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# Jewish Foundation of Memphis Celebrates 30 Years of Impact



Lawson Arney

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis is excited to be celebrating major milestones this year: 30 years since its establishment in 1995 and surpassing \$200 million in assets.

Led by co-chairs Lawson Arney and Jason Salomon, the Foundation will honor three decades of philanthropic growth, culminating with a gala cele-



Jason Salomon

bration being held December 10, 2025, at Memphis Botanic Garden.

"The growth that we've experienced over the past 30 years far surpassed the expectations of our original founders," said Jason. "I am honored to have served as a past board chair and now as a co-chair of this milestone anniversary."

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis

was established 30 years ago with a clear mission: to secure the financial future of local Jewish agencies, including synagogues, Jewish schools and community and care facilities. With a focus on Legacy Giving, the Foundation works with 11 different partner agencies to ensure they are discussing legacy gifts with their donors and focusing on long-term endowment growth.

"Thirty years ago, a visionary group of community leaders determined that a shared endowment resource was a critical step in ensuring our agencies would be in existence well into the future," said Laura Linder, president and CEO of Jewish Community Partners. "I have been part of this organization for two decades, and it's amazing to see its growth and impact."

Over the past three decades, the Foundation has made an enormous impact. Assets have grown to more than \$200 million and through the Foundation donors have granted over \$67 million to Jewish, secular, local and national organizations. While Memphis is home to

larger foundations, the Jewish Foundation's influence on the community far surpasses its size.

"In 2023, the Jewish Foundation was ranked by the Memphis Business Journal as the third largest grantmaker in Memphis. More than \$21 million in charitable grants were distributed to local and national charitable organizations," said Linder. "The support of our incredible donors positions the Foundation to remain a cornerstone of the Jewish and broader community for decades to come, continuing its vital work of fostering philanthropy and Jewish life in Memphis."

Throughout the remainder of 2025, the Foundation will showcase its history, the impact of its donors and key moments that shaped its vital role in the community.

"Given all of the challenges we are facing in the world, it's heartening to know that through the work of the Jewish Foundation we are able to strengthen so many charitable organizations," said Lawson. "We have a lot to celebrate." **HW**

## JHSMM to Present "Looking Back and Looking Forward: Memories and Reflections on the BBYO Experience" April 27



Moderator Rachel Shankman

Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South President Greg Sis-kind announced the next Sumner Levine

Speakers Series program. "Looking Back and Looking Forward: Memories and Reflections on the BBYO Experience" will take place at the Memphis Jewish Community Center on Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

Rachel Shankman, a former B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) director will moderate a panel discussion that will explore how BBYO has impacted the lives of teens in Memphis and reflect on how the organization has changed over the decades. Joining Rachel on the panel are Meredith Epstein, Rhonda Feiler, Allen Israel, Leor Reef, Jill Shanker and Craig Weiss.

"We are glad to welcome this special panel whose participants have been very active in BBYO and look forward to hearing about the role BBYO has played

in the Memphis community," said Sis-kind. "We invite anyone who has funny or transforming memories of their BBYO experience – whether they were a member of B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) or Aleph Zedek Aleph ((AZA) to please send written anecdotes, newspaper clippings, photos or one-minute video clips that can be emailed to [mjhsresident@gmail.com](mailto:mjhsresident@gmail.com), or left at the MJCC front desk in an envelope c/o MJHS/ Olivia Roman by April 18. All of the material will be displayed at the event, according to Program Co-Chairs Susan Labovitz and Elaine Stegman.

After the discussion, audience members can ask questions and share some of their experiences.

Rachel Shankman is the founding director of Facing History and Ourselves in Memphis and retired in 2014 after 22

years of service. Prior to that, among her many positions, she was Jewish Student Union director at Memphis State University and educational director of Beth Shalom Synagogue where she became the first woman president of the board. She has served on numerous boards and received many awards for her work. Rachel is married to Stephen Shankman, former public defender for the Western District of Tennessee, and during his teen years he was a member and leader in Peres and Washer AZA. They have two sons, Brett and Brian, both who were Fortas AZA members. They are grandparents of Rebecca, Joshua, Adi and Ori. Adi was just elected international shaliach at BBYO's International Convention.

