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10 TISHREI, 5786

OCTOBER 2, 2025

VOL. 104, NO. 2

Laughter and Learning Around the Mahjong Table



Conversation and concentration flowed last month as 20 Jewish and Chinese community members gathered for the third installment of a growing mahjong and cultural exchange series. Hosted by the Memphis Chinese Community Center and the Memphis Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council, the evening offered both newcomers and experienced players a chance to learn from one another, compare American, Cantonese and Hong Kong mahjong traditions, and share plenty of laughter along the way. Reach out to Sara First, community relations manager, Memphis Jewish Federation to get involved. HW

Israeli Attack on Iran Nuke Program ‘Will Go Down in Annals of Military History,’ Netanyahu Tells UN



A Palestinian-organized mass walkout during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s address to the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 26, 2025. Credit: Perry Bindelglass/JNS. | Perry Bindelglass/JNS

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – As dozens of people, who were part of a Palestinian mission to the United Nations-led walkout, exited the main U.N. hall after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was announced as the next speaker to address the U.N. General Assembly, the convener called repeatedly for “order in the hall” and for

people to be seated. Netanyahu looked out on those disrupting the proceedings and called everyone’s attention to the hostages, who continue “languishing in the dungeons of Gaza.” The Israeli premier then held up the map – identifying the “curse” of Syria, Iraq and Iran – that he had shown at the assembly last year.

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Netanyahu looked out on those disrupting the proceedings and called everyone’s attention to the hostages, who continue “languishing in the dungeons of Gaza.” The Israeli premier then held up the map – identifying the “curse” of Syria, Iraq and Iran – that he had shown at the assembly last year.

“This axis threatened the peace of the entire world,” he said. “It threatened the ability of our region and the very existence of my country Israel.”

Over the past year, Israel has “hammered” the Houthis, “crushed” the bulk of Hamas, “crippled” Hezbollah, “destroyed” Assad’s government in Syria, deterred Iran’s militias in Iraq and most importantly in the last decade, Netanyahu said, it “devastated” Iran’s atomic weapons and ballistic missiles program.

“Remember those beepers, pagers? We paged Hezbollah,” he said. “Believe me, they got the message.”

After crossing the threats off the map that he held up, Netanyahu added that Israel’s attack on Iranian nuclear sites “will go down in the annals of military history.”

“I want to thank President Trump for his bold and decisive action,” the Israeli prime minister said. “President Trump and I promised to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and we delivered on that promise.”

Netanyahu called for sanctions on Iran to snap back and for Iran’s nuclear stockpile to be destroyed.

There is still work to be done closer to home too. Israel rebounded from its darkest day and delivered “one of the most stunning military comebacks in history, but we are not done yet,” he said. “The final remnants of Hamas are holed up in Gaza City.”

Israel has to finish the job as soon as possible, because Hamas has vowed to repeat the Oct. 7 attacks as often as it can.

“Much of the world no longer remembers Oct. 7,” Netanyahu said. “But we remember. Israel remembers Oct. 7.” He encouraged attendees to zoom in using their phones on a QR code pin that he wore on his lapel to learn why Israel is fighting Hamas.

(See **Netanyahu** Page 2)

Netanyahu...
(Continued From Page 1)

Netanyahu then addressed the hostages directly in Hebrew and English in the hopes that they would hear his message via “massive” speakers he had set up around Gaza.

“Our brave heroes, this is Prime Minister Netanyahu speaking to you live from the United Nations. We have not forgotten you, not even for a second,” he said. “The people of Israel are with you. We will not falter, and we will not rest until we bring all of you home.”

IDF Footage Shows Terrorists Firing from Hospital in Gaza City



Hostages being moved inside Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Source: IDF Spokesperson's Unit.

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces last Wednesday released footage of Palestinian terrorists opening fire from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

“The use of an active hospital is further proof of Hamas’ cynical and systematic modus operandi of exploiting civilian infrastructure as manned terror command posts,” the IDF said.

The military added that the incident, which took place several days ago, shows that Hamas knowingly endangers the lives of patients, medical staff and innocent civilians in the Strip.

“The IDF will continue to operate resolutely to thwart terrorist activity, while adhering to international law and

Netanyahu told the assembly that thanks to Israeli intelligence, his words were also being streamed live to Gazan cell phones. He addressed “the remaining Hamas leaders” and the “jailers of our hostages.”

“Lay down your arms,” he said, raising his voice. “Let my people go. Free the hostages. All of them. The whole 48. Free the hostages now.”

“If you do, you will live,” he said. “If you don’t, Israel will hunt you down.” **HW**

mitigating harm to civilians,” the statement continued.

In April 2024, the IDF completed a two-week operation to dismantle a Hamas insurgency at Shifa Hospital. The operation followed intelligence indicating that Palestinian terrorists had regrouped inside the medical facility.

According to the military, around 200 terrorists were killed and more than 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad members were arrested.

U.S. spy agencies have verified Israeli claims that Hamas used Shifa Hospital as a command center. The IDF has said that Palestinian terrorists held at least three hostages at the facility. **HW**

THE Hebrew Watchman

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

MAILING ADDRESS
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
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The Hebrew Watchman is a
Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

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

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

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

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

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Havdalah, Sat. Oct. 4, 2025 / 12 Tishrei, 5786 7:16 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Ha'azinu

PS Form 3526 Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Publication Title HEBREW WATCHMAN/HEBREW WATCHMAN | 2. Publication Number 807360 | 3. Filing Date 09/22/2025 |
| 4. Issue Frequency WEEKLY | 5. Number of Issues Published Annually 52 | 6. Annual Subscription Price \$36.00 |
| 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 | | |
| 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 27 East 44th Street Savannah, GA 31405-5201 | | |
| 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Susan Nieman 27 East 44th Street Savannah, GA 31405-5201 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Susan Nieman 27 East 44th Street Savannah, GA 31405-5201 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Susan Nieman 27 East 44th Street Savannah, GA 31405-5201 | | |
| 10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the individual owner. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a corporation, give its name and address.) Full Name Complete Mailing Address Susan Nieman PO Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Jewish Living of the South Inc PO Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846 | | |
| 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box Full Name Complete Mailing Address None | | |

