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JCC Maccabi Games & Access 2025 Recap



By Rosalyn Knox

The JCC Maccabi Games are about more than medals – they're about identity, pride, resilience and community. From July 27 to August 1, Tucson, Arizona, hosted an unforgettable week where 900 Jewish teens from over 38 communities across the U.S., Canada, and around the world came together to compete, connect and celebrate.

Everywhere you looked, there were smiles, high-fives and heartfelt moments. Teens returned home not only with stories of athletic triumphs and medal wins, but also with powerful memories of sportsmanship, camaraderie and giving back. These experiences were deeply rooted in the six official

JCC Maccabi Midot (values):

- Rina Joy
- Kavod Respect
- Ga'ava Pride
- Tikkun Olam Repairing the World
- Amiyut Yehudit Jewish Peoplehood
 - $\bullet \ Lev \ Tov Open-heartedness \\$

As the Memphis Delegation Head, I had the privilege of witnessing our teens embrace the full spirit of the Games. They didn't just play – they grew, connected and discovered what it means to be part of a global Jewish community through an Olympic-style experience that's truly so much more than sports.

This year also marked a milestone

for Access, our inclusive program for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Access participants engaged in both unified and specialized activities, earning a total of 10 combined medals and making lasting friendships along the way.

Across the Games, athletes competed in five different sports, with the Memphis delegation proudly bringing home six medals – gold, silver and bronze.

We're grateful to all the families who sent their teens to be part of this transformative experience. We can't wait to welcome even more athletes next summer for the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games & Access. HW



Everywhere you looked, there were smiles, high-fives and heartfelt moments.

Young Israel and Baron Hirsch's Communal Kumzitz



By Rabbi Akiva Males

On Motzei Shabbos Nachamu (Saturday night, August 9, 2025), Young Israel of Memphis (YI) was proud to partner together with Baron Hirsch Congregation for a second beautiful inter-Shul Kumzitz. For those unfamiliar with the term, here's how Wikipedia explains it:

"Kumzitz is used to describe a musical gathering that Jews partake in. Everyone sits together, be it on the floor or on chairs, and sings spiritually moving songs. To establish a certain ambiance the lighting is often low . . . It is a compound word in Yiddish composed of come and sit . . ."

This meaningful program was the

brainchild of Rabbi Yehoshua Nissan of the Memphis Kollel. Last summer, prior to the mournful day of Tisha B'Av, Rabbi Nissan was thinking of ways to help bring our community together. It hit him that Motzei Shabbos Nachamu would be the perfect opportunity for this. He reached out to me and Rabbi Ian Lichter, and we excitedly began planning an inter-congregational communal Kumzitz.

With YI hosting last year's Kumzitz, Baron Hirsch Congregation graciously opened their doors to host this year's program. The evening that came together was just beautiful. On Motzei Shabbos Nachamu, close to 100 men, women and children gathered in Baron Hirsch's Fo-



gelman Foyer. After finding our seats, the lights were dimmed, and Rabbi Nissan – accompanied by Cantor Ricky Kampf, and several of our community's gifted musicians – led us through a well-organized program of spiritually uplifting songs. Everyone in attendance joined in the singing, and as the tempo of the songs picked up towards the end, most in the crowd also broke out dancing as we yearned for the Ge'ulah (redemption).

Rabbi Lichter shared some beautiful Torah thoughts, which resonated with all in attendance. I was happy to share some recollections from the trip to Israel (and Rome) where Layala and I had recently visited. Numerous community

members commented to me that this Kumzitz was exactly what their Neshamos needed. I couldn't agree more.

Partnering once again with Baron Hirsch for this Motzei Shabbos Nachamu Kumzitz was a wonderful experience on so many levels. I know I speak for us all when I say that the Jewish nation has spent too many Tisha B'Avs in mourning. May we commemorate next year's Tisha B'Av in a celebratory manner in a fully rebuilt Jerusalem – resembling the uplifting communal Kumzitz we recently shared together.

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@ yiom.org HW

The Theatre Conservatory @ The J is Excited to Announce their Next Production, "The Day The Internet Died!"

What will happen in Bloomington when the internet dies? Pandemonium! In a world that is so dependent on the internet for shopping, mailing and posting pictures of cute babies, how will society function? Not well as it turns out.

