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Bolstering Security in an Era of Escalating Antisemitism Will Be a Focus of Upcoming Annual Meeting



At the upcoming Annual Meeting, Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network (SCN), will discuss securing Jewish communities in a time of rising hate.

By Laura Linder, President & CEO of Jewish Community Partners

In the wake of the horrifying murders of two Israeli Embassy employees at a Washington D.C. Jewish event last month, security is undeniably at the forefront of every Jewish American’s mind. Our collective sense of vulnerability has amplified the urgent need for

robust protective measures within Jewish communities nationwide.

In Memphis, a long-standing partnership between the Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) and the Secure Community Network (SCN) has been diligently working to address this critical concern since 2018, establishing a comprehensive security initiative that serves as a model for communities across the country. The effort is spearheaded by local law enforcement, bringing invaluable expertise and a deep understanding of local safety needs to the initiative. The partnership with SCN will be a focus of the upcoming joint Annual Meeting of Jewish Community Partners (JCP), the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, and the Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) on June 11 at 5:45 p.m. at the MJCC Belz Social Hall, which all members of the community are invited to attend.

The ongoing commitment to safety will be a central theme at the Annual Meeting. The event will feature remarks from Michael Masters, the National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network (SCN), who will address the pressing topic of securing Jewish communities in an era of escalating hate. His insights will undoubtedly underscore the importance of continued

vigilance and collaboration.

Amanda Braswell, SCN Regional Security Advisory, emphasizes the crucial nature of this partnership. “It is absolutely critical to take security seriously, now more than ever,” Braswell stated, reflecting on the heightened awareness within the community. “Over the past several years, our Federation and SCN have worked hand-in-hand to prepare for any eventuality. While we fervently hope we will never need to fully deploy our security protocols, the power lies in our preparation. If something unthinkable were to happen, we have chosen preparedness, and we have strong response protocols firmly in place. This proactive approach is not just important; it can, quite literally, save lives.”

Braswell continued, “The collaboration between the Memphis Jewish Federation, SCN, Homeland Security and our local law enforcement partners like the Memphis Police Department is invaluable. SCN works alongside the Federation to ensure we build the shield of safety and security that the Jewish community both deserves and depends on. This joint effort exemplifies the strength and resilience of our community in the face of adversity, ensuring that Memphis remains a safe and secure home for

all its Jewish residents.”

The ongoing partnership between the Memphis Jewish Federation and the Secure Community Network stands as a testament to the power of proactive security measures and collaborative efforts in safeguarding communities. In a time when the threat of hate and violence looms large, Memphis’s commitment to building a robust and resilient security infrastructure offers a vital layer of protection for its Jewish residents.

Learn more about local efforts to keep Jewish Memphis secure and safe by attending the June 11 Annual Meeting. The event will also honor outgoing Board Chairs Marty Kelman of Jewish Community Partners and Scott Noto-wich 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. A special highlight of the evening will be the celebration of Sheri Gadberry, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, for 25 years of service and profound commitment to the Foundation.

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

Montana Tucker Film on Oct. 7 Kids to Be Available to Stream Globally



Amit Cohen and Montana Tucker in “The Children of October 7” (2025). Credit: Orit Pnini/Courtesy.

By JNS Staff

JNS) – Paramount+ and MTV Documentary Films told JNS exclusively last Tuesday that they plan to expand access to Montana Tucker’s documentary “The Children of October 7” on a global basis starting on June 2, the first day of Shavuot.

The 36-minute film will be available in all of the areas where Paramount+ is accessible: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latin America, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

“In this documentary, Montana

Tucker shined a light on the stories of devastation children experienced on Oct. 7 and how their lives are forever changed,” Shari Redstone, the chair of Paramount Global, told JNS.

“With the strong viewership in the United States, we are glad to meet the demand from audiences around the world for access to these unfiltered and unforgettable stories of the impact of that day,” Redstone said.

Eytan Schwartz, the film’s Israeli producer, previously told JNS that “all my life, we grew up with the stories of Holocaust survivors on Holocaust Remembrance Day.”

“Here we were at this moment, where we needed to capture the moment of the children when they’re still children,” he told JNS.

Israeli children were among the “most vulnerable victims of the Hamas attacks” on Oct. 7, Paramount+ and MTV Documentary Films stated.

“Of the estimated 1,200 Israelis murdered, 37 were children. Of those who survived, over 100 children lost one parent, over 20 lost both parents and more than 35 were kidnapped to Gaza,” the two stated. “Hundreds of children were

injured, and thousands were displaced from their homes.”

Tucker stated that the documentary “is one of the most important projects I’ve ever been part of.”

“As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, hearing these children share the horrors they endured – losing their families, their homes and their innocence in a single morning – felt hauntingly familiar,” she stated.

“I’m grateful they trusted me with their stories and that they have this platform to share their truth,” she added. “Thanks to Paramount+ and MTV, the world will bear witness.”

The Anti-Defamation League stated that “hearing the firsthand accounts from children who survived the Oct. 7 massacre is incredibly moving” and that it is “in awe of the strength and resilience shown through their conversations with Montana Tucker in ‘The Children of October 7.’” The UJA-Federation of NY stated of the film that it gives “new meaning to our promise to never forget.”

Paramount+ also hosts the 90-minute 2024 documentary “We Will Dance Again” about the Nova music festival on Oct. 7. **HW**

Six Headstones of German WWI Soldiers Changes from Crosses to Stars of David in French Cemeteries



Six headstones for German Jewish World War I soldiers were changed in French cemeteries from Latin crosses to Stars of David due to the efforts of Operation Benjamin in May 2025. Credit: Anibas Photography/ Operation Benjamin.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, Liz Steinlauf couldn’t bring herself to walk through a German military cemetery when the body of the Jewish soldier Nathan Baskind (1916-1944) was first discovered in a German mass grave.

But when Steinlauf, a board member at the nonprofit Operation Benjamin, which lobbies to have mismarked graves identified as having Jewish remains, saw the degree to which the German government honored Baskind, she was moved deeply.

“It was a natural progression to be involved in Operation Levi,” she told JNS, of the joint program between Operation Benjamin and the German War Graves Commission. “It was their idea.”

In typical Operation Benjamin ceremonies, Shalom Lamm, the nonprofit’s chief historian, thanks late soldiers for their service to the United States, and Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, the nonprofit’s president, says, “On behalf of the Jewish people, we welcome you home,” Steinlauf told JNS.

Seeing Dirk Backen, the secretary general of the German War Graves Commission, do the same and thank Meier Levi and other soldiers whose markers were changed on behalf of the German government, “was amazing,” Steinlauf said. “And then to have JJ welcome

them back to our people. If you had told me two years ago that I would feel this way, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

In recent weeks, Operation Levi changed the headstones of six German-Jewish World War I soldiers from Latin crosses to Stars of David at cemeteries in France: Meier Levi, Julius Löwenstein, Moses Cohen, Eduard Moses, Friedrich Rahmer and Siegmund Metzler.