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| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
| a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run) | 1820 | 1750 |
| b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail) | 158 | 148 |
| c. Free or Nominal Rate (By Mail and Outside the Mail) | 1662 | 1550 |
| d. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4)) | 1784 | 1700 |
| e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15c (1), (2), (3), (4)) | 5 | 20 |
| f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e) | 1789 | 1720 |
| g. Copies not Distributed | 30 | 30 |
| h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g) | 1820 | 1750 |
| i. Percent Paid (15d / 15h) times 100 | 98.02 % | 98.84 % |
| 16. If paid circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on line below | | |
| a. Paid Electronic Copies | 0 | 0 |
| b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15d - Paid Electronic Copies) | 0 | 0 |
| c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f - Paid Electronic Copies) | 0 | 0 |
| d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies) | 0.00 % | 0.00 % |
| 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/2/2025 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required. | | |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner | Title | Date |
| Susan Nieman | President/Publisher | 09/22/2025 15:55:59 PM |

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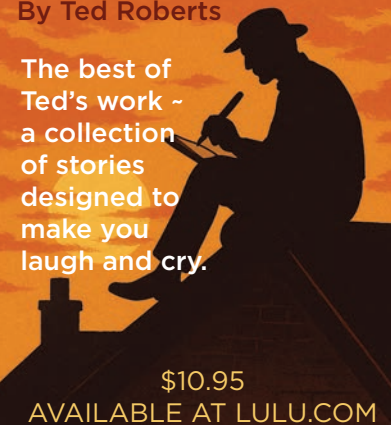
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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

NEW! Mah Jongg League
Sunday, October 5, 2-5 p.m.
This will be the start of the new MJCC Mah Jongg League! Vicki Campbell, who has taught Mah Jongg both at the MJCC and around the city, will supervise our league. There will be prizes at the end for several categories. Sign up for yourself or with a group. The cost for the 4 Sundays is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. The Class number is #12458, when calling the front desk to register. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 with any questions.

Monday, October 6
Speaker: Audrey Landers with Comfort Keepers
Topic: Preventing Falls & other topics
This is by far one of the most important topics that seniors can hear! Falls are one of the leading reasons that seniors end up going into the hospital. If someone just gets 1 tip that prevents a fall it will be worth hearing this topic. Come for the lunch and stay for the speaker or just come for the talk. Reservations are needed for the talk. Hope to see you there.



Vicki Campbell

Wednesday, October 8
The MJCC will be closed for the Sukkot holiday. Have a Good Yom Tov and a restful holiday!

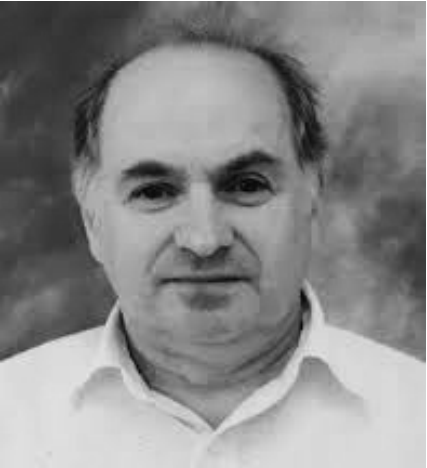
Monday, October 13
Field Trip to Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee
If possible, we will bring our lunches and eat them in the Sukkah there. We will also do the mitzvah of lulav and etrog for those that want to. Please sign

up and let us know if you would like to eat our regular lunch there. We will also tour their lovely Shul. This should be a wonderful outing at this special time of year. Please call the front desk of the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to make your reservations for the lunch and the field trip.

Tuesday, October 14 & Wednesday, October 15
The MJCC will be closed for the Jewish Holidays. Have a Good Yom Tov!

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**

New Book by Dr. Shaul Bar



Dr. Shaul Bar

Dr. Shaul Bar, Bornblum Judaic Studies Chair of Excellence recently published a book entitled “Abraham, A Man Fearing God.” Was Abraham a real historical figure, or is he a figment of the imagination, a product of literary tradition? Abraham is not mentioned in any of these extra biblical documents from the third and second millennia BCE. This led scholars to the conclusion the many details in the book of Genesis are fiction that project later romantic ideals and faith. The stories describe an imaginary past that was created to fulfill political needs of a later period. Is there validity to these assertions, or are these stories about Abraham firmly based in history? The author surveyed epigraphic and archeological material that includes names of nations, people, sites, as well as legal and social customs to find the historical and ethnic background of these stories. The study provides provocative and useful insights into the life and image of the patriarch Abraham and his period. **HW**

IAF Hits Over 170 Terror Targets in Gaza in 24 Hours

(JNS) – The Israeli Air Force over the past 24 hours attacked more than 170 terrorist targets across the Gaza Strip, including weapons storage facilities, the

military said last Thursday.
In Gaza City, IDF troops dismantled military infrastructure, including positions used to launch ambushes against

Israeli forces. Soldiers also killed a terrorist carrying an explosive device who attempted to carry out an attack. **HW**

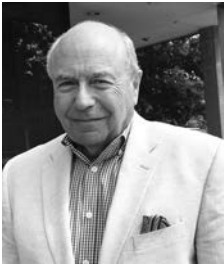
Israeli Forces Neutralize Palestinian Rocket in Samaria

(JNS) – Israeli forces last Tuesday evening identified a rocket in the Palestinian city of Tulkarem, in western Samaria.
The Israel Defense Forces said the rocket was neutralized by Border Police sappers, while troops scanned the area.
The military has opened an investigation into the incident.
Last Friday, Israeli security forces arrested a group of terrorists in Samaria who had attempted to launch a rocket from the Ramallah area the previous week.

Three suspected terrorists were arrested in a raid on a building where troops discovered two launch-ready rockets, dozens of improvised explosive devices and other evidence linking the suspects to attempts to manufacture projectiles, the IDF Spokesperson’s Unit said.
Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar said, “Despite its commitments, the Palestinian Authority is not fighting terrorism and continues its ‘pay-for-slay’ policy,” in which terrorists receive funding for perpetrating attacks on Israelis and Jews.
“This is further proof of the enormous danger in establishing a ‘Palestinian state’,” Sa’ar added. “If Israel does not maintain security control over Judea and Samaria, the entire State of Israel will be in danger.”
Meanwhile, during IDF operations last Wednesday in the Anzah area, near Jenin in northern Samaria, a terrorist hurled an explosive device at Israeli soldiers.
The troops returned fire, killing the assailant.
No IDF injuries were reported. **HW**



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Your Health How to Remain Independent as We Age!

