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Temple Israel Teens Embark on Civil Rights Journey Through the South



Students from Temple Israel in Memphis and Temple Emanu-El in Dallas took a trip across Alabama and Georgia to visit a series of historic spots that were part of the Civil Rights movement including a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church on the final leg of their journey. Joining them on this trip was Rabbi Jeff Dreifus (far right) of Temple Israel.

A group of teens from Temple Emanu-El in Dallas and Temple Israel in Memphis recently embarked on a transformative journey through the American South to explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement and its enduring impact on society.

Over four days, from February 20-23, the teens visited pivotal historical sites in Georgia and Alabama, deepening their understanding of racial injustice, Jewish identity, and social activism.

A Journey Rooted in Reflection and Education

The trip commenced on Thursday

evening in Atlanta, where the group was introduced to the theme of the journey: understanding civil rights through personal stories and historical context. The evening included a discussion of the Leo Frank case, a harrowing episode in Georgia's history in which Frank, a Jewish man, was falsely convicted of murder and lynched in 1915. The case underscored the dangers of antisemitism and the long-lasting effects of injustice on minority communities in the South.

Walking Through History: Montgomery and Selma

On Friday, the group traveled to Mont-

gomery, Alabama, where the teens stood at the very spot where Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They toured the Rosa Parks Museum, gaining insight into the pivotal role of everyday citizens in the Civil Rights Movement.

Later, at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, often referred to as the Lynching Memorial, students reflected on America's dark history of racial violence. A visit to the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum further traced the evolution of racial oppression from slavery to mass incarceration, leaving many in quiet contemplation.

The evening concluded with a Shabbat service at Temple Beth Or in Montgomery, connecting the Jewish tradition of reflection with the broader themes of justice and equality. Along the way, students viewed the Mothers of Gynecology Monument, honoring the overlooked contributions of Black women to medical history.

Selma to Birmingham: Stories of Courage and Perseverance

Saturday's journey took the teens to Selma, where they walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of the infamous "Bloody Sunday" march in 1965. There, they met with a woman who had been beaten during the historic march, offering a firsthand account of courage and resilience. The group also learned about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., exemplifying the Jewish commitment to justice.

From Selma, the journey continued to

Birmingham, where students received a walking tour of Freedom Park and the 16th Street Baptist Church, tragically known for the 1963 bombing that killed four young girls. A reverend who participated in the Civil Rights Movement shared his experiences of facing police dogs and fire hoses, bringing history to life in a profound and personal way.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta

On Sunday morning, the final leg of the journey brought the teens to The King Center in Atlanta and the historic Auburn Avenue neighborhood. There, they toured the birthplace and final resting place of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The morning concluded with an inspiring visit to Sunday services at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King once preached, allowing the group to experience the spiritual heartbeat of the movement.

A Weekend of Transformation

As the journey ended, students reflected on how the trip not only deepened their understanding of America's civil rights history but also illuminated the vital role of Jewish Americans in advocating for justice.

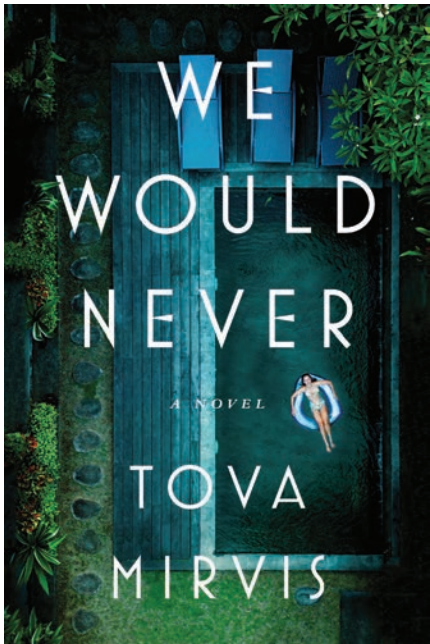
"This experience was eye-opening," said one participant. "Hearing the stories firsthand and standing where history happened made me realize how important it is to stand up against injustice in our world today."

With their return home, the teens carry with them not just stories of the past but a renewed commitment to shaping a more just future. **HW**

Tova Mirvis to Discuss Her New Novel at the MJCC March 24



Tova Mirvis



Tova Mirvis, acclaimed literary novelist, will speak at the Memphis Jewish community Center on Monday evening,

March 24 at 7 p.m. to discuss her latest novel, "We Would Never." 'A riveting literary page turner that maps the

extremes to which a family will go in order to protect their own,' the story is based on true life events and re-imagined with deep psychological insight.

No one is more surprised than Hailey Gelman, the main character in this powerful story, when she comes under suspicion for the murder of her soon-to-be ex-husband Jonah. Hailey is always trying to do what is expected of her and is given the role of family peacemaker. Called Sunshine by her mother, she always tries to look on the bright side of things. But is anyone, even Hailey, always what they seem to be? That is the question that Tova asks throughout the novel.

"Tova's characters are so real, you wish you could grab them for a heart-to-heart before it's too late," Rachel Kadish, author of "The Weight of Ink," said and added, "but the propulsive plot is already sweeping you right along with them toward the unthinkable."

Tom Perrotta, author of "Mrs. Fletcher,"

er," said, "Tova Mirvis brings a novelist's eye to a tabloid story, and the result is both gripping and illuminating.... Once you start this book, you won't want to put it down."

Tova is the author of the memoir, "The Book of Separation," as well as four novels: "We Would Never," "Visible City," "The Outside World," and "the Ladies Auxiliary," which was a National Best-Seller. Her essays have appeared in "The New York Times," "The Washington Post," "The Boston Globe Magazine," and "Real Simple," and her fiction has been broadcast on NPR.

Tova grew up in Memphis among a large extended Memphis family going back generations and is a graduate of the Margolin Hebrew Academy/Finstone Yeshiva of the South. She is a graduate of Columbia University and holds a Master of Fine Arts in fiction writing from Columbia University School of the Arts. Tova lives in Newton, Ma. with her family. **HW**

Genealogist Dr. Adina Newman to Zoom with JHSMM Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m.



Dr. Adina Newman

Greg Siskind, president of the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South, announced that JHSMM will Zoom with genealogist Dr. Adina Newman, on Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m. Central Time.

