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Hamas Issues Propaganda Video of Israeli Hostage Evyatar David



Evyatar David, 23. Credit: Courtesy of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum.

(JNS) – The Hamas terror group last Friday released a propaganda video featuring hostage Evyatar David, who was abducted from the Nova music festival during the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in southern Israel.

Although the family did not approve the video's publication, footage circulated widely on social media, showing David appearing emaciated.

In response, former captive Liri Albag posted to Instagram, "I'm sitting here, and I can't stop crying. ... Seeing signs of life from Rom and Evyatar just before Friday dinner, knowing I have food on the table, knowing I made it out – and that it's been six months since I was fortunate enough to return – while

remembering where my brothers are and realizing they're still there... it crushes me," she said.

Last Thursday, Palestinian Islamic Jihad released a propaganda video of hostage Rom Braslavski, who was also abducted on Oct. 7. PIJ claimed the clip was recorded days before it supposedly lost contact with Braslavski's captors last week, adding that his current condition is unknown.

"We are deeply shaken. People talk a lot about what is happening in Gaza – about hunger – and I want to ask everyone who spoke about hunger: Did you see our Rom?" the Braslavski family said in a statement.

"He is not receiving food. He is not



Hostage Evyatar David as seen in a photo released by the terrorist group Hamas on Aug. 1. 2025.

receiving medicine. He has simply been forgotten there," the statement continued. "Six minutes of video – that's all it took for Rom to break on camera. But Rom has been there for 664 days. They must all be brought home now."

In February, Evyatar David and Guy Gilboa-Dalal were forced to watch their friends' release ceremony from Gaza, with Hamas compelling the two to attend from inside a vehicle.

Days later, Evyatar's brother, Ilay David, told JNS that his family was not losing hope. "I see in my mind Evyatar hugging my parents in tears, and I imagine us playing music as we did every week." he said.

"I know that he holds on to the same things, and we just cannot lose hope. We need to send them our prayers, hope, powers, energy and strength to give them the hope to continue and survive because eventually they will be home," he added.

Last Friday morning, relatives of the 50 hostages still in Gaza held a demonstration at Hostages Square in Tel Aviv under the banner "Never Again."

"This is the time for a comprehensive deal and an end to the war. No more delays. No more leaving them behind. Stop this nightmare and bring them out of the tunnels. Bring them home!" the families said in a statement. HW

Trump Calls on Hamas to 'Surrender,' Witkoff Visits Gaza as U.S. and Israel Reportedly Take New Tack



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met in his office with U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff. Credit: Kobi Gideon/GPO

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) - President Donald Trump called for Hamas to "surrender" in a post on Truth Social last Thursday

morning, a day before his Middle East envoy visited Gaza and praised humanitarian efforts there. "The fastest way to end the Humanitarian Crises in Gaza is for Hamas to SURRENDER AND RELEASE THE HOSTAGES!!!," wrote Trump in the post.

The president's post came days after he lamented "real starvation" in Gaza and as a new report, in The Atlantic, suggested that he was growing increasingly frustrated with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's unwillingness to end the war in Gaza.

But it also came as Trump has ratcheted up his tone on Hamas. Last week, after withdrawing his negotiators, he accused the group of not wanting a cease-fire deal and said that he believed "they want to die." Now, Hamas has reportedly stopped engaging in any discussions regarding a potential ceasefire and hostage release, with one senior Hamas official, Mahmoud Mardawi, saying there is "no meaning to any negotiations

as long as the policy of starvation and extermination against our people continues."

Last Friday, Steve Witkoff joined U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee and Israeli officials in a visit to Gaza, where he praised a Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's food distribution site as "incredible." The joint U.S.-Israeli aid effort has drawn sharp criticism for failing to meet need and being dangerous for Gazans to access.

Witkoff also met with Netanyahu last Thursday, in his first public visit to Israel in six months.

The shifting tides reflect a new approach undertaken by U.S. and Israeli officials, a senior Israeli official told reporters last Thursday. Instead of pressing for a partial deal that would include a ceasefire and the release of some of

(See Trump Page 3)

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MoSH Welcomes Director of **Development Marcy Wurzburg** Stagner



Marcy Wurzburg Stagner

The Museums of Science and History (MoSH) - the parent organization for a collection of Memphis' greatest treasures including Pink Palace Museum & Mansion, Lichterman Nature Center, Mallory-Neely Historic Property and Coon Creek Science Center – is pleased to welcome Marcy Wurzburg Stagner as director of development.

