyahu during a meeting in Washington “in the not-too-distant future.”

Following earlier reports about the possible visit, Israeli Prime Minister’s Office Spokesperson Omer Dostri said in a statement posted to social media that, “contrary to reports, an official invitation for the prime minister to visit the White House has not yet been received.”

“If and when an official invitation to visit is received, we will follow all accepted procedures,” added Dostri.

According to unnamed American officials cited by AFP last Tuesday, the full details of Netanyahu’s trip could be announced after last Wednesday’s scheduled visit to Jerusalem by U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff. **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, February 10
Rabbi talk with Rabbi Akiva Males, The Rav of Young Israel Congregation
Topic: Tu’ B’Shevat and the Judean Palms Amazing Rebirth!
Rabbi Males talks are always an interesting highlight to the day! He always brings a unique perspective to any topic. He is a knowledgeable and fun speaker to hear. One of his last talks on “How Coca Cola became Kosher” is still talked about by the group that heard him! Come learn and enjoy this nice, interesting subject.

Wednesday, February 12
First Bingo Game of 2025
We’ll have special prizes and a different game to make things more interesting! Come have a nice lunch and enjoy a Classic Game of Bingo with nice prizes. Reservations are required for the Lunch.

Monday, February 17
Speaker: Lisa Shurden with Senior Helpers of Memphis
Topic: Accomplishments and Life Events
Lisa’s talk will be one of encouragement and reflection. She will talk to the group about so many of the things we have done in our life that many times we forget about. She always brings a very positive attitude to all her talks. Come join this enjoyable speaker and have a good time! No reservations are required for the talk!



Robb “Robbo” Zelonky will perform at the Monthly Senior Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Wednesday, February 19
Big Senior Monthly Luncheon with Entertainment provided by Creative Aging
February’s luncheon will featuring Robb “Robbo” Zelonky who has performed for senior communities ever since he was a child, accompanying his parents in the Chicagoland area. For the past 45 years, he has performed for seniors all across America, specializing in an array of popular American folk songs, 60s and 70s classic rock, and even Hebrew and Yiddish favorites. His special bond with his own grandmother, Goldie, imparted within him a deep love and appreciation for seniors, and he looks forward to playing for our group and entertaining us as well! We will have a delicious Kosher lunch as well served by the staff of the MJCC! The room is always decorated by a special group of volunteers. This month’s luncheon is sponsored by The Avaline at River Oaks, which is now open.

The cost for the meal and entertainment is only \$5.

Please call the front desk of the MJCC to make a reservation at 901-761-0810. Seating is limited so please call ASAP for you or to reserve a group table of 6-8! Payment is made at the door the day of the event.

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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Your Health

The Ultimate Guide to Meal Planning

By Cindy Katz, DNP

Meal planning has surged in popularity – and for good reason. With countless resources at your fingertips, you might be wondering: Is meal planning right for me?

For many of us, deciding what to cook for dinner every night can be both time-consuming and exhausting. Meal planning simplifies this process by allowing you to plan, prep, and cook meals in advance, freeing up your time and energy during busy weekdays.

Getting Started with Meal Planning

Choose the Right Containers

Effective meal planning starts with proper storage. Invest in containers that suit your needs – whether disposable, plastic, or glass. Pick options that fit your budget and work well for your family’s routine.

Planning Your Meals

1. Choose simple, versatile recipes that meet your dietary needs and preferences.
2. Plan easy-to-make breakfasts, lunches, and dinners such as stir-fries, one-pot meals, sheet-pan dishes, soups, and salads that can be easily reheated.
3. Include a variety of proteins, grains, fruits, and vegetables to keep meals interesting.
4. Combine these with colorful vegetables and fruits for balanced meals.
5. For snacks, consider healthy options like nuts, yogurt, or fresh-cut veggies.

Grocery Shopping

Maximize your weekends by setting aside time to:

1. Plan your meals for the upcoming week.
2. Create a detailed shopping list, including staples like spices and pantry essentials.

Why Does Meal Planning Work?

Portion Control:

Preparing and storing pre-portioned meals helps prevent overeating, making meal planning ideal for weight management.

Less Waste, More Savings:

Meal planning keeps your grocery shopping organized, helping you avoid overbuying. Plus, eating at home eliminates restaurant costs, saving money and reducing food waste.

Time-Saving Convenience:

Reheating pre-prepared meals cuts down on daily cooking and cleanup, leaving you with more time for other activities.

Healthy Eating:

By focusing on nutritious, home-cooked meals, meal planning supports goals like weight loss, diabetes management, and heart health. It’s an easy way to avoid processed foods and fast-food temptations.

Give meal planning a try. With just a little preparation, you’ll discover how much easier, healthier, and more enjoyable mealtime can be!

Anglican Church Kicks Out Priest Who Mimicked Elon Musk’s Nazi-Like Salute at Pro-Life Convention



Father Calvin Robinson delivers Elon Musk’s salute at the National Pro-Life Summit, Jan. 25, 2025, in Washington, DC. (Screenshot via YouTube)

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A British priest who delivered an Elon Musk-inspired, straight-armed salute during his address to a pro-life gathering last week has been kicked out of his church.

The Anglican Catholic Church announced last Wednesday that Father Calvin Robinson is “no longer serving as a priest” in the denomination.