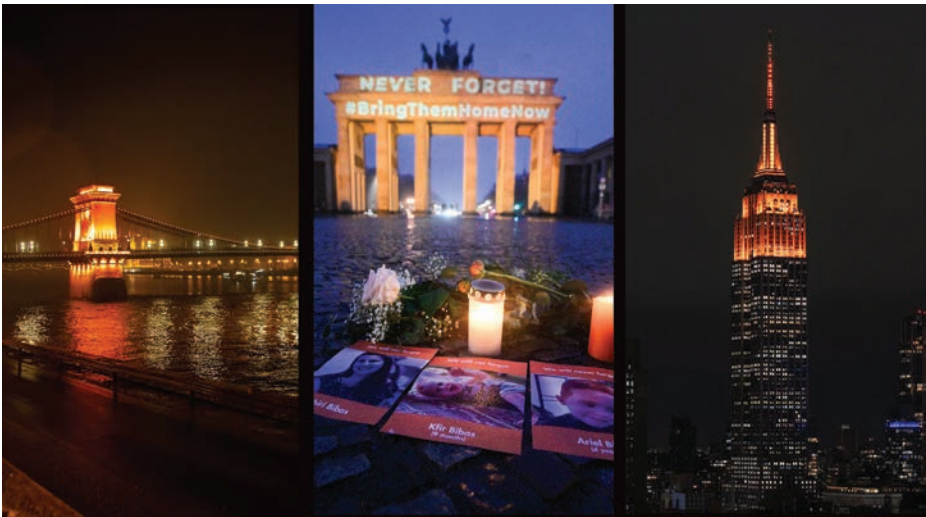
The program is the first for 2025 in the Sumner Levine Speakers Series and is entitled: DNA Basics: Getting Started with Genetic Genealogy. Dr. Newman will explain the different types of DNA testing, how the process works, and best practices to incorporate DNA into one’s traditional family research. The program will be geared to those who are just beginning to learn how to use DNA test results and will also be beneficial to the more experienced DNA family researcher.

President Siskind said, “We are very excited to host Dr. Newman who is an expert in the field. This important program will encourage people to think

about their family history and how DNA testing can make a difference. Since JHS is a new member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies, all JHS Members are automatically members of IAJGS and can use the numerous resources on that site to help further their family research as well – at iajgs.org.”

Dr. Newman, EdD, the Creator of My Family Genie, is a professional genealogist and educator. Her specialties include Jewish genealogy and social media. She has given talks to major genealogy conferences and genealogy societies. Her research has received attention in a variety of international media from “The Washington Post” to “The Times of Israel,” and she has appeared in many news outlets including NPR and I24 News. She co-founded the Holocaust Reunion Project, a program to raise awareness about the potential of DNA testing within the Holocaust survivor community. It provides survivors and their children with commercial DNA tests and consultations. She also volunteers as a Team Lead for the DNA Doe Project, which uses investigative genetic genealogy to identify unknown deceased persons. She was a recipient of the 2020 AncestryProGenealogist Scholarship and has been a moderator for a popular Jewish genetic genealogy Facebook group. The community is invited to participate, and the program is free to attend. To receive the Zoom link, google <https://bit.ly/4axrRAI>. **HW**

Empire State Building, Brandenburg Gate, Eiffel Tower Lit In Orange To Honor Slain Bibas Family



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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. March 7, 2025 / 7 Adar, 57855:43 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. March 8, 2025 / 8 Adar, 5785 6:39 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion: Tetzaveh

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Landmarks around the world were illuminated in orange last Wednesday night to honor Shiri, Ariel and Kfir Bibas, the Israeli mother and sons killed in captivity in Gaza.

The three were buried last Wednesday, several days after their bodies were returned to Israel. Their husband and father, Yarden Bibas, was taken captive separately and freed this month. Their plight had been a symbol of national trauma since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking 250 hostages.

Among the landmarks illuminated in orange, the color that came to symbolize the family because of Ariel and Kfir’s bright red hair, were the Empire State Building in New York City, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the Chain Bridge in Budapest and the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The displays were reminiscent of what happened in the immediate aftermath of the Oct. 7 attack, when world landmarks were illuminated in blue and white to show solidarity with Israel.

In Argentina, where Shiri Bibas’ father grew up, tributes to the family have included a mass demonstration, two days of official national mourning and a vote by lawmakers to rename Buenos Aires’ Palestine Street as Bibas Family Street. Shiri Bibas’ parents, Margit and Yossi Silberman, were murdered on Oct. 7. **HW**

L-R: Budapest’s Chain Bridge; Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate; and New York City’s Empire State Building are illuminated in orange to honor the slain Bibas family, Feb. 26, 2025. Courtesy Kidma; Sebastian Gollnow/picture alliance via Getty Images; Craig T Fruchtmann/Getty Images



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CEO of Idaho Construction Company Resigns after Giving Nazi Salute

(JNS) – Tom Hill, CEO of Engineered Structures Inc. in Idaho, resigned “effective immediately” last Monday after a video of him performing a Nazi salute at a company event went viral online, according to the “Idaho Statesman.”

“It is with a heavy heart that I announce my voluntary resignation as CEO of ESI Construction and chairman of the board of directors, effective immediately,” read a statement from Hill posted on ESI’s Facebook page. “While my behavior was never intended to promote hatred or extremist views, I recognize that it has rightfully generated intense backlash and has overshadowed the mission of our company.”

He added that he takes “full responsibility” for his actions.

Neil Nelson, the company’s president, has become the new CEO and board chair. He plans to focus on “healing and moving forward,” according to an official ESI press release.

Before Hill resigned, ESI posted a separate statement last Sunday where Hill outlined that the gesture was part of a “political skit” mimicking billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk and U.S. President Donald Trump. (Musk made a similar gesture in January, sparking massive backlash and controversy, though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Musk did not perform a Nazi

salute). In Hill’s statement, he apologized for his actions, saying that it was an “attempt at humor and parody” and that the gesture was “being used by others to unfairly judge me” and ESI, according to the “Statesman.”

In response, Marlene Tromp, president of Boise State University, and two leaders of the Boise State University Foundation sent a statement to students, faculty and staff.

“We were made aware of an incident that took place at a recent ESI event in which a member of their leadership team performed a Nazi salute during the presentation,” read the statement. “We were also made aware of the public statement in response.”

“We have spoken with senior leadership at ESI about this matter,” it continued. “We expect ESI to hold true to the commitments they have made in the statement addressing this concerning incident.”

The statement also said that the university “unequivocally” condemns “any form of anti-semitism, racism, harassment or discrimination.”

On Jan. 24, Boise State University and ESI started work on the ESI Construction Management Building. ESI also built Boise State’s Fine Arts Center, which opened in 2017, according to the “Statesman.” **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 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 be able to answer questions both during and after his talk. Medicare is always a changing landscape so come find out what exactly is going on.

Wednesday March 12
Speaker: Tal Nezri, Memphis Jewish Community Center Israeli Community Shlichah
Topic: Israeli Innovations

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

Monday, March 17
Speaker: Josh Goldin, LMSW with Extendicare Home Health
Topic: How to keep Your Brain Strong

Josh has given several talks to the seniors and always has a different slant on any topic. As we get older, we need to constantly focus on ways to keep our brains sharp and engaged. Come hear some unique ways to do this. Have a terrific meal for only \$2 and hear some great ideas afterwards.



Michelle Shrader

Wednesday, March 19
MJCC Larissa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon featuring the Michelle Shrader Duo entertainment provided by Creative Aging.