By Cindy Katz, DNP

In our clinic, we’re fortunate to see many healthy patients who are now reaching their 90s and still living fairly independently. Some remain in their own homes with minimal help from family or friends. Others have chosen independent senior living communities—though these can be costly and often out of reach for those relying solely on Social Security.

So, what advice can we give seniors to help them age well without feeling like they’re slowly fading into the background?

Stay Active

Movement is medicine. Aim for at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Walking, swimming, or gentle exercise classes can help keep your body strong and your energy up.

Work on Balance

Good balance prevents falls. Simple exercises—like practicing getting up from a chair without using your hands—can make a big difference.

Eat Well

Make protein a part of every meal to help maintain muscle strength. Include

colorful fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to support overall health.

Engage Your Mind

Keep your brain sharp with reading, crossword puzzles, card games, or learning something new.

Mental fitness is just as important as physical health.

Stay on Top of Preventive Care

Keep up with recommended screenings, vaccinations, and regular check-ups. Early detection is key to treating many health conditions.

Plan Ahead

Talk with a financial planner about future care needs in case you’re unable to remain in your current home. Share your wishes with family and put important documents like a living will in place.

Aging can bring challenges—especially for those managing multiple health issues—but independence is still very achievable. Staying proactive with your health, leaning on your support network, and making thoughtful plans for the future can help you continue living life on your own terms. **HW**

‘South Park’ Tackles Gaza, as Kyle’s Mom Tells Netanyahu He’s ‘Making Life for Jews Miserable’

“Israel and Gaza are a very serious matter,” Kyle tells a classmate who is betting on whether his mother is planning to bomb a Palestinian hospital.



“South Park” portrayed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the episode that aired Sept. 24, 2025. Credit: Comedy Central

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) - Television’s most irreverent cartoon has taken aim at the Gaza war, showing one of its Jewish characters flying to Israel to tell Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he is “making life for Jews miserable” by continuing to prosecute the war.

The latest episode of “South Park” depicts FCC Chairman Brendan Carr suffering from a brain-eating parasite that threatens his “freedom of speech” – a potent visual in the week following ABC’s suspension of Jimmy Kimmel over comments that Carr criticized.

But it also involves Kyle’s mom – the matriarch of the long-running Comedy Central show’s starring Jewish family – flying to Israel after learning that a prediction market app is asking for bets on the question, “Will Kyle Broflovski’s mother bomb Gaza and hit a Palestinian hospital?”

The episode, the first to tackle Gaza on a show that is famous for its rapid responses to current events, leaves no one unscathed – from non-Jews who press their Jewish friends to denounce Israel to Hollywood actors who weigh in on complex geopolitical issues. But it builds toward a powerful denunciation of Netanyahu, who draws the scorn of one of the show’s most strident characters.

Learning of the prediction market at school, Kyle is incensed, lecturing a student who bet in the affirmative. “Israel and Gaza are a very serious matter,” he says. “Do you even know what Gaza is? There has been a conflict in Israel for thousands of years. Jews and Palestinians are not football teams that you bet on.”

Kyle asks his friend Cartman – a notorious antisemite who became an Orthodox rabbi in a 2021 episode – to intervene. Cartman demurs, saying, “Wow, you just mention the Gaza issue to a Jew, and they immediately lose it. Maybe the probability is actually pretty good.”

Kyle’s mother, Sheila, learns about the app after going to dinner with friends who press her for her position on Gaza – a familiar scenario for many American Jews. “I think it’s terrible, a lot of people are dying,” she says. Her friends make a gentle demand: “And ... do you feel you should do something about it?”

Sheila flies off the handle. “Are you implying that Jews in the U.S. have a duty to do something about this?” she yells. “You want to slander my faith, don’t you? It’s not the Jews against Palestine; it’s Israel against Palestine! And maybe if you read books instead of listening to what Hollywood actors say, you’ll see the difference.”

At home, Sheila remains livid. “Why is everyone suddenly confronting us about politics? Have people been asking what you think about Gaza?” she asks her family at dinner. “It’s just pure antisemitism. I’m so sick of being grilled about my views on Palestine and my thoughts on Hamas and being judged for things that are centuries old and that non-Jews know nothing about. Well, if they all think we should do something, then you better believe I’ll do something.”

Kyle begs her to stand down but she refuses. “I’m going to find out where all this is coming from, and I’m going to give them a piece of my mind,” she says and takes off for Israel.

Al-Jazeera reports on her arrival as one of Carr’s underlings works to get the bet, which he says “harms Jews,” removed from the prediction app, disappointing the bettors who believe they’re about to win big.

But Kyle knows better, telling Cartman, “When my mom left the house, she said she was going to find the person responsible for this and give them a piece of her mind.”

The episode ends as Kyle’s mom bursts into Netanyahu’s office and directs her famous ire at him.

“Just who do you think you are, killing thousands and flattening neighborhoods, then wrapping yourself in Judaism like it’s some shield from criticism! You’re making life for Jews miserable and life for American Jews impossible!” she says.

“Don’t roll your eyes at me, mister. You know what you’re doing, and you’re doing it on purpose. Now you can just sit in that chair because I’m not going anywhere,” Kyle’s mom continues. “Buster, I’ve been to every PTA meeting, every school board meeting, I can go on and on ...” The episode ends.

The show does not suggest what happens next. **HW**

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Your Best Self "I Don't Need This"

A monthly column *by Greg Graber* (Graber Performance Coaching LLC)

Many of the techniques I use in my coaching practice are rooted in mindfulness. It always amuses me that whenever I present on mindfulness to a group or team for the first time, I encounter at least one cynic in the crowd. Typically, they won't articulate their disdain for my subject matter out loud. I pick it up on their body language. Their arms are crossed, or their feet are shaking, or perhaps they are rolling their eyes in disgust. Their body language is screaming to me that they do not believe what I am saying.

I love when this happens. It gives me an opportunity to demystify mindfulness. I don't get bent out of shape because I once thought, much like some of these cynics, that mindfulness is some esoteric, fringe activity that was solely for hippies and new age groupies. I remember telling my wife when she dragged me to my first meditation class years ago, "I don't need this." Now, years later, after seeing what a profound positive impact a daily mindfulness practice has had on my life, I see how wrong I was about this. Everyone needs mindfulness.

In the past decade, there has been a ton of burgeoning research about how mindfulness improves our mental, physical, psychological and emotional states. In my talks, I implore individuals to dig into some of these studies. I also like to challenge the cynics by saying that the only alternative to mindfulness is "mindlessness." We are either mindful and intentional about our thoughts and actions or we are not. There is no in-between. We can either let our thoughts and emotions control us and everything we do, or we can learn to be more pro-



active and responsive to them. When we learn to choose the latter, we are making a conscious decision to be more open and responsive, instead of acting out in a knee-jerk reactive manner to everything we experience.

