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14 Tammuz, 5785

JULY 10, 2025

VOL. 103, NO. 41

In D.C., Memphis Jewish Federation Leaders Champion Security and Community Relations



Laura Linder and Leor Reef met with Congressman Steve Cohen and other lawmakers on Capitol Hill in late June.

Antisemitism is on the rise, with threats and attacks making headlines and reaching unprecedented levels. To combat this, late in June, in a demonstration of national unity and advocacy, over 400 Jewish leaders from 100 communities across the nation met for an impactful two-day fly-in to Washington, D.C. Organized by Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the delegation engaged in more than 200 congressional meetings to advocate for

critical security needs facing the Jewish community today. Laura Linder, president and CEO of Jewish Community Partners, and Leor Reef, a Memphis Jewish Federation board member and Community Relations Council member, joined the fly-in to represent Memphis.

Along with other participants from the state, the Memphis representatives joined face-to-face meetings with Tennessee policymakers Congressman Steve Cohen, Congressman David Kustoff, Congressman Tim Burchett, and staff from the offices of Congressman



Laura Linder and Leor Reef met with Congressman David Kustoff and other lawmakers on Capitol Hill in late June.

John Rose and Senator Bill Hagerty. These meetings were instrumental in directly addressing six critical issues: increased non-profit security grant funding; dedicated funding for security personnel at synagogues, schools, JCCs and summer camps; enhanced FBI intelligence capabilities to combat domestic terrorism; increased local law enforcement funding; more social media accountability, and aggressive prosecution of antisemitic hate crimes.

"Having face time with our political leaders in Washington is absolutely cru-

cial," Laura Linder said. "It allows us to directly convey the urgent security concerns of our Jewish community, ensuring that our local experiences and needs are heard and understood at the national level. These conversations are vital for securing the resources and policies that protect our institutions and our people at a time when we are especially vulnerable."

Leor Reef, who is also a participant in the Federation's leadership development program, highlighted the uni-

(See Washington D.C. Page 2)

Temple Israel Sisterhood Book Club Celebrates 30 Years



Front row: Liz Simonian, Martha Graber, Judy Stephenson; 2nd row: Ann Rabinovitz, Judy Royal, Marcia Levy, Rose Rubin, Amy Murrell; 3rd row: Melissa Faber, Phyllis Niegelberg, Beverly Buchalter, Margaret Kedia, Carol Stowell; Back row (stairs): Nancy Sissman, Allison Delugach, Meryl Rosen, Judy Felsenthal

The Temple Israel Sisterhood Saturday book club recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, having met every month since 1995.

There are currently 19 members, each of whom hosts at their homes on a rotating basis. Each host typically provides refreshments and, at times, decorations that align with the book's theme. Liz Simonian, the group organizer, hosted the milestone celebration at her Germantown home.

The book club isn't limited to any specific genre; members vote on a variety of suggested fiction and non-fiction books every six months. Instead of having a discussion leader, everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts about the book as they take turns speak-

ing, going around in a circle.

The group wasn't even discouraged by the COVID-19 years and continued to meet regularly via Zoom.

"We've built a camaraderie that has grown stronger over the years – it's truly a testament to our dedication to our book club and each other," says Simonian. "We've read books I never would have known about, and I've learned so much from these ladies. On a few occasions, the author of our monthly read has joined us in person, by phone, or via Zoom."

The club's recent book choice was "Bernice Runs Away" by Arkansas writer Talya Tate Boerner. Next month, they will read "James" by Percival Everett. A list of all the books read since 1995 can be found on the Temple Israel Sisterhood webpage.

Several members of the book group are published authors. Simonian cowrote and edited her husband, Rouben Simonian's, memoir, "Uncharted Canvas: A Journey through Beirut, Brussels, and Beyond."

(See Sisterhood Page 2)

Washington D.C....

(Continued From Page 1)

fied message of the delegation. "This fly-in truly exemplified the power of collective advocacy," Reef noted. "To be part of a group of 400 leaders, all speaking with one voice on critical security issues, sends a powerful message to Congress. Our focus on increased security funding, stronger law enforcement capabilities, and accountability for antisemitic acts directly supports the Memphis Jewish Federation's ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our community."

Prior to their congressional visits, attendees received a comprehensive briefing from JFNA, outlining a clear agenda that included advocating for \$1 billion in security funding.

Notably, both Congressmen Cohen and Kustoff have long been proactive in encouraging increased security for the Jewish community. In a recent letter they co-signed along with two dozen other House members, a reference was made to federal support received by the Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis for door locks, which prevented a potential tragedy in July 2023 - a testament to the direct impact of local security initiatives.

The fly-in concluded with a deeply moving appeal for continued advocacy from Moshe Lavi, brother-in-law of Omri Miran, a hostage held in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, and remarks by the

Sisterhood...

(Continued From Page 1)

Judy Stephenson co-wrote a memoir with her husband, Jim, titled "Working & Living Around the World."