"It's a tremendous honor to be part of an institution that holds such a vital place in the cultural and educational fabric of our community," said Stagner. "It feels like a full-circle moment – I've been coming to the Pink Palace and Lichterman Nature Center since I was young and now have the joy of bringing my own children."

With two education degrees, including one in curriculum design, she understands innately the value of connecting experience and education. A visual artist herself, Stagner is involved in the local arts and culture community in both board and volunteer roles.

Stagner has spent the past decade professionally bridging nonprofit community engagement with development. Most recently, Stagner served as director of strategic partnerships and opportunities at Church Health, where she developed and executed mission-aligned programs and events, as well as cultivated relationships with donors, sponsors

At MoSH, Stagner will oversee partnership and development opportunities for the Pink Palace, Lichterman, and Mallory-Neely to fuel MoSH's mission to serve over 30,000 students annually.

In addition to exhibit sponsorships, membership campaigns and additional development priorities, she is immediately introducing a new sponsorship opportunity for individuals or organizations to underwrite Pink Palace Museum & Mansion general admission on Wednesdays. For \$10,000/month of Sundays or \$3,000 for a single Sunday, an individual or company will be recognized for opening Pink Palace's doors free of charge to individual patrons and

"As we grow, so do our needs," said MoSH Executive Director Kevin Thompson. "We are thrilled to have Marcy on board to embody our vision, bring more folks through our doors, and connect to those who can help us cultivate curiosity and meaningful discovery."

About MoSH. The Museums of Science and History (MoSH) is the parent organization for a collection of Memphis' greatest treasures - Pink Palace Museum & Mansion, Lichterman Nature Center, Mallory-Neely Historic Property, and Coon Creek Science Center – and offers visitors opportunities to experience the best of the region's natural history, science, and culture. There is truly something for everyone at MoSH. For more information, visit moshmemphis.com. HW

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Office: 901.763.2215 Direct: 901.827.7244

info@HebrewWatchman.com

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Larry Nieman Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman Office Manager & Subscriptions toni@HebrewWatchman.com

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Weekly Torah Portion: Va'etchanan

IDF Exposes Hamas Terrorists Feasting in Gaza Tunnels

By Shachar Kleiman

(JNS) - The IDF Arabic spokesperson unveiled evidence last week documenting Hamas terrorists' comfortable underground life, showing fighters enjoying fresh bananas, dates, and meat in tunnel complexes while their organization publicly accuses Israel of creating starvation conditions for Gaza residents.

Spokesman Col. Avichay Adraee emphasized that "while the organization's senior officials fabricate 'starvation'

claims, these videos reveal their terrorists proudly displaying their tunnel meals. It must be noted that the food shown in these videos did not arrive through humanitarian aid deliveries to the Gaza Strip."

The footage captures Hamas operatives showcasing their food supplies with enthusiasm, declaring, "Banana! Dates! Meat!" while occupying wellequipped underground facilities.

Adraee explained that "Hamas terrorists' detachment from civilian suffering reveals itself in its ugliness yet again. This same organization that spreads falsehoods worldwide about 'starvation' amuses itself with destruction scenes it inflicted upon its own people.

"Gaza residents, this represents the truth. These terrorists are not heroes they are thieves who prioritize themselves at your expense and hide in tunnels fearing repercussions from their actions," he said.

The revelations highlight the fundamental disconnect between Hamas leadership's public messaging about humanitarian conditions and the reality of their operatives' comfortable underground accommodations and abundant food supplies during wartime.

Originally published by Israel Hayom. HW



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You Can't Help Yourself! A Thought on the Parsha by Rabbi Levi Klein, Chabad of Tennessee

If you look around, I am sure you could spot the life-coach who can't get his own life together; the marriage counselor whose marriage is either history or well on the way; and the parent who preaches to her children to "stop scratching and biting over blocks of Lego" while she is constantly brawling over pride and money.

It is quite obvious that many of us can help anyone but ourselves.

We have advice for our children on how to handle stress. We advise our co-workers on how to manage their time. We teach our students the value of study. And of course we educate our parents how to be parents...

...Yet in our own lives, we are enrolled in an anger management club. Our time management is in serious need of a new CEO. An article longer than 300 words is avoided like the plague. And our own parenthood is a non-issue because we just celebrated our sixteenth birthday.

There are many junctures in our lives when we need objectivity and clarity in order to see our strengths and weaknesses for what they are. Dating, career seeking, child rearing and relationship struggles are just but a sample of stages in our lives when an unbiased view can serve as a potential lifesaver, and where we can be our own worst enemy.

