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## The Power of SHE, the Strength of WE: Memphis Lions of Judah Gather for Inspiring Spring Reception



Memphis Lions of Judah gathered in late April for their annual Spring Reception.

#### By Laura Linder, President and CEO of Jewish Community Partners

Here in Memphis – and globally – the Lions of Judah are the most dynamic philanthropic Jewish women in the world.

Eighteen thousand women around the world have been distinguished as proud Lions of Judah, having donated at least \$5,000 to their Jewish Federation each year.

Memphis now boasts 157 Lions of Judah, all of whom were celebrated in late April at the Memphis Jewish Federation's annual Lions of Judah Spring Reception. Held this year at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, this vibrant gathering celebrated the remarkable impact of women's philanthropy within the local and global Jewish community and honored the unwavering commitment of these dedicated women.

#### Reflecting on the Year's Impact

In her welcome remarks, Lions Cochair Kimberlee Strome reflected on the power of women's philanthropy. She shared inspiring experiences of connecting with like-minded women globally, whether at a retreat in London or the International Lion of Judah Conference. Strome expressed gratitude for the collective success of the Memphis community and excitedly announced that Betsy Saslawsky would be joining her on the National Women's Philanthropy Board.

Cindy Finestone and Danielle Lazarov took the stage later in the afternoon to discuss the impactful initiatives of the Lions of Judah over the past year. Finestone, a past chair of Memphis Jewish Federation, emphasized the Federation's 90-year legacy of addressing critical challenges, from refugee resettlement post-WWII to supporting the Russian resettlement efforts and providing emergency grants during COVID-19.

Finestone also addressed the recent surge in antisemitism and highlighted the Federation's community relations efforts, including the recent Yom HaShoah commemoration and educa-



Each Lion placed a flower in the centerpiece to represent how individual contributions create a more vibrant and beautiful community.

tional outreach to over 2,000 students. New initiatives such as a parent affinity group for high school teens and a student-to-student program were also announced. Danielle Lazarov also shared her inspiring impressions from the International Lion of Judah Conference held in January, in which 19 Memphians participated.

#### Honoring Standout Leadership

A highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of the newest members of the Memphis Lions of Judah. Finestone and Strome proudly welcomed 10 accomplished women: Michelle Clein, Lihan Frager, Cathie Jacobs, Molly Lane, Jami Lazarov, Elissa Taub, Caren Abis, Rebeca Burch, Tara Engelberg and Karen Karmel. These women were celebrated for their significant contributions to the Federation's annual campaign. They have diverse backgrounds, ranging from attorneys and designers to volunteers across various Jewish organizations. Their motivations for becoming Li-

ons included honoring family legacies, strengthening their connection to the Jewish community, empowering women and a commitment to acts of Chesed.

Strome then recognized women who had reached new giving levels. Marlene Gerson, Laura Harkavy and Billie Pierce were celebrated as new Sapphire Lions of Judah, having increased their gifts to \$18,000. Eight women – Sharon Goldstein, Eve Lazarov, Terri Mendelson, Lisa Menuskin, Nancy Robinson, Shelley Robbins, Betsy Saslawsky and Sally Wender – were welcomed as new Ruby Lions of Judah for their increased commitment of \$10,000.

Next, Federation honored the dedicated Lions of Judah who have made provisions in their estate plans, ensuring their philanthropic impact extends into the future as Lion of Judah Endowment and Forever Lions. Thirty-one women were recognized, with special acknowl-

(See Lions Page 3)

## Celebrating 75 Summers of MJCC Summer Camp Fun!



This year, we are beyond excited to celebrate the 75th summer of Memphis

Jewish Community Center (MJCC) Summer Camp! For over seven decades,

our camp has been a place where friendships are made, traditions are honored, and unforgettable memories are created.

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As we mark this incredible milestone, we reflect on the generations of campers, staff and families who have contributed to making MJCC Summer Camp such a special place. Whether it's swimming in the pool, enjoying arts and crafts or singing camp songs under the summer sun, the spirit of MJCC Camp continues to inspire year after year.

Join us as we celebrate 75 years of summer fun, friendship and community! Check out the MJCC Website for camp information for this summer!

Here's to many more summers of adventure, laughter and lifelong memories. Thank you for being part of our camp family and for helping us reach this historic milestone!

\*We would like to invite MJCC Day Camp Alumni to our first Shabbat of the Summer on June 6, 2025. At this Shabbat we will celebrate our 75-year birthday and would love to have our Alumni join us. Be on the lookout for more information and details. **HW** 

#### **Bat Mitzvah**



Paige Portnoy

Paige Portnoy, daughter of Doctors Lisa Usdan and David Portnoy, became a bat mitzvah on May 3, 2025, at Temple Israel. Rabbi Micah Greenstein officiated the service. Paige's grandfather, Dr. David Usdan, celebrated his second bar mitzvah alongside her.

Currently, Paige is a seventh grader at Hutchison School. She serves on the arts council and is very active in the Hutchison Middle School Dance Company. She is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Paige runs for the middle school cross country and track and field teams at Hutchison. She spends her summers in Utica, Miss., at Henry S. Jacobs Camp. Paige attends Sunday School at Temple Israel and is

a member of the Beth Sholom T3 class as well.

Paige is working with the Perea School on her mitzvah project, Pages for Paige, where she is collecting books for preschool to middle school age students to help augment the school's library. Paige will have an opportunity to read to the students at the Perea School when she delivers the collected books to the Perea students later this spring.

Paige is a sixth-generation Memphian. She is the granddaughter of Dr. David Usdan and Mrs. Linda Usdan, of recent blessed memory, of Memphis, Tenn., and Dr. Barry and Mrs. Wynne Wilder of Westbury, N.Y. and Mark Portnoy of blessed memory. **HW** 

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5/15/2025



### **Memphis Candlelighting Time**

Weekly Torah Portion: Emor

## Hostage Families Demand Answers after Trump Says Only 21 Survivors in Gaza

(JNS) – Families of Israeli hostages held by Hamas in Gaza issued an urgent demand for clarification from Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government last Wednesday, following a statement by U.S. President Donald Trump that only 21 captives remain alive – contradicting Jerusalem's official figure of 24.

In a statement issued by the Hostages

and Missing Families Forum, relatives called on the government to disclose any updated intelligence.