The removal of Robinson’s license came after he delivered a speech last Friday to the National Pro-Life Summit in Washington, D.C. At the end of his speech, he mimicked the language and gestures that Musk, the billionaire Donald Trump adviser, used during an Inauguration Day event [the week prior.]

Like Musk, Robinson said “My heart goes out to you,” touched his chest and made the straight-armed salute. A clip of the moment went viral. Many observers have said the gesture is tantamount to a Nazi salute, and Robinson’s now-former church endorsed that view.

“We condemn Nazi ideology and anti-Semitism in all its forms,” the church’s statement said. “And we believe that those who mimic the Nazi salute, even as a joke or an attempt to troll their opponents, trivialize the horror of the Holocaust and diminish the sacrifice of those who fought against its perpetrators.”

Robinson’s gesture has fueled ongoing debate over whether Musk intentionally meant to deliver a Nazi salute. Extremists who saw his gesture as a dog whistle, meanwhile, have begun adopting his words as a new slogan.

Robinson’s actions were met with laughter and applause from the gathering of an estimated 100,000 student anti-abortion activists. Other speakers at the event included former Trump cabinet member Dr. Ben Carson and pro-Trump commentator Charlie Kirk.

Robinson had overseen a parish in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his social media bio says he is affiliated with a far-right British political party. Facing criticism last Wednesday, he offered an explanation for his gesture.

“I am not a Nazi,” he said on X, Musk’s social media platform, explaining that he had made the gesture and comment as “a mockery of the hysterical ‘liberals’ who called Elon Musk a Nazi.” He insisted that his gesture “was not a joke at the expense of WWII, nor

an admission of my membership in the Nationalist Socialist Party.

“Context is key, but sometimes people ignore context to confirm their own prejudices,” he added. “People see what they want to see.” To his detractors he also wrote, “I forgive you for your ignorance. My heart goes out to you,” adding a salute emoji.

The church said it had cautioned Robinson, who has a long track record of provocative and antisemitic comments, not to engage in such behavior.

“Mr. Robinson had been warned that online trolling and other such actions (whether in service of the left or right) are incompatible with a priestly vocation and was told to desist,” it said. “Clearly, he has not, and as such, his license in this Church has been revoked.”

Robinson has also embraced beliefs that are associated with a strain of conservative Catholicism entwined with contemporary right-wing politics. On X, he has called Vatican II, the 1960s council at which the Catholic Church reformed its practices and declared that Jews did not kill Jesus Christ, “divisive.”

He declared the Latin Mass, a traditional pre-Vatican II service that has caused Catholic-Jewish tensions, “true, beautiful and good.” He said efforts to restrict it are “wicked.”

On X recently Robinson also discouraged Christians from becoming Zionists, writing, “Christians should not make an idol of the geographical Israel. The Church is the new Israel.”

In the same post, Robinson both said Christians should not hate Jews – and seemed to encourage proselytizing to them.

“We do not hate people based on their ethnicity or religion,” he wrote. “We can and should discourage people from following evil/false religions. But that is not because we hate people; it is because we love them and want them to get to heaven. The only way to the Father is through the Son.”

He has also expressed support for supersessionism, the belief that Christians have replaced Jews as God’s chosen people.

“Modern Judaism is a post-Christian religion born of the rejection of Christ,” he wrote. “Jews of the Bible are now Christian.” **HW**

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Beth Sholom Sisterhood to Host a Tu Bishvat Tea Party



Beth Sholom Sisterhood President Susan Levko (l) and Programming Co-Chair Janet Rubin have planned a special Tu Bishvat Tea Party where guests will learn about flowers used in Jewish traditions from nationally renowned ethnoherbalist Naomi Spector

Tu Bishvat is the New Year for Trees, but Beth Sholom Sisterhood plans to celebrate all flora at a special Tu Bishvat Tea Party on Sunday, February 9 from 2-4 p.m. The guest speaker will be Nao-

mi Spector, an ethnoherbalist and author of "The Jewish Book of Flowers." The title of her presentation is "Jewish Wildflower & Tree Teachings: More Than Jewish Penicillin."

"I learned so much from Naomi just from our first planning meeting," says Janet Rubin co-chair of programming for Beth Sholom Sisterhood. "At our Sisterhood Tu Bishvat Tea Party, she will talk about different flowers used in Jewish folk medicine and magic. She includes quotes from the Talmud and remedies from Maimonides."

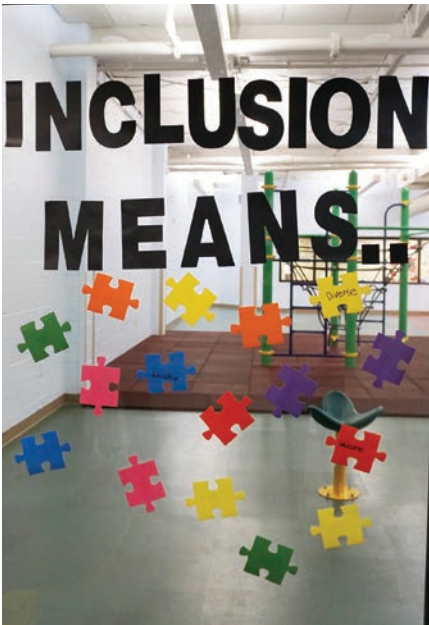
Spector has written that flowers have played important roles in Jewish ritual, culture, and healing traditions throughout history, from Ashkenazi flower teas and balms to Maimonides' flower aphrodisiacs and beyond.

