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APRIL 24, 2025

VOL. 103, NO. 30

Learn about Jewish Stained-Glass Art and the History of Beth Sholom's Stained-Glass Windows, and Enjoy Brunch and a Kids' Art Workshop on Sunday Morning April 27

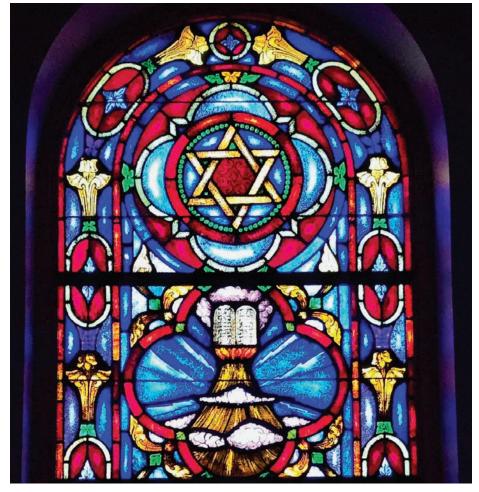


The exquisite stained-glass windows in Beth Sholom's Ari Becker Chapel came from Temple Israel in Blythedale, Arkansas, which closed in 2003.

The 70th anniversary celebration continues at Beth Sholom with a special program, "Reflections on Our Jewels: Beth Sholom's Stained-Glass Windows," which will take place on Sunday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the synagogue. The multi-faceted event, which includes brunch, will honor the history of the eight majestic stained-glass windows that grace the Ari Becker Chapel. Guests will also learn about stained glass in Jewish tradition, courtesy of an illustrated presentation about Jewish stained glass by an expert, Professor Alanna Cooper of Case Western Reserve University's Department of Religious Studies. Children 7 to 11 will have the chance to create their own mock stained-glass windows in a special art workshop led by Memphis artist Carol Buchman.

The program is free and open to the greater Memphis Jewish community, but RSVP is required at http://bit.ly/41YjRor. Beth Sholom is located at 6675 Humphreys Boulevard in Memphis.

For years, Beth Sholom's exquisite windows adorned Temple Israel in Blytheville, Arkansas, which closed in 2003. Among its members was Leon Hellman z''l, the late husband of Barbara Hellman, Beth Sholom congregant. Hellman accompanied her husband to the temple's monthly Friday night services and is sponsoring the "Reflections on Our Jewels" event to honor her husband's memory. "Temple Israel meant a lot to me because [its members] embraced us so much," Hellman said.



A detail of one window that depicts the Ten Commandments and Mount Sinai.

Temple Israel donated the windows to Beth Sholom "as a testimony to Jewish life and Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri," and as a symbol of Jewish endurance. Temple Israel also entrusted its memorial plaques to Beth Sholom, which displays them in its community court along with its other memorial plaques.

With daily minyanim, lectures and other programs held in the Ari Beck-

er Chapel, Beth Sholom members are privileged to see and reflect on the light and color of the brilliant windows. Now, the stained-glass windows are available for all to see in the online collection of the Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art of the Center for Jewish Art at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The windows represent the first Jewish art from Memphis added to the collection and can be viewed at bit.ly/3EDGaHX. HW

Chabad of Memphis to Offer Fascinating New Course on Colorful Profiles in Jewish History



Rabbi Levi Klein

On Tuesday, May 6, Chabad of Memphis is excited to launch a new Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) course. Led by Rabbi Levi Klein, *Colorful Profiles* brings stories to life of intriguing and lesser-known Jewish figures who showed remarkable courage throughout history. Participants will learn how these individuals navigated issues that continue to resonate today.

"Our past imparts critical life lessons, but history may sometimes come across as dry and boring," says Rabbi Klein, director of Chabad of Memphis. "This course is anything but that. The stories contained in this course bring the past to life in gripping sagas, many of which seem too impossible to believe—yet they are real."

The four-session course, which will be each Tuesday in May, is divided into four lessons and will delve into 12 fascinating personalities that include high-profile hostages, savvy businesswomen, unlikely converts and more. Through a Torah-centered approach, participants will gain a richer understanding of some of the historical challenges that people faced in living a Jewish life and how their stories resulted in enduring, impactful legacies.

"After learning about these Jewish heroes, attendees will come away with a greater sense of appreciation for their history and heritage," says Rabbi Klein. "These stories are not defined by tragedy and suffering, but what it means to be a proud, resilient Jew." He adds that participants will develop a deeper connection to those figures who bravely stood up for their beliefs.

Like all JLI courses, *Colorful Profiles* is open to adults of all ages and is geared toward every level of knowledge, including those who have no background in Hebrew or Judaism. Participants need not be affiliated with a synagogue to attend.

If interested, visit JewishMemphis. com/JLI to register or find out more course-related information. Reach out to Rabbi Klein at Rabbi@ JewishMemphis.com or 901-754-0404 with questions. HW

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Plane Carrying Freed Israeli Hostages and US Lawmakers Clipped at DC Airport



Released hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel speak at the AJC Washington ambassador's Seder. (Screenshot)

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) - Two planes carrying members of Congress as well as the released Israeli hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel clipped wings on the taxiway at Reagan Washington National Airport last Thurs-

The two American Airlines jets were taxiing when their winglets came into contact at the Washington, D.C. airport. No injuries were reported on the planes.

Also on the planes were a number of U.S. representatives from New York and New Jersey, including Josh Gottheimer, a Jewish Democrat, and Ritchie Torres, perhaps the most outspoken pro-Israel Democrat in the House.

