

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
KEEP MEMPHIS  
JEWISH JOURNALISM ALIVE!  
SUBSCRIBE • ADVERTISE  
CONTRIBUTE  
901.763.2215  
INFO@HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

CELEBRATING100 YEARS

the Hebrew Watchman

1925-2025

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

23 SIVAN, 5785

JUNE 19, 2025

VOL. 103, NO. 38

# ‘The Time has Come,’ Says IDF Chief of Staff, as Israel Strikes Iran



**IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir addresses the nation after Israel launches an attack on Iranian nuclear facilities, June 13, 2024.**  
*Source: Screenshot/IDF.*

**By David Isaac**  
(JNS) – Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, the Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, addressed the nation early last Friday morning and said that “the time has come,” as Israel attacked nuclear and military sites in Iran as part of an operation it has dubbed Rising Lion.  
“This is a critical operation to prevent an existential threat by an enemy, who is intent on destroying us,” Zamir said.  
The military official assured the Israeli people that the Jewish state was acting “as a result of immediate and justified operational needs” and in order “to secure the future safety of the state and its citizens.”  
The IDF said earlier in the morning that the military “launched a preemptive, precise, combined offensive based on high-quality intelligence to strike Iran’s nuclear program, and in response

to the Iranian regime’s ongoing aggression against Israel.”  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has warned for years of the danger of a nuclear-armed Iran, said that the operation “will continue for as many days as it takes to remove this threat.”  
“We are at the point of no return. We cannot afford to wait for another time to operate. We have no other choice,” Zamir said. “Recent and past events of history have taught us that when the enemy is attempting to destroy us, we must not turn a blind eye.”  
“We need to fight for our existence,” he said. “Freedom was given to those willing to fight for it.”  
The IDF official said that the operation has been in the works for a long time, describing it as a “historic campaign unlike any other.” He also cautioned that “anyone who will try to chal-

lenge us will pay a heavy price.”  
Zamir requested that Israeli citizens obey the instructions of the Home Front command, warning that the Islamic Republic would retaliate, and the toll would be different from what Israelis have grown to expect.  
“Seventy-seven years since the State of Israel was established,” he said, “we stand again for our survival.” He called on Israelis to show “bravery, spirit and unity.”  
“Unlike the past, we face an enemy as a nation and regional power, with an army like no other,” he said. “Beyond the technology, operational means and methods, we inhibit an additional unique element – the Zionist and Jewish spirit that beats within us.”  
“With this spirit, and faith in our justified path, our actions will speak,” he said. **HW**

# Donald Trump: ‘Iran Must Make a Deal, Before There is Nothing Left’



**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) – President Donald Trump is pressing forward in seeking a nuclear deal with Iran following a massive wave of Israeli attacks on the country’s nuclear program.  
Trump, who has built his public per-

sona around a verve for making deals, addressed his now-weakened negotiating partner in a post on Truth Social last Friday morning, several hours after the Israelis began carrying out a daring and apparently successful mission in Iran that took aim at the places and personnel involved in the country’s effort to develop a nuclear weapon.  
Trump said in the post he had warned Iran that not making a deal would “be much worse than anything they know, anticipated, or were told.”  
He also implied that U.S. weapons had been used in the attack and that the United States would continue to supply Israel with weapons to attack Iran. Israel’s perceived need for U.S. bombs that could penetrate underground had been seen as an obstacle to an Israeli attack on Iran’s nuclear program.  
“The United States makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the World, BY FAR,” Trump said in his post, adding, “Israel has a lot of it, with much more to come – And they know how to use it.”

Trump declined to comment on whether the United States had played a role in the attack in an interview with ABC News last Friday morning. But he praised the attack and warned of more.  
“I think it’s been excellent,” he said in the interview. “We gave them a chance and they didn’t take it. They got hit hard, very hard. They got hit about as hard as you’re going to get hit. And there’s more to come. A lot more.”  
Trump had said when opening talks with Iran in April, in a move that was seen as against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s preferences, that if the talks failed, there would be severe reprisals. The United States would not be led into war, Trump cautioned but would head there willingly if needed.  
Last Friday morning, as Israel launched another wave of attacks, Trump urged Iran to come to the negotiating table – saying in all caps in his Truth Social post that the cost of not doing so would be high.  
“There has already been great death and destruction, but there is still time

**“We gave them a chance and they didn’t take it,” Trump told ABC News, without confirming whether the United States played a role in Israel’s attack on Iran.**

to make this slaughter, with the next already planned attacks being even more brutal, come to an end,” Trump wrote. “Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire. No more death, no more destruction, JUST DO IT, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.”  
Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, did not offer any public acquiescence last Friday. Instead, he posted a threat of his own on X: “With this crime, the Zionist regime has prepared for itself a bitter, painful fate, which it will definitely see.” **HW**

# Iran Planned to Invade Israel ‘From All Sides,’ with ‘Nuclear Strike,’ Thousands of Terrorists, Danon Says

**By Mike Wagenheim**  
(JNS) – Israel’s strikes against Iran last Friday morning were a “calculated and necessary action” that was “carried out in response to an escalating existential threat,” Danny Danon, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters in New York at the global body’s headquarters.



The Islamic Republic has a long history of funding and training terror proxies across the Middle East, but the direct threat from the regime “took a dramatic turn,” Danon said. “Iran advanced significantly toward nuclear weapons capabilities.”  
Danon pointed to a secret program, which Israeli intelligence uncovered, that showed dangerous Iranian progress toward a nuclear bomb. It also revealed plans for a surprise attack on Israel in coordination with Iran’s proxies, with

(See **Iran** Page 2)



# Marty Kelman: The Business Mind Behind JCP’s Success



Marty Kelman, outgoing Chair of Jewish Community Partners was honored at last week’s Annual Meeting

By Laura Linder, CEO, Jewish Community Partners

Not every organization is lucky enough to have a Board Chair with extensive business knowledge and a deep understanding of what it takes to operate a multi-layered, complex organization. As Marty Kelman concludes his impactful tenure as Chair of Jewish Community Partners (JCP), his departure marks the end of a chapter defined by dedicated leadership and significant community advancement.

A distinguished financial planner and co-founder of Kelman-Lazarov, Marty’s professional skillset has long been matched by his profound commitment to service. His business acumen helped steward JCP into strong financial stability over the past two years.

“I’m proud that both Federation and Foundation had exceptional financial growth this year,” says Marty. “Financial transparency has been and will always be a key focus for JCP.

“As the management organization of the Federation and the Foundation, JCP learned to focus its role on overseeing HR, Finance, marketing, investment, data management, technology and legal counsel. Last year, my goal was to continue improving operational efficiencies across all three organizations. With the help of so many dedicated lay leaders and professionals, we were successful in this endeavor.”

Marty Kelman is the proud son of Holocaust survivors, Mayer and Paula Kelman. Their enduring legacy has profoundly shaped his commitment to Jewish life and memory. It was in their honor that Marty previously served as co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Memphis’s Holocaust Memorial Committee, a testament to his dedication to ensuring the lessons of the past continue

to guide the future.

Beyond his pivotal role at JCP, Marty’s influence extends across numerous organizations. His board memberships include Facing History and Ourselves, the University of Memphis Alumni Board, the Unknown Child Foundation, the University of Memphis President’s Steering Committee and the FCBE Dean’s Advisory Council. His accomplishments are wide-ranging, from his instrumental 17-year presidency and board membership at Lausanne Collegiate, which helped the institution achieve its current success and diversity, to building a successful wealth management firm over four decades.

Reflecting on his time leading JCP, Marty expresses immense satisfaction with the organization’s achievements.

“I’m incredibly proud of what we’ve accomplished at JCP during my tenure,” Kelman shared. “We’ve truly worked to strengthen the philanthropic spirit within our community, ensuring that resources are available to support the vital institutions and programs that make Jewish Memphis so vibrant. Even our facilities had an exciting year, as we kicked off in September cutting the ribbon at the newly renovated Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center at UofM, and now we conclude the year having almost completed the much-needed expansion of the JCP offices at the MJCC, our home that all of us value.”

Known for being an “open book,” Marty likes to share the story of how he once hitchhiked across the country from UVA to San Francisco in the summer of 1971. He’ll also tell listeners about the times he played golf and chess with acclaimed actor Morgan Freeman during Freeman’s time living in Memphis.