Performances will be on the stage of the Belz Theater in the Orgel Family Performing Arts Center on December 4 and 7. Auditions are open to all between the ages of 8-18, regardless of experi-

Auditions are going to be Cold Reads. If you would like to borrow a perusal copy of the play to prepare or for additional information, please do not hesitate to connect with The Theatre Conservatory @ The J at 901.259.9248 or theatre@jccmemphis.org

Audition Announcement

The Theatre Conservatory @ The J Proudly Presents...

The Day The Internet Died By Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello

Auditions: Wednesday, September 3,

Callbacks: Thursday, September 4,

5-7pm Callbacks by invitation only.

Performances: Thursday, December 4 & Sunday, December 7

For a full production calendar, please visit jccmemphis.org/theatre

Enrollment instructions regarding production fees will be made available upon completion of casting.

Be there or Be ...the one who missed out on these awesome auditions. HW

UN Watchdog Altered Key Metric, Lowering Bar to Declare Gaza Famine



Palestinians receive a hot meal prepared by volunteers in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, on June 13, 2024. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The United Nations–affiliated Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) recently declared a "worstcase scenario of famine" in Gaza but quietly adjusted one of its core measurement standards in the process - making it easier to issue such a designation, The Washington Free Beacon reported last Tuesday.

In its July 29 assessment, the IPC, a coalition of Western governments, U.N. agencies, and humanitarian groups, reported that "mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition and disease are driving a rise in hunger-related deaths" in the Hamas-controlled territory.

The New York Times, NPR, CNN,

and ABC News cited the report to link Israeli aid restrictions to mass starva-

Unlike past evaluations, the IPC's latest report introduced a new malnutrition measure - the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) - which it has not traditionally used for famine determinations, the Free Beacon discovered.

The IPC also halved the percentage threshold of children suffering malnutrition that is necessary to establish a famine determination to 15%. Historically, famine has been declared when 30% of children suffer acute malnutrition, measured by weight and height calculations, a more labor-intensive and precise method than MUAC, which involves a simple arm measurement.

The revised criteria appeared only in a small note with an asterisk beneath a chart titled "When is Famine Classified?" and were not mentioned in the IPC's official "Famine Fact Sheet."

The organization's technical manual lists MUAC as a supplementary data point - not a primary basis for famine classification. The manual underscores that the IPC can only provide a "famine classification" once it has "reliable data" using weight and height measurements. or one other metric that is not MUAC.

The change has raised concerns among veteran aid workers. "It's a pret-

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Aug. 22, 2025 / 28 Av, 5785......7:21 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Re'eh

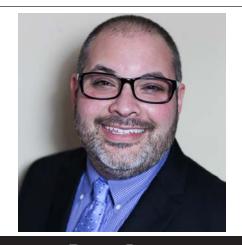
ty big shift in standards," one of them told the Free Beacon. "Lowering the bar makes it easier for a famine determination to be made." Another noted that past famine declarations in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan relied on the higher 30% weight-for-height benchmark.

In Gaza, the IPC's MUAC-based findings show acute malnutrition is under 8% for children in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, and 16.5% in Gaza City - just above the new 15% threshold but far below the previous 30% standard.

The July report also cited "over 20,000 children" treated for acute malnutrition between April and mid-July, including more than 3,000 severely malnourished, and at least 16 recent hunger-related child deaths. However, these figures were drawn from "internal documents" that are not publicly available.

Much of the IPC's data comes from the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry and affiliated organizations, including Ard el Insan, an aid group, which has faced allegations of ties to the militant group, the Free Beacon noted.

The IPC did not respond to the Free Beacon's questions regarding its altered methodology or the reliability of its sources. HW



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

Monday, August 25

Speaker: Rabbi Yosef Braha, Rosh Kollel and Director of Operations of the Memphis Kollel

Topic: Ask the Rabbi!

Rabbi Braha's talks are always one of the highlights for the speaker series. Bring all your Jewish questions and queries that you have been wondering about, but maybe, were afraid to ask. No questions too tough! With the Jewish High Holy Days just a few weeks away. This is a perfect time to get answers to many of the questions you have been thinking about. Rabbi Braha always has a nice, and sometimes humorous answer. Have a nice lunch and an informative afternoon.