The Siegels, who were both taken hostage by Hamas, on Oct. 7, 2023, were on one of the planes, according to a social media post by Ynet News. Aviva was released in a November 2023 ceasefire and Keith, an American-Israeli, was released more than a year later, in the ceasefire that ended last month.

The couple have become vocal ad-

vocates for the release of the remaining hostages, and were visiting Washington D.C. in part to speak at the American Jewish Committee's Washington diplomatic seder last Wednesday night ahead of Passover. In his remarks, Keith Siegel urged President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resume negotiations and broker a deal to return the remaining 59 hostages, 24 of whom are thought to be alive.

"During my captivity, I spent most of my days longing for my family, wondering what they were enduring and how each day was unfolding for them," Siegel said in his address. "Now, my greatest priority is to cherish every minute with them and to fight for the return of the 59 hostages who are still kept captive. I cannot begin to heal until all 59 hostages are home."

The couple told Ynet that they were startled by the incident, "but are continuing the mission." HW

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 25, 2025 / 27 Nissan, 5785......7:23 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. April 26, 2025 / 28 Nissan, 5785 8:21 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Shemini

Florida's Todd Golden Becomes First Jewish Coach to Win March **Madness Since 1988**

By Ben Sales

(JTA) - Todd Golden became the first Jewish coach in 37 years to win the NCAA men's basketball tournament as his Florida Gators edged Houston 65-63 in the final on April 7.

Golden's championship capped an especially Jewish- and Israeli-inflected Final Four. Along with Florida, Duke and Auburn were coached, respectively, by Jon Scheyer and Bruce Pearl, both of whom are Jewish. Houston player

Emanuel Sharp is the son of longtime Maccabi Tel Aviv player Derrick Sharp, and himself played for Israel's national youth team.

Golden, 39, is also the youngest coach to win it all since the tournament expanded it its current structure in 1985. After playing college ball himself, he played for Maccabi Haifa, an Israeli pro basketball team, for two seasons. In 2009 he also played under Pearl in the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

He was also an assistant to Pearl at Auburn, and had stints at Columbia and San Francisco, before coming to Florida in 2022. Golden faced, and beat, his mentor as Florida topped Auburn in the semifinal. Ahead of that game, Pearl and Golden sat for a joint interview.

Earlier this season, Golden was accused of sexual misconduct by multiple women, which led to a Title IX investigation. Investigators dismissed the charges as they found Golden had not committed misconduct "within a university program or activity," the investigators said.

The most recent Jewish coach to win the tournament before Golden was Larry Brown, who led Kansas to a championship in 1988. HW

CORRECTION

Sarah VanderWalde should have been included in the article about the Jewish Foundation of Memphis' B'nai Tzedek program on page 4 of Volume 103, No. 29 dated 4/17/25.

She is one of the incredibly dedicated staff members who have been instrumental to B'nai Tzedek's profound impact over the years. HW



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Art in The Loop, the Art Festival in East Memphis, set for April *25, 26 & 27*



Hands-on crafting at Art in the Loop.

ArtWorks Foundation presents its 9th annual edition of Art in The Loop, the Art Festival in East Memphis, featuring works of fine-craft in metal, glass, wood, clay and fiber, as well as 2-D disciplines. In addition to the juried artists market, you'll also enjoy the fare of the town's top food trucks, craft demonstrations and performances of classical music.

Art in The Loop will take place on Ridgeway Loop Road (between Briarcrest Avenue & Ridge Bend Rd.); hours are Friday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Art in The Loop is presented by WKNO TV, WKNO FM, Memphis Magazine, and ArtWorks Foundation. This event is sponsored by Memphis Dermatology Clinic, Clay & Land Insurance and Raymond James: thanks to their generosity.

Admission is **free**; parking is, too! For more, visit: artworks.foundation or artintheloop.org HW

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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, April 28 Special Art Project with Mid-South

We recently had a field trip to the Mid-South Hobbies location on Summer Ave. They always bring a really cool project for the group to do and it is a lot of fun; their teachers make it very enjoyable. This project is free. No experience is necessary, and if the project is not finished, everyone takes supplies to finish at their own home. Come have a nice lunch and bring home something that you made yourself. Reservations are needed by the Friday before so we have enough projects and food for everyone.

Wednesday, April 30

Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Noach Karp, Director of Memphis Jewish **Experience for the Memphis Kollel**

Topic: What's up with The Beard? You may figure from the title that Rabbi Karp's talks are not the typical ones you hear. Rabbi Karp always brings a fun and informative topic to his remarks at the MJCC! Come listen, learn and enjoy a session with this engaging rabbi. There is a reservation needed for the lunch but not the rabbi's talk. We hope to see you here.

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Rabbi Noach Karp



Rabbi Yosef Braha

Monday, May 5

Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Yosef Braha, Rosh Kollel and Director of Operations of the Memphis Kollel

Topic: Ask the Rabbi

Rabbi Braha's talks are always one of the highlights for the speaker series. Bring all your Jewish questions and queries that you have been wondering about but maybe were afraid to ask. No questions too tough! Rabbi Braha always has a nice, and sometimes humorous answer. Have a nice lunch and an informative afternoon.

Wednesday, May 7 Field Trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their Monthly Luncheon.

The bus will take the group from the MJCC to Baron Hirsch and bring the group back to the MJCC following the lunch. Baron Hirsch also has entertainment from Creative Aging and Bingo following the entertainment. We will also pick up those who need it and live around the MJCC. Call Steve Kaplan for more information at 901-259-9220.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis. org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday through

Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. HW **PAST ISSUES**

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Birthright Participants Say Visiting Israel in the Post-Oct. 7 Era is a Transformative Experience



Visiting Israel on Birthright in the year and a half since Oct. 7, 2023, many trip participants said they felt safer in Israel than they did back home. Credit: Idan Arad

By Larry Luxner

(JTA) – Maddison Spiegel of Westchester County, New York, had tried for years to go on a Birthright trip to Israel but somehow it never happened.