Marty was married to the late Dale Kelman, a dedicated psychologist whose dedication to helping others mirrors his own. Their son, Alex, also a psychologist, is head of therapies at Cybin, a science advisor at Canopie, an attending psychologist at the UCLA Division of Population Behavioral Health (DPBH), and an assistant clinical professor at UCLA in the departments of psychiatry and psychology.

Marty’s views on the future of Jewish Memphis are bright. “I think it is very important that we remember and focus on the fact that our success is ultimately dependent on the Memphis metropolitan area we live in,” Marty said.

“With the incredible talent pool we have in the Jewish community, we must be engaged with our city’s leaders to find ways to grow Memphis in a way that we set ourselves up to experience growth in

# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

Established September, 1925  
By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
PO Box 770846  
Memphis, TN 38177-0846  
Office: 901.763.2215  
Direct: 901.827.7244  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman  
Editor and Publisher  
Larry Nieman  
Advertising Sales Director  
Toni Nieman  
Office Manager & Subscriptions  
toni@hebrewwatchman.com

Rebecca Schudel  
Social Media Director  
Web Development  
Herman I. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus  
Barbara B. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Memphis and Mid-South \$36  
Out-of-State \$50  
Payable in Advance

Subscriptions  
toni@hebrewwatchman.com

Submissions  
Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to info@hebrewwatchman.com

Advertising  
For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or info@hebrewwatchman.com

Simchas  
Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, engagement, anniversaries  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Obituaries  
901.763.2215  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must give permission for any material contained herein to be copied or reproduced in any manner without express permission of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. The publication of any advertisement in this edition does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers’ product, kashrut or services by this publication. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the publishers be held responsible for any errors. 6/19/2025

## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. June 20, 2025 / 24 Sivan, 5785.....7:59 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. June 21, 2025 / 25 Sivan, 5785 ..... 9:02 p.m.  
Weekly Torah Portion: Shlach

a similar fashion as Dallas, Atlanta and Denver. As Laura Linder tells us, many cities in the Jewish Federation National sphere wished they had the giving culture and strong organization we have built over the last hundred years. If we find ways to be involved, we stand a better chance to retain our young people and attract more young people.”

As Marty steps down from his leadership role at JCP, his legacy of unwavering commitment, strategic vision, and deep-seated pride in his heritage will undoubtedly continue to inspire. **HW**

Iran... (Continued From Page 1)

an invasion “from all sides, with thousands of terrorists and thousands of projectiles” going beyond an Oct. 7-style attack and incorporating “a nuclear strike,” the envoy said.

Israel “could not, and would not, wait for that moment to arrive,” Danon said.

He noted “an absence of meaningful international consequences” to Iran’s “repeated violations” and its “continued deception” amid a recent International Atomic Energy Agency report showing that Tehran’s nuclear program was outside the parameters of its international commitments. The report also showed that Iran obscures the details of its nuclear program.

Danon chided António Guterres, the U.N. secretary-general, who issued a statement earlier last Friday expressing “concern” over Israel’s operation.

“I must ask: Where was the secretary-general when Iran spent years arming itself while vowing to wipe Israel off the map?” Danon said. “Where was his voice when Iran rained hundreds of missiles and drones on our civilians?”

At Iran’s request, the U.N. Security Council is slated to meet at 3 p.m. in New York on Friday – first in an open setting and then behind closed doors to discuss Israel’s operation and its aftermath.

“We will not sit quietly while our people are targeted,” Danon said. “Not again. Not ever. Empty words will not stop Iran. Israel will.” **HW**



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

Cell: 901.315.2298  
Office: 901.260.4780

Blurie2003@gmail.com  
BestRealEstateAgentinMemphis.com  
www.BluffCityBuilders.com

CRYE-LEIKE,  
REALTORS®

## LET ME SELL YOUR HOME!

“ He really listens to what you want in a house and neighborhood. Brian went out of his way to be able to show us houses because we both worked and it was hard to be able to get together but Brian was happy to help even if it was a early evening showing. ”

SATISFIED CUSTOMER  
★★★★★



Official Real Estate Agent of The Memphis Tigers



# A Weekly Word of Torah

## Wrongspotting and the Meraglim: When Seeing the Flaws Becomes the Flaw

R. Dr. Gavriel Brown

We’ve all done it. The program had a typo. The sound system buzzed. The kugel was cold. We don’t say it with malice – just a knowing glance, a whisper to the person beside us, maybe a text. It’s not sabotage. It’s practically a sport. There’s a name for this habit: wrongspotting – the instinctive urge to fixate on what’s wrong. It feels harmless, even clever. We’re not naysayers – we’d never call ourselves that. Naysaying is loud, combative. Wrongspotting is subtle. Social. It makes us feel sharp.

But wrongspotting is more dangerous than it seems. It slips under our radar precisely because it feels innocent. And yet it saps energy, trust and vision – especially in communal life.

In Parashat Shelach, the spies – meraglim – are sent to scout the land of Canaan. Their mission? לְתוֹרֵם אֶת הָאָרֶץ – to see. Observe. Report. Instead, they editorialize. They see fortified cities, large people, and immediately decide: this will never work. “We were like grasshoppers in our eyes,” they say, “and so we were in theirs” (Bamidbar 13:33). What doomed the mission wasn’t the land. It was the lens. Their report had facts – but it also had spin. They didn’t just describe. They wrongspotted. They took a few alarming details and constructed a narrative of doom.

Wrongspotting today happens in more mundane arenas: the school event, the community dinner, the newsletter

that arrives with one misaligned photo. The event might be 95% successful. But we focus on the five. And we talk about it. And in doing so, we shrink the story from one of effort and connection into one of error. And here’s the problem: when wrongspotting becomes our reflex, we stop seeing things in full color. We distort leadership. Organizers begin planning to avoid critique, not to pursue vision. We lead defensively instead of aspirationally.

At the end of the parsha, we get the mitzvah of tzitzit (fringes attached to the corners of a four-cornered garment, traditionally worn by observant Jewish men): “You shall see them, and remember all the commandments of God.” Tzitzit are visual training. They ask us to see with purpose, not paranoia. To notice not the flaw but the calling.

A wise school board member once said: “Every critic is a potential volunteer.” What if we invited those who point out what’s wrong to help make it right? What if we redirected that sharp eye toward building instead of fault-finding?

Our Memphis Jewish communities thrive not because they’re flawless, but because they’re generous with what they choose to see. We can’t control what goes wrong. But we can control what we spotlight.

R. Dr. Gavriel Brown is the Head of School of Margolin Hebrew Academy - Feinstone Yeshiva of the South **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, 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 question-and-answer period will follow.

**Wednesday, June 25**  
**Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Ross Levy from Temple Israel**  
**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 learn and enjoy hearing from this interesting rabbi! No reservations are necessary for the talk.

**Monday, June 30**  
**Special End-of-Month Bingo Game!**  
Besides being a fun game, bingo also allows the participants to socialize and have some nice conversations. It is always a lot of fun. Please come for the lunch and stay for bingo.

**Wednesday, July 2**  
**Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Levi Klein from Chabad of Tennessee**  
**Topic:** Ask the Rabbi  
This has become one of the most looked forward to programs. Bring any questions you have about Judaism and he will answer them! We always have fun, lively discussions.

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**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Did I miss something? In the JTA article of the 5/29/25 issue of The Hebrew Watchman on the murder of the two Israeli staffers in Washington, D.C., only one of them, Yaron Lischinsky, is mentioned, while the name of the oth-

er victim, Sarah Milgrim, is completely omitted. It’s not as if it took any extra time to identify her; after all, their picture, along with their names, were released as soon as the awful news of the tragedy was published. So, not only was she, Sarah Milgrim, not acknowledged as the other victim, but in a horrible coincidence, she was born in the same city where 11 years ago there occurred the murder of three people who were cut down by a virulent anti-Semite at the JCC and nearby assisted-living facility there. They were 14-year-old, Reat Underwood, his grandfather, Dr. William Corporon and Terri La Manno.

Several years ago, we were able to thwart a possible tragedy at the Hebrew Academy due to the cooperation of “the powers that be” (police, security people, trained lay folks).

