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JUNE 26, 2025

VOL. 103, NO. 39

Community Safety Takes Center Stage at Jewish Community Partners Joint Annual Meeting



Jewish Foundation of Memphis (JFOM) Chair Pace Cooper, Jewish Community Partners (JCP) Chair Charles Jalenak and Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) Chair Jimmy Ringel. Credit: Greg Campbell

The Jewish Community Partners (JCP) Annual Meeting held on June 11 highlighted the accomplishments of Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis (JFOM). The evening began with a prayer for the Hostages led by MJCC Shlichah Tal Nezry. JCP Chair Marty Kelman and MJF Chair Scott Notowich each gave year-in-review reports and, as outgoing chairs, were both honored for their dedication to Jewish communal service. Guest speaker Michael Masters, Se-

cure Community Network (SCN) national director and CEO, addressed attendees with a powerful message about the importance of vigilance, partnership and preparedness in the face of rising threats to Jewish communities. Earlier in the day, Masters met with local law enforcement leadership to strengthen collaborative efforts and share best practices in Jewish communal security. Following Masters' presentation, Jewish Foundation of Memphis Chair Pace Cooper gave a year-in-review report.



JCP President & CEO Laura Linder and JFOM Chair Pace Cooper honor Sheri Gadberry, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, for her 25 years of service. Credit: Greg Campbell



Michael Masters, Secure Community Network National Director and CEO. Credit: Greg Campbell

He, along with JCP President and CEO Laura Linder, then honored Sheri Gadberry, executive vice president of JFOM, for her 25 years of service and profound commitment to the Foundation and the Memphis Jewish community. Linder gave her report before turning nominations over to Scott Vogel, chair of the nominating committee. Charles Jalenak was elected as JCP Chair and Jimmy Ringel as MJF Chair. Each gave a report about the bright future of the Memphis Jewish community before adjourning the meeting. **HW**

Standing with Israel: Jewish Memphis Unites in Solidarity



By Shoshana Cener :: Photos by Greg Campbell

Jewish Memphis once again gathered for a somber and sobering Israel Solidarity Gathering on Tuesday, June 17, under heavy security. The meaningful event was quickly put together by Memphis Jewish Federation and hosted at Beth Sholom Synagogue in response to the Israel-Iran conflict. After newly installed Federation chair Jimmy Ringel opened the program, community member and former Israeli resident Natalie Klaven set the tone, sharing moving, emotional words, which many of us can likely relate to. "I feel like I need to be there," she said of our precious homeland. "I feel helpless

and confused." Following Hatikvah, led by Baron Hirsch's Cantor Ricky Kampf and past and current IDF soldiers, Beth Sholom's Rabbi Sarit Horwitz honored those we've lost in the most recent attacks from Iranian missiles. As she recited their names, Israeli town, and age – the youngest life lost was just 8 – community shlichah Tal Nezry lit a yahrzeit candle. Community rabbis then gathered to jointly read a prayer for Israel, soldiers and hostages before three community members were introduced by Jill Shanker – Federation's executive committee



member and Israel and Overseas vice chair – to offer personal reflections from their loved ones who are in Israel. Hearing these first-hand accounts was both impactful and frightening. Dr. Ari Lowell read his wife, Shana's, accounts of being in Israel for a family wedding in Bat Yam. She witnessed the Iron Dome intercepting Iran warheads. Hila Shimony, friend of Arela Koter who lives in our sister city of Shoham and serves as the Shoham chair of the Memphis-Shoham Partnership, shared Arela's experiences of hearing the many sirens in Israel and rushing with children to safe rooms in their "new reality

of rockets and bombs." Arela expressed her gratitude for the IDF, as well as the Memphis community's prayers, which give her strength. Finally, Cheryl Kaplan recounted her daughter Chaya Kaplan Lester's thoughts that although the scene in Israel is "exhausting and heartbreaking," Jews were "given the calling to be a light," demonstrating "moral courage." Following those emotional statements, Laura Linder, Jewish Community Partners president and CEO, offered some words of hope for the future. She

(See Solidarity Page 3)

Beth Sholom Welcomes New Leadership Team for 2025-2026, Honors Rabbi Horwitz



Members of the 2025-2026 Beth Sholom Board of Directors at the May 18 Annual Meeting. Front row: Naomi Katz, Susan Levko, Keri Unowsky, Sandy Friedman, Gregory Miles Apfel-Duval, and Gregg Beeber. Second row: Sara First, Liza Levko, and Peshie Chaifetz. Back Row: Russell Scheinberg, Ben Roberts, Christine Scheinberg, Stacy Canales, Gabe Horowitz, Lon Alperin, and Anthony Morrison. Missing from the photo are John Pregulman, Greg Phelps and Lindsey Rossen.