"Following the U.S. president's statement last night regarding the number of living hostages still being held captive – the number of living hostages known to the families, and shared with them by official sources, is 24. We demand once again from the Israeli government: If

there is new information that has been hidden from us, transfer it to us immediately," the statement read.

The forum also reiterated its call for an immediate halt to the war in Gaza until all hostages are returned. "This is the most urgent and important national mission," it said.

Trump made the claim during a press briefing at the White House last Tues-

day, shortly before Steve Witkoff was sworn in as the new U.S. Mideast envoy. "They said that only 24 are living, and I now correct ... I say 21 because as of today, it's 21. Three have died. So this, this is a terrible situation," Trump told reporters.

Later that day, Gal Hirsch, Israel's coordinator for the Hostages and the Missing, confirmed that Israel believes 59 hostages are still being held by Hamas, of whom 24 are alive. He did not comment on Trump's figures. **HW** 



Brian Lurie Broker, Vice-President GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

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### Birth Announcement

Abby and Jimmy Fortney are the proud parents of a son, Archer James, born April 14, 2025, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Grandparents are Jeff Pohlman (of blessed memory) and Robin Pohlman of Germantown, Tennessee and Gene Fortney (of blessed memory) and Brenda Fortney of Bartlett, Tennessee. Great-grandparents are Alfred Greenberg and Diane Mednikow Greenberg (of blessed memory) and Charlotte Hubbard (of blessed memory) and Milton Hubbard of Bartlett, Tennessee. HW

#### Lions...

(Continued From Page 1)

edgment given to new Lion of Judah Endowment donors Kimberlee Strome and Nancy Dan. A moving candle-lighting ceremony honored 15 Forever Lions, women of blessed memory whose legacies continue to inspire. Family members and friends of Arlyne Schwartz and Elaine Wagner Skopp shared heartfelt words before lighting their candles, followed by a collective lighting for the remaining 13 Forever Lions.

Judy Kriger then made a special announcement regarding a new award in honor of long-time Lion and Federation's Women's Philanthropy Professional Arlyne Schwartz, z"l. The award will annually recognize a female Jewish communal professional employed by local Federation agencies in order to celebrate individuals who have invested their careers in promoting the Memphis Jewish community.

#### **Caring for the Collective**

The choice of venue for this year's Reception, the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR), served as a reminder of the Lions' commitment to the community's most vulnerable members. Strome lauded the invaluable resources available within Memphis to ensure a thriving Jewish life and expressed particular appreciation to MJHR Executive Director Bobby Meadows for hosting the reception. Meadows also spoke, giving insightful remarks about the vital work of the MJHR, emphasizing their dedication to providing compassionate care.

Denise Kerlan also expressed deep gratitude for Meadows' leadership and,

in her remarks, highlighted the significant impact of the Memphis Jewish Federation's annual grant toward the Jewish Home. Last year, the Federation granted \$135,000 for Jewish Medicaid residents and expanded kosher supervision, plus secured an additional \$15,000 security grant for the Home.

The formal program concluded with closing remarks from Betsy Saslawsky, who eloquently articulated the theme of the afternoon: "Where the power of SHE becomes a community of We." Saslawsky emphasized the profound impact of individual generosity amplified by the collective strength of the 157 Lions. Drawing upon the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam, she highlighted the benefits of both financial contributions and active involvement in the community. Saslawsky encouraged the Lions to continue their leadership and philanthropy, urging them to "get their hands dirty" and work together to strengthen the Memphis Jewish community.

In a symbolic gesture, each attendee added a flower to a central table arrangement, representing how individual contributions create a more vibrant and beautiful community. These arrangements were later shared with the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab residents.

Dedicated Lions of Judah committee members Betsy Saslawsky, Debra Saharovich, Danielle Lazarov and Denise Kerlan played crucial roles in organizing the Spring Reception. To learn about becoming a Lion of Judah, visit jcpmemphis.org. **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, May19

Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Ian Lichter Topic: Time of Seeing G-D: Between Lag Ba'omer and Yom Yerushalayim

Rabbi Lichters talks are always a highlight of the week. Everyone is invited to join in the lunch and the noon talk.

#### Wednesday, May 21

The next MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon features one of our favorite entertainers, Deborah Swiney and her accompanist. Entertainment is sponsored by Creative Aging and lunch is sponsored by Opus East Memphis.

Deborah Swiney has earned the title of a true chanteuse. Throughout her performance, you get to enjoy a trip back to Harlem to experience the iconic era of Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, dance across the Great American Songbook and take a flight to Rio where you could close your eyes and imagine relaxing on the Copacabana or Ipanema Beach. Being a Memphis native, you might even get a splash of blues.

Deborah's affinity for music started at an early age with piano lessons and being musically active in both church and school. Growing up in a musical family, music had no borders. In addition to touring internationally, Deborah has worked as a backup vocalist with the legendary Al Green and performed on the "Oprah Winfrey Show," the "Today Show" and at Carnegie Hall. More recently, she released the highly praised co-produced debut album, "I Remem-



**Deborah Swiney** 

ber Rio," a Brazilian-inspired album with "Memphis-Soul seasoning" (All about Jazz). Transcending the standard definition of a jazz songstress, her melodic and sultry approach to Bossa Nova and other Brazilian stylings are natural without betraying her Bluff City roots. Come hear this incredibly gifted singer and have a terrific meal! Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to make your reservations. If you have a group, please call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220.

#### Monday, May 26 Memorial Day – No Lunch

The MJCC Senior Lunch Room is not open. For a listing of what is open at the MJCC please see the MJCC webpage. Have a Great Holiday!

#### Wednesday, May 28 Special Program – Trivia with Kevin Payne

Kevin will bring his special edition of "Boomer Trivia" to the MJCC Senior Lunch Room.

Kevin will both entertain and challenge the group. The room will be split into 2 teams with prizes for the winners. Come have some fun and learn what you know, what you thought you knew and what you forgot. Everyone who has been there for our Team Trivial Pursuit always has a good time. This will be a little bit of a different take on that game.

