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ASBEE BBQ Contest Returns Oct. 26 at Baron Hirsch

34th annual event features great competition, food and fun for all ages

By Amara Levine-Reich

It’s time once again to fire up the competition grills: The ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival – a mainstay of the Memphis community calendar for over three decades – is back Sunday, Oct. 26 at Baron Hirsch Congregation.

The 2025 event, made possible by Olymbec and many other generous sponsors, marks the 34th annual ASBEE BBQ Contest and continues a beloved tradition started by Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation, which is now part of Baron Hirsch.

More than 30 teams from across the Memphis area and beyond will compete for top honors in categories that include best barbecued ribs, brisket, chicken wings and beans, as well as creativity in team name and booth design and theme. One team will also be awarded the designation of grand champion for overall performance throughout the competition.

The teams’ mouthwatering barbecue creations – all of which will be prepared at the synagogue under rabbinic supervision to ensure adherence to kosher dietary laws – will be blindly evaluated by a panel of esteemed judges representing a who’s who of local celebrities, chefs, elected officials, community leaders and media personalities.

“The ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest is truly the world championship of such events,” said Eric Mogy, event co-chair.

“Other cities have attempted to replicate the formula we developed here in Memphis more than 30 years ago, but ours remains the original and the highest honor.

“The BBQ contest is the rare occasion that brings people together from across the spectrum of our community to celebrate our Jewish and Southern culinary traditions and enjoy some friendly competition,” Mogy said.

Teams wishing to participate in the ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest can find registration details online at baronhirsch.org/asbeekosherbbq.

Food and fun for the whole family

The BBQ contest isn’t the only competition on the menu for Oct. 26: The event will also feature a basketball tournament, a kosher pickle eating contest (sponsored by Joe and Jennifer Roberts of OurConnections, LLC) and, for the first time ever, a cornhole tournament.

The Grizzlies ASBEE Basketball Tournament, sponsored by Josh and Elana Kahane, includes three-on-three game play and shooting contests for free throws (sponsored by Rick Baer Realty) and three-pointers (sponsored by i-bank). Competitors will be grouped by age/height, with contests for kids and adults. First-prize winners in the adult category will receive tickets to a Memphis Tigers or Grizzlies game, along with a tournament trophy. All competi-

tors will receive a commemorative tournament T-shirt.

Throughout the event, kosher barbecued beef and chicken sandwiches, hamburgers and other delectable offerings will be available for purchase at the Cowsher Café, which is sponsored by Joe and Cindi Weinstein. Additionally, the Kiddie Corral – sponsored by River City Pediatrics – will feature a variety of family-friendly activities, including a petting zoo, bounce house, train rides, face painting and more.

The ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival will take place Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Baron Hirsch, located at 400 South Yates Road in East Memphis. Event admission is free (though fees apply for competition entries and certain activities) and open to all. Parking on the Baron Hirsch campus will be limited during the event, due to activities being held in the synagogue parking lot.

In addition to the sponsors noted above, generous supporters of the event include: Bluff City Fence and Mister Tree; Bluff City Injury; Campbell Law Firm; Marc A. Cohen, DDS; DoubleTree Hotel Memphis and Cooper Hotels; Highland Capital; Insight Risk Management; Lubin Enterprises; Lubin Property Management; Makowsky Ringel Greenberg LLC; Mendelson Law Firm; Mogy Law Firm; New Park



Monuments & Memorials; OrthoSouth; Ortman Chiropractic; Running Pony; Southern Vault; Wagerman/Katzman Law Firm; West Cancer Center; and many others. The Hebrew Watchman/Jewish Scene Magazine is serving as the event’s media sponsor.

“Oct. 26 promises to be an exciting day of great food, entertainment and camaraderie,” co-chair Ryan Lubin said. “We look forward to welcoming our contest competitors and hundreds of community members of all ages to the ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest and Festival at Baron Hirsch.”

For more information, visit baronhirsch.org/asbeekosherbbq, email asbeebbq@baronhirsch.org or call Baron Hirsch at 901-683-7485. [HW](#)

Witkoff Weeps and Netanyahu is Booed as Israelis Rally for Hostages, they Hope for the Last Time



U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff speaks as U.S. businessman Jared Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, look on during a gathering at Hostages Square in Tel Aviv on Oct. 11, 2025. Credit: Jack Guez/AFP via Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

JTA) – October 12, 2025 – Hundreds of thousands of Israelis poured into Tel Aviv’s Hostages Square on Saturday night in what everyone present was hoping would be the final vigil on be-

half of the hostages taken to Gaza two years ago.

Massive posters showing the 48 hostages expected to be returned imminently, 20 alive, under the terms of a

ceasefire struck last Friday, surrounded the square. Demonstrators carried signs thanking U.S. President Donald Trump, who pressed for the deal. And hostage families described their excitement at finally being able to reunite with their loved ones – and their grief at preparing to receive their loved ones’ remains.

Some of the stars of the rally were three American Jews – Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump – who played a role in pushing negotiations between Israel and Hamas over the finish line.

Witkoff was visibly emotional. “I dreamed of this night. It’s been a long journey. This is the most powerful sight,” Trump’s Middle East envoy told the crowd. “All of our hearts beating as one.”