So many participants enjoyed her last performance and asked for her to return. Michelle plays the type of songs that everyone seems to love. Michelle focused on training her voice for several years as a child before picking up the guitar at the age of 16. She had an aptitude for the instrument and began writing songs within six weeks of her first lesson and recording within six months.

The monthly lunch has recently been drawing around 70 people with a cost of only \$5 for a kosher catered meal plus dessert delivered by the MJCC staff. A wonderful group of volunteers spends the day before the luncheon decorating the room, so everyone is sure to enjoy it as soon as they walk in. This luncheon will be the first where we will have a few games of Bingo following the lunch and entertainment. Bring your friends or come by yourself and make some new friends! Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. March’s luncheon is sponsored by Belmont Village Senior Living. Hope to see you there.

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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Creating Hope Through the Performing Arts

Mending Hearts Camp Registration is Open Now

A performing arts day camp for young people who have experienced the death of one or both parents

The Orpheum Theatre Group is pleased to announce that registration is open for this year’s Mending Hearts Camp. This performing arts day camp for young people who have experienced the death of one or both parents will take place July 7 - 18 for grades 6-8 and July 21 - 26 for grades 3-5 at the Halloran Centre. Registration is open now. Mending Hearts Camp is sponsored by Baptist Memorial Health Care, FedEx, and Memphis Dental Corporation.

Mending Hearts Camp has been right by our sides since Summer 2018 counseling, encouraging, being intentional, building community, providing safe spaces, offering a listening ear, offering a shoulder to lean on, and offering care and time. My eldest daughter has participated and developed bonds with others who are experiencing life without one of the most important giants in their lives and my youngest daughter will participate in camp now until summer 2029.

~ Rekeshia, Mother of two Mending Hearts Campers

Surrounded by a community of peers who have experienced a similar loss, campers explore their creativity through a variety of performing arts and community building activities.

Orpheum trained teaching artists, supported by healing counselors, facilitate activities that encourage community and collaboration while celebrating the unique talents of each individual camper, giving them creative space to

express themselves, build self-confidence, and develop friendships that let them see they are not alone.

For questions or to register, email mendinghearts@orpheum-memphis.com or call 901.529.4247. Registration is \$50 per family. Scholarships are available – no child will be turned away due to financial hardship. For more information, visit orpheum-memphis.com/mendinghearts.

About Mending Hearts Camp:

After losing his father unexpectedly at age 7, Orpheum Theatre Group President & CEO Brett Batterson realized, as he grew older, that it was his childhood involvement in the performing arts that gave him the tools to express himself, a tight group of friends, and the self-confidence to achieve the success he has enjoyed in life. In 2017, he founded Mending Hearts Camp, similar to a camp he founded in Chicago in 2005, to give Mid-South children who have experienced the devastating loss of a parent the same benefits of the performing arts that he had as a child.

About the Orpheum Theatre Group:

The mission of the Orpheum Theatre Group is to enhance the communities we serve by utilizing the performing arts to entertain, educate, and enlighten while preserving the historic Orpheum Theatre and the Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education. For more information, visit orpheum-memphis.com. **HW**

Your Health

Shingles and Pain. How To Recognize the Symptoms and What to Do to Prevent It?

By Cindy Katz, DNP

In my clinical experience, patients often present with a painful rash, unaware they have shingles. The rash typically affects the nerve endings on one side of the body and is frequently described as burning or tingling and can be sensitive to touch.

What is Shingles?

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is caused by the varicella-zoster virus – the same virus responsible for chickenpox. After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus lays dormant in the body and can reactivate years later, leading to shingles.

The virus can cause significant discomfort and, in some cases, lead to serious complications.

While anyone who has had chickenpox can develop shingles, it is more common in older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems.

Recognizing Shingles:

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of shingles is crucial for prompt treatment.

- Pain, sensitivity, or tingling: These sensations typically occur on one side of the body and may precede the rash by several days.
- Rash and Blisters: Redness and fluid-filled blisters are common as the rash progresses.
- Additional Symptoms: Fever, fatigue, or headache may accompany the condition. **HW**

Hamas Stoking Flames in Jerusalem as Ramadan Gets Underway

By Shachar Kleiman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – With Ramadan beginning at sundown last Friday, Hamas was aiming to spark a wave of terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, including on the Temple Mount.

Last Thursday, Harun Nasser al-Din, the head of Hamas’s Jerusalem Office, who is currently abroad, declared that there must be “full confrontation against the occupation’s incursions, an uprising against its projects, and no surrender to attempts at Judaization and expulsion.”

Another senior Hamas official urged an escalation of “resistance in all its forms in Jerusalem,” a clear incitement to terrorist attacks.

Al-Din also referenced the demolition of illegally built structures in Jerusalem, accusing Israel of implementing “malicious plans for expulsion and Judaization projects.” He further emphasized that “all plans and schemes will be shattered by the escalation of the resistance in all its forms.”

Throughout the week, Hamas seized on Israeli police recommendations to limit the number of Muslim worshippers allowed on the Temple Mount during Ramadan, proposing a cap of 10,000 people at a time.

In response, the terrorist organization declared that restricting the number of worshippers constitutes “a dangerous escalation and precedent aimed at undermining freedom of worship at Al-Aqsa mosque.”

Hamas further warned Israel about “the consequences of implementing these recommendations,” stating that it would bear full responsibility for any resulting escalation.

At the same time, Hamas is not ruling out an extension of the first phase of the hostage deal and ceasefire in Gaza. If additional phases proceed, they will coincide with the volatile period of Ramadan, which has seen terrorist attacks in the past.

Overnight last Wednesday, 642 terrorists were released as part of the deal, including individuals who were freed from prison and sent to eastern Jerusalem. This marks the last hostage release of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, during which 33 captives were returned, including eight who were dead.

Hamas spokesman Abd al-Latif al-Qanoua told the Al-Araby channel last Thursday morning that “the organization is ready to extend the first phase of the hostage deal or merge the two phases according to red lines.”

He further claimed that the first phase of the agreement has been completed, and the terrorist organization upheld all its commitments despite Israel’s “ongoing stalling.” Hamas has set several conditions for the second phase, including a “permanent” end to the war in Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Strip. **HW**

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Facing History & Ourselves Holds Annual Rachel Shankman Symposium Keynote Luncheon



Left: Dr. Avinoam Patt recently headlined the Facing History & Ourselves Rachel Shankman Symposium Keynote Luncheon, held at the University of Memphis, offering local educators insight into his book, *Understanding and Teaching the Holocaust*, co-edited with collaborator Laura Hilton.

Right: Speaker Dr. Avinoam Patt and event namesake Rachel Shankman, founding director of Facing History & Ourselves Southeast and daughter of Holocaust survivors, paused for a photo before the event began.