Beth Sholom Synagogue members gathered for the shul’s annual meeting on May 18 to elect officers and board members, celebrate the synagogue’s 70th year, and pay tribute to their beloved rabbi, Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, who will be moving to New York this summer to become Director of Rabbinic Leadership Programs with the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

Beth Sholom President Keri Unowsky, in her message to the congregation, harkened back to 1955, exactly 70 years ago. “It was the year that McDonald’s launched its first restaurant, Disneyland opened to the public, and a Black woman in Alabama refused to move to the back of the bus,” she said. “Another historic event took place that year – the birth of Conservative Judaism in Memphis, Tennessee, when Beth Sholom synagogue was formed.”

As part of her tribute to Beth Sholom’s rich history, Unowsky acknowledged the past shul presidents in attendance, thanking them for their hard work and dedication that helped transform Beth Sholom into the vibrant, dynamic and welcoming shul it has become over the last 70 years.

The annual meeting also marked the formal kick-off of *L’Dor Vador: The Campaign for the Future of Beth Sholom Synagogue*, a historic \$2.5 million

capital campaign to solidify the continued strength and vibrancy of the congregation. Beth Sholom VP of Development Anthony Morrison said that more than \$1 million to date has been raised. Unowsky said the capital campaign “will ensure a flourishing Conservative Jewish presence in Memphis for generations to come.”

Eyes teared up as a video tribute to Rabbi Sarit was played, in which congregants spoke of the incredible difference she has made on Beth Sholom and its members. In her d’var Torah, Rabbi Sarit spoke of the congregation’s reciprocal impact on her. “I feel overwhelming gratitude to this community,” Rabbi Sarit said. “Your love for one another extended outward and embraced me. Your commitment to the holy work of building vibrant Jewish community inspired me to bring my full self to this sacred endeavor... You have forever left your mark not only on who I am as a professional, but on who I am as a Jew, as a person, as a lover of Jewish community, and as someone who deeply believes in who we can be as a people.”

Unowsky noted, “While we are sad to see Rabbi Sarit go, we are excited to welcome Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum, who will be joining us on July 1. Rabbi Rosenbaum brings his own strengths to our congregation and will continue to

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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Payable in Advance

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Send editorial submissions

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The Hebrew Watchman is a

Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

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:

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6/26/2025

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. June 27, 2025 / 1 Tammuz, 5785.....8:00 p.m.

Havdalah, Sat. June 28, 2025 / 2 Tammuz, 5785 9:03 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Korach

carry Beth Sholom forward.”

Unowsky, who continues as president for another year, announced the new board officers for 2025-2026: VP Finance/Treasurer Sandy Friedman, VP Development Anthony Morrison, VP Education Lindsey Rossen, VP Membership Gregg Beeber, VP Ritual Russell Scheinberg, VP Personnel & Administrative/Corporate Secretary Christine Scheinberg, VP Facilities Lon Alperin, Immediate Past President Naomi Katz, and President Elect Anthony Morrison.

The congregation also elected four

new board members: Sara First, Gabe Horowitz, Greg Phelps and Ben Roberts. Continuing on the board are Stacy Canales, Peshie Chaifetz, Lee Harkavy, Rebecca Landau, Lisa Levko, Gregory Miles Apfel-Duval and John Pregulman. Additionally, Susan Levko (Sisterhood Representative) and Leslie Epstein (Cemetery Representative) will continue their board service by virtue of their portfolios.

In her final remarks, Unowsky said, “Beth Sholom has had a wonderful time celebrating our 70th anniversary this year. Our congregation will miss Rabbi Sarit. Yet, our core strength is our members. Rabbi Sarit helped to energize the congregation and helped us get to this point of tremendous strength. But we could never have gotten here without our committed members, and we will continue to thrive because of their dedication.” **HW**

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Solidarity...
(Continued From Page 1)



Attendees singing “Am Yisrael Chai” led by Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gimpel and MJCC Scouts Shira Maliniak and Yuval Waldman.