The first time she was supposed to go the COVID-19 pandemic got in the way, freezing all trips. The next time Spiegel applied she learned belatedly she had missed a deadline. Then came the war sparked by Hamas's attack on Oct. 7, 2023.

Finally – this past December – Spiegel unexpectedly was offered a spot on Birthright. She grabbed it, joining 25 other young people on the free 10-day trip to the Jewish state. While some Birthright trippers or their parents were a bit nervous given the news from Israel and Gaza at the time, their concerns were assuaged as soon as the trip began, they said.

"We had an armed guard with us who was also a medic, so that was a big

stress reliever," said Spiegel, 24. "We never had to go to a shelter, and the staff knew every stop of the way. Never once did I feel unsafe."

And unlike on trips before the war, Birthright trips now include components related to Israel's experience since Oct. 7, such as visits to so-called Hostage Square in Tel Aviv and volunteering opportunities elsewhere in the country, that make the trip all the more meaningful, organizers say.

"Parents are definitely still concerned, and we want to reassure them that we take safety and security very seriously," said Noa Bauer, Birthright's vice president of global marketing. "More than that, their children will not only have the Birthright Israel experience but also another layer of Jewish community identity, resilience and connection to Israel. This is a very important aspect of the trip, especially for college students facing antisemitism on campus. They

won't feel alone on Birthright and will have new Jewish friends when they go back home."

Spiegel, who works as an HR coordinator at Westchester Medical Center, was one of 20,000 young Jews who visited Israel on Birthright last year. In 2025, Birthright expects the number to rise to 30,000, Bauer said. In 2019, Birthright's peak year, the organization saw about 49,000 participants.

Maddison Spiegel's mother, Joyce Spiegel, said she was very glad her daughter chose to go despite the war.

"We really wanted her to go, and we shared in her disappointment every time she tried to get a trip and was unable to," Joyce Spiegel said. "As soon as we saw the itinerary, we felt much better knowing they were taking all the necessary precautions and weren't in any direct danger."

Mila Brener, 20, went on Birthright last August. The daughter of an Israeli mother and an American father, Brener, who lives in Los Angeles, said she always has had deep feelings for Israel – thanks in part to her grandmother in Haifa, with whom she has always been

"After Oct. 7, all I could think about was my savta," said Brener, then a student at the New York Film Academy, using the Hebrew word for grandmother. "The war started while I was in my first semester in college, and it really took a toll on me. On social media, I saw the growth of antisemitism, and when we were putting up posters of the hostages on campus, people would rip them down and scream that it was Zionist propaganda. I couldn't believe my eyes that this was happening in this day and age."

Encouraged by her parents, Shirly and Bruce Brener, Mila signed up for Birthright – and came back newly energized and passionate about Israel.

"There was not one boring moment on that trip," Brener said. "The most impactful was the Nova music festival site, which they've turned into a memorial. Just being there was so heartbreaking."

In 2024, Birthright drew participants aged 18-26 from a variety of countries, with most coming from the United States, Canada, France, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, Britain and Germany. Since Birthright's launch in December 1999, some 900,000 young Jews have joined its programs.

"I'm not in the business of convincing people. I want to make sure that the participants and their parents feel comfortable," Bauer said. "A lot of young Jews want to come to Israel, especially now, and see it for themselves – behind the headlines, behind TikTok. They want to learn, and Birthright – as an educational organization – is their best option to do it."

After the Oct. 7 attacks, Birthright made some adjustments to the core 10-day trip. Initially, excursions to the Golan Heights and the northern Galilee city of Tzfat were eliminated, though Tzfat has since been added back, as a cease-fire with Lebanon remains in effect. In addition, every group spends a few hours doing volunteer projects, such as planting trees or preparing housing for Israelis displaced by the war.

Each group of 40 or so Birthright participants has two staffers, an Israeli tour guide and a security guard/medic, as well as eight additional young Israelis, usually soldiers, who accompany the group for five days.

"Meeting Israeli peers is one of the most exciting aspects of the trip," Bauer said. "What strikes me the most is seeing participants coming to Israel and saying, 'I actually feel safer here than I do back home.' They take out their Star of David and wear it proudly – and they come back with new friends and a stronger sense of resilience."

That was the case for Mackenzie Cooper, 20, of Smithtown, New York.

Mackenzie's father, Craig Cooper, said it's natural for parents to worry about their daughters.

"When she went on Birthright two summers ago, I had my own level of concern," he said. "Any parent who knows the tumultuous history of the Middle East would be foolish not to be concerned. Even before Oct. 7, we asked all the questions any parent would ask."

Now 20, Mackenzie Cooper is a pre-law student at SUNY Binghamton. She recently returned to Israel for two months as part of the Birthright Onward program, where she interned for the municipality of Tel Aviv as a writer and proofreader in the city's marketing department.

"Shaping Israel's international perspective from the local level was an incredible experience," she said. "I was on a beach in Tel Aviv when they announced the rescue of four hostages in Gaza. I didn't even understand Hebrew, but everyone was jumping and screaming with joy.

I felt completely safe, surrounded by love."

Bauer added, "Today, Birthright offers an array of opportunities in Israel. From the well-known free 10-day trip to volunteering, internships, fellowships and prestigious summer programs, we have something for everyone."