If for some reason, the term "mindfulness" turns you off, see the concept through a similar lens using different names. See it as "emotional regulation," "impulse control," "compassion for self and others," and/or "emotional intelligence." These are all byproducts of mindfulness practice.

It has been my experience that people who resist mindfulness the most are the folks who are in need of it the most. However, I never try to force it upon anyone. I realize that dealing with our thoughts and emotions is not always easy. As the old saying goes, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." The next time you have a strong urge to resist something that you are not sure about, and you find yourself thinking, "I don't need this," try asking yourself if you are resisting it for the right reasons, or are you just resisting it because you are afraid to open up to it. As Alan Watts said, "Both of what we are trying to escape and what we are trying to find are inside ourselves." **HW**

Greg Graber, the author of *Slow Your Roll-Mindfulness for Fast Times*, is an internationally respected coach who helps teams, schools, organizations and individuals thrive. From NBA coaches to soccer moms, he offers mental performance coaching, wellness counseling and executive coaching. For more information (and *The Hebrew Watchman* discount), email Greg at info@greggraber.com, or visit his website at www.greggraber.com.



Wisconsin Lawmakers Consider Adopting IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Wisconsin lawmakers are weighing whether to adopt a resolution that would enshrine the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into state law, Wisconsin Public Radio reported last Monday.

The bill would require state and local governments to use the IHRA definition of antisemitism when determining cases of discrimination and resulting disciplinary actions.

"In the last 18 months, the world has witnessed a disturbing and unprecedented surge in antisemitic rhetoric, violence and harassment," wrote the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation in a letter. "The IHRA working definition of antisemitism has emerged as a vital tool in this fight."

Currently, 37 states and Washington, D.C., have adopted the definition. **HW**

Israeli Arrested for Planning to Buy Gun, Kill PM

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israeli police arrested a resident of the southern city of Kiryat Gat who threatened to assassinate Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The suspect was arrested on the evening of Sept. 22, the start of Rosh Hashanah, when he entered a police station and announced he intended to purchase a gun and shoot Netanyahu three times.

The officers immediately arrested the suspect, who was interrogated at the station. A court subsequently extended his detention at the police's request.

"Today, an indictment is expected to be filed against him, along with a request for detention until the conclusion of the proceedings," police said in a statement last Thursday.

On July 24, a woman in her 70s was indicted for allegedly attempting to assassinate Netanyahu, planning to carry out the attack with an anti-tank weapon.

The State Attorney's Office filed charges against her with the Tel Aviv District Court for attempting to conspire to commit an act of terror and aggravated murder.

The defendant, involved in political protest activities against the Netanyahu government, had recently been diagnosed with a serious illness.

With possibly only a short time to live, she decided to assassinate the

prime minister "thereby 'sacrificing' her life for the struggle against the government and in doing so, 'saving' the State of Israel," the indictment said.

The plot was uncovered when the defendant was turned in by a fellow activist she attempted to recruit to the plan, asking him for help "in gathering information regarding the prime minister's schedule, movements, location and security arrangements."

On Sept. 3, Netanyahu harshly condemned violent protesters against his government after they started fires in Jerusalem, likening them to "fascist militias."

Netanyahu, who rarely draws parallels between his political detractors and fascists, delivered the rebuke in a video message shortly after protesters started a fire that destroyed a car near the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem.

Police arrested two individuals suspected of the fire. An 83-year-old man, who claimed he never left his home that day, and Amos Doron, 60, an officer in the IDF reserves and well-known protest activist, Ynet reported.

The torched car belonged to an IDF reservist that had served 260 days in the current war and was set to report to duty in the Gaza Strip the following week. **HW**

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Contact Hal Jaffe 229-4725

Wisconsin Lawmakers Consider Adopting IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Wisconsin lawmakers are weighing whether to adopt a resolution that would enshrine the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into state law, Wisconsin Public Radio reported last Monday.

The bill would require state and local governments to use the IHRA definition of antisemitism when determining cases of discrimination and resulting disciplinary actions.

"In the last 18 months, the world has witnessed a disturbing and unprecedented surge in antisemitic rhetoric, violence and harassment," wrote the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation in a letter. "The IHRA working definition of antisemitism has emerged as a vital tool in this fight."

Currently, 37 states and Washington, D.C., have adopted the definition. **HW**



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Florida Man Charged with Arson for Setting Chabad Classroom Ablaze Before Rosh Hashanah

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A Florida man has been arrested in connection with a fire last week in a classroom at a Chabad in Florida, days before Rosh Hashanah.

Blake Richard Hoover, 31, of Punta Gorda, was arrested by local police last Monday and charged with arson and criminal mischief. Those charges were also enhanced with hate crime charges, according to the Punta Gorda Police Department.

According to the criminal complaint, Hoover was identified after his mother, Kelly, saw reports of the blaze at the Chabad of Charlotte County in Punta Gorda, Florida, and thought that her son may be responsible.

During the incident last Friday night, traces of fuel were found both inside and outside of the charred window of the children’s classroom, and the letter “J” was spray painted in three areas out-

side of the building.

Kelly Hoover told police that the evening of the arson, her son had returned home with an empty spray paint can as well as an empty gas can that had gone missing earlier in the night. She also told police that Hoover “has a hatred toward homosexuals and Jewish people that’s become worse over the past years,” according to court documents.

“This type of crime will not be tolerated in Sarasota County,” wrote Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt Hoffman in a post on X. “Any criminal activity directed at religious schools or institutions will be met with the full force and capability of this agency.”

If convicted on all counts, Hoover faces a mandatory minimum of five years and up to 20 years in federal prison, according to the U.S. District Attorney’s Office of the Middle District of Florida. [HW](#)

Princeton Police Increase Presence After Antisemitic Vandalism

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The police department in Princeton, N.J., is reportedly increasing patrols around parks and the Jewish Center, a Conservative congregation in Princeton, after several anti-Israel and antisemitic vandalism incidents.

Five such incidents in August included graffiti stating “death to the IDF,” “global intifada” and “from the river to the sea,” the Daily Princetonian, a student paper at Princeton University, reported. [HW](#)

Syracuse Students Charged with Hate Crime After Pork Thrown into Jewish Frat on Rosh Hashanah

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Two Syracuse University students face hate crime charges for allegedly throwing pork into a Jewish fraternity house on Rosh Hashanah.

