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Honoring Sheri Gadberry of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis Will Be a Highlight of Upcoming Joint Annual Meeting



For 25 years, Sheri Gadberry (left) has been part of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis' record-breaking success. She'll be honored at the upcoming Annual Meeting

For a quarter-century, she's been a quiet force helping to shape Jewish philanthropy in Memphis. Now, it's our turn to celebrate her.

Jewish Community Partners (JCP), the Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis are looking forward to our upcoming

joint Annual Meeting on June 11 at 5:45 p.m. at the MJCC Belz Social Hall, where we will take stock in the collective strength and impact of the Jewish community in Memphis. This year's meeting will be particularly meaningful as it provides an opportunity to honor one of our own whose dedication has

helped shape local philanthropy for a quarter-century: Sheri Greenberg Gadberry, Senior Philanthropic Officer and Executive Vice President.

Her milestone comes as the Foundation itself celebrates its 30th anniversary, culminating in a gala event later this year.

For many, Sheri is synonymous with the Foundation – a trusted friend and advisor who supports philanthropists in realizing their charitable goals.

"I love my job, and I love the people that I'm helping," Sheri shared. "I love the agencies that make up this community. This job isn't just a paycheck; it's my world. Many of our donors knew me as a child. I grew up with them."

Sheri's journey with the Foundation began in March 2000, a deliberate pivot from a career in mortgage underwriting. Her desire to genuinely help people found its true calling at the Foundation. She joined a small but effective team consisting of Paula Jacobson and Mindy Okeon Wagerman. From her first day through today, Sheri has been instrumental in driving its mission forward.

Today, as executive vice president, Sheri leads a team dedicated to providing innovative and personalized philanthropic tools to hundreds of fundholders.

"With the Foundation being donor-centric, we're here to help our donors create a legacy that they and their families can be proud of for generations," Sheri said.

Sheri's understanding of philanthropy is broad and inclusive. She notes that "there's no typical Foundation donor," embracing everyone from those giving a percentage of their IRA to multi-millionaires supporting a wide array of agencies. Her focus remains constant: to help donors achieve their unique goals and ensure the long-term sustainability of Jewish agencies in the community.

The success of the Foundation, and by extension Sheri's work, is bolstered by a deeply committed Board of Directors, chaired by Pace Cooper, and a growing Professional Advisory Group of over 130 experts.

"Our board members are our biggest advocates, and I feel very lucky that they love this community as much as I do," Sheri said. "The Professional Advisors play an important role, too. They help make the connection between what makes sense for donors financially and what we do to make sure our agencies are sustainable."

Under Sheri's guidance, the Foun-

(See Gadberry Page 3)

Sandy and Jerome Goldstein Lodge at the MJCC



The children and grandchildren of Sandy and Jerome Goldstein.

Wednesday, June 4, the family and friends of Sandy and Jerome Goldstein, MJCC Board members and staff, gathered for the ribbon cutting of the Sandy and Jerome Goldstein Lodge at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. MJCC Board Chair Jacob Samuels greeted a crowd of more than 40 people as he spoke about the completion of the final phase of the outdoor expansion at the MJCC.

Mike Goldstein spoke on behalf of the Goldstein family about his parents' involvement with and love for the Memphis Jewish Community Center and what it means to the family to honor their parents' legacy. He touched on the interconnectedness of the local Jewish community, recounting how he and his wife met Saralyn and Danny Weiss who so generously named the multipurpose room in the new lodge.



Four of the five children of Sandy and Jerome, along with several grandchildren, cut the ribbon on the building before everyone was invited to tour the space.

"We are so grateful to the children and grandchildren of Sandy and Jerome Goldstein for this incredibly generous gift. This will be pivotal in allowing for the continued growth of our summer camp program, provide additional program space throughout the rest of the year, and create a new stream of revenue

for the MJCC as an event rental space. Both Sandy and Jerome were passionate volunteers and participants at the MJCC, and this is such a fitting tribute to carry on their legacy and their lifelong commitment to this organization," said Larry Skolnick, MJCC president and CEO.

Shortly after the ribbon cutting, the Goldstein Lodge welcomed its first camp program – Kef camp in-house activity with Memphis Botanic Garden. [HW](#)

MJCC Theatre Conservatory Concludes First Production



The cast of The Theatre Conservatory @ The J's production of Jonathan Yukich's Alice@Wonderland.