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** 

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## Simon Wiesenthal Center Research Shows Widespread Corporate Neglect in Addressing Online Hate, Antisemitism and Extremism by U.S. and Foreign State-Sponsored Disinformation Groups

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), a leading global Jewish human rights organization, released its "2025 Digital Terror and Hate Report Card" at a press conference on April 29, 2025, with the New York City Council and, simultaneously, in a presentation to the California State Legislature. The report card measures and documents the failure of leading social media companies to adequately address the growing climate of hate rhetoric online.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center evaluated the world's most popular digital platforms using a nine-point rubric to structure the report card. Platforms were scored out of 36 factors, earning letter grades from A to F. Criteria included responsiveness to flagged hate speech, enforcement of content policies, transparency, cooperation with law enforcement, and adherence to international standards such as the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and the EU Digital Services Act.

The vast majority of online platforms earned failing or near-failing grades, indicating widespread neglect in addressing antisemitism and extremism online. Only one platform, Roblox,

received a grade above a C, earning a B+ for its content moderation and emergency response protocols. With over 3 billion monthly active users across the lowest-performing platforms, the report underscores the grave implications of digital negligence at scale.

#### The grades:

- Failing grades ("F"): Telegram, Gab
- D-range: X (D), Amazon Music (D), Discord (D), Steam (D-), Truth Social (D-), Rumble (D-), Odysee (D-), Bitchute (D-), VK (D+)
- C-range: Facebook/Instagram (C-), Google/YouTube (C), TikTok (C), LinkedIn (C), Twitch (C-), Spotify (C-), Amazon (C)
  - B-range: None
  - A-range: None

"These grades aren't just letters. They reflect whether users are being protected or exposed to harm," said Vladislav Khaykin, EVP of Social Impact & Partnerships at the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "It's telling, and deeply ironic, that TikTok, a foreign-owned platform that has raised significant concerns about its use as a tool of anti-American influence,

scored higher than Truth Social, X, Amazon Music, etc. – all of which are U.S. owned. It is also noteworthy that Roblox, a gaming platform, has been both more vigilant and effective in combatting online hate than the major social media platforms. That should alarm every American who cares about truth, safety, and democratic values in the digital public square."

"This year's report paints a disturbing picture of a digital ecosystem under siege, where extremist ideologies, antisemitism, and terrorism are being spread unchecked across mainstream and alternative platforms. This is no longer just about hate speech: It's about a coordinated, multifaceted war on truth, democracy, and human dignity," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, director of Global Social Action for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "With most of the tech companies not doing much about it, this leaves the digital space as the front line of global extremism."

#### **SWC's Urgent Recommendations:**

- Reinstate and enforce recently eliminated moderation policies.
- Permanently ban terror-linked accounts.

- Implement a strategy to identify and disrupt state-sponsored digital disinformation campaigns.
- Publicly commit to fund digital literacy initiatives.
- Require platform transparency on algorithmic decision-making.

#### **Access the Report Card:**

Visit wiesenthal.org/dthrc2025/ to read the full "2025 Digital Terror and Hate Report Card" and view the platform grades in detail.

#### **About the Simon Wiesenthal Center:**

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is a global Jewish human rights organization that combats antisemitism, defends the State of Israel, and uses the lessons of the Holocaust to teach tolerance and combat hate. It holds consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the OAS, and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO). Headquartered in Los Angeles, the Simon Wiesenthal Center operates in key centers of Jewish life including New York, Chicago, Florida, Toronto, Jerusalem and Buenos Aires. To learn more, visit wiesenthal.org. HW

# Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem and IDF Widows and Orphans Organization Hold Memorial Day Event for English Speaking Community of Israel

JERUSALEM, Israel (April 29, 2025) – English-speaking Israelis and visitors from around the world gathered at the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem for its annual Memorial Day Event in

partnership with the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization (IDFWO). The event was attended by Yossi Cohen, president of the Friends of the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization and for-

mer Mossad head; Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; Larry A. Mizel, chairman of the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem; and Rabbi Marvin Hier, co-chair of the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem; as well as 30 foreign diplomats and other dignitaries.

The Memorial Day ceremony commemorating Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror was held at the museum in collaboration with the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization – the largest ceremony in Israel conducted entirely in English, intended for lone soldiers and English-speaking families. During the ceremony, the memory of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror was honored, while paying homage to the 317 new IDF widows and 735 orphans since the October 7th massacre.

Addressing the Iranian threat, Yossi Cohen said: "Even as we gather here in mourning and remembrance, we must not forget that the threats to the State of Israel have not ceased. Our enemies still seek to harm us, and chief among them is the Iranian regime – a government that openly calls for our destruction, fuels terror across the region and relentlessly pursues nuclear capabilities. The Iranian threat is not just a strategic challenge – it is a moral one. It is a test of our unity, our resilience and our unwavering determination to defend our people and homeland

Cohen continued: "The State of Israel must do everything in its power – diplomatically, politically, and if necessary, operationally – to ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons. Such weapons would pose an existential threat to our nation, our people and the very future of the Jewish state. Just as our fallen stood bravely against danger, so too must we stand resolute against those who threaten the very existence of our nation."

A symbolic empty chair was also placed in memory of the fallen IDF

heroes, whose bodies are held still being held captive by Hamas, as a silent prayer for the release of all the hostages both alive and deceased.

The evening focused on the personal stories of bereaved family members. A memorial torch was lit by Australian-born Pessie Gordon, widow of American-born Staff Sergeant Naftali Yonah Gordon (32), who was killed in battle in Gaza on Dec. 7, 2023. He left behind his wife, Pessie, and two daughters, Libi and Gefen. Pessie's sister, Malki Roth, was killed by a Hamas suicide bomber at the Sbarro bombing in Jerusalem in 2001.

Ittai Hershberg, a 12-year-old orphan, recited the Kaddish prayer. Ittai is one of four children of Lt. Col. Yochai Gur Hershberg, who fell on Dec. 5, 2023, during reserve duty as the commander of the EITAN unit (the IDF's Missing Persons Unit) in the 98th Division.

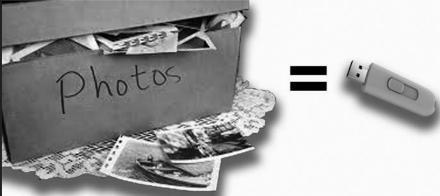
"Since Oct. 7, more than 900 IDF soldiers have given their lives," said Chairman Mizel. "Thousands more have been wounded. Families shattered. Futures cut short. And yet – even in the shadow of such loss – hope endures.

This evening, we shine a light on the story of these young men and women. Their courage reminds us: the Jewish people are one family – am echad – no matter where we live."