Attendees signing banners and writing notes to friends in Shoham, Israel.

talked about a recent call she attended with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and 100 Federation CEOs, who expressed unanimous support and heard how Israel is coping.

President Herzog “spoke with emotion” as he comforted those on the call saying “that Israel remains strong and resilient. ... We are one people, one family.” When asked what we can do now during this difficult time, he said we “must give hope ... to carry forward the legacy of Klal Yisroel” – the whole of Israel.

The crowd then rose to recite together a community solidarity statement, followed by a unified singing of “Am Yisrael Chai,” led by Rabbi Abe



Schacter-Gimpel and MJCC Scouts Shira Maliniak and Yuval Waldman.

After the event, attendees were invited to channel their support into action – writing letters to our Shoham friends, signing a Memphis Stands with Israel banner, and writing to our local political representatives asking them to support Israel.

Federation’s Annual Campaign is also collecting funds to provide emergency assistance and vital services through its overseas partners, while also strengthening Jewish life and security in Memphis.

May our collective prayers bring protection and peace to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world. **HW**



The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

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

Wednesday, July 2
Speaker: Rabbi Levi Klein, of Chabad of Tennessee
Topic: Ask the Rabbi
This has become one of the most looked forward to programs. Bring any questions you have about Judaism and he will answer!
Rabbi Levi Klein
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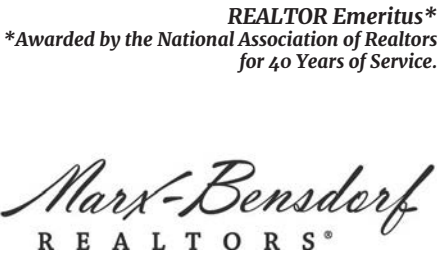
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Monday, July 7
Team Trivial Pursuit
This has become one of the most popular of the after-lunch events! The room is split into two groups. The first team to answer 11 questions right is the winning team. Prizes are awarded to both teams with the best prizes going to the winning team. This contest will focus on music, TV, movies and history of the 50s and 60s, with a few other questions thrown in from the past. Come test your memory and knowledge. Everyone always seems to enjoy this wonderful past time. Reservations are not required but are helpful.

Wednesday, July 9
Speaker: Josh Goldin with Extensive Home Health
Topic: Brain Training for Seniors
As we get older, it sometimes causes us to forget even the simplest of things. This talk should help us do things that help our memory. There is no charge and the preceding lunch is only \$2. Reservations are only required for the lunch.

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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Estate Planning Why Tennessee Is a Top State for Trusts — Even for Non- High Net Worth Individuals

By Benjamin I. Wachtel, Esq. and David L. Mendelson, Esq.

When most people hear the word “trust,” their minds immediately jump to the ultra-wealthy. It sounds like something reserved for celebrities, business moguls, or the notorious “trust fund kids.” But the truth is, if you’ve worked hard, built some savings, and perhaps own a home or have a retirement account, you’re already in a position where a trust could benefit you – especially if you live in Tennessee.

Thanks to trust-friendly laws, Tennessee has quietly become one of the best places in the country to establish and manage a trust. And you don’t need tens of millions of dollars to take advantage of it.

A **trust** is a legal tool that helps individuals and couples manage and pass assets to beneficiaries in a manner that’s private, efficient, and protected. Unlike a will – which must go through probate court in Tennessee – a trust allows assets to go directly to beneficiaries, typically without delay, judicial involvement, or public record.

Even with a reasonable estate (think: a home, some retirement savings, life insurance, maybe a business interest), a trust can offer several practical benefits:

- Avoiding probate court
- Maintaining privacy
- Protecting heirs from creditors or poor financial decisions
- Ensuring smooth asset management if the individual becomes incapacitated

A trust isn’t just about passing on wealth – it’s about protecting and managing assets in the event of incapacity or death.

What Makes Tennessee Stand Out?
While trusts are available nationwide, not every state offers the same advantages. Tennessee happens to check a lot of boxes for families who want flexibility, protection, and long-term planning options.

1. No State Income Tax on Trusts
Tennessee generally does not tax the income of trusts. Specifically, Tennes-

see does not impose a state income tax on the retained (undistributed) income and net capital gains of Tennessee situs trusts (those established under Tennessee law).

2. Long-Term Trust Planning
Many states require trusts to end after a few generations. Not Tennessee. Here, one can create a “**dynasty trust**” that lasts up to **360 years** – allowing individuals and couples to build a legacy that can support children, grandchildren, and beyond.