When Witkoff thanked Trump, loud cheers resounded. But when he mentioned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the crowd booed. Multiple times, he had to ask to be allowed to go on before saying, “I was in the trenches

with the prime minister, believe me, he was a very important part.”

Many Israelis blame Netanyahu for prolonging the war and the hostages’ captivity, a sentiment that independent reporting has supported and that Trump reportedly expressed privately at times in the course of negotiating an end to the war.

Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law, followed, praising Witkoff, thanking the Israeli soldiers who fought in Gaza and describing his own reaction to Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack. Kushner, who has significant business interests and relations across the Middle East, also was the only speaker to mention Gazans who also experienced two years of war after Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza.

“October 7, for me, was a shattering day,” he said. “Since then, my heart has not been complete, and it’s been a tremendous burden that I felt to see these hostages come home, to see their families get the closure they deserve and to

(See Witkoff Page 2)

JHSMM to Install New Officers and Board after Hearing Best-Selling Author at MJCC



JHSMM President Greg Siskind

Greg Siskind, president of the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South announced that a special meeting will be held on Sunday after-

noon, October 19 at 2:30 p.m. at the Memphis Jewish Community Center to honor board members and install new officers.

“The community is invited to come and hear about exciting new projects and become more involved,” added Greg.

Founded in 1986, the society collects, preserves, presents and interprets the history of Jews of Memphis and the Mid-South.

Before the meeting, everyone is invited to hear best-selling author Jacqueline Friedland discuss her new novel, “Counting Backward,” at 1 p.m. She will discuss social justice and upstander behavior present in characters in her book. That program is sponsored by MJCC and supported by Bornblum Jewish Community School. [HW](#)

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN CELEBRATING 100 Years! 1925 ~ 2025

Meet BBYO’s Jack Shanker



Jack Shanker

My name is Jack Shanker, and I am a junior at MUS. I have been in Peres AZA for three years, and I am currently serving as regional board’s S’gan, because BBYO is one of the only and most fun places where I can see all of my Jewish friends.

BBYO summer and the regional as well as international conventions are a great place to meet new Jewish teens and have helped me grow as a leader in BBYO as well as other clubs and activities. The leadership opportunities that BBYO provides have given me a better sense of responsibility and have helped me to build relationships with other Jewish teens throughout the world. [HW](#)

Witkoff...

(Continued From Page 1)

end this nightmare – and also to see the suffering end for the people in Gaza, who, for most of them, were experiencing this through no fault of their own, other than being born into a situation that was horrific.”

Kushner’s wife, Trump’s daughter Ivanka, also addressed the crowd, saying that her father had a message he wanted to pass on. “The president wanted me to share, as he has with so many of you personally, that he sees you, he hears you, he stands with you always, always,” she said.

Trump repeatedly cited the crowd siz-

es in Tel Aviv as evidence that the Israeli people wanted to make a deal to end the war and bring the hostages home. (Polls easily supported the idea.)

The 20 living hostages and some number of deceased hostages were set [at the time of this printing on Sunday night] to be returned on Monday morning, after Hamas said it had amassed them at three points within Gaza.

Earlier in the day, Witkoff had told hostage families that there was concern that Hamas would not be able to locate all of the bodies of the hostages who had been killed. Some family members ex-

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10/16/2025

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Oct. 17, 2025 / 25 Tishrei, 5786.....6:03 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Oct. 18, 2025 / 26 Tishrei, 5786 6:58 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Bereishit

horted the crowd to keep demonstrating until all of the deceased hostages had been returned, too.

And even those who are preparing to reunite with their loved ones after two years said they could not totally celebrate. “This is not a happy event,” Itzik Horn, whose son Eitan is set to be released alive, eight months after his brother Iair was freed, told the crowd. “This is the end of the cursed day in the history of the state – Israeli citizens are returning to their country after being abandoned.” [HW](#)

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MJCC Classes Restarting Plus a Brand-New Course

Beginning Bridge Lessons with Debbie Jackson

October 23 through December 4, Thursdays at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Learn to play the world's greatest game. This class will teach you all the basics you need to start playing Bridge like a pro. Bring your friends and learn a new game! The class number is 12394. The cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members.

Beginning Mah Jongg Lessons with Melanie Mann

October 23 through November 20, Thursdays at 6-8 p.m.

Melanie has been teaching this class for quite a while at the MJCC as well as other places around town. We filled up her Tuesday night class so please call in your reservations ASAP! Call the front desk at the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to register. The cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. The class number is 12478. Bring your friends and learn a new game.



Vicki Campbell

Brand-New Class Ukulele Lessons with Vicki Campbell

Mrs. Campbell has been a popular teacher of Ukulele lessons around Memphis for years. She is also the member of a Ukulele band that has been playing for a while in the area. Come learn a fun new instrument! No experience necessary, and we will provide a Ukulele for the first few lessons to see if you enjoy it. Call the front desk at the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to register. The cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. The class number is 12396. Bring your friends and learn something new. **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, October 20
Speaker: Steve Baer
Topic: What is long term care insurance?

There have been significant changes in Long Term Care Insurance over the past several years. Steve will also have a Q&A session following his talk. Please come hear this important topic.

