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‘WITCH HUNT’: Trump Calls for Cancellation of Netanyahu Trial



U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet at the White House, April 7, 2025. Credit: Emily J. Higgins/White House.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump last Wednesday called for the cancellation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu’s ongoing corruption trial, describing the legal proceedings as a “witch hunt” and a “horror show.”

“I was shocked to hear that the State of Israel, which has just had one of its Greatest Moments in History, and is strongly led by Bibi Netanyahu, is continuing its ridiculous Witch Hunt against their Great War Time Prime Minister!” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Trump noted that he and Netanyahu had just gone through “hell” during the 12-day conflict against Iran. “And Bibi could not have been better, sharper, or stronger in his love for the incredible Holy Land.”

Trump noted that Netanyahu was summoned to court last Monday for the continuation of what he described as a “politically motivated” case aimed at doing the Israeli leader “great harm.”

Netanyahu is facing bribery and breach-of-trust charges in three cases, labeled 1000, 2000 and 4000. The latter is the most serious, and the only one featuring bribery charges. Members of Netanyahu’s Likud Party, as well as its coalition partners and some opposition politicians, have dismissed the trial as a

partisan attempt at government change by ex-parliamentary means.

According to Trump, Netanyahu is being forced to continue a “horror show” that has dragged on since May 2020 – the first time a sitting Israeli prime minister has ever faced trial. He dismissed the charges as related to “cigars, a Bugs Bunny doll, and numerous other unfair” accusations.

Trump called for the proceedings to be “cancelled immediately” or for Netanyahu to be granted a pardon, describing the ordeal as a “witch hunt” against “a great hero who has done so much for the State [of Israel].”

Trump concluded by saying that perhaps no one had worked more effectively with him during his presidency than Netanyahu, adding that the United States had “saved Israel” and would now do the same for its prime minister. He described the legal proceedings against Netanyahu as a “travesty of justice” and asserted that it “cannot be allowed.” **HW**

Despite Few U.S.-Sponsored Options, Thousands of Americans Evacuated Israel During Iran Conflict



Airplane in the sky. Credit: Waldemar Zielinski/Pixabay.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Thousands of U.S. citizens evacuated Israel during the Jewish state’s 12-day conflict with Iran, according to a U.S. State Department official.

The official said that exact figures on evacuees are impossible to determine due to the large number of dual citizens, who may use multiple passports for travel. U.S. government-organized flights out of the Jewish state only began last Saturday.

Several thousand U.S. citizens left Israel via the land border with Jordan, and several hundred more crossed to Egypt

via the seldom-used Taba crossing connecting to Eilat over the last two days, according to the official.

The vast majority of those who left Israel via land crossings are finding subsequent air travel. Several thousand more departed by boat to Cyprus via large, privately organized cruises. That included the evacuation of 1,500 Birthright program participants, whose ship the Israeli Navy escorted.

Only about 400 U.S. citizens have left Israel aboard U.S.-assisted flights since last Saturday, which include passenger

charter and military flights and a charter to Rome last Tuesday morning, according to the official. Other destinations include Athens and Cyprus.

All U.S. government-facilitated flights have been booked to the designated capacity, but the flights aren’t meant to be full, due to safety concerns. Each flight has had some no-shows due to some passengers being unable to get to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv or to a designated shuttle location due to security conditions.

The official said last Tuesday morning’s flight to Rome took place around the same time that missiles were incoming from Iran.

The determination about whether to start to evacuate, and when to end evacuating, is primarily based on the availability of commercial air travel, the official said. The State Department started high-level meetings two or three days after the Israel-Iran conflict erupted on June 13, with surprise Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear assets and government and military targets.

Airlines started cancelling routes in and out of Israel before the Israeli government shut the airspace after Iran’s retaliatory attacks. The State Department was inquiring about charter flight and ship prices and availability, but the official said prohibitive insurance costs meant most carriers weren’t willing to

A U.S. government-facilitated flight to Rome last Tuesday morning nearly coincided with the last Iranian missile barrage.

participate.

Ensuring the safety of embassy staff, who are necessary to check passengers onto the flights and facilitate shuttles to the airport when necessary, was also accounted for, according to the official.

The State Department has been in touch with 27,000 people in Israel about evacuating through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, for which department and embassy officials, including Mike Huckabee, the U.S. ambassador in Jerusalem, have been encouraging people to register.

Palestinian Americans, who have also used the program, have been able to exit through Jordan if travel through Israel was difficult.

The official said that evacuations will stop when the department determines a sufficient number of options for U.S. citizens are available. The official suggested that could be soon, given the ceasefire struck last Tuesday morning. **HW**

Scott Notowich: The Right Leader at the Right Time



Scott Notowich, outgoing chair of the Memphis Jewish Federation, was honored at the Annual Meeting in early June.

By Laura Linder, CEO Jewish Community Partners

When Scott Notowich first took office as the chair of the Memphis Jewish Federation in 2023, he had no idea his tenure would be marked by a devastating terrorist attack in Israel, an ongoing multi-front war across multiple borders, or a dramatic spike in violent antisemitic attacks here in the U.S.

Luckily, for Federation, Scott was the right leader for the moment.

As Scott concludes his impactful term as chair of the Memphis Jewish Federation, he leaves behind a legacy of dedicated leadership, particularly notable during a challenging period for the Jewish community. As it was said by many at the Annual Meeting earlier this month, as a leader, Scott was consistently available, always ready to lend an ear, and at times, he became almost an extension of the Federation’s professional team, taking on any tasks or challenges thrown his way.

In mid-November 2023, shortly after the October 7 terrorist attacks, Federation organized a chartered flight for 180+ Memphians to join the historic March for Israel in Washington D.C. That opportunity would not have been possible without Scott, who managed to organize the chartered flight with little notice and few resources. Thanks to his leadership, Federation Board and Committee members also joined over 400 Jewish Federation activists from 65 communities in Washington, D.C. in 2024, and met with over 140 Congressional offices to advocate for legislation that would support Israel, combat antisemitism, and help

secure Jewish communities.

Scott oversaw a historic emergency campaign to support Israel in its time of urgent need. While most communities the size of Memphis were fortunate to raise \$1 million, Memphis raised an astonishing \$4.1 million – and donations are still coming in, bringing the total closer to \$5 million.