By Matt Timberlake
Photos Courtesy of Facing History & Ourselves / Greg Campbell

Earlier this year, the University of Memphis hosted Dr. Avinoam Patt, Maurice Greenberg Professor of Holocaust Studies at New York University and Director of the Center for the Study of Antisemitism for Facing History & Ourselves’ Rachel Shankman Symposium Keynote Luncheon.

“The day was titled *The legacy of the Holocaust Creating a More Humane Society*,” said event namesake Rachel Shankman, founding director of Facing History & Ourselves Southeast and daughter of Holocaust survivors. This event is presented by the Southeast Region of Facing History with support from Memphis Jewish Federation.

“After I retired, Facing History staff and donors wanted to do something in my honor,” she said. “I suggested an annual event that brings new Holocaust

scholarship to teachers who ordinarily wouldn’t have access to it. This year, Dr. Avi Patt spoke about the Displaced Persons camp experience for European Jews after the Holocaust, which many teachers know nothing about.”

“They all teach Facing History,” she said, gesturing at the large but packed ballroom on an upper floor of the U of M’s state-of-the-art University Center. “Some are middle school teachers, some teach high school. It runs the gamut from public schools, private schools, parochial schools, and every year they come together as a learning community and hear from other teachers about their practice and hopefully get inspired and learn something new.”

“I’ve been utilizing Facing History since its inception here in Memphis. Being here is me continuing to stay con-



nected to the true stories of my diverse community,” said Parnell P. Wiggins, a special education teacher at Hamilton High School.

“There are several histories available in our country, and as an African-American male, I think our students need to be aware of Jewish history, Native American history, African-American history, Latino history,” he said. “Facing History takes the reservoir, if you will, of resource materials that teachers can use, and shows us all new ways to connect our students with a bigger and bigger shared history.”

Using his 2020 book “Understanding and Teaching the Holocaust,” co-edited with his collaborator Laura Hilton, as a guide, Dr. Patt led the audience through a historical overview of the emergence of displaced persons (DPs) from war-torn Europe after the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945, made

especially poignant by the program’s proximity to an important date.

“Earlier this week, we marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day, designated by the United Nations to coincide with liberation of Auschwitz, observing an especially poignant anniversary of 80 years this year,” said Dr. Patt.

“I want to reflect on what we historians call periodization; how do we determine the beginning and end of a period?” he asked the audience to ponder. “How long does the suffering and its consequences endure, and how do we measure the impact of the Shoah on its victims, its survivors, and on subsequent world events?”

It’s a question without an answer, but one worth exploring at every opportunity. Dr. Patt did so by examining what history tells us about the emergence of DP communities, and their almost universal vibrancy and dynamism.

Acknowledging that the dark shadow of the Holocaust lingers today, his were stories of hope and perseverance in the face of catastrophe. Focusing on the three-year period between the end of the war in 1945 and the creation of Israel in 1948, Dr. Patt described the remarkable rebirth of Jewish life in DP camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy, using projected imagery like that of young survivors on Kibbutzim as examples of this rebirth.

“These young survivors had just been liberated from the concentration camp of Buchenwald, and approached a young Jewish army chaplain by the name of Rabbi Herschel Schacter, ask-

(See **History** Page 9)



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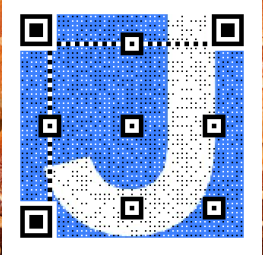
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"If I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?" Pirkei Avot (Ethics of Our Fathers) 1:14
Every step we take is a collective commitment to those who cannot walk freely.

With None of Its Earlier Theatrics, Hamas Returns Bodies of 4 Hostages Killed in Gaza

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Hamas has returned bodies of four Israeli hostages who were killed in captivity in Gaza – the final group of hostages to be released under the terms of the first phase of a ceasefire that began last month.

The four hostages, all men 50 or older, were abducted in Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack. Unlike previous hostage releases under the current ceasefire, their bodies were handed to Israel quietly, without a public ceremony early last Thursday morning.

That stipulation came after Hamas paraded the coffins of three deceased hostages, an elderly man and two young children, Ariel and Kfir Bibas, in front of a crowd last week in a macabre ceremony.

A fourth coffin last week was thought to contain the remains of the boys’ mother, Shiri, but instead contained the body of an unidentified Palestinian woman. Shiri Bibas’ body was returned a day later. The Palestinian woman’s body has reportedly been returned to Gaza.

In response, Israel postponed the release of more than 600 Palestinian security prisoners. As Israel confirmed the identity of the dead hostages, those prisoners were released.

The four hostages are:
Itzhak Elgarat, 70, a dual Danish-Israeli citizen who was reportedly shot in the hand on Oct. 7. His family said they were told after the ceasefire began that he was likely deceased.

Tsahi Idan, 50, who was seen being held with his crying family in a widely circulated video of the Oct. 7 attack. He was abducted in front of his wife and children after seeing his oldest daughter shot to death.

Shlomo Mantzur, 86, who was born in Iraq and survived the Farhud, a 1941 antisemitic pogrom in Baghdad, before moving to Israel. He was the oldest hostage remaining in Gaza. Israel announced in February 2025 that he had been killed on Oct. 7.

Ohad Yahalomi, 50, a French-Israeli citizen who was reportedly shot on Oct. 7 before being abducted. On Wednesday, French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted, “All my heart is with the family and loved ones of our compatriot Ohad Yahalomi. In these suspended hours of pain and anguish, the Nation stands by their side.”

The release came after the funeral of Shiri, Kfir and Ariel Bibas last Wednesday morning in Israel.

Fifty-nine hostages remain captive in Gaza, around half of whom are thought to be dead. A second stage of the ceasefire would see all living hostages released in exchange for Palestinian security prisoners and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Whether that stage goes into effect depends on negotiations that are currently ongoing. **HW**

Some Hostages Still Not Free — Run for Their Lives Continues

As of this writing, there are still hostages suffering. Until each is home in Israel, Run for Their Lives continues to meet weekly. The group was started to advocate for the release of the hostages from Oct. 7 and bring awareness to the unimaginable international humanitarian crisis.

Across the globe, there are 200+ walking groups. The 18-minute walks are family-friendly, nonpolitical, non-sectarian, peaceful initiatives. Each

week, a compilation video from the various groups is shared with hostage families as a sign of continued support.

Here in Memphis, the group meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Sea Isle Park Playground. The group first hears about the hostages and their families, then begins their walk. Anyone who aligns with the Run for Their Lives mission of bringing the hostages home now is welcome. Questions? Email: 4RTLMemphis@gmail.com **HW**

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Three Market-Moving Economic Indicators to Watch

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

Among all of the economic indicators released each month, three reports in particular can move the market: the Employment Situation, gross domestic product, and Personal Income and Outlays.