Wednesday, October 22
MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon

October's luncheon features new-to-us artists, the sensational trio, Gin Tonic! Gin Tonic Memphis debuted shortly before the pandemic. Three Memphis players with similar taste in music, the ability to perform a wide range of styles and the love for entertaining people came together. Gin Tonic includes local musicians Nora Tucker on vocals and guitar, John Chambliss on the double bass, and Gary Goldsmith playing wind instruments and providing vocals. The trio plays songs for everyone to recognize, sing along and enjoy. The hour of music is drawn from classic songbooks, western swing, country, rock 'n' roll and folk genres. Gin Tonic serves up a tasty blend of tunes from the past with a modern flare featuring vocals, strings, horns



Gin Tonic includes local musicians Gary Goldsmith, Nora Tucker and John Chambliss and woodwinds.

You will really be entertained by this group. This month's big luncheon is sponsored by The Avaline Senior Living. This seated, kosher lunch is served by the MJCC Staff. The lunch and program start at 12 and ends at 1 p.m. Bingo follows. All community seniors are welcome. The cost is only \$5 for the lunch and entertainment. Please call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to make your reservations. Hope to see you there.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **HW**

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Grieving Relatives Divided Over Release of Terrorists

(JNS) – Two Israeli mothers whose children were murdered by Palestinian terrorists offered contrasting reactions to the government’s decision to release the killers to free hostages from Gaza.

Brenda Lemkus denounced the move as “an invitation to the next murder,” while Alia Attias said she would “let the killer go” if it meant rescuing the abducted Israelis, Ynet reported.

The divide captured the anguish, anticipation and moral reckoning gripping Israel as the ceasefire deal with Hamas takes effect.

“I condemn the government for releasing the killer of my daughter Dalia Lemkus,” the news site quoted Lemkus as saying. The murderer is Palestinian terrorist Maher al-Hashlamun, who killed Dalia, 26, in Judea in 2014. According to unconfirmed reports, he is among the 250 terrorists Israel agreed to free to retrieve its hostages from Gaza.

His release, and the release of “all the terrorists who participated in murderous activity against Jews, immediately invites the next murder, and the blood of the murdered is on the hands of the min-

isters who voted in favor of releasing murderers,” Brenda Lemkus added. She called for instituting the death penalty for terrorists.

Alia Attias, whose son Eden was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in 2013, told Ynet she supported releasing the killer, following reports that the killer is on the list of terrorists to be freed by Israel.

“I’m sure the murderer will return to terrorism,” she said. But “from the moment our brethren were taken, I felt I would let the killer go if only I could save them.”

Early last Friday morning, the Israeli Cabinet approved the first stage of a U.S.-brokered plan aimed at ending the war in Gaza and securing the return of 20 living hostages in Gaza and the bodies of 28 deceased hostages. The IDF will withdraw to the “yellow line” outlined in Trump’s plan, leaving Israel in control of roughly 53% of the Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Israel reportedly agreed to release 250 terrorists serving life sentences and 1,700 Palestinians who were detained after Oct. 7, 2023. **HW**

Microsoft Cuts Off Israeli Military Unit Over Mass Surveillance Allegations

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Microsoft has terminated the Israeli military’s access to parts of its cloud and artificial intelligence services after confirming that Unit 8200, the IDF’s elite signals intelligence branch, had used its Azure platform to support a mass surveillance program targeting Palestinian civilians.

The move follows an investigation by U.K.’s The Guardian, conducted with +972 Magazine and Local Call, two far-left Israeli news sites, which revealed that Unit 8200 had built a vast system to collect, store and analyze millions of phone calls from Palestinians in Gaza and Judea and Samaria.

The program was capable of intercepting “a million calls an hour” and storing thousands of terabytes of data in Microsoft’s European data centers. The scale of intercepted calls equaled as much as 8,000 terabytes of data, The Guardian reported last month.

Microsoft President and Vice Chair Brad Smith confirmed the company’s

decision in a Sept. 25 message to employees, stressing that it stemmed from long-standing company principles.

“We do not provide technology to facilitate mass surveillance of civilians,” Smith wrote. “We have applied this principle in every country around the world, and we have insisted on it repeatedly for more than two decades.”

Smith explained that the company’s review, launched after an initial Guardian story in August, found evidence that corroborated parts of the allegation.

“While our review is ongoing, we have found evidence that supports elements of The Guardian’s reporting. This evidence includes information relating to [the Israeli Ministry of Defense’s] consumption of Azure storage capacity in the Netherlands and the use of AI services.”

He emphasized that the decision did not involve accessing Israeli military data but was based on Microsoft’s own internal records. “At no point has Microsoft accessed IMOD’s customer

content. Rather, the review has focused on Microsoft’s own business records, including financial statements, internal documents, and email and messaging communications,” he said.

According to Smith, Microsoft informed Israel’s Ministry of Defense that it had ceased and disabled “specified IMOD subscriptions and their services, including their use of specific cloud storage and AI services and technologies.”

He reiterated that the company had made clear to Israeli officials that it would not allow its technology to be used in mass civilian surveillance: “We have reviewed this decision with IMOD and the steps we are taking to ensure compliance with our terms of service, focused on ensuring our services are not used for mass surveillance of civilians.”

The Guardian reported that after its initial story, Unit 8200 quickly transferred its massive data trove out of Microsoft’s Netherlands servers, reportedly moving it to Amazon Web Services. Neither AWS nor the IDF responded to requests for comment.