Amy Murrell has co-authored several books, including "The Joy of Parenting." She also wrote "I See Me: More Than One Tree," which is part of a children's series featuring Becca Epps.

There are also other talented members of the book club. Ann Rabinovitz is a professional calligrapher whose work has been displayed in several local exhibitions.

Melissa Faber, a past Sisterhood president, writer and editor of two volumes of poetry, said, "As we enter the fourth decade of reading books together, this group is a testament to the power of Sisterhood, of women joining together to support one another in difficult as well as sweet times, of challenging each other's opinions while still remaining friends, and of the spirit that arises from our literary chavarah."

parents of Sarah Milgrim, an Israeli embassy employee who was recently murdered outside of the Capital Jewish Museum in D.C. The delegation also heard from the newly nominated U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, and from Rep. Max Miller of Cleveland, who shared his experience of being recently targeted in an antisemitic incident while driving with his family.

"The fly-in was a really meaningful experience for me," said Reef. "It was an opportunity to not only engage with our elected officials on issues critical to the safety of our Jewish community, but also an opportunity to meet other community leaders from around the country to discuss the issues that they're facing back home.

"The reality is that this fly-in was one of many ongoing efforts by JFNA and other like-minded organizations, and the advocacy doesn't stop now that we're home."

The JFNA D.C. fly-in was just the latest example of the Memphis Jewish Federation's ongoing dedication to its community relations and security priorities. By actively engaging with national leaders and advocating for critical resources, the Federation continues to ensure the safety, vibrancy and future of Jewish life in Memphis and beyond. HW

Marcia Levy writes a column for the Village of Germantown newsletter called "A Jewish Perspective." She also wrote and edited the Jewish Historical Society newsletter for about 10 years. Additionally, she has penned articles for Memphis Magazine and other publica-

As a founding member of the club, Levy says, "I could not have imagined that it would still be thriving 30 years later. We have lost some of our longtime members and added some younger women to create a multigenerational group sharing diverse ideas about the books we read. We look forward to coming together every month for enlightenment and fun. I'm proud of what we have become."

In 2015, the Sisterhood group was honored by the Memphis Public Library as one of the longest-running book clubs in Memphis. Now, 10 years later, they are setting a record! HW

Hebrew Watchman

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

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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: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846

Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. July 11, 2025 / 15 Tammuz, 57857:58 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. July 12, 2025 / 16 Tammuz, 5785 8:59 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Balak

Iran 'Should Get' Nuclear Weapon, Anti-Israel Actor John Cusack Says

(JNS) - Actor John Cusack, known for his anti-Israel views, said Iran should have access to nuclear weapons to combat the United States and Israel, Fox News reported last Wednesday. He said that roughly one week after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the military strikes on three Iranian nuclear facility sites.

"Iran will surely rush to get a nuclear weapon - and they should get one," Cusack wrote in a social-media post on June 27. "It's the only way to deter the U.S. and Israel from bombing every country in the Middle East."

Cusack has been a longtime critic of the Trump administration and the Jewish state, particularly the Israeli government's operations in the Gaza Strip following the Hamas-led terrorist attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Before posting about Iran, the actor also wrote that "blind allegiance" to Israel is an "alliance to a genocidal" regime, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "murderous gangster." HW



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House Passes 'Big Beautiful Bill'

(JNS) – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the 'Big Beautiful Bill' budget last Thursday in a party-line vote.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the bill would "set the stage for the coming golden age" under U.S. President Donald Trump.

"President Trump has delivered on his promises to main street while strengthening critical programs, national security and America's manufacturing sector," Bessent stated. "The One, Big, Beautiful Bill will unleash the full potential of the U.S. economy."

While many Republicans expressed reservations about the legislation, ultimately only two, Reps. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), voted against it. All 212 Democrats in the House also voted "No."

Jewish groups were split on the passage of the budget act, which includes school choice provisions supported by the Orthodox Union.

The Republican Jewish Coalition welcomed its passage as fulfilling Trump's campaign promises.

"This historic piece of legislation delivers on core conservative priorities and provides real help for Americans across the country, protecting our national security, promoting economic growth and expanding educational freedom for families with K-12 children," the RJC stated.

B'nai B'rith International has "reservations" about the bill's impact on older adults and stated that it is "disappointed Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which will quickly be signed

into law by the president."

"Steep cuts to programs like Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could cause vulnerable older adults to lose critical safety nets and services," B'nai B'rith stated. "Medicaid helps pay for crucial medical expenses, and SNAP provides nutrition assistance for low-income individuals, including seniors.

"We are encouraged by some aspects of this legislation," it added. "For instance, qualifying older adults benefit from tax relief specifically aimed at seniors. Also, we applaud Congress for expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which will provide more affordable housing around the country."

Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, wrote that the measure was a "moral failure."

"It takes food from children and healthcare from those who need it," she stated. "This is cruelty, codified into law."

House Republican leaders, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), called the legislation "nation-shaping."