The Employment Situation

Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the Employment Situation Summary report based on information from the prior month. The data for the report is derived primarily from two sources: (1) a survey of approximately 60,000 households, or about 110,000 individuals (household survey), and (2) an establishment survey of over 650,000 worksites. Some of the information contained in each report includes the total number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate, the number of people working full time or part time, average hourly and weekly earnings, and average hours worked per week.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, when workers are unemployed, they, their families, and the country as a whole can be negatively impacted. Workers and their families lose wages, and the country loses the goods or services that could have been produced. In addition, the purchasing power of these workers is lost, which can lead to unemployment for even more workers.

Investors pay particular attention to the information provided in this report. For instance, a rising unemployment rate may indicate a slowing economy. In this scenario, stock values may decline with falling corporate profits, while bond prices may rise as yields fall in response to lower interest rates. Slower

wage growth may also be a sign of lower inflation and interest rates, as well as reduced economic productivity.

Gross domestic product

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced by a nation's economy less the value of goods and services used in production. It is of importance in the U.S. as GDP offers a broad measure of the nation's overall economic activity and serves as a gauge of the country's economic health. GDP contains a vast amount of economic information, including gross domestic income (the net of incomes earned and costs incurred in the production of GDP); gross output (the value of the goods and services produced by the nation's economy); gross domestic purchase price index (measures the value of goods and services bought by U.S. residents); personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index (costs of consumer goods and services); and profits from current production (corporate profits).

GDP can offer valuable information to investors, including whether the economy is expanding or contracting, trends in consumer spending, the status of residential and business investing, and whether prices for goods and services are rising or falling. A strong economy is usually good for corporations and their profits, which may boost stock prices. Increasing prices for goods and services may indicate advancing inflation, which can impact bond prices and yields. In short, GDP provides a snapshot of the strength of the economy over a month and a year and can play a role when making financial decisions.

Other Important Economic Indicators



•**Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims report** — provides data on new claims filed, total claims paid, and the unemployment rate



•**Consumer Price Index** — measures changes in the average price of goods and services purchased by consumers



•**Federal Reserve's monthly industrial production index** — measures monthly and annual changes in output in manufacturing, mining, and utilities

Personal Income and Outlays

The Personal Income and Outlays report measures household income, expenditures, and savings. It also includes data on consumer prices for goods and services. In particular, this report includes data on personal income, disposable (after-tax) personal income, personal consumption expenditures, personal savings, and prices for consumer goods and services as measured by the PCE price index.

In general, consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy, usually influences market performance. Knowing what consumers are buying (i.e., durable goods, nondurable goods, or services) may offer insight into how various market sectors might perform. Changes in income and spending can have a direct impact on the market. Greater spending usually enhances corporate profits and stock values and vice-versa. While the Consumer Price Index may be the more recognized measure of inflation, the PCE price index is the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflationary (or deflationary) trends. The rate of inflation and interest rates often move in the same direction because interest rates are the primary tool used by central banks (including the Federal Reserve) to manage inflation. Rising inflation usually prompts the Fed to increase interest rates, while falling inflation (and slowing economic growth) might lead to a decrease in interest rates to promote borrowing and stimulate the economy.

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

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History...
(Continued From Page 5)

ing for his assistance to create a farm removed from the ruins of the concentration camp,” said Dr. Patt, invoking the name of the notable rabbi and grandfather of the Memphis Jewish Community Center’s Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, who was seated at a table near the podium. “They had no desire to remain at the camp. They wanted to move out to a site where they could breathe fresh air and begin life anew.”

This theme of rebirth was revisited throughout Dr. Patt’s lecture, the details of which are expanded upon in his highly readable book, which was available for attendees. This reporter happened to win a signed copy in a raffle during the program and recommends it.

“While today’s stories are particular to a period of history, there are universal lessons to explore,” said Shankman. “When students can connect to what they see in their own lives, when they can learn history and think: ‘Oh my goodness, here’s a case study about where my life and history could have taken me but didn’t...’ they make real connections to their own lives and hopefully the next thought is: ‘What’s important from studying this is to understand ourselves better, to understand that our choices make a difference.’”

“For me, success is when they can study this, and they think about the kids sitting next to them who might feel ostracized or othered. Then, it’s been successful and makes a lasting impact on our living communities today,” she said. **HW**

Tehran Fears U.S.-Israeli Strikes Could Put Its ‘Existence in Danger’

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Iran has put defense systems around its nuclear sites on high alert amid fears of a joint U.S.-Israeli attack, “The Telegraph” reported last Tuesday, citing two “high-level government sources” in Tehran.

The Islamic Republic is “just waiting for the attack and are anticipating it every night and everything has been on high alert – even in sites that no one knows about,” one of the sources told the U.K.-based newspaper.

Work to fortify Tehran’s nuclear sites “has intensified over the past year, particularly since Israel launched the first attack” on the Iranian military in response to Iran’s April 13, 2024, missile and drone assault on the Jewish state, he added.

The Iranian official who spoke to “The Telegraph” said there are currently fears in regime circles that “the U.S. could join in and launch a larger-scale attack that could put the Islamic Republic’s existence in danger.”

Remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump about potential plans to strike Iran have further intensified these activities, the source noted.

The official acknowledged that further Israeli military action could leave

Iran vulnerable, as the country’s air defense systems had been “heavily weakened” by Jerusalem’s unprecedented Oct. 26 retaliatory airstrikes.

“Several additional [air defense system] launchers have been deployed, but there is an understanding that they may not be effective in the event of a large-scale strike,” according to the official cited by the newspaper.

In related news, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi last Tuesday dismissed the possibility of direct nuclear talks with the United States.

“There will be no possibility of direct talks between us and the United States on the nuclear issue as long as the maximum pressure is applied in this way,” Araghchi said, referring to recent sanctions on Tehran.

The week before, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) renewed its threats to launch a third direct missile and drone assault against Israel.

“True Promise III will be carried out at the appropriate time,” Brig. Gen. Ali Fadavi, the IRGC’s second in command, said in comments published by the Islamic Republic’s semi-official “Mehr News Agency.”

Last year, the Islamic Republic conducted two major attacks against Israel, launching nearly 500 missiles and drones at the Jewish state.

The assaults, which were largely ineffective thanks to Israeli and allied defense measures that intercepted the vast majority of the projectiles, including guided ballistic missiles, were code-named “True Promise I” (on the night of April 13-14) and “True Promise II” (on Oct. 1) by Iran.

Araghchi said in November that Tehran reserves the right to take action against Israel “at an appropriate time and in a way we think is right.”

He made it clear that Iran considers Israel’s October retaliatory strike, that took out most of the regime’s air defenses, as warranting a separate response.

In a separate Feb. 18 statement, Brig. Gen. Alireza Sabahifard, who heads Iran’s Air Defense Force, said Tehran was “ready to deal with any threat because all the equipment we currently have is 100% indigenous.”