That is why the sages of old have advised and instructed to "Appoint a mentor for yourself!" Find yourself someone who can be your guide, your objective compass - pushing, advising and instructing you on how you can be the real you.

Therapists are nice (and expensive) and there are times when they are needed. But not every issue calls for therapy. There are the times when all we need is someone who knows us, who cares for us, a wise person with a little life experience who can save us from ourselves by seeing the reality for what it is, rather than what we perceive it to be.

And dedicated. The mentor must be dedicated.

Let me share an insight from this week's Torah Reading. Shortly before his passing, Moses established "Cities of Refuge." What is a City of Refuge? If a person was guilty of manslaughter, and a family member of the victim was chasing after him to kill him to avenge his next of kin's death, these cities served as a safe zone where the killer could stay and – in the words of the Torah (Deuteronomy 4:42) – "live."

From the fact that Torah says that he should "live" in them, and it's a given that one cannot live without Torah, our Sages ruled that the killer's Torah teacher must accompany his pupil to his city of refuge!

A real mentor follows you to exile. A real mentor is there for you even when you don't think you need him. A real mentor will pull you by the bootstraps out of any rut you fall in.

My dear friends, may we all find such mentors, and may we serve as such mentors to others.

Oh, what a world it will be... 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, August 11

Speaker: Kristen Miller with Mid-**South Aging Consultants**

Topic: Preventing Falls

This is by far one of the most important talks of our programs. The reason is very simple -according to several studies 70% of seniors that go to the hospital, go in due to a fall. Some simple tips can result in staying out of the hospital. There will be a question-and-answer period and a handout.

Wednesday, August 13 **Speaker: Kevin Payne with Humana** Topic: A Healthy Brain with an Energy Boosting Diet

Kevin is always entertaining and enjoyable. He has a refreshing way of teaching us things we need to know. He usually has handouts. Reservations are needed for the lunch only.

Monday, August 18 **Special Art Project with Mid-South Hobbies**

The group recently went on a field trip to their Summer Ave. location where they viewed many different hobby options. They always bring a cool, fun and enjoyable project for the group. There is no charge for this event. No experience is necessary and if the project is not finished, they give everyone the supplies to finish at their own home. Come have a nice lunch and bring home something that you did yourself. Reservations are needed by the Friday before so we have enough projects and food for everyone.



Musicians Elmo and Lester.

Wednesday, August 20

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon returns after a two-month hiatus.

August's luncheon will feature one of the best entertainers we have had, musicians Elmo and Lester! "Elmo" Lee Thomas is a Memphis native, best known as the leader of iconic Memphis band, Elmo and the Shades. Elmo has long been recognized as one of the region's top harmonica talents and is equally capable of lighting up the stage with his roots-inspired guitar approach. He has performed on NPR's Beale Street Caravan, had an appearance on Bud Light's "Spotlight on Memphis" commercial, and sang two songs on the 2013 major motion picture "Crackerjack" produced by Jeff Foxworthy. In the spring of 2015, he toured Vietnam sponsored by the United States State department, representing Memphis Music to celebrate the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the U.S.

The duo Elmo and Lester was formed in 2017 by two former Overton High School classmates and has been having a successful run since. The duo had a residency at The Graceland Guesthouse and have played restaurants, wineries, parties, senior communities and more. Their show is a high-energy journey through a variety of musical styles and eras, from the American Songbook, 50's & 60's rock & roll, country, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues and beyond.

August's luncheon is sponsored by Humana and the entertainment is provided by Creative Aging.

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**

Trump...

(Continued From Page 1)

the hostages Hamas is holding, the parties are now only interested in endgames that remove Hamas from power and bring all of the hostages home.

The shift comes as leaders around the world are adopting new efforts to jolt the stalemate in the conflict. The countries of the Arab League joined the European Union in calling for Hamas to disarm, while three major world powers - France, the United Kingdom and Canada – all announced their intentions to recognize a Palestinian state that does not include Hamas in a leadership role. HW

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Your Health: Why Am I So Tired?!

By Cindy Katz, DNP

In the clinic, one of the most common questions we hear is: "Why am I so tired?"

It's a simple question, but the answer is rarely straightforward. Fatigue can be frustrating, disruptive, and even concerning – often a sign that your body is trying to tell you something important.

Now that we're well into the summer months, many families are adjusting to a completely different routine. With school out, working parents are juggling new schedules, activities, and childcare. Grandparents might be stepping in to help, and the daily routine can feel anything but routine.