"Today, the House has passed generational legislation that permanently lowers taxes for families and job creators, secures the border, unleashes American energy dominance, restores peace through strength, reduces spending more than any other bill ever has and makes government more efficient and effective for all Americans," the Republicans stated.

Having passed the Senate last Tuesday, the budget act will now proceed to Trump for signature. **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, July 14:

Rabbi Talk with Rabbi Ian Lichter, senior Rabbi at Baron Hirsch Synagogue

Topic: Judaism's Emphasis on the Interpersonal

Rabbi Lichter's talks are always some of the most interesting and always lead to good discussions. There will be a question-and-answer period that follows. The questions are not limited to the topic. Come have a nice lunch and enjoy a learning experience afterwards.

Wednesday, July 16 Speaker: Don Schwartz Topic: Healthy Brain, Healthy You

As we age, keeping your brain sharp is even more important! Come hear some great ideas to keep your mind sharp through the aging process. There is no cost for the talk and reservations are open to anyone.

Monday, July 21 Speaker: Kevin Payne with Humana Topic: Hospital Indemnity and Cancer Protection

The world of health insurance has changed dramatically in just the last few years! Kevin can help explain some of the new truths in the insurance world. He will also open up the floor for questions. So many people have questions and don't know where to get truthful answers. Come get some answers to not only your questions but also hear answers to questions that others have that you may not have thought of.



Dave Woloshin

Wednesday, July 23 Speaker: Dave Woloshin, The Voice of The Tigers

We are very excited to have Dave as our special guest speaker. Dave Woloshin is known as the "Voice of the Tigers," as he has been broadcasting play-by-play for both the University of Memphis's men's basketball and football programs over the last four decades. While many Memphians know the voice that has navigated them through the programs' triumphs and heartbreaks, they may not know the man behind the voice and how the Chicago native, raised in a Conservative Jewish household, came to be one of the city's most prominent radio voices and the proud Memphian he is today. Dave attended Southern Illinois University where he earned his broadcast journalism degree. From there, he had stints sports reporting in Cape Girardeau and Dallas before getting an opportunity with ABC Channel 13 here in Memphis as the program's Sports Director. Please join us on July 23 at noon for a special Q&A to learn more about his story.

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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Family of Suspect in Antisemitic Firebombing in Colorado Can Be Deported, Judge Rules

(JNS) – The federal government can deport Mohamed Sabry Soliman's wife and five children, as the 45-year-old faces 12 federal hate crime charges, including two for first-degree murder, for allegedly firebombing Jews in Boulder, Colo., last month as they marched in support of hostages in Gaza, a federal judge ruled.

Eight people were hospitalized due to the attack, and one died from her injuries

"This is a proper end to an absurd legal effort on the plaintiff's part," stated Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security.

"Just like her terrorist husband, she and her children are here illegally and are rightfully in ICE custody for removal as a result," McLaughlin stated. "This terrorist will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We are investigating to what extent his family knew about this heinous attack, if they had knowledge of it or if they provided support to it."

The district court ruling last Wednesday reversed a prior one from a district court blocking the government from deporting the defendant's family, the New York Post reported.

Soliman arrived in the United States

from Egypt in 2022. He overstayed his visa and was later granted a work permit during the Biden administration, according to the White House.

The defendant "firebombed a pro-Israel demonstration using Molotov cocktails and a homemade flamethrower to attack dozens of demonstrators on June 1," the Department of Homeland Security stated. "One of those injured, 82-year-old Karen Diamond, died of her injuries on June 25."

Among more than 70 charges that he faces are first-degree murder and first-degree assault, the department said. "After Soliman's arrest, it was disgo removal proceedings, U.S. District Court Judge Gordon Gallagher issued a ruling blocking their deportation on June 4."

Orlando Garcia, a U.S. district judge, dismissed the family's lawsuit on July 2 and said that "the court finds that petitioners' habeas proceeding and their

claims in this case must be and hereby

are dismissed without prejudice. This

case is closed," the department said. **HW**

covered that not only is he in the United

States illegally on an expired visa, but his wife and five children were here il-

legally as well," the department added.

"After being detained by ICE to under-

Israeli Forces Arrest Arab Terrorist Minutes Before Attack in Rehovot

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israeli security forces arrested an Arab terrorist last week, just minutes before he launched an attack in the central city of Rehovot, the Walla news outlet reported last Thursday afternoon.

The suspect, only identified as a resident of the northern Arab Israeli town of Ar'ara, was arrested at a gas station near Route 6 – the Jewish state's main north-

south highway – after Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) intelligence indicated his intentions to carry out a terror attack.

The Walla report cited law enforcement officials as saying that the suspect's social media posts indicated his plans to harm civilians.

Authorities tracked his phone, and after Israel Police officers set up check-

points, he was located at the gas station in the Rehovot area.

It was not immediately announced if weapons were found on the suspect, or what his intended target was. Following his arrest, the terrorist was transferred to ISA custody for further interrogation.