(See JHSMM Page 2)



Meredith Epstein



Rhonda Feiler



Allen Israel



Leor Reef



Jill Shanker



Craig Weiss



JHSMM...  
(Continued From Page 1)

Meredith Epstein is a River City BBG member. She has served as River City mazkirah (secretary), s’ganit (vice president) and n’siah (president) twice, demonstrating strong leadership and commitment to her chapter. Currently, Meredith is Delta Region’s members in training (MIT) mom, guiding new members as they begin their BBYO experience. She has attended BBYO International Convention, connecting with Jewish teens from around the world, and further expanded her leadership skills at Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC) this past summer. Her parents, Leslie and Jonathan, were active BBYO members with her mother holding the same position as Meredith. Jonathan was an active member of Fortas AZA. Meredith’s great-great-grandmother, Fanny ‘Ma” Brenner, was the visionary who helped make BBG a reality in Memphis in the 1940s.

Rhonda Feiler has been involved in BBYO most of her life. When she joined Dr. Ben T. Finebaum BBG after entering ninth grade, she met people who would become her best friends for over 50 years. In her chapter, she served as MIT mom, and years later, she married Lenny Feiler. They have three children who became very involved in BBYO as teens. Melissa was a Kriger BBG member, and sons Brian and Scott were Peres AZA members, and all were active at the regional level. Rhonda has served on the Memphis BBYO advisory board and has been a River City BBG advisor for 25 years.

Community leader Allen Israel is a past president of Beth Sholom Synagogue and a past vice president of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. He has also been chairman of MIFA, the Memphis Development Foundation and the Orpheum Theater, and past president of Casual Corner of America. He is a commercial real estate broker.

Allen was District 7 aleph godol and was active in international BBYO. Originally from Houston, he and his family were very active in BBYO. His father, Julius, had a B’nai B’rith lodge named after him. He has maintained ties with old Cyrus Adler AZA buddies there. In Memphis, he has been a Peres AZA advisor, and his wife, Jeri, is a past Cotton States Regional president. Their son, Brian, and daughter Amy have both been Cotton States Regional officers.

Leor Reef is the founder of Reef Strategies, a government affairs and public relations firm. Since moving back to Memphis, he has been involved with various local non-profits including Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South and young professional engagement and fundraising efforts for

the Memphis Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign.

As a teen, he served as chapter president and board member of Peres AZA. He was Cotton States Regional s’gan and then godol and attended CLTC, International Leadership Training Conference (ILTC) and International Leadership Seminar (ILSI) in Israel as well as International Convention. Leor is married to Lindsey Lazarov who was active in BBYO. They have two little children, Jonah and Graham – future BBYO members.

Jill Shanker is a native Memphian who grew up in BBYO starting her MIT year in River City BBG and then moving to Rose Belz Kriger BBG where she served in many positions including president. She served as regional mazkirah and regional n’siah and attended International Convention. She is an active community volunteer and has served on many boards including Memphis Jewish Federation, Uiberall Foundation and REACH Memphis. She previously served as chair of the board of directors for the Memphis Child Advocacy Center and Bornblum Jewish Community School. Currently, she is the leadership development director for Memphis Jewish Federation. Previously, she was a partner with the Law Firm of Wyatt, Tarrant, and Combs, LLP, specializing in corporate law. Jill is married to Scott Shanker, and they have two children. Their daughter, Sydney, was an active member of River City BBG and previously served as Delta Regional n’siah and the 79th International s’ganit. Their son, Jack, is an active member of Peres AZA where he is in his second term as godol.

Native Memphian Craig Weiss is a co-founder and partner of Tower Ventures and is chairman of the board of directors of Paragon Bank. He has received many awards and honors, including being selected by The Memphis Business Journal as one of their Top 40 Under 40 of local community leaders in 2005. He has been active on many boards including past chair of the board of directors for the Memphis Child Advocacy Center, an executive board member of United Way of the Mid-South, a past chair of the Memphis Jewish Community Center board of directors, and a past vice chair of Jewish Community Partners.