Four relatives of Levi’s, one of Rahmer’s and 10 of Metzler’s were present for the ceremonies, per Operation Benjamin.

“The German World War I cemeteries are a testament to shattered hopes, of yearning to belong but forever being an outsider, of depending on the acceptance of society, and not realizing the futility of it all,” Lamm told JNS.

“Those who died on the field of battle genuinely thought that their sacrifices would not only secure Germany’s future but would ensure the gratitude of the host nation. It did not,” he said. “Perhaps now, 100-plus years later, the recognition of their sacrifice as Jews is some small consolation.”

Lamm praised the German government and German War Graves Commission for “acknowledging this responsibility and taking steps to make things historically correct.

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. June 6, 2025 / 10 Sivan, 5785.....7:54 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. June 7, 2025 / 11 Sivan, 5785 8:57 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion: Naso

“They have demonstrated a genuine and heartfelt desire to acknowledge the pain and sacrifice of these men,” he told JNS. “It’s never too late to tell the truth on a headstone.”

He added that it was “an extraordinarily emotional experience for these families to connect with their pasts and see a small, but important, measure of justice done.” HW

Maggie Gyllenhaal’s Daughter Ramona Sarsgaard Reportedly Arrested at Columbia Library Protest

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) May 21, 2025 – Ramona Sarsgaard, daughter of Jewish actress Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard, was reportedly one of the more than 70 pro-Palestinian protesters arrested at Columbia University last month.

During the protest, demonstrators occupied the school’s main library for several hours, with some vandalizing it, until Columbia’s acting president, Claire Shipman, authorized the NYPD to come in and conduct a mass arrest.

Sarsgaard, who is a freshman at Columbia, was given a ticket for criminal trespassing during the library occupation, according to the New York Post. The university has since suspended more than 65 students involved in the protest. It is unknown whether Sarsgaard was included among those suspended.

The library protest was organized by Columbia University Apartheid Divest, the school’s main pro-Palestinian coalition. HW

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Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.
Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

Monday, June 9
Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Ian Lichter, Senior Rabbi of Baron Hirsch Congregation

Topic: The Radical Parshiyot Testing Moshe’s Leadership

Rabbi Lichter talks are always thought provoking and filled with humor regardless of the topic. You can join us for the lunch preceding the talk, or just come for the talk. Reservations are not needed if you only want to hear this interesting topic.

Wednesday, June 11
Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Joel Finkelstein
Topic: The Jewish Mandate to Learn

Rabbi Finkelstein always has an interesting perspective on his talks. He always opens the floor for a discussion as well as a question and answer period. As always, reservations are not needed for the talk. They are needed for the preceding lunch.

Monday, June 16
Special program! Magician Jeffrey Day will bring his Terrific Magic Show to the Senior Lunchroom. This is the second time we have had Mr. Day bring his trunk and magical skills to the Senior programs. 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. Please 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.

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**

IDF: No Casualties from Our Fire at Gaza Aid Hub

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces stated on Sunday that there were “no known casualties from IDF fire within the distribution compound,” responding to reports that dozens of Palestinians were killed near a Gaza aid hub.

“The matter is still under investigation,” the IDF statement added.

CNN cited the Gaza Health Ministry, run by the Hamas terrorist group, as claiming on Sunday that “at least 31 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured amid chaotic scenes at an aid distribution site” in Gaza’s south.

However, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), the U.S.-backed group that runs the site, told the news outlet: “There was no gunfire in the [distribution] center and also not in the surrounding area.”

The GHF also released security camera footage from the time of the alleged shooting showing that no shots were fired in the wider area.

The American organization GHF has released footage from security cameras at the aid distribution site in Tel al-Sultan, Rafah, from the time when the IDF allegedly fired at Palestinians.

Former Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett in a video published on Sunday called on world media to correct what he said was “a huge lie.”

“This morning, all world media reported a huge lie. They said that Israeli tanks opened fire on food distribution centers, on Gazans, and killed 26 Gazans,” said the former premier. “This

did not happen. It’s simply a lie.”
“We looked into it. At no distribution center or near any distribution center, no one opened fire,” he said, urging followers to “refute this.”

Share now to expose the lie:
Israel did NOT open fire on or near any food distribution center.

THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.
GHF has distributed 4,721,062 meals to Gazans in the six days since it started its operations in the Palestinian coastal enclave, the American company announced on Sunday.

GHF maintained that food packages were distributed without security issues during the week, despite media reports suggesting otherwise.

“The continued misinformation, mischaracterization and unfortunately completely false reports by some major media outlets [are] very disheartening to our aid workers and their vital efforts to feed the hungry people of Gaza,” said interim executive director John Acree.

The group, which is not connected to the United Nations and which aims to deliver aid supplies to Palestinians while preventing their appropriation by Hamas terrorists, began operations on May 27.

The aid facilities are secured by U.S. military contractors and remotely monitored by the Israel Defense Forces. International humanitarian NGOs reportedly manage the delivery of food and other supplies. **HW**

Israeli Baby Born After Pregnant Mother was Killed in Terror Attack Dies of His Wounds

By Ben Sales

Two weeks ago, an Israeli pregnant woman who was en route to deliver her baby was killed in a shooting attack in the West Bank.

Last Thursday morning, doctors communicated that that baby had died of his wounds.

In the terror attack, near the Israeli settlement of Bruchin in the northern West Bank, a shooter fired at passing cars and killed Tzeela Gez, a Bruchin resident who was on the way to the hospital with her husband to deliver their fourth child. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors delivered the baby and then fought to save his life.

Week before last, the baby was named Ravid Haim, in accordance with his mother’s wishes. Ravid Haim reportedly received his name before his brit milah, or ritual circumcision, and while still under emergency care, so that people could pray for his recovery.

In a statement last Thursday, Israeli President Isaac Herzog sent the family “condolences from the depths of the heart.” He wrote on X that he spoke with the baby’s father, who was lightly wounded in the attack.

“How we prayed that little Ravid could recover and live with his loving family,” Herzog added. Of the child’s father, Herzog wrote, “All the people of Israel embraces him in this difficult hour and prays that he find comfort and solace together with his children and whole family.” **HW**

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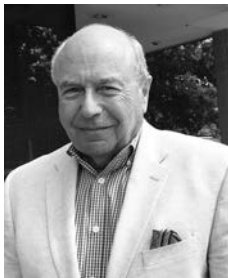


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Your Health Measles Outbreak: What You Need to Know and How to Protect Yourself

By Cindy Katz, DNP

Preventing Sickness

A 41-year-old female, elementary school teacher presented for her annual wellness exam concerned about the measles outbreak. She reported no current symptoms but expressed anxiety due to her daily exposure to school-aged children, some of whom were unvaccinated due to personal belief exemptions.