Since the start of the war against Hamas in Gaza 20 months ago, there has

been a growing radicalization among some segments of Israel's Arab minority. Security officers have investigated dozens of cases involving citizens.

There have been at least 26 cases of Israelis swearing allegiance to ISIS and other terrorist organizations, the Kan News broadcaster reported back in March. **HW**

Gottheimer, Lawler Present Bill to Send Bunker-Buster Bombs to Israel



Prototype of the 30,000-pound Massive Ordnance Penetrator at a firing range in White Sands, N.M., March 14, 2007. Credit: Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Bipartisan legislation introduced in the House last Wednesday calls on Washington to send Israel the sorts of bunker-buster bombs that it needed the United States to drop last month on underground Iranian nuclear sites.

Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.) and Mike Lawler (R-N.Y), as well as Jared Moskowitz (D-Fla.), Tom Suozzi (D-N.Y.) and Juan Vargas (D-Calif.), introduced the legislation that would authorize the United States to send the bombs and required aircraft to bear them to the Jewish state.

The lawmakers said giving the weapons to Israel would enhance U.S. security as well, noting the attacks by Iran and its proxies against U.S. service members and facilities.

"Iran, the leading state sponsor of ter-

ror, and one of America's top enemies, can never have a nuclear weapon," Gottheimer stated. "Iran has killed scores of Americans, including our service members, and repeatedly attacked our key democratic ally, Israel."

"Israel must be able to defend herself against Iran, and ensure that Iran cannot rebuild its nuclear capabilities," he added.

The lawmakers said while the bombs degraded Iran's nuclear facilities, the Islamic Republic hasn't given up on efforts to enrich the amount of uranium needed to build a nuclear weapon.

"Iran's uranium stockpile makes clear that the danger is real," Lawler said. "This bill gives the president the authority to equip Israel with the tools and training they need to deter Tehran and make the world a safer place." HW

Local Legislature, Human-Rights Office Condemn Attacks on Orthodox Jews in Catskills



A sign for Brown's Hotel, Lake Sheldrake, in the town of Fallsburg in the Catskills Mountains in New York state, 1977. Credit: Library of Congress Credit: John Margolies via Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – The Sullivan County Legislature, the executive director of its Human Rights Commission and the Sullivan County Coalition of Antisemitism condemned reported antisemitic attacks

against Orthodox Jews in that section of the Catskill Mountains in New York.

Local media wrote that assailants threw eggs at Orthodox Jews. The coalition said that one attack was against a rabbi outside a synagogue in Woodbourne, and others were targeted at Jewish individuals walking in South Fallsburg

The Town of Fallsburg Police Department is still searching for those responsible, according to a local government press release.

"It is outrageous that in Sullivan County, Jews are being attacked at or near their house of worship solely because of their religion," said Jacob Billig, an attorney and representative of the coalition. "We commend the Fallsburg Police Department and other local law enforcement for their swift action to investigate these horrific incidents of hate and bigotry."

The Catskills, part of the "Borscht Belt," have long attracted Jewish tourists during the summer, as well as throughout the year, to resorts that catered to them.

"These assaults were clearly antisemitic in nature, inexcusable in every

way, and instilled fear in the Orthodox Jewish community, whom we are proud to call neighbors," stated Sullivan County Legislature chair Nadia Rajsz. "This legislature will not minimize, nor stand for, such displays of hate in Sullivan County, and we fully support local law enforcement's efforts to expose and prosecute the perpetrators."

In a letter to Billig and the coalition, Ramone Wilson, executive director of its Human Rights Commission for Sullivan County, stated that he "unequivocally" denounces such "hateful actions."

"No one in our community should live in fear or be subjected to violence and harassment based on their faith," according to the letter. "These violations of human dignity are wholly incompatible with the values we uphold as a county and as a commission committed to justice, equality and respect for all." **HW**

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Chicago Man Convicted of Aiding ISIS, Faces Up To 130 Years in Jail

(JNS) – A 41-year-old Chicago man faces up to 130 years in prison after he was convicted of supporting the terror group Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham by using social media to try to recruit members and to encourage attacks, the

U.S. Justice Department said on June 27.
Ashraf Al Safoo, who was arrested in 2018, was a leader of the Khattab Media Foundation, a "sophisticated online organization that swore allegiance to ISIS," the department said.

The foundation created and spread threats and ISIS propaganda via social media and other platforms, and it posted essays, infographics and other forms of media at the terror group's direction, per the department.

Much of it "promoted violent jihad," the department said, including images of violence, celebrations of terror attacks and U.S. mass shootings and encouraging "lone wolf" attacks in the United States and other Western countries.

Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 9. HW



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Retirement Income Threats — How Should You Respond?

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

When the daily news is filled with discussions about inflation, interest rates, market volatility, and endless other angst-producing events, how you react could make a difference in your financial outcomes. These tips may help you sort through the noise and create an action plan that fits your situation.

1. Evaluate

The first step is to evaluate. Do you have a current retirement income plan that you have been following? If your plan is documented, it is likely that it includes how much cash flow you need to meet your day-to-day expenses as well as for discretionary spending. Pull out your plan and take a look to determine where adjustments might be applied.