Susan Levko, Sisterhood president, says "I'm excited to celebrate Tu Bshvat with an expert ethnobotanist who can teach us about the importance of flowers and trees in Jewish tradition."

The Sisterhood Tu Bishvat Tea Party costs \$10 for Sisterhood members and \$15 for nonmembers. To register, visit <https://bsholom.shulcloud.com/form/ATuBishvatTea-event.html>

Or contact Janet Rubin at
janetrubin18@gmail.com. **HW**

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month



Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service helps to ensure that all members of the Jewish community, regardless of disability status, have the same opportunities to contribute to Jewish life, learning, and worship wherever they choose.

Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Ac-

ceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAA-IM) was founded in 2009 to raise awareness and acceptance of Jewish people with disabilities.

Fogelman Jewish Family Service Inclusion and Diverse Abilities program offers various services to those living with developmental and acquired disabilities and their caregivers.

Fogelman JFS has a longstanding social group that is designed to enhance independence and quality of life through activities including art, cooking, and yoga classes, movies, professional sporting events, community service activities, and fine arts events. Fogelman JFS provides advocacy support to those with legal or social difficulties, as well as compassionate case management services to families with children of all ages.

One month of awareness is NOT enough; come check out the display during February by the Fun Zone play area at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Learn how you can make a person living with a disability feel included in Jewish life all 12 months of the year! [HW](#)

Memphis Jewish Federation Wants to Hear From You – Access to Community Programs Survey


As the community planning arm of the Memphis Jewish community, Memphis Jewish Federation occasionally asks for community input as a significant source of data for the creation and funding of programs and services.

Federation is asking community members to fill out a brief survey about access to community programs; it will take less than five minutes to complete. The survey will help Federation continue to serve the community as effectively as possible.

Survey responses will be used confidentially and only in combination with those of other survey participants. Responses will be sent directly to Research Dynamics, an outside third party.


Please check your email for the survey or enter the link below into your browser.
Please complete your survey by Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

<https://www.research.net/r/MJFCommunityAccessSurvey> **HW**



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5:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Program & Concert

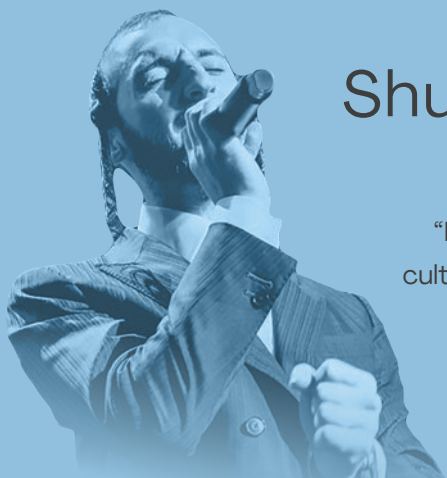


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diverse faiths and backgrounds”


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VENUE & DINING

The Halloran Centre
at the Orpheum

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a lavish gourmet culinary experience from
a five-star out-of-town caterer.

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JewishMemphis.com/gala

Memphis Native Develops Adjustable Solar Panel System with Light-Tracking Mechanism at Jerusalem College of Technology Hackathon



Elisha Serman (standing second from the left) with his 'Sunflower Technologies' teammates at the 2024 Great Minds Hackathon.

Jerusalem, Israel (Jan. 16, 2025) – Memphis native, Elisha Serman, co-developed a handheld adjustable solar panel system with a light-tracking mechanism at Jerusalem College of Technology's (JCT) 9th Annual Great Minds Hackathon last month, with his team walking away with the prize for best presentation.

Serman's team, Sunflower Technologies, came up with a handheld device that will be connected to a solar panel, which will transfer energy it collects from the sun into its battery. With a simple flick of a switch, the mechanism will allow a solar panel to identify light and will move telling the user

where the sun is the strongest ensuring they get the quickest and most efficient charge. Currently, the device is designed to charge cell phones at least twice but can be scaled to eventually charge any device connected to a USB. Other team members included fellow international JCT students Illia Polianskyi (Ukraine), Adam Marks (South Africa), Shomron Ben- Yshay (USA), Gavi Teller (USA), Leib Blam (Switzerland), Gavi Rosenthal (USA) and Levi Holtzman (USA).

Serman, who attended Cooper Yeshiva High School in Memphis, was eager to participate in the Hackathon to be able to put his skills to the test.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," he said. "Being able to actually take what I've learned in school and see how it could work and then actually using it (in practice) was one of the greatest experiences I've had (at JCT). Especially considering how short of a time I've been in school."

The hackathon, which is organized by the College's Schreiber LevTech Entrepreneurship Center, brought together 122 Orthodox and Haredi students from Israel and worldwide – including from Chile, the U.K., South Africa, and across the U.S. – to develop innovative solutions for global challenges for 48 hours. From detecting hostile UAVs to creating a mobile solar panel that identifies the best angles for harnessing sunlight during a camping trip, the event showcased JCT's dedication to advancing technology for the greater good.

The judging panel, composed of top industry leaders included Dr. Tomer Simon, Chief Scientist, Microsoft Israel R&D Center; Moshe Lipsker, SVP Global Product Development & Israel GM, Imperva; Dvir Tahar, Director of Engineering, Cross River; and Zvi Schreiber, CEO, Freightos.