Some of your readers may remember that I wrote a letter (as Meryl Streep said when she received her umpteenth Oscar: “What, her again?”) pointing out that although that was a wonderful ending to the incident, the comings and goings of people attending any function that involves Jews or people assumed to be Jewish (ironically none of the three killed in Overland Park, Kansas, was Jewish) makes it “open season” for us. One need only to think of the incident that occurred a week ago in Boulder, Colorado.

Alice Zalon  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Alice,  
The issue you are referring to dated May 29, 2025, was printed on Thursday, May 22, 2025, due to the Monday Memorial Day holiday. When a holiday occurs on a Monday, we must send our information to the printer the Thursday night before. At that time, JTA had not updated its information for us to print.

Thank you for taking the time to remind us of Sarah Milgrim and others who have lost their lives during terror attacks.

Susan Nieman  
Publisher

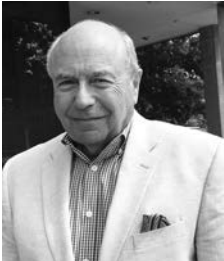
## Contract at FULL LIST PRICE!



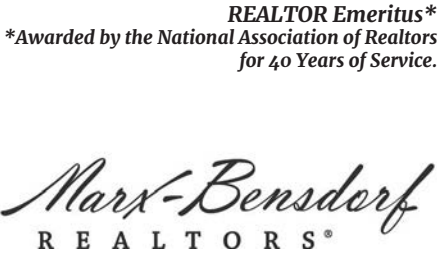
## In 18 (Eighteen!) Days

I really don’t want to “Drone” on about my highly successful Strategic Marketing Program that can mean the difference in **WHAT** you make and **WHEN**, but listing this beautiful home and selling it for full list price, \$1,300,000, means I’ve done something right...**AGAIN!** If you or someone you know is thinking of selling, talk to 2-3 agents but make sure that I am one of them. And, remember...

**When you want the job DONE, call Shel-DONE!**



Sheldon Rosengarten,  
Broker



Life Member, Multi-Million Dollar Club  
Memphis Area Association of Realtors

Cell 901.483.0546 • Office 901.682.1868  
shelrose@memphisrelocate.com



**MOVING?**

Toni@hebrewwatchman.com • 901.763.2215  
PO Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- Driver**—Courteous and reliable person to take you anywhere you need to go in Memphis and surrounding areas: Dr’s appointments, Shopping, Errands, Airport. Available weekdays and weekends.
- House Sitting and Dog Sitting**—Responsible adult available to stay with your dogs while you are away. I love dogs!

Contact Rick Danzig: 901-337-6009

**“DIGITIZE ‘EM”**

RELAXRELIVEREMINISCE

Your old photos and movies  
all right here!



Limited Time Offer

**\$69.95 SPECIAL**

Your old damaged photos can also be restored

Call or Text HalJaffe 901-229-4725 haljaffe@gmail.com



BE A PART OF  
**Jewish**  
  
**Memphis**

Receive 6 issues of Jewish Scene Magazine  
& 52 weeks of The Hebrew Watchman

**SUBSCRIBE  
ADVERTISE  
CONTRIBUTE**



**TO SUBSCRIBE**

 order online at [JewishSceneMagazine.com/subscribe](http://JewishSceneMagazine.com/subscribe)  
call 901.763.2215 scan the QR code  
or mail payment with card below to: The Hebrew Watchman  
P.O. Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

**Keep Memphis Jewish journalism alive!**



	<b>Jewish Scene® MAGAZINE</b>	<b>Hebrew Watchman® NEWSPAPER</b>	<b>Best Value Both publications</b>
MEMPHIS/ MIDSOUTH	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25/year</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$36/year</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$50/year</b>
OUT OF STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25/year</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$50/year</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$60/year</b>

NAME

ADDRESS

CITYSTATEZIP

EMAILPHONE

# Israeli Rescue Team Pulls Baby from Rubble after Missile Barrage



Police officer Staff Sgt. Aviv Saranga holding a three-month-old baby after she was pulled out of rubble in Rishon Letzion created by an Iranian ballistic missile strike on June 14, 2025. Credit: Dvir Mor/Israel Police.  
By JNS Staff

(JNS) – A three-month-old baby was pulled out of the rubble in Rishon Letzion early Saturday morning in the aftermath of the third Iranian barrage of ballistic missiles fired at the greater Tel Aviv area.

Firefighters, police and Magen David Adom paramedics rushed to the scene where a building was directly hit by a missile. Following a complex rescue operation, the baby was pulled out alive and in good condition.

Shortly afterward, the infant’s parents were rescued. The scene was one of heavy damage, with fires, ruins and additional residents trapped underneath the rubble.

Police officer Staff Sgt. Aviv Saranga was seen embracing the baby.

“We identified extensive destruction of homes and vehicles and received reports of people trapped,” Saranga told reporters at the scene.

“We began rescue operations together with Yasam forces [Police Special Patrol Unit], MDA and the fire and rescue services. We located a large number of trapped individuals, among them an infant just a few months old whom we managed to rescue,” she relayed.

“I held the baby for quite some time during the incident,” the police officer went on to say. “We also rescued her

family, her parents. I approached them and brought them their baby. They were also trapped and in need of medical care. The baby remained in my arms until she was handed over for medical treatment. We then continued rescuing the rest of the trapped individuals and carried on with our mission – saving lives.”

While the rescue operation was underway, “we identified additional launches in the area, [so] I asked people to enter bomb shelters and stay safe. This was a large-scale and highly complex incident,” Saranga said.

“I am a police officer in the State of Israel and this is my mission. I felt deep down that I was saving lives. I held the baby in my arms. ... [I felt] a sense of fulfillment. A baby just recently born – there’s nothing more rewarding than that. I’m proud of it,” she said.

Fire and Rescue Service Capt. Idan Chen was the one who pulled the baby out of the ruins. Speaking to Walla News, he said, “I grabbed [the baby] in my arms and handed her to the first officer I saw, then started pulling the rest of the family out.

“At the same time, there were more people trapped upstairs, others in the apartment next door – and across the way, there was a fire. I had to manage the entire scene, with destruction in every direction. I needed to get all those people out, one by one. I was covered in the blood of those I rescued. It was an extremely complex scene,” he said.

In a statement, the Israel Police said it had isolated the scene of the missile strike and searched for trapped individuals and for unexploded ordnance as well.

As of 7:45 a.m., 20 people were evacuated for further medical care in various injury conditions, the police said.

Three people were killed, and dozens were injured from the missile barrages fired by Tehran overnight last Friday and early Saturday morning.

Yisrael Aloni, 73, was one of two killed in Rishon Letzion.

The Islamic Republic fired about 100 missiles at around 9 p.m. local time, and a few evaded Israel’s defense systems and struck two areas in central Israel. About 40 people were wounded, including two who were in severe-to-critical condition. One of the two, Eti Cohen Angel, 74, from Ramat Gan, succumbed to her injuries.

Some others are in moderate condition and the rest had minor injuries, according to MDA. **HW**

**PAST ISSUES  
NOW AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT**


HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

**2021 - March 2025**

**The Scribbler  
On the Roof**

By Ted Roberts

The best of  
Ted’s work —  
a collection  
of stories  
designed to  
make you  
laugh and cry.



\$10.95

AVAILABLE AT LULU.COM



# Memphis Jewish Community Center Holds its 77th Annual Meeting



Jacob Samuels with his parents, Harry and Laurie Samuels, was elected MJCC Board Chair.

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, the Memphis Jewish Community Center held its 77th Annual Meeting. It was a celebration of lay leaders, volunteers, staff, programming accomplishments and new endeavors.

The morning started with a continental breakfast in the Belz Social Hall where attendees mingled. The meeting was called to order by MJCC Board Chair Judy Bookman followed by a D’var Torah by Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, director of the MJCC Center of Jewish Life and Learning. Bookman shared in her report many of the MJCC accomplishments over the last two years and acknowledged the teamwork of lay leaders, staff, volunteers and community. She ended her report with a presentation to outgoing board members and a special acknowledgement in remembrance of board members who passed, including Ron Harkavy.

Following her report, former Board Chair Gary Makowsky and MJCC CEO & President Larry Skolnick recognized Judy Bookman for her service.

Following that recognition, Mark

Mandel presented the Skip Pepper Young Leader Award to Logan Scheidt.