If you do not have a plan or it has not been updated to reflect your current circumstances, document your assets, income sources, expenses, and debt. Gathering all the information in one place helps clearly define your total money picture. In the process, you may uncover expenditures that can be reduced or eliminated. A few adjustments may be enough to reduce the pressure on your income flow.

2. Retain or adjust

If your plan is addressing your current needs, it can be reassuring to confirm that your plan is working as you had expected.

If your income needs no longer match your income plan, depending on your circumstances, there are actions you may want to consider to get your plan on track. These may include:

- Altering your withdrawal strategy to change the amount in taxes you pay on your retirement income to give you greater spending power
- Reallocating your assets or temporarily reducing withdrawal amounts to address any concerns about drawing down your investments in a down market
- Including inflation-indexed investments or other income-generating strategies in your portfolio
- Adding an annuity with income protection, which may help ensure an in-

come stream that lasts for life, even in the event of poor market performance. A variety of annuities, such as variable annuities, registered index-linked annuities (RILAs), fixed indexed annuities, and immediate annuities, may provide income protection. One of these products may be appropriate for a portion of your assets, depending on your specific needs and risk tolerance.

Your advisor can help you explore how alternatives such as these may fit into your strategy. Indeed, both your tax advisor and financial advisor can be helpful partners in assessing your situation.

3. Periodically revisit and adjust again, if needed

Regular reviews of your income flow and income strategy are helpful to identify if changes are needed in your strategy or to confirm that things are working as planned.

These are just a few examples of changes that could help your retirement income deliver on your strategy. Contact your financial advisor and legal and tax advisors to review your specific situation and help address your changing needs.

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Vandal Who Ripped Down Hostage Posters Arrested for Attacking NYPD Officers

(JNS) – A woman, who was previously caught vandalizing posters of Israeli children hostages in Gaza, was arrested last Wednesday for allegedly attacking two New York City Police Department officers and trying to steal one of their guns, the New York Post reported.

Dana Baraket, 19, of Queens, was hit with a litany of charges, including robbery, assault on an officer, criminal possession of a weapon and unlawfully possessing or selling noxious material and harassment, according to an NYPD incident report.

At about 1:30 a.m. last Wednesday, two officers were approached by an individual, later identified as Baraket, "who pepper-sprayed them in the eyes and face." The incident took place in Manhattan's Midtown South Precinct,

which includes Times Square, the report

Baraket allegedly attacked the officers without warning and then tried unsuccessfully to grab one of the officers' guns from its holster while repeatedly yelling at them, "kill me," the Post reported, citing anonymous sources.

Baraket was taken into custody at the scene, and emergency medical services took the two officers to local hospitals in stable condition. (JNS sought further

comment from the NYPD.)

Weeks after Hamas-led terrorist attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Baraket and her sister, Aya, were filmed tearing down posters with images of Israeli children held hostage in Gaza from the window of a store on Manhattan's Upper East Side. When confronted, Baraket yelled and directed an expletive at Israel, even as a mother with her child explained that the posters depict innocent civilians. **HW**



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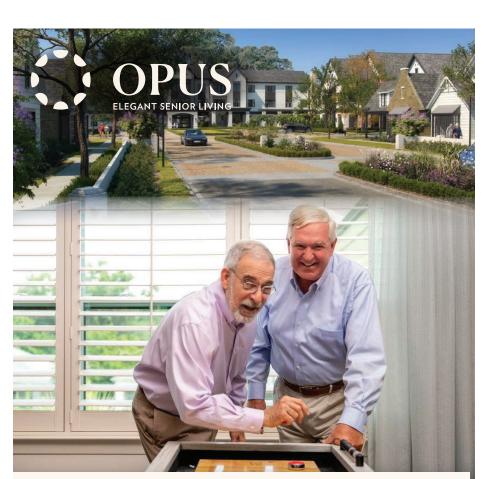
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Report: Unilever Cuts Funding for Ben & Jerry's Foundation as it Audits Giving to Progressive and Pro-Palestinian Causes



A view of the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream factory and corporate headquarters. Credit: John Greim/LightRocket via Getty Images

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Ben & Jerry's parent company Unilever is cutting off millions in funding to the ice cream company's charitable foundation after a probe begun in part due to the company's dona-

tions to pro-Palestinian organizations, according to Semafor.

Unilever, ahead of plans to spin off Ben & Jerry's along with its other ice cream brands, says the ice cream maker was impeding an audit of the foundation, which funds hundreds of left-leaning groups.

Peter ter Kulve, who runs Unilever's ice cream business, told Ben & Jerry's executives in an email seen by Semafor that the foundation's trustees "have continued to resist basic oversight" and allegedly refused to provide audit documents.

"It represents a marked departure from the norms of charitable organizations, for whom transparency is typically a bedrock operating principle," ter Kulve wrote.