At around 6 p.m. last Tuesday, members of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity were gathered for Rosh Hashanah when one student, who was not affiliated with the fraternity, allegedly entered the house and threw a bag of pork at an interior wall, according to university police.

The student, identified as Samuel Patten, 18, of Brooklyn, then fled the home in a vehicle driven by another student, Kyle Anderson, 18, of Greenwich, Connecticut. They were later captured by police and charged with burglary as a hate crime and criminal nuisance.

“Tonight’s incident as reported to us is abhorrent, shocking to the conscience and violates our core value of being a place that is truly welcoming to all. It will not be tolerated at Syracuse University,” wrote Allen Groves, the university’s chief student experience officer, in a statement.

Groves added that the two students had been referred to the university’s Office of Community Standards for potential disciplinary action.

Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick told the Associated Press that the hate crime charges for the students came about because the incident occurred on a Jewish holiday at a historically Jewish fraternity.

“This incident is not a foolish college prank and will not be treated as such,” Fitzpatrick told the Associated Press. “It will be treated for what it is, a crime directed against a group of Jewish students enjoying a celebratory dinner and seemingly secure in their residence.”

Syracuse University has an undergraduate Jewish population of about 2,500, comprising around 16% of its student body, according to Hillel International. In 2019, a Jewish professor received an anonymous, antisemitic email and all fraternity activities were cancelled the same year following a spate of racist incidents.

“We are heartbroken and outraged by this hateful crime committed against our fraternity,” the fraternity wrote in a story post on Instagram. “This was an attack on our home, our values, and our safety, as well as every Jewish student on campus.”

Bacon and other pig products, which are not kosher to eat under Jewish law, have been used in antisemitic assaults before and have historically shown up in antisemitic imagery. In January 2020, an upstate New York woman was charged with a hate crime after allegedly throwing pork at a local synagogue in the middle of the night. And earlier this year, an Australian man was arrested after allegedly throwing a “packet of bacon” at someone who interrupted his attempts at antisemitic graffiti. [HW](#)

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ADL Files New LawsUIT Against 8 Terror Groups Tied to Oct. 7 Attacks



ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt speaks onstage at ADL’s Never Is Now conference on March 3, 2025, in New York City. Credit: Bryan Bedder/Getty Images

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – The Anti-Defamation League has filed a new lawsuit on behalf of the families of victims of Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

The lawsuit, which follows another

filed in July 2024 against Iran, Syria and North Korea for abetting terrorists, includes claims against eight foreign terrorist groups for their efforts in orchestrating the Oct. 7 attacks.

The terror groups added to the new lawsuit include Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Palestinian Mujahideen Movement, Popular Resistance Committees and Hezbollah.

The lawsuit makes use of two federal statutes: the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which allows victims to sue state sponsors of terrorism, and the Anti-Terrorism Act, which enables lawsuits against foreign terrorist organizations. It was filed by the ADL alongside Crowell and Moring, a top-earning law firm, which employs dozens of former federal government officials.

“The victims of the October 7 massacre deserve justice, accountability and redress,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the ADL, in a statement. “This lawsuit seeks to do that by holding those responsible for the carnage accountable, from the state sponsors who

provided the funding, weapons, and training to the terrorist organizations who carried out these unspeakable atrocities.”

The lawsuit joins a slew of cases attempting to use American courts to seek redress following Oct. 7. It seeks compensation for victims of Oct. 7 as well as punitive damages meant to deter future attacks, according to the ADL release.

The new lawsuit also includes additional families who were not included in the initial lawsuit, which is ongoing.

“The world must never forget what happened on October 7,” said plaintiffs David and Hazel Brief, whose son, Yona, was killed as a result of injuries sustained during the attack. “Our son’s life was senselessly cut short. We believe it is critical that those responsible for the horrific terror inflicted that day are held accountable in a court of law, to ensure the record is clear as to who helped support, plan and carry out the violence that day.” [HW](#)

Danish Fund Drops Israel Over Gaza, Citing Violations of ‘Human Rights’

(JNS) – A large Danish fund manager, AkademikerPension, announced last Wednesday that it will disinvest from Israeli state assets over the war against Hamas in Gaza, and the Israeli presence in Judea and Samaria.

“In AkademikerPension, we take a systematic approach to monitoring sovereigns against our Policy for Responsible Investments. In this case, our monitoring has identified violations of human rights, and we have therefore decided to exclude the State of Israel and

state-controlled enterprises from our investment universe,” the manager’s chief executive officer, Jens Munch Holst, said in a statement.

The statement did not detail Israel investments hitherto handled by AkademikerPension, but did say that “as of today, AkademikerPension holds no positions in the State of Israel or in Israeli state-owned companies.”

Investing some \$24.77 billion globally, AkademikerPension manages the pensions of Danish teachers and univer-

sity lecturers. It said the war was not in accordance with international humanitarian principles, Reuters reported.


The exclusion follows the recent divestments by Norway’s \$2 trillion sovereign wealth fund. “This comes as an assessment of the state of Israel’s ability to uphold human rights,” CEO Jens Munch Holst told Reuters.

Norway’s wealth fund stopped short


of announcing a blanket boycott of Israel but announced in August that it had divested from 11 Israeli companies that it said did not meet its “equity benchmark.”



It also said it planned to move the other 50 companies in which it invests in-house.



“We are terminating contracts with external managers in Israel,” the fund’s investment management announced. [HW](#)



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Are Your Personal Biases Derailing Your Investment Goals?

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

Your investment portfolio may need variety to help fit your needs. Too much of one kind of asset, or too little, and you're likely to find yourself without the pieces that can potentially help you meet your long-term financial goals.

The trick is to guard against making decisions based on trends or biases you might not be aware you have. Tracie McMillion, head of Global Asset Allocation for Wells Fargo Investment Institute, took a closer look at some of the biases that can cloud your thinking:

Identify your biases

Even savvy and knowledgeable investors can be blind to their own biases — tendencies that can thwart smart decision-making. Common investment biases include:

Sector bias. All too often, professionals gravitate toward stocks in industries that they're most familiar with. Doctors, for instance, may load up on health care stocks.

• **Risk:** You may lose out on potential earnings in other industries and unduly expose yourself to downturns in industry-specific markets.