3. Strong Asset Protection
Tennessee is one of a few states that allow **Domestic Asset Protection Trusts** (DAPTs). These trusts let individuals set aside assets that are protected from future lawsuits or creditors – even while still potentially benefiting from them. This is especially appealing for small business owners, medical professionals, or anyone in a high-liability field.

4. Flexible Control
Tennessee allows **directed trusts**, which means individuals can divide responsibilities among different people (or institutions): one to manage the money, one to handle distributions, and another to oversee administration. This flexibility helps families tailor trusts to their unique dynamics.

Trusts aren’t just for the ultra-rich – they’re for anyone who wants to be thoughtful about how their wealth is managed and passed on. And if one lives in Tennessee (or is open to creating a trust here), one has access to some of the best trust laws in the country. **HW**



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Germany’s Freidrich Merz Calls Iran Fight ‘The Dirty Work Israel is Doing for All of Us’



Friedrich Merz, chancellor candidate of Germany’s Christian Democrats, Feb. 23, 2025. Credit: Maja Hitij/Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has expressed gratitude about Israel’s attacks on Iran’s nuclear program.

“This is the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us,” Merz, who took office earlier this year, told the German broadcaster ZDF last Tuesday from Canada, where he is participating in the G7 summit of world leaders. There, he and the other participants signed a resolution in favor of de-escalation in the current conflict, which erupted early last Friday when Israel began a bombing campaign

that is ongoing.
Merz had made headlines with his sharp criticism of Israel’s operations in Gaza earlier this month, a rarity for both a German leader and a center-right one. But as with several other European allies who were pressuring Israel to end its Gaza campaign, he has offered full-throated support of Israel’s right to self-defense since the Iran conflict began.

Now, he is going further, saying that he is glad Israel has taken on an adversary that posed risk for Germany and other countries. He said he believed Iran’s regime had been significantly and permanently weakened.

“I can only say I have the greatest respect for the fact that the Israeli army and the Israeli government had the courage to do this,” Merz said.

Merz also said he believed the United States had not made a final decision about whether to get involved militarily. President Donald Trump left the G7 summit early to discuss the topic at the White House. **HW**

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Netanyahu: 'We Target Nuclear Sites, They Target Hospitals'

By JNS Staff

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu surveyed the damage at Soroka Medical Center in Beersheva last Thursday after its old surgical building suffered a direct hit from an Iranian missile.

"We are hitting nuclear targets and missile targets precisely, and they are hitting the pediatric ward of the hospital. That says it all," Netanyahu said.

"There's a pediatric and infant department here. That's all the difference between a democracy that acts according to the law to save itself, and these murderers, who want to destroy each and every one of us," he said.

The number of casualties would have been much higher if not for the decision 24 hours earlier by Health Ministry Director General Moshe Bar Siman Tov to order the evacuation of the surgical center, which he deemed unsafe in light of the Iranian attacks.

"There is a lot of damage to the infrastructure," said Bar Siman Tov while visiting the hospital, Israel Hayom reported.

"Much heavier damage was avoided here, especially in human life. There was good decision-making here on the part of all of us to make sure that we were prepared," he said.

At least six people were seriously wounded by the latest Iranian missile barrage, which also hit Holon and Ramat Gan.

Some 30 ballistic missiles were

launched at Israel.

Iran claimed it did not aim for Soroka but for a nearby military base, Ynet reported. [HW](#)



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Wells Fargo Money Study Has Findings for 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
fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

For its 2025 Money Study, Wells Fargo surveyed thousands of Americans to gain a deeper understanding of how they think, feel, and act with their money. Its findings were wide-ranging (you can see the full study at wellsfargo.com/moneystudy2025), including a couple of particular interest for investors:

Inflation is changing spending habits
From groceries and gas to entertainment, 90% of respondents reported experiencing “sticker shock” over everyday expenses, such as dining out, event tickets, streaming services, and even basics like bottled water.

Whether you call it tightening your belt, cutting back, or simply spending less, many consumers were reevaluating how they handle their money. According to the study, more than 75% of Americans were cutting back on spending in a time of ongoing inflation. The trend was even more pronounced among younger generations. The study found 82% of Gen Z and 79% of Millennials were cutting back on spending. Surprisingly, even 60% of teens, the youngest generation surveyed, had trimmed their normal spending.