Sixteen excited cast members took to the stage on May 15 & 18 as The Theatre Conservatory at The J mounted their production of Jonathan Yukich's Alice@Wonderland.

Auditions were in early February and those cast were: Sophie Chaifetz, as Alice; Izzy Bledsoe, as the White Rabbit; Malky Steiner, as the Caterpillar; Dora Myers and Lilly Myers, as the Cheshire Cat; Bennett Lubin, Lyla Cenker, and Grace Sorin, as the Mad Hatter, March Hare, and Dormouse; Evelyn Middleton, as Humpty Dumpty; Elisa Vincentelli and Leah Wishnia, as Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum; Stella Frisch and Amyiah McClure as the Queen and King of Hearts; and representing many of the other Wonderland creatures were Lila Lurie, Maya Ongsingco and Julieta Vincentelli.

Rehearsals began in late February, and the cast rehearsed twice a week until they mostly had their lines memorized and it was time to introduce lights, music and sound effects. With costumes, few props and 11 sturdy blocks, this cast took their audience on what BroadwayWorld described in their review as "a lively, fast-paced adventure that blended classic storytelling with

sharp contemporary sensibilities." This inaugural production for The Theatre Conservatory at The J wrapped the Conservatory's first year up in a bow that could be described only as well... wonderful.

The Conservatory is elated to have put on such a well-received production and grateful for the opportunity to serve over 150 students during its first year!

The fall will bring with it another fully realized production along with the return of many educational opportunities including the performance-based musical theatre triple-threat program, The Show. The Conservatory will also continue to offer technique-based acting. Both of these classes are open to those ages 5-18.

Dramatic Play, the program's 3-4-year-old preschool class will also be retuning. This class introduces acting by exploring using the body, facial expressions and emotions.

On the other end of the educational spectrum from preschool programming, the Conservatory is bringing back its BFA Audition Prep program. This six-week course will help prepare high school juniors and seniors who are interested in studying theatre in college prepare for their rapidly approaching

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. June 13, 2025 / 17 Sivan, 5785.....7:57 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. June 14, 2025 / 18 Sivan, 5785 9:00 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Behaalotecha



college BFA auditions.

Also coming back is the Conservatory's successful Homeschool Theatre program. This class is open to all school

age students and meets 20 times during the year providing an opportunity for a theatrical education elective for those who choose to home educate.

The new program The Conservatory will be unveiling this fall is a performance-based, musical theatre vocal ensemble, Conservatory Singers. This class will be open to those ages 8-18.

For more information check out the website jccmemphis.org/theatre, or contact Conservatory Artistic Director, Jonathan McCarter at 901.259.9248 or theatre@jccmemphis.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, June 16
Special Program! Magic Show with Magician Jeffrey Day

Magician Jeffrey Day will bring his Terrific Magic Show to the Senior Lunch Room! This is the second time Mr. Day is bringing his trunk and magical skills to the senior program. Jeffrey Day uses both Vintage and New Magical Illusions as well as explanations of the way it was done in the “Golden Age of Magic” (1837-1901). This is both a fun and mesmerizing look into the past! Come join us for a good lunch and a very, very fun afternoon. Reservations are necessary as the room fills up quickly. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810.

Wednesday, June 18
Speaker: Kevin Payne with Humana
Topic: Tech for Seniors

We constantly hear in the banter around the room about how confusing some of the new tech options are. Mr. Payne will give some insights into things one can do to improve their life with technical solutions. There will be a question-and-answer period following the discussion. Handouts will be included.

Monday, June 23
Speaker: Josh Goldin
Topic: Maintaining your Strength

As we get older it gets harder and harder to keep the strength we need to get through life. Josh will have some great tips on things we can do to help alleviate this problem. He will also have a special guest with him who can add to the talk. A Q & A period will follow.



Magician Jeffrey Day

Wednesday, June 25
Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Ross Levy
Topic: The History of Jewish Denominations

Many of us forget that years ago there were not divisions in the Jewish community based on observance. How and when did this start? Rabbi Ross will answer these questions and some others as well. Please come enjoy and learn from this interesting rabbi. No reservations are necessary for the talk.