Wednesday, August 27

Speaker: Cindi Longmire, representative of Silverts, adaptive Clothing and Footwear

Adaptive clothing provides easy dressing solutions with adaptive designs for seniors and disabled people. Clothes for seniors should be easy to wear so they don't have to struggle needlessly with narrow neck openings or difficult-to-button pants or waist bands to dress or undress.

Adaptive clothing features open back functionality in tops, side open designs in pants, hidden magnetic snap fasteners instead of conventional buttons and easy touch closures in footwear. All these helpful features enable seniors or disabled people to dress with dignity, comfort and style.

This clothing can be a real game

changer for people who sometimes struggle getting in or out their clothes. Cindi will also have some samples to show. This company has been around since 1930. The program will start at 12 p.m. Reservations are only needed for the lunch! Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 with any questions.

Monday, September 1 The MJCC Senior Department will be closed for Labor Day.

While some of the MJCC will be open, there will not be any lunch served. There will also not be any senior after lunch program. Have a great and safe Labor Day!

Wednesday, September 3

Field Trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their Monthly SoShuls Luncheon. The bus will leave from the MJCC, go to the Baron Hirsch, and return the group back to the MJCC following lunch. Baron Hirsch also has entertainment from Creative Aging and bingo following the entertainment. We will also pick up those who need it that live around the MJCC. Call Steve Kaplan for more information at the number below.

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**

Baron Hirsch Synagogue SoShuls Luncheon

As we watch summer ease into autumn, Baron Hirsch Synagogue will host its September SoShuls Luncheon on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at noon. People who are 64 years or older are invited to attend the SoShuls luncheons. You do not have to be a synagogue member to attend SoShuls Luncheons, which are sponsored by Elaine Miner.

The September SoShuls menu will feature summer treats, including gazpacho soup, chicken salad, potato chips, fresh summer fruits and delicious brownies for dessert. (If you aren't familiar with gazpacho, it's a cold vegetable soup.) The cost of the luncheon is \$5 per person.

The Heart Memphis Duo will share its musical talents during the luncheon, appearing at the courtesy of Creative Aging, a local non-profit agency, which connects local entertainers with a variety of community non-profit organizations. Heart Memphis Duo plays memory-provoking songs that we remember as part of the music of our lives. Their fun and energetic performances encourage audience participation.

Delicious food, musical entertainment, being with old friends and making new friends will change an average Wednesday into a lively afternoon. And the fun doesn't stop there. Following the luncheon and music, join Alvin Steinberg as he calls the Bingo games for anyone who wants to stay and play.

We look forward to having you join us for a great meal and a fun afternoon. Please make your reservation as early as possible by calling 901-683-7485 or by email to gwen@baronhirsch.org. **HW**

Iran Posts Chart of Israeli Leaders It Plans to Kill

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz posted to X last Monday a chart of senior Israeli politicians and security officials that he said Iran published to designate who it intends to target for assassination, apparently in retaliation for Israeli actions in Gaza.

Among those listed on the chart are Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (listed in the Iranian chart as "criminal against humanity"), Katz (listed as "minister of terror"), former Israeli Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai ("the

regime's prison guard"), IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir ("leader of terror"), Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar ("killer of children") and others who were given similarly bombastic titles.

"Iran publishes the list of senior officials in Israel's political and security leadership designated for elimination. I suggest to the Iranian dictator Khamenei that when he emerges from his bunker, he occasionally looks up to the sky and listens carefully for any buzzing. The participants of the 'Red Wedding' are waiting for him there," Katz posted.

The "Red Wedding" refers to a famous scene from "Game of Thrones," a popular fantasy book series adapted into an HBO show, in which a massacre occurs at a wedding.

Iran is still nursing its wounds from Israel's 12-day "Operation Rising Lion" in June, which saw the destruction of most of the Islamic Republic's nuclear and ballistic missile facilities.

"We struck at Iran's nuclear program and its missile manufacturing array. These were the core dangers to Israel's security," Katz said after the operation.