These shifts reflected a broader movement toward cautious spending. The survey found many Americans were delaying life plans (55%), including travel (74% of those delaying plans), home renovation projects (39%), and even moving (30%) or buying a home (30%). One in six who were delaying plans

were putting off education plans, one in seven had delayed getting married, and one in eight have put off retirement.

These findings help spotlight the importance of factoring inflation into your investment planning, which may help you avoid seeing inflation erode your investments’ purchasing power over time.

To help beat inflation, consider investments with a return potential that’s higher than the inflation rate. However, keep in mind that risk and return tend to go hand in hand. As a result, if you purchase investments with higher return potential (like stocks) than other investments (bonds, for example) you may incur greater price volatility.

The key is to find the balance that’s right for you – a portfolio that helps you overcome inflation but without the kind of volatility that keeps you awake at night.

More individuals are looking for advice

While 86% of Americans say they have a clear understanding of what they want their money to achieve, they face significant barriers. Three out of five (61%) say they could use a mental reset, and among them nearly half (48%) say the difficulty of changing their financial habits is an obstacle holding them back. Others struggle with balancing immediate needs against long-term planning.

Not surprisingly, there has been a 12% year-over-year increase in people from all age groups seeking financial advice.

So, if you have questions about managing your money, you’re not alone, and you may want to look to a professional financial advisor for help.

On behalf of Wells Fargo, Versta Research conducted a national survey of 3,657 U.S. adults and 203 U.S. teens age 14 to 17. Sampling was stratified, and data were weighted by age, gender, race, ethnicity, income, and education to achieve accurate representation of the current population based on estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey was conducted from September 5 to October 4, 2024. Assuming no sample bias, the maximum margin of error for full-sample estimates is ±2%.

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

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‘Go Burn in an Oven’: Florida Man Charged with Antisemitic Threats



Gavel next to American flag.
Credit: Sergei Tokmakov/Pixabay.

(JNS) – Jackson Traylor, 26, of Dania Beach, Fla., is charged with sending “more than 10” threatening text messages to a Jewish person and concealing his identity by changing numbers.

Traylor allegedly did so over the course of nine months, according to an indictment that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland unsealed last Tuesday. (The Jewish victim lives in Maryland.)

The messages, sent between July 9, 2024, and April 10, 2025, include the statements “go burn in an oven like your ancestors,” “burn in a god damn oven Stupid jew” and “Hey Jew, been a while since we spoke. Let me burn you alive like your ancestors. Hail Hitler.” (JNS sought comment from the U.S. attorney’s office.)

The defendant faces up to two years in prison. [HW](#)

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Suspect Arrested after Mass Shooting Threat that Closed Texas Jewish Community Center



The Barshop Jewish Community Center in San Antonio, Texas was closed last Thursday following threats of a mass shooting. (Screenshot)
By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A suspect was arrested last Thursday who allegedly planned a mass shooting at the Barshop Jewish Community Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The suspect, who was not identified, was located by police in another state and was arrested based on statements made by the suspect while in police custody, according to San Antonio Police Chief William McManus.

In response to the alleged threats, the Barshop JCC was closed last Thursday and police presence was increased at Jewish facilities throughout the city, according to police.

“The FBI received information overnight indicating that an individual may have been planning to conduct a mass shooting at a Jewish Cultural Enrichment Center,” the FBI San Antonio Field Office said in a statement. “An individual believed to be associated with this has been located by the FBI in another state and the investigation is continuing to determine the veracity of the threat information.”

The incident comes at a time of high alert for Jewish communities in the United States, following multiple recent violent attacks on Jewish targets. It also follows waves of threats to Jewish institutions that have unfolded in recent years, including hundreds of false bomb threats sent by email and phone to synagogues and JCCs. Police in multiple states have also arrested people they accused of traveling to attack Jewish targets.

Eric Ryniker, the executive director of San Antonio synagogue Temple Beth El, told local news channel KSAT that he had received a call from the FBI early last Thursday morning informing him that they were not only “focusing on the JCC but the Jewish community entirely.”

Ryniker told KSAT that his reaction to the call from the FBI was “frustration more than anything” – but not because of how the agency was responding.

“Honestly, frustration more than anything because of how almost routine it is. It’s terrible. It’s tragic. It’s not OK,” Ryniker said. “And yet, this is just part

of what we do. We have these protocols in place because we know things like this are going to happen.”