“You might assume that our Annual Campaign would suffer, given the extraordinary outpouring for Israel,” Scott said at the Annual Meeting. “But I’m proud to say that it actually increased by over 15%.”

Under Scott’s leadership, \$4 million was contributed by 1,400 donors to the Annual Campaign – supporting vital services and programs that strengthen and sustain Jewish life in Memphis, Israel and around the world.

Other highlights of his tenure as chair include a remarkable Evening of Remembrance, Unity and Hope to commemorate the events of October 7, which brought together over 600 people from across our community to remember the victims and pray for a swift release of hostages; a ramped up community relations focus, including hiring a full-time community relations manager; scholarships for 30 kids to attend 12 different Jewish overnight camps; and Holocaust survivor and second generation presentations that reached over 1700 students at 21 schools.

With over three decades of experience in the wealth management industry, including a senior vice president role at Highland Capital Management, Scott’s professional acumen has been a significant asset to his work with the Federation.

In addition to his work at Highland, Scott has a deep interest in Israel. He is the managing director of the Israel Opportunity Fund LLC, which works to identify and invest in emerging growth companies in the Clean & High-Tech industries, primarily in Israel. He also served on the board for over 10 years at Stark Aerospace, a subsidiary of Israeli Aircraft Industries, where he was chairman of the finance and audit committees.

Scott’s commitment to community leadership is extensive, reflected in his various board memberships. He has served on the Board of Governors of Spring Creek Ranch, as a board member of Youth Programs Inc. (the host organization for the local PGA Tour event supporting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital), and chaired the highest grossing fundraiser ever held at the Church Health Center. His previous involvement in the Jewish community includes

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
Memphis, TN 38177-0846
Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244
info@HebrewWatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher
Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director
Toni Nieman
Office Manager & Subscriptions
toni@HebrewWatchman.com

Rebecca Schudel
Social Media Director
Web Development
Herman I. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus
Barbara B. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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7/3/2025

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. July 4, 2025 / 8 Tammuz, 57857:59 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. July 5, 2025 / 9 Tammuz, 5785 9:02 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Chukat

his role as the immediate past chair of the Memphis-Shoham committee partnership, executive committee member of the Memphis Jewish Community Center, chair of Jewish Community Center – Jewish Family Service Gala, and Memphis Jewish Foundation board member. Scott is the past president of the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab and the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service. He was also the co-chair of Rehabilitation Campaign at the Home, which raised almost \$8 million dollars.

Scott’s strategic vision at the outset of his tenure included four clear goals: to have an engaged executive committee,

to build a pipeline of next-generation leaders, to work on a professional succession plan, and to streamline the number of activities Federation runs. The Federation team agrees resoundingly: this vision was a success on all fronts.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the Memphis Jewish Federation these past two years,” Scott said. “I’m especially proud to have been of service at a time when strong Israel engagement was needed more than ever. I have no doubt that Memphis Jewish Federation will be a strong ally for Israel well into the future, and that locally, the Federation’s vital programming and services will continue to make Memphis a better place for years to come.”

In his personal life, Scott and his wife, Jill, have three children: Joey, Samantha, and Deena, plus daughter-in-law, Rachel, and son-in-law, Avi. When he’s not leading community initiatives or managing investments, Scott relaxes by playing golf, fly fishing and traveling. As he steps down, Scott Notowich leaves the Memphis Jewish Federation in a strong position, a testament to his resilient and strategic leadership.

“This has been a few heavy years,” Scott says. “It could be easy for us to be down and not hopeful. Jill reminds me about the mother of hostage Hersh Goldberg Polin, of blessed memory. His mother, Rachel, with all their family has been through, never leaves a conversation without saying what she is hopeful about. I am filled with hope, because we have a community that continually strives for a better tomorrow.” HW



Brian Lurie
Broker, Vice-President
GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

Cell: 901.315.2298
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Maccabiah Games Postponed to 2026, as Israel-Iran War Disruptions Start to Pile Up



Argentina’s 35-plus soccer squad celebrates winning gold at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

(Courtesy of FACCMA)

By Philissa Cramer

June 17, 2025 – (JTA) – The Maccabiah Games scheduled for Tel Aviv in July will be postponed to 2026 amid widespread disruption wrought by the Israel-Iran war.

The games, seen as akin to a Jewish Olympics, had been set to open July 8, with preliminary activities beginning earlier in July. It would have brought 8,000 athletes and their families and support teams to Israel from 55 countries.

But with flights grounded and no timeline to open the skies, and with a state of national emergency in place through at least June 30 [as of June 17], the organizers concluded they could not move forward with the plans.

“Despite our strong desire to hold the Maccabiah in the summer of 2025 as a symbol of hope, we are forced to postpone it due to the complex security situation created by the attack on Iran, the instructions of the Home Front Command, the continued suspension of flights to Israel, and the necessary security measures required of all of us,” Maccabiah’s chair, Assaf Goren, said in a statement.

He continued, “Together with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and after considering several alternatives, we realized that although we are almost at the starting line, the most prudent step from a security, safety, and logistical perspective is to postpone the event by a year to a quieter and safer time.”

A graphic distributed by the games announcing the delay last Monday summarized the approach more succinctly: “Same values. Same vision. Just a little more time.”

The postponement is the second in a row for the games, held every four years. The 2021 games were pushed to 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new postponement is causing ripple effects across the seek to sports world, as athletes seek to fill their summers and stay in shape. In one example, USA Fencing announced that it would welcome late entrants to the national tournament scheduled for Milwaukee next month and would waive late fees for anyone affected by the Maccabiah cancellation. **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 7
Team Trivial Pursuit

This has become one of the most popular programs 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. A few other questions are thrown in from the past. Come test your memory and knowledge. Everyone enjoys this wonderful game. Reservations are not required but are helpful.

Wednesday, July 9
Speaker: Josh Goldin with Extendicare 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 benefit our memory. There is no charge, and the preceding lunch is only \$2. Reservations are only required for the lunch.

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.



Don Schwartz
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.