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**

Gadberry...
(Continued From Page 1)

dation has become a vital conduit for giving, channeling over \$167 million to Jewish, secular, local and national organizations through donor recommendations. With over \$200 million in assets, the Foundation’s growth over the past three decades is a testament to the dedication of its staff and the generosity of the Memphis Jewish community.

When reflecting on her 25 years, Sheri says, “I’m glad that the organizations that mean so much to this community are going to be around for my great-grandkids. And I know that I had

IAF Strikes Underground Hezbollah Drone Factories in Beirut

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The Israeli Air Force attacked several underground sites in Beirut’s southern suburbs late last Thursday that it said were being [used] by Hezbollah for drone production.

The attacks in the city were the fourth since Israel and Lebanon reached a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement on Nov. 26.

The airstrikes, which began shortly after 10 p.m., were carried after the IDF gave advance warning for the evacuation of eight buildings at four sites.

The attack in the southern suburbs of Beirut known as the Dahiyeh targeted several underground drone manufacturing facilities belonging to Hezbollah’s aerial forces, according to the military

“This activity is a blatant violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon,” the IDF said in a statement. “The Hezbollah terror organization cre-

some little bitty part in that. I can proudly say that they’re going to stay around because of things that I did, working with people I’ve known my whole life.”

All members of the community are invited to attend the June 11 Annual Meeting. The event will also honor outgoing Board Chairs, Marty Kelman of Jewish Community Partners and Scott Notowich of the Memphis Jewish Federation for their exceptional service, and will welcome incoming Chairs, Charles Jalenak for JCP and Jimmy Ringel for MJF, as they step into their new roles.

Register at: jcpmemphis.org/annual-meeting **HW**

ates challenges for the Lebanese state and thus impairs the implementation of the understandings.”

The Israeli army said that Hezbollah was “working to produce thousands of drones under the guidance and financing of Iranian terrorist groups.”

Hezbollah “used drones extensively in its attacks against the State of Israel and is working to expand its drone industry and production in preparation for the next war,” the army statement said.

Lebanon’s President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam condemned the strikes.

Aoun called them a “blatant violation of an international agreement, as well as the basic principles of international and humanitarian laws and resolutions,” and said they demonstrate Israel’s “rejection of the requirements of stability, settlement and just peace in our region.”

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz praised the Air Force for “perfect execution” of the strikes and said Israel will “continue to enforce the ceasefire rules without any compromise.” He said Israel holds the “Lebanese government directly responsible for preventing violations of the ceasefire and all terrorist activity against the State of Israel.”

Hezbollah and Israel were locked in a nearly year-long war after the terrorist group started firing rockets and missiles at Israel the day after the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led massacres near Gaza.

Last year, Israel killed thousands of Hezbollah terrorists, including its leader Hassan Nasrallah, and demolished much of its arsenal, severely crippling the organization.

Since the latest conflict ended, Hezbollah has come under increasing pressure to give up its remaining arsenal.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, Hezbollah is required to withdraw its fighters north of the Litani River and dismantle all military infrastructure in Southern Lebanon. It has not done. **HW**

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Temple Israel Music Program Opens Lessons for Fall



Temple Israel’s fall TIMPO Music education offerings will include dedicated and enthusiastic instructors, such as guitar instructor Brad McCullough.

The Temple Israel Music Programming and Outreach (TIMPO) Lesson Program offers private instruction in guitar (ages 7 and above), piano (first grade and above), drum set (ages 6 and above), and violin/viola (ages 3 and above). Lessons take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and are led by experienced instructors, including professional musicians active in Memphis and doctoral students specializing in their instruments. Whether you’re just starting out or looking to advance your skills, TIMPO’s teachers offer high-quality, personalized instruction. Spots are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This fall also introduces the TIMPO Strings Program, a new group violin class for K–2 students and their families. With a maximum of five students,

this program helps young learners build a strong musical foundation while developing focus, coordination and self-expression. Early registration is recommended due to limited space.

For adults looking to strum their first chord, the Adult Beginner Guitar Class is back on Thursday evenings, led by Temple Israel’s Music Director, Emily Groff Heilborn. With only four spots remaining, this welcoming, low-pressure class is the perfect entry point for anyone eager to begin their own musical journey.

Hundreds of people have engaged in music through TIMPO, and our Music Education programming is at the heart of what we do. We hope to have you with us!