The Guardian, +972 and Local Call investigation sparked protests at Microsoft’s U.S. headquarters and one of its European data centers. A campaign by Microsoft workers, ‘No Azure for

Apartheid,’ called for the company to end all ties to the Israeli military.

While cutting access to Unit 8200, Smith stressed that Microsoft continues to maintain a broader relationship with Israel. “As I said at our recent employee townhall, this does not impact the important work that Microsoft continues to do to protect the cybersecurity of Israel and other countries in the Middle East, including under the Abraham Accords.”

He added that the company would continue to be guided by ethics in its operations: “We will hold every decision, statement, and action to this standard. This is non-negotiable.”

The decision marks the first known instance of a U.S. technology company terminating services to the Israeli military since the Gaza war began, according to The Guardian.

For Microsoft, the termination underscores an attempt to draw a line between its commitment to its cybersecurity partnership with Israel and its refusal to support surveillance programs that sweep up civilian communications.

“Like every company, we decide what products and services to offer to our customers ... We do not provide technology to facilitate mass surveillance of civilians,” Smith said. **HW**

Israeli Navy Intercepts Another Gaza-Bound Flotilla

(JNS) – Jerusalem said last Wednesday morning that naval forces intercepted the latest protest flotilla headed for the Gaza Strip, which reportedly included nine vessels carrying anti-Israel activists.

“Another futile attempt to breach the legal naval blockade and enter a combat zone ended in nothing. The vessels and the passengers are transferred to an Israeli port. All the passengers are safe and in good health. The passengers are expected to be deported promptly,” the Foreign Ministry stated on X.

The Hamas- and Muslim Brotherhood-linked “Global Sumud Flotilla,” which has been organizing the stunts, said that the Israeli Navy intercepted at least three of its boats last Wednesday.

“Three vessels – Gaza Sunbirds, Alaa Al-Najjar and Anas Al-Sharif – have been attacked and illegally intercepted by the Israeli military,” the organizers said on X, also claiming that another ship carrying more than 90 anti-Israel activists was “under attack.”

The early morning interceptions took place around 140 miles off the coast of Gaza, according to organizers.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition said the boats were carrying “vital aid worth over \$110,000 USD in medicines, respiratory equipment and nutritional supplies that were destined for Gaza’s starving hospitals.”

Last week’s flotilla carried a minuscule amount of humanitarian aid, Israeli authorities demonstrated.

“These individuals, who arrived under the guise of ‘humanitarian aid,’ made it clear – through their actions, their rejection of all proposals by Israel, Italy and Greece to peacefully transfer the aid, and the small quantity of aid they actually carried on their boats – that their true goal was provocation in the service of Hamas, not humanitarian assistance,” the ministry said at the time.

Last week, Israeli authorities arrested and later deported hundreds of anti-Israel activists after intercepting a Gaza-bound flotilla, including Swedish anti-Israel activist Greta Thunberg. As of last Tuesday, Jerusalem said it has deported 341 of the 479 people who were on board the 42 boats in the Global Sumud Flotilla. The 138 other activists remain in detention in Israel, including a Spanish woman who bit and lightly injured a female prison medic.

U.S. President Donald Trump slammed Thunberg last Monday, calling her a “troublemaker.”

“You mean she’s no longer into the environment and now she’s doing this? She’s a troublemaker, she has anger management problems, and she should see a doctor,” Trump said. “She’s so angry, she’s so crazy, you can have her.” **HW**

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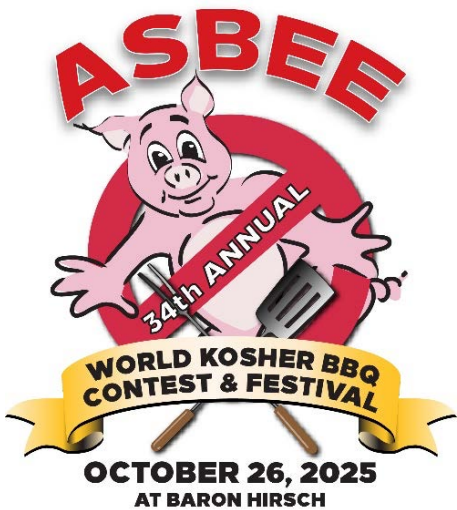
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34th Annual ASBEE World Kosher BBQ Contest & Festival!

Sunday, October 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
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‘Scandal’ Manchester, Other UK Jews Thinking of Emigrating, Conservative Leader Says



Kemi Badenoch, leader of the opposition and of the Conservative Party in the United Kingdom, June 16, 2025. Credit: House of Commons/Flickr via creative commons.

(JNS) – Kemi Badenoch, leader of the opposition and of the Conservative Party in the United Kingdom, said last Saturday that she visited Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation, the Orthodox synagogue that was the site of a terrorist attack, in which two Jews were killed, on Yom Kippur.

“The naivety of those who believe this will all go away with warm words is also taking our country down a dark path. This hand-wringing has a cost,” she stated. “Before the visit, I also spoke to the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation. The strength of Manchester’s Jewish community in the face of evil is humbling.”

The Conservative leader noted that Jews have been part of Manchester for more than two centuries.

“It is a scandal that many in Manchester and beyond are considering leaving our country,” she stated. “For generations after the Holocaust, the world said ‘never again.’ Never again would we allow Jews to be hunted, terrorized or live in fear because of who they are. Those words ring hollow today.”