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**

Bridge and Mah Jongg Classes Returning to the MJCC

Beginning Mah Jongg Lessons with Melanie Mann

July 17 through August 14 Thursdays at 6-8 p.m. This class is starting because the Tuesday class was sold out.

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

Beginning Bridge Lessons with Debbie Jackson

August 14 through September 18, Thursdays at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Learn to play the world’s greatest game! This class will teach you all the basics you need to start playing Bridge like a pro. Bring your friends and learn a new game. The class number is 12016. The cost is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. Call the front desk at the MJCC at 901-761-0810 to register. **HW**

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Brooklyn Nets Pick Two Jewish Players in NBA Draft



Israeli Ben Saraf, left, a 19-year-old currently playing in the German professional league, and Israeli-American Danny Wolf, a 7-footer from the University of Michigan, were picked by the Brooklyn Nets in the NBA draft, June 25, 2025. Credit: Getty Images

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – In the span of a few minutes last Wednesday, the Brooklyn Nets single-handedly doubled the Jewish population in the NBA from two to four. The Nets selected Israeli Ben Saraf and Israeli-American Danny Wolf back-

to-back with the 26th and 27th overall picks in last Wednesday’s NBA Draft. Wolf, a 7-footer from the University of Michigan, was projected to go earlier in the round, while some prognosticators had Saraf, a 19-year-old currently play-

ing in the German professional league, to slip to the second round. Instead, Saraf and Wolf were selected in quick succession toward the end of the first round and will be teammates in Brooklyn. Wolf, 21, transferred to Michigan last year after two solid seasons at Yale, and led the Wolverines to a No. 5 seed in March Madness, where they lost in the Sweet 16 to Jewish coach Bruce Pearl and No. 1-ranked Auburn. The Glencoe, Illinois, native averaged 13.2 points and 9.7 rebounds per game this past season, while shooting 49.7% overall and 33.6% on three-pointers. Saraf, who is 6-foot-6, is the son of two former Israeli pro basketball players, and he wears No. 77 because it represents the Hebrew word “mazel,” which means luck. He averaged 12.8 points and 4.6 assists per game this year as he helped lead his team to the German league finals. This marks the first time since 2006 that two Jewish players were selected in the same NBA draft. That year, Lior Eliyahu and Yotam Halperin were both taken in the second round, though nei-

ther appeared in the league. Saraf and Wolf join a growing contingent of Jewish players in the NBA, including Israeli Deni Avdija – who is coming off his own breakout season with the Portland Trail Blazers – and Sacramento Kings star Domantas Sabonis, who is converting to Judaism. Amari Bailey, who was drafted 41st overall in 2023, played in the NBA’s G League last season. Wolf, who obtained his Israeli citizenship to represent Israel at the FIBA U20 European Championship in Greece, has worn his Jewish pride on his sleeve throughout his life. He attended Jewish day school until fifth grade, keeps kosher and had his bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. “I would hear it growing up, that noise about me being Jewish and (so) you don’t expect much from me as a basketball player,” Wolf told the Jewish author Mitch Albom for a column in the Detroit Free Press. “When I was younger, I kind of looked at (being Jewish) as an opportunity to prove myself.” Now he and Saraf will represent the city with the most Jews in the world. **HW**

Israel Halts Gaza Aid, Orders IDF Plan to Block Hamas Seizure

By JNS Staff


(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz issued a joint statement overnight last Wednesday ordering the Israel Defense Forces to present, within 48 hours, a plan to prevent Hamas from seizing humanitarian aid entering the northern Gaza Strip. The directive follows intelligence reports indicating that Hamas is once again commandeering aid shipments and diverting them from Gaza’s civilian population. The statement comes on the heels of a video posted to social media by former Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett, which appears to show armed Hamas terrorists riding atop food trucks after taking control of them.

“This video was filmed today,” Bennett wrote on X. “Soldiers on the ground explained to me that these are the current instructions – to bring in trucks without control. This is how they continue to feed Hamas with money and power. Government ministers pledged that ‘not a single grain will enter,’ and as usual, the reality is the opposite. Shameful.” According to Israel’s Channel 12 News, the introduction of aid to Gaza has been halted until the IDF presents its new plan. The decision to pause deliveries was made shortly after Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich issued an ultimatum to Netanyahu: immediately stop aid from reaching Hamas or risk losing his support in the governing coalition. The suspension of aid will remain in effect pending the IDF’s recom-

mendations. **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation: Direct aid operations continue** While Israel’s government grapples with the challenge of keeping aid out of Hamas’s hands, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation – a U.S.-backed group established to bypass Hamas and deliver food directly to Gazans – continues to expand its operations. Last Wednesday, GHF completed a second delivery to the SDS4 distribution site, bringing the day’s total to 42,240 boxes, equivalent to 2,439,360 meals. To date, GHF reports distributing approximately 44,094,622 meals via nearly 791,520 boxes across three main distribution sites. Aid distribution at all GHF sites proceeded without incident, according to interim executive director John Acree. “I’m proud of the GHF team for once again safely distributing nearly two million meals to the people of Gaza today without any injury or incident at any of

our sites. This brings our total meals delivered to nearly 44 million in just four weeks. We are always coordinating with our partners on the ground to make further improvements to our operations to ensure the safest and most secure aid distribution possible,” said Acree. GHF continued to push back against what it calls misinformation spread by Hamas and echoed by some international news outlets. The organization noted that recent reports of violence near its sites have been discredited, and that some media outlets, including Reuters and CBS, have issued corrections after initially misattributing incidents to GHF’s operations. “The Hamas-affiliated Gaza Health Ministry is not a credible source of information,” GHF asserted in its latest update. Reuters reported last Wednesday that the United States is providing \$30 million to GHF, marking the first known financial contribution from the U.S. government to the organization. **HW**

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1,900-Year-Old Decorated Bronze Discs Highlight Roman Burial Culture in Holy Land



A graphic reconstruction of a coffin with the “lion rings” attached. Illustration: Yakov Shmidov, Israel Antiquities Authority.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Four rare, 1,900-year-old rare bronze discs decorated with lion heads that were uncovered in southern Israel in the last decade offer evidence of Roman-period burial culture and belief in the afterlife, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced last Thursday.