It's no surprise that many people feel more exhausted than ever. Some causes of fatigue are easy to pinpoint – others, not so much. Let's take a closer look at some of the most common reasons we feel so drained and what you can do about them.

1. Poor Quality Sleep

You may be in bed eight hours, but if your sleep is fragmented or restless, it's not doing your body any good. Conditions like sleep apnea, restless legs syndrome, or even stress-induced wakefulness can leave you feeling worn out by morning.

What can help:

- Establish a consistent bedtime rou-
- Avoid screens at least an hour before
 - Skip caffeine after lunchtime.
- Create a sleep-friendly environment that's cool, dark, and quiet.

2. Nutritional Gaps

Summer often means eating on the go, grabbing snacks at kids' events, or skipping meals entirely. You might not realize that your diet is low in essential nutrients - or that you're mildly dehy-

What can help:

• Plan and prep meals ahead of time to reduce weekday stress.

- Focus on a well-balanced diet of plant-based foods, lean proteins, and
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day.

3. Stress and Burnout

Coordinating summer camps, activities, work deadlines, and family obligations can feel overwhelming. When your schedule leaves little room for rest or self-care, stress builds - and so does

What can help:

- Ask for help from family, friends, or neighbors.
- · Set clear boundaries with work and social commitments.
- Schedule small pockets of downtime
- each day, even if it's just 10 quiet minutes. 4. Undiagnosed Medical Conditions

Sometimes, fatigue is more than just a busy season. Conditions like thyroid disorders, anemia, or diabetes can creep in and go unnoticed until symptoms start affecting daily life, especially when stress levels rise.

What can help:

- Schedule an annual physical if you haven't had one recently.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about persistent fatigue.
- Get lab work done to rule out common underlying issues.

Final Thoughts

Fatigue that lasts more than a few weeks shouldn't be ignored. Whether it's due to lifestyle habits, seasonal stress, or something medical, it's worth paying attention to.

Sometimes, it's the small, daily choices that make the biggest difference:

- Stay hydrated
- Move your body regularly
- Don't rely on caffeine or sugar for

If you're feeling unusually tired this summer, check in with yourself and with your healthcare provider. HW

35 Rabbis Arrested in NYC and DC Protests for Gaza Food Aid



A group of rabbis staged a sit-in at the office of Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, calling for aid in Gaza. Credit: Sue Dorfman

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) - Dozens of rabbis were arrested last Tuesday morning after staging a protest at the office of Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, calling for aid in Gaza and an end to what they called the Israeli government's "blockade" of the enclave.

The arrests come a day after eight rabbis were arrested at a separate demonstration in New York City, in a sign of surging Jewish concern about the condition of Gaza civilians.

In Washington, the group of 27 rabbis affiliated with the advocacy group Jews for Food Aid for People in Gaza entered Thune's office at around 11:10 a.m. last Tuesday morning, and displayed banners reading "Rabbis say: Protect Life!" and "Rabbis say: Stop the Blockade."

The demonstration called to mind some of the protests by rabbis and other Jews in favor of a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war that took place regularly in the war's first year, and some of the rabbis arrested were involved in those protests as well. But it comes as calls for an end to the war and relief for Gazan civilians grow more mainstream, amid a hunger crisis that has captured headlines around the world.

Over the past two months, over 23,500 Jews, including over 750 rabbis and over 100 Jewish congregations, synagogues, and organizations have signed a statement titled "Jews for Food Aid for People in Gaza." More than 1,000 rabbis this week signed an open letter demanding that Israel "stop using starvation as a weapon of war." (Israel rejects the allegation.)

And lawmakers from both parties, as well as President Donald Trump and other world leaders, have expressed concern about the plight of civilians in Gaza – even after Israel announced that its army would pause military operations in some parts of Gaza for 10 hours a day to facilitate the distribution of aid.

"We are here to demand that our elected officials protect life and take immediate action to end the starvation for all people in Gaza, including Palestinians in Gaza and Israeli hostages who are still being held captive in Gaza," a rabbi said at the sit-in in Thune's office.

Two rabbis read briefly from Lamentations, the text recited on the upcoming holiday of Tisha B'Av that describes the siege of ancient Jerusalem, translating the phrase, "Little children beg for bread; none gives them a morsel."

The group of rabbis then began singing Psalm 23 using a tune traditionally used at Jewish funerals before Capitol police arrested them and removed them from the Senate Office Building.