According to Katz, the operation "took years of planning, intelligence gathering, and training. In recent months, our intelligence capabilities grew stronger. The plan became actionable." **HW**

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Long Overdue,' Hadassah Says of UN Listing Hamas in Sexual Crimes 'Blacklist'

(JNS) – The U.N. secretary-general's report on conflict-related sexual crimes, which lists Hamas on the global body's "blacklist" for the first time since Oct. 7, is to be commended but "long overdue," according to Carol Ann Schwartz, national president of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America.

"For the second year in a row, the United Nations report shows record levels of conflict-related sexual violence," Schwartz said. "This represents a profound global moral failure and demands that the U.N. and governments around the world put a stop to the unacceptable weaponization of rape. We must stand up to support survivors and demand justice."

Hadassah is "glad" to see that the global body "has finally listed Hamas as a party credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for sexual violence," according to Schwartz.

"Nearly 700 days since Oct. 7, 2023, this action to hold Hamas accountable for systematically weaponizing sexual violence is long overdue," she stated. "This is just the first step. The United Nations must vigorously pursue justice and advance measures to hold Hamas accountable for crimes against humanity.

"Failure to act will only further embolden violent extremists across the world to perpetrate these heinous acts," she added. HW

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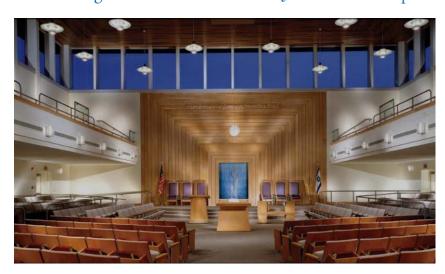
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Amazon, Apple Caught Selling Terror Merchandise and Nazi Texts



T-shirts on sale bearing the slogan

By Miri Weissman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) - The Amazon and Etsy in the United Kingdom sell T-shirts that support Palestine Action, which was declared a terror organization in Britain last month, the Jewish News of London wrote this week.

The shirts, sold for prices starting at £12.99 (\$16.40), bear the slogan "We are all Palestine Action" and are available in children's sizes starting from age 3. The organization operated against British military bases and attacked sites of Israeli defense companies and Jewish organizations connected to Israel.

On Etsy, similar shirts sell along with Boycott Israel stickers in packages of 25 or 1,000 units. One buyer wrote on the platform: "Excellent item. Haven't been arrested yet, but the message is clear and sharp. Thank you."

Simultaneously, it was discovered that Apple's digital bookstore (Apple Books) sells "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" for 49 pence (62 cents) on its British site.

The text, written by Russian author Sergei Nilus in 1905, is a forgery that led to the spreading of conspiracy theories about global Jewish control and media manipulation. It was instrumental in spreading hatred of Jews, and it was used in Nazi propaganda. The book's description on the site encourages readers to "read and decide for themselves" whether the book is "truth or hoax," and contains additional conspiracy claims about Jews and the 1917 October Revolution in Russia.

British member of Parliament Matthew Patrick from the Labour Party sent a letter to Apple's representative, writing: "'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion' is the most famous antisemitic text ever created. It was central in spreading belief in an international Jewish conspiracy and was used by the Nazis for exactly that purpose."

Patrick added that "the rise of antisemitism is a defining moment in modern history. Without determined action, the world risks entering a new dark era where antisemitism will be approved again, allowed to spread, and become institutionalized."

He called on Apple to act like bookstore chain Blackwell's, which removed the book from sale in 2022.

Originally published by Israel Hay-

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Rosh Hashanah Catering Menu

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Chicken Soup (1 qt.)\$20 Matzah Balls (each)...... \$3 Challah Loaf (plain).......\$15 Honey (2oz.).....\$1.50

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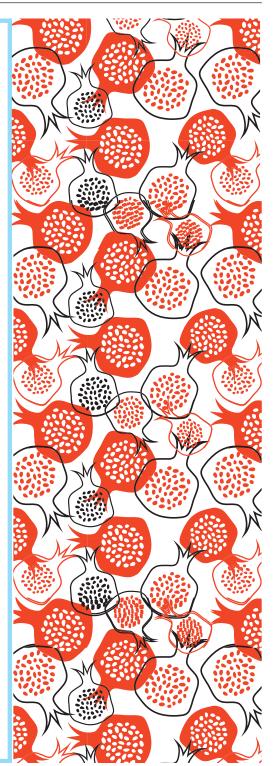
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Desserts

Chocolate Chip Cookies.....\$20 One Dozen Apple Cake......\$20

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Looking to Ease College Tuition Anxiety?