The ornate discs, which were found in a grave during a 2018 excavation at Khirbat Ibrika in the Sharon region, were probably intended to be used to help carry a coffin, the state-run archaeolog-

ical body said.

“Tracing the lion as a symbol in the ancient world reveals that in many cultures it represented strength, protection and nobility,” said excavation directors Elie Haddad and Elisheva Zwiebel.

The archaeologists added that while they do not have enough evidence to associate the lions to a particular religion, the reasonable assumption is that the finds were from a pagan burial, with the fancy, elaborate discs clearly reflecting the individual’s high status.

Similar discs have been discovered in several other places in Israel, such as in Netanya and Tel Dor, mostly in a burial context.

“For thousands of years lions have symbolized bravery and courage,” said IAA director Eli Escusido, noting that “it is not by chance” that Israel had named its operation against Iran, launched on June 13, “Operation Rising Lion.” The Hebrew version, “A nation will arise like a lion” is taken from the Bible (Numbers 23:24).

The results of the find have now been published in the IAA’s archaeological journal. [HW](#)

Israel Experience



By Camille Harris

Editor’s Note: Camille was stuck in Israel when Iran began bombing. She made it home safely after three days of traveling.

During our trip to Israel, we were asked which word would best describe our experience. The Hebrew word רוח (ruach), meaning both “spirit” and “wind,” immediately came to mind.

I knew this trip would be physically demanding, with volunteer work that would challenge us, and emotionally taxing, especially after visiting the Nova Festival site. But nothing could have prepared us for being caught in the middle of a war zone. In those moments, I finally understood what every Israeli feels during uncertain times.

I learned what it’s like to lie in bed, half asleep, waiting for the alarm to go off, signaling danger. I know the fear of rushing to a bomb shelter. But most importantly, I felt the ruach of the Jewish people – an unbreakable spirit.

You can send missiles to our cities, damage our buildings, and shut down our social events. But you will never break our spirit. In those bomb shelters, you’ll still hear us singing and dancing. The ruach will always carry us forward, no matter the obstacles.

Am Yisrael Chai – the spirit of the Jewish people lives on! [HW](#)

...and the rockets’
red glare...

While you and your family
celebrate July 4,
please take some time to
reflect upon the values on
which this great nation was founded.
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the pursuit of happiness.
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are still worth striving for today.

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Memphis Squirrels Inspire Rosh Kollole’s Kids Book Series



Yedidya and two siblings with three of their squirrel books.

By Shoshana Canker

Do you remember being tucked into bed as a child and read your favorite bedtime stories? Or perhaps you make up stories for your kiddos each night about exciting characters going on adventures. The latter happens to be one of the Wende family’s bedtime story traditions.

The Wendes came to Memphis a few years ago, when Rabbi Yisrael Wende served three wonderful years as the Rosh Kollole (head of Torah study program) of Torah MiTzion, bringing fun and educational Torah and Israeli programming, events, classes, learning opportunities and more to Jewish Memphis.

“When we moved to Memphis, the squirrels around us became part of our stories and stayed the heroes even after returning to Israel,” Rabbi Wende explained. “We joked that the stories needed to be written. Since I have already written a few books, including one in English, “In the Beginning,” about marriage, writing a kids book wasn’t a strange thought.”

After Oct. 7, when the family saw many Jews from around the world flock to volunteer in Israel, they had an idea. “The squirrel will come to life with AI [images],” Rabbi Wende added, “and

help us share the feelings of Jews connecting to each other.”

The first book in the series is about Jews becoming united, influenced by Oct. 7. The second book is about *brachot* (blessings), specifically blessings on food. The third is about Chanukah – light and overcoming difficult times, also influenced by the war. And the fourth is a Haggadah for Pesach.

Interested in AI technology, Rabbi Wende asked his kids if they wanted to help make the images. The answer was a resounding, “Yes!”

“AI makes the book more interesting, alive, and fun for kids,” exclaimed Rabbi Wende. “It’s fun to create images. You imagine a scene, describe it in words, and it becomes an image! But it’s also hard work. It took us time to learn how to write the prompts, and even then, AI has many mistakes. For one of our books, we had to create about 1,000 images!”

“My father taught me how to create images, and now I make almost all of the images,” said son Yedidya, who worked with AI to produce many of the images and did most of the books’ layouts. “I enjoy trying different prompts and learning from other images until I



Tehila reading a squirrel book in the bomb shelter.

get what I want.”

The Wende family has two main goals when writing their books. The first is for readers to learn from them. For example, in the brachot book, they want to teach about the various blessings on food. In the Chanukah book, they wanted to give parents ideas of how to strengthen resilience. The second goal of their books is to inspire kids to imagine and create by setting an example that they can also make images from AI or even write books.

“We believe in reading, writing and creating,” shared Rabbi Wende. “The books come from ideas we have or a lesson we think is needed. So, as long as we give freedom to our imagination or have things we want to share with others, we’ll continue writing.”

The family is already working on two more books in their squirrel series. The Wende’s 5-year-old son, Netanel, is working on a book about overcoming fears, while two other children are writing about things we can learn from animals.

“People ask us why the hero of the

book is a squirrel. Well, it came from our time in Memphis,” Rabbi Wende said. “We are happy to be back in Israel but remember the good times we had in Memphis. Seeing the squirrel in our books reminds us of Memphis, the community and the squirrels stealing food from our bird feeder!”

The books truly are helping in stressful situations. When Israel was under missile attack from Yemen and Iran, one of Rabbi and his wife, Sarah’s, daughters brought the first squirrel book to the bomb shelter and read it to all the kids from several families who’d rushed to safety. Tehila’s reading kept the kids calm and entertained despite the scary alert. Thankfully, everyone was safe, and that experience ended up sparking the idea for the books about Chanukah and strengthening resilience.

“The real hope is not only that kids will read the books,” noted Rabbi Wende, “but also get inspired to be creative, read and write.”

The squirrel series of books is available on Amazon, with the first in the series at <https://a.co/d/gOIAezq> **HW**

G7 Leaders, Rubio Agree ‘Iran Can Never Develop’ Nuclear Weapons

(JNS) – U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and G7 foreign ministers “agreed Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon,” Tammy Bruce, U.S. State Department spokesperson, stated last Wednesday.