The Ben & Jerry's foundation distributed more than \$5 million of Unilever's money in 2022, according to Semafor. The audit focused in part on its grants to pro-Palestinian groups, including the Oakland Institute, a California-based nonprofit whose founder is a trustee of the Ben and Jerry's Foundation.

The company, founded but no longer owned by two progressive Jews,

has long wed the ice cream business to its left-wing politics. The cut to Ben & Jerry's charitable donations marks the latest in a saga of tensions between the ice cream company and Unilever, which escalated in 2021 when Ben & Jerry's announced that it would stop selling its desserts in "Occupied Palestinian Territory." Last month, the board of Ben & Jerry's called Israel's war in Gaza a "genocide" in a statement.

In April, Ben & Jerry's co-founder Ben Cohen attempted to gather investors for a potential buy-back of the company ahead of its spin-off, but Unilever rebuffed Cohen's efforts, saying that it would not sell Ben & Jerry's as a standalone business.

The dispute over the ice cream company's progressive stances ended up in Manhattan federal court in March when Ben & Jerry's accused Unilever of axing its CEO Dave Stever over the brand's social activism. **HW**

Schumer and Other Senate Democrats Condemn the Phrase 'Globalize the Intifada'



Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, walks out of the Senate Chamber following a series of votes at the U.S. Capitol, Feb. 12, 2024. Credit: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Minority Leader Chuck Shumer and several other Senate Democrats condemned the pro-Palestinian slogan "globalize the intifada" in response to a controversy surrounding NY mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani's interpretation of the phrase.

In statements to Jewish Insider, Sens. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, John Fetterman of Pennsylvania and Jacky Rosen of Nevada offered statements saying "Globalize the intifada" is a call to violence or, in Fetterman's case, "deeply troubling."

A spokesperson for Schumer, who had previously offered brief praise for Mamdani, condemned the phrase when asked about Mamdani's statements that the phrase is "grounded in a belief in universal human rights."

"Sen. Schumer condemns the phrase 'Globalize the Intifada' and believes it should not be used because it has such dangerous implications. As Senator Schumer said after the death of Karen Diamond, the attack in Boulder continues to serve as a grave reminder of the deadly consequences of the rise in antisemitism," a spokesperson for Schumer told Jewish Insider, referencing the 82-year-old victim of the firebombing attack at a Boulder, Colorado, demonstration for Israeli hostages who died from her wounds.

The spokesman said Schumer planned to meet with Mamdani, who last Tuesday was declared the winner of the Democratic primary and as a result is the heavy favorite in November's general election.

The recent focus on "Globalize the

intifada" came after Mamdani, a vocal critic of Israel, declined to condemn the phrase. In an interview with The Bulwark, he said he believed the phrase spoke to "a desperate desire for equality and equal rights in standing up for Palestinian human rights," and said "intifada" was similar in meaning to the word "uprising" used to describe the Jewish revolt against the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Last Sunday, Mamdani again refused to condemn the phrase, although he told NBC's Kristen Welker on "Meet the Press" that "that's not language that I use."

"The language that I use and the language that I will continue to use to lead this city is that which speaks clearly to my intent, which is an intent grounded in a belief in universal human rights," continued Mamdani.

In his statement, Blumenthal stipulated that he was not familiar with Mamdani's stance.

"I don't know what [Mamdani's] position is on it, but I certainly think that the call to spread the intifada is the kind of incitement that can lead to extremist violence," said Blumenthal.

Rosen referenced the two violent intifadas, one beginning in 1987 and the other

in 2000, when Palestinian suicide bombers unleashed attacks in Israel and rioters clashed with Israeli security. In total, over 1,100 Israelis and more than 6,000 Palestinians died during the intifadas.

"At a time when antisemitism is rising at alarming rates in the U.S., leaders of both parties have an obligation to stand up, speak clearly, and unequivocally condemn hatred and bigotry in every form," Rosen said in her statement.

"The intifadas were periods marked by unspeakable violence and terror against innocent Israelis, and it should not be a difficult decision for anyone to condemn the antisemitic call to globalize these violent attacks. Our words matter – and in moments like this, silence is not an option," she continued.

"I'm not a member of the Jewish community or a NYC voter. Personally, I would never use or defend this deeply troubling phrase," Fetterman said.

[Week before last], New York Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand called on Mamdani to denounce the phrase. New York Democratic Rep. Ritchie Torres called the slogan "deeply offensive" and said that "every elected official, without exception, should condemn it." during an interview on CNN last Monday. HW

Gaza Ceasefire Deal Gaining Momentum, U.S. and Third Parties Signal

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas appeared to be gaining momentum last Thursday, with Hamas reportedly signaling satisfaction with assurances outlined in a Washington-backed proposal.

The proposal comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to meet with President Donald Trump Monday, with the U.S. leader increasing pressure on Israel to end its 20-month military offensive in Gaza.

"Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," wrote Trump in a post on Truth Social last Tuesday.