Sabahifard claimed that the Iranian-produced Bavar 373 air-defense battery “cannot be compared to any defense system in the world.” **HW**

IDF Seizes Hamas Plans for Mass Attack in Judea, Samaria and Central Israel

By Akiva Van Koningsveld

(JNS) – Defense Minister Israel Katz revealed last Thursday that security forces recently discovered Hamas files proving the terrorist group had plans to carry out a large-scale assault on communities in Judea and Samaria and along the Seam Line security barrier.

“Hamas files have been seized that had a purpose of attacking towns in Judea and Samaria and along the Seam Line,” Katz said in remarks to heads of regional councils, “Israel Hayom” reported.

“The communities in Judea and Samaria are the protective wall of most of the State of Israel,” the defense minister declared. “When Judea and Samaria are protected, the large cities are protected. We must be on the offensive in Judea and defeat the enemy.”

The Yesha Council umbrella group that represents the approximately 500,000 Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria said in a response: “The Oct. 7, [2023], terror attack must not be repeated – nor in the Seam Line towns, nor in the cities of the Sharon [coastal plain], nor in Judea and Samaria.

“The way to prevent this is a clear defeat of terrorism – not only through targeted operations, but in a comprehensive move that will neutralize the threat to the cities of the Center and Judea and Samaria,” it added.

Tulkarem, a Palestinian terrorist hub in Samaria, east of Netanya, where Israeli forces have been conducting intensive counter-terrorism operations since last month, is located eight miles from the densely populated coastal plain.

Jerusalem stepped up raids after explosives were discovered on five buses in the cities of Bat Yam and Holon, south of Tel Aviv, on Feb. 20, which authorities called “an attempt to perpetrate a series of terrorist attacks with mass casualties.” One of the bombs bore an Arabic message referencing Tulkarem. No one was injured.

As part of the “Iron Wall” counter-terror operation in northern Samaria, Israeli forces arrested four wanted Palestinian suspects, the IDF said last Thursday, adding that four M-16 rifles were found in their possession.

Throughout the week, security forces

arrested a total of some 75 terror suspects and seized 17 weapons, according to the IDF announcement.

More than two in three Israeli Jews fear that Judea and Samaria terrorist organizations could carry out a significant attack similar to the Hamas-led massacre of some 1,200 people in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to a recent poll published by the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs.

Earlier last week, it was revealed that security forces last month seized a 220-pound explosive device that a Palestinian terrorist cell had planned to use against soldiers deployed to Judea and Samaria.

In September, Israeli authorities filed an indictment against a member of a terrorist squad based in Jenin who planned to infiltrate civilian communities in Samaria and carry out an Oct. 7-style massacre.

The indictment accused Osama Bani Fadl and other terrorist operatives of making serious preparations for a mass slaughter targeting Jewish residents of Samaria, including by infiltrating towns with vehicles.

Palestinian terrorists targeted Israeli Jews in Judea and Samaria at least 6,343 times in 2024, according to figures published by the Rescuers Without Borders (Hatzalah Judea and Samaria) NGO on Feb. 17.

Twenty-seven Israelis were murdered in Judea and Samaria in 2024, and more than 300 others were wounded, the group said in its annual report.

The figures, which were cross-checked against official data from Israel’s security services, included 3,668 instances of rock-throwing; 843 attacks with Molotov cocktails; 671 attempts to blind drivers with laser pointers; 526 explosive charges; 364 cases of arson; and 179 terrorist shootings.

The rescue group also recorded 37 attempted or successful stabbings; 36 bottles of paint being thrown at vehicles; and 19 Palestinian car-ramming attacks, including 12 that caused injuries to Israelis.

The report noted that the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) last year foiled more than 1,000 potential attacks in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem. **HW**

Michelle Trachtenberg, Jewish ‘Gossip Girl’ and ‘Buffy’ Star, Dies at 39

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – Michelle Trachtenberg, who starred in films and TV shows ranging from “Harriet the Spy” to “Gossip Girl,” has died at 39.

She was discovered last Wednesday in a Manhattan apartment complex, according to “The New York Post.” The cause of death was not immediately clear.

Trachtenberg was Jewish, and she said her mother immigrated from what

is now Russia. She grew up in New York speaking English and Russian.

Trachtenberg got her start as a child actress on Nickelodeon and had a breakout performance as the title character in 1996’s “Harriet the Spy.” From there, she starred in a variety of shows and movies in teenage roles. She was one of a trio of Jewish actresses to star in the supernatural series “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” along with Sarah Michelle

Gellar and Alyson Hannigan, and later appeared in a recurring role on the prep school drama “Gossip Girl.” In between, she starred in the raunchy 2004 teen comedy “EuroTrip.”

She did not have any prominent roles in more recent years, though she appeared in two episodes of the “Gossip Girl” reboot in 2022.

On Instagram, Trachtenberg made occasional references to her Jewish iden-

tity, posting about a Hanukkah celebration a decade ago and again about the holiday in 2022. Since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that launched the war in Gaza and touched off a wave of global antisemitism, Trachtenberg has posted photos of herself wearing a Star of David necklace and another, last year, of a Mickey Mouse Hanukkah backpack along with the caption “Please stop hatred towards the innocent.”

Theodicy in the Barnyard (Just Justice)



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

By Ted Roberts

Theodicy is a rare and highly specialized word. It describes and ponders the existence of evil in a world created by a G-d of goodness who loves justice. How could a universe built by G-d, who cherishes goodness, contain a grain, much less a shovelful of evil? Such were the musings of Bennie the farmer, ignorant of the word “theodicy,” but highly aware of the condition.

Bennie, you see, raised chickens on a 10-acre plot by the Vistula. Neighboring his farm was that of his friend, Levi – also a breeder of chickens. One night, as dark as the devil’s heart, a flight of hawks – who could spot a dreidle in a haystack – dived like the dive bombers of World War II into the chicken yard of Levi and plucked 10 chickens to their grisly fate before they squawked a single cackle. They ignored the chickens of Bennie. They bore aloft with victorious screams the chickens of Levi. And several days later they did it again. And now I’m going to tell you how Levi learned the meaning of that word, theodicy, known only, in all the Pale, to the professors of English at the University of Warsaw.

First I must explain that Bennie “walked not in the ways of his G-d.” He walked more in the ways of a petty thief. He spent hours at the vodka house down the road taking the name of the

Lord in vain many times. He not only coveted his neighbor’s wife but acted on that impulse twice a week. He was the shovelful of sand in the world’s bucket of good. The good professor of English at Warsaw University would have said he was an agent of that concept we call theodicy. Of course, depending on your religion there were several variations on this theme.

Next door was Levi – as pure as Bennie was dross. He went to minyon three times a day. He obeyed the rules of Kashreit. He even banned his hens from laying eggs on Shabbos. His mitzvah percentage was 99.9. And not a world of loshen hora was spoken against him in the whole valley.

He did not know the meaning of theodicy, but the heavenly council – that met that morning – did. Being celestial beings and needing to communicate with all of G-d’s creatures from Bulgarians to Nepalese, they were well versed in human dialects. But the first phrase out of the mouth of the Angel of Justice was shocking. “Has HE stood justice on his head?” The Archangel Michael, himself, was startled. “Those dumb damned (he meant it literally) Hawks! They have thwarted our justice.”