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

Once you realize how many resources may be available and begin your research on college financial assistance, you could be on your way toward easing some of the anxiety often associated with paying for higher education.

According to the College Board's "Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2024," approximately \$257 billion in student aid in the form of grants, Federal Work-Study (FWS), federal loans, and federal tax credits and deductions was awarded to undergraduate and graduate students in 2023 – 2024.

During that academic year, undergraduate students received an average of \$16,360 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student in financial aid: \$11,610 in grants, \$3,900 in federal loans, \$760 in education tax credits and deductions, and \$90 in FWS.

5 lessons for seeking help with college costs

Start planning during the high school years. Look to reposition assets or adjust income in the calendar years before your child's sophomore year. For example, if the student is applying for financial aid for the 2025-2026 school year, the federal aid application will include income from the 2023 tax year (two years prior).

Assume you're eligible for aid ... until you're told you're not. There are no specific guidelines or rules of thumb that can accurately predict the aid you and your child may be offered. Because each family's circumstances are different, keep an open mind as you consider financial aid alternatives.

Two forms will be key to your aid application process: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile (CSS Profile). The FAFSA helps you apply for federal aid, and many states use it to determine a resident student's eligibility for state aid. Many schools use the CSS Profile to collect additional information before awarding their own funds, i.e., institutional student aid.

Reassess assets held by your children. Federal guidelines expect children to contribute 20% of their assets toward their education's costs while parents are expected to contribute up to 5.64%.

Assets held in custodial accounts (bank accounts, trust funds, brokerage accounts) in your children's names may reduce the aid for which your family qualifies more so since they are assessed at the 20% rate. While assets held in Coverdell Education Savings Accounts

(ESAs) and 529 plan accounts (if owned by the dependent student or the parent) are factored into the parents' formula, having less effect on the aid for which the family qualifies.

Apply to multiple schools and compare financial aid awards. This is especially important if there is a noncustodial stepparent because some colleges count this person's resources while others do not. You may also want to consider asking the financial aid officer for more aid if the current award is not enough for attendance – all they can say is "no." If there are extenuating circumstances, be sure to attach a letter of explanation to the application.

Go beyond financial aid. Although aid can help, it can be unpredictable, and your family may still find it difficult to afford higher education. So rather than relying strictly on financial aid, consider turning to a professional financial advisor for help with determining an appropriate college savings strategy. For the greatest potential impact, beginning to save as early in the child's life as possible is a good idea.

Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing in a 529 savings plan. The official statement, which con-

tains this and other information, can be obtained by calling your financial advisor. Read it carefully before you invest.

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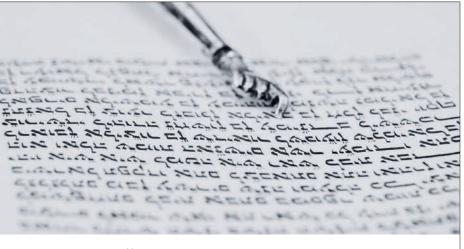
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OBITUARY



Deborah Brown Frisch

Deborah "Debby" Brown Frisch, 71, passed away on August 4, 2025. Debby was the beloved daughter of Shirley Heller Brown of Rancho Mirage, California, and the late Stanley Brown. She was a proud graduate of White Station High School, attended Louisiana State University, and earned her degree from Memphis State University.

A talented artist, Debby loved painting flowers and plants, finding joy in capturing their beauty until an injury ultimately prevented her from continuing her passion.

Debby worked at Southeast Managers, Inc., alongside her husband and family for many years until her overall health began to decline. She was a devoted and cherished daughter, wife, mother and friend. Debby and her husband, Frank, shared over 51 years of happiness together.

Her family includes her children, Elliott Frisch of Norcross, Georgia, and Brandon (Catherine) Frisch of Germantown. She also leaves behind her brother, Mitchell Brown of Rancho Mirage, and five grandchildren, whom she held most dear.