"We are so proud of our students," said Orlee Guttman, co-founder of the Schreiber LevTech Entrepreneurship Center. "The hackathon provides them with an invaluable opportunity to gain hands-on experience in product development, collaborate with industry professionals, and address real-world challenges. We actively encourage our students to leverage the resources of our center to continue refining their projects, bringing their ideas to market, and creating solutions that can help countless people."

The Schreiber LevTech Entrepreneurship Center runs innovation programs throughout the year, ranging from introducing participants to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and offering seminars on emerging technologies, to hosting pre-accelerator and accelerator programs that help innovators bring their ideas to fruition.

JCT's annual women's hackathon is scheduled to take place in June 2025.

About JCT

The Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) – Lev Academic Center has a history of excellence in engineering, electro-optics and defense-related R&D. Approximately half of JCT's students study engineering, including computer science, electro-optics, electronics, and industrial engineering. Other areas of specialty at JCT include business, accounting, and life and health sciences. Students at JCT come from Israel and 38 countries around the world. JCT graduates have established numerous hi-tech companies and are top engineers at the country's aerospace and defense industries. **HW**



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Rhodes Hillel Hosts Screening of “A Real Pain”



As part of Memphis Jewish Federation’s Holocaust Education Initiative, Rhodes Hillel screened the award-winning film “A Real Pain” in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Following the film, Rhodes Philosophy Professor and Third Generation Survivor Rebecca Tuvel led the students in an engaging and thought-provoking discussion.



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Active Funds vs. Passive Funds. Which Is Better?

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

Are active funds better than passive funds or vice versa? The debate rages on. To help determine which may be better for your portfolio, it helps to understand how they differ.

Active investing involves the skills of an investment manager who seeks to generate greater returns than a market benchmark or index and may pursue other goals, such as reducing risk and enhancing income. Active investing includes substantial research and, possibly, a fair amount of trading, and the manager generally passes these expenses on to the investor.

A passive manager’s investment strategy, on the other hand, is designed to track the performance of an index, an asset class, or market segment (benchmark) and achieve returns that closely correspond to the returns of that benchmark. The goal of this type of investing might be, for example, to track the performance of the S&P 500 Index, which means owning a basket of stocks that mirrors the index’s composition. Once the basket’s contents are determined, the manager generally steps back and lets market forces do what they will.

With this type of investing, the manager will not sell securities to try to take advantage of changing market conditions and may have less flexibility to react to price declines in the securities but will continue to hold the same securities as the benchmark it is designed to track.

The expenses for a passively managed fund, such as many exchange-traded funds (ETFs), are usually low, making it comparatively inexpensive for investors to own. It is important to note that although these funds trade relatively infrequently, keeping administrative expenses relatively low, this means the fund’s performance probably will not match the benchmark’s performance exactly.

Investors may find these low expenses attractive, but actively managed funds could have an advantage during periods of market volatility. While a passive manager’s hands are essentially tied during these times, an active manager is able to make adjustments to the portfolio in an attempt to improve its performance. Although there’s no guarantee these efforts will prove successful, the active manager – unlike the passive manager – at least has room to maneuver.

Wide range of alternatives

Because there are literally thousands of funds on the market, deciding on active investing opens the door to a broad range of additional choices.

There are funds concentrated on a specific level of capitalization, or cap – a term used to describe a company’s size. It’s determined simply by multiplying a company’s stock price by the number of shares in the market. In addition to large-cap, such as those in the S&P 500, there are also mid-cap and small-cap companies.

In addition, there are funds focused on different investing styles. Growth funds invest in companies that appear poised to grow faster than their market sector or the market in general, although growth may not be realized. Value funds, on the other hand, look for companies that investors appear to be overlooking for one reason or another and show promise for a comeback, but there is no guarantee the overall market will recognize such value.

Some funds look to generate income by investing in companies that pay dividends. Investors can receive that income as cash or reinvest it in additional fund shares. However, keep in mind that reinvested income generally is taxable in the year it’s paid unless it’s held in a tax-advantaged account, such as an IRA.

Active vs. passive snapshot

Active	Passive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing research and frequent trading• Relatively high expenses• May focus on, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Large-, mid-, or small-capitalization companies○ Value vs. growth○ Dividend-paying (income) companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No ongoing research and little, if any, trading• Relatively low expenses• Generally more tax efficient• May seek to track the performance of an index, such as the S&P 500

Remember to diversify

The debate over active vs. passive is somewhat pointless because you don’t have to choose between the two. In addition to spreading your money across a variety of different asset classes (stocks, bonds, and cash), market capitalizations (large, medium, and small), and investing styles (growth and value), you can also diversify by including both passive and active investments in your portfolio. For help with building a portfolio designed to help you reach your goals, consider turning to a professional financial advisor.

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curity. There is no assurance any investment strategy will be successful.

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JCC Maccabi Games® Expands with Inaugural Campus Games and Announces New Host Cities

The JCC Maccabi Games®, a flagship program of JCC Association of North America, has announced exciting developments for 2025 and 2026. Celebrating over 40 years as one of the largest in-person gatherings of Jewish community in North America, the Games have engaged more than 500,000 individuals to date. This summer, JCC Association will launch the inaugural JCC Maccabi Campus Games in Pittsburgh, a new continental pilot that will enhance the Games’ capacity to accommodate an overdemand of participants. Also in 2025, Tucson will host the JCC Maccabi Games and Access, providing an inclusive platform for participants with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Kansas City and Toronto have been selected as the host cities for 2026, exemplifying the program’s significant and ongoing growth.