• **Consideration:** The key is to diversify among sectors. Work with your investment professionals to gain an understanding of how assets in various sectors may potentially help a portfolio perform better as a whole over the long term.

Company bias. From favoring a family business to maintaining too much loyalty to a long-time employer, this bias can weigh down a portfolio with

one company's stock.

• **Risk:** Sinking too much of your retirement savings into one brand can leave you exposed to company-specific volatility risk that can be sizable. It can even expose your portfolio to the possibility that that one company may cease to exist.

• **Consideration:** Diversification may potentially help buffer the effects of severe problems at an individual company level.

Bias toward recent events. Called "recency bias," this tendency relates to how investors respond to everyday market activity. With investment information and the news of national and international events at our fingertips 24/7, many of us are very tuned in to what's happening in the world — and in the financial markets.

As human beings, we tend to project what has just happened into the future, reacting to upward and downward trends by buying and selling stocks as if yesterday's good or bad news will continue into the future.

• **Risk:** Letting short-term news drive your investment decisions could cause you to abandon your personalized, long-term investment plan.

• **Consideration:** Self-discipline. Work with your financial team to create a personal investment philosophy statement — and stick to it. This customized strategy should account for your desired asset mix, risk preferences, liquidity needs, and time horizon. And it can help you keep your cool when the headlines

start to heat up.

Home country bias. Investors — be they American, Italian, or Brazilian — typically feel most comfortable when they choose to invest in companies headquartered in their home countries. After all, they're usually the companies that such investors read about in local or national media and the companies that they do business with as consumers most often.

• **Risk:** Home country bias may translate to missed investment opportunities. Heavy reliance on U.S. stocks, bonds, and real estate can keep you from expanding your investment strategy to take advantage of global investment opportunities.

• **Consideration:** We believe it's a good idea to see to it that most of your assets have some global component. And remember that while currency exchange rates may introduce risks to your portfolio, they also may pave the way toward enhanced returns.

Some additional caveats

In addition to these biases, we see other habits and attitudes that can affect our clients' portfolios. You may not be susceptible to all of these tendencies, but being aware of them can help keep your investment strategy on track:

• **Overconfidence.** Do you think you can beat the Street? Striving to micro-manage your portfolio stock-by-stock or trying to outsmart the market in a short time frame is a common, but often flawed, tactic in our view. Instead, trust your plan and don't try to anticipate short-term market movements.

• **Aversion to loss.** Is there an asset you just can't bear to sell because it has lost value? Well, with each passing day, you could be putting off the inevitable, and in our view, you may be robbing yourself of access to investment dollars that could be working for you elsewhere.

Ask yourself if it's time to move on.

• **Anchoring.** This tactic comes into play when you hold on to an investment because you are comparing its current value to a reference value, such as a top-dollar price point from the past. Anchoring thinking might go something like this: "I just want the stock price to return to the high it hit two years ago before I sell." But by mooring yourself to a potentially unrealistic expectation, you may find that your investment plan doesn't move forward.

• **Favoritism in asset classes.** Are you showing preference for one type of asset over others? Do you have "rules" against investing in certain asset types? Showing favoritism may unnecessarily exclude a choice — including a new investment strategy — that could serve you well. Our goal is to help clients make their investment plans personal without allowing such unintentional biases and tendencies to creep in. The overall solution comes back to self-control during volatile times. Work with your investment team to maintain objectivity, manage risk, and stay focused on long-term goals rather than toward short-term investment — or emotional — rewards.

More about creating your personal investing philosophy

To help provide focus and direction, every investor should consider establishing a personal investment philosophy. For couples, the philosophy statement should reflect their mutual investment goals and their unified strategy as a household.

Here's a short list of action items that can get you started on formulating your personal investment strategy.

• **Determine how much cash you need** to hold to your commitment to your long-term investment plan. Before

(See **Investment** Page 9)

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Investment...

(Continued From Page 8)
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• **Commit to diversification of your investments.** Not to sound repetitive, but this tactic can help you deal with market ups and downs. Just as you need an overcoat in winter and a swimsuit in summer, various assets simply tend to perform better during different economic cycles. So position yourself for different financial seasons with a diversified combination of fixed income, equity holdings, real assets, and alternative investment strategies.

• **Actively manage risk.** Don’t forget to revisit and rebalance your portfolio about once a year and when you experience a major life event. Reallocation can help your portfolio stay on plan and reduce risk or enhance return potential when markets have moved significantly.

• **Weave goals into your overall plan.** Many investors who have significant resources also have aspirations of making their world a better place. To understand how you spend your investment dollars, consider asking a financial advisor to run reports on your complete portfolio, including investments, charitable trusts, and asset transfers. Then collaborate on any adjustments needed to help the overarching investment plan operate within your customized preferences.

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All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.

Stock markets, especially foreign markets, are volatile. Stocks may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Foreign investing has additional risks including those associated with currency fluctuation, political and economic instability, and different accounting standards. These risks are heightened in emerging and frontier markets.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions and the perception of individual

issuers. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities.

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.

Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market. All investing involves risk including the possible loss of principal.

There are special risks associated with an investment in real estate, including the possible illiquidity of the underlying properties, credit risk, interest rate fluctuations, and the impact of varied economic conditions.

Alternative investments, such as hedge funds, funds of hedge funds, managed futures, private capital, real assets and real estate funds, are not appropriate for all investors. They are speculative, highly illiquid, and are designed for long-term investment, and not as trading vehicle. These funds carry specific investor qualifications which can include high income and net-worth requirements as well as relatively high investment minimums. The high expenses associated with alternative investments must be offset by trading profits and other income which may not be realized. Unlike mutual funds, alternative investments are not subject to some of the regulations designed to protect investors and are not required to provide the same level of disclosure as would be received from a mutual fund. They trade in diverse complex strategies that are affected in different ways and at different times by changing market conditions. Strategies may, at times, be out of market favor for considerable periods with adverse consequences for the fund and the investor. An investment in these funds involve the risks inherent in an investment in securities and can include losses associated with speculative investment practices, including hedging and leveraging through derivatives, such as futures, options, swaps, short selling, investments in non-U.S. securities, “junk” bonds and illiquid investments. The use of leverage in a portfolio varies by strategy. Leverage can significantly increase return potential but create greater risk of loss. At times, a fund may be unable to sell certain of its illiquid investments without a substantial drop in price, if at all. Other risks can include those associated with potential lack of diversification, restrictions on transferring interests, no available secondary market, complex tax structures, delays in tax reporting, valuation of securities and pricing. An investment in a fund of funds carries additional risks including asset-based fees and expenses at the fund level and indirect fees, expenses and asset-based compensation of investment funds in which these funds invest. An investor should review the private placement memorandum, subscription agreement and other related offering materials for complete information regarding terms, including all

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OBITUARIES



Richard (Dick) Eiseman

Dick Eiseman died on Sept. 21, 2025. He was born in 1923 in New Orleans, La., to Annie Rosenberg Eiseman Reinberger and Cassius Eiseman Jr. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

While serving in World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-1945, he flew 32 missions in a B17 over Germany and France with the 8th Air Force as a flight engineer and top turret gunner.