Speeches were also given by bereaved mothers: Sigal Manzuri, whose two daughters, Roya and Norelle, were murdered at the Nova festival, where Norelle's partner, Amit Cohen, was also killed; and Dafna Russo, who lost her husband, Uri, in the horrific massacre in Kibbutz Kfar Aza on Oct. 7. Her nephew, Neta Epstein, a resident of Kfar Aza, was also murdered that day.

The event was the first in a series of events to be held at the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem, marking Memorial Day and Israel's 77th Independence Day. **HW** 

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## Trump: U.S. Demands 'Total' Dismantling of Iranian Nuclear Program



U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House, April 24, 2025. Credit: Daniel Torok/White House.

#### By JNS Staff, Amelie Botbol

Washington will accept nothing but "total dismantlement" of Iran' nuclear capabilities, U.S. President Donald Trump said in an interview last week with NBC's "Meet the Press" that was aired last Sunday.

The president said he might be "open" to conversations about Iran's pursuit of civilian nuclear energy but added that he is skeptical with regard to Tehran's need for non-military nuclear energy.

"There's a new theory going out there that Iran would be allowed to have civilian, meaning, to make electricity – but I say, you know, they have so much oil, what do they need it for?" Trump told NBC

But "people are talking about that, and this is something that's really pretty new in the dialogue ... and my inclination is to say: 'what do you need that for? You have a lot of oil,'" he continued.

"I'd be open to hearing it ... civilian energy, it's called ... but often civilian energy leads to military wars, and we don't want to have them have a nuclear weapon," the U.S. leader stressed.

"It's a very simple deal. I want Iran to be really successful, really great, really fantastic. The only thing they can't have is a nuclear weapon," he said.

Following the interview, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee tweeted, "For those who fear [Trump] has changed his position on Iran, hear directly from HIM – not fake news from NYT or WAPO."

Benny Gantz, who leads the opposi-

tion National Unity Party, told JNS at the Knesset in Jerusalem last Monday afternoon that the regime "should be dismantled of the processes that took her in the direction of military nuclear capacity.

"This is impossible for the entire world to allow [a] fundamentalistic regime to possess military nuclear capacity," he said, speaking at his party's faction meeting last Monday afternoon. "And you know, when they enriched, they didn't enrich to 3.5% or whatever. They went all the way up to 90%.

"So what is it for?" asked Gantz. "They are entitled to have something else [likely a reference to a civilian program – A.B.], and they need to allow a total inspection all over Iran every time, any time that they want, with zero warning to every place."

The politician noted that it is a "global interest" to prevent the Islamic Republic from building nuclear weapons that could threaten both the United States and Israel.

"There are two ways. One is these negotiations that we are seeing now between the American and the Iranians, and the other one is fight. We are ready for the fight. Let's see what happens," concluded Gantz.

Ahead of the fourth round of talks between Washington and Tehran, which were set to have happened on Saturday in Rome, the Islamic Republic postponed its participation in the negotiations.

"U.S. sanctions on Iran during the nuclear talks are not helping the sides to resolve the nuclear dispute through diplomacy," an unnamed senior official in Tehran said of his country's decision

to cancel the negotiations, according to Reuters

"Depending on the U.S. approach, the date of the next round of talks will be announced," the official stated, according to the wire agency's report.

Oman, which hosted two previous sessions of the U.S.-Iran talks in Muscat, had said last Thursday that the next scheduled round of talks would be rescheduled for "logistical reasons."

Earlier last Thursday, Trump warned that all purchases of Iranian oil must stop, threatening to impose sanctions on "any country or person who buys ANY AMOUNT of OIL or PETROCHEMICALS"

"ALERT: All purchases of Iranian oil, or petrochemical products, must stop, NOW!" Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. Anyone who does business with Tehran "will not be allowed to do business with the United States of America in any way, shape, or form," he added.

Speaking at the JNS International Policy Summit last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel would only agree to a nuclear deal with Iran that eliminates Tehran's capacity to enrich uranium.

The only way to prevent the Islamic Republic from building a nuclear weapon is to dismantle "all the infrastructure of Iran's nuclear program," he said, adding, "That is the deal."

Israel, he continued, "cannot live with anything short of that – anything short of that could bring you the opposite result, because Iran will say, all right, I won't enrich, wait, run out the clock, wait for another president, do it again." This, he said, was "unacceptable." HW

## PM Speaks with Hostage Fathers, Says 'Gov't Not Letting Go of Mission'

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the fathers of two hostages and one former hostage last Thursday night, as fears grow for the fate of three captives in Gaza, following U.S. President Trump's recent declaration that only 21 are still alive.

Netanyahu posted on X: "This evening I spoke with Yaron Or, the father of abductee Avinatan Or, and with Yitzhak Horn, the father of Yair and Eitan Horn. Yair was released in the last deal, and Eitan is still held captive by Hamas.

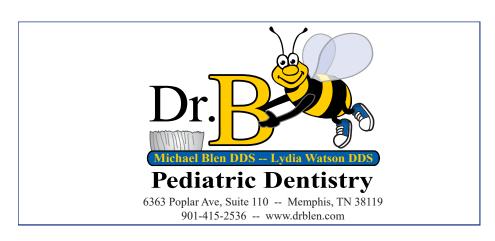
"In the conversation, I described the efforts being made to bring back all the hostages and emphasized that this is a mission the government is not letting go of. I clarified that actions on this matter are being carried out continuously – including in the past 24 hours."

Since Trump said only 21 hostages remain alive, instead of the official Israeli figure of 24, family members of captives held in Gaza have demanded further information from the government. This also follows Sara Netanyahu's correction of her husband, caught on a hot mic at a Memorial Day commemoration, when she said there were fewer than 24 living hostages among the 59 captives, living and dead, held by terrorists in Gaza.

One of the hostages about whom there is great concern is Tamir Nimrodi, who was serving as an IDF Education and Youth Corps instructor at the Nahal Oz base when Hamas terrorists overran it.

Nothing has been heard of him since Oct. 7, 2023, and there are concerns that

he is one of three hostages thought to no longer be alive, but about whom there is no confirmation. The remaining two are thought to be foreign nationals caught up in the massacre. **HW** 





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## Delta Region BBYO turns 101 this year! Memphis BBYO is 98 years old AZA and BBG 78 years old!