Leah was healthy, had no current symptoms, but couldn't find her childhood vaccination records. As someone around children daily, she wanted to be sure she was protected.

Measles is making a comeback. Once nearly eliminated in many parts of the world, this highly contagious disease is resurfacing. It is an alarming reminder of how quickly infectious disease can resurface when vaccination rates decline.

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that spreads through coughing, sneezing, and close contact with someone infected with the virus. It can linger in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours, making it easy to contract in shared spaces.

Key Facts:

Contagious Period: You are most contagious 4 days before and 4 days after the rash appears.

Incubation Period: Symptoms generally begin 7-10 days after exposure.

Measles Symptoms: What to Watch For:

Fever greater than or equal to 101 F
At least one of the three – cough, runny nose or red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)

Plus, a descending rash that typically begins on the face and spreads downward and appears two to four days after initial symptoms begin

Other possible symptoms: headache, sore throat, or gastrointestinal discomfort

Keep in mind that not all symptoms present at the same time, which may delay diagnosis.

Why are We Seeing Measles Again?

Recent outbreaks have been linked to declining vaccination rates, fueled by:

- Misinformation about vaccine safety
- Limited access to healthcare in certain communities
- Vaccine hesitancy due to cultural or political beliefs

When fewer people are vaccinated, measles can spread rapidly – even from a single case.

The Importance of Vaccination:

Measles is preventable, and the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR) is highly effective:

One dose provides about 93% protection

Two doses boost that to 97% protection

Vaccination not only protects you, it also can protect others, especially those

who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons. This is called herd immunity, and it is our best defense against widespread outbreaks.

Are You Protected? Here is What to Do:

Check your vaccination records – especially before travel.

Know the guidelines for your age and risk group

Share accurate, science-based information about vaccine safety

Who Needs the MMR Vaccine?

Children in grades K-12 and adults at high risk for exposure (such as health-care workers, international travelers, college-aged students, women of child-bearing age before they get pregnant) need two doses.

Pre-school-aged children and low-risk adults need one dose.

If you were born before 1957, had measles at some point, or have confirmed immunity – you are typically exempt from vaccination.

Final Thoughts:

If you are fully vaccinated, your risk of getting measles – even after exposure – is very low.

If you are unsure about your status, now is the time to act:

- Check your records
- Talk to your health-care provider
- Stay informed – and help spread facts, not fear **HW**

Bipartisan Group of Senators Introduces Solidify Iran Sanctions Act

(JNS) – Bipartisan legislation recently introduced in the U.S. Senate seeks to permanently implement sanctions against Iran.

The Solidify Iran Sanctions Act, which passed unanimously in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier in May, builds on the existing Iran Sanctions Act of 1996. The bill would permanently implement energy and weapons sanctions on the Iranian regime and remove the 1996 bill's sunset clause, which currently allows it to expire.

“Sanctions have been critical in holding Iran accountable for its destabilizing actions, including support for terrorist proxies,” said Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), an original sponsor of the legislation. “With Iran closer than ever to a nuclear weapon, I’m proud to join my colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation that applies pressure on the Iranian regime.”

Other sponsors of the bill include Sens. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.).

“We must prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon and stop its support of terrorism,” Hassan said. “By making permanent energy and weapons sanctions on Iran, this bipartisan legislation will strengthen American national security and send a clear signal that the United States will not tolerate Iran’s aggression.”

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee praised the bill.

“As the U.S. engages in negotiations with Iran over the country’s nuclear program, it is crucial the U.S. maintain economic pressure on Tehran to end its destructive actions,” said AIPAC. “The Solidify Iran Sanctions Act extends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, the core of U.S. statutory sanctions against Iran.” **HW**

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All the Jewish Guest Stars on ‘Poker Face’ Season Two



Photo by Ralph Bavaro/Peacock
By Evelyn Frick

This originally appeared on Hey Alma, reprinted with permission.

Charlie Cale rides again! Season two of “Poker Face” dropped in May and Jewish actress Natasha Lyonne is back as human lie detector and amateur detective Charlie Cale. Each episode features the wise-cracking Cale stumbling into a murder case while on the run from her mobbed-up employers. If that sounds like it has plenty of opportunity to get boring fast, you’re right. And yet, “Poker Face” finds a way to be fresh and sharp each week.

Though the show isn’t particularly Jewy – beyond Natasha Lyonne being Natasha Lyonne – the bevy of guest stars add a very fun and very Jewish component to the critically acclaimed Peacock series. In season one, Charlie Cale comes up against characters played by the likes of Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Simon Helberg, Ron Perlman, Rhea Perlman, Tim Blake Nelson, Noah Segal and Ellen Barkin. Plus, two particularly stand-out performances come from Adrien Brody as casino owner Sterling Frost Jr. and Judith Light as conniving retirement home resident Irene Smothers. That’s practically an egalitarian minyan!

Now, season two has added an entire new roster of guest stars (with a few returning from last season) and once again, there are plenty of Jewish actors to get excited about. Though not all of their characters have been revealed yet, let’s get to know the Jewish guest stars of “Poker Face” season two.

Simon Helberg returns to season two of “Poker Face,” reprising his role as FBI agent Luca Clark. “It’s exciting to see how he fumbles up the ladder, starting from driving around geriatric retired ex-cons in witness protection, all the way to cracking these really significant cases for the FBI and getting into the shit,” Helberg told Variety last week. This season, part of “that shit” includes Agent Clark singing “Old Friends” from “Merrily We Roll Along” with John Mulaney (who plays another FBI agent).

Helberg has described his Jewish upbringing as “Conservative to Reform but more Reform as time went on.” He is perhaps best known for playing nerdy Jew Howard Wolowitz on “The Big Bang Theory.”

Carol Kane plays Lucille Lubinski. Kane’s Jewish grandparents emigrated to the United States from Russia, Austria and Poland. Her big break came in 1975 playing Russian-Jewish immigrant Gitl in “Hester Street.” Though Kane never had a bat mitzvah herself, she played adult bat mitzvah student Carla in 2024’s “Between the Temples.”

“In my life, I keep getting parts where I get to learn different things. I just finished a movie where I got bat mitzvahed,

and I got to learn a Torah portion,” Kane told Kveller in an interview for the Jewish show “Dinner with Parents” last year.

“‘Hester Street’ was my Yiddish training,” she added. “I’m really lucky. But none of [my Jewish knowledge] is off the cuff. It’s very hard-earned learning.”

Richard Kind plays Jeffrey Hasp, the husband of mob queenpin Beatrix Hasp. Unlike his wife, Jeffrey is not mobbed up. Instead, his passion lies with musical theater and specifically Jewish composer Stephen Sondheim.