For more information and to register, visit timemphis.org/timpo. **HW**

Man Charged with Hate Crime in Boulder Firebombing Wanted to ‘Kill All Zionist People,’ Fbi Says



Lisa Turnquist of Louisville, Colorado, lays flowers and a flag at the site of the attack outside the Boulder County Courthouse on June 2, 2025, in Boulder. Credit: Chet Strange/Getty Images

(JTA) – Mohamed Sabry Soliman, the man accused of firebombing people marching to raise awareness of Israeli hostages in Gaza, had planned the attack for over a year, local and federal authorities said last Monday as they charged him with attempted murder and a hate crime.

Soliman, 45, allegedly fired two Molotov cocktails into a crowd assembled for the weekly Run for Their Lives in Boulder, Colorado, last Sunday. Local authorities said last Monday that the number of people injured had risen to 12, with two people remaining hospitalized.

Soliman, an Egyptian national who

entered the United States on a tourist visa in 2022, yelled “Free Palestine” during the attack, said he wanted to “kill all Zionist people” and did not regret his actions, according to affidavits from the FBI and Boulder District Attorney’s Office.

Soliman told detectives that he had learned about the event online, which is also where he learned to construct the homemade incendiary devices after being denied a gun permit because of his immigration status.

He said he had purchased supplies at Target and Home Depot and had

entered the United States on a tourist visa in 2022, yelled “Free Palestine” during the attack, said he wanted to “kill all Zionist people” and did not regret his actions, according to affidavits from the FBI and Boulder District Attorney’s Office.

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Trump Bans Travelers from 12 Countries, Citing Attack on Jews in Boulder, Colorado



President Donald Trump announces a travel ban on citizens of 12 countries in a video address released June 4, 2025. (Screenshot)

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Citing last Sunday’s attack on Jews in Boulder, Colorado, President Donald Trump has announced a ban on entry to the United States for people

from 12 countries, most but not all majority Muslim.

The ban is redolent of the travel ban Trump imposed just weeks into his first term in 2017, which ignited turmoil at airports and fierce protests, including from Jewish communities and organizations. The Supreme Court ultimately upheld a version of the ban in 2018.

The new ban is more expansive. It applies to citizens of Afghanistan, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Trump also limited entrance rights for citizens of seven other countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Sunday’s attack – on a group of Jews

walking to raise awareness of Israeli hostages being held in Gaza – was allegedly carried out by an Egyptian national who had lived in Kuwait for 14 or 15 years before entering the United States on a tourist visa, then staying after filing an asylum claim. The Trump administration has already sought to deport the wife and children of the man charged in the attack, though a judge has temporarily halted their removal.

Although the ban does not apply to Egyptians, Trump cited the attack as justification for the new ban in a video announcing it on Truth Social last Wednesday evening. (Unlike in explanations of other policy moves by his administration, he did not explicitly cite antisemitism as a concern. He also did not note

the identity of the Boulder victims.)

“The recent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, has underscored the extreme dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted, as well as those who come here as temporary visitors and overstay their visas,” Trump said in the video. “We don’t want them.”

Jewish Insider reported shortly before Trump posted the video that representatives of Jewish organizations had been told in a meeting that an executive order with a travel ban was forthcoming, and that the Boulder attack had been cited as a rationale. “Everyone was very careful about what they said and didn’t say,” a source who attended the meeting told Jewish Insider. **HW**

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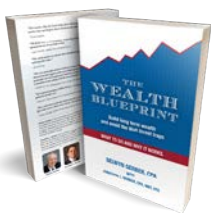
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Tools Available for Family Business Transitions

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
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Transitioning your family business to your heirs may sound simple enough, but in fact, doing it successfully can prove difficult. To help improve your transition’s chances for success, consider family business governance.

This is a system of correlated tools and actions to support the next generation with controlling, owning, and operating the business. It also puts in place a framework that contains business protocols, describes how future ownership changes occur, and establishes a precedent for making business decisions.

Frequently used tools

There are several tools that can be employed as part of a family business governance system, including:

A **buy-sell agreement** is a legally binding contract that stipulates how an owner’s share of a business may be re-assigned if triggering events occur, the price that will be paid, and the payment structure.