Services were held on Tuesday, August 6, in the Sam Abraham Chapel at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Baron Hirsch Synagogue – Sandwich Project, 400 S. Yates Rd., Memphis, TN 38120. HW

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Define A Challenge ~ A Thought on the Parsha

By Rabbi Levi Klein, Chabad of Tennessee

This week's Torah reading Re'eh speaks of a false prophet performing miraculous acts. Why is he given this power? The verse explains: "G-d, your L-rd, is testing you to know whether you love G-d." The wording of the verse sheds light on an important issue. Frequently, we speak of "tests of faith," situations that challenge our belief system.

What lies at the core of these tests? The word "Menaseh," translated as "is testing," can also be rendered as "is raising you up." G-d sets up each test and challenge to bring a person to a higher state of knowing and loving G-d.

Nothing happens by accident. Everything is controlled and directed by Divine providence. Moreover, that providence is all-inclusive, encompassing every facet of our existence.

G-d's providence is purposeful. He is directing our progress with the intent that each one of us realize our individual G-dly nature, and in doing so, encourage the expression of the G-dly core that lies at the heart of every person and every object which we encounter.

This may not appear easy, particularly when in the throes of the tests and challenges we spoke of previously. But we must appreciate that these are also from G-d.

Why do we consider them challenges? Because they don't follow the logical pattern dictated by our minds. "If G-d really wanted the world – or me as a person – to appreciate Him," we often think, "He would do things the way I think is right."

But that's the point. The way G-d thinks is not the way we think. Our minds are limited in nature. G-d is infinite and therefore He is not confined to our limited scope.

There are events that don't fit our limited conception of what ought to be. Therefore, we perceive them as chal-

lenges. But in G-d's eyes, these are expressions of a higher order. They are not obstacles; they are steppingstones. His intent in exposing us to them is to "lift us up," to enable us to step beyond the mortal conception of reality, confident that when this happens, we will know Him and love Him on a deeper level. **HW**

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He Promises: Never Again



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

By Ted Roberts

11/12/12

Our Chumash is a gem to both worshippers and storytellers. Loaded with history, beauty, poetry, rules . . . and puzzles. You can cancel The New York Times and its crossword puzzles and buy a used Bible for fifty cents at any garage sale thereby saving roughly 150 bucks a year. And you can study Judaism as well as be challenged by a puzzle a week. And, of course, there's rabbinic commentary galore to help you solve the mysteries - obvious to the author and his scribe, Moses, but cloudy to our mere human perception. What does the Creator want from us? Doesn't He forget sometimes that unlike Him we're only human? Far short of His standards.

My favorite biblical mystery, as yet unsolved by any rabbinic commentary I've read, is G-d's drowning of his new experiment – planet Earth and its population that He, the Supreme Rainmaker, placed here. Every first grade Sunday School student knows the story of the flood and occasionally even they express a mixture of awe, wonder and

bewilderment. "He drowned everybody – even innocent puppies and kittens. Why?" A question more suitable to the Rainmaker, Himself, than us simple Sunday School teachers.

Well, one day as the Creator was framing the outer limits of his cosmos - putting the finishing touches to the orbital mechanics of Pluto, maybe - He glanced down, earthward. Oy - what He saw? That animal with a soul – the pride of His creation - was stealing, raping, murdering. To put it mildly, His great experiment was a dismal humiliating failure. If we believed in an anthropomorphic G-d (which we shouldn't, says Rambam) His eyes flashed fire. True, Israel had not yet received Torah, but still it should be obvious that you shouldn't bop your neighbor on the head with a rock and steal his woman or his supper. To put it in today's terms: far better to work as a grocery bagboy than steal your supper. Even to a creature a cut above the apes, this should be intuitive. Man, unarmed with Torah, should arrive at such a conclusion.

But G-d's most ambitious creation was a howling failure. You know the rest of the story. G-d heaved a mighty sigh (if you believe in an anthropomorphic sigh – please don't, repeats the Rambam). I'm going to have to start all over, He thinks. He makes the big decision: "I will destroy man whom I have created. . . both man and beast, creeping things and birds. . . for I am sorry I have made them". But He does select Noah and

his family as survivors "because Noah walked with G-d." OK. Understandable except for a brief footnote: Why decimate the beasts? The puppies, the kittens, the rabbits. They are incapable of evil, sorrowfully wail my younger students. The Lord, in His wisdom, hardwired survival into their heads. Evil is not a choice. We don't get much data as to why Noah won the lottery of life. But obviously he is the Lord's favorite.