But celestial council or no, who knows the ways of the Lord? The condition persisted. Levi, the tzadik, lost chickens. But in that maze of events we call the law of unintended consequences and wayward ways of the world, a totally unpredictable set of circumstances arose. The native villagers – complete with blankets and curiosity – flocked to the surrounding hills to watch the aerial panorama. Whole families attended. What else was there to do? Those with a touch of education claimed the soaring and plunging of the feathered creatures

reminded them of the angelic ladder visualized by Jacob in Genesis.

And not surprisingly, they called on Levi for a few deep-garlicked, fried drumsticks at 10 groschen a limb of his remaining flock, which oddly enough seemed to flourish. A business sprang up. Levi’s daughters made good marriages, and his wife wore the latest in fur-trimmed hats. In short, Levi and his family prospered, and he continued in his holy ways.

After each raid Bennie, a glass of vodka in each hand, would tease his neighbor. “You go to shul and the hawks pillage your chicken yard. I drink beer, and then I dine on Chicken Marengo, Chicken Polovnik, or Chicken ala Bennie, my favorite. You ought to visit the English professor at the university. Ask him what theodicy means,” he sneered. “If you’re going to lose chickens, you may as well strengthen your vocabulary.”

But Bennie continued to struggle. Sure, he lost no chickens, but his wife continued to wear her coats and dresses made out of feedbags. Chicken farmers don’t make millionaires.


Then one night as Levi was subtracting a weekly five chicken loss from 50 chickens, he had a blockbuster idea, like when the Tsar decided to invade Bessarabia. He would buy a few hawks, house them in the hills surrounding small chicken yards, which he would stock with skinny diseased birds, and rent space for spectators nearby. A franchise was born!

While above, in the celestial councils, the angels shook their heads in puzzlement. HE won’t show his face to Abraham or to Moses whom he loved. Why should He show it to us? He has made justice out of injustice. Levi’s family,

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By Ted Roberts

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deprived of chicken, thrived.

The Archangel Michael was speaking: “We shall change their hawkish nature in order to bless Levi even more – they shall lose their ferocity and to the tunes of David’s lyre and G-d’s nightingales they shall sing lullabies at bedtime to Levi’s children. They shall be as songbirds.

And so, crowds gathered every night around the hills of Levi’s farm. They brought their children and blankets. It became a national and revered site. There was music, aerial acrobatics, and for five groschen you could buy a lightly battered drumstick. And it was not unknown for a visitor now and then to filch one of Bennie’s chickens. Justice reigned. His ways are indeed mysterious.

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

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Three No’s, Updated

By Howard Weisband

In the aftermath of Israel’s lightening-like victory over multiple Arab armies in June 1967, the Arab League met in Khartoum, Sudan, and famously concluded with its Resolution of Three No’s: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel.

Times and realities have changed since 1967. Israel has had negotiations, recognition, and peace treaties established with Egypt and Jordan. More recently, the Abraham Accords were established with additional Arab countries, with the projected next step bringing Saudi Arabia into those accords.

As I write on February 26, several media outlets are reporting that Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump’s point person on the Middle East, optimistically told an American Jewish Committee event in Washington that the Saudis may yet join the accords. “Normalization efforts between Israel and Saudi Arabia could resume once a viable Gaza redevelopment plan has been more fully articulated.... Lebanon, by the way, could actually mobilize and come into the Abraham Peace Accords, as could potentially Syria. So, so many profound changes are happening.”

Witkoff has had multiple closed-door discussions with leaders in Israel and

Arab countries across the Middle East. Hopefully, he has good reason for his optimism.

If so, we can update those famous “Three No’s” in the direction of realistic peace: “No to Hamas, No to Hezbollah, and No to Iran.”

Such a formula summarizes my consistent reply when people say “may we have peace.” I always add “security and peace.”

The first step is a definitive “No to Hamas.” Khaled Abu Toameh writing for the Gatestone Institute on February 19 said: The Iran-backed Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has reportedly expressed readiness to cede control of the Gaza Strip and hand it over to the Palestinian Authority (PA), headed by Mahmoud Abbas. This assurance, however, does not mean that Hamas is willing to lay down its weapons or dismantle its military wing.... Hamas wants the PA to return to the Gaza Strip only to pay salaries and fund various projects, including the reconstruction of the devastation. That arrangement... allows the terror group to rearm, regroup and rebuild its military capabilities.”

He quotes a senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan: “The issue of the weapons of the resistance and the leaders of the resistance is nonnegotiable.”

The corruption and the ineffectiveness in the PA is well known. Soon after the sudden and tragic attack of Hamas on October 7, 2023, “The Atlantic” carried an article on October 19 by Ghaith Al-Omari, a Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the former executive director of the American Task Force on Palestine. Titled “How the Palestinian Authority Failed Its People,” he wrote: “a staggering 87 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza believe that the PA is corrupt, 78 percent want Abbas to resign, and 62 percent believe that the PA is a liability.... Even before the current war in Gaza, areas of the West Bank were practically ungoverned.... Diplomatically, outside powers continued to treat the PA as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. But in reality, world leaders have largely given up on it.”

Established as a result of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the PA is a failed experiment that has been bullied by Hamas. Neither can be allowed to govern Gaza, nor the West Bank where Hamas has made serious inroads, which the IDF is now battling.

The situation with Hezbollah in Lebanon is more complex, with the terrorist organization embedded within the political

governance of the country while simultaneously functioning as an Iranian proxy.

Western policies, particularly those of the United States, have allowed Iran to sponsor these terrorist entities while at the same time continuing its own march toward nuclear weapons.

Analyst Robert Williams wrote on February 26 in Gatestone “Time to Bring Down the Curtain on Iran’s Terror Axis.” He concludes: “Ending Iran’s regime would finally put a stop to its becoming a nuclear power and its incessant attacks on U.S. assets in the Middle East, and finally could bring peace to the region.”

The “Three No’s” in Khartoum in 1967 were a recipe for further wars. Should the U.S. and the West adopt and effectuate “No to Hamas, No to Hezbollah, and No to Iran” we could be on a path to genuine security and peace.

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



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Donald Trump Posts AI Video Showing ‘Trump Gaza’ as a Beachside Paradise

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Is Donald Trump backing away from his vision to transform Gaza into a beachside resort? Not according to a video the president posted late last Tuesday to his Truth Social account that imagines the Palestinian enclave as “Trump Gaza.”

The AI-generated video opens with an image of destruction, dated 2025, then asks the question “What’s next?”

The answer: a thriving beach community, complete with (bearded) belly dancers, Elon Musk eating hummus, happy children and a giant golden statue (and balloon) of a heroic Trump.