Craig is currently chair of the board for BBYO’s International board of directors. Previously he was treasurer and vice chair of the international organization. As a teen, he was president of Peres AZA and Regional AIT Dad. He and his wife, Cathy, have three children, Isaac, Ari and Ava all who have been active members of BBYO.

Everyone is invited to attend, and refreshments will be served after the program. **HW**

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# Anti-Hamas Protesters March in Gaza, in Rare and Risky Show of Dissent

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Hundreds of men shouting criticism of Hamas marched in Gaza on Tuesday, [March 25] according to footage shared from the territory the terror group has long governed.

Protests took place Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the enclave, including in Khan Younis and neighborhoods of Gaza City.

The demonstrations were a rare and risky public display of dissent against Hamas, which began controlling the territory in 2006 and ousted its rivals in a brief civil war the following year. It is known to imprison and execute its critics.

Some of the demonstrators carried

signs calling for an end to the war, which began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Some chanted anti-Hamas slogans, including saying that it is a terror group, according to footage from the scene and news reports about the protests. Some of the men carried their children.

The protests are taking place at the same time as frequent mass anti-government protests in Israel. Those protests are calling for the war to end and the hostages held by Hamas to be freed. They are also protesting the government’s efforts to fire senior officials. **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.

The week of April 14, the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club will not have any lunches or programs due to Passover

April 14 through April 18  
There will be no meals served, because of the Passover Holiday. The MJCC will also be closed on Monday April 14! Please see the MJCC website about other closings during the Holiday.

Monday, April 21  
Speaker: Floy Bluestein, local real estate broker with J. D. Marks, INC., Realtors  
Topic: Preventing Real Estate Scams  
Mrs. Bluestein has been in real estate for over 50 years. She will cover topics such as what to do if you receive an appraisal that is much higher than last year’s. She will also talk about some recent scams that have been in the news, such as the attempt to “Steal” Graceland, and other properties. This should be very enlightening. A Q&A period will follow. This talk is open to all.

Wednesday, April 23  
MJCC Larissa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon featuring Julianne Thomas & Dom Fosco.  
As one of our favorite performances, many have asked to have them back. Julianne and Dom have been making music all their lives. They each have many accomplishments in their long careers, but along the way, the best reward is the



Julianne Thomas & Dom Fosco

love of sharing what they do. Julianne offers a stirring vocal style with a joyful presence while Dom is an amazing instrumentalist on keyboard, sax and backgrounds. Their repertoire includes traditional jazz, standards, blues and R&B. Everyone will sing and smile, swoon over the tunes and tap their toes while Julianne and Dom create a journey back in time that is “Unforgettable.”

The Monthly Luncheon has recently been drawing around 70 people with a cost of only \$5 for a kosher catered meal plus dessert served by the MJCC staff. There is a group of volunteers who spend the day before decorating the room, so everyone is sure to enjoy it as soon as they walk in. A few games of Bingo will follow the lunch and entertainment. Bring your friends or come by yourself and make some new friends! This month’s luncheon is sponsored by The Avaline, Assisted Living and Memory Care.

Reservations can be made by calling the front desk of the MJCC at 901-761-0810. 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](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org) or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **HW**

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# PASSOVER INSIGHTS

## READING FOR YOUR SEDER

Pesach is the oldest and most transformative story of hope ever told. It tells of how an otherwise undistinguished group of slaves found their way to freedom from the greatest and longest-lived empire of their time, indeed of any time. It tells the revolutionary story of how the supreme Power intervened in history to liberate the supremely powerless. It is a story of the defeat of probability by the force of possibility.

Three thousand three hundred years ago, a group of slaves were liberated and began what Nelson Mandela calls the long walk to freedom. And ever since, at this time of the year, we've re-lived their story on what we call Pesach, Passover, the Jewish festival of the exodus.