This story was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Birthright Israel, which aims to give every young Jewish adult around the world the opportunity to visit Israel on an educational trip. This article was produced by JTA's native content team. **HW**

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Dream Vacations Dallas Regional Training: Enhancing Skills as Luxury Travel Specialists



Mark Grishman (I) and Debbie Rosenthal (r) with Joe Eastep, Senior Director of Business Development for Oceania.

Debbie Rosenthal and Mark Grishman recently attended a three-day regional training and engagement conference in Dallas so that they could gain a deeper understanding of the latest offerings and trends in the luxury travel market, enhancing their skills as luxury travel specialists and deepening their knowledge to better serve their clients with luxury travel experiences.

Debbie and Mark had the privilege of meeting face-to-face with experts from some of the most prestigious brands in the industry including Azamara, Oceania, Regent Seven Seas, AmaWater-

ways, Viking and Kensington Tours, fortifying their relationships and strengthening their partnerships with these esteemed suppliers.

Debbie and Mark's training sessions provided a wealth of knowledge and connections that will enable them to deliver exceptional service to their clients. They returned from Dallas with renewed enthusiasm, ready to exceed expectations and create unforgettable travel experiences.

You can reach Debbie or Mark at drosenthal@dreamvacations.com 901.682.5600. HW

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When Purim Pizza is **Delivered Close to Pesach**



IDF soldiers enjoying pizza for Purim

By Rabbi Akiva Males

This past Purim, Young Israel's (YI) Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (RDF) attempted to engage in another uplifting project. For the ninth year in a row, YI decided that Purim would be the perfect time to reach out and thank the brave soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces (IDF) who are doing their best to protect our extended family in Israel.

While away from the festive Purim atmospheres of their own homes and locales, those soldiers work hard to keep their fellow citizens safe and sound. Toward that end, YI reached out again to www.Basketstoisrael.com to supply an entire platoon of active-duty IDF soldiers with enough pizza and soda to make their Purim festive.

However, due to the ever-changing security situation in Israel, the soldiers who were supposed to receive our pizzas were rotated to Gaza and its environs. Believe it or not, this same scenario kept repeating itself until Wednesday, April 2!

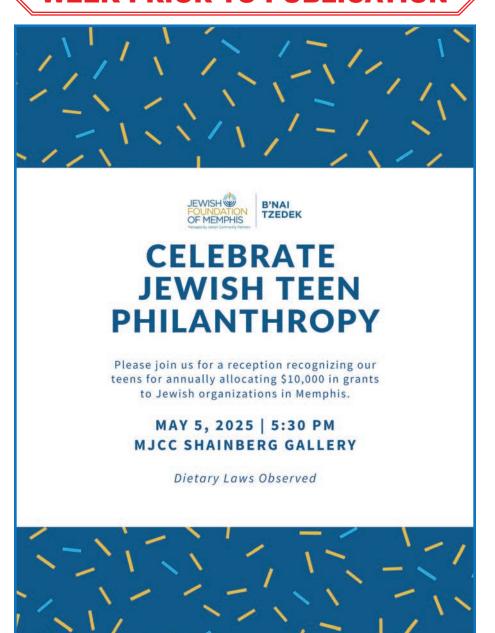
Finally, on April 2, 2025, I received a message - along with the picture below that enough pizza to feed 100 active duty IDF soldiers was finally delivered and enjoyed by some very hungry Chayalim – courtesy of Young Israel of Memphis!

This refreshing treat served as a long-distance embrace from our congregational family.

Knowing that a caring synagogue in far-away Memphis, Tennessee, was thinking of them surely provided those IDF soldiers with a much-appreciated morale boost. YI thanks the generous sponsors who made this gift possible.

With Pesach just around the corner, YI's RDF is busy assisting others again. On behalf of all those who benefited / will benefit from YI's RDF, I thank the fund's many donors for their generous ongoing support. Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org HW

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Estate Planning Do You Need More Than Just a Will? Six Reasons a Trust May Be Essential in Tennessee

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

When it comes to estate planning in Tennessee, having a Will is often a vital first step. A Will ensures your wishes are clear regarding who should inherit your assets and who should care for your children if something happens to you. Without one, the state makes those decisions for you — and that's rarely ideal.

However, in many cases a Will alone may not be enough. In fact, for many Tennesseans, a Trust can be just as essential — sometimes even more so. Here are six compelling reasons why you may want to consider having a Trust in addition to your Will.

1. Avoiding Probate or Conserva-

A Trust can help your family bypass the lengthy and often expensive probate process. In Tennessee, a Will must go through probate in county court, which means your loved ones are left navigating legal procedures — sometimes during the most difficult times of their lives. If you become incapacitated or pass away, a Trust allows your assets to be transferred directly to your beneficiaries without court involvement, saving your family time, money, and stress.

2. Providing for a Person with Special Needs

If you have a loved one with special needs, a Special Needs Trust is crucial. While a Will can leave them assets, it does not offer protection. In contrast, a Special Needs Trust can safeguard their inheritance while preserving eligibility for government benefits. This thoughtful planning ensures that your loved one receives the care they need without financial complications.

3. Maintaining Privacy

Probate is a public process. That means once your Will is filed with the court, it becomes a public record. A Trust, on the other hand, remains private. It keeps the details of your estate and your beneficiaries out of the public



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eye, offering your family discretion and protection from unwanted attention.

4. Addressing the Needs of a Blended Family

Blended families bring unique challenges to estate planning. A Trust gives you greater control and flexibility to ensure children from previous relationships are provided for, in exactly the way you intend. It's a powerful tool for balancing the needs of your spouse with those of your children and stepchildren.