The Bob Silver Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by Jonathan Epstein and Rashki Osina to Toni Gruner for her volunteer efforts through Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

Staff anniversaries followed, with 13 staff members being recognized for their collective years of service to the MJCC. They are Kendall Attias, Cindy Barrack, Kate Basar, Lakevia Bennem, Shelby Cantu, Lori Caster, Rosalyn Knox, Cheryl Petit, Tracy Shumaker, Dale Steele, Chaya Steiner, Ronda White and Natalie Woods.

Lastly, Skolnick recognized the MJCC Employee of the Year. As he began his introduction, you could hear and feel the excitement building as attendees identified the nominee. Diane Noel, MJCC Member Service Representative, was recognized for her service and commitment to the MJCC since 1997.

Jacob Samuels was installed as the



Staff recognized at the Annual Meeting.



Toni Gruner receives the Bob Silver Volunteer of the Year Award.

new Board Chair. Samuels’ installation is only the second time in MJCC history that a son has followed in his father’s footsteps to serve as Board Chair of the MJCC.

MJCC Board Members starting new terms include Karen Franklin, Lisa Frisch, Danielle Levine, Steve Libby, Scott Shanker, Alyssa Wilson, Todd Wishnia, Brian Bernatsky, Reed Landau, Samantha Padawer, Gregory Phelps, Emma Weintraub and Amy Singer.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter and attendees mingled to congratulate new board members and those who were recognized. **HW**



Mark Mandel presents Logan Scheidt (l) with the Skip Pepper Young Leadership Award.



Gary Makowsky and Judy Bookman.

## Netanyahu Addresses People of Iran, Calls Regime ‘Common Enemy’

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the people of Iran to overthrow the Iranian regime on Friday, saying that Israel and Iranians share a “common enemy.”

Speaking in a video message, Netanyahu said that the Islamic republic had “never been weaker” following 24 hours of Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear and military targets.

“The time has come for you to unite around your flag and your historic legacy by standing up for your freedom from an evil and oppressive regime,” Netanyahu said. “This is your opportunity to stand up and let your voices be heard.”

“Israel’s fight is not with you,” he continued. “Our fight is with our common enemy, a murderous regime that both oppresses you and impoverishes you.”

The Israeli premier also repeated the slogan of the Iranian women’s protest movement, “woman, life, freedom,” in both English and Farsi.


“Brave people of Iran, your light will defeat the darkness,” he said. “I’m with you, the people of Israel are with you.”


Iranian state media reported on Friday that Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei also delivered a pre-recorded, televised address to the Iranian people.

The ayatollah claimed that he had the people’s backing to seek vengeance against Israel.

“We will respond with strength, and we will show them no mercy,” Khamenei said. “Life will definitely become bitter for them.” **HW**

**“Brave people of Iran, your light will defeat the darkness,” he said. “I’m with you, the people of Israel are with you.”**





**Comfort Keepers.**

Elevating the Human Spirit™

### Watch Them Thrive with In-Home Care

The specially trained caregivers at Comfort Keepers provide meaningful, in-home care so seniors can live independently. From providing companionship to caring for those with dementia, we're here to help your loved one thrive and give you peace of mind.

**901-207-8209**

Home + Life + Care | [ComfortKeepers.com](https://www.comfortkeepers.com)

Comfort Keepers of the Mid-South, 5668 S Rex Rd #200, Memphis, Tennessee 38119

© 2022 CK Franchising, Inc. An international network where most offices are independently owned and operated.

#### In-Home Care Services

- Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- Respite care
- Safety solutions



Professional Personal Assistant Services

Heather Murphy

901.834.2974  
heathercmurphy@outlook.com



*Simplify your life. I'll handle the details.*

Household Organization  
Light Housework  
Light Gardening  
Meal Preparation  
Pet Sitting  
House Sitting

Errand Running  
Project Management  
Supply Ordering  
Calendar Scheduling  
Administrative Tasks  
Expense Tracking

For quotes and to discuss other household needs, please call, text or email.

**Karate Classes with Sensei Wendy Cohen**  
**Classes held at Tri State Martial Arts Center in the Walmart Plaza in Collierville**  
**Now Offering Classes for Kids Ages 11 & Up!**





**Call 901-286-5063**  
**www.midsouthok.com**

**Karate and Self Defense That's Right For You**

Celebrating 100 years



**The Hebrew Watchman**  
1925-2025

We're calling on all past contributors & loyal readers to share your treasured memories, stories, & anniversary messages.

Submit your photos, videos, clippings, & messages to become a part of our legacy. Your contributions make our history richer.





**SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS TODAY!**  
Email your contributions to **Rebecca@HebrewWatchman.com** from now until August 15th & stay tuned for special anniversary announcements!

Join us in commemorating a century of excellence!





COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE SERVICES  
SERVING THE MIDSOUTH AND SOUTHWEST US  
REPRESENTING BUYERS AND SELLERS | 25 YEARS OF SATISFIED CLIENTELE  
SPECIALIZING IN NET LEASE (TRIPLE NET) PROPERTIES, 1031 EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES, AND SHOPPING CENTER INVESTMENTS  
NET LEASE PROPERTY SPECIALISTS



GAVIN KAM  
Principal  
6000 Poplar Avenue Suite 250  
Memphis, TN 38119  
972.375.3437 • mobile  
TN Broker ID: 371461



NNN RETAIL ADVISORS  
gavin@nnnretailadvisors.com  
www.nnnretailadvisors.com

Custom

T-shirts  
mugs



hats  
koozies  
and more...

**Toni Nieman**  
**DynamicDuoDesign1@gmail.com**



**THE EMBASSY APARTMENTS**  
A DATTEL REALTY PROPERTY  
*"Luxury and Location"*  
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT  
**901-685-8020**  
505 South Perkins Rd. | 1BR | 2BR | Penthouses  
In the Heart of East Memphis | Utilities Included  
See our floorplans  
@embassyaptsmemphis.com

**What type of caregiver are you looking for?**  
I have 25+ years experience as a professional caregiver. I am passionate about helping families care for their elderly loved ones at home, in hospitals, assisted living and retirement home settings. I am also available for overnights.  
**Please give me a call at 901.282.0248 or email me at msmiddlebrook1@bellsouth.net**

Specializing in KOSHER Cuisine



**Private Chef & Catering**  
ESTD 2012  
**AVI KATZ**

**NOW OFFERING:**

- Weekly popups
- Weekend catering menus
- Dinner parties
- Artisan pizza parties
- Holiday travel
- Private custom events
- Culinary consultations

**HOME TOWN. GLOBAL FLAVORS.**

Join my contact list for 10% off your first weekend order!

 www.chefavikatz.com  (901) 601-2181  @chefavikatz

SCAN





# “From Memphis to the World”: MHA-FYOS Celebrates the Class of 2025



MHA-FYOS Graduating Class of 2025

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

Under the poignant theme “From Memphis to the World,” the Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South (MHA-FYOS) celebrated its 58th Commencement Exercises this past Sunday with a heartfelt and inspiring ceremony. Held in the school’s Moss Gym, the event marked the graduation of the senior classes from the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys (CY-HSB) and the Goldie Margolin High School for Girls (GMSG), honoring the achievements, spirit and dedication of the Class of 2025.

The ceremony opened with a processional of the graduates, followed by the National Anthem and Hatikva performed by Cantor Ricky Kampf. Head of School Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown welcomed families, faculty and guests, setting the tone for a program that combined academic distinction with Torah values and community service.

Each year at MHA-FYOS Graduation, every graduate has the opportunity to speak, making the event especially meaningful. Brooke Sanderson, GMSG Salutatorian, reflected on her family’s decades long connection to the school, while Valedictorian Shayna Klein shared inspiring words grounded in Jewish values and personal growth. On the CYHSB side, Salutatorian Ethan VanderWalde and Valedictorian Raanan Vanderwalde delivered eloquent remarks to the crowd.

MHA-FYOS Past President Pace Cooper presented the prestigious Cooper Schramm LaVerne Weil Memorial Award, which honors a student exemplifying Torah values, kindness and community leadership, to Sarah Kahane.

This year’s graduates shined across academics, leadership, the arts, athletics and public service. Notable distinctions included multiple National Merit recognitions: Ethan VanderWalde was named a National Merit Finalist, while Raanan Vanderwalde was commended. Both also earned AP Scholar with Distinction

honors.

Shayna Klein and Brooke Sanderson, who completed their education at MHA-FYOS from preschool through 12th grade, received special recognition for their long-term commitment to the school. Numerous other graduates were honored for their consistent appearance on the honor roll and for being named Feinstone Scholars across all semesters.