For his service, he received the distinguished Flying Cross and the French Legion of Honor Medal, in addition to other decorations and citations.

In Memphis, Tenn., he and Ina Plesofsky Eiseman, who preceded him

in death, were married for 64 years. They had three children, Rick Eiseman (Bari), Bob Eiseman (Tami), Beth Eiseman Graber (Rusty), five grandchildren, Brad (Sarah) Eiseman, Scott (Lacey) Eiseman, Zac Graber, Monte (Baylee) Eiseman, Brandi Eiseman and four great-grandchildren, Colton Eiseman, Axel Eiseman, Sloane Eiseman, Dahlia Eiseman.

Beginning in 1952, Dick began his career at Paper Products Company, and in 1958 became an owner/partner for 27 years until they merged with Century Paper where he worked for another 10 years.

A family man from the beginning, it was customary for Dick and Ina to plan annual family trips all over the world with their children and later with the grandchildren. Cruising was the vacation of choice beginning in the 1970s.

He was an avid Memphis Tigers football and basketball fan, and the Memphis Grizzlies. They were season ticket holders continuously from the 1950s. Until recently, he attended every game and could have been the oldest and longest running Tiger fan in attendance. He also loved to play golf and supported the St. Jude/FedEx classic with sponsorships and attended every year.

He served on the board of Temple Israel, as well as being in charge of the Temple Cemetery for years. Planning and building a World War II memorial at the cemetery was one of his proudest accomplishments. HW

applicable fees, as well as the specific risks associated with a fund before investing.

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‘I Will Not Be Silenced’: Josh Shapiro Invokes Assassination Attempt in Address on Rising Hate Violence



Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro on Aug. 26. Credit: Joe Lamberti/Bloomberg via Getty Images

By Jacob Kornbluh

This previous appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission.

Josh Shapiro decried violence aimed at silencing political speech, citing the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk as well as the arson attack on the Pennsylvania governor’s mansion just hours after he led his family in the Passover Seder.

The Pennsylvania governor and his family were forced to evacuate the executive residence after it was firebombed in April just hours after their first-night Seder.

“I’m here today to tell you that I will not be deterred in my work on behalf of the good people of Pennsylvania, and I, sure as heck, will not be silenced,” he said in remarks at the annual Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Pittsburgh in September.

Shapiro said the attack left “emotional scars.” He recalled that in its wake, a volunteer fire department chaplain handed him the handwritten Priestly

Blessing – the same prayer he traditionally recites to his children before they go to sleep each night. “I wept when I read that prayer that he wrote,” Shapiro said.

No one was injured, but the blaze caused extensive damage. Police charged the suspect, Cody Balmer, with attempted murder, aggravated arson, terrorism, and other offenses. Investigators said Balmer told a 911 operator that he was sending a message to Shapiro that he would not “take part in his plans for what he wants to do to the Palestinian people.” He later admitted to “harboring hatred” toward Shapiro and said that he wanted to beat him with a sledgehammer.

In an interview, Shapiro said that the shooting at Utah Valley University brought back memories that he’d like to forget. But added that he was grateful to have emerged unharmed. “I feel blessed to be alive, and I feel blessed to continue to be able to do this work that was taken from Charlie in Utah last week,” he said.

Kirk’s killing is the latest in a wave of hate-fueled violence in recent years, including in Pennsylvania. Last year, President Donald Trump faced an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in Butler County. And in 2018, Robert Bowers, a white supremacist, killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Eradicate Hate was formed following that attack, the deadliest act of antisemitism in the nation’s history.

Shapiro, who proudly embraces his Jewish faith, was sworn in on a Bible that was rescued from the synagogue attack.

He recalled mourning with Pittsburgh’s Jewish community immediately after the attack, when he was the state’s attorney general.

“A cross-section of the entire community was here. Grieving together. Finding strength in one another,” Shapiro said. “It was the people here on these streets in Pittsburgh who proclaimed that night we are stronger than hate.”

Organizers of the summit said they traditionally don’t invite politicians to speak. They made an exception for Shapiro because of his own experience with violence.

“Political violence doesn’t only affect those who are directly targeted or their loved ones. It affects all of us,” Shapiro said. “It tears at the fabric of American society and the fundamental principles that this nation was founded upon, a nation where civil disagreement should be welcome.”

Shapiro called on all political leaders to be “clear and unequivocal” in calling out all forms of political violence. “Unfortunately, some from the dark corners of the internet all the way to the Oval Office want to cherry-pick which instances of political violence they want to condemn,” he said.

Trump blamed Kirk’s death on vio-

lence incited by what he called years of Nazi name-calling directed at conservative voices, and said he would use his office to come after those he blamed for the rhetoric.

In his 3-minute address from the Oval Office, Trump listed a litany of recent attacks on the right, but did not list any attacks on the left, although a gunman assassinated a Democrat, the former speaker of the Minnesota House, and her husband as recently as June. He also did not mention other recent high-profile attacks on Jews, including the one on Shapiro; the killing of a young couple outside the Capital Jewish Museum; and the firebombing in Boulder of people marching for the hostages in Gaza.

Shapiro said violence should not be used as a pretext to shut down political speech, alluding to threats by Trump and one of his top deputies, Stephen Miller, to go after nonprofits they claim without evidence spurred Kirk’s killing.

“Censorship – using the long arm of government to silence people, businesses, and nonprofits and restrict their right to free speech – will not solve this problem,” Shapiro said.

Blaming only one side for the violence has its own perils, Shapiro warned. “There are some who will hear that selective condemnation and take it as a permission slip to commit more violence, so long as it suits their narrative or only targets the other side,” he said.