#### **Delta Region members**

Delta Region is comprised of chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. We have 13 chapters in our region, representing over 400 Jewish teens in our area. By becoming a member of Delta, teens are afforded the opportunity to experience local programming in their communities, regional programming such as dances, community service days, sports events, weekend-long conventions and international programming at large-scale conferences and BBYO Summer Experiences.

Our chapters hold multiple events every month at locations around the region. Events are planned by teens, for teens and programming ranges from fun activities like scavenger hunts and lockins, to more educational programing like leadership courses and social action projects. A parent, advisor or regional staff member is always on hand to ensure safety and health.

Fun Fact: Delta is one of the largest geographic regions in BBYO, covering five states and over 210,000 square miles. Our colors are green and blue, and our region has two mascots: a bunny for BBG and a snake for AZA.

Through youth-led and staff-supported programs, we give our members opportunities to develop leadership skills and positively affect their communities, the world and themselves. We constantly strive to provide more Jewish teens with more meaningful Jewish experiences each and every day, so that they may become the future Jewish leaders in their communities and in the Jewish world at large. HW

## Argentina Declassifies More than 1,800 Files on Nazi Escape Via 'Rat-Lines' to South America



German Nazi doctor Josef Mengele standing at a train window in his SS uniform. Credit: Hulton Archive/Getty Images

#### By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – The Argentine government announced the release of nearly 1,850 classified documents that show how Nazi fugitives escaped to the country after World War II.

The trove of documents was declassified and made available to the public last Monday at the urging of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish advocacy group named for the famed late Nazi hunter. The group praised the decision last Tuesday.

The collection will shed light on the financing of escape routes for Nazis, thousands of whom escaped to South America via so-called "rat lines" after the war.

Last month, Argentine President Javier Milei ordered the declassification

of the documents after a meeting with leaders from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, also requested the records in a letter delivered by representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Argentina's Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Guillermo Francos said Milei gave the order "because there is no reason to continue withholding that information," according to Argentinian outlet Perfil.

The documents are now publicly available through Argentina's National Archive, the Argentinian government announced in a post on X. The released documents include banking and financial transactions that show how Nazis were able to resettle in Argentina as well as records held by Argentina's Defense Ministry, according to The Times of Israel

Notorious officials mentioned in Argentina's extensive documentation include Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Holocaust who was captured by the Mossad in 1960 and later tried and executed in Israel, and Josef Mengele, the Nazi doctor dubbed the "angel of death."

The public received a glimpse of Argentina's collection of tens of thousands of documents relating to its support for Nazis fleeing prosecution in a documentary in 2018. The government's collection had been fully concealed until 1992, when Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declassified 139,544 documents. The collection could only be seen in person prior to its online publication by AGN. **HW** 









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## **Dividend-Paying Stocks: Pros and Cons**

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

A dividend is a portion of a company's profit that's paid to shareholders. That means dividend-paying stocks may provide a source of income. But they can also carry some degree of risk.

So, what do investors need to consider when it comes to dividend-paying stocks? In this Q&A, Austin Pickle, senior wealth investment solutions analyst with Wells Fargo Investment Institute, provides important information for investors to keep in mind.

### 1. What are the potential benefits of dividend-paying stocks?

"One of the big benefits is that these stocks may provide a more reliable income stream compared to some other investment options," Pickle says.

Companies tend to issue dividends on a routine basis, such as quarterly or semi-annually, which may create a dependable income stream. Another benefit? The stocks can yield some favorable tax treatment.

"It's going to depend on your tax situation," Pickle says, "but in general, you may have a relatively lower tax rate for dividends compared to income gained by selling investments." As long as the dividend-paying stock meets IRS requirements for a qualified dividend, the dividend is taxed at the lower long-term capital gains tax rate instead of being taxed as regular capital gains income. "So an investor could receive income from a dividend-paying stock without selling the stock and have a lower tax bill compared to that of a non-dividend-paying stock, which must be sold

to receive income," he says.

## 2. Who should include dividend-paying stocks in their portfolio?

Many types of investors have the potential to benefit from dividend-paying stocks. "But these stocks may be more valuable for investors who are a bit older – maybe those in retirement or close to retirement who really value a more reliable income stream," Pickle says. "I think they're typically beneficial from a diversification perspective, especially when interest rates are low. Dividend-paying stocks tend to have an inverse relationship with interest rates: When interest rates go down, you may see some of these dividend-paying stocks perform better."

### 3. What are the risks associated with dividend-paying stocks?

"Firms can reduce or cancel their dividends – especially during times of economic uncertainty and times of crisis," says Pickle. "And there's still the risk that dividends could be cut periodically, even without the trigger of a crisis event. And if tax rates change, it could mean you'd pay more, as well."

### Explore your options with professional advisors

Pickle stresses that investors should discuss the pros and cons of dividend-paying stocks with a financial advisor to help make sure they fill a need within an individual investment portfolio and make sense for a specific financial situation

"You should also talk to your CPA or tax professional to make sure that you un-

derstand what the tax consequences are for your particular situation," he advises.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities. There is no guarantee that dividend-paying stocks will return more than the overall stock market. Dividends are not guaranteed and are subject to change or elimination.

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## Netanyahu: Israel Will Strike Any Threat, Anywhere

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Wednesday reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself, amid heightened regional tensions following a missile attack near Ben-Gurion Airport attributed to Iran-backed Houthi forces in Yemen.

"There is one principle that guides me: Israel will defend itself – anywhere, against any threat, with its own forces," said Netanyahu in a video statement published on X . His comments came hours after Israeli fighter jets struck Yemen's Sanaa International Airport, reportedly rendering it inoperable.

The Israel Defense Forces confirmed that the strike was a direct response to last Sunday's Houthi missile attack, which targeted Israel's main international airport. The Houthis, an Iranian proxy group based in Yemen, have escalated attacks against Israel in recent months, particularly since the renewed outbreak of the war with Hamas in Gaza.

While Jerusalem acts to protect its sovereignty, Washington announced a separate agreement aimed at de-escalating tensions with the Houthis. U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed a ceasefire deal that would halt American airstrikes in Yemen in return for a cessation of Houthi attacks on U.S. naval vessels. However, a Houthi spokesperson told Reuters that operations against Israeli interests would continue, as they fall outside the scope of the U.S.-brokered deal. HW



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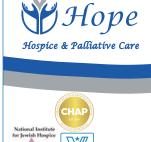
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## 'Some' in Trump Admin Not 'as Focused as They Should Be' on President's Iran Red Lines, Cruz Tells JNS



House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) speaks next to a captured Iranian Shahed-136 drone at an event organized by United Against Nuclear Iran in Washington, D.C., on May 8, 2025. Credit: UANI.