Kind’s Russian Jewish family emigrated to New York in the first half of the 20th century. In an episode of “Finding Your Roots,” he discovered that he is descended from rabbis and religious leaders from the Pale of Settlement. “I believe that religion is just something that we go to to make us feel better or to give us some sort of foundation because the world is so full of chaos, and we can’t really find ourselves. What I do believe is in my ancestors,” Kind said of this discovery in an interview on NPR. “And I believe that Judaism, that form of foundation must survive, because these people gave their lives, and they sacrificed and they believed in the Jewish religion and in the state of Israel.”

David Krumholtz plays JB Turner. Though Krumholtz is widely known as Christmas elf Bernard in “The Santa Clause,” he is Ashkenazi Jewish with roots in Poland and Hungary. In 2022, Krumholtz starred in the Broadway

production of Tom Stoppard’s “Leopoldstadt,” a play about the many generations of a Jewish family in Vienna from 1899 to 1955. Krumholtz played patriarch Hermann Merz. “I’m doing the play in tribute to [my father],” Krumholtz told New Jersey Monthly Magazine. “It’s been a chance for me to reconnect with my own Judaism, which would have been my father’s dream come true.”

Natasha Leggero’s character has yet to be revealed! Natasha grew up Catholic but converted to Judaism as an adult. She is married to fellow Jewish comedian Moshe Kasher. Kasher grew up spending time in the Satmar community after his father, who was born to Jewish communist parents, converted to Hasidism when Kasher was 4. Kasher’s brother and Leggero’s brother-in-law is an Orthodox rabbi.

“Judaism’s a beautiful religion. You get to have a weekly Shabbat, which is like a party every Friday... You’re part of this beautiful religion, steeped in culture,” Leggero said in 2016.

B.J. Novak plays Hiram Lubinski. Though there’s currently no public information on this character, it seems likely that Novak’s character will be the son of Carol Kane’s character.

Novak attended Jewish day school at Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston as a kid and attended Jewish summer camp at Camp Ramah of New England in his early teenager years. His father co-edited “The Big Book of Jewish Humor” in 1981, and

Novak has spoken about the importance of Jewish humor to his comedy. “I think looking at things with an outsider’s eye is very Jewish,” Novak said in an interview. “I think, ‘How can I somehow outsmart this bad hand I’ve been dealt?’ is the root of a lot of Jewish humor, and I think my favorite type of Jewish humor.”

Rhea Perlman also returns for season two as Beatrix Hasp, the head of the five families mob organization and owner of Hasp casino. Describing her performance, Vulture recapper Louis Peitzman says, “Rhea Perlman manages to pack the appropriate amount of menace and humor into her five feet.” High praise!

Perlman was born to a Russian and Polish Jewish family in Brooklyn. She’s played numerous Jewish moms in the past, but perhaps one of her most exciting Jewish roles is yet to come: playing a fictionalized version of Lena Dunham’s grandma Dottie in “Too Much.”

Simon Rex plays Russ Waddell. Rex describes his mother as “a New Jersey Jewish mom” telling GQ in 2021, “She’s always in my ear.”

“I’ve been learning a lot about my Ashkenazi-Lithuanian heritage. I grew up with hippie parents who didn’t really raise me, so the older I get, the more curious I am about my family’s past,” Rex told YNet in 2025. “I want to visit Israel and Lithuania one day – I need to learn about my heritage!”

He describes himself as “a good Jewish man.” **HW**

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Official Who Posted Antisemitic Rhetoric Becomes Pentagon Press Secretary



Kingsley Wilson was recently appointed as deputy press secretary at the Pentagon. (X)

(JTA) – Kingsley Wilson, a Department of Defense official who has repeatedly echoed antisemitic rhetoric online,

will serve as the Pentagon’s new press secretary, according to an announcement last Friday.

“Kingsley’s leadership has been integral to the DoD’s success & we look forward to her continued service to President Trump!,” said Sean Parnell, the chief Pentagon spokesman and a senior advisor to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, in a post on X last Friday.

Wilson reposted the announcement to her X account, writing that she was, “Honored to serve President Trump and our warfighters.”

Wilson was appointed in January as deputy press secretary at the Pentagon

and faced backlash from the Anti-Defamation League as well as several senators for a history of promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories. Last year, Wilson tweeted a neo-Nazi talking point about Jewish lynching victim Leo Frank, whose murder spurred the ADL’s creation.

The American Jewish Committee called for her removal in a post on X in March.

“Anyone who posts antisemitic conspiracy theories lifted right out of the neo-Nazi playbook should not be in public office,” the post read. “Kingsley Wilson, newly appointed @DepPressS-

ecDOD, is clearly unfit for her role.”

She has also tweeted several times in support of the “Great Replacement” theory, whose original version contends that Jews are orchestrating the replacement of majority-white nations with immigrants of color.

The Jewish Democratic Council of America also condemned the appointment in a post on Bluesky, writing, “Antisemitism has no place in government. This administration is infested with antisemitism.”

The Department of Defense did not immediately respond to a request for comment. [HW](#)

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Understanding Donor-Advised Fund Basics

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

A donor-advised fund offers a middle ground between participating in simple “checkbook charity” and starting a non-profit foundation.

Often considered smaller and nimbler cousins of private foundations, donor-advised funds offer many of the benefits of foundations, including the ability to:

- Involve multiple members of the family, friends, or other advisors
- Research potential recipients
- Recommend how funds are distributed

But, unlike foundations, donor-advised funds require less legal and financial paperwork, such as an annual tax filing that is subject to public inspection, regulatory requirements, and excise taxes.

How do you contribute?

Donor-advised funds allow you to contribute cash, stock, real estate, or other assets, such as business interests. These contributions can be bunched to combine multiple calendar years’ worth of gifts into one year, which may offer tax benefits if you are close to your standard deduction limit.

You may partner with a donor-advised fund sponsor or the sponsor may run your fund. A fund sponsor can be a financial institution or a community, educational, or religious institution. Grants may then be recommended by you or your designee to your charities of choice.

Rather than keeping track of gift receipts from multiple charities, a donor-advised fund serves as your single

source for tax receipts and grant-recipient information. Keep in mind, your potential deduction is based on your contribution(s) to the fund itself, not the individual grants distributed from the fund.

More potential considerations for donors and recipients

Donor-advised funds are gaining popularity for other reasons, including:

Anonymity. When you give gifts to a charity through a private foundation, those gifts become public record through IRS form 990-PF. In contrast, you can choose to make your gifts from a donor-advised fund anonymously.

Recurring gifts. Many donor-advised funds have recurring gift options so you can optimize your giving in line with your giving strategy and the organization’s needs. If you had previously used credit cards to make recurring gifts, you can use tax-advantaged dollars and save a charity from costly credit card processing fees.