Just as Jews introspect on Yom Kippur and seek to understand how they can improve, Badenoch said that the United Kingdom, as a nation, must do the same.

“How did we let hatred fester again on our streets?” she said. “There are many causes: Islamism, media bias in reporting the war in the Middle East, the inability of authorities to go after serial wrongdoers while instead focusing on minor infractions of the law-abiding population and so much more.”

She said that “terror-supporting hate marches must stop” and that the government “must abandon its dangerous ‘Islamophobia’ definition.”

“We need a wholesale new approach to tackling misinformation and bias in our media,” she said. “We’ve tolerated this poison for too long, because too many politicians have been too weak or too cowardly to even say what they see, let alone confront it.

“We will stand with our Jewish friends, not just in sympathy, but in strength,” she added. “We pray for the recovery of the victims still in the hospital, and we mourn the loss of Adrian Daulby and Melvin Cravitz. May their memories be a blessing.” **HW**

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Understanding Risk for Bond Investors

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
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A primary reason investors own bonds is because their values have historically remained relatively stable over time. In other words, they’ve been less risky than stocks. (Of course, their returns have been lower as well.) So you might want to have bonds in your portfolio in case the stock market takes a hit. If that happens, the bonds could stabilize your portfolio’s overall value. And that may help you avoid making emotional (and sometimes costly) heat-of-the-moment choices.

Lower risk is different than no risk

Bonds are considered less risky than stocks, but they’re certainly not risk-free (no investment is). Although some investors may believe bonds are as safe as cash, that’s not the case. In fact, bond investors face a number of risks, including:

Interest rate risk. The chance of a change in a bond’s price in response to movements in interest rates. It’s important to understand this risk because bond market prices and interest rates are negatively correlated. In other words, if interest rates increase, existing bond prices are likely to decrease. Conversely, when rates are higher and begin to decrease, bond prices will tend to increase.

Credit risk. The prospect that an issuer may suffer a relative decline in credit quality or outright default. The lower the credit risk, the fewer credit-re-

lated price fluctuations there should be.
Default risk. When you purchase a bond, you face the risk that the issuer may be unable to pay the interest or par value when it’s due.

Opportunity risk. The possibility of missing out on potentially better returns you may be able to get from other investments, like stocks.

Consider your big picture

Whether you’re talking about bonds or stocks or any other investment, it’s important to remember that the amount you own should be determined based on a strategic asset allocation – how your portfolio is divvied up between different investment types – based on your:

- **Goals.** What you’re investing for, such as being able to afford retirement.
- **Time horizon.** How long you have before you need to tap into our investments. If you’re 47 and want to retire at 67, you may have a 20-year time horizon.
- **Risk tolerance.** How comfortable you are with fluctuations in your portfolio’s value. If market volatility makes it difficult for you to get a good night’s sleep, you likely have a relatively low risk tolerance.

If you already invest in bonds or are wondering whether you should, you need to understand their risks and the important role they can play in your overall investment strategy. For help with that, you may want to work with a

professional financial advisor.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to market, interest rate, credit, and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can cause a bond’s price to fall. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and/or principal. This risk is heightened in lower-rated bonds. If sold prior to maturity, fixed-income securities are subject to market risk. All fixed-income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

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Nadler Accuses RJK Jr. of Jew-Hatred Over Comment Linking Autism, Circumcision

(JNS) – Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) accused Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the U.S. secretary of health and human services, of antisemitism last Thursday, after the latter said that there was a link between circumcision and autism.

“This is an antisemitic remark,” wrote Nadler, who is Jewish. “I call on all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to clearly denounce it.”

Kennedy was speaking at a cabinet meeting earlier last Thursday in support of his department’s recommendation in September that pregnant women should avoid taking acetaminophen over a possible increase in the risk that the fetus will develop autism.

“There’s many, many other confirmation studies,” Kennedy said. “There’s two studies that show children who are circumcised early have double the rate of autism. It’s highly likely because they’re given Tylenol.”

It’s unclear what studies Kennedy was referring to, but a 2015 study in Denmark purported to show a link between circumcision pain and autism, while a 1995 study used circumcision rates as a proxy for acetaminophen administration and found a correlation with autism diagnoses.

Male circumcision is a religious requirement in both Judaism and Islam but is widely practiced in the United States. About 80% of American newborn boys are circumcised. [HW](#)

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OBITUARIES

Andrew Lee Goodman

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Andrew Lee Goodman on October 3, 2025. Andrew lived a life guided by passion and love. For over 40 years, he shared his journey with his beloved partner, building a life filled with devotion and joy alongside his cherished family.

For more than 15 years, he flew and managed a small fleet of charter aircraft, turning his greatest passion into his life’s work. He often said, “You are successful if you get paid to do what you would do for free.” By that measure, he was extraordinarily rich.

He was deeply proud of all his children and grandchildren and counted himself blessed because of the relationships he had with others. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his family, and all who knew him.

The family extends our heartfelt gratitude to his amazing caregivers for their steadfast devotion to his care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rabbi’s Discretionary fund at Temple Israel, the University of Tennessee, or College of the Ozarks. **HW**

Lynn Weinberg Gruber

Lynn Weinberg Gruber, 85, of Memphis, Tenn., died October 4, 2025, peacefully in her home. She was born on October 24, 1939, in Osceola, Ark., where she achieved many honors including Miss Osceola High School.