“No more tunnels, no more fear, Trump Gaza is finally here,” a song says over the video, which at one point shows Trump lounging poolside next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, both of them shirtless.

The video was shared by pro-Israel Trump supporters on social media as early as Feb. 7, in the wake of the president’s announcement that he would seek to remove Palestinians from Gaza and take control of the territory as it is rebuilt after nearly a year and a half of war.

“I think the potential in the Gaza Strip is unbelievable, and I think the entire world, representatives from all over the world, will be there, and they’ll live there,” he said at the time. “Palestinians also, Palestinians will live there. Many people will live there.”

The announcement elicited widespread concern about whether the proposal is practical, ethical or legal. Opponents decried it as an unworkable bid for ethnic cleansing, and neighboring Arab states rebuffed Trump’s requests to take in Gaza Palestinians. But it also elicited excitement from some on the pro-Israel right who wish to see Hamas vanquished and Jewish resettlement in Gaza. Netanyahu endorsed the plan.

“Looks like the Gaz-A-Lago resort already dropped its first official tourism promo,” the pro-Israel account Nazi Hunters posted with a laughing emoji on X, the platform Musk owns, earlier this month as it shared the video.

How Trump came to post the video was not clear, but the president routinely [trolls] social media late at night and reposts memes that he likes. He did not say anything about the video but pinned it to the top of his feed.

Even some of Trump’s fans recoiled at the video – though not because of the practical or moral dimensions of his vision.

“Bearded belly dancers; you dancing with someone other than your wife; this was weird for me and I love you Trump,” one follower wrote on Truth Social. “This should be deleted; not good.”

In recent days, with countries that would need to play a role declining to do so, Trump is retreating from his vision to make Gaza’s beaches great again, calling his plan a recommendation and saying he’s “not forcing” it. He has also signaled that he would support Israel if it chooses to resume fighting in Gaza when the current ceasefire expires next week. [HW](#)

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BARON HIRSCH CONGREGATION

Pesach Takeout Menu

SOUPS

Matzah ball soup	\$30/quart
Zucchini soup	\$18/quart
Mushroom soup	\$18/quart

STARTERS

Chopped liver	\$20/lb
Gefilte fish	\$24/loaf
Extra matzah ball	\$2.25/ea

ENTREES

Meatloaf (6-8 slices)	\$28/loaf	Vegetarian eggplant lasagna	\$35/pan
Chicken marsala	\$12/pc	Sweet & sour meatballs	\$22/lb
Onion-braised brisket	\$30/lb	Apricot & honey glazed chicken	\$9/pc
BBQ brisket	\$30/lb	(Specify breast or thigh + leg)	
Chicken tenders	\$22/lb	Grilled chicken fillets	\$19/lb
Ground beef eggplant lasagna	\$45/pan	Basil lemon salmon (1/2-lb fillet)	\$13/pc

SIDES

(9" x 13" pan, feeds approx. 15)

Roasted broccoli	\$28/pan	Sweet potato souffle	\$34/pan
Roasted cauliflower	\$28/pan	Yellow squash souffle	\$34/pan
Roasted mushrooms	\$18/pan	Roasted sweet potatoes & beets	\$28/pan
Yukon Gold & sweet potato, twice-baked	\$9/ea	Potato kugel	\$34/pan
Stuffed peppers with farfel	\$10/ea	Butternut squash kugel	\$34/pan
Broccolini with grape tomatoes, baked	\$32/pan	Matzah apple kugel	\$34/pan

DESSERTS

Macaroons	\$22/dz
Meshuga-nuts (candied almonds)	\$22/lb
Almond cookies	\$22/dz
Brownies (8" x 8" pan)	\$25/pan
Farfel cookies	\$18/dz

EXTRAS

Pesach rolls	\$25/dz
Charoset	\$18/lb
Seder fixings (feeds 10)	\$27

Email all orders to catering@baronhirsch.org by Tuesday, April 1.
Order pickup will be on Thursday, April 10 at the Baron Hirsch kitchen.

All food is prepared in the Baron Hirsch meat kitchen under the supervision of Rabbi Ian Lichter.

Making a Difference with Peanut Butter and Jelly

Volunteers Of All Ages Participate in Baron Hirsch’s Great Big Sandwich Make



Nava and Baron Hirsch security guard BJ at the Great Big Sandwich Make. “It’s amazing that people come together to do something great for the community,” he said. “I was very excited to be a part of it and to be walking around like a peanut butter sandwich!”

By Nava VanderWalde

On a warm Tuesday evening in February, over 250 people gathered at Baron Hirsch Congregation to participate in a community service project aimed at giving back to those in need in our local area. The volunteers, ranging from toddlers to teens to seniors from all across Jewish Memphis, came together with one shared purpose: to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to donate to St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen.

The volunteers worked in harmony, assembling more than 2,500 sandwiches, all of which were destined for St. Mary’s. There, they will help feed the homeless men, women and children who rely on the organization’s services each day. This year marked Baron Hirsch’s ninth annual sandwich-making event benefiting local charities.

The Feb. 25 event was a true reflec-

tion of the diverse, inclusive and can-do spirit that defines Memphis. Teens from different youth groups mingled with families and older community members, each person playing a vital role in the project.

“I think it’s so powerful for the Jewish community to be able to come together to help a greater cause,” said Maggie O., a ninth-grade student at Hutchison School.

With assembly lines of peanut butter, jelly and bread stretching across long tables, volunteers worked together with energy and enthusiasm. The teamwork was palpable, as each person brought their own unique set of skills to the table – whether it was spreading peanut butter with precision or expertly putting the sandwiches into plastic bags.

“The Sandwich Make is important as it highlights the power of our Jewish



Volunteers Dotan W., Ethan V., Maggie O. and Bennett L.



Some of the youngest volunteer sandwich-makers.

community coming together to support our wider Memphis community,” said Ethan V., a 12th grade student at Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South.

The success of the event was measured not only by the impressive number of sandwiches made, but also by the sense of camaraderie. BBYO advisor Bryna Woodman volunteered alongside teens from the youth group, acknowledging, “We all came here to make sandwiches to help those who are less fortunate than we are.”

The leadership of Baron Hirsch played an essential role in organizing and facilitating the event, ensuring the ready availability of all the necessary supplies: from plastic aprons and gloves to bread, peanut butter, jelly and sealable plastic bags. There was also no

shortage of smiles and laughter throughout the event, especially from the children wearing adult-sized gloves!

At the end of the evening, the 2,500 sandwiches were packed up and sent off to St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, where they will provide nourishment to individuals who often go without food.

“I came here tonight because I like helping people, and I like feeding people. It feels good,” said Jade D., a seventh-grade student at Bornblum Jewish Community School.

Everyone who participated in the Great Big Sandwich Make was reminded that no act of kindness is ever too small, and that when a community comes together, it can make a big difference.

Nava VanderWalde is a ninth-grade student at Houston High School and a member of Baron Hirsch Congregation. [HW](#)

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