A **family employment policy** document can be kept within the family for private use or incorporated into the business’s human resource documen-

tation. It sets expectations for heirs, spouses, and extended family members about such issues as how they can obtain employment in the business, the requirements to attain key positions, the compensation standards to be used, and incentive language for family members.

A **distribution or dividend policy** is key in setting expectations with family members regarding what distributions they should expect to receive from the business. Business owners must balance the need for cash to maintain or grow the business with the desire to receive distributions.

A **professional board of directors** is a governing body that helps oversee the business and makes major decisions. A board generally comprises three, five, or seven professionals from various industries that have the subject matter expertise to assist the company strategically.

A **family board or council** is a group within the family – or may include the entire family – that comes together to make decisions about the business on the family’s behalf.

A **company mission statement** can

be valuable to your employees and your family as it addresses the business’s purpose and vision and can help guide future company leaders.

Your **estate plan** can address ownership, control, distributions, and several other factors.

The business’s governing documents should be reviewed at the same time the family business governance system and tools are put in place. Revisions to these documents or corporate resolutions stored in the corporate minutes may be needed to align these documents with the company’s governance system.

Helping ensure a successful transition

Transitioning the family business to the next generation is much more than transitioning shares. A well-thought-out and documented plan that addresses ownership, control, and operations helps build a strong governance system for your business. This system, combined with communication with the next generation, can be key to helping ensure your transition’s success.

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OBITUARIES



Barbara Peiser Scheinberg

Barbara Peiser Scheinberg (94) passed away on Thursday May 22, 2025. She was born in 1930 to Milton and Katie Peiser in Memphis, Tennessee. As a child she lived in Atlanta, Georgia, and Dallas, Texas, moving back to Memphis at the age of 14. She graduated from Central High School in 1947. Barbara had many friends and an active social life during her high school years. After graduation she worked at E.H. Crump Insurance Company in Memphis. Barbara married the love of her life, Mannie Scheinberg, in 1949 and they enjoyed 68 wonderful years together until Mannie’s death in 2017.

Barbara was an entrepreneur, astute businesswoman, and trendsetter long before it was popular for women to work outside the home. Barbara and Mannie were the co-owners of Scheinberg’s department store in Whitehaven with other family members. Scheinberg’s later became Mannie and Karl’s clothing store, co-owned with Mannie’s brother, Karl Gene Scheinberg, and his wife, Betty. Barbara and Betty opened Barbette’s Bridal Salon in the Erin Way Shopping Center in East Memphis in 1976. They quickly became the most sought-after bridal consultants for countless brides in the Memphis and Mid-South area. After they sold Barbette’s in 1988, Barbara continued to independently serve as a

bridal consultant and later became the first female executive director of Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth Synagogue. Barbara and Mannie were also lifelong members of Baron Hirsch Synagogue in Memphis.

Barbara loved traveling with Mannie around the world, especially going on cruises with lifelong best friends Marilyn and Bubba Lee and Jennie Lee and Donnie Thomas. Barbara and Mannie were excellent dancers, with onlookers marveling at their amazing chemistry. Barbara was also an excellent cook known for her chopped liver, matzah ball soup, brisket, and tiger, chocolate and apple cakes. She never forgot a birthday or anniversary. She especially enjoyed playing mahjong, at one point playing in four games a week. In her later years she cherished Sunday night family gatherings with her children, grandchildren and especially her great-grandchildren. Barbara was affectionately known as “Beda” by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as her friends’ grandchildren. She loved being everyone’s grandmother.

Barbara was a beautiful, loving, caring, kind, elegant, classy, wise, charismatic and extraordinary person. She was the ultimate role model of what a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend should be. She will be missed by all who knew her, but her memory will live on in the lives she touched.

She is survived by her children, Brenda Bluestein (Ephraim Frank), Marc Scheinberg and Russell Scheinberg (Christine); sister Sandra Lipman (Clifton); grandchildren Lauren Shelley (Matt), Paige Scheinberg Montgomery (Ricky), Niki Scheinberg, and Dovid Scheinberg; great-grandchildren Layla Shelley, Julianna Montgomery, Lena Shelley and Myles Montgomery.

The funeral was held on Monday, May 26, 2025, at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery. Donations can be made to a charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

Kurt Steinbach

Kurt Steinbach, son of Joan and Barry Steinbach, passed away peacefully after a long illness on May 29, 2025.