Noncash gifts. Appreciated stock, real estate, or collectibles are easier to handle for both the giver and the recipient through a donor-advised fund. This holds true even for highly liquid yet noncash assets like cryptocurrency.

While many charities may be unable to take noncash gifts given the level of complexity, donor-advised funds serve an important role to help charities benefit from the wealth accumulated in these illiquid assets.

Potential cautions

Of course, there are some potential cautions for anyone considering a gift to a donor-advised fund:

Irrevocable donations: The donor to the fund cannot withdraw their money for any reason once it’s gifted.

No legal requirement to make grants: There is no legal requirement to grant the money donated to the fund. This has been viewed as a criticism of donor-advised funds as grants may not be made at the time they are most needed.

Underlying costs/fees: Be aware of the administrative fees associated with the management of the donations as well as the investment options within the fund. Fees and investment options vary by provider.

Grant-making restrictions: Grants can be made only to certain eligible 501(c)(3) organizations that the IRS recognizes as public charities. These organizations cannot provide goods and services to the donor, such as tickets to a gala.

Potential tax advantages

Contributing to a donor-advised fund may bring tax advantages, such as:

- You may receive a tax deduction, the use of which is subject to your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations.
 - There is no capital gains tax for highly appreciated assets when sold inside the donor-advised fund. The invested assets have the potential to grow tax-free, which could increase the eventual grant that you can make from the fund at a later date.
 - Real estate gifts are valued at their current value, which may provide a bigger tax break if the property has appreciated, unlike similar donations to a private foundation that limit the deduction to the cost basis in the property.
- If you’re considering using a do-

nor-advised fund but are uncertain about whether it could be right for you, talk with your tax advisor and your financial advisor to help you decide.

Donor-advised fund donations are irrevocable charitable gifts. The sponsoring organizations maintaining the fund have ultimate control over how the assets in the fund accounts are invested and distributed. Donor-advised funds donors do not receive investment returns. The amount ultimately available to the donor to make grant recommendations may be more or less than the donor contributions to the donor-advised fund. While annual giving is encouraged, the donor-advised fund should be viewed as a long-term philanthropic program. Tax benefits depend upon your individual circumstances. You should consult your tax advisor. While the operations of the donor-advised fund and pooled income funds are regulated by the Internal Revenue Service, they are not guaranteed or insured by the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities. Contributions are not insured by the FDIC and are not deposits or other obligations of, or guaranteed by, any depository institution. Donor-advised funds are not registered under federal securities laws, pursuant to exemptions for charitable organizations.

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Vol. 45, No. 39 MEMPHIS, TENN. JUNE 8, 1967 Price 15 Cents

WAR COMES TO MID-EAST

Memphis Inaugurates Emergency Campaign

Memphis Jewry contributed almost \$1,000,000 Tuesday night at Baron Hirsch Synagogue, toward an immediate goal of \$1,500,000 to aid Israel during the present emergency.

The Main Sanctuary of the Synagogue was completely filled with every branch of Memphis Jewry displaying its solidarity with the people of Israel in the present crisis.

The Memphis effort, under the joint chairmanship of Julius Allenberg, Philip Belz and William Rosenberg, is part of a nationwide campaign.

The rabbi declared that the State of Israel is important to freedom-loving people throughout the world. To escape tyranny and oppression, the Israelis created a commonwealth, in which all people can rejoice. The Jew has a new image where he said.

Rabbi Wax declared, "We cannot turn our backs on those who are in danger. We are prepared to die for it. The State is not over and it calls for action. There is no choice, he declared, there are no alternatives. We are not to fight, not to die, but to live on the program included."

Arthur Levin, of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation, Rabbi Cantor David Skopp, of Hirsch, and Rabbi Arie of Beth Shalom Congregation.

Anshei Sphard-Beth El Plans Shavuoth Services

The festival of Shavuoth, also known as "The Time of the Giving of the Torah" will be inaugurated Tuesday evening, June 13, at 8 p.m. in the main sanctuary of the Parkway Branch of the Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Synagogue.

Services for June 14 and 15 will also be held at the Parkway Branch, conducted by Rabbi Arthur Levin, Cantor Ephraim Shapiro and Rabbi Ephraim Greenblatt.

A special feature of the services will be chanting of the poem "Akdamus", describing the might and greatness of the Almighty and expressing Israel's gratitude to Him for his wondrous acts. Also the Book of Ruth will be read.

The congregation will also carry out another holiday custom—holding a "Mishmar" on the first night. Participating in this portion of the service, besides members of the congregation, will be the members of the congregation's chapter of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth.

Yizkor Memorial services will be held Thursday at 10 a.m.

Following the services, a kiddush will be held and refreshments will be served during the "Mishmar".

Baron Hirsch Plans Services For Shavuoth

Baron Hirsch Congregation will hold services for Shavuoth Tuesday evening, June 13, in the main sanctuary of the synagogue, beginning at 8 p.m.

Morning services for Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, commencing at 8:30 a.m., will be conducted by Rabbi Chaim Seiger, Rabbi Cantor David Skopp, Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark, Rev. Joseph Marton and Mr. Leizer Shore.

Rabbi Seiger will address the members of the congregation on "Torah and First Fruit" (Wednesday).

Israel Bond Leaders In Emergency Meeting With Levi Eshkol

Samuel Rothberg, National Campaign Chairman and Lewis H. Boyar, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Israel Bond Organization, returned Sunday night from Israel where they held emergency discussions with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol on the extraordinary economic burdens of the present crisis.

In a statement calling for an immediate and unparalleled outpouring of economic support, the Israel Bond leaders reported that the State of Israel was looking to American Jewry "to bolster its beleaguered economy in a period of gravest challenge and danger."

"The outbreak of hostilities has placed the future existence of Israel in jeopardy," Mr. Rothberg and Mr. Boyar declared. "Through the Israel Bond Organization American Jewry has provided the largest source of economic aid to the State of Israel."

Israel Land And Air Forces Achieve Quick Victories

By Edwin Eytan
JTA Staff Correspondent

TEL AVIV, June 8.—(JTA)—Israel's land and air forces have delivered a crippling blow to General Abdel Nasser's armies and to the forces of four Arab aggressor countries—Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

Jerusalem, a city born in two for 18 years was reunited today. Israeli forces surrounded the Jordan-held Old City of Jerusalem today and reportedly occupied the area without firing a shot. The Old City, used as a second capital by King Feisal of Jordan, is the seat of some of the most holy places in the Jewish and Christian religions. Jordanian denial of the right of access for Jews to such holy places as the Wailing Wall has been a bone of contention ever since Israel was established.