Of the group of arrested rabbis, many have been vocal supporters of pro-Palestinian Jewish movements, including Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, the former director of the social justice organizing program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Rabbi Abby Stein, the first openly transgender female rabbi from a Hasidic background; and Rabbi Andrue Kahn, a Brooklyn-based Reform rabbi who heads the historically anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism. One of those arrested, Rabbi Amelia Wolf, is the leader of the Conservative congregation Etz Hayim in Arlington, Virginia.

"This is about life and death. Our most urgent spiritual responsibility as Jews and as rabbis is to protect life," Rabbi Alissa Wise, the founding director of Rabbis for Ceasefire, said in a statement. "All life is sacred, but Palestinian lives are not treated as such, and that is a blot on our collective humanity. We are here to insist on the sanctity of life of every Palestinian, of every Israeli, of all of us."

The arrests come a day after eight rabbis were arrested in a protest organized by T'ruah and New York Jewish Agenda outside of the Israeli Consulate in New York City. The rabbis, along with hundreds of other demonstrators that were part of the protest, were calling for increased aid into Gaza, an end to the war and the return of all hostages.

The group of rabbis were held in a Manhattan jail for over two hours before being released, according to an Instagram post by Rabbi Evan Traylor, the assistant rabbi of Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn.

"I'm okay and will continue speaking and working for an end to the starvation of Gaza, the return of the hostages, an end to the war, and true justice and peace for all people in Israel/Palestine," he wrote. **HW**

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Witkoff, Huckabee Visit Aid Distribution Site in Gaza



Ambassador Mike Huckabee and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff visit the U.S.-launched Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's aid site in Rafah, southern Gaza, Aug. 1, 2025. Credit: Ambassador Mike Huckabee/X.

Beit Hanoun area of northern Gaza as

soldiers, the forces eliminated a terrorist

cell hiding inside a tunnel located rough-

ly five kilometers from the Ashkelon-

Sderot railway line. The two-kilome-

In coordination with Yahalom unit

part of Operation "Gideon's Chariots."

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – A delegation led by United States President Donald Trump's Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff and Ambassador Mike Huckabee went into Gaza last Friday to inspect humanitarian aid efforts at the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid distribution site in Rafah, the U.S. envoy announced.

"This morning I joined @SEPeace-Missions Steve Witkoff for a visit to Gaza to learn the truth about @GHFUp-dates aid sites," Huckabee posted on X. "We received briefings from @IDF and spoke to folks on the ground. GHF delivers more than one million meals a day, an incredible feat! (286 kB)"

In another post, Huckabee wrote, "Went into Gaza today & observed humanitarian food program by US launched GHF. Hamas hates GHF b/c it gets food to ppl w/o it being looted by Hamas. Over 100 MILLION meals served in 2 months. (493 kB)"

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation released a statement on the Gaza by the American delegation, which it said included observing food aid being distributed to civilians at a GHF secure distribution site.

"President Trump understands the stakes in Gaza and that feeding civilians, not Hamas, must be the priority," said GHF Spokesperson Chapin Fay. "Today he sent his envoy to serve as his eyes and ears on the ground, reflecting his deep concern and commitment to doing what's right. We were honored to brief his delegation, share our operations, and demonstrate the impact of delivering 100 million meals to those who need them most."

Meanwhile, the IDF announced that troops from the Kfir Brigade, operating under the 36th Division, are active in southern Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

In recent weeks, the forces have been working to strengthen operational control along the "Magen Oz" corridor, which runs through Khan Yunis and divides the city into eastern and western sections.

During the operation, soldiers uncovered a weapons storage site containing a large cache of fragmentation grenades, explosive devices, mortar shells, and sniper rifles.

In a separate mission, Kfir troops, acting on precise intelligence provided by Unit 504, apprehended terrorists deep inside Khan Yunis. Additionally, with support from the Combat Engineering Corps, forces located and dismantled an underground tunnel route several hundred meters in length in the Khan Yunis region.

Meanwhile, troops from the Givati Brigade, operating under the 162nd Division, are conducting operations in the and a cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles and explosive devices.

According to the IDF, Givati Brigade forces have so far eliminated multiple terrorists in the area and dismantled significant terrorist infrastructure both above and below ground.

Last Thursday, the IDF's 98th Division concluded its mission in the northern Gaza Strip following months of intense fighting and is now preparing for additional operations.

Over the course of the campaign, troops from the division conducted deep combat operations in key Hamas strongholds, including Khan Yunis, Shejaiya,

and Zeitoun

As part of the operation in northern Gaza, more than 1,500 terrorist infrastructure sites were dismantled, and dozens of terrorists were eliminated. The division dealt a major blow to Hamas's Shejaiya Battalion, which played a central role in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli communities near the border.