Rabbi Mara Nathan, the senior rabbi of Temple Beth El, received a personal call from San Antonio Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones, who was inaugurated last Wednesday, according to KSAT.

“I appreciate Chief McManus and SAPD working to quickly mitigate any potential increased risks to our Jewish community, and we will continue to monitor this situation closely with City Manager Walsh,” said Jones in a statement. “Anti-Semitism has no place in San Antonio, and we’ll take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of our Jewish neighbors.”

At Shalom Austin, a Jewish umbrella organization that includes the JCC and multiple synagogues in Austin, Texas, an email was sent to the community informing them of the threats to the JCC in San Antonio.

“We are reaching out to share that the JCC in San Antonio is closed today as a precaution following information the FBI and San Antonio Police provided to their local Jewish community about a potential threat,” the email read, adding that there were “no known threats” to the Austin Jewish community.

Rhonda Grimm, the president of the National Council of Jewish Women San Antonio, told local television station KENS that they had received a “very very strong show of support.”

“We received a great deal of support today, so while tensions are high and there’s anxiety, there’s a very very strong show of support,” Grimm said.

“It could be us targeted, it could be another group targeted tomorrow,” Grimm continued. “We all look out for each other.” **HW**



Robert Jerome Hermann

Robert Jerome (Jerry) Hermann (1946-2025) passed away on June 16 in North Carolina after a COPD exacerbation. Despite having many severe medical issues, he was unwaveringly cheerful and optimistic throughout, saying that he never would have expected to have lived this long.

He was raised in Memphis, adopted as a baby by Ruth and Harold Hermann. He worked as a high school science/math teacher, furniture store co-owner, and at the county register’s office.

He was married to Barbara Miller in 1972, and they had a daughter, Julie, in 1978.

Family vacations were enjoying nature from a cabin in a state park, boating on a lake or exploring a cave. He loved being out on a boat, throwing in a fishing line and just relaxing watching for animals on the banks coming for water. He was proud of all of the work that he did on his house – building his own three-car garage, a screened-in porch, a laundry room, a shed, a tree house, and a fully air-conditioned playhouse for his daughter and the pet gerbils (at one time reaching 40+ gerbils). He instilled a love of science (especially genetics) and math in his daughter, which led to her future profession. Eventually after retiring, he moved to North Carolina to be with his daughter, Julie Sievert, and granddaughter Leila Sievert, and continued to be a role model for the love of learning, being financially frugal, loyalty and positive thinking. At his assisted living, he was friends with everyone, was well known and loved for his dad jokes and his happy cheerful demeanor. As a friend, confidante, loving father and grandfather, he will be greatly missed. **HW**

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Bornblum’s Dr. Daniel R. Weiss Elected Vice-President of Memphis Association of Independent Schools



Dr. Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D.

Dr. Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D., head of school at Bornblum Jewish Community School, has been elected vice-president of the Memphis Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), the organization announced in May 2025. The election reflects both Dr. Weiss’s long-standing commitment to educational excellence and the vital role Bornblum plays within Memphis’s independent school community.

Bornblum Jewish Community School, a proud member of MAIS, serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade. With a dual curriculum that emphasizes both general and Jewish studies, Bornblum has become a model of values-based, academically rigorous education in the Memphis area.

Other officers of MAIS include: McKenzie Cohen from Collegiate School of Memphis as president, Brad Sewell from PDS as treasurer, Andy Surber from Grace St Luke as secretary, and John Murphy from Bodine School as immediate past president.

“I am honored to have been asked to serve in this leadership role with this exceptional group of independent school leaders,” said Dr. Weiss. “The Memphis Association of Independent Schools represents a deeply committed group of educators and institutions that continually strive to raise the bar for student success in our city. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support innovation and excellence across our schools.”

As vice-president, Dr. Weiss will help implement MAIS’s goals for this year, which include helping local and state representatives understand the unique role that independent schools and school choice play in our community, examine how current events in the Memphis community impact individual schools and the growth of the Memphis population, and look at and provide information about trends that are impacting policies in independent schools.