“Now more than ever, engaging our youth and uniting our community in positive, prideful Jewish identity-building experiences is essential. We are excited about the future of JCC Maccabi and how our upcoming host cities and compelling new initiatives will inspire the next generation of Jewish youth to embrace their identity and leadership opportunities,” said Samantha Cohen, senior vice president and continental director of JCC Maccabi. “JCC Maccabi is poised for unparalleled growth and impact, and the launch of innovative programming combined with groundbreaking philanthropic support underscores the Games’ stability, momentum, and our trajectory to achieve even greater reach and influence than ever before.”

The recent success of JCC Maccabi has been fueled by unprecedented investment from a growing number of donors who recognize the profound impact the Games have on young participants, their families, and entire communities. This collective commitment has driven more than \$8 million in funding toward the \$18 million strategic expansion goal of JCC Maccabi, with support from significant continental partners. Among them are The Marcus Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Samueli Foundation, Seed the Dream Foundation, David and Sharon Wax, Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs, and others. The ongoing strategic expansion began in 2022 with the re-launch of the JCC Maccabi Games after the pandemic; the inaugural JCC Maccabi Access Games; and the first quadrennial JCC Maccabi Games in Israel in 2023, which, in partnership with RootOne, brought more than 1,000 Jewish teens from 10 countries to compete; as well as other new initiatives in the pipeline.

The JCC Maccabi Games are a transformative Olympic-style sports and Jewish identity-building experience designed to strengthen Jewish teens’ connections to global Jewish peoplehood and build community in a joyful celebration of Jewish pride. For many of the 3,000 teens who participate each year – over 60% of whom are not involved in other Jewish programs – JCC Maccabi serves as their primary connection to Jewish life. The program also inspires thousands of volunteers and spectators each summer, encouraging community involvement and leadership. The Games’ 40-year legacy unites young Jewish athletes worldwide in an experience that goes beyond sports, bringing Jewish values to life through cultural and educational programming, JCC Cares community service, and meaningful mifgash (encounters) with Jewish

teens from throughout North America, Israel, and the world.

Partnering with the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh, the inaugural JCC Maccabi Campus Games – August 3 to 8, 2025 – will mark a significant step forward in JCC Maccabi’s mission to foster Jewish pride, strengthen Jewish identity, and provide new opportunities for teens to connect. This innovative model will provide an unparalleled opportunity, bringing over 2,000 Jewish teens and thousands of family members and community volunteers onto a university campus to celebrate Jewish life in a powerful, historic display of Jewish pride and unity. In response to the rise of antisemitism on U.S. college campuses, the JCC Maccabi Campus Games provide a unique opportunity to bring together Jewish teens and communities in a university environment, while offering colleges a meaningful platform to demonstrate their commitment to combat antisemitism and promote inclusivity and allyship with the Jewish community.

The Games will create a pathway to Jewish life on campus by partnering with university-focused organizations like Hillel. This structure will introduce JCC Maccabi teen athletes to student life opportunities and inspire them to maintain their Jewish connection as they transition to higher education in the years ahead. Athletes will compete at the University of Pittsburgh in an Olympic village-style atmosphere that will include athletic competition, dormitory housing, social and educational programming, and dining. The Campus Games pilot will explore an alternative to the Games’ traditional home-hospitality approach, boosting participation capacity and long-term engagement and fostering connections within and beyond the Jewish community.

This summer’s events in Tucson from July 27 to August 1, 2025, will celebrate 25 years since the Tucson JCC first hosted the Games and mark the JCC’s 70th anniversary, including 36 years on its current campus. The JCC Maccabi Games and Access in Tucson will spotlight the continuation of Access, now a permanent feature of the program that supports Jewish teens and young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Successfully piloted from 2021 to 2024 with nearly 50 participants, Access will remain an integral part of the Games, enriching the experience for all involved. The Tucson JCC, a founding task force member of JCC Maccabi Access, will leverage its experience as it hosts the Access Games. By solidifying Access as a permanent program, Tucson is creating a clear roadmap, positioning Access as a catalyst for engagement nationwide, ensuring that Jewish young people with disabilities and their families have access to meaningful, inclusive opportunities.

Looking ahead, the 44th annual JCC Maccabi Games will take place from August 2 to 7, 2026, in Toronto and Kansas City. The Prosserman JCC and Schwartz/Reisman Centre in Toronto is set to host, marking its second time as host since first welcoming the Games in 1986. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City also will make a highly anticipated return as a host in 2026, having last held the event in 1997. With commitments from these JCCs and a growing number of communities eager to host in the future, the JCC Maccabi Games are positioned for sustained growth in the years ahead. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Jerry Arthur Lang

Jerry Lang, whose life was charmed with fashion, furry friends, sunshine, and love, died January 29, 2025, at the Memphis Jewish Home following a short illness. He was 90. Born Jerome Arthur Lang in Long Island, N.Y., to the late Saul and Isabelle Lang, Jerry graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York City before joining the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Following his military service, Jerry headed south for college and enrolled at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, L.a., where he lived his love for sports as a member of the university’s football team.