"I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better — IT WILL

ONLY GET WORSE. Thank you for your attention to this matter!," the post continued.

United States Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee signaled enthusiasm over the potential for the agreement, posting a screenshot of Trump's statements along with the caption, "excellent!"

The current deal would include the release of 10 living and 18 deceased hostages over a 60-day ceasefire, with Hamas agreeing to forgo public hostage release ceremonies and Israel agreeing to cease military operations as long as talks are ongoing, according to the Times of Israel. The final proposal will be delivered by Egypt and Qatar, according to Trump.

An unnamed official told Saudi news outlet Asharq that Hamas was satisfied with the current deal and was expected

to deliver its response to the proposed framework last Friday, according to the Times of Israel.

Another ceasefire between Israel and Hamas launched in January fell through after two months. Since then, Trump has pressured Netanyahu to reach another ceasefire agreement.

But as Hamas and Israel appear close to striking a new deal, Israel has maintained that it must be allowed to resume its offensive against Hamas, while Hamas demands a deal to permanently end the fighting.

In a statement, the Palestinian militant group said it was studying new ceasefire offers received from mediators Egypt and Qatar, but that it aimed to reach an agreement that would end the war for good, according to Reuters.

Ahead of the alleged ceasefire agreement, ultranationalist Israeli National

Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir told public broadcaster Kan that he would not support the current agreement.

"I won't allow this reckless deal to happen," he says. "I hope that Smotrich will join forces with me. We were elected with 14 mandates by people who do not want us to surrender in Gaza,"

"We must not stop the war without victory," Ben Gvir continued. "What do you think will happen if we stop the war now? That Hamas will hand out flowers?"

In a post on X last Wednesday, Netanyahu reiterated Israel's intentions to eradicate Hamas, writing, "We will continue until victory."

"There will be no Hamas. There will be no Hamastan. We're not going back to that. It's over," the post read. "We will not stop until we free all the hostages and restore security to the residents of the south and all Israeli citizens." HW PAGE 10 | JULY 10, 2025 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

Karoline Leavitt Meets Hostages, Vows Continued U.S. Support

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt met with a group of recently released Israeli hostages in Washington, D.C., last Wednesday, praising their courage and resilience while reaffirming the Trump administration's efforts to secure the release of those still held by Hamas in Gaza.

"It was my honor to meet with another group of brave released hostages from Gaza," Leavitt posted on social media.

"The horrors they faced while in Hamas captivity are unimaginable, but their strength, and their faith in God through it all, is beyond inspiring."

She added that U.S. President Donald Trump remains focused on ending the war and bringing all remaining hostages

The meeting came as part of a broader push by U.S. officials to maintain pressure on Hamas and support ongoing ne-

In late June, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also held discussions with families of captives, reiterating the administration's "unwavering commitment" to securing the release of all 50 known hostages.

Rubio stressed that Israel, bolstered by recent operations in Iran and Lebanon, is still in a strong position to defeat Hamas. "True victory in Gaza will only be realized when all the hostages return home," he said.

Among the family members present for the meeting with Rubio were Tzur Goldin, brother of Israel Defense Forces Lt. Hadar Goldin, whose body has been held by Hamas since 2014, and recently

released hostage Iair Horn, representing his brother, Eitan, who is still being held captive in Gaza.

Goldin expressed gratitude to the administration, thanking Rubio, Leavitt, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, as well as U.S. special envoy Adam Boehler. "Your leadership gives us hope," he said. "Let's seize this moment to bring Hadar home, along with all the hostages."

Trump, who was set to meet with former hostage Edan Alexander at the White House last Thursday, indicated that a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas could be imminent, saying, "I think it's close," and suggesting a deal could be reached within the week.

Meanwhile, Qatari officials have said efforts were underway to use the momentum from the recent ceasefire with Iran to help broker a broader truce in Gaza. HW

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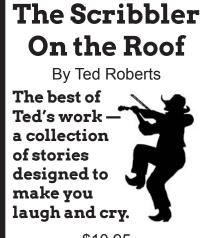
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30 Years, 30 Moments A Look Back at the Legacy of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis in Photos

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.



1999: Pictured is the 10th charitable gift of real estate donated to the Jewish Foundation of Memphis through its real estate arm, JFM Realty, Inc. Proceeds of the gift created a Memorial Donor Advised Fund, which makes grants to impactful organizations at the direction

of family members. Non-cash assets are often overlooked when considering charitable giving. Call the Foundation to discuss how you can turn your treasures into Tzedakah!

Israel To Provide Ukraine with Water Systems for Areas Hit by Russia

(JNS) - Jerusalem will provide Kiev with an aid package focused on drinking water systems for areas impacted by Russian bombings, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar informed Ukrainian Ambassador Yevgen Korniychuk last Thursday.

The assistance, to be delivered

through MASHAV - the Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Israeli Foreign Ministry - will be funded from the ministry's budget. It will include water systems, each capable of supplying drinking water to tens of thousands of people.