Now the mystery thickens. The Lord announces his intention to Noah with detailed blueprints for shipbuilding. (The commentators note that unlike Abraham in regard to Sodom and Gomorrah, Noah doesn't try to talk G-d out of his crushing blow to mankind.

Yes, a giant tsunami floods not just the Mississippi River valley, which we're accustomed to, but all the earth. G-d, in His role as Great Destroyer, washes the earth clean of man and woman - puppies and kittens. When the water recedes, Noah, with a whoop and a holler, steps onto dry land. And here come the mysteries: 1) Noah (since all the decent bars have been washed out to sea) plants a vineyard. He needs a schnapps. He plants grapes, not rice, corn, or wheat. 2) He's roaring drunk – this man whom G-d has handpicked to father the human race. Can you blame him? Picture the destruction of Katrina a thousand fold.

And something vaguely sexual occurs; expressed in Genesis as "Ham, the father of Canaan saw the nakedness of his father." Noah responds by cursThe Scribbler
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ing Ham. Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren. The other two sons, Shem and Japheth, behave like gentlemen and cover their father's nudity. In summary, the whole episode is an obvious slam at the Canaanites – descendants of Ham – as our Book informs us. Most bible scholars admit that political bias creeps into our holy book. Is this such a passage?

But this bizarre event ends on a happy note. Never again, says G-d, will I "curse the ground" even though "man's heart is evil from his youth." Even though his vast punishment didn't gentle man's evil heart, I bet many a time G-d has fought off temptation for a watery encore.

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**

Arkansas City Changes Reference to Country 'Palestine' After JNS Query

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The city of Conway, Ark., told JNS that it changed an option in a drop-down menu on the web page of the Conway Community Center, which

offered users an option to identify their location as the country of "Palestine."

JNS asked if the city or the state had a policy of recognizing an independent Palestinian state.

"No. This has been swiftly resolved,"

a spokesman for the city told JNS.

The form now offers only an option to input U.S. addresses and not international ones

The United States does not recognize an independent Palestinian state, and

U.S. officials have said that other countries that have said that they intend to recognize such a state would reward the Hamas terror organization for its attacks on Oct. 7, 2023. **HW**

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Desperation

By Howard Weisband

Oxford Languages defines desperation in part as "a state of despair, typically one which results in rash or extreme behavior."

Israel at this moment seems to be caught in a web of desperate behavior, woven intentionally or not by leading actors abroad and yes, by political leadership inside the country.

The leaders of a number of Western democracies, France, Britain, Canada, Australia and others have recently, in rather rash fashion, declared their intention to soon recognize a Palestinian state. Where? What borders? What governance?

Will Hamas remain in such a state? Will the Palestinian Authority (PA) have governance authority? They no doubt recognize that Hamas is a jihadist terror organization that calls for the elimination of Israel, then ultimately their own democracies. They undoubtedly recognize that the PA is a corrupt organization, unable to properly govern or build a healthy society. Nor has the PA stated that it recognizes the State of Israel.

In short, such rash behavior is counter opposed to rational international diplomacy. This reality was recognized by Ambassador Mike Huckabee interviewed by the Times of Israel on August 13.

And he (Huckabee) was furiously denunciative of Western countries, in-

cluding the UK and France, for their recently declared plans to unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state. You should handle disagreements with your friends "through some diplomatic channel, with some circumspection," he said. "You don't join with and aid and abet [Israel's] sworn adversaries, those who are trying to kill them, who literally are trying to kill them."

In May, Ambassador Alan Baker and Lt. Col. (res.) Maurice Hirsch, both having legal and governmental backgrounds, published a legal analysis through the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs on what constitutes statehood under international law. In that report, they said the 1933 Montevideo Convention outlines four key requirements for recognition: a permanent population, defined borders, a functioning government, and the capacity to engage in foreign relations.

The Palestinian leadership does not meet these standards, according to Baker and Hirsch.

Surely Western leadership ought to recognize such requirements within international law prior to making such rash announcements.