Many of the terrorists eliminated during the operation – some directly involved in the Oct. 7 massacre – were targeted in coordinated strikes involving the division's Fire Control Center, ground forces, the Israeli Air Force, and the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet). HW



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Record Number of Senate Democrats Vote to Block U.S. Weapons Sales to Israel



Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who caucuses with Democrats, argues for increased oversight of assistance to Israel, in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 15, 2024. (Screenshot)

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A record number of Senate Democrats, representing a majority of the caucus, voted in favor last Wednesday of two resolutions blocking U.S. military sales to Israel.

The vote tally, including several senators who had not previously voted against such aid, underscores an apparent decline in support for Israel within the party.

The vote comes as Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, and amid a humanitarian crisis in the enclave that is drawing widespread condemnation.

The resolutions were sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Jewish Vermont Independent who has long been critical of U.S. aid for Israel. Twenty-seven Senate Democrats voted for at least one of them.

The first, which was defeated 27-70, sought to block the sale of tens of thousands of assault rifles, which would potentially be used by police units controlled by far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. The second resolution, which would have blocked the sale of \$675.7 million of bombs and other materials to Israel, was defeated 24-73.

Eight of the senators who voted for at least one of the resolutions had not supported past efforts to cut off aid to Israel. They were Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island; Patty Murray of Washington; Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware; Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin; Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota; Tammy Duckworth of Illinois; and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland.

"The tide is turning," Sanders said in a statement. "The American people do not want to spend billions to starve children in Gaza. The Democrats are moving forward on this issue, and I look forward to Republican support in the near future."

A recent poll found that among Democratic voters, just 8% now say they approve of Israel's war in Gaza, a share that has fallen by 28 points since the beginning of the war.

The decline is starker among young Democrats. Last week, the Young Democrats of America, the youth wing of the Democratic Party, narrowly passed an amendment to its foreign policy plank opposing the "Israeli government's ongoing genocide in Gaza."

Last Tuesday, 40 Senate Democrats representing nearly all of the caucus – including two prominent Jewish senators, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Adam Schiff of California – sent a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff urging them to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, citing the increasing number of "deaths due to starvation, especially among children." HW



Jewish Communal Leader Among Victims in Manhattan Mass Shooting

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Jewish institutions in New York City are reeling after a prominent and beloved communal leader was among the victims of a mass shooting last Monday in Midtown Manhattan.

Wesley LePatner, 43, was a board member for UJA-Federation of New York and The Heschel School, where her name is now listed as "z'l" in memoriam. She received UJA's Alan C. Greenberg Young Leadership Award in 2023

She was also involved at Manhattan's Altneu synagogue, according to co-founder Avital Chizik-Goldschmidt. She was married with children.

LePatner was the global head of corereal estate and CEO of Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust, one of the world's largest investment firms, according to her LinkedIn.

The shooting occurred at an office building in Midtown Manhattan that is home to the headquarters of the NFL and Blackstone. The alleged shooter, identified by authorities as Shane Tamura of Las Vegas, killed four people, including a New York City police officer, and wounded a fifth before taking his own life.

While a motive has not been officially announced, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said police are investigating a note from the suspected gunman reportedly referring to potential links to the NFL and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a neurodegenerative disease linked to head trauma.

"We're still investigating, this is relatively new," Adams said. "There's no more than just a note at this time and as you indicated he talked about CTE." HW

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What is Long-Term Care, and How Can You Plan for It Financially?

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

Long-term care refers to the services needed to help you if a chronic illness or disability prevents you from living independently or performing daily personal activities such as getting dressed, taking medication, or preparing meals.

Although you might not require these services until later in life, it is wise to plan well in advance. Developing a strategy to pay for long-term care after you already need it can be stressful and limit your options. Here are a few key considerations to keep in mind as you develop a long-term care plan:

1. Understand the different levels of care and their costs

Aging in place

Most often this term means receiving services in your home, which can include care provided by visiting nurses, home health care workers, family, and friends.

It can also refer to living in a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), which offers facilities with varying levels of care. In a CCRC, you start in a residence suited to your current condition and transition to higher levels of care within the same community as your needs evolve.

The benefit of CCRCs is that they provide a seamless transition through different stages of care, helping ensure you won't need to search for a new facility each time your care requirements change.

Assisted living

Assisted living facilities provide staff to help with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, and managing medications. Choosing assisted living can also add a layer of security, knowing that assistance is readily available in case of falls or health emergencies.