To me it raises a fascinating question. Imagine we could travel back in time and meet the great Pharaoh himself, Ramses II. I know what I'd say. *Ramses, there's good news and bad news. The good news is that one people alive now will still be alive in thousands of years' time. The bad news is: it won't be yours. It will be that group of slaves out there, building your great temples, the people you call the habiru or Hebrews, the children of Israel.*

Nothing could sound more absurd. The Egypt of the Pharaohs was the greatest empire of the ancient world; and the Hebrews were nothing - slave labor, powerless, not even yet a nation. Yet it was they, not the Pharaohs, who survived, and still do to this day. How did it happen? The answer, I believe, is this.

Ancient Egypt and ancient Israel were two peoples who asked the most fateful question of all. How, in this all too brief span of years, do we create something that will endure? How do we acquire a share in immortality? The Egyptians gave one answer. Build great monuments of stone - temples, pyramids - that will outlast the winds and sands of time. And they did. What they built still stands. But only the buildings, not the civilization that once gave them life.

The Israelites gave a different answer. You don't need to create monuments. All you need to do is tell the story, generation after generation. You need to engrave your values on the hearts of your children, and they on theirs, so that you live on in them, and so on to the end of time. You need to build a civilization around the home, the school, and education as a conversation between the generations. *You need to put children first. That is what Jews did for thousands of years; and it's why we're here today.*

The Pesach story, more than any other, remains the inexhaustible source of inspiration to all those who long for freedom. Freedom is a moral achievement, and without a constant effort of education it atrophies and must be fought for again. *Nowhere more than on Pesach, though, do we see how the story of one people can become the inspiration of many.*




~ The Late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks ZT'L

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# Chag Pesach Sameach

As we gather around our Seder tables,  
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of the hostages being held in captivity.



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# Uh, Was There a Swastika Jacket at Omaha Fashion Week?



Photo via Getty Images

By Evelyn Frick

*This originally appeared on HeyAlma, reprinted with permission.*

Did you know that Omaha, Nebraska, has a Fashion Week? Me neither. Unfortunately, “The Midwest’s Premier Fashion Event,” as the event has called itself, is now receiving national attention because of a garment that some say features an antisemitic hate symbol.

At some point during the OFW Spring 2025 presentations that were held between February 27 and March 1, designer Kelli Molczyk showed a jacket from her collection, which appeared to have a swastika design on the back. Since the event, Molczyk took to Instagram to clarify that the symbol was “an antique pinwheel quilt remnant” from a quilt she bought at “a well-known store” in Central Nebraska. “At no point did I believe the pinwheel pattern represented or depicted a swastika, nor was it ever my intent to design the outfit with a swastika,” Molczyk wrote in the caption of an Instagram post she made today [March 21]. “I have never been a part of a hate organization, and I condemn, in the strongest terms, the swastika and any form of hate speech or conduct. To associate me with any such acts of hate or hate groups is reprehensible and defamatory.”

... So, yeah. Molczyk’s statement comes as she has received backlash online and from Omaha Fashion Week itself.

“During shows a hateful image did make it onto the runway,” an unnamed OFW producer wrote in a letter posted to the event’s Facebook page yesterday morning. “This was not something that was seen beforehand. It was not at our Rack Check, which happens a few weeks before shows, and was not put on the model until shortly before she walked the runway, so our team did not have the chance to pull the garment until after it had walked the runway once.”

“Omaha Fashion Week stands against hate,” they said, adding that Molczyk is banned from future events and that the incident is prompting them to change their screening and backstage protocols. In an interview with local TV news channel KMTV, OFW owner Brook Hudson shared that at the time, the event organizers issued an apology to their staff and attendees. It’s unclear how much more attention the incident will get, but as New York Magazine just reported on the incident, my guess is there is still more to come in the Omaha Fashion Week swastika scandal.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time an antisemitic controversy has touched the fashion world, nor will it likely be the last. In 2010, fashion designer John Galiano drunkenly accosted a group of Jewish women in Paris saying, “I love Hitler.” In the 2010s, Zara and Urban Outfitters released T-shirt designs, which resembled the concentration camp uniforms worn by Jewish and gay prisoners. And before that, in 2007,