Lynn then moved to Memphis after attending Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.

Lynn took pride in raising her three children and was an active member of Temple Israel. She loved her mornings sitting at her breakfast table doing her crossword puzzles, her weekly mahjong games with her friends and her monthly birthday lunch groups. But most of all, Lynn was happiest when surrounded by her family at family events.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Nathan and Pauline Weinberg, and her brother, Warren Weinberg.

She is survived by her children, Scott Gruber (Sheliah), Greg Gruber (Brandi) and Ginger Gruber and four grandchildren, Sydney, Spencer, Nathan and Katie.

Services were held Monday, October 6, 2025, at the Levy-Cooper Chapel at Temple Israel Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Temple Israel Synagogue or the charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

Marilyn Cohen Lee

Marilyn Cohen Lee, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 96 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Born on April 17, 1929, at Gartly Ramsay Hospital in Memphis, Marilyn was a lifelong Memphian. She attended Central High School, where she made many cherished friendships that lasted throughout her life.

On June 26, 1949, Marilyn married the love of her life, Harold “Bubba” Lee. Together they had four children, David, Debbie, Martha and Leslie, and built a home full of love and memories. Their marriage of more than 50 years was an enduring example of love and commitment.

In 1958 Marilyn and Bubba opened a delicatessen in Memphis called the Bagel. This is where she realized how large a role catering would play in her life. Using her mother-in-law’s recipes, Marilyn started her catering career doing small events known as “Cake, Punch, Nuts, and Mints” and progressed into larger bar/bat mitzvahs and weddings. When they sold the delicatessen a couple years later, she continued catering for the new owners and eventually went into catering by herself starting “Catering by Marilyn” and growing her abilities taking on larger events such as corporate parties for companies like FedEx.

In 1985, when Baron Hirsch Synagogue opened its new East Memphis Lo-

cation, Marilyn was hired as the in-house caterer, designing the kitchens, providing equipment, and creating a kosher catering business that would provide food for generations of special occasions. In the early 2000s, Marilyn retired as the in-house caterer, however, would continue to cater long into her late 70s.

In her retirement, Marilyn delighted in countless Mahjong games with dear friends, traveling, and eventually authored a cookbook. The cookbook reflected not only her expertise in catering and hosting memorable gatherings, but also her humor and the many adventures she cherished.

More than a guide to recipes, it captured her belief that cooking should never feel like a chore – it should be joyful, creative, and something everyone can do.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Leslie, and son David; as well as her four grandchildren, Stacy, Blake, Aly and Trey. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bubba, and daughters, Debbie and Martha, and her brothers, Sonny and Mark.

Marilyn will be remembered for her strength, her kindness and the deep love she had for her family. She leaves behind a legacy of devotion, laughter and resilience that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Funeral Services were held Sunday, October 5, 2025, at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. **HW**

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Jerusalem Denies Abuse of Thunberg, Others Arrested Aboard Hamas Flotilla

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israel’s Foreign Ministry last Sunday denied claims that Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and others detained aboard the Hamas-linked Gaza flotilla have been mistreated in custody since their Sept. 23 arrests.

Denouncing reports claiming Thunberg was detained in a cell infested with bedbugs with too little food and water as “brazen lies,” Jerusalem said “all the detainees’ legal rights are fully upheld” at Ketziot Prison.

“Interestingly enough, Greta herself and other detainees refused to expedite their deportation and insisted on prolonging their stay in custody,” according to last Sunday’s Foreign Ministry statement.

In correspondence sent by the Swedish Foreign Ministry to people close to Thunberg, and seen by The Guardian, an embassy official who visited the activist said she claimed to have been mistreated in Israel, including by being forced to hold flags. The identity of the flags remained unclear.

Jerusalem’s Foreign Ministry noted last Sunday that Thunberg “did not complain to the Israeli authorities about any of these ludicrous and baseless allegations – because they never occurred.”

In a previous statement last Saturday, Jerusalem said that while it sought to expedite proceedings to expedite all some 500 participants who were arrested off the coast of Gaza late last month, some have deliberately obstructed the legal process, “preferring instead to linger in Israel.”

“At the same time, several foreign governments have shown reluctance to accept flights that would return these provocateurs,” it said, adding that the remaining activists would be deported as swiftly as possible.

Last weekend, Israel deported 137 flotilla participants to Turkey.

The activists “made it clear – through their actions, their rejection of all pro-

posals by Israel, Italy and Greece to peacefully transfer the aid, and the small quantity of aid they actually carried on their boats – that their true goal was provocation in the service of Hamas,” Jerusalem stated.

The Israeli military revealed last Friday that the Sept. 23 operation, which involved several Navy units, including Flotilla 13 (Shayetet in Hebrew) commandos, missile boats and the Snapir protection and harbor security unit, entailed the interception of 42 flotilla vessels.

The declared objective of the Global Sumud Flotilla – sumud meaning “steadfastness” in Arabic – was “to break the illegal siege on Gaza by sea, open a humanitarian corridor and end the ongoing genocide.”

Jerusalem maintains that its naval blockade on the enclave, imposed on Jan. 3, 2009, is compatible with international law. It aims to prevent weapons, terrorists and funds from entering or exiting Gaza by sea.