5. Managing Out-of-State Property

If you own property outside of Tennessee, distributing it through a Will can require probate proceedings in multiple states — something known as "ancillary probate." This process can be expensive and time-consuming. A Trust allows for smooth transfers of out-of-state property, avoiding multiple legal entanglements.

6. Protecting Your Loved Ones' Inheritance

A Trust can shield the assets you leave behind from potential creditors, lawsuits, or even divorces. It's a smart way to ensure that your legacy benefits your loved ones directly, without being siphoned away due to unfortunate financial circumstances.

While a Will remains a foundational document for any estate plan, it may not be enough to fully protect your wishes or your family. A Trust can provide that added layer of security and flexibility — offering peace of mind for you and your loved ones. HW

Bread Scattered Outside Jewish Homes in London on Passover

(JNS) – Unidentified individuals scattered bread near the entrances of several Jewish Haredi homes in London last week, during the Passover holiday. Observant Jews do not consume leavened bread, or chametz, during Passover, and many painstakingly remove any traces of it from their homes ahead of the holiday.

Elad Simchayoff, the London correspondent for Israel's Channel 12 News, called it "anti-Jewish hatred and harassment." However, two locals told the Behadrei Haredim news site that they suspected that the culprit was Jewish. The bread was left outside dozens of Jewish-owned homes [the previous] Saturday and then again last Monday, the website reported.

Shomrim, a Jewish neighborhood watch, is reviewing security camera footage in an attempt to determine the identity of the culprits, the news site reported.

The previous Saturday and then again last Monday, dozens of pita breads were left outside the home of Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Idit Silman.

Those who placed them there spelled out the words "one pita a day" with the bread, an apparent reference to the rations former Hamas hostages have reported receiving in captivity.

Silman condemned the protesters as "vile people devoid of basic human val-

ues, zero care for others, zero respect for Judaism and zero decency." **HW**









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Are You Missing the Bull's-Eye with a Target-Date Fund?

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

Two out of three 401(k) participants have assets in a target-date fund — an "all-in-one" fund intended in theory to be the holder's only investment (see chart). These funds are often the default option in workplace plans, so you may have a target-date fund without fully understanding what it is, or perhaps without even knowing you own it.

In fact, target-date funds are not as simple as they appear to be. Like all investment options, they have strengths and weaknesses.

Focused on time

Target-date funds offer a professionally managed mix of assets — typically a combination of other funds containing stocks, bonds, and cash alternatives — selected for a specific time horizon.

The target date, usually included in the fund's name, is the approximate date when an investor would begin to withdraw money for retirement (or another purpose, such as paying for college). An investor expecting to retire in 2055, for example, might choose a 2055 fund. As the target date approaches, the fund typically shifts toward a more conservative asset allocation to help preserve the value it may have accumulated and poten-

tially provide income.

One size may not fit all

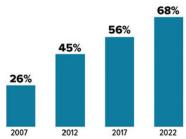
Target-date funds utilize basic asset allocation principles that are often used to construct more complex portfolios. But the allocation is based solely on the target date and does not take into account the investor's risk tolerance, personal goals, asset levels, sources of income, or any other factors that make an investor unique.

An investor with \$200,000 in a target-date fund has the same asset allocation as an investor with \$20,000 in the fund. An investor who also has a pension and might be comfortable taking more risk with 401(k) investments is placed in the same risk category as an investor who will depend primarily on savings in the 401(k) account.

Considering this one-size-fits-all approach, target-date funds may be especially appealing to novice investors with relatively low assets or to those who prefer a simple set-and-forget option in their 401(k), IRA, or other investment account. But even if simplicity is the goal, it's important for any investor who keeps assets in a target-date fund to learn more about the specific fund and how it operates.

Growing Trend

Percentage of 401(k) participants holding target-date funds



Source: Investment Company Institute, 2024 (2022 year-end data, most recent available)

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Glide to or beyond retirement

The transition from more aggressive to more conservative investment allocations is driven by a formula called the glide path, which determines how the asset mix will change over time. The glide path may end at the target date or continue to shift assets beyond the target date, taking the fund into your retirement years.

Funds with the same target date may vary not only in their glide path but also in the underlying asset allocation, investment holdings, turnover rate, fees, and fund performance. Be sure you understand the asset mix of your fund and how it changes over time. It's especially important to closely examine your target-date fund as you approach retirement. You can find detailed information in the prospectus.

Asset allocation is a widely accepted method to help manage investment risk. It does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss, and there is no guarantee that you will be prepared for retirement on the target date or that the fund will meet its stated goals. Keep in mind that investing in other securities outside of a target-date fund may change your overall asset allocation. It's generally wise to consider the allocation strategy of your full portfolio.

The principal value of a target-date fund is not guaranteed before, on, or after the target date. The return and principal value of all mutual funds fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

Mutual funds are sold by prospectus. Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other information about the investment company, can be obtained from your financial professional. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to invest.

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Disney Reportedly Hired Extra Security for Gal Gadot after Rachel Zegler's 'Free Palestine' Tweet in March



Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot pose at the D23 Expo in 2022. Credit: Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images for Disney

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – When Rachel Zegler tweeted "free palestine" last year after sharing the trailer for her latest movie, the live-action "Snow White," millions of people saw it – more than 9 million, as of [March 26].

But until [that Tuesday,] few knew the extent to which Zegler's one-line tweet caused a firestorm for Disney as well as her co-star, Israeli actress Gal Gadot.

According to an article in Variety, the tweet caused the movie's Jewish producer, Marc Platt, to fly to New York to meet with Zegler face-to-face.