Zara came out with a line of purses with swastikas on them. In 2020, fast fashion retailer Shein came under fire for selling a “swastika pendant necklace.” Even today, brands like Chanel and Hugo Boss are haunted by their past connections to Nazis, and Von Dutch is remembered for its connection to self-proclaimed racist and Nazi Kenneth Robert Howard. For what it’s worth, I don’t think this incident rises to any of those levels. Based on the information currently available, I don’t think Kelli Molczyk was intending to put a swastika on the

runway. It seems to me this major and harmful oversight could’ve been avoided if Molczyk was in community with Jews — my guess is she isn’t — or, I don’t know, man, if she had maybe watched “The Sound of Music” a little more closely. Regardless, it absolutely should’ve been caught by the event organizers at Omaha Fashion Week. And yet, they didn’t catch it, so a swastika-like symbol wasn’t stopped from walking a runway and now I know that Omaha Fashion Week exists, and so do you. Oy. **HW**



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# When Should You Claim Social Security?

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors  
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

When it comes to Social Security and retirement, you may have conflicting viewpoints: On one side, you hope to start collecting your benefits as soon as you’re eligible, or maybe you’re concerned you’ll need that income sooner. On the other side, you know that if you wait, your monthly benefit amount will be greater.

While it does make sense to wait as long as you can, Sherman Hohenberger, a lead wealth planning strategist at Wells Fargo Wealth & Investment Management, recommends you reevaluate your situation every year in retirement before deciding whether to continue delaying the beginning of Social Security benefits.

“Because each individual, couple, widow, and widower has a unique life-style and unique income needs, I believe a year-by-year evaluation prior to beginning benefits is the best approach,” Hohenberger says.

One item you need for that annual retirement review is a current copy of your Social Security benefit estimate from ssa.gov. This provides personalized estimates of future benefits based on your real earnings and lets you see your latest statement and earnings history.

Here, Hohenberger outlines a comparison of claiming now vs. later and offers key considerations as you review your strategy each year.

### Comparison: Claiming sooner vs. later

Let’s start with a hypothetical example: John Doe was born in 1960 and was earning \$200,000 a year when he retired. He decided to start receiving Social Security benefits as soon as he became eligible at 62, or five years before he would receive full retirement benefits. His monthly benefit in today’s dollars is \$2,106.

If he had delayed receiving benefits until he was 70, he’d receive \$1,600 more a month, or \$3,731. And he would make up for the eight-year delay in not taking any benefits in about 10 years.

“Unlike personal assets that can be exhausted, Social Security is a vast resource provided by the U.S. government. As long as you are alive, you should continue to receive your Social Security benefits and with a cost-of-living adjustment throughout your retirement years.”

### Make wellness a deciding factor

Your health can play a big role in helping determine when you should start taking benefits. Do your loved ones live long lives, or have most succumbed to illness before age 65? “It’s not the most accurate indicator of what’s going to transpire in the future, but it can have some bearing and, therefore, should be taken into consideration,” Hohenberger says.

“If you’re in reasonably good health and anticipate a continued healthy life-style, that usually counsels in favor of waiting,” he continues. “If, on the other hand, you’re in poorer health and have concerns about longevity, that counsels toward drawing benefits sooner rather than later.”

### Do you have enough income?

Another key factor is having other sources of income to help you live comfortably in retirement without needing Social Security benefits. He says you should consider the rate of return Social Security can offer: 6.25% – 8.00% (plus a cost-of-living increase).

### Considerations for married couples

Hohenberger suggests married clients look at multiple factors when determining the timing for each spouse to claim Social Security benefits.

For example, if you’re working part time or seasonally, your Social Security benefits may be dramatically lower if your partner is working full-time. It still may be wise for both of you to wait, if possible.

“Not only does it increase the size of the benefit that the [higher-earning] individual personally receives, but it also increases the size of what’s known as the survivor’s benefit that the [lower-earning] spouse could draw if the other spouse passes away,” Hohenberger says.

### What about taxes?

When it comes to when to claim Social Security benefits, Hohenberger advises not to focus primarily on the tax ramifications.