In June, Israel blocked another flotilla to the coastal enclave. Thunberg, who also participated in that flotilla, was re-

turned to Stockholm and, along with 11 others, banned from the Jewish state for 100 years.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, whose office oversees the Israel Prison Service, stated last Sunday he “went to visit Ketziot Prison, and I was proud that we treat the ‘flotilla activists’ as terror supporters.

“Whoever supports terrorism is a terrorist and deserves the conditions of terrorists,” the minister said. “I am proud of the Israel Prison Service officers who acted in accordance with the policy outlined by IPS Chief Commissioner Kobi Yaakobi and myself. I was on their ships; I saw no aid and no humanitarianism.” **HW**

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Jewish Women Struggling with Early Menopause Due to Cancer Treatment Find New Help



While hormones gradually decline as older women approach menopause, younger women who undergo surgery-induced menopause may experience a sudden and dramatic hormonal crash. Credit: Justin Paget / Getty

By Debra Rubin

(JTA) – Beverly was 41, had two children and was contemplating a third when her first mammogram revealed a lump. Diagnosed with breast cancer, Beverly, who lives in Portland, Oregon, opted for chemotherapy, immunotherapy and a double mastectomy. She knew the chemo would affect her fertility. What she didn’t know was that the type of cancer she had would necessitate hormone suppression drugs that would lead to severe menopausal symptoms.

For Beverly, now 46, that meant hot flashes, vaginal atrophy, zero libido, thick curly hair that turned straight, sparse and wispy, and what she describes as “old lady bones.”

“If I’m lucky enough to live to 95, am I just going to crumble into a pile of chalk?” she said.

Beverly, who asked that her last name be withheld for privacy reasons, is not alone in experiencing severe menopausal symptoms following breast cancer or ovarian cancer treatment or prophylactic surgery, which entails breast and/or ovary removal, sometimes along with removal of the uterine and fallopian tubes.

Risk-reducing surgery is often recommended for women who carry a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation, which significantly increases the risk of breast and ovarian cancer. These mutations are found in Ashkenazi Jews – in both women and men – at rates about 10 times higher than in the general population.

For women who test positive, surgery can reduce the risk of developing ovarian cancer by over 75%. There may also be reduced risk of breast cancer, though research findings are mixed.

While hormones gradually decline as older women approach menopause, younger women who undergo surgery-induced menopause may experience a sudden and dramatic hormonal crash.

“Natural menopause is gradual; surgical or medically induced menopause is intense,” said Elana Silber, CEO of Sharsheret, a Jewish nonprofit organization that provides support, counseling, patient navigation, financial assistance and education in the United States and Israel for those facing breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

“Doctors focus on immediate cancer treatment plans; Sharsheret helps support and educate women about what comes next,” Silber said. “We highlight these critical issues so that women know to raise them with their healthcare providers, and we make sure they don’t face those questions alone.”

As public discussions about menopause have become more common, Sharsheret has fielded a growing number of inquiries from young women seeking information on the subject and ways to connect with peers. Many are navigating an abrupt and frightening transition for which they never prepared, and they sometimes describe it as even more traumatic than their breast surgeries.

“Menopause brought on by breast cancer surgery or treatment doesn’t follow a normal, natural progression,” said Adina Fleischmann, Sharsheret’s chief services officer.

Sharsheret has responded by connecting women with social workers and genetic counselors to help them understand both the medical and emotional impact

of treatment-induced menopause.

Through peer-to-peer connections, survivors are matched with others who have gone through the same surgeries and drug regimens. They get real-world perspectives that many women say they don’t receive from their physicians.

The organization also provides survivorship kits, medical webinars, and tailored educational materials on sexual health, bone strength, fertility preservation, and non-hormonal strategies for coping with hot flashes, sleep disruption and vaginal dryness.

Beyond the physical symptoms, it’s not uncommon for women undergoing early menopause to experience depression, according to Dr. Gila Leiter, an Ob/Gyn affiliated with New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital and a member of Sharsheret’s medical advisory board.

“Knowing what symptoms to expect – and expect pretty suddenly – is very important,” Leiter said.

Liora Tannenbaum, Sharsheret’s Israel regional director, underwent risk reducing surgeries as a result of being a BRCA gene mutation carrier. She said she was less fearful of the physical recovery from having her ovaries and uterus removed than when she did her double mastectomy, but she was terrified of the emotional and mental recovery.

“As much as I looked for people to talk to for support who had been through this, I found that so many women were suffering in silence,” Tannenbaum said. “The lowered tones and discomfort around the entire conversation caught me by surprise.”

One woman, M., 44, recalled symptoms “hitting like pile of rocks” after surgery five years ago to remove her ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus. (She asked to use only an initial to preserve her privacy.)

Just 23 when she lost her mother to ovarian cancer, M. was 28 when she learned she carried the BRCA1 mutation. She spent several years considering her options before ultimately choosing to remove her ovaries and uterus.

“It took me a long time,” M. said. “The biggest concern is you want to have kids, and when you have these surgeries you can’t have kids.”

Most doctors, including M.’s, recommend such surgery by age 40. By 39, after two children, a third miscarriage, and ongoing exams, a suspicious finding – which proved to be nothing – made her doctor insist on risk-reducing surgery if she wanted to live to see her kids’ bar

mitzvahs.

“I was already considering surgery, and that scare pushed me to do it,” M. said. “I’m glad I did.”