Rubio met with G7 leaders during the NATO Summit last Wednesday and discussed U.S. President Donald Trump’s “decisive action” against key nuclear facilities in Iran and “reviewed next steps to promote durable peace between Iran

and Israel.”

Also at the summit last Wednesday, Trump said the June 23 Israel-Iran ceasefire was holding up “very good.”

According to Bruce, the G7 leaders also discussed “the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, deepening cooperation on China’s destabilizing actions in the South China Sea and the role of G7 countries in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region.” **HW**

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Six Priorities for the Sandwich Generation

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

The “Sandwich Generation” – adults caring for aging parents as well as children – faces several stressful challenges that come from trying to juggle everyone’s needs. One of those top stressors: finances, such as how to cover education and health care costs and still save enough for retirement. The demands often compete with one another – which is why setting clear priorities is so important.

Here are six tips for setting those priorities to help you deliver the support your loved ones need – without short-changing yourself.

1. Take care of your future first. Saving enough for retirement should be a top priority. You have to take care of your needs before you help your parents and your children.

2. Create or update your investment plan. Create an investment plan that will help you balance your financial goals with the needs of your children and parents. Review your budget, ana-

lyze your expenses, and set savings targets to help you prioritize planning for an upcoming expense, such as college costs or long-term care for your parents.

3. Review your insurance coverage. Helping protect your assets is always a good idea, but it’s even more important when you have two generations depending on you. Make sure you have enough life insurance in case something happens to you to pay off your mortgage and other debt and to help cover the future living expenses of your dependents. And don’t forget disability insurance.

4. Check in on your parents’ financial health. Though it might seem awkward, talk to your parents about their wishes for the future and their financial health. What financial assets and expenses do they have? How do they plan to meet their financial obligations? Do they have a plan to cover the costs of long-term care? This conversation can help you determine how much financial

support you may need to provide.

Also, make sure your parents have done adequate estate planning, and ask for copies of their will or trust, durable power of attorney, health care power of attorney, and advance health care directive. Make sure your own estate planning documents are complete and updated as well.

5. Consider reducing financial support for grown children. Many parents still help their grown children with their finances – sometimes even to their detriment. If you are paying for your adult kids’ cell phone bill or car insurance expenses, for example, talk with them about the steps they can take to start becoming more financially independent.

6. Look for ways to help reduce your taxes. In some cases, you may be able to claim your aging parents as dependents. Also check with a tax advisor to see if their medical expenses qualify as a tax deduction.

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Khamenei Hails ‘Victory’ Over Israel, Threatens U.S.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, last Thursday delivered his first public statement since the ceasefire that ended 12 days of war with Israel. In his address, he offered congratulations for what he claimed was a victory over the “fallacious Zionist regime.”

The clerical ruler declared in a video address – excerpts of which were published on his official Telegram and X accounts – that “with all that commotion and all those claims, the Zionist

regime was practically knocked out and crushed under the blows of the Islamic Republic.”

Khamenei also claimed victory over the “U.S. regime,” asserting that Washington had directly entered the conflict to save Israel from complete destruction. “It entered the war in an effort to save that regime but achieved nothing,” he said.

“The Islamic Republic delivered a heavy slap to the U.S.’s face. It attacked

and inflicted damage on the Al-Udeid Air Base [in Qatar], which is one of the key U.S. bases in the region,” the supreme leader claimed.

He continued, “The fact that the Islamic Republic has access to key U.S. centers in the region and can take action whenever it deems necessary is a significant matter. Such an action can be repeated in the future, too. Should any aggression occur, the enemy will definitely pay a heavy price.”

Khamenei referenced President Don-

Iran’s supreme leader claims triumph after 12-day conflict, vowing retaliation for any future “aggression.”

ald Trump’s statement calling for the Iranian regime’s “unconditional surrender,” saying, “That statement is too big to come out of the U.S. president’s mouth.” [HW](#)

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OBITUARIES

Bonnie Jane Jacobson

Bonnie Jane Jacobson (1944 – 2025) passed away peacefully on June 20, 2025, at the age of 81 from natural causes.

Born to Etta Flora and Samuel Jacobson, Bonnie was one of five siblings. She is preceded in death by her brothers, Hugh Norman Jacobson and Louis Jacobson, and brother-in-law, Herman “Imy” Marcus. She is survived by her beloved sisters, Harriet Jacobson Marcus and Jenny Jacobson Baer, brother-in-law Larry Baer, sister-in-law Lois Wexner Jacobson, cousin Hallie Elliot, and 12 nieces and nephews who all cherished her deeply.

Bonnie was a bright and beautiful soul. Though she faced unique challenges as a special needs individual, she possessed extraordinary gifts that enriched the lives of those around her. Known for her joyful spirit and infectious happiness, Bonnie became a cherished figure in the Memphis community.

She was an avid athlete and a fierce competitor – tennis, golf and bowling were among her many passions. Friends regularly called the Jacobson household for decades, eager for Bonnie to join them in a game. Her bedroom bookshelf overflowed with well-earned sports trophies, a testament to her dedication and talent.

With the support and encouragement of her mother and sisters, Bonnie thrived. She spent many years as a kindergarten aide at the Memphis Jew-

ish Community Center, where she left a lasting impression on generations of children. In a touching moment not long ago, a doctor walking into her hospital room paused and said, “Miss Bonnie taught me my ABCs.” Her sister, Jenny, responded, “Well, she must have done a good job – you became a doctor.”

Following the passing of her mother, Bonnie lived at Plough Towers and later the Memphis Jewish Home, where she made many dear friends. Just last year, she was featured on the cover of a Memphis Jewish Home brochure, a symbol of resilience and joy. Bonnie loved bingo nights, outings to the movies and dinners, and was admired for her keen awareness of current events and her quick wit.

Bonnie’s warmth, humor, and love touched everyone she met. She will be deeply missed.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Bonnie’s devoted caregiver, Theresa Balestrino; her loving cousin, Hallie Elliot; the staff of Plough Towers, Donna, Kathy, Roger and the Memphis Jewish Home; Methodist Hospital Hospice; and her dear friends Jo and Teresa at the Memphis Jewish Home for their kindness, care and companionship.