“For the vast majority of people, their marginal tax rate in retirement will be fairly constant,” Hohenberger says. “If retirees were to take their Social Security benefit at 62, we typically see that their marginal tax rate is the same or approximately the same as it would be if they claimed the benefit at age 70. We want [them] to focus instead on working to maximize the net cash flow over the remainder of their lifetime.”

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## IDF: Two Rockets Fired from Gaza, One Intercepted

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Terrorist forces in the Gaza Strip launched two rockets into southern Israel last Wednesday, triggering sirens in Gaza Envelope communities, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

One of the rockets was intercepted, while the other fell in the Zimrat area. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

No group has claimed responsibility

The second projectile fell in the Zimrat area with no immediate reports of injuries.

for the attack, according to the IDF.  
Last Monday night, the IDF intercepted three rockets fired from Gaza. Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, claimed responsibility for that attack. [HW](#)



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# More Than Money: Memphians Explore Ethical Wills to Leave a Lasting Legacy

By Sheri Gadberry, Senior Philanthropic Officer and Executive Vice President of the Foundation, Jewish Community Partners



Attorney and ethical wills expert Scott Zucker discusses ethical wills.

What will your family remember about you after you’re gone?

Nearly 50 individuals gathered in late March to explore this question at an insightful event hosted by the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Attorney and ethical wills expert Scott Zucker led attendees in an interactive presentation on ethical wills and how they serve as a powerful legacy, transcending the traditional financial will.

Unlike a financial will, an ethical will focuses on sharing values, life lessons and personal stories.

“We have all lived beautiful lives, but we fear being forgotten,” Zucker said. “Recording who we are is a way to deal with that.”

Zucker highlighted the versatility of these documents, noting that they can take various forms, including poems, songs and letters around significant life events like weddings or births. He began the session by playing a section of Cat Stevens’ “Father and Son,” which he said could be understood as a musical version of an ethical will.

The topic is personal to Zucker, who recounted losing his parents in his 20s, a

loss that left him with unanswered questions. This experience motivated him to create an ethical will for his own sons, a project he discovered was deeply rooted in Jewish tradition, a concept his rabbi identified as Zava’ah, which refers to the passage of spiritual wealth. In the Torah, Jacob is described gathering his children around his deathbed to teach them how to live after his death.

Attendees at the Jewish Foundation event received a workbook for creating their own ethical wills and were encouraged to reflect on their own legacies. Participants engaged in discussions, offering advice to their 20-year-old selves and brainstorming questions they wished they could have asked deceased parents or grandparents.

Zucker injected humor into the session, joking that ethical wills are not the place for negativity, discouraging phrases like, “I never liked you.” He also addressed the sensitive topic of burial plans, suggesting that writing them down might be easier than voicing them aloud.

Personal anecdotes further illustrated the power of these documents. Lau-



Participants talk with Scott Zucker.

ra Linder, CEO of Jewish Community Partners, reflected on the handwritten recipe cards she inherited from her grandmother and letters containing dating advice received during her time at camp. Others brought up letters, drawings and stories from relatives, especially those from the “old country.”

Sharing a glimpse into his own ethical will, Zucker discussed his “60 things I learned about being 60,” a collection of reflections on topics ranging from baseball and music to marriage and jealousy. He included a poignant quote from his father: “Life can be a battle but worth the fight.”

Several financial advisors and attorneys attended the event and received continuing education credit for their participation. Zucker encouraged them to incorporate ethical wills into their practice, noting that it enriches the client experience.

“Scott’s presentation was very meaningful and gave me topics to discuss with my clients beyond the legal aspects of their plan,” said past chair of the Foundation and estate planning attorney Jason Salomon.

“Scott’s message was incredibly

well-received,” said past chair of the Foundation and financial professional Anthony Morrison. “I strongly encourage my clients to cement their financial and values (charitable) legacies, but I had never previously considered the profound impact an ethical will can have on one’s children and grandchildren. I plan to do one myself and to encourage older clients and relatives to do the same.”