Student involvement extended far beyond the classroom. From Mock Trial victories to Holocaust essay awards and participation in national Jewish youth leadership organizations such as NCSY, the graduates showcased a diverse array of talents and interests. Internships, ranging from medical research at St. Jude to photography for the NBA G League, underscored the students’ real-world engagement.

Speakers throughout the program emphasized not just academic milestones but the personal and spiritual growth each student had undergone. Divrei bracha were delivered by Mrs. Dina Selter, GMSG Menahelit and Rabbi Dov Rossman, CYHSB Menahel, both offering reflections on the transformative journeys of the students.

Ilan Lowell led a moving siyum on Masechet Ta’anit, a fitting capstone to the graduates’ years of Judaic study.

Graduates of the Class of 2025 earned a remarkable \$2.3 million+ in scholarships and are headed to universities such as the University of Pennsylvania, Tulane, Binghamton and Yeshiva University. Many will first attend yeshivot and seminaries in Israel, including Yeshivat Hakotel, Mevaseret Yerushalayim, Shaalvim for Women and Midreshet Moriah.

As the evening’s theme suggests, these graduates are indeed ready to go “From Memphis to the World” – equipped not only with knowledge but with the values and character to make a difference wherever their journeys take them. **HW**

# Croatian Consul, Wife Hurt in Iran Missile Strike on Tel Aviv

(JNS) – Croatia’s consul in Israel and his wife suffered minor injuries during an Iranian missile attack on Tel Aviv between Friday and early Saturday morning, Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Grlić Radman said.

“I am shaken by the news that our consul and his wife were injured in the attack on Tel Aviv. The building they live in was hit,” Grlić Radman posted on X. He confirmed after speaking with

them that “their injuries are minor, and they are not in any life-threatening condition.”

The foreign minister said the Croatian Embassy in Israel is in constant contact with his ministry and that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure staff safety. “We strongly condemn attacks on civilians and diplomatic facilities. We call for immediate de-escalation and restraint,” Grlić Radman added. **HW**



RICK BAER REALTY



TRUST THE EXPERTS IN THE MEMPHIS MARKET.

TRUST RICK BAER REALTY.

Whether you're buying your first home or dream home, looking to sell your home or want to explore real estate as an investment, the seasoned experts at **Rick Baer Realty** can help!



**Rick Baer**  
Principal Broker/Owner  
901-461-8791



**Lee Baum**  
Affiliate Broker/Builder  
901-461-2286



**Andrew Magdovitz**  
Affiliate Broker  
901-438-8315



**Joseph Gordon**  
Affiliate Broker  
901-409-2011



**Tina Bailey**  
Affiliate Broker  
901-652-1065




**Robin Shainberg**  
Affiliate Broker  
917-364-4468



RICKBAERREALTY.COM

1028 Cresthaven, #206  
Memphis, TN 38119 | 901-495-2217



HARKAVY MCDANIEL  
KAPLAN & SALOMON P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ROOTED IN  
LEGACY.  
LEADING THE  
FUTURE.

At Harkavy McDaniel Kaplan & Salomon P.C., we take immense pride in cultivating robust relationships with esteemed business, civic, and professional leaders, complemented by the unwavering commitment of our attorneys to serve our diverse clientele with excellence.

HARKAVYMCDANIEL.COM  
901-761-1263

6060 Poplar Ave, Suite 140 • Memphis, TN 38119



WELLS FARGO

Advisors

Honored to be recognized

Mike Stein

2025 Wells Fargo Advisors Platinum Council

Committed to helping build and preserve wealth for clients

Mike Stein  
Managing Director – Investments  
6075 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38119  
Direct: (901) 761-8151  
michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com  
https://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael.stein

The Platinum Council distinction is held by a select group of Financial Advisors within Wells Fargo Advisors as measured by business production from the previous year and professionalism.

Investment and Insurance Products:

• NOT FDIC Insured • NO Bank Guarantee • MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.  
© 2025 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. PM-10022026-7814657.1

Scan to view award disclosures

# The Risks of Trying to Time the Markets

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

Timing is everything – whether it’s navigating traffic to get to work on time or getting a table at a popular restaurant. If you miss the window, you might end up stuck in traffic or waiting in line longer than you’d like for dinner. Timing can be tricky for everyday activities, and it’s even more challenging when it comes to the markets. If your timing is off with the markets, research shows it could cost you. It’s a significant risk.

**Making the Right Call**  
For some investors, timing the market is like calling the right play in football: if you do it right, the risk could be worth the reward. However, if your timing is off, you could end up getting sacked. Missing even a handful of the market’s best days can dramatically cut your investment returns. Conversely, missing several of the worst days in the markets can potentially offer higher returns, but the strategy behind trying to miss the bottom of trading can be challenging.

Historically, missing just 10 of the best days in the markets, a very small amount over a 30-year period, would have dropped your annual average rate of return from 8% to 5.26%. Missing 30 days and the drop would have been even more steep to near 1.8%. If you missed 40 days, the drop would have been even more to .44%. Change that to a 50 day miss and your annual return would have hit a negative, -.86% annually.<sup>1</sup>

**In the News**  
Markets fluctuate greatly and interest rates rise and fall, but outside factors like politics and international trade can also affect investment returns monthly, weekly, even daily. Predicting change is really just guessing. Diversification in investments can be a better overall strategy, limiting exposure and risk by building your portfolio to address your short-term and long-term goals. As life changes with marriage or divorce, a new baby, a new job or even retirement, it’s important to review your financial goals.

**The Bottom Line**  
I believe the best strategy to help manage your risk is to avoid trying to time the markets and remain fully invested throughout a complete market cycle, rather than attempting to time the market by buying and selling to avoid volatility or capture significant gains. It’s also a strong recommendation to consider rebalancing your portfolio, buying asset classes that have fallen below a portfolio’s long-term allocations and selling those that are higher, while staying fully invested. Regular rebalancing can lead to more consistent returns and again manage your risks, something we always want to do. The markets are never a completely smooth ride, but some simple strategies can help reduce losses and help you maintain performance in the long-term.

1 – Source Bloomberg and Wells Fargo Investment Institute data, February 1994 through January 2024 for the S&P 500 Index. Best days are calculated using daily returns. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. A price index is not a total return index and does not include the reinvestment of dividends. Past performance is not guarantee of future results.

This advertisement was written by Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network and provided to you by Mike Stein, Managing Director – Wells Fargo Investments.

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

©2024 Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC. All rights reserved.

Investment and Insurance Products are:

- Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency
- Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate
- Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested [HW](#)

Ready to Buy Your Dream Home or Refinance?

With over 20 years in mortgage lending, Scott Sorin has the know-how to make it happen! Whether you’re eyeing a new home, refinancing, need a unique jumbo loan or portfolio lending, Scott is here to explore every financing path with you.

Flexible Loan Options:

Conventional Financing

Jumbo

FHA / VA

Portfolio

Reverse and more!

Let’s connect today!  
I’m ready to help you achieve your homeownership goals.

Scott Sorin

NMLS: 40975

Regional VP | Business Dev.

Mobile: (901) 378-2244

ssorin@mutualmortgage.com

Equal Housing Lender

EXPIRATION 11/2027

Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc., NMLS ID 1025894, 3131 Camino Del Rio N 1100, San Diego, CA 92108. Toll Free #: (877) 978-1922. Subject to Credit Approval. For licensing information, go to: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org

1520822078

# At Least 11 Killed Across Israel Amid Multi-Day Barrage of Missiles from Iran

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – June 15, 2025 – At least 11 Israelis have been killed in multiple cities as Iran continues to pound the country in response to Israel’s ongoing attacks on Iran’s nuclear program.

Most missiles sent from Iran were shot down but ones that got through Israel’s air defense system struck in cities in the country’s center and north. At least seven people – including children – were killed in a direct strike on a building in Bat Yam, a city adjacent to Tel Aviv, while four members of a family of Christian Arabs in a town near Haifa died when a missile struck their home.

The strikes come amid successive barrages that have sent Israelis running to shelters for multiple nights in a row. Israeli officials warn that more attacks are anticipated as the Israeli air force continues to bomb Tehran and other sites in Iran in an attack on Iran’s nuclear program, which they said had been on the brink of creating nuclear weapons.