Following graduation and armed with a degree in business administration, Jerry made his way to Memphis where he joined Wexner and Jacobson, one of the nation’s most successful leased-shoe businesses that operated shoe departments throughout the country including

Joseph in Memphis. Jerry enjoyed a 50-year career with the company as Vice President and General Merchandising Manager spending much of his time at Joseph. He was also a member of the National Shoe Retailers Board from 1979-1992, serving as chairman of the board’s fashion committee. Jerry had three main loves in life: the sun, cruising, and most of all, his beloved wife, Janet Brueck Lang. After retiring, Jerry could be found on a chair in his front lawn soaking in the sun or lounging on a cruise ship where the simple pleasure of the sun’s warmth with Janet by his side made him happy. You also could find Jerry enjoying his garden, playing with his two cats and dog that he adored, delivering Meals on Wheels and, for the last 10 years, participating in deep-water aerobics at the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

Jerry was preceded in death by his son, Kenneth Brian Lang, and his sister, Gene Lang Neuwelt. In addition to his wife, Jerry also leaves his son, Michael Scott Lang of Memphis, his nephews Louis Neuwelt and Stuart Neuwelt, his beloved four-legged children, Fiamma, Simone and Isabella, his bright red Tesla, and many cousins and friends who will miss Jerry’s good humor and kind heart.

In lieu of flowers, Jerry’s family asks that you remember him with a donation to the Mid-South Food Bank, the House of Mews, Tails of Hope, or the charity of the donor’s choice.

Services for Jerry, who was a member of Temple Israel, were held Sunday February 2, 2025, in Levy-Cooper Chapel at Temple Israel Cemetery. **HW**



Gary Ronald Lubin

Gary Ronald Lubin, 83, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, passed away on Friday, January 17, 2025, at his home. He was born on August 5, 1941, in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of Cele and Jack Lubin. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sherri Koom Lubin, and his children, Jason Lubin (Julie), Justin Lubin (Sharon), and Stacy Philip (Jim). He is also

survived by 6 grandchildren and his sister, Andie Lubin Uiberall (Michael). The funeral and internment were held at Baron Hirsch cemetery on January 20.

Gary graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, continuing his family’s legacy in the pharmacy business. After over 20 years of practicing pharmacy and owning two drug stores, Gary found his true passion as a Commercial Realtor. He worked for over 40 years at Makowsky, Ringel, Greenberg as a realtor and served in many leadership positions within the Memphis Board of Realtors.

Gary’s integrity and sense of fairness in all his ventures was truly immeasurable. He always said that if the deal was fair to all parties, then it was a good deal.

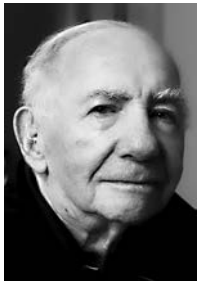
A loving father, grandfather, uncle, brother and great friend to many, Gary will be truly missed. The family requests any memorials be sent to The Jay Uiberall Foundation, 6399 Candlewood Cove, Memphis, TN, 38119 or a charity of your choice. **HW**

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Two Queens: Torah and the Constitution



*Editor's note:
This story is being
reprinted in memory
of Ted Roberts in
appreciation of his
longtime service
as a newspaper
columnist.*

Ted Roberts

A historical test for our readers: In the cluttered library of history, what are the two most significant documents that have guided us politically, morally, culturally? Without too much thought I would write clearly and crisply in my answer book, The United States Constitution and the Five Books of Moses. There's not much room for argument. What are the alternatives? The Magna Carta? Shakespeare's plays? Maybe "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." No, it's beyond discussion the U.S. Constitution and the Humash.

The other day in my continual quest for knowledge – after digesting the analyses of the NFL playoffs – I spied, laying on our coffee table, the Constitution. I mean the Constitution of the United States of America. What was it doing on our coffee table? A disorderly mind always leads to a disorderly coffee table. I once found a half-consumed pastrami sandwich complete with pickle, tomato, and mustard laying on the coffee table. The leftovers of some long-ago meal. Half-read books, two-month-old mail, 10-pound dictionaries, keys that fit nothing I own are other relics that live

on that table. But the constitution caught my eye. I hadn't read it for years. And so I did.

My first reaction was a commonplace one – not that the Constitution wasn't a political thunderbolt – but that, quite predictably, it dealt with the problems of the day. Problems that impinged on the lives of Americans of the late 18th Century. For example, when you first look at the first 10 amendments – that we call the Bill of Rights – besides freedom of the Press and the right to bear arms – threatened by the hand of King George III – there's Amendment III – a burning issue of the day: A ban on involuntarily quartering troops in your bedroom. Then, a problem – today, almost a cartoon.

British officer: "Good Morning, Mr. Citizen. I want you to meet Redcoat George Jones, who strangled his wife, and his Sergeant, Robert Hawkins – he broke a couple heads in a barroom brawl last night. They'll stay with you for the next six months. George likes pancakes for breakfast and a dollup of rum in his tea. Robert prefers a light breakfast and a hearty, beefy supper. Good luck."

The obvious conclusion: Our founders naturally addressed freedoms that were issues of their day. Not exactly surprising. It did NOT deal with issues over their current horizon of time. Slavery, internet freedom, abortion. So-called "Big Government." Though it does say, "The powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved to the states re-

spectively, or to the people."