In less than 24 hours, Israel destroyed Nasser's potential to carry out his proclaimed threat to uproot and eradicate the state of Israel, captured strategic positions dominating the entire Sinai Peninsula and held its forces poised to cut off the Suez Canal and reverse the strategic situation in the Sinai Peninsula.

General Mordchai Hod, Air Force Commander, announced shortly after midnight that the Israel Air Force had destroyed 374 enemy planes and that 24 more had probably been destroyed. This is considered to be about one-fourth of the total air power the Arab command.

Beth Shalom To Hold Services For Shavuoth

Beth Shalom Congregation will hold services for Shavuoth Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, June 13 and 14, in the main sanctuary of the synagogue, beginning at 7 p.m.

Rabbi Arie Becker will speak on "Giving or Receiving of the Torah" (first day) and on "Time to Remember and a Time to Forget" (second day).

Morning services on Wednesday and Thursday will start at 9:30 a.m. and Yizkor-memorial services at 10:30 a.m.

Shavuoth, The Feast Of Weeks, Begins At Sundown, June 13

The Jewish festival of Shavuoth, known also as "The Feast of Weeks," will be celebrated this year beginning at sundown, Tuesday, June 13th.

In many Conservative and Reform congregations, the religious services will be devoted to Confirmation of young men and women.

One of the most spiritually significant holidays of the Jewish calendar, Shavuoth traditionally commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai seven weeks after the Exodus from Egypt. The festival also has agricultural associations, for at this time, seven weeks after the spring wheat and barley planting in Israel, the first fruits of this planting were harvested.

During this holiday, which was one of the three pilgrimage festivals of the Jewish year, the Jews of Biblical days actually brought their first ripened grain to the temple at Jerusalem for sacrificial offering. The symbolism remains even in this modern age, particularly in Reform and Conservative congregations, where, on this day, the youth who have completed their formal religious education stands on the altars of the temples and seek Confirmation in their faith. They represent the first harvest of an educational seed planted 10 years earlier.

In a colorful ceremony, the young graduates conduct a special service highlighted by their reading of the Ten Commandments with the entire congregation; the presentation of a floral offering, reminiscent of the ancient sacrifice, and by publicly stated vows, thereby seeking admittance into the fellowship of Israel. The climax of the entire Confirmation ceremony is achieved when their rabbis bless them with the traditional priestly benediction and welcome them into the faith.

Youngsters are confirmed, usually at the age of 15 or 16, at the completion of the formalized religious school curriculum. The Confirmation ceremony, elicits a vow from the confirmand that he or she will now take his place as a Jew, in the synagogue, and in his family life and community. It means the fulfillment of a life devoted to torah (study) and mitzvas (deed).

One of the interesting aspects of Shavuot is the reading of the Biblical book of Ruth. Ruth is the story of a woman who voluntarily converted to the Jewish faith. The Biblical tale is read during the synagogue services of this day to indicate that Judaism is a faith for all peoples, just as the Ten Commandments is a moral law for all peoples. As with no other holiday, Shavuot dramatizes the universalistic element of Judaism. It is in keeping with the prophetic words of Isaiah, who, speaking in God's name, reminded the world that "my house shall be called a house of God for all peoples."

Thank you to Zechariah Steiner for sharing these timely clippings from June 8, 1967. Please send your clippings to Rebecca@HebrewWatchman.com

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Presents the Mishpachah Festival: A Celebration of Genealogy, Heritage, & Immigration, Sunday, June 8, 2025

(New York, N.Y.) — The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will present its annual Mishpachah Festival: A Celebration of Genealogy, Heritage, & Immigration, on Sunday, June 8, 2025. The day-long Mishpachah Festival ("Mishpachah" means "family" in Hebrew) – will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and feature Jewish genealogy lectures, Jewish heritage panels, cooking demonstrations, live music, Yiddish dance and activities for children and families, and a strong focus on immigration on the heels of the 100th anniversary of the Immigration Act of 1924.

"We are proud to present our third annual Mishpachah Festival, where we will celebrate and explore Jewish genealogy, heritage, and immigration along with our partners," said Jack Kliger, CEO and president of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. "There will be insightful lectures and activities for people of all ages, as we open the Museum to welcome our 'mishpachah' and together discover more about heritage and community."

Among the highlights of the day:

- Brooklyn Seltzer Boys in Conversation with Jessica Shaw
- The Shtetl Kitchen with Gefilteria
- Exploring the Immigrants' Journey with The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island

Foundation, and the South Street Seaport Museum

- Mishpokhe in Yiddish – How the Forverts Newspaper Talked About Family with the Forward

The event is co-presented with JewishGen, the Museum's Jewish Genealogical Research Division, and held in partnership with The Workers Circle, Forward, HIAS, The Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America, the Educational Alliance's 14th Street Y, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, The National Center for Jewish Film, the Leo Baeck Institute and the Jewish Genealogical Society. The programs are made possible in part through a partnership with the Battery Park City Authority.

The event is held in-person at the Museum, located at 36 Battery Place in Battery Park City, and some activities will be livestreamed throughout the day. Tickets are free though pre-registration is strongly recommended. To view the full schedule and to RSVP, visit <https://mjhnyc.org/events/mishpachah-2025/>.

About The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York's contribution to the global responsibility to Never Forget. Opened

in 1997, the Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

The Museum plays a leading role in Holocaust education in New York City and the tri-state area, serving many thousands of school children each year, with initiatives such as its Holocaust Educator School Partnership Program, professional development opportunities, its Speakers Bureau, which enables conversations with survivors, and the creation of tools and resources such as the newly released Antisemitism FAQ Educator Resource to support educators in teaching about both historical and contemporary antisemitism.

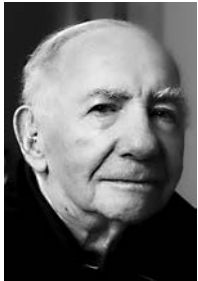
The Museum's current offerings include Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark, an exhibition about the extraordinary rescue of Denmark's Jewish population in 1943, a story of mutual aid and communal upstanding in difficult times for visitors aged 9 and up; The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do, a major exhibition offering a timely and expansive presentation of Holocaust history, on view in the main galleries; Survivor Stories: An Interactive Dialogue, an AI installation that features pre-recorded testimonies from 10 Holocaust survivors, addressing over 150 of the most frequently asked questions about their

experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust; and Speaking Up! Confronting Hate Speech, a new exhibition, which illustrates the prevalence of identity-based violence today, detailing the historical lessons of genocide and current examples of today's pressing dangers to teach visitors about the connection between words and mass atrocities.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage maintains the Peter & Mary Kalikow Jewish Genealogy Resource Center, a collection of almost 40,000 artifacts, photographs, documentary films and survivor testimonies, and contains classrooms, a 375-seat theater (Edmond J. Safra Hall), special exhibition galleries, and a memorial art installation, Garden of Stones, designed by internationally acclaimed sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. The Museum also hosts LOX at Café Bergson an OU-certified café serving eastern European specialties.