Dr. Weiss brings nearly two decades of educational leadership to the role, with a focus on strategic planning, curriculum development and community engagement. His appointment is seen as a positive step toward strengthening ties among the city’s independent schools and ensuring continued high-quality educational options for Memphis families. **HW**

U.S. Bombs 3 Sites in Iran, Joining Israel’s Fight Against Iranian Nuclear Program



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a model of Air Force One between them, during a meeting at White House, April 7, 2025. Credit: Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

By JTA Staff

(JTA) – After days of publicly considering joining Israel in its fight against Iran’s nuclear program, and a day after saying he would make a decision “within two weeks,” President Donald Trump announced late Saturday that U.S. forces had attacked Iran.

“We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan,” he posted on Truth Social, his social media platform, shortly before 8 p.m. in Washington. “All planes are now outside of Iran air space.”

Trump wrote that “a full payload of BOMBS” was dropped on Fordow, the underground heart of Iran’s nuclear program. It was seen as the prime remaining target after a week of attacks by Isra-

el, which launched an offensive against Iran on June 13, and unreachable by Israel and its weapons.

“There is not another military in the World that could have done this,” Trump wrote. “NOW IS THE TIME FOR PEACE! Thank you for your attention to this matter.”

He then reposted a tweet from an open-source intelligence account that said “Fordow is gone” and announced that he would be giving a televised address at 10 p.m.

“This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD,” he wrote. “IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR. THANK YOU!” **HW**

Birthright Israel Carries Out Historic Sea Evacuation of 1,500 Participants to Cyprus



Credit: Erez Uzir, courtesy of Birthright Israel

Larnaca, Cyprus (June 17, 2025) – In a remarkable and unprecedented emergency operation, Birthright Israel successfully evacuated approximately 1,500 program participants earlier on June 17 aboard the Crown Iris, a luxury Israeli cruise ship operated by Mano Maritime, sailing from Ashdod Port to Larnaca, Cyprus. The 13-hour voyage (more or less) is conducted under the close protection of the Israeli Navy, which escorted the vessel across the Mediterranean to ensure the participants’ safety amid ongoing regional tensions.

The cruise ship was secured by Birthright Israel as part of a swift and strategic effort to begin repatriating nearly 2,800 international participants – the majority of whom are young adults from the United States – who have been stranded in Israel due to the escalating conflict with Iran.

Priority on this voyage was given to participants nearing the end of their 10-day educational experience, ensuring their safe and timely return to their home countries. Upon arrival in Cyprus, the participants will be flown to their hometowns. All transportation costs, including sea and air travel, are being fully covered by Birthright Israel.

Gidi Mark, CEO of Birthright Israel, personally led the operation on the ground in Cyprus, coordinating logistics and receiving the participants as they arrived safely at Larnaca Port.

“Today we witnessed the true spirit of Birthright Israel – not only as an educational journey, but as a global family committed to the safety and well-being of every participant,” said Gidi Mark. “This was a complex and emotional operation, carried out under immense pressure, and we are proud to have brought 1,500 young adults safely to Cyprus. Our team continues to work around the clock to secure solutions for the remaining participants still in Israel.”

From Cyprus, four wide-body planes chartered by the State of Florida – led by Governor DeSantis – will fly all U.S. participants to Tampa, Florida. From there, they will be able to continue on to their respective hometowns.

Participants from all other countries will have separate travel arrangements coordinated by Birthright Israel. Further details regarding upcoming evacuation efforts – whether by air or sea – for the remaining Birthright Israel participants will be shared as soon as they are confirmed. **HW**

Israel Ministry of Tourism to Assist Tourists Wishing to Leave Israel by Coordinating Flights

New York – (June 17, 2025) - To facilitate tourists’ departure from the country, under the guidance of Tourism Minister Haim Katz, the Ministry of Tourism will assist tourists currently in Israel to register for departure flights from Israel.

A digital registration form is being distributed through various digital platforms, to incoming tourism organizers’ offices, hotels, tour guides, and other industry stakeholders.

The form includes only full name, phone number, and email address, in accordance with privacy protection laws and regulations.

Tourists wishing to register are invited to fill out the following form: <https://govforms.gov.il/mw/forms/TouristEvacuationFromIsrael@tourism.gov.il?displang=en>

The Ministry of Tourism will consolidate the list in a digital vault and transfer it, only as needed, to the National Security Headquarters and the Ministry of Transportation, so that coordination

with relevant airlines can be arranged to facilitate tourists’ departure from the country.

Currently, there are approximately 38,000 tourists in Israel. It should be noted that all land border crossings to Jordan and Egypt are open, and some tourists prefer to exit via these routes.