After graduating from Germantown High School, Kurt served a tour in the U.S. Navy. After receiving his bachelor’s and master’s in education at the University of Memphis in 2005, he taught in the Memphis City School System and eventually taught English as a second language to students abroad. His passions were history, politics and teaching.

He will be missed by his sister, Robin Morrison, brother-in-law Anthony Morrison, nieces Grace and Rachel Morrison, stepmother Mona Rippe, stepbrother Jacob Humphrey, aunt Louise Shifflett, cousins Stacy Shord and Michael Shifflett, as well as his extended family.

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Jewish Women’s Fertility Rate Outpaces Muslims in Israel

By Hili Yacobi-Handelsman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – A groundbreaking demographic shift has emerged in Israel since 2001, with 2024 data from the Central Bureau of Statistics revealing that Jewish women’s fertility rate, at 3.06 children per woman, now exceeds that of Muslim women, at 2.75 children per woman.

The Muslim population, totaling around 1.809 million, or 18.0% of Israel’s residents, increased by 2.0% in 2024, gaining approximately 35,100 people since the end of 2023. While this growth outpaces the Jewish population’s 1.1% rise, it reflects a major slowing down compared to the 3.8% growth rate in 2000.

Meanwhile, the Christian population shrank by 0.2%, and the Druze population dropped by 0.9%.

Nearly half of Muslims live in northern Israel, with 33.8% in the Northern District and 13.1% in the Haifa District. Another 22.1% reside in the Jerusalem District, 18.7% in the Southern District, 10.9% in the Central District, and 1.4% in the Tel Aviv District.

Roughly 43% of Muslim Israelis live in the 10 localities with the largest Muslim populations. Jerusalem has the most, with 386,300 Muslims, or 21.4% of the national Muslim population and 36.9% of the city’s residents. The Negev Bedouin city of Rahat follows, with 77,900 Muslims comprising 99.5% of its population. Other notable Muslim communities include Umm al-Fahm (60,100 residents) and Nazareth (57,000 residents).

The Muslim population remains young, with 31.2% aged 0–14 and only 5.1% aged 65 and older. Among those aged 45–49, 9.2% of Muslim women are unmarried, compared to 4.7% of men. About 27% of Muslim-headed households include six or more members, compared to 10% of Jewish-headed households. Life expectancy in 2024 stood at 77.2 years for Muslim men and

82.9 years for Muslim women.

During the 2023/24 school year, 403,800 Muslim students attended primary and post-primary schools, with 6,900 in Hebrew-language schools and the rest in Arabic-language schools.

In 2022/23, 74.0% of Muslim students who took matriculation exams qualified for a high school graduation diploma, and 48.3% met university admission standards, nearly matching the 46.8% from the previous year. Muslim women were far more likely to pursue bachelor’s degrees (41.8%) than Muslim men (20.2%).

In the 2022/23 school year, 3,100 Muslims enrolled in pre-academic programs, representing 27.0% of such students. In 2023/24, 49,800 Muslims studied in higher education, comprising 16.4% of all students. That year, 11,800 Muslims received academic degrees, accounting for 13.0% of all degree recipients.

In 2024, labor force participation among Israeli Muslims aged 15 and older was 48.2%; 62.1% for men and 34.4% for women. In 2023, approximately 307,600 Muslims were registered with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, out of 1.18 million individuals. The disability registry included 179,100 Muslims, out of 1.163 million people.

In 2022, Muslims faced a criminal conviction rate 2.9 times higher than non-Muslims, at 579 per 100,000 people compared to 200 per 100,000. Common offenses included public order violations (28.2%), crimes against persons (22.4%) and property crimes (19.7%).

In 2024, 881,277 Israeli Muslims held driver’s licenses, making up 16.8% of all drivers, with 41.5% being women. That year, 3,315 Muslims were injured in road accidents, representing 22.9% of all casualties, exceeding their 16.9% population share. Of these, 140 were killed, 690 were seriously injured and 2,485 sustained minor injuries. **HW**

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Hamas Fired on Gazans Collecting Aid in Rafah, Palestinian Tells IDF

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces shared an audio recording last Thursday of a Gazan accusing Hamas terrorists of opening fire on Palestinian civilians seeking to collect humanitarian aid in the southernmost city of Rafah.