It was far from Platt's first encounter with the issue. His wife is Julie Platt, the chair of the Jewish Federations of North America, which has raised hundreds of millions for Israel following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which launched the war in Gaza. (Their son is the actor Ben Platt.)

The content of their conversation is unknown, but the tweet stayed up – and caused more fallout: Zegler's Israeli costar Gal Gadot received death threats, which led Disney to hire additional security for her, according to Variety.

Months later, after last year's election, Zegler posted "F— Donald Trump" and wished that his supporters "never know peace." That triggered another conversation with Platt; Disney hired a social media advisor who would approve her posts until the movie's premiere.

The controversies surrounding Zegler may be one reason Snow White opened to a box office of just \$43 million domestically, which fell far short of expectations. The film had a production budget of \$270 million and a marketing budget of \$100 million. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Ida Lebovitz Engelberg

Ida Lebovitz Engelberg passed away at age 78 in Sarasota, Florida, on April 11, 2025. She was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on January 13, 1947, to the late Joseph and Sara (Sally) Lebovitz. Ida is survived by her beloved spouse of 58 years, Leonard; her children, Alec and Paul; her siblings, Maxine (Mike) Shepard and June "Junebug" Odegard; her nieces, Julia (Barry) Embree and Cynthia Schwartz; and her nieces' children, Claire Embree (Ben Rodriguez), Mason Embree, and Sophie Schwartz.

After attending Snowden Elementary, East High School and the Memphis Academy of Arts, Ida worked as a Commercial Artist at Lowenstein's Department Store.

Cupid shot an arrow through the halls of Temple Israel's Sunday School and brought Ida and Leonard together. The pair married in 1968 and loved going to Giovanni's restaurant once a week.

When Leonard was stationed at the Pentagon, Ida worked at Dallas Airmotive and National Executive Search at Reagan National Airport and was a night manager of their apartment building in Alexandria, Virginia.

Eventually, they moved back to Memphis, where Leonard purchased Village Pharmacy, which served the Fox Meadows community. Ida and Leonard's creative partnership led to expansions

that included Potpourri Gift Shoppe – a well-regarded collectibles and Hallmark card shop – and Yogurt Safari, where Ida was dubbed the "Yogurt Queen." During the Beanie Baby craze, she partnered with Make a Wish Foundation to donate a large portion of the sale of the collectibles, resulting in Village Pharmacy's donation of two trips for St. Jude patients.

Ida and Leonard were known for hosting holiday-themed extravaganzas with costumes adorned by her employees and customers, who volunteered to join in on the fun. The costumes were provided by Theatre Memphis, for whom Ida provided Department 56 Christmas houses to circle the lobby Christmas tree for the production of "The Christmas Carol" over many years.

When Leonard sold the pharmacy to Piggly Wiggly after 27 years of operation, Ida continued to run her gift shop for another 10 years in Collierville.

But their proudest achievement was bringing their two sons, Alec and Paul, into the world. Ida encouraged her boys to never settle for what life can give you and to always aspire to greatness.

In her personal life, Ida never forgot to send a birthday, anniversary, or special holiday greeting card. She loved sending newspaper clippings to her extended family and created vacation itineraries based on magazine article subscriptions. She was the planner, and Leonard was the chauffeur.

She lived in the same house for 53 years and loved working in the garden, planting annuals to attract butterflies. She was most proud of her kitchen, which was featured in an issue of Mid South Living.

Ida was also the Program Chairman of the Memphis Hosta Society and a member of Temple Israel's Sisterhood.

Her favorite phrase later in life was "I love you bunches."

The funeral was held on Wednesday, April 16 in the Levy-Cooper Chapel at Temple Israel Cemetery. The family asks that you celebrate Ida's life with donations to St. Jude and Make a Wish Foundation. **HW**

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Bar Mitzvah – Don't Be Silly



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

I just flipped through Maimonides 613 mitzvahs and not one said you had to be a bar mitzvah teacher to join the elect. But I say to myself, he's NOT the final authority. HE, the celestial judge, considers it a mitzvah, I'm sure of it. Else why do I always win my football bets made on Wednesday – NOT Shabbos – the weekend of one of my bar mitzvahs? And that's why I do it.

So, I mingle professionally, let us say, with the candidates, their parents, and their rabbis – the latter happy that I relieve their schedules. I notice some disturbing trends. The first one is my greatest gripe. As an old comedian – I think Jimmy Durante – used to say, "EVERYONE WANTS TO GET INTO THE ACT."

Behavioral scientists have long noticed an affinity between the human mouth and the electronic microphone or in days of yore, the megaphone. They

can't stop. Why is that dangerous? Because the day belongs to the kid - not parents, not the Sisterhood, not even the rabbi. By the time the poor bar mitzvahee is ready to deliver his speech, the only product the congregation can understand, (you think they know the Haftorah trope?) the audience is waterlogged. Drowned in a flood of loving words. And love is like the watermelon; too much and you're stuffed, bloated, and it has no taste. Yes, we know - with some exception - parents love their children. Twenty minutes of insistence in front of 200 people for 20 minutes is inappropriate unless the bar mitzvah candidate just got out of criminal confinement and they want to welcome him back into the bosom of the family. And of course there's the Sisterhood president, who swaps a \$15 gift for a 20-minute lecture that we hear every month. And maybe there's Aunt Sayde from New York – she, too, has a commentary, advice, counsel to young Bennie.

Then there's the rabbi, inspired by non-membership candidates, who also pontificates. Sometimes, though, they're wise enough to cut it short so the kid can have his day.