While ethical wills can be a powerful tool for preserving personal legacy, Zucker emphasized that, in addition to passing on spiritual wealth, it is particularly important after the events of Oct. 7 that Jewish people give philanthropically to Jewish institutions.

“After Oct 7, the legacy of who the Jewish people are is at risk if we don’t give,” Zucker said. “Your legacy will survive only if we survive.”

For those interested in learning more, Zucker recommended his TED Talk as a valuable resource. If you missed the event and would like to explore creating your own ethical will, reach out to Sheri Gadberry at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis at [sgadberry@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:sgadberry@jcpmemphis.org). [HW](https://www.jcpmemphis.org)



Participants engage in the Q&A session.



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OBITUARIES



**Sonia Rosenberg Lamensdorf**  
Sonia Rosenberg Lamensdorf, 97, of Memphis, Tennessee., formerly from Shelby, Mississippi, passed away peacefully in her sleep of natural causes on March 17, 2025, at the home of her daughter in Southfield, Michigan.  
Bubba, or Aunt Sonia, as she was known to so many, had been living with

her daughter for the past several years. She is survived by her children, Leah Ann Kleinfeldt (Gerald Kirzner) of Southfield, Michigan, Danny Lamensdorf of Jacksonville, Florida, and Sandy Lamensdorf; her grandchildren, Dr. Nossional Kleinfeldt of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Chaya Selesny (Joseph) of Bet Shemesh, Israel, and Shana Kleinfeldt (Jason Goldberg) of Englewood, New Jersey, Jessica Wilson (Joey) of Atlanta, Georgia, Joel Kirzner of Arlington, Virginia, 15 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews. She was the beloved wife of the late Erwin DeLee Lamensdorf of Shelby Mississippi.  
She was born in Wyszkow, Poland, on August 10, 1929. The ninth child of Leib Wolf and Chaia Yachet Rosenberg. She came to New York City via Ellis Island in 1936. After a brief stay in New York the family moved to Memphis to be with family members.  
They lived above the family business,

Rosenberg Bakery, on Bethel Street. In 1951 she met Erwin, they married in New Orleans and made Memphis their home. In 1952 they moved to Shelby, Mississippi, where they opened Erwin’s TV, Repair and Appliances. Erwin passed in 1976, and Sonia ran the business for several more years. She moved to Memphis in 1978. Following her passion for sales, she worked for Goldsmith’s Oak Court Furniture Department until she retired.  
Funeral services and internment were held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Anshei Sphard Chapel and Cemetery in Memphis.  
Contributions in her memory can be made to the Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network, 6555 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, 48322 or the Michigan Palliative and Hospice Care, 32255 North Western Highway, Suite 197, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48334. **HW**

Israel Warns Citizens of Heightened Global Terror Risk Ahead of Passover

**By JNS Staff**  
(JNS) – Israel’s National Security Council issued a heightened travel advisory last Tuesday, warning that Iran, Hamas and other extremist groups could target Israeli and Jewish individuals abroad during the upcoming Passover holiday.  
The NSC identified Iran as a primary actor behind international terrorism, emphasizing its continued support for operations against Israeli and Jewish interests worldwide.

Officials noted that recent attempts to strike Israeli diplomatic missions in countries such as Sweden and Belgium had been successfully intercepted.  
In addition, the council reported that Hamas has sought to carry out attacks on Israelis outside of Israel. Security forces have reportedly uncovered related terror networks operating in several European countries, including Denmark, Germany, Bulgaria and Sweden.  
According to the advisory, the renewal of hostilities in Gaza is likely to intensify attempts to attack Jewish and Israeli targets internationally. The NSC also flagged concerns about threats from organizations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda, particularly in Europe.  
Citing a global rise in antisemitic incidents – including in countries like Canada and Australia – the NSC urged Israelis to consult the latest travel advisories before planning international trips. **HW**