The systems are slated for installation

in Ukraine's eastern provinces, where infrastructure has been severely damaged and water shortages persist due to ongoing Russian attacks.

This initiative adds to Israel's broader humanitarian support for Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022. Previous aid efforts included the operation of "air and ground bridges" delivering food, medical supplies and other essentials; the establishment of a field hospital early in the war; and the distribution of hundreds of electricity supply units to bombed regions in the first quarter of 2025. HW

KAVOD: Continuing to Honor Survivors with Dignity & Heart



John Pregulman taking a photo of Betya S. a 94-year-old Holocaust Survivor from Odessa

By Shoshana Cenker

KAVOD, an organization that provides emergency aid to Holocaust survivors, is continuing to grow — in both funding and communities it serves. KA-VOD, which means honor or respect in Hebrew, was founded by John and Amy Pregulman. The org actually began as a photography project in 2012, when John partnered with Jewish Federation and museums to take photos of survivors across the U.S.

As the photography sessions went on, the Pregulmans learned more about their special photo subjects. The good: most were positive and happy despite the atrocities they faced. The not so good: one-third of survivors live in poverty. So John and Amy set out to help.

With 100,000 Holocaust survivors still alive in 2015, they began a lofty fundraising effort to ensure survivors' dignity. Partnering with Jewish Family Service agencies across the country and the Seed the Dream Foundation, they determine where and what the need is, so The KAVOD Project can help fill it. The Project also provides gift cards for survivors who live in Plough Towers as Chanukah presents. And, the Pregulmans give away 100% of every dollar raised, taking no administration fees.

Another related project to scale the program is the KAVOD SHEF Initiative Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund - in partnership with the Seed the Dream Foundation. Seed the Dream, along with 25 other national funders, has enabled the program to create a national matching effort to provide support for this silent crisis in communities across the U.S. Every local dollar is matched by KAVOD SHEF's national funder coalition dollars.

In 2019, its pilot year, KAVOD SHEF confidentially supported 17,000 emergencies in 28 communities with over \$3.3M. Six years later, KAVOD SHEF is supporting 43 communities, having allocated \$38+ million, for a total of 136,000 emergencies.

Sadly, survivors' needs are still high. Here's a breakdown of some of the 2024 stats:

Requests:

- 37% food
- 20% transportation
- 19% emergency home care
- 14% medical
- 3% dental

Dollars accessed:

- 44% emergency home care
- 17% food
- 10% dental
- 7% medical
- 4% transportation

These numbers demonstrate that food is the highest unmet need, but emergency home care is the highest cost. Food requests are typically \$100-\$250 compared to emergency home care, which can be upward of \$5,000. Another example, while 20% of requests are for transportation, the dollar amount associated with those is quite small, typically around \$20.

"I can personally say that without KA-VOD, many of our clients would be living in continuous hardship — food insecurity, not able to afford copayments for medications or dental procedures, not able to pay for hearing aids, inability to replace household appliances - and that a few of them could have even died, due to preventable falls, if there was no care/monitoring," noted a West Palm, Fla., Jewish agency. "This has been avoided by KAVOD helping."

While KAVOD fills the gaps — it's the secondary or third resource for people in need - there's uncertainty surrounding whether that gap will grow.

"These numbers could increase with cuts to SNAP benefits and other food programs. What happens if Medicaid is cut?" Amy questioned. "We don't know where the need will fall."

When Kavod was founded in 2015, there were 100,000 survivors in the U.S.; 25%-30% were living in poverty.

By 2019, when SHEF partnerships began, there were 80,000 survivors; same rates of poverty at 25%-30%. By 2024, U.S. survivors dwindled to just 38,400, with 30% in poverty. In New York, that survivor poverty rate is 50%.

"We're losing survivors, but the unmet needs are still high and critical," shared Amy. "Younger survivors are finally getting to the age where they need help for the first time. From Oregon and California to Dallas, Chicago, Indianapolis and the Southeast and Northeast, wherever the highest populations of Holocaust survivors are, those survivors have access to KAVOD SHEF dollars."

KAVOD also raises awareness in this troubling time of increased antisemitism. "An 88-year-old survivor was injured in the Boulder hate crime attack in June. These survivors are thinking, 'How could this possibly be happening again to our Jewish communities?"" Amy noted. "They can experience extreme re-traumatization."

"When the stove cooktop in Raya's house stopped working, it was more than just an inconvenience - it was a painful reminder of the deprivation she once faced. ... Thanks to KAVOD SHEF money, we were able to replace Raya's stove, ensuring she could have warm meals again," shared a Silicon Valley, Calif., Jewish org. "This act of kindness did more than just fix an appliance — it restored comfort, dignity, and security for a Holocaust survivor who has already endured so much."

Though time is running out as survivors age, they still have voices and stories, and we all play a role in their health and well-being.

"John and I are still traveling, taking photos around the country. We're trying to get them all," said Amy. "We can't forget any of them who are still here."

To learn more and donate to KAVOD: kavodensuringdignity.com HW

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