A private family memorial service was held in her honor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Plough Towers or Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. **HW**



Ann Davis Wilson

Ann Davis Wilson, born May 26, 1944, passed away peacefully in her home early in the morning on June 24, 2025. Ann died of congestive heart failure. She spent her final weeks surrounded by friends and family.

Ann grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and moved to Memphis to pursue a nursing career. She was an active member of Temple Israel, a longtime

volunteer at Manna House Ministries, an avid bridge player, and beloved mother, sister, friend and neighbor. Ann will be remembered by friends and family as a peace-loving, sometimes silly soul who valued community-building and authentic connections with others above all else.

Ann is survived by her two daughters, Julie Wilson (Joe Tompkins) and Dana Wilson, her sister, BeJay Gronauer, as well as her niece and nephew and their children and grandchildren.

A service was held in the Levy-Cooper Chapel at the Temple Israel Cemetery on Thursday, June 26.

Ann was most proud of her daughters’ unique commitments to social justice work. Donations to honor Ann’s legacy may be made to BRIDGES (www.bridgesusa.org), where Dana worked for 16 years to empower Memphis youth, and Common Roots (www.commonrootspa.org), an affordable housing organization in Meadville, Pennsylvania, that Julie founded and leads. **HW**

Huckabee Praises Soroka Staff after Iranian Missile Strike

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee visited Beersheva’s Soroka Medical Center last Thursday, commending the staff for their courage after the hospital was struck by an Iranian missile on June 19.

Huckabee met with the hospital’s director general, professor Shlomi Codish, and heard firsthand accounts of the staff’s lifesaving actions during the attack.

Huckabee called the visit “deeply moving” and the accounts “testaments to the resilient spirit of Israel and its people.”

Soroka, the largest hospital in southern Israel, sustained significant damage when a missile hit its surgical wing during a broader Iranian assault. Fortunately, most patients had been moved to shelters beforehand, preventing mass casualties, though more than 70 people had to be treated for injury or shock.

Despite the damage, Soroka’s staff continued to provide emergency care.

The Israeli government condemned the attack as a violation of international law. **HW**

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Monasteries vs Prophets



*Editor's note:
This story is being
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of Ted Roberts in
appreciation of his
longtime service
as a newspaper
columnist.*

By Ted Roberts

2/13/12

You know Judaism has this down-to-earth view of its sages – a view that they need to know the world if they’re going to understand and interpret it to us. Monasticism – an alternate approach – is strong in Christianity, but not in Jewish circles. Christians revere those who turn a cold shoulder to an imperfect world and bend over their holy books only interrupted by the need for nutrition and sleep. There’s logic there. Why be a Walmart greeter – if it detracts from your pursuit of the Holy grail?

We Jews poeticize over the life to come, but we win our wings in this one – same as Christianity only with an accelerated accent on the here and now. The Tzadik who lived in a hut and digested Talmud all day was lionized. True, but not so much today as yesterday, I think. Just as initially the Chasids in the 18th

Century reveled and danced like David over the glory of G-d, while the studious, mainstream Jews laughed at their play and even condemned it as blasphemous. Chasidic Judaism has become more knowledge based; less laughter, more study. The Baal Shem Tov is no longer revered because he sat beneath a Sycamore and marveled at G-d’s creatures. And his former critics and his followers are wrapped even more in the transactions of the world: the maladies and illnesses like Aids and Malaria; natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis, and man’s greed for power like wars and nuclear proliferation instead of their holy books. How can you straighten out this cooked world if you fence it out?

And when it comes to our prophets, we sorta picture them as the Hindu holy men. Beggar’s bowl and all. None of them had a nine to five except maybe Amos and Hosaiah – who spent almost full time shadowing his wandering wife. I can see Elijah and Amos and Isaiah preaching on street corners all day long. “Hey Elijah,” says a voice from the audience, “come sup with us tonight. The wife’s making her kosher meatloaf with boiled eggs and bell peppers.” (I hate those boiled eggs in meatloaf, but who knows Elijah’s taste.) It’s one of the few

topics skipped in the Talmud.


So, we understand the “unemployment” status of pious men, either on street corners or monasteries. Actually, to be honest about it, there are few Christian traditions that don’t have at least a faint whiff of Judaism in things both big and small. The Pope wears a yarmulke and Isaiah’s Moshiah, naturally, justifies Christian reverence for the man from Galilee, and even Santa Claus shrinks a billion visits into one night like Elijah: Elijah and Jesus Christ both wander in the wilderness under very similar circumstances of desperation. (Yes, Elijah was first, of course). But my point is the Jewish foundation of Christianity: The many similarities, ALL except for this worldliness vs monasticism, mentioned above. But as my bubbe used to say; “Go Machen a Leben” (roughly, Go make a living). Remember Maimonides and Rashi respectively cured the sick and grew grapes. In a way, similar jobs that smoothed the jagged edges of life.

But aside from the scholars and prophets, there’s also a strong Jewish concept that this world and its works is the key to the next. A here and now strain in our beliefs. And if you go ‘round making speeches all the time, you won’t have time and energy to cure polio, explore

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By Ted Roberts

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the black holes of space, repair your neighbor’s car, provide for your family, or inspire the world with music, art, or poetry. So, it’s good to study Torah, but don’t forget to take out the garbage for your sick neighbor.

Since I hope not to lose my few rabbinical friends, let me clarify that I consider rabbi-ing a fulltime job. Worthwhile work, not the mere meditation of the monastery.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. HW

Thinking It's for Israel, Activists Destroy \$1m in Ukraine Aid

By Miri Weissman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – More than 100 pro-Palestinian vandals inflicted over \$1.1 million in damage to Ukrainian military equipment during a raid on a Belgian defense facility last week.

The activists from the “Stop Arming Israel” movement broke into the OIP Land Systems hangar in Tournai, Belgium, around 4:50 a.m. last Mon-

day, where they vandalized armored vehicles with hammers, spray-painted graffiti and shattered windows. The equipment they destroyed was destined for Ukrainian forces battling the Russia military, not Israeli military units.