“I swear to you – no, it’s a lie, nothing happened,” the anonymous Arab said in conversation with an employee of the Israeli Defense Ministry’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit, responding to claims the IDF killed dozens of Palestinians in Rafah.

“There were injured people, yes, maybe seven, eight dead,” according to the Palestinian source. “The army responded after mortars were fired at it, but the people who fired were Hamas terrorists. They don’t want the people to receive aid and want to foil the plan. They live off theft.”

The source told COGAT that he sent

the Israeli military “a photo of the young man who was blamed for shooting” at the Palestinian civilians.

Pressed by COGAT about the claim Hamas opened fire, he responded, “Yes, of course, this is not the first time. They want to foil the plan so the aid will go to them, allowing them to steal it. They live off the aid. Deals, sales, money, food and drink, all for their own men and Hamas leaders.”

The Palestinian stressed that Hamas “has gone completely bankrupt.” The terrorist group wants “aid to come in through the United Nations and international organizations so they can steal it,” he also claimed.

“I swear to you, they’re criminals, truly criminals like ISIS. I swear to God, they’re human beasts. Not humans. Not humans at all,” he said, adding: “They have no compassion whatsoever for

their own people.”

An Israeli government spokesperson last Tuesday denied reports that the IDF had fired on civilians near the aid distribution center the day prior.

“Let’s be clear: Israel is not preventing Gazans from accessing humanitarian aid, and the IDF did not fire at civilians in or near aid distribution zones,” said David Mencer during a press briefing for international reporters held by the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office.

The government spokesman was responding to claims from Gaza that Israeli troops had killed 27 people near an aid distribution point in the Rafah area. Shortly after the incident, the IDF said it had only fired at a few individuals who had approached Israeli forces in the area.

“The IDF is doing everything in its power to allow Gazans to get to the humanitarian aid. The IDF is not prevent-

ing the arrival of Gazans at humanitarian aid sites. Indeed, we are encouraging it,” Mencer said.

IDF Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said the incident was part of how “Hamas is actively trying to prevent them [Gazans] from receiving the aid. We operate nearby and do whatever is necessary to ensure that the aid does not fall into the hands of Hamas,” he stated last Tuesday.

Gazans are “coming to the distribution centers to receive the aid. The civilian population of Gaza understands that Hamas is not taking care of them,” he added.

The aid sites in the Strip are being operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation group, which began operations on May 27. The facilities are secured by U.S. military contractors and remotely monitored by the IDF. **HW**

IDF to Issue 54,000 Conscription Orders to Yeshivah Students in July

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The IDF will issue more than 50,000 draft orders to ultra-Orthodox yeshivah students next month, and will soon heighten enforcement measures against draft dodgers, the government said last Thursday.

The announcement comes amid a coalition crisis over the enlistment of the ultra-Orthodox, or Haredim, which threatens the collapse of the government.

The 54,000 draft orders to be issued

next month will not be immediate but rather pertain to enlistment in the coming conscription year, which starts on July 1.

In addition, the IDF will also increase enforcement measures against the thousands of ultra-Orthodox men who have received conscription orders in the last year but have failed to present themselves at IDF recruitment offices, the government statement said.

The latest news on the hot-button con-

scription issue follows last Thursday’s meeting attended by Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, IDF Personnel Directorate head Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa and other legal and military officials to discuss compliance with a High Court decision and the state’s response to petitions demanding enforcement of that ruling.

The last Thursday night announcement also comes against the background of coalition negotiations between the

government and the ultra-Orthodox parties – Shas and United Torah Judaism – over their threats to topple the government in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence to be presented by the opposition in a preliminary vote next week, unless the coalition advances legislation that anchors in law the blanket military service exemptions for ultra-Orthodox yeshivah students that the High Court struck down two years ago. **HW**