But the sudden loss of hormones – not just estrogen, but also progesterone and testosterone – left her with vaginal dryness, loss of muscle mass, dry skin, diminished libido and a return of asthma. M., now a nurse who volunteers for Sharsheret’s peer network, noted that she wasn’t told during her medical appointments what to expect.

“The message was: ‘Don’t worry about it. We’ll give you a low-dose hormonal patch and everything will be fine,’” she recalled.

Menopausal symptoms aren’t severe for all women, and sometimes they’re only temporary.

Farrah Zweig was 31 when she was diagnosed with hormone-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer. She had a lumpectomy, radiation and chemotherapy. She also took Lupron, a hormone suppression drug, which put her in menopause.

“My medical team did not discuss menopause with me,” said Zweig, now 42. “My only source of information was from people who had gone through it due to age, not as a result of a medical treatment like mine.”

She experienced the hot flashes and difficulty sleeping, which she expected, and also had a tough time losing weight she’d gained during chemo.

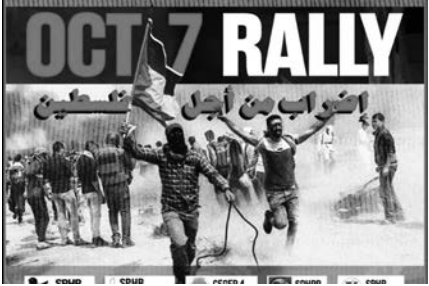
Leiter said physicians often don’t inform patients about treatments that might help their symptoms – even those that don’t involve hormones. She noted that antidepressants can reduce hot flashes and mitigate some of the irritability or emotional fluctuations. Meditation, cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, and laser treatments for vaginal dryness also can be effective.

“Knowing what you may feel and how you’re going to handle it, what medications are available, what support systems you’re going to have and maybe lining up your therapist or acupuncturist in advance makes all the difference,” Leiter said.

To speak with a social worker or someone at Sharsheret, visit www.sharsheret.org or call 866.474.2774.

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Sharsheret, the national Jewish breast cancer and ovarian cancer organization. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team. **HW**

Pro-Hamas Mob Breaches Police Lines at McGill as Concordia is Forced to Close



A poster advertising the pro-Hamas rally at Concordia University in Montreal, Oct. 7, 2025. Credit: Israeli Foreign Ministry/X.

(JNS) – After the Israeli Foreign Ministry condemned as “shameful” the actions of pro-Hamas student groups at Montreal universities, violent anti-Israel protests escalated into open riots last Tuesday.

Chaos engulfed Montreal’s downtown as riot police clashed with protest-

ers outside both Concordia University and McGill University. Montreal police said they had been aware of planned demonstrations and had deployed units to “ensure everyone’s safety.”

Concordia earlier announced the closure of its Sir George Williams downtown campus due to “threats of extreme disruption,” according to an email from President and Vice Chancellor Graham Carr to students and staff obtained by Canada’s National Post newspaper.

Two people were arrested last Monday “following the disruption of a class and midterm exam,” Carr said. One was found carrying “a metal bar and several incendiary devices.”

“With hundreds of protesters from other universities and cégeps [publicly funded colleges in Quebec] expected – as well as counter-protesters not linked

to the university planning to gather outside our downtown campus this afternoon – the threat of extreme disruption is simply too high to operate as usual,” Carr wrote.

By late afternoon, rioters broke through police lines and stormed McGill’s campus, detonating smoke bombs as riot police (SPVM) attempted to contain the situation. Officers marched in formation through the campus, striking batons against their shields in unison.

Witnesses reported plumes of smoke rising near McGill, while earlier in the day, an Israeli flag was burned nearby. The Montreal Gazette reported that pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel demonstrators faced off on opposite sides of the street as thousands joined the protests.

Last Monday, the Israeli Foreign Min-

istry sharply condemned student groups at Concordia University for planning a “shameful” pro-Hamas rally on the second anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre, which ultimately forced the university to close its downtown campus due to threats of violence and unrest.

“Concordia University student groups are organizing a rally this October 7, celebrating the massacre and atrocities committed by Palestinians, glorifying terrorism under the banner of ‘resistance,’” the Foreign Ministry posted on X. “These groups don’t support peace or justice. They’re celebrating murder, rape & the kidnapping of innocent civilians, carried out by Hamas terrorists – under the protection of a Canadian university. Terror has no place on campus.” **HW**



Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis

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.

August 2014: Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman established a family foundation with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Through its own board of directors, the Fogelman Foundation developed customized bylaws, operating policies and investment strategies, and is poised to carry out their charitable goals for generations to come. Among their charitable priorities, and the beneficiary of a major philanthropic investment, is the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service, an organization that serves the most vulnerable families in our local Jewish community.

Dinah Project Presses Israel to Charge Hamas Terrorists for Sexual Violence

By Linda Gradstein

(JNS) – On the second anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacks, the Dinah Project is working hard to encourage Israeli prosecutorial authorities to charge Hamas terrorists with using sexual violence as a weapon of war, as well

as to increase international awareness of the issue. The issue of sexual violence as a weapon of war presents unique challenges, according to Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, a founding member of the

Dinah Project as well as a founding academic director of The Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of Women’s Status at Bar-Ilan University, where she is a professor of law. [HW](#)

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