Skilled nursing and memory care

Skilled nursing care is provided in residential facilities (often referred to as nursing homes) that include on-site medical services. These facilities offer short-term rehabilitation service after hospital stays and 24-hour care for residents requiring extensive assistance and supervision.

Some facilities also have specialized memory care units for individuals with cognitive challenges, such as Alzheimer's disease, who require higher levels of supervision and care. As expected, the cost of care increases with the complexity and intensity of the services provided.

2. Communicate your preferences to your loved ones

Clearly communicating your wishes to your loved ones can be essential so they can understand and respect your preferences. While you may assume your adult children will take care of you if the need arises, this should be confirmed through open and honest conversations. Discuss your expectations and theirs to help ensure alignment. Consider working together to create an actionable plan that helps meet your needs and considers their ability to provide support.

3. Explore your financial options for long-term care

Paying for long-term care can be complex as health insurance and government programs like Medicare and Medicaid often have restrictions and limitations. To help cover the costs of care, you may need to consider additional strategies, such as:

- Relying on family members
- Paying out of pocket
- Purchasing long-term care insurance

 It's often assential to review these op-

It's often essential to review these options with qualified legal and financial advisors to help determine the best approach for your situation. Proper planning can help ensure you receive the care you need without unnecessary financial strain.

Proactively preparing for long-term care helps you make informed choices,

ease the burden on loved ones, and ensure your future care aligns with your preferences and needs.

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University of Kentucky Suspends Professor Who Called for Global Military Action Against Israel

By Aaron Bandler

"The views expressed by this employee, if accurately attributed, are repugnant," stated the president of the public school.

(JNS) – The University of Kentucky, a highly ranked public school based in Lexington, put a law professor on leave last Monday for penning and circulating a petition that demands "that every country in the world make war on Israel immediately and until such time as Israel has submitted permanently and unconditionally to the government of Palestine everywhere from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea."

Ramsi Woodcock, a professor at the school's J. David Rosenberg College of Law, signed the petition, which calls Israel "the last major Western colony remaining in Africa or the Middle East" and says that the Jewish state "has committed genocide, extermination and forced displacement against the native population of Palestine since her inception in 1948."

Eli Capilouto, president of the university, stated that the public school had learned of "an online petition calling for the destruction of a people based on national origin" and that it "appears to be authored by a university employee, who is circulating it broadly online."

"We condemn any call for violence, and the views expressed online certainly do not represent the institution's views. They express hate," stated Dr. Capilouto, who trained as a dentist. "The views expressed by this employee, if accurately attributed, are repugnant."

The employee "has been removed, pending an investigation, from any teaching and classroom responsibilities," the university president said. (JNS sought comment from J. David Rosenberg, the law school's namesake and a senior partner at the Cincinnati law firm Keating Muething and Klekamp.)

Woodcock, whose social media account links to the petition, told JNS that the university president's "public mischaracterization" of his position "is defamatory and dangerous" and "an intolerable assault on academic freedom and free speech."

The Kentucky Jewish Council, which is run by Shlomo Litvin, a Chabad rabbi, stated that it welcomes Woodcock's suspension and supports "the ongoing investigation and disciplinary proceedings." **HW**

DEADLINES FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAY AT 5 P.M.

OBITUARIES



Nathan Blockman

Nathan Blockman, 99, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 25, 2025. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, Nathan will always be remembered for his humor and wit. He was a WWII veteran and POW and received numerous combat medals.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Barbara Marano Blockman, and two daughters, Marci Blockman Platkin and Terilyn Blockman, all of Memphis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Sadie Blockman, and siblings Asher Blockman, Joseph Blockman and Betty Fast. He was also preceded by his only grandchild, Andrew Platkin.

The funeral was held at Baron Hirsch Cemetery Friday July 26, 2025. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to The Andrew Platkin Memorial Fund at Bornblum Jewish Community School or to foreveryoungvets.org **HW**

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Don't Leave It to Chance: Why Your Will Matters (and How We Can Help!)



By Laura Linder, CEO, Jewish Community Partners

When I first met Hedi and Curt Ward in 2007, they were interested in supporting Temple Israel in a meaningful way. Both expressed how much they valued Temple's teen education programs and that they were hopeful they could help ensure they continue. With a little work and consultation with Temple staff, a fund was created that would provide an annual grant to Temple in perpetuity.

Over the years I got to know Curt and Hedi well. And after Hedi passed away in 2007, my relationship with Curt continued, until his death at age 104 in 2022. Over those years, we had many conversations - some including their professional advisors - and one thing became certain: he cared deeply about our Jewish community and giving back to it was very important.