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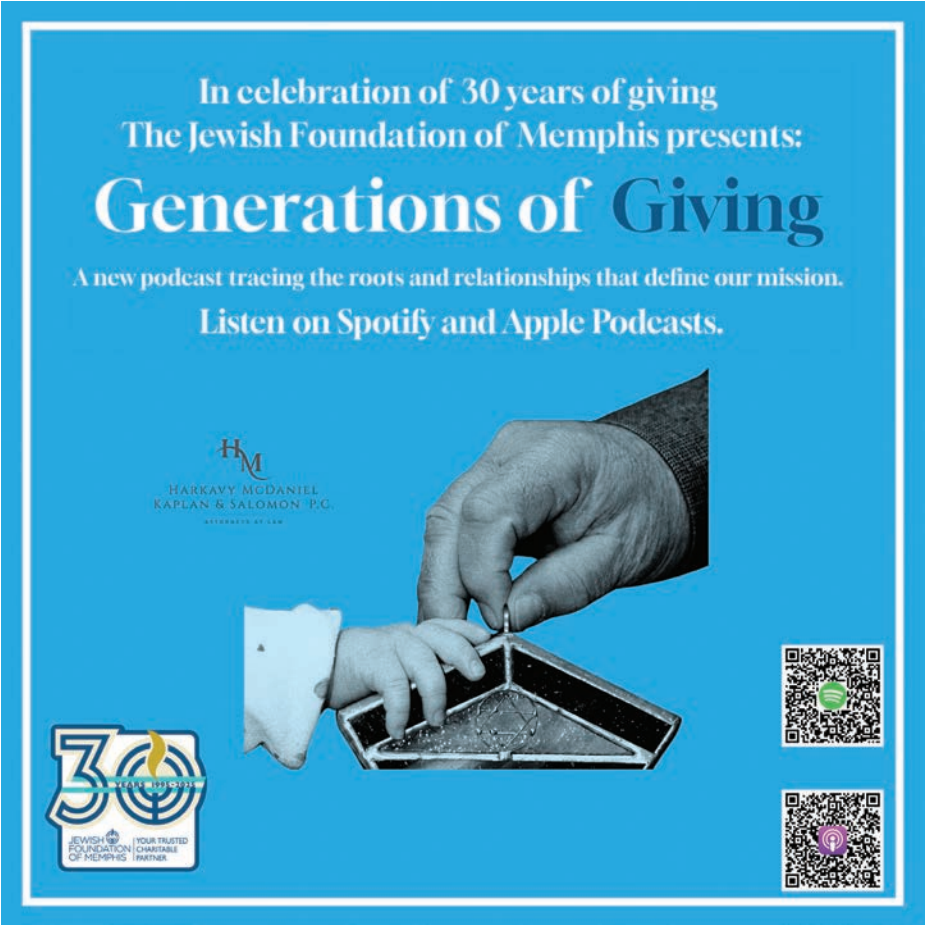
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Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis



Nat Landau served as Foundation Board Chair from 2006 to 2008. His tenure reflected a deep commitment to long-term planning and endowment growth, drawing on years of leadership at Beth Sholom Synagogue and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. Under his guidance, the Foundation strengthened its role as a resource for Jewish Memphis today and for generations to come. Listen to an interview with Nat on the Foundation’s new podcast, “Generations of Giving,” available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



30 Years, 30 Moments
A Look Back at the Legacy of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis in Photos



In honor of the 30-year anniversary of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, we are showcasing the Foundation’s history and impact through a content series across multiple platforms, including a photo series highlighting key moments in the Foundation’s history.

Local community agencies Memphis Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service, Memphis Jewish Community Center, and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab served as the organization’s founding partners in 1995. Shortly thereafter, Memphis’ primary synagogues and two schools also joined. These agencies continue to partner with the Foundation to strengthen their endowment efforts. After nearly 30 years, a new partner agency was added: Plough Towers.

‘Elevated Threat’ to Israelis and Jews, FBI and DHS Say

(JNS) – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued a public service announcement last Thursday highlighting “potential public safety concerns related to ongoing threats to Jewish and Israeli communities.”

The department and the bureau noted that a gunman murdered two Israeli Embassy staffers last month outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington and that, on June 1, an attacker used a makeshift flamethrower and threw Molotov cocktails at participants in a Boulder, Colo., gathering in solidarity with the hostages in Gaza.

“The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict may motivate other violent extremists and hate crime perpetrators with similar grievances to conduct violence against

Jewish and Israeli communities and their supporters,” the bureau and the department stated.

“Foreign terrorist organizations also may try to exploit narratives related to the conflict to inspire attacks in the United States,” they added, urging “the public to remain vigilant and to report any threats of violence or suspicious activity to law enforcement.” **HW**

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