This gets us to the cardinal sin, which broaches every rule of good taste. "The Thank Yous" of the bar mitzvah speech. I've heard them all:

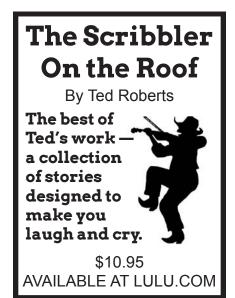
1. Thanks to the Georgia Highway Department for manning the roads so my Uncle Joe could drive in from Atlanta. And a special love ya to the anonymous workers who built the bridge over the Loosehatchee so Uncle Joe didn't have to wade across the river in his \$75 polyester suit.

2. Thanks to Pilot James W. Doughty, who safely piloted my grandparents from Milwaukee. Thanks to his family, too, who I know love him.

3. A strong and heartfelt thank you to Joe Thermo, who maintains our synagogue's environmental system that allows us to enjoy 70-degree comfort. And thanks to his son, Ezra, who assisted him and will soon graduate from Southwest Tech.

Oh sure, there's always a two-nanosecond expression of gratitude to the bar mitzvah teacher who can't fly airplanes, or build bridges, who only devoted a year of his life to this mitzvah that Maimonides (some sage) didn't list as a mitzvah. I'd love to review HIS speech. Wonder if he thanked the shul janitor?

An ideal bar mitzvah should spotlight the child – not publicize the love of his family – a tasteless display. Did we think they hated him? It's his day – not theirs. It should be designed to accent responsibility and his newfound skills and obligations. Distractions should



be held to a minimum. And maybe the highway department didn't build that bridge just to keep Uncle Joe dry.

And none of the above is worthwhile without a heavy dose of inspiration and pride – so lacking in today's kids – along with Torah and/or Haftorah.

And I'll finish with a secret. A successful bar mitzvah program should end with the teacher experiencing a small measure of additional pride, too.

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**

Former DHS Officer Who Glorified Oct. 7 Fired after 16 Months of Paid Leave

(JNS) – A former U.S. Department of Homeland Security official who openly praised Hamas after its terror attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, was fired recently after 16 months of paid leave, The Daily Wire reported.

Nejwa Ali, who was in charge of vetting asylum seekers, was placed on administrative leave pending an "investigation" by then-Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on Oct. 19, 2023. She was not officially fired until the Trump administration did so on Feb. 10, Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin confirmed to the Wire.

Ali's leave initially came after the news outlet revealed her Hamas sympathies, highlighting repeated posts she made with pictures of Hamas terrorists parachuting with guns and writing statements, such as, "F*** Israel and any

Jew who supports Israel." This prompted a congressional hearing.

In its request for the hearing, the House Committee on Homeland Security stated Ali was a former spokesperson for the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States.

The Daily Wire reported that Ali's LinkedIn profile stated she served as a public affairs officer for the "PLO office

in D.C.," though her LinkedIn no longer lists that title under her previous experience. However, her profile name is "Nejwa Free Palestine from Apartheid Israel A."

In April, the U.S. government announced it would start screening social-media posts from those who apply to immigrate to the United States for Jew-hatred. **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Win/Win vs Win/Lose

By Howard Weisband

The bets are lining up. Will President Trump be able to accomplish that which President Obama tried: to successfully end the Iranian nuclear weaponization program through diplomatic negotiations?

As reported in Reuters on April 15, White House Special Envoy Steve Witkoff wrote: "Any final arrangement must set a framework for peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East – meaning that Iran must stop and eliminate its nuclear enrichment and weaponization program."

The same report says that Witkoff told Fox News: "Iran must not possess nuclear weapons, and it should not enrich uranium beyond 3.67%." That percentage represents a civilian energy program. A bit of quick research shows that Iran has already enriched its uranium to at least 60%.

The U.S. expectation according to The Jerusalem Post "is considerably more lenient than the Israeli demand – publicly voiced by Prime Minister Netanyahu – which calls for the "Libyan model," meaning the complete physical dismantling of Iran's military nuclear facilities.

"Iran should not have nuclear weapons. This can be achieved through an agreement – but only if it's a Libya-style agreement," said Netanyahu following his meeting with President Trump last Monday. "That means going in, blowing up the facilities, and dismantling all the equipment – under American supervision and executed by the U.S."

But the Iranian regime stridently refuses to agree to such demands and lose control of its enrichment program. "This is the Obama JCPOA – repackaged," Mark Dubowitz, CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told the Post. "Did we really leave it in 2018 just to return to it in 2025 – especially now, when we have maximum leverage? I'm curious how this version avoids the same fatal flaws that made the 2015 deal so dangerous."

Dubowitz' opinion is supported by Dr. Raz Zimmt, senior researcher and Iran expert at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), "the progress Iran has made, especially in advanced enrichment (higher levels and advanced centrifuges), including in knowledge, technology and R&D, cannot be undone. Therefore, it is difficult to envision a significantly improved agreement compared to 2015 – especially in terms of the breakout time to a bomb, which was then about a year."

The Iranian position relating to President Trump's initiative was addressed and analyzed last month by Con Coughlin, Defence and Foreign Affairs Editor at London's Telegraph and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Gatestone Institute. Writing on March 26 for Gatestone in an excellent piece titled "Iran Apparently Planning to Outwit or Outwait Trump, Not Relinquish Its Nuclear Programme," he concludes:

"The Americans should know threats will get them nowhere when confronting Iran," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in his live annual televised speech marking Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

"He said Americans and others should know that if they do anything malign to the Iranian nation, they will get a hard slap.

"If this is going to be the Iranian regime's response to Trump's offer of negotiating an end to Iran's nuclear programme, then the only realistic response available to the White House is to launch military action to end once and for all the threat Iran's nuclear programme presents to global security."