#### By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – With a captured Iranian Shahed-136 drone displayed beside them, congressional Republicans argued for a full-throttle dismantling of Tehran's nuclear program during an event organized by United Against Nuclear Iran.

"There is significant talk about potential solutions in which the ayatollah gets to keep a civilian nuclear program but must give up all his enrichment capacity, and how that might be a solution," Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) told attendees in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building last Thursday.

"I don't think the ayatollah needs uranium for any kind of energy production," the senator said. "Iran floats on a sea of oil. They are not lacking for energy."

Cruz's message for attendees, and that of House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), appeared to contrast with some of the messaging from the Trump administration, with some officials close to the president suggesting that it would be acceptable for the Islamic Republic to keep some elements of a civilian nuclear program in place.

JNS asked Cruz if he was concerned the White House might agree to a revised nuclear accord with Tehran to announce a deal.

"There may be some in the administration that are not as focused as they should be on President Trump's red lines," Cruz told JNS. "His red line is exactly right – full and total dismantlement. That needs to be the standard."

"I'm confident the president is going to hold that line," he said.

Cruz, who is reportedly leading a Senate effort to urge the Trump administration to insist on complete Iranian dismantlement, told attendees that returning to the previous nuclear pact's provisions, on inspections and verifications of compliance, is no longer possible.

International inspectors recently said they had "lost continuity of knowledge" about Iran's nuclear capabilities and its stockpiles of enriched uranium, he said.

The House speaker told attendees that Republicans will keep implementing Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran, and will do so "until we see full and permanent nuclear disarmament. Nothing less."

"Any framework for peace and stability in the Middle East hinges on that," Johnson said. "Under no circumstance can the world's leading sponsor of terror ever obtain a nuclear weapon."

Other members of Congress who spoke at the event largely agreed.

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), vice chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told JNS that he isn't happy with the pace and tone of negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

"No, not a bit. You don't negotiate anything like we've negotiated in the past," he told JNS. "It has to be unconditional surrender of not only their nuclear weapons but their proxy activity in Ukraine, in Israel or Gaza and the West Bank."

Iran also must give up any additional weapons with which "they try to resupply a now-free Lebanon," Issa said. He added that Iran must not only end its nuclear enrichment but also all of its other destabilizing activities.

"Negotiate, sure. Negotiate an end to their exporting of terrorism – not just nuclear weapons," he told JNS. "If you do nuclear weapons alone, it's only a question of time until they cheat."

Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.), chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, told JNS that a similar version of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – which the Obama administration signed and which Trump withdrew in 2018 – is not acceptable.

"Ultimately, from my vantage point, this cannot be a JCPOA 2.0," he told JNS. "There must be a very clear understanding between Iran and the United States and our allies that they cannot and will not have any nuclear capabilities or the ability to enrich uranium. Period."

"They have a choice. They can choose to negotiate and come to an agreement or not, but either way, they cannot and will not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon," Lawler said.

One speaker last Thursday seemed a bit more dovish.

Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) told JNS that "the main thing that we've got to have is the engagement" with Tehran.

"We want to be able to sit down and be able to talk and to be able to work this out and not allow Iran to be able to have a nuclear weapon," the senator told JNS. "The Trump administration knows full well how to be able to put pressure on the Iranians."

Several United Against Nuclear Iran representatives also spoke last Thursday, as did Bogdan Klich, the head of mission at the Polish embassy in Washington.

Poland brought the drone, which was on display at the event, to Washington after Russia used it to attack Ukraine. Several speakers said that the missile's provenance showed that Iran's harmful reach extends well beyond the Middle East. **HW** 

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Conrad Hubert Snyder

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Conrad Hubert Snyder on May 6, 2025. Conrad was born on December 17, 1938, in Memphis, Tennessee. He grew up in Forrest City, Arkansas, with his two brothers and one sister. He was an avid Razorbacks fan and served in the Arkansas National Guard.

Conrad, known as Paw Paw Panda Bear to his grandchildren, was a natural entertainer who kept us laughing with tall tales, stories, jokes and pranks. He never met a stranger and became a beloved part of the lives of all those who met him.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Andrea Snyder Bennett, his parents, Rueben and Develling Snyder, his brother, Martin Snyder, and his sister, Marlene Snyder.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Robin Kabakoff Snyder, his stepchildren, Jason (Kayla) Salomon, and Jonah (Nikki) Salomon, 6 grandchildren, and his brother, Richard (Leah Jean) Snyder.

The family kindly requests that any donations be made to Plough Towers or Temple Israel in his memory. **HW** 

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## Margolin Hebrew Academy to Hold its 75th Annual Scholarship Banquet

On Sunday, June 15, 2025, the Margolin Hebrew Academy will hold its 75th Annual Scholarship Banquet at Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

As the culmination of its celebrations of the 75th year of the MHA-FYOS, this year's Scholarship Banquet and Annual Journal will be dedicated to honoring the past presidents of the Parent-Teacher Association/Ladies Auxiliary (PTA/ LA) for their Leadership and Service to the school. The PTA/LA has profoundly influenced the school community, fostering a collaborative environment that enhances both educational experiences and student well-being. Their initiatives have not only strengthened the partnership between parents and educators but have also led to significant improvements in resources and support for students. Through fundraising, events and advocacy, the PTA has played a vital role in shaping a vibrant school culture and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The event, which is chaired by Esther and Allan Katz and Rachel and Avi Katz, promises to be a uniquely special and meaningful evening.

The Banquet is a critically important fundraiser for the school. The funds raised allow MHA-FYOS to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for its students. Please consider submitting an ad for publication in the Ad Journal, either to show appreciation to our honorees, to congratulate a graduate for completing kindergarten, eighth grade or 12th grade, to memorialize a loved one or to advertise your business.

It's been an incredible year at the Margolin Hebrew Academy. Fall Festival, The Annual Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Game, Celebrations of Learning, S.T.E.M. Expo, sports and clubs such as Model UN and Student Newspaper are only a few of the added highlights in an MHA student's career. Within the next month, the school will hold celebrations for Lag B'Omer and the kindergarten, eighth grade, and 12th grade graduations. The Banquet will be an incredible culmination of another successful school year.