Somehow that sentence jumped out at me. This was a document written long ago, which was intended to civilize our behavior. It was a primer both in independence and morality. And quite naturally, its authors were concerned with current behavior – not conflicts and conundrums that in some cases were no longer the talk of the town. Quartering troops? An arms-bearing militia? Yes, current issues. In short, it dealt with the freedoms under fire in the late 18th Century. Naturally, we have modernized it (some would say "weakened" it) with amendments, legislative, and judicial action.

As I wrote that last phrase, a light switches on in my dim brain. Hey, it's just like the Torah. The Constitution, except for its origin, is perfectly analogous to our Torah, a divine document even more sanctified, of course, than the one written by the Founding Fathers. But they both brought moral enlightenment to a wayward world. Both revolutionary. And they both face the same problems of currency. We no longer have to worry about an autocrat quartering troops in our guest bedroom and likewise we never have to worry about our muzzled ox getting his share of the grain he is grinding. But still, today's moral questions over the centuries of 3 millennia are the descendants of Torah Law, proving that mankind – despite aircraft, computers, Ipods, and other bric-a-brac – has changed little. And the same is true of his cultural, moral choices.

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

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Granted that both the Constitution and Torah still have a vivid relevance to the restraint that we call civilization – how have we adapted them to the brave, new world we live in? The Constitution, via judicial techniques – the Torah, through our Talmud or what many would choose to call the Oral Law. We, with a delicate combination of zeal and caution, try to tame the times of these two epochal codes. But still they are two covenants; one between man and government and the other between man and G-d. And the same problem of modernity applies. Two queens aging, but still beautiful, still reigning.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. HW



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ISRAEL INSIGHTS Qatar: Friend or Foe?

By Howard Weisband

Qatar has been directly involved with Hamas for years. During the current hostage negotiations, Qatar alongside Egypt has been relied upon both by Israel and the United States as an interlocutor and facilitator with Hamas in order to break deadlocks and reach agreements.

The question requiring both examination and action is whether Qatar is acting as friend or foe of Israel and the United States.

Qatar is a small nation in the Middle East. Some 300,000 citizens are ruled by an absolute monarchy. The country is exceedingly rich in natural gas trade and reserves. More foreign workers, mainly in construction, populate the country than citizens. Their work has directly contributed to Qatar having the look and feel of an ultra-modern first-world country with excellent housing, commercial centers, and hotels. I saw this myself when I visited the country for several days a number of years ago.

To gain greater understanding of Qatar's history and political background, I can recommend two recent sources: (1) The Qatar Monitor Project (QMP) – A New MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute) Project, January 2025, and (2) "Qatar, a Locomotive of Terror: From Friend to Foe," Dr. Edy Cohen, Israel Center for Grand Strategy, June 2024.

Israel had years of relationship with Qatar prior to October 7, 2023, in business matters and behind the scenes diplomacy. Qatar was allowed to cater to Hamas in Gaza particularly through the transfer of untold huge sums of money. Yes, much of this money was utilized by Hamas to build its war machine and the underground system of tunnels. It was not used to provide aid and improve the lives of Palestinian citizens in Gaza. Hamas itself has admitted such, saying that providing for the people was the role of international aid agencies.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, as well as Israel's military and diplomatic establishment, believed in the years leading up to October 7 that Qatar was playing a critical role in maintaining stability and "quiet" in Gaza. Huge mistake, we now know.

As for the U.S., Qatar houses the headquarters of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), with U.S. forces and military equipment housed at Qatar's Al-Udeid Air Base. This has important strategic and financial benefits for Qatar. In return, the U.S. has a significant reliance on Qatar, militarily and strategically.

Simultaneously, as pointed out by Dr. Edy Cohen in the aforementioned article: "Qatar is the largest foreign donor to universities in the United States. The Islamic ideology of the Muslim Brother-

hood permeates all state institutions and has links to the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood – Hamas.... money coming from foreign countries like Qatar has a direct influence on increasing antisemitism and anti-democratic activity at universities in the United States."

Addressing the issue of whether Qatar should be involved in "the day after," in other words, the post war status of Gaza and who should govern, Khaled Abu Toameh, wrote for the Gatestone Institute on January 27 that: "Qatar wants the PA (Palestinian Authority) government to collect the garbage, rebuild destroyed houses, and pay salaries to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, while Hamas is busy rearming, regrouping and getting ready for the next attack on Israel. If it truly cared about the safety and well-being of the Palestinians, Qatar would have stopped supporting Hamas and insisted that the terrorist group relinquish control of the Gaza Strip."

Elie Podeh, Hebrew University, wrote in the "Jerusalem Post" in December 2023, that: "The most appropriate term for describing Israel-Qatar relations is the academic term "frenemies" – a combination, which encompasses friendly but also antagonistic policies."

Yigal Carmon, writing in MEMRI, described the relationship beyond academic terminology: "Every vegetable vendor and taxi driver in the Muslim

world knows the truth about Qatar and its Islamist and anti-U.S. activities, except for the American, European, and Israeli governments and intelligence agencies (who possibly also know but act as if they don't). This is because Qatar developed over the decades a Western image that totally contradicts its actual behavior.

".... wherever Qatar is allowed to be involved with its money, such as financing the Lebanese army, rebuilding Gaza, or investing in the West, it does so under the lofty goal of promoting radical Wahhabi Islam in the world.... it will only build a new cycle of Islamism and terrorism."