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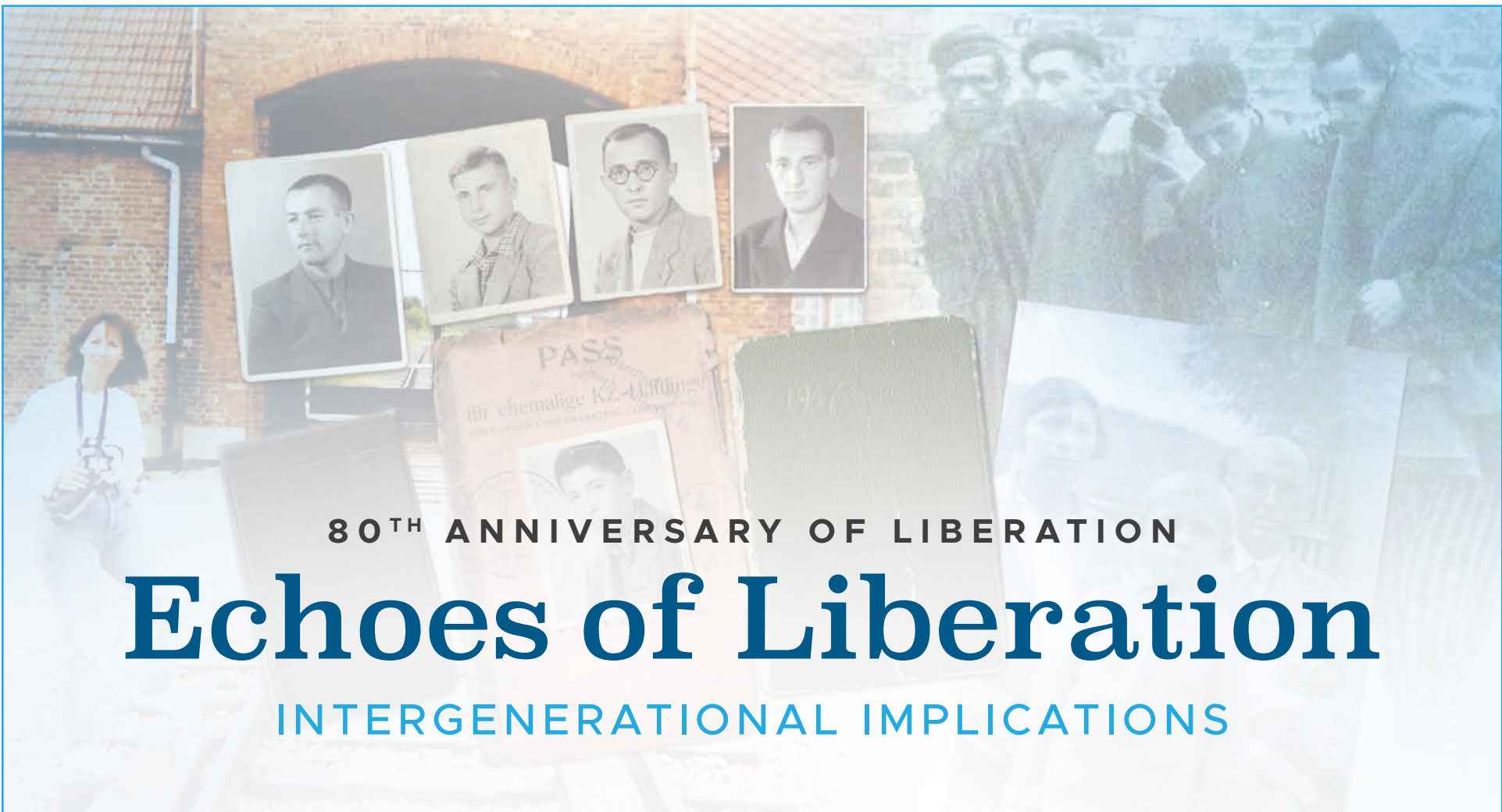
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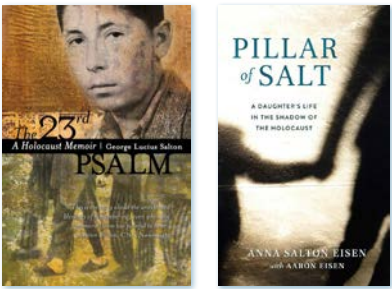
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