The war has brought travel to a standstill and stranded Israelis abroad and tourists inside Israel. El Al, Israel’s national carrier, says it is working on a plan to bring Israelis home using its fleet of airplanes, which it has moved out of the country for safekeeping.

World leaders are calling on Iran and Israel to deescalate. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has been negotiating with Iran to curb its nuclear program since April, said on social media on Sunday morning that he remained optimistic that the conflict could be solved with diplomacy.

“Iran and Israel should make a deal, and will make a deal,” he wrote on Truth Social. He added, “We will have PEACE, soon, between Israel and Iran! Many calls and meetings now taking place. I do a lot, and never get credit for anything, but that’s OK, the PEOPLE understand. MAKE THE MIDDLE EAST GREAT AGAIN!”



# Kosten Foundation’s Kick It Pickleball Tournament Raises Over \$50,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Research



Pancreatic Cancer Survivors at the Kick It Pickleball Tournament.

The Kosten Foundation, a Memphis-based nonprofit that funds pancreatic cancer research and provides a monthly support group for pancreatic cancer patients and their loved ones, announced it raised over \$50,000 in the 2nd annual Kick It Pickleball Tournament that took place May 16-18 at Shadowlawn Park in Bartlett, Tenn. Sponsored by Baptist Memorial Health Care, the event attracted over 300 participants and spectators for a weekend filled with pickleball matches, community engagement and fundraising. Attendees enjoyed competitive games, delicious food and had the opportunity to connect with pancreatic cancer survivors who shared their inspiring stories.

“We are thrilled that our Kick It Pickleball Tournament is showing so much promise growing in fundraising and participation every year. The first fundraising event we produced was a tennis tournament, as tennis was one of my brother Herb’s favorite sports. He was a top amateur tennis player and his battle with pancreatic cancer is the reason we started the Kosten Foundation,” said Alan Kosten, chairman of the Kosten Foundation. “We are deeply thankful for

the support of our sponsors, participants and local pickleball experts who helped make this event a success for the second year in a row.”

The funds raised from the tournament will support the Kosten Foundation’s ongoing efforts in pancreatic cancer research and patient support programs. The event also featured a silent auction and giveaways provided by local supporting companies.

The Kick It Pickleball Tournament builds on the success of the Kick It 5K, which raised over \$155,000 for pancreatic cancer in 2024. The Kosten Foundation aims to continue this impactful legacy through the Kick It Pickleball Tournament, furthering its commitment to fighting pancreatic cancer. The 2025 Kick It 5K will take place on Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Since 2003, the Kosten Foundation has donated over \$3 million to pancreatic cancer research. The funds from this tournament will help further these efforts and support patients and families affected by the disease.

For more information about the Kosten Foundation and its mission, visit [www.kostenfoundation.com](http://www.kostenfoundation.com).



### About Pancreatic Cancer:

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose, mainly because there are no “definitive” symptoms, but also because standard tests often return negative results. Patients often comment on experiencing a variety of symptoms before diagnoses, including unintended weight loss, loss of appetite, nausea, back or belly pain, fatigue and jaundice.

According to the American Cancer

Society’s most recent estimates:

- About 66,440 people (34,530 men and 31,910 women) will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year.
- About 51,750 people (27,270 men and 24,480 women) will die of pancreatic cancer this year.
- Pancreatic cancer accounts for about 3% of all cancers in the U.S. and about 7% of all cancer deaths.
- The average lifetime risk of pancreatic cancer for both men and women is about 1 in 58 **HW**

# IDF: Air Force Killed More than 20 Iranian Commanders



Chart outlining the Iranian regime’s security chain of command, updated June 14, 2025.

### By Joshua Marks

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces announced on Saturday that it had killed more than 20 Iranian commanders, including the heads of military intelligence and missile forces, in the opening phase of “Operation Rising Lion.”

This announcement adds to Friday’s IDF confirmation that several top Iranian commanders – including the heads of the armed forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) – were killed in Israeli strikes at the start of the operation.

The strikes, carried out by Israeli Air Force fighter jets and guided by precise

intelligence from the IDF Intelligence Directorate, targeted key figures in the Iranian regime’s security and military apparatus, delivering what Israeli officials describe as an unprecedented blow to Tehran’s operational capabilities.

**Decapitating Iran’s military leadership**

Among those killed in the initial strikes was Brig. Gen. Gholam-Reza Merhab, head of the Intelligence Directorate in the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff.

Merhab, regarded as Iran’s most senior intelligence officer, was responsible for intelligence assessments, operational planning and combat preparations against Israel over the past year. He was also a close associate of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, who was also killed in the opening wave.

The IDF confirmed that Mohammad Bagheri, commander of the IRGC’s surface-to-surface missile array (not to be confused with the Armed Forces chief of staff), was killed alongside Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajzadeh, the IRGC’s Air Force commander, and several other

senior officials in an underground headquarters in Tehran, where they were reportedly meeting to prepare attacks against Israel.

**Blow to Iran’s offensive capabilities**

The IDF further reported that IRGC commander Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, the commander of Tehran’s Emergency Command, and IRGC Aerospace Force commander Maj. Gen. Amir Ali Hajzadeh were also killed in a series of strikes across Iran conducted by more than 200 Israeli fighter jets.

The operation also killed two additional IRGC Air Force officials: Taher Pur, head of the UAV Force, and Brig. Gen. Daoud Shihyan, commander of Aerial Operations, who were reportedly meeting in an underground command center to prepare attacks against Israel.

The IDF described these slain commanders as central architects of Iran’s missile, drone and military strategy, directly responsible for orchestrating assaults on Israel and other regional targets.

Following the strikes, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei swiftly appointed Maj. Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi as the head of the armed forces and Brig. Gen. Mohammad Pakpour as the IRGC chief, seeking to maintain continuity in Iran’s military leadership.

**Targeting Iran’s nuclear program**

On Friday, the IAF killed nine Iranian scientists who had significantly ad-

vanced Tehran’s nuclear weapons program, the military said on Saturday.

According to the IDF, these scientists served as critical “knowledge centers” within the nuclear project, with decades of experience in atomic weapons development.

The slain scientists were named as Fereydoun Abbasi, Mohammad Mahdi Tehranshi, Akbar Motalebi Zadeh, Saeed Barji, Amir Hassan Fakhahi, Abd al-Hamid Minoushehr, Mansour Asgari, Ahmad Reza Zolfaghari Daryani and Ali Bakhoei Katirimi.

“The individuals who were eliminated played a central part in the progress toward nuclear weapons. Their elimination represents a significant blow to the Iranian regime’s ability to acquire weapons of mass destruction,” said the Israeli military.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday, “In the very near future, you will see Israeli Air Force planes over the skies of Tehran – we will strike at every site and every target of the Ayatollahs’ regime.”

IDF Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said in a press briefing on Saturday: “We are striking across Iran as part of ‘Operation Rising Lion.’ These strikes are being carried out to meet the operation’s objective: eliminating the existential Iranian threat to the State of Israel – the nuclear and missile threat.” **HW**



# An Earthquake in Iran?



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

By Ted Roberts

Our G-d is a jealous god, as He repeats many times in his book, and I intend not to denigrate his tolerance. Don’t argue with me – argue with Moses, who wrote Exodus 20:5 and a long list of similar declarations. And he is a G-d of punishment. You wanta debate me? Don’t waste your time. Go read Isaiah 13:11 if you need emphatic underlining. “I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity.” It is clear our G-d, contrary to Christianity, is a G-d who is passionate about justice – turning the cheek is not in his rulebook. He clearly believes in punishment. He also dispenses mercy in carefully measured doses. And when I consider His many quotes announcing his parental philosophy, how else, I reflect, can mankind be civilized? I think of the real world – from Sodom and Gomorrah to the 40’s of our generation – when we fought the evil threat of Naziism to the current Islamic Murder, Inc. Like Solomon says in Ecclesiastes, “there’s nothing new under the sun.”

Consider Sodom and Gomorrah. Merciful Abraham eloquently pleads for a reprieve if even ten good people exist in that stew of iniquity. Our patriarch delivers a speech full of eloquence, logic, flattery (“Shall not the judge of all the earth do justly?”) strongly implying that a total wipeout is NOT just! But evidently, they can’t be found. G-d nukes the two cities of the plain. He either couldn’t find ten moral people or he ignored his debate with Abraham and eliminated a

few innocents with the sinners.