Tickets and sponsorships for the dinner and advertisements in the Banquet Journal may be purchased at www. mhafyos.org/journal. **HW** 

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## Self-Described 'Jew Hater' Charged with Hate Crimes after Allegedly Attacking Jews at 3 NYC Anti-Israel Protests



Protesters outside Columbia University, April 30, 2024. Credit: Luke Tress By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A man who self-identified as a "Jew hater" and attacked Jewish pro-Israel protesters at three separate pro-Palestinian rallies has been charged with three counts of committing hate crimes.

Tarek Bazrouk, 20, of New York City, had been arrested at three different protests over a period of nine months where he kicked and punched Jewish pro-Israel demonstrators, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Last Wednesday, he was arrested again and charged with hate crimes in connection with the incidents.

"Despite being arrested after each incident, Bazrouk allegedly remained undeterred and quickly returned to using violence to target Jews in New York City," said U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton for the Southern District of New York in a statement.

During the first assault, which took place near the New York Stock Exchange on April 15, 2024, Bazrouk allegedly wore the green headband associated with Hamas and was arrested by police after he allegedly lunged at a group of pro-Israel protesters. As he was escorted by police, he then allegedly kicked a Jewish college student in the stomach.

On Dec. 9, 2024, at another pro-Palestinian protest near Columbia University, Bazrouk stole an Israeli flag from a Jewish Columbia student, punched him in the face and hurled antisemitic slurs after the student pursued him.

The final assault occurred near NYU Tisch Hospital when it was targeted by activists on Jan. 6, 2025. Bazrouk allegedly punched a Jewish pro-Israel

protester in the nose after the individual pushed Bazrouk off of him. He was arrested after all three assaults.

Within Our Lifetime, an extremist anti-Israel activist group that regularly targets Jewish sites and features antisemitism at its rallies, organized or participated in protests in each location on those dates.

According to an investigation by law enforcement after the string of attacks, text messages on Bazrouk's phone allegedly showed him identifying as a "Jew hater" and labelling Jews as "worthless." He also allegedly called on "Allah" to "get us rid of [Jews]," called someone a "f—ing Jew" and instructed a friend to "slap that bitch" in reference to a woman with an Israeli sticker on her laptop, according to the U.S. attorney's office

His phone also included several examples of pro-Hamas and pro-Hezbollah propaganda, and said he was "mad happy" after learning during a trip to the West Bank in 2024 that his relatives were a part of Hamas, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Bazrouk pleaded not guilty to the three hate crime charges last Wednesday, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

In New York, tensions over the war in Gaza have escalated to physical violence on several occasions, and have led to prosecutions for antisemitic hate crimes. At Columbia last Wednesday, two officers were hurt in a protest at the school's library. Last month, following an anti-Zionist demonstration in Crown Heights, one protester was arrested, and a viral video circulated showing Jewish men assaulting a woman. **HW** 

### U.S. Sanctions Third Chinese Oil Refinery Operating as Iran's 'Shadow Fleet'

(JNS) – The Trump administration is placing sanctions on a Chinese oil refinery and three port terminal operators for their roles in purchasing or facilitating the delivery of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of Iranian oil, the U.S Treasury and State Departments announced last Thursday.

Hebei Xinhai Chemical Group, in the Shandong Province of China, is among small, independent ("teapot") oil refineries, according to the Treasury Department. This is the third action the Trump administration has taken against such refineries, which "purchase the majority of Iranian crude oil exports," added the Treasury.

The two departments also announced sanctions on several companies, vessels

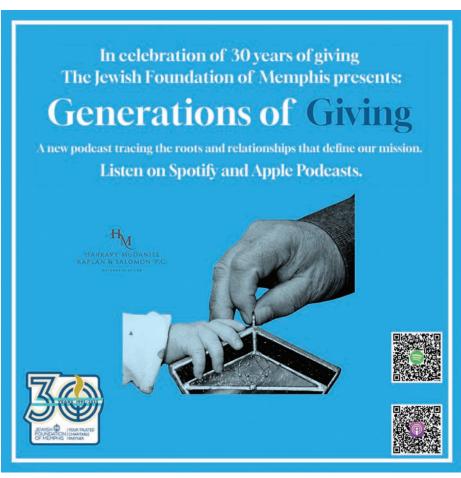
and captains operating as part of Iran's "shadow fleet."

"As part of President Trump's broad and aggressive maximum pressure campaign, Treasury is targeting another teapot refinery that imported Iranian oil," said Scott Bessent, the U.S. treasury secretary. "The United States remains resolved to intensify pressure on all elements of Iran's oil supply chain to prevent the regime from generating revenue to further its destabilizing agenda."

"So long as Iran attempts to generate oil revenues to fund its destabilizing activities, the United States will hold Iran and all its partners in sanctions evasion accountable," the State Department said. HW

Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis





Jason Salomon served as Foundation Board Chair from 2022 to 2024. His term saw the creation of two new Support Organizations – Burton Weil Family Foundation and Temple Israel Cemetery Sustainability Fund, Inc. – the addition of Plough Towers as a partner agency, guidance through the aftermath of October 7, and the launch of the Life and Legacy Plus initiative with the Grinspoon Foundation. Listen to an interview with Jason on the Foundation's new podcast, "Generations of Giving," available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

## Family ConnecTion at Temple Israel

Temple Israel's Family ConnecTIon is a community-wide initiative designed to bring Memphis Jewish families together through meaningful and engaging experiences. Whether you're seeking a Shabbat service, holiday celebration or a warm and welcoming community, there's an event for your family at Temple Israel.

#### Family Shabbat B'Yachad

Family Shabbat B'Yacha is a dynamic, developmentally appropriate service featuring interactive sermons, music and prayers led by Temple Israel's TI Teen Band and Song Leaders. This spirited experience fosters connection across generations.

Following the service, families are invited to a catered Shabbat dinner, made possible in part by a generous grant from Cindy and Mark Finestone, providing a welcoming space to celebrate together.

#### **Temple Tots**

Tot Shabbats introduce young children to Shabbat and Jewish holidays in a lively, family-friendly setting. Designed for toddlers and preschoolers, these gatherings feature songs, stories, interactive prayers and of course, nosh and activities. Temple Tots creates a warm community where young children and their families can build lasting connections while embracing Jewish traditions.