Dr. Edy Cohen concludes: "In light of this, it seems that Israel should once again reconsider Qatar's role as a legitimate mediator with a terrorist organization and even officially declare it as a state supporting terrorism." His conclusion applies to the U.S. as well.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

Brother of Dead Hostage Slated for Release: Give His Place to Save Living Captive



Danny Elgarat, whose brother, Itzik Elgarat, has been held hostage by Hamas in the Gaza Strip since the terrorist attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, attends a Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Jan. 7, 2025. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Danny Elgarat, whose brother, Itzik Elgarat, is on the list of 33 Israeli captives slated for release as part of the ceasefire-for-hostages deal with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, told the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee last Tuesday that having learned his brother is no longer alive, it would be better to give the slot for a living hostage.

“I’m prepared to concede the place of my brother to bring a living person in his place. Bring them back from the inferno,” he told the committee.

Eight of the 33 hostages intended for release during the first phase of the deal are dead, according to a list provided by Hamas overnight last Sunday.

Elgarat said the dead Israelis should be replaced by living ones. “We must first bring in the living, abandoned people, who it’s possible to still give a chance to build a new life. Of course, you don’t give up on the dead. It is imperative to bring them all back as soon as possible.”

“The war is over, and the images of people returning to their homes in Gaza

are of the end of the war. Every war ends with pictures of people returning home and the state will no longer attack there, and because of a terminology that keeps people in power, we don’t admit it,” he said.

Elgarat reserved harsh words for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying the leader has achieved his war goals, which were all about preserving his hold on power.

He blamed the government for the death of his brother, who was 68 when taken from his home on Kibbutz Nir Oz, and that of other hostages by not agreeing to a deal with Hamas sooner.

“In the December deal, he was alive, and they left him there. All the adults who were in that group died. A large part of the women died. In the May deal, he was on the list again and was alive,” said Elgarat.

He said his brother “was sacrificed on the altar of the Philadelphi Corridor,” referring to Netanyahu’s refusal to abandon the border between Gaza and Egypt, which had served as a major supply route for the terror group. **HW**

Far-Right Polish Lawmaker Disrupts Moment of Silence for the Holocaust to Decry ‘Jewish Genocide in Gaza’

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – A far-right Polish member of the European Parliament with a history of antisemitic statements disrupted a moment of silence for the victims of the Holocaust in order to decry “the Jewish genocide in Gaza.”

Grzegorz Braun, chairman of the far-right Confederation of the Polish Crown party, known as KKP, interrupted the minute of silence last Wednesday, two days after International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In footage of the moment, voices were audible as Roberta Metsola, the European Parliament’s president, called for silence. Then, Braun began to speak in a loud voice.

“Let’s pray for the victims of the Jewish genocide in Gaza,” he said. After a pause, he added, “Thank you, everybody, for praying for the victims of the Jewish genocide in Gaza.”

After the minute of silence, Metsola said, to applause, “Mr. Braun, you leave the chamber now.”

Braun’s party website, which features his photo on the homepage, also in-

cludes a link to an 18th century encyclical by Pope Benedict XIV recommending that Poles deprive Jews of property, restrict them from holding office and avoid doing business with them.

This is not his first antisemitic action in as a public official. In December 2023, he used a fire extinguisher to put out a Hanukkah menorah in Polish parliament. He was temporarily expelled from parliament and penalized as a result. Earlier in the year, he shut down a lecture by Polish-Canadian historian Jan Grabowski by storming the podium and damaging it.

Last Wednesday, the European Jewish Congress called Braun’s interruption “A vile display of antisemitism in the heart of European democracy.”

The group added, “Disrupting a solemn moment of silence with hateful rhetoric is not only a grave insult to the memory of the Holocaust victims but also a disturbing reminder that the same antisemitic narratives that fueled history’s darkest times continue to persist today.” **HW**

Tennessee Man Denied Bond for Impersonating Orthodox Jew at Nashville JCC

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – An East Tennessee man with ties to a neo-Nazi group who recently entered the Gordon Jewish Community Center in Nashville dressed as an Orthodox Jew has been denied bond.

Travis Garland, 31, of Maryville, Tenn., was indicted earlier in the week on charges of civil rights intimidation and civil rights violation for what he called an “internet prank.” He then appeared in court on Jan. 24 to face two additional charges – criminal trespassing and assault – related to his actions.

While the judge presiding over Garland’s case elected to send the remaining charges to a grand jury, he denied the \$250,000 bond previously set by the county magistrate.

Garland went to the Gordon JCC on the evening of Jan. 13 wearing a fake beard, fake lock curls, a black hat and coat and a white silk scarf. He had a cell phone in his hand as if recording or streaming the interaction, according to the Metro Nashville Police Department.

Garland, who was immediately stopped by a front desk staff member, asked to speak with a rabbi. When told there was no rabbi on the property, he ignored the staffer and tried to get through a secured door that had been opened by two members, who then blocked his entry.

Garland continued demanding to speak with a rabbi even after the center’s security guard came to escort him off the property. The guard later told authorities that Garland, who was unarmed, had eyed his pistol during the altercation, which left the guard con-

cerned for his safety.

According to News Channel 5, Garland is the third member of the Goyim Defense League neo-Nazi group to be arrested in the area within the last six months. **HW**

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