In the interview, Shapiro said that Trump’s “rhetoric of revenge” makes Americans less safe and makes it harder to find common ground. “There is a responsibility on all leaders to speak and act with moral clarity, to call out the rhetoric of revenge and political violence, no matter who’s perpetuating it and no matter who’s the victim,” he said. “Everyone needs to do better, and it starts with the president.” **HW**

‘Deeply Regrettable’ U.N. Held Briefing on Rosh Hashanah, U.S. Envoy Says

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Mike Waltz, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said at a U.N. Security Council briefing on the Middle East last Tuesday that it is “deeply regrettable” that the council decided to hold the high-level “briefing on Gaza on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, knowing full well that that decision excludes Israel.”

“Frankly, colleagues, it’s a testament to how this council has prioritized a lot of performance over serious efforts to actually advance peace,” Waltz told the council.

He said that U.S. President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the latter’s team “and partners like Egypt and Qatar” are engaged in those efforts “right now as we speak, to end this horrific war.”

The main outcome of the more than 80 meetings that the Security Council has held on the subject since Oct. 7 “unfortunately has been to embolden Hamas, to undermine and disrupt negotiations that are aimed at freeing all of the hostages and ending the war and ending the suffering that we all want to end,” Waltz said.

JNS has reported that the United Nations tends to mark holidays that are not Jewish and wish followers happy holidays on social media but tends to ignore

Jewish holidays.

Both the main United Nations social media handle (with 16.4 million followers) and that of António Guterres, the U.N. secretary-general (with 2.4 million followers), failed to note the holiday on social media this year.

Last year, JNS asked Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for Guterres, why the global body ignores Jewish holidays in its various social media messages.

“Well, if—I would actually like to, to do that, uh, today in advance, and I’d like to wish all of, uh, all of the—the Jewish communities around the world to have a happy, uh, and peaceful Yom Kippur,” Haq told JNS last year. “This has been, without a doubt, uh, a difficult year, and—and we’re hoping that, uh, that the promise of the future can be bright for everyone.”

Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, stated last Monday before the holiday that “Israel will not participate in tomorrow’s Security Council session.”

“Despite our prior notice that the session falls on Rosh Hashanah, the council chose to hold the debate precisely on this day,” he wrote to the council president. “A one-sided discussion held on a Jewish holiday is yet more proof of the U.N.’s hypocrisy.” **HW**

Dua Lipa Denies Firing Agent Over Pro-Israel Views

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – English pop singer Dua Lipa last Tuesday denied firing her Jewish agent for signing a letter calling to remove the anti-Israel Northern Irish rap group Kneecap from the Glastonbury music festival.

The development comes amid a boycott of Israeli film institutions supported by more than 4,000 American actors and directors due to the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza, and as some artists are seeking to block streaming services from letting their songs play in Israel.

The Daily Mail reported last week that Lipa had parted ways with her European agent, David Levy, for signing a leaked letter to Glastonbury founder Michael Eavis and his daughter, Emily, urging them to drop the rap group from this year’s festival over their anti-Israel views.

“Dua made sure through her people that David Levy wasn’t working on her music anymore. She is very openly pro-Palestine, and that doesn’t align with David,” a source told the Daily Mail. “She views him as being a supporter of Israel’s war in Gaza, and the terrible treatment of the Palestinians, and that was made very clear through the letter that he signed and sent to Michael Eavis.”

The 30-year-old Grammy Award-win-

ning performer will continue to be represented by her current talent agency, William Morris Endeavor, but with a different agent there, according to the newspaper.

Lipa called the media report “completely false,” even as she distanced herself from Levy.

“I do not condone the actions of David Levy or other music executives toward an artist speaking their truth,” she wrote on her Instagram Stories. “I also cannot ignore how this has been handled in the press. Not only was the story completely false, but the language used by the Daily Mail has been deliberately inflammatory, crafted purely for clickbait, clearly designed to fuel online division.”

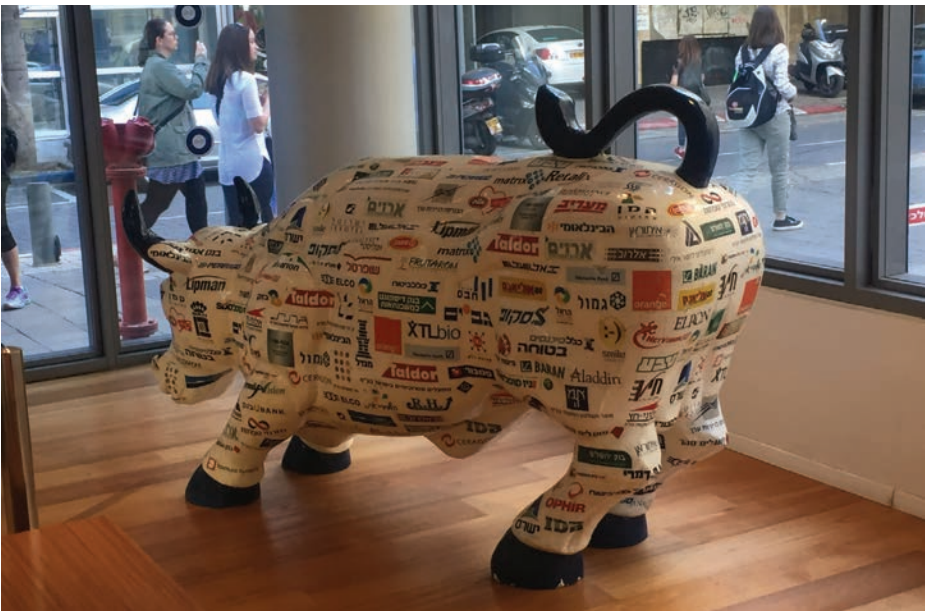
The pop star continued, “It is always Free Palestine but exploiting a global tragedy in order to sell newspapers is something I find deeply troubling.”

A separate statement by William Morris Endeavor said that Levy had not been involved in managing the artist’s day-to-day activity since 2019.

Kneecap, which displayed a Hezbolah flag at one of its shows, canceled its upcoming U.S. tour amid an ongoing court case over a terrorism-related charge against one of its members. **HW**

30 Years, 30 Moments

A Look Back at the Legacy of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis in Photos



October 30, 2013: The Jewish Foundation of Memphis added the Israel Stock Fund (ISF) as an investment option for all donor-advised, designated, memorial and endowment funds. The addition of ISF increased the total number of investment options for fundholders to eight. The fund is still part of the platform and offers efficient, diversified exposure to a range of Israeli companies, large and small.

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