#### Coming Soon! TIMPO For Tots: A Musical Journey for Early Childhood

A new addition to Family Connec-TIon, TIMPO For Tots introduces children ages 0-5 to the joy of group music classes. Led by Eleanor Tallie Steinberg, this program fosters a love for music while creating a space for parents to connect.

Studies show that early exposure to

music enhances cognitive development, language skills and social-emotional learning. Music For Tots provides a structured yet playful way for children to explore rhythm, melody and movement through two engaging programs:

**Baby & Me Music (0-18 months)** – A gentle introduction to rhythm, percussion instruments, nursery rhymes and interactive bonding with parents.

Music Steps (18 months - 5 years):

- 18 months 3 years: Call-and-response singing, movement-based music and early speech development.
- 3 5 years: Prepares children for elementary music education through handson experiences with instruments like guitar, keyboard, drums and tambourines.

By ages 5-6, children can build on their foundation from Music For Tots to one-on-one instrument lessons.

Festival Celebrations: Bringing

#### Jewish Holidays to Life

Temple Israel's festival celebrations bring families together throughout the year:

Apples and Honey: A family-friendly Rosh Hashanah event celebrating the sweetness of the New Year while supporting local Jewish small businesses.

Yom Ha'atzmaut: A community-wide celebration of Israel's Independence Day, in partnership with Jewish organizations across Memphis.

Purim Carnival: A community-wide celebration for families to dress up, enjoy some nosh and the true carnival experience, with all proceeds going to Camp Dream Street annually.

Through Family ConnecTIon, Temple Israel is creating meaningful, engaging and joyful Jewish experiences for all ages – welcoming families into a vibrant and inclusive community. **HW** 



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## Netanyahu Congratulates New Pope, Urges 'Reconciliation Among All Faiths'

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Thursday congratulated Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, 69, for being elected pope of the Catholic Church.

"Congratulations to Pope Leo XIV and the Catholic community worldwide. I wish the first Pope from the United States success in fostering hope and reconciliation among all faiths," wrote

Netanyahu on X.

The new pope is also a Peruvian citizen and was previously archbishop of Peru.

Most recently, he was prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, "one of the most important jobs in the Catholic Church," the Associated Press reported, as "the powerful head of the office that vets bishop nomi-

nations from around the world."

Israeli President Isaac Herzog congratulated the newly elected pope "on assuming this sacred and momentous responsibility – the first American pope."

"I send you my warmest wishes from the holy city of Jerusalem," Herzog stated. "We look forward to enhancing the relationship between Israel and the Holy See and strengthening the friendship between Jews and Christians in the Holy Land and around the world."

Herzog said he hopes the new papacy will "be one of building bridges and understanding between all faiths and peoples."

"May we see the immediate and safe return of the hostages still held in Gaza, and a new era of peace in our region and around the world," he wrote. **HW**  PAGE 12 | MAY 15, 2025 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

## Ye Debuts 'Heil Hitler' Music Video that Includes a Sample of a Hitler Speech



A still from "Heil Hitler," a new music video from Ye, in the rapper's latest embrace of antisemitism, May 8, 2025. (Screenshot via X)

#### By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, continued his string of antisemitic provocations last Thursday as he released a new music video for a song called "Heil Hitler."

"All my n\*\*\*\*s Nazis, n\*\*\*a, heil Hitler," Ye sings on the song's synth-heavy chorus, over video of three rows of Black men wearing animal skins and repeating the lyrics.

The track ends with a lengthy sample from a Hitler speech, which Ye also quoted on his X account: 'Whether you think my work is right, whether you

believe that I have been diligent. That I have worked, that I have stood up for you during these years, that I have used my time decently in the service of my people. You cast your vote now, if yes, then stand up for me as I stood up for you."

Ye was one of the most popular and influential musicians in the world before publicly embracing antisemitic beliefs in 2022. Since then he has lost lucrative corporate partnerships, the support of much of the music industry and, he claims, custody of his children from exwife Kim Kardashian, while continuing to spread antisemitism despite the occa-

sional promise to stop.

Ye aired some of those grievances on the track, which opens with the lines, "Man these people took my kids from me, then they froze my bank account. I got so much anger in me, got no way to take it out. Think I'm stuck in the matrix."

He soon segues into the line, "So I became a Nazi, yeah, bitch, I'm the villain."

As of last Thursday afternoon the music video was still playable on Ye's X account, though not on his YouTube account. Multiple versions of the song uploaded to SoundCloud also appear to have been removed; on X, Ye claimed it had been "banned by all digital streaming platforms."

Ye's team says the song will be featured on his upcoming album "Cuck" (Internet slang for "cuckold," a term for a husband whose wife is unfaithful), which also includes tracks titled "Gas Chambers," "WW3" and "Hitler Ye and Jesus." The album art depicts two figures wearing hooded Ku Klux Klan-like robes in different colors, while the art for the "Heil Hitler" song shows a swastika-like doodle.

The American Jewish Committee quickly condemned the song. "This is blatant antisemitism, and it's disgusting," CEO Ted Deutch said in a statement. "Ye is profiting off of Jew-hatred, and the music industry needs to step up

and speak out against this obscenity."

The song follows a brief effort by Ye, a onetime fashion maven, to sell swasti-ka-emblazoned T-shirts online. He purchased a Super Bowl television ad this year to sell the shirts.

In recent weeks Ye has posted media of himself with white supremacist and Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes, with whom he dined with President Donald Trump in 2022. "I'm here with my white supremacist homeboy Nick. We're back," Ye said while wearing a swastika necklace in a video he posted, then deleted, last month.

Fuentes celebrated the new song on X in advance of its release, writing, "Imagine 50,000 people in a stadium on their feet singing every word."

While promoting "Heil Hitler," Ye also took a moment to praise Jewish livestreamer Adin Ross, calling him "a positive person" and celebrating a recent livestream Ross held with the Jewish rapper Drake. In February during a feud with Ross, Ye wrote on X, "JEWS ARE ARROGANT AND THINK THEY CAN SPEAK TO ANYONE THEY WANT ANY KIND OF WAY THATS WHY EVERY JEWISH WIFE IS A BITCH," and posted a photo of him texting the streamer a Holocaust reference: "HOW YALL SAY IT NEVER AGAIN." HW





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