Bingo! Coughlin nailed it. He gets it as we commonly say.

He understands the Iranian jihadist regime that has as its ultimate goal to destroy what they refer to as The Little Satan, Israel, then the USA, The Big Satan, and eventually to bring the whole of the free world to radical Islam.

The only thing that can stop them is

an internal revolution to bring regime change, or military action on the part of the United States and/or Israel.

President Trump has stated that his "harsh reply" should negotiations fail includes the possibility of both a return to strong economic sanctions and, yes, possibly, military action.

The President is first and foremost a businessman who believes in negotiating a deal. But American culture and that of the West in general is to negotiate a win/win result wherein both parties feel they walk away with a benefit.

The culture of the Middle East is win/lose. I win, you lose. Add to that a jihadist ideology that says I have no concern for you, in fact, I want to destroy you.

My opinion: try negotiations knowing it is highly unlikely they will succeed. Be prepared militarily. I believe that plan too is ready.

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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Jewish Foundation of Memphis Awards \$160 Million in Grants Over its 30 Year History



Pace Cooper, current chair of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, helps the Foundation deliver grants to local, national, Jewish and secular organizations alike.

From grants to education and Israel; camp scholarships and cultural organizations; and synagogues and social service organizations, the 400+ fund holders of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis have had an enormous impact both locally and globally.

The Foundation's assets have grown exponentially, reaching \$200 million in the first quarter of 2025. This growth has directly translated into significant growth in grants. Over its 30-year history more than \$160 million has been granted to local, national and international organizations.

"We live in a very generous community," said Laura Linder, president and CEO. "The impact our fund holders have had on charitable organizations is incredibly meaningful."

Established three decades ago with a clear and vital mission – to secure the financial future of local Jewish agencies, including synagogues, Jewish schools, and community and care facilities – the Jewish Foundation of Mem-

phis has become an indispensable pillar of the community. Of the \$160 million in grants awarded, almost half went to Memphis-area Jewish institutions.

National Jewish organizations also received significant investment, totaling over \$22.8 million in grants.

The Foundation also contributes sizable grants to organizations outside of the Jewish world. Local and national secular institutions, including higher education and museums, received more than \$36 million.

Given its growth, last year the Foundation was ranked by the Memphis Business Journal as the 3rd largest granting foundation and 7th largest charitable organization in Memphis.

"When we opened the November 2024 issue and saw our ranking, we were stunned," said Linder. "We have always known that the Jewish Foundation's influence on the community far surpasses its size, but this was a real surprise."

Currently, the Foundation has a stal-



Pace Cooper, current chair of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, pictured here a decade ago with community leaders Kay Usdan Saslawsky z'l, Sandy Blockman and Diane Mendelson, all leaders instrumental in forging the partnership that became Jewish Community Partners.

wart leader in its chair, Pace Cooper. A local leader in Jewish and civic philanthropy, Pace is featured in the newest episode of "Generations of Giving," a new Foundation podcast featuring indepth conversations with key donors, exploring their philanthropic motivations and the impact of their contributions (now available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts).

"For me, it's all about role of tzedakah," Cooper says in the podcast. "As fellow Jews, we must help our institutions thrive. The Foundation can be an over-arching angel to make that happen

"We couldn't have achieved such incredible grant-making without Pace's leadership and the guidance of all of the Foundation's volunteer community leaders who work alongside him," said Linder.

As the Jewish Foundation of Memphis celebrates 30 years of impactful philanthropy this year, the support of its incredible donors positions it to remain a cornerstone of the Jewish community for decades to come, continuing its vital work of fostering philanthropy and Jewish life in Memphis. **HW**







In celebration of 30 years of giving, The Jewish Foundation of Memphis presents:

Generations of Giving

A new podcast tracing the roots and relationships that define our mission.

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Palestinian Islamic Jihad Releases Proof of Life of Hostage Rom Braslavski

(JNS) – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group last Wednesday released a proof-of-life video of Israeli hostage Rom Braslavski, who has been held captive by the terrorist organization since Oct. 7, 2023.

In the video, the 21-year-old Braslavski addresses the Israeli government, pleading to be returned home. He also makes a direct appeal to U.S. President Donald Trump, specifically reminding the president of his promise to bring all the hostages home.

The video marks the first recorded proof of life from Rom in the 558 days since his capture. The off-duty soldier, a resident of Jerusalem, was abducted from the Nova music festival near Kibbutz Re'im, where he was working as a security guard.

Braslavski's cousin, Adam Hajj, told Israel's Kan broadcaster a day after Braslavki's birthday in December that "he stayed behind to save people" at the festival during the Hamas-led terrorist assault.

Although his face was blurred in the released footage, he can be identified by certain distinguishing features.

"We need to do everything possible,"

Rom's mother, Tami Braslavski, said after seeing the video. "They want to drive them crazy there. I want my son and all the hostages home!

"I don't even recognize my son. He has aged 10 years. This isn't my Rom. He's tough, and he looks terrible. If they broke Rom, they'll break everyone," she added. HW

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Looking Back and Looking Forward: Memories & Reflections on the BBYO Experience

Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Memphis Jewish Community Center



Moderator: Rachel Shankman
Panel: Meredith Epstein, Rhonda Feiler,
Allen Israel, Leor Reef, Jill Shanker, & Craig
Weiss

As a teen, you might have been a member of BBYO, the B'nai Brith Youth Organization—AZA and BBG. Join us as our panel reminisces about their BBYO experiences throughout the years, the impact BBYO has made on the Memphis community, & a look toward the organization's future.



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