Oddly, World War II – two millennia later – the debate reopened. The highest levels of allied leadership debated the bombing of German cities. (By now, man had almost the destructive power of G-d.) Dresden, Hamburg and Berlin not only possessed railroad junctions and armament plants, but innocent men, women and children. The discussion didn’t last long. We pulverized those cities like radiation therapy destroys healthy flesh along with the cancer. And maybe ten innocent people were incinerated like the Nazi civilians. Maybe 50, or 500. Who knows?

If we believe in the epiphany at Sinai, we must believe that our creator destroyed thousands in the cities on the plain. Qualifications on both sides, though not stated, could be postulated. You might say: He couldn’t find those ten righteous people, the basis of his agreement with Abraham. Evil must be eliminated.

Opposing view: isn’t it possible that some of the evil would change; eventually mend their ways? Were the children evil? Consider also some 2-3 millennia before. The flood obliterated mankind. Remember HE wiped out humanity except righteous Noah and his brood and a few animals so we’d have a zoo to amuse us.

These are difficult ethical conundrums for biblical scholars to reconcile with the goodness and mercy Judaism now believes G-d to possess. Do we dare ask: Did HE change, or did WE change? Or must we painfully accept that our G-d, who provides goodness, not only hates evil, but stands ready to enthusiastically eliminate it as we eradicate the malaria germ. This is a question not for me or a yeshiva full of rabbis to answer. It is beyond human ken. But the question still hangs in the air like a cloud over Guantanamo, where innocent thousands were saved by merciless punishment to a few. But those harsh methods must have punished some small measure of inno-

cence. What’s the rationalizing arithmetic? 10,000 saved – 4 “innocents” put to pain? Let’s face it, the Chumash would never hesitate on that tradeoff. I advocate not – I only point to the Chumash.

Israeli missiles often destroy the terrorist home or car, even if his pals or family go with him to that libidinous Islam heaven. There’s nothing new under the sun, said Solomon – even convoluted moral questions. Is there a calculus? Or even a simple arithmetic? One potential killer and three innocents require death to save the lives of 50 other innocents. Is that the deal? Or is it 20 – or a thousand? Who knows?

I would say the faithful believers of G-d’s lecture on Sinai (and does that not include all Jews?) would destroy 10,000 sinners – some innocent – to save ten of his people. Do you think the Maloch Hamoves – the Angel of Death – cruising the skies of 1350 BC Egypt, checked the ethical character of his victims? No, says the book. He only looked for the lamb’s blood on the door. He has mercy, but also a plentiful supply of wrath.

After consideration of the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the plagues, even Guantanamo; that saved thousands of our fellow citizens, we mourn the innocents, but the G-d of our Chumash does not let their peril paralyze our defense of goodness.

Again consider World War II. Military leaders of U.S. and Britain, along with their Air Force chieftains, sat in a highly secured meeting room in London. Their topic, unknown to them, was Genesis, especially the Creator’s decision of Sodom and Gomorrah. An awesome decision – made more for G-d than man – faced them. Whether to punish the innocent with the guilty or prolong indefinitely the struggle with the current evil, Nazi Germany? Whether to pinpoint by aerial bombardment tactical military targets or the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Dresden, Cologne,

which contained military targets as well as women and children who did not build aircraft, tanks or artillery. But the decision makers followed the theme of Genesis and pulverized the German cities. And had the shade of Abraham been present, his argument for ten innocent Germans would have been as unheeded as the flies that buzzed at the windows. Man has always been less merciful than his creator. The same could be said of the Strategic Air Command – when G-d-like – they chose Hiroshima and Nagasaki for destruction. These decision makers chose the Chumash, not the tenderheartedness of the prophets. Like, for example, Amos.

We know nothing of the heart of G-d. I choose my words carefully, because we do know His desires of us. A thousand rabbis (and clergymen, too) tell you of his book; and prattle of his wishes. But he, himself, tells us his ways are hidden to us. “Who,” “what,” “why,” even “when,” are as obscured as the smoke with which he crowns his mountaintops. Metaphorically, he tells us as much in the Chumash. Our Book abounds in the eternal mystery of good and evil, justice and mercy. According to his Chumash, He will shelter us in the palm of his hand and obliterate us with a clench of that palm if he chooses.

He hates evil. That’s clear even to Sunday School children. And he punishes those that harm his people, as he repetitively states in his book. Therefore, I await the earthquake that will devastate the nuclear labs of Iran. Ten innocent deaths? Believe Torah? Then believe that. You say innocents will die. Remember the flood. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah. The calculus is unknown. I advocate not – I only point to our holy book and its lesson.

*The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. HW*

# ISRAEL INSIGHTS Needed: A Political Laser

By Howard Weisband

As I am writing on June 11 there is an immediate legislative threat to the current Netanyahu coalition, thus the Israel Government, perhaps the most serious possibility to date that the Knesset could dissolve the Government and call for new elections. In fact, one Israeli newspaper, Yisrael Hayom (Israel Today), generally supportive of Netanyahu, this morning headlined its first page (in Hebrew of course) “On the Way to Dissolution.”

There is to be a vote in the Knesset this evening on a preliminary resolution sponsored by the opposition parties, joined by the Haredi, ultra-Orthodox parties, that would begin the process to bring an end to the current Government. We’ll know tonight, or perhaps in the early hours of the morning if the effort is successful, if the legislation is not approved, or if it is withdrawn.

What is different this time? The opposition certainly looks constantly at any and every opportunity to bring down the Government. They are joined this time by the Haredi parties, though Shas is wavering, from within the coalition because they have not received the almost blanket legislation as they were promised to exclude the vast majority of their yeshiva students from being drafted into the Israeli army, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces).

The counterweight is the huge public pressure on the Government, backed by a Supreme Court decision that all sectors of society must serve in the army, especially at this time that the national religious and secular sectors are doing reserve duty far more often, affecting negatively both their families and their businesses, and the IDF is in need of some 100,000 new soldiers. The need is generated by the current extended war being fought on several fronts plus the soldiers who have fallen in battle and the many seriously injured.

124 News described the immediate situation as follows:

“Opposition parties in the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, are set to introduce a bill to dissolve the coalition over the inability to legislate draft exemptions for ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students.

The heads of opposition factions said that “the decision was made unanimously and is binding on all factions... in order to concentrate all efforts on one goal: to overthrow the government.”

This comes after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attempted to keep Shas and United Torah Judaism in the government, following leading rabbis calling on the parties to leave (the Government) over no progress in legislating a draft law.... The Supreme Court previously struck down bills aimed at

draft exemptions, citing equality amid the current war and the strain on Israelis serving in reserve units.”

Netanyahu’s political situation is further complicated as several members of Likud, his own party, which he heads, have balked at supporting the draft exemptions. At the top of that list is MK Yuli Edelstein, Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The legislation must pass through his committee, and Edelstein has insisted that any law coming out of his committee would levy strong financial sanctions on draft dodgers. Sam Sokol reports in The Times of Israel that Edelstein’s “unwillingness to back down from this position... was what led Haredi leaders to support dissolving the Knesset.”

Bibi Netanyahu over the years has proven to be a political magician. Will he be able to produce his magic once again? He has a few hours left to do so and we’ll soon know the answer.

However, before we return to that which is political in nature, let’s consider briefly some fascinating military news that filled both the Israeli and international press at the end of last month. On May 30, ynetnews reported: “Israel unveiled that using a laser-based defense system it intercepted dozens of drones during recent the war with Hez-

zbollah; the system marks a major step in military tech, offering low-cost, high-speed interceptions.” The announcement marks the debut of a new phase in defense technology.

In other words, a game changer!

In my humble opinion, what is needed in Israel politically is not simply the dissolution of any single Government, but a political laser that will change the fundamentals of the political system.

Israel must move beyond the current party list system, which produces narrow interest groups and small parties, which ultimately have too much power, even control, of the coalition and thus the Government.

The political game changer would be a fully district or geographic representative system, or at least that in part complementing the current party lists.