Each year, the Museum presents over 100 public programs, connecting our community in person and virtually through lectures, book talks, concerts and more. For more info visit: <http://mjhnyc.org/events>. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit mjhnyc.org. **HW**

Shavuos: Celebration of a Best Seller



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

Shavuos – the celebration of the giving of Torah. Whatta book, the book salesmen say. Full of suspense, rules, poetry, love stories, history. Something for everybody. And like the Jews of today, so counter cultural. Amazing, that in a book written “when might made right” there is a tenderness unknown to the hearts of men, but intrinsic to the heart of G-d: concern for the widow, the orphans, the weak and the sick, in a blood-soaked world. Shockingly counter cultural. It is a revolutionary creed. But let us be honest. Throughout the book rages a G-d who loves justice – not just mercy. He punishes evil – He rewards goodness. Naturally, He is counter cultural since He tells us dozens of times: Don’t mingle with

the people of the land and their insidious habits – for all we know, much of halacha is motivated by this separation issue. Don’t eat their food. Don’t even plow your fields with mixed animals. Don’t mix wool and linen in your clothing. Could these mandates and many more simply be a metaphor – a symbol – of the distance He wants us to maintain between us and them? Why not? He says over and over we should be a holy people, and the Philistines and similar pagans certainly were NOT a holy people. A question worth asking: Have we lived up to His expectations?

I only accent the separation theory because: 1) I believe it is an operating factor, and secondly – though I left my Yeshiva U diploma at home – some rabbinic/Talmudic commentators would vote with me on this issue.

Why do I bring up an issue crusty with age? Because it’s déjà vu time. The same threat hangs over our head TODAY. And today’s Canaanites – secular to the core – have much better weapons than the bronze swords of their forefathers. They’re smarter, too, and their threat is omnipresent. They have devices like film, TV, iPads that carry their messag-

es everywhere. You can hide in a cave, and they’ll find you. And worst of all, their message is as destructive as ever. But they, in general, are innocent dupes. They are only hedonistic fools who simply say – “hey, enjoy yourself.” The old eat, drink, and be merry message that’s always boomed over the loudspeakers of simple people. Their target is not just you – your family, your culture, your Judaism. The target is Christianity, too. I wish our leaders understood this better. (And a brief digression here. There’s a book by Rabbi Shmuel Boteach that every Jew should read: “Kosher Jesus.”)

I have a very close relative whom I dare not name, whose mother is my wife. He says, only half in jest, that he’d rather his young kids (my grandchildren) smoke cigarettes than watch TV. An overstatement, of course, but I get his drift. TV is a university that – with rare exception – awards a degree in stupidity, licentiousness, and vulgarity. If it had been around three millennia ago, it would have been prohibited by Deuteronomy. And dozens of rabbis would have discussed which programs were kosher and which were not.

But I should not joke about such seri-

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

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ous threats to our culture. They are deadly; far more frightful than the Canaanites and Philistines. Our shield is Torah, which shouted separation many millennia ago. None of us follow it letter by letter, but its spirit of separation, its message, says – STAY AWAY from the common herd. Remember, you must be a holy people. You won’t find that on “Sex In The City.”

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

Michigan Man Who Threatened Parents and Preschoolers at a Synagogue Pleads Guilty to Weapons Offense

(JTA) – A Michigan man who allegedly yelled antisemitic threats at families entering a synagogue in 2022 pleaded guilty last Tuesday to the charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to the Department of Justice.

In December 2022, Hassan Chokr, 37, of Dearborn, Michigan, drove through the parking lot of Temple Beth El in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills as parents walked their preschoolers into the building, and yelled a series of an-

tisemitic threats at them, according to federal prosecutors.

After he was asked to leave, Chokr – who had a prior felony conviction for a different offense in 2017 – went to a gun store in Dearborn where he attempted to purchase three guns: a shotgun, a rifle and a semi-automatic pistol. He lied about his criminal record, according to prosecutors.

While waiting for his background check, Chokr said that he would “even the score” and use the guns for “God’s

wrath,” according to prosecutors. He was denied the purchase following the results of the background check but was charged for possessing multiple firearms within the store during the attempted transaction.

“The federal government must do everything in its power to stem the rising tide of antisemitism,” said Interim U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Jerome F. Gorgon Jr. in a statement.

“Chokr’s attempt to purchase several

deadly firearms in an apparent attempt to follow through on his menacing threats against parents and preschoolers as they walked into a place of worship represents every American’s worst nightmare. And we will not allow anyone to terrorize our Jewish neighbors,” Gorgon continued. “We are committed to protecting every American and their right to live and worship free of fear.”

Chokr faces up to 15 years in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 24. **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Jerusalem Day... Every Day

By Howard Weisband

During the past week we celebrated Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, on the 28th of Iyar. It is truly a special day. At the same time, for me, Jerusalem Day is every day. How so? Read on.

First, a brief background on Yom Yerushalayim.

Yom Yerushalayim marks a significant milestone, commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem, the historic capital of the Jewish people. Fifty-eight years ago, in 1967 during the Six Days War, Israel triumphed over Arab nations who sought to erase the Jewish State from the map of the world. This victory paved the way for freedom to resonate throughout Jerusalem. The city was united after 19 years, and all religious sites were open to people of all faiths. It is a day when we recall the moment our eternal capital was made whole again – a return not only to the heart of our land but to the soul of our people.

For me personally, having made Aliyah in 1986, living in Jerusalem, Kayla and I raised our family here, three generations, watched our four children doing National Service and serving in the army, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), marry, 11 grandchildren, and now a grandson about to enter the army... every day seems like Jerusalem Day.

Moreover, I think back to my first

Jerusalem experience, 1969-70, when I studied and lived in the city as a 22-year-old graduate student. The remembrances of Jerusalem divided, then unified were still fresh in everyone’s thinking. My Talmud teacher had served in the army, fought in the war. An anonymous soldier still in uniform sitting around a bonfire told me: “We fought and won the war not just for us, for Israel, but for you too, for all of the Jewish people!” Powerful.

I walked the streets and shopped in western Jerusalem, sometimes called the “new city.” I did the same in eastern Jerusalem, especially in the Old City, reunified in 1967. One felt no tension in the air in 1969, barely two years after the war.

The Kotel Hamaaravi, or simply the Kotel, the Western Wall, no longer referred to as the Wailing Wall, was a place of joyous reunion and solemn prayer. It still is today, in much grander form, for Jewish life celebrations and even a place where certain army units hold their swearing in ceremonies, take their oaths following basic training.