The company has provided hundreds of armored vehicles to Ukraine since the Russian invasion began in February 2022. Stop Arming Israel declared

it had identified “10 Belgian companies with connections to Israeli armament.”

OIP Land Systems operates as part of OIP Sensor Systems – a subsidiary of Israeli defense firm Elbit Systems.

Freddy Versluys, OIP Land Systems’ president, clarified, “We don’t sell anything to Israel. The vandals entered the hangar and damaged extensive equip-

ment. The only damage they caused is a one-month delay in delivering the vehicles to Ukraine.”

The Tournai facility contains one of Europe’s largest private weapons stockpiles and has been actively involved in supplying military equipment to Ukraine, including tanks and armored vehicles. HW

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Ceasefire! But is it Enough?

By Howard Weisband

The 12-day war between Israel and Iran has reached a welcomed ceasefire. The main beneficiaries of the ceasefire are the people of Israel, and even Iran, who once again are able to sleep confidently through the night without being awakened by wailing sirens signalling another potentially lethal missile attack.

Israelis are most appreciative to President Donald Trump and the U.S.A. for executing a plan to send its amazing B-2 Spirit bombers to Iran to drop their payload of Massive Ordnance Penetrators, likely damaging the core of Iran’s most fortified nuclear facilities. The U.S.A. Operation Midnight Hammer accompanied Israel’s own well executed Operation Rising Lion. The latter set the stage for the intervention of the U.S. Air Force to reach further into the destruction of Iran’s ongoing nuclear weaponization.

It was then that the President called for a ceasefire that was accepted by both combatants, Israel and Iran, for very different reasons.

The best analysis of the war I’ve read to date is that by John Spencer published in the Jerusalem Post on June 25, and titled “Who are the real winners and losers of Israel’s 12-day war with Iran?” Spencer is the foremost authority on urban warfare, and the chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute at West Point, and co-director of

the Urban Warfare Project. His writings are highly recommended.

In the article referred to above, Spencer begins his detailed analysis as follows: “War is not chaos. It is the deliberate application of force in pursuit of political objectives. Every modern conflict must be judged according to those objectives. In the 12-day war between Israel and Iran, three major actors pursued distinct goals: Israel, Iran, and the United States. Based on what can be objectively and openly assessed, Israel and the United States achieved overwhelming success at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. Iran, while executing limited retaliation, suffered a decisive defeat. Most importantly, the world is now safer, because Iran is no longer as close to acquiring a nuclear weapon.”

Assessments of the actual extent of the nuclear destruction differ, even as they are still being conducted in real time. A statement released on June 25 by the Israel Atomic Energy Commission reads: “The devastating U.S. strike on Fordo destroyed the site’s critical infrastructure and rendered the enrichment facility inoperable. We assess that the American strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities, combined with Israeli strikes on other elements of Iran’s military nuclear program, have set back Iran’s ability to develop nuclear weapons by many

years. This achievement can continue indefinitely if Iran does not get access to nuclear material.”

All of that is encouraging. But is it enough?

The answer is a resounding NO!

The Ayatollah, Ali Khameni, the Supreme Leader of Iran, and those around him have vowed to rebuild their nuclear weaponization program. Nor have they withdrawn their aim to destroy the “Little Satan,” Israel, and the “Big Satan,” America. In short, they remain consumed by their Islamic, jihadist ideology. Ultimately, they believe that they must rule the world, no matter how long it may take to achieve that goal.

Moreover, Iran is ruled as a police state, with human rights and the betterment of society not on the radar of the Ayatollah whatsoever.

Thus, following the impressive, successful military interventions of both Israel and the United States, regime change must come soon. However, that objective has to be accomplished from within Iran. It cannot be forced from the outside. Regime change must come from either the people themselves who organize, rise up, and force the leadership out, or from inside the regime itself, meaning that dissatisfied comrades force their leaders to step down. Either way a non-jihadist ideology must be

brought to govern Iran.

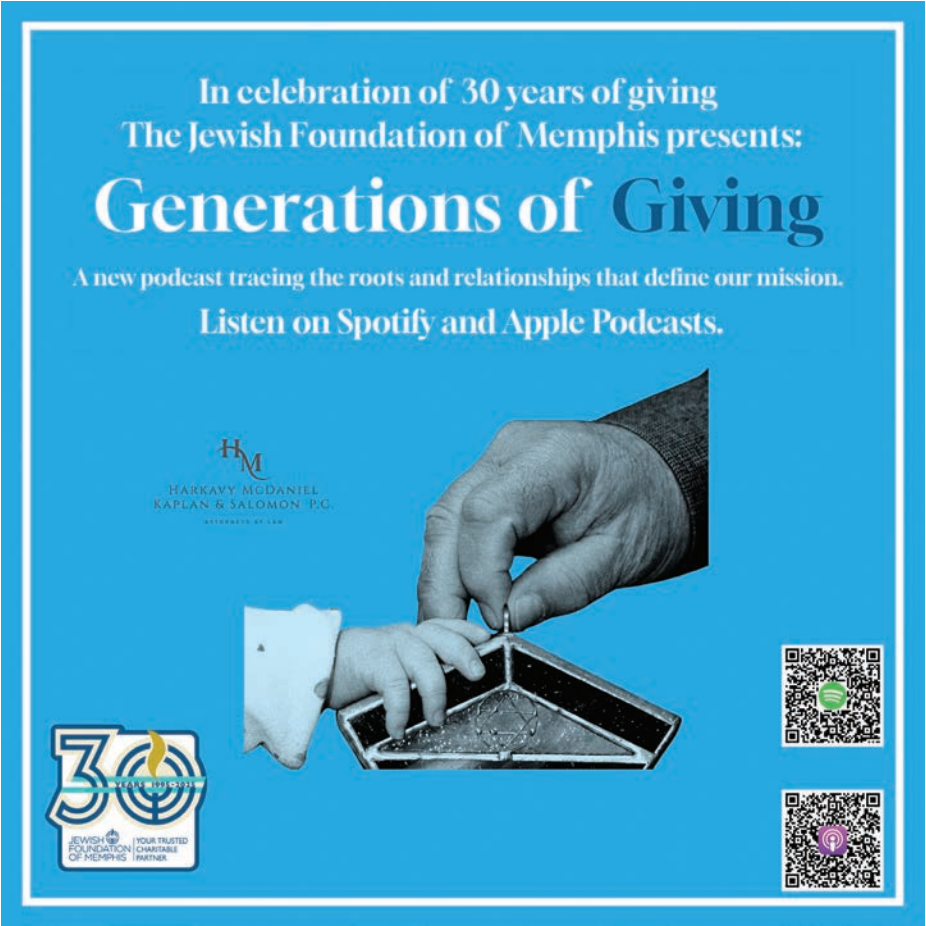
On June 20 a superb article appeared in the journal Foreign Affairs, co-authored by three individuals. Titled “The Right Path to Regime Change in Iran, it concludes:

“Iran belongs to the Iranians. They are the only ones who can in the end determine the direction of their country. They have taken to the streets in 1906, 1922 and 1979, and they can be counted on to do so again. All the United States and Israel can do is weaken the regime and accentuate its vulnerabilities. The Islamic Republic has never faced a crisis like the one unleashed by this month’s attacks. It’s a great irony that Israel – disparaged relentlessly by the Iranian leadership as a savage, illegitimate colonial settler state aiming to humble Muslims everywhere – may, just possibly, have opened the door for a new future for the long-suffering Iranian people.”

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW



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Susan Adler Thorp, a native Memphian and longtime supporter of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, is known for her sharp political commentary and decades of leadership in media and communications. A former political columnist for The Commercial Appeal and the owner of Susan Adler Thorp Communications, she is also an avid art collector. Her family’s gift of artwork to the Foundation reflects their deep-rooted values, commitment to Jewish life in Memphis, and belief in the power of legacy. Listen to an interview with Susie on the Foundation’s new podcast, “Generations of Giving,” available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

CIA: Intel Indicates Iran’s Nuclear Program ‘Severely Damaged’

(JNS) – The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said last Wednesday that intelligence indicates Iran’s nuclear program was “severely damaged” during the 12-day war with Israel.

“CIA can confirm that a body of credible intelligence indicates Iran’s nuclear program has been severely damaged by the recent, targeted strikes,” according to a statement attributed to agency director John Ratcliffe.

“This includes new intelligence from a historically reliable and accurate source indicating that several key Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and would need to be rebuilt over the course of years,” continued the statement.

“CIA continues to collect additional reliably sourced information to keep appropriate decision-makers and oversight bodies fully informed. When possible, we will also provide updates and information to the American public, given the national importance of this matter

and in every attempt to provide transparency,” it added.

U.S. President Donald Trump last Wednesday addressed the aftermath of American strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities, describing the operation, dubbed “Operation Midnight Hammer,” as a decisive blow.

Speaking at the NATO summit in The Hague, Trump said, “We hear it was obliteration. It was a virtual obliteration.”

The president emphasized the scale of the attack, stating, “I don’t believe they had a chance to get anything out because we acted fast.” Israel, he added, “is doing a report on it now, I understand. And I was told that they said it was total obliteration. You know, they have guys that go in there after the hit, and they say it was total obliteration.”

Trump last Tuesday forcefully pushed back against media reports and leaked intelligence assessments suggesting that the U.S. strikes had had limited effect

on Tehran’s nuclear program.

He took to Truth Social to denounce CNN and The New York Times, which reported that the strikes on the Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites had not eliminated Iran’s core nuclear capabilities but likely delayed them by several months.

“Fake news CNN, together with the failing New York Times, have teamed up in an attempt to demean one of the most successful military strikes in history. The nuclear sites in Iran are completely destroyed!” Trump wrote.

U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, echoed the president’s confidence, stating, “We put 12 bunker buster bombs on Fordow. There’s no doubt that it breached the canopy... and there’s no doubt that it was obliterated. So, the reporting out there that in some way suggests that we did not achieve the objective is just completely preposterous!”

U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete

Hegseth also dismissed the leaks, insisting, “Our bombing campaign obliterated Iran’s ability to create nuclear weapons. ... Anyone who says the bombs were not devastating is just trying to undermine the President and the successful mission.”

In a statement issued early last Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed gratitude to Trump, crediting Washington with playing a key role in defending Israel and helping eliminate the Iranian nuclear threat.

“Israel has never had as great a friend in the White House,” Netanyahu said, adding that the joint operation carried far-reaching implications for Jerusalem’s security and the future of the Middle East.

The premier emphasized that the IDF had struck at the core of Tehran’s nuclear infrastructure, effectively sending it “to oblivion,” while warning that its attempts to rebuild would be met with the same force by Israel. **HW**

U.S. Embassy in Israel Restarts Operations Amid Iran-Israel Ceasefire

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem announced last Wednesday that it had opened “as usual,” with shelter in place orders for U.S. government employees and their family members lifted in light of the Israel-Iran ceasefire that came into effect the previous day.

Scheduled U.S. passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad appointments resumed as normal, the embassy said on its website.

The embassy will “accept walk-ins (no appointment necessary) for U.S. citizens needing a limited-validity, emer-

gency passport in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv for those in line before 8:30 a.m.”

Requests for Visa will resume in both the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv consuls on June 30. Travel restrictions on government employees remained within the greater Tel Aviv area (including Herzliya, Netanya and Even Yehuda), Jerusalem and Beersheva.

The U.S. Embassy noted that transit between these three areas was authorized, including on Route 1 to and from Allenby Bridge on the border with Jordan.

The Israel Defense Forces’ Home Front Command declared a return to routine last Tuesday evening. Additionally, the Israel Airports Authority lifted restrictions on the number of incoming and departing flights, with Israel’s three flag carriers El Al, Arkia and Israir resuming operations immediately.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department continued to operate limited assisted departure flights from Israel, after the 12-day closure of Israel’s airports in light of the war.

During the war on June 21, U.S. Am-

bassador to Israel Mike Huckabee announced “Operation Exodus” to help American citizens leave Israel.

He noted that the embassy had “arranged for masses to leave” and was “working around the clock” to help departures.

Last week, Huckabee said that the Trump administration was looking at different ways to get U.S. citizens out of Israel.

“We’re working to get military, commercial, charter flights and cruise ships for evac,” he tweeted. **HW**



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