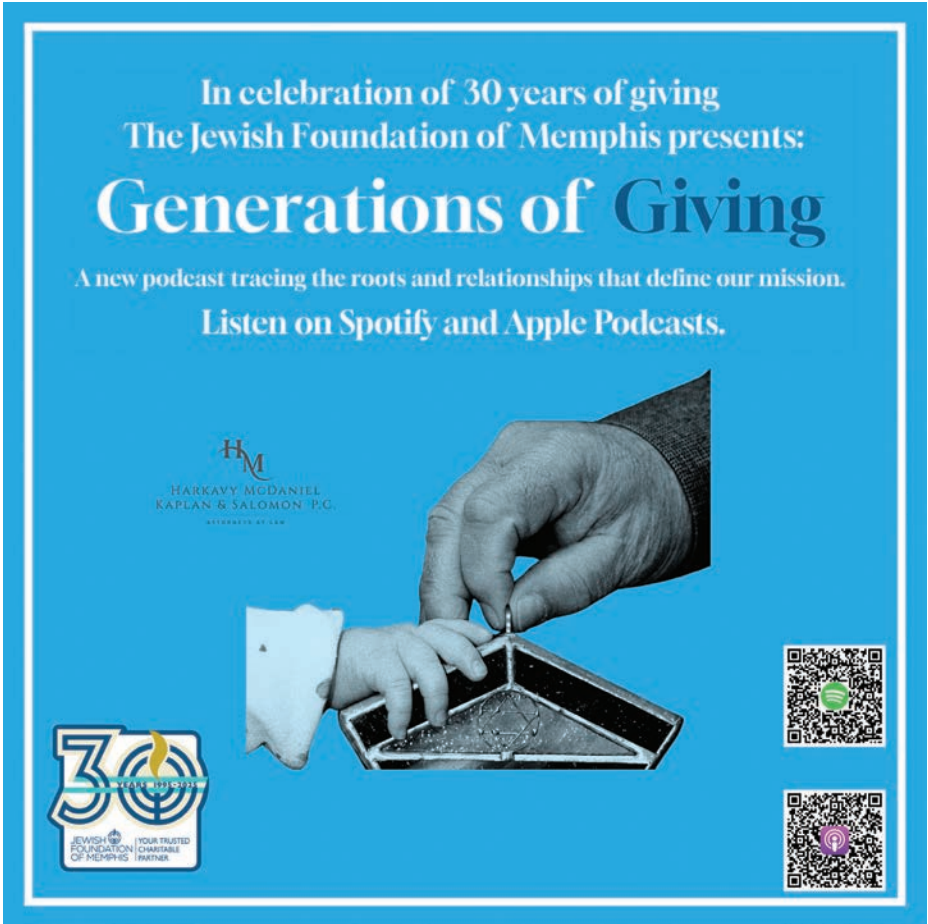
More to be explored in future columns.

*Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW*





Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis



As a founding board member of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis and CEO of Highland Capital Management, Steve Wishnia has played a key role in shaping philanthropic giving in Jewish Memphis. Since 2021, Highland has served as a Corporate Partner of Jewish Community Partners, investing in initiatives that empower donors and strengthen Jewish life.

“When we give, it’s to partners who have a mission that we agree with and that lines up with our company’s morals,” said Steve. His leadership continues to exemplify the power of thoughtful, community-focused philanthropy. Listen to an interview with Steve 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.*

Raymond Shainberg z”l

**March 1996:**

*Local professional advisors, under the leadership of attorney Raymond Shainberg z”l, gathered to develop the policies and procedures required to professionalize the work of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Many of these policies still guide the work of the Jewish Foundation today.*

IDF Intercepts UAVs, Missile in Wave of Aerial Threats

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces reported a series of aerial threats over the past 24 hours, as Air Force defense systems responded to UAVs and missiles targeting Israeli territory.

Between 8:58 and 9:01 a.m. on Saturday, air-raid sirens sounded in the Upper Galilee after two UAVs were detected and intercepted by the IAF. Authorities activated the sirens due to concerns over falling debris from the interceptions.

Between 8:11 and 8:12 a.m., si-

rens were also heard in Judea and the Dead Sea region, where several UAVs launched toward Israel were intercepted.

The IDF confirmed that additional sirens were triggered in several locations following the identification of UAVs launched from Iran. The military emphasized that the IAF continues to intercept and strike aerial threats as necessary, urging the public to follow Home Front Command instructions.

Just after midnight, sirens warned

of a hostile aircraft infiltration in Eilat. The IAF intercepted a suspicious aerial target, while a simultaneous incident in the Arava area remained under review. Shortly thereafter, two more suspicious aerial targets in the Arava region were intercepted by Israeli forces.

On Friday, the IDF reported the launch of a missile from Yemen toward Israel. Sirens sounded in several areas, and the IAF’s aerial defense systems were activated to intercept the threat.

According to the IDF, the missile ultimately hit in the Hebron area, and no interceptors were launched. Sirens were sounded in accordance with protocol, and the incident remains under review.

The IDF said that all incidents are under ongoing review as security forces remain on high alert. The public is urged to continue following the Home Front Command’s defensive guidelines as the IAF operates to eliminate aerial threats wherever necessary. [HW](#)

Impacts Seen in Tel Aviv Area After Iran Fires 100+ Missiles in Response to Israeli Attacks

**By JTA Staff**

(JTA) June 13, 2025 – This is a developing story.

At least one Iranian missile fell in Tel Aviv on Friday evening amid a barrage responding to Israel’s early-morning attack on Iran’s nuclear program.

More than 100 missiles were fired in

a first barrage, and a second wave were on their way toward Israel, officials said. Sirens sounded across the entire country.

Reports were emerging about people injured in the strikes. Videos showing the impacts circulated on social media, but many were deleted quickly amid exhortations by Israeli leaders to shield

location data that could aid in the Iranian attack.

The impacts came as Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave a televised address. “Today, we must give a strong response to the evil, despicable, terrorist Zionist identity,” he tweeted simultaneously. “God willing, we will respond with strength and will show no

mercy to them.”

Israeli authorities had warned that it was possible that some missiles and drones could evade the country’s air defense systems, which have largely deflected missiles sent on earlier occasions by Iran and more recently and regularly by Iran’s proxies in the Middle East. [HW](#)





Join us in Supporting 100 Years of Memphis Jewish Journalism!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
**The Hebrew Watchman**  
1925-2025

We hope you find our sponsorship opportunities align with your previous support for the Jewish community.

*Sponsorship Benefits*

All sponsors receive a 1-year subscription to  
The Hebrew Watchman & Jewish Scene Magazine

**Gold Sponsor ~ \$10,000**

- Full page ad in The Hebrew Watchman once a month for 6 months beginning in July
- Full Page ad in Jewish Scene Guide to Jewish Memphis (Fall 2025)
- On invitations, advertising and signage for our Anniversary Celebration Display in the Shainberg Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center September 1 - September 14
- Thank-you sponsorship ad in The Hebrew Watchman on a weekly basis for 6 months
- In Social Media posts

**Silver Sponsor ~ \$3,000 - \$5,000**

- Half Page ad in The Hebrew Watchman once a month for 6 months beginning in July
- Half Page ad in Jewish Scene Guide to Jewish Memphis (Fall 2025)
- On invitations, advertising and signage for our Anniversary Celebration Display in the Shainberg Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center September 1 - September 14
- Thank you-sponsorship ad in The Hebrew Watchman on a weekly basis for 6 months
- In Social Media posts

**Bronze Sponsor ~ \$1800 - \$2,500**

- Quarter Page ad in The Hebrew Watchman once a month for 6 months beginning in July
- Quarter Page ad in Jewish Scene Guide to Jewish Memphis
- On invitations, advertising and signage for our Anniversary Celebration Display in the Shainberg Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center September 1 - September 14
- Thank-you sponsorship ad in The Hebrew Watchman on a weekly basis for 6 months
- In Social Media posts

**Partners of The Hebrew Watchman ~ \$500 - \$1,000**

- On signage for our Anniversary Celebration Display in the Shainberg Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center September 1 - September 14
- Thank-you sponsorship ad in The Hebrew Watchman on a weekly basis for 6 months
- In Social Media posts

**Friends of The Hebrew Watchman ~ \$180 - \$360**

- On signage for our Anniversary Celebration Display in the Shainberg Gallery at the Memphis Jewish Community Center September 1 - September 14
- Thank-you sponsorship ad in The Hebrew Watchman on a weekly basis for 6 months



P.O. Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 • 901.827.7244 • 901.763.2215

HebrewWatchman.com • info@HebrewWatchman.com