The Ministry of Tourism has opened a virtual office that provides tourists in Israel with information services through digital channels in Hebrew and English.

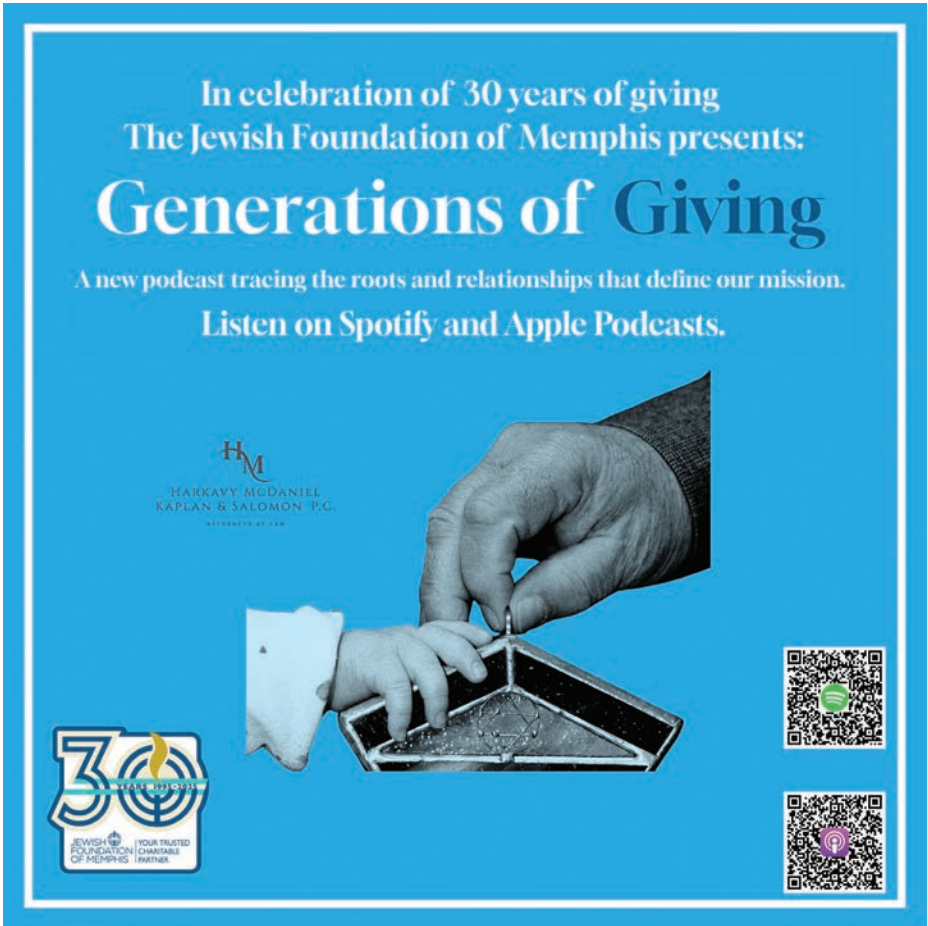
The service is available 24/7 through digital channels:

- Email: virtual@goisrael.gov.il
- WhatsApp messaging application through phone number: +972-53-583-5808
- Facebook page: Israel Virtual Tourist Office

Simultaneously, the Ministry is in contact with industry stakeholders, including hotels and other accommodation facilities, to locate tourists who need assistance due to the security situation. **HW**



Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis



From technical expertise to strategic vision, Sandy Blockman’s impact on the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is deep and lasting. Appointed to the Foundation Board in 1998 as a Margolin Hebrew Academy representative, Sandy went on to serve for 18 years, including two and a half as Board Chair. During his tenure, the Foundation’s assets grew to \$65 million, and his guidance helped shape complex gift policies, support donor families and launch Jewish Community Partners. A lifelong Memphian, Sandy’s professional and volunteer leadership continues to strengthen Jewish Memphis. Listen to an interview with Sandy on the Foundation’s new podcast, “Generations of Giving,” available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

30 Years, 30 Moments

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

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

June 1998:

Friends and family establish the first Designated Endowment Fund at the Jewish Foundation, the Marty Olswanger Memorial Fund. This fund was created to honor the memory of an extraordinary father, husband, friend and community leader. Since its establishment, more than \$285,000 in grants have been awarded to 24 different charities. Today, the Foundation has 61 Designated Endowment Funds, many of which were established to honor the memory of a loved one.

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