Or, are radical Islamic population groups and influences in these Western countries already so strong that their political leaders have made rash and desperate decisions that serve to embolden terrorist and corrupt Palestinian elements in the Middle East?

A practical result was that Hamas first hardened its negotiating position in ceasefire talks, then withdrew in full measure, with analysts saying that they now felt they could get all they wanted without giving anything in return, in other words hostages needn't be returned, and they needn't lay down their arms.

It was at that point that Prime Minister Netanyahu drove his coalition and cabinet to say that Israel would now take over all of Gaza. His rationale was presented as it was not for the purpose of occupation but to free the people of Gaza from the reins and terror of Hamas.

Certainly, for the international community, as well as for many of us in Israel, this was seen as a rather rash, even brash decision. Desperation.

Why so? First because most of us believe this war should have been over long ago with a decisive victory over Hamas, including the return of hostages.

Second because Netanyahu's coalition is again in disarray. His right wing wants to resettle Gaza, not merely take it over and control it. And the Haredim are still demanding legislation that will almost universally exempt all yeshiva students from the draft.

Moreover, the Prime Minister and the IDF Chief of Staff are publicly at odds with the plan and apparently the neces-

sity to take over Gaza. Further, the Government is preparing to call up some 430,000 reservists, more than were called in at the beginning of the war. Those families and the public at large found this decision unacceptable.

An August 11 hard-hitting editorial in the Jerusalem Post was titled: "Gaza fault line: Netanyahu's plan threatens to rip Israel apart."

Among its many points, it stated "This intra-coalition dissent signals more than just tactical disagreement; it highlights a deepening national anxiety about the direction and legitimacy of Israel's Gaza policy."

Herb Keinon was somewhat more generous in the same newspaper a few days earlier. His August 8 analysis was titled "Strategic mess or strategic mask? Israel's government, military at odds over occupying Gaza."

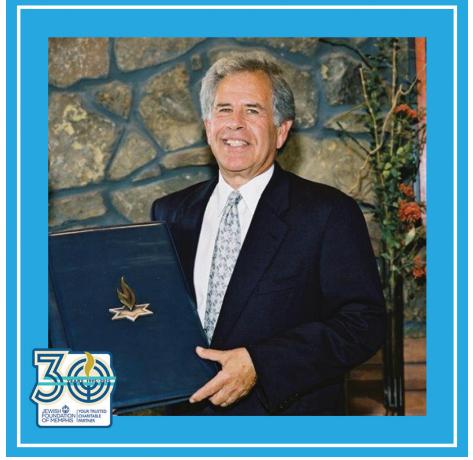
Desperation abounds internationally and at home.

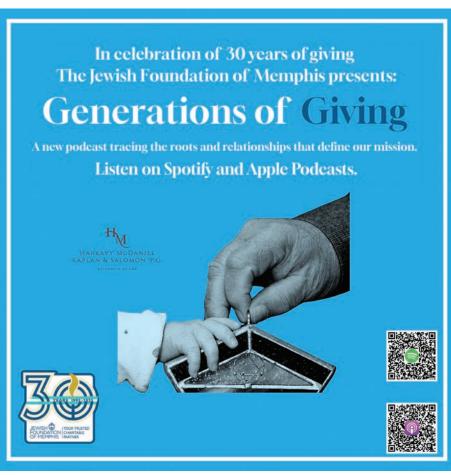
Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in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

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Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis





Hal Newburger and his late wife, Ronna, (past president of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis) have been major donors in the Memphis Jewish community, as well as pivotal members of its lay leadership, for decades. They created the Endowment Book of Life 20 years ago, positioning the Foundation as the primary resource for legacy giving in the Memphis Jewish community. Listen to an interview with Hal on the Foundation's new podcast, "Generations of Giving," available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

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

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





2010: The Jewish Foundation of Memphis's work with multigenerational philanthropic families led to the creation of Generations of Giving, an initiative recognizing families with three or more generations of involvement with the Foundation (currently there are nearly 50). At the 2010 kick-off of this initiative, Jewish Foundation of Memphis past president Kay Saslawsky (z"l) presented a Generations of Giving tzedakah box to Margo and Mark Fogelman. Other Generations of Giving family members Mary Shainberg (z"l), Cindy Shainberg and Tali Abdun also attended.







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