While in Memphis, it was always a personal joy to accompany our Israel missions, especially to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is mentioned in the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible, some 660 times. From the earliest forced exile in 586 BCE to

Babylonia, Jews wept and prayed for a return to Jerusalem. Today in our daily prayers, within the Amidah, the silent prayer, we continue to say a Blessing for the rebuilding of Jerusalem: “To Jerusalem, Your city... May You (God) rebuild it rapidly on our days... Blessed are You, Lord, who builds Jerusalem.”

For me, as one who believes that we play a special role in helping God in His work, I walk the streets of Jerusalem, whether in 1969 or 2025, and see the rebuilding of Jerusalem daily. I pray the morning prayers, Schacharit, in a small synagogue on the fourth floor, next to the building of a large school under construction. I look out the window, see the construction and ponder the message, ancient and modern, as I say: “Blessed are you, Lord, who builds Jerusalem.”

By coincidence of the Hebrew calendar, this year Jerusalem Day occurred on the anniversary of “Operation Solomon.” Over the span of 36 hours between May 24 and 25, 1991, the largest-ever Aliyah rescue mission was carried out. This complex operation, coordinated together through the IDF, El Al, Israeli security services, and the Jewish Agency for Israel led to the rescue of more than 14,300 Ethiopian Jews. It was and remains the largest overnight rescue mission from any country. Personally,

I had the privilege and responsibility of serving at the time as the Secretary General of the Jewish Agency.

This is how one of our most meaningful modern commentators, the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, describes in part the meaning of Yom Yerushalayim, in “The Love of a People for their City:”

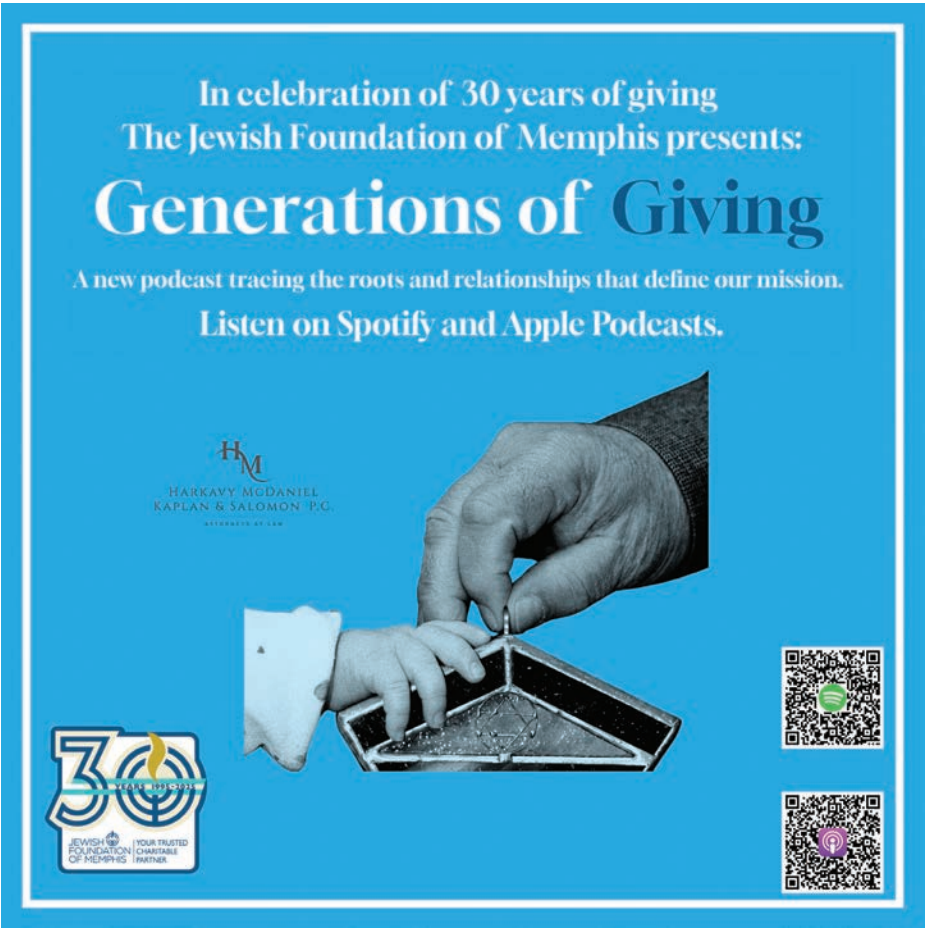
“... wherever Jews lived they never ceased to pray about Jerusalem, face Jerusalem, speak the language of Jerusalem.... Never has a city had such power over a people’s imagination. Never were a people more loyal than our ancestors who endured 20 centuries of exile and persecution so that their children or grandchildren or great-grandchildren could come home to Jerusalem, *ir ha-kodesh*, the holy city, the home of the Jewish heart.”

Is it any wonder why I feel that every day is Jerusalem Day?

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



From synagogue leadership to Federation and Foundation initiatives, Joe and Jennifer Roberts have played a central role in strengthening Jewish Memphis. Joe’s presidency at ASBEE included a focus on endowment development, while Jennifer has championed senior services and Jewish campus life through her work with Federation. Together, they exemplify sustained leadership and thoughtful giving. Listen to an interview with Joe and Jennifer 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.

September 1995: Senior leaders of the Memphis Jewish community gathered to create a new organization to focus solely on building the endowment assets of Memphis-based Jewish organizations with the goal of ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Memphis Jewish community. Led by its first executive director, Paula Jacobson, (right) and board president Ronald Harkavy, the Jewish Foundation of Memphis was launched.

IDF Dismantles Dozens of Terrorist Sites Across Gaza

By JNS Staff
(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces troops, operating with support from the Military Intelligence Directorate and the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), dismantled dozens of terrorism-related structures across the Gaza Strip, the army said last Thursday.
Troops destroyed weapons storage facilities, underground infrastructure,

sniper and observation posts, anti-tank missile positions and other “military” compounds used by terrorists.
In coordinated activity last Wednesday, IDF troops identified armed terrorists operating nearby and directed an Israeli Air Force craft that struck and eliminated the threat. The IAF carried out several additional strikes over the past 24 hours, targeting dozens of ter-

rorist sites, including tunnels, military structures and positions that posed an immediate danger to Israeli forces.
“IDF troops under the Southern Command, guided by the Intelligence Directorate and the Shin Bet, continue to act against terrorist organizations throughout the Gaza Strip as part of ‘Operation Gideon’s Chariots,’” the military said.
The IDF emphasized that operations

will continue to protect Israeli civilians. **HW**
Troops eliminate threats, destroy tunnels and weapons facilities as part of “Operation Gideon’s Chariots.”



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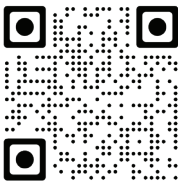
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