Due to careful planning on Curt's part, he was able to take care of his family AND take care of the community through a carefully crafted estate plan. One of the most notable gifts was the creation of an endowment fund in memory of his sister and her family who perished in the Holocaust. The Kaethe Mela Memorial Fund distributes an annual grant that is utilized to provide cash awards to the winners of Memphis Jewish Federation's Holocaust Art and Essay Contest. This annual program is open to middle school students across the region.

As this example shows, planning for

the future, even the far-off future, can bring incredible peace of mind and ensure your wishes are truly honored.

We've all heard the horror stories of people who passed away before leaving written legal wills. From rock legends to royalty, countless celebrities left behind tangled estates because they "didn't get around to it." Think about Memphis native and the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, whose multi-million dollar estate became a legal quagmire for her family simply because she passed without a will. Or there's Jewish comic book writer Stan Lee, creator of iconic superheroes like Spider-Man and Iron Man, who died in 2018 without writing a will. His daughter, with whom he had a public fallout, eventually inherited most of his \$50 million fortune.

You might be thinking: wills are for the wealthy or for older people. The truth is, life can be unpredictable, so if you have anything you care about your family, your pets, your cherished possessions, or even those special causes that light up your heart – you need a will. It's the ultimate act of kindness for those you leave behind.

Here's why you need a will: wills clearly state your wishes. Without a will, state laws decide who gets what. And their default plan might not align with your desires. A will ensures your assets go to the people and organiza-



In their wills, Hedi and Curt Ward (z" l) worked with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis to create charitable estate gifts that fund winners of Memphis Jewish Federation's Holocaust Art and Essay Contest, including this year's 1st place winner, Adriana Canady, pictured (left) with her winning submission.

tions you choose.

They are the best way to protect your loved ones. If you have children under 18, a will is where you name a guardian to care for them. Imagine the stress and uncertainty your family would face without this crucial decision already made. It also helps prevent disputes and potential family drama over your be-

Finally, and importantly, wills help you leave a lasting legacy. Your will isn't just about distributing assets; it's an opportunity to continue making a difference for the causes you champion. Whether it's supporting education, feeding the hungry, or investing in the future of our Jewish community, a charitable bequest in your will ensures your values live on.

This is where the Jewish Foundation of Memphis steps in as your resource. We have partnered with hundreds of families to create their charitable legacies and are well-versed in all aspects of planned charitable gifts.

Daily, our team is helping individuals and families create lasting legacies for the Jewish community and beyond. Think of us as your partner in crafting a charitable giving plan that truly reflects

We can assist you and your advisors in a variety of ways. Depending on your goals, we can show you how simple it is to include a charitable bequest in your will. You can designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or even the remainder of your estate after other distributions. We work with you and your professional advisors (like your attorney or financial planner) to ensure your charitable wishes are seamlessly integrated into your overall estate plan, often with tax-wise benefits.

By partnering with the Jewish Foundation, you ensure your generosity continues to support the causes you care about for generations to come. Like with the meaningful fund created by Hedi and Curt Ward, we help steward these funds responsibly, ensuring they make the greatest impact. We can help you identify and connect with organizations within the Jewish community and beyond that align with your philanthropic passions, ensuring your gifts go exactly where you intend.

So, as August rolls around, take a moment to consider what truly matters to you. It's not about being morbid; it's about being thoughtful, proactive, and ensuring your legacy is one of clarity and purpose. Don't leave your loved ones (or your favorite charities!) in a state of "what ifs." Reach out to the Jewish Foundation of Memphis at JFOM@jcpmemphis.org. We're here to help you turn those good intentions into a powerful, lasting plan and give you and your family the peace of mind you deserve. HW

Sponsored by the Jewish Foundation of Memphis Give Smarter in 2025 and Beat the 2026 Tax Changes!

By Lawson Arney, CFP®, Senior Vice President, Investment at Raymond James and Vice Chair of Finance of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis

New tax rules starting in 2026 will change how charitable giving impacts your taxes. These changes make it paramount to review your charitable giving plan to minimize your taxes and maximize your support for the causes you love. A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) through the Jewish Foundation of Memphis could be a solution to increasing your impact.

A Win for Standard Deduction Filers

If you take the standard deduction (used by ~90% of taxpayers1 to lower taxes without itemizing), 2026 offers a new benefit. Single filers can deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable donations, and married couples filing jointly can deduct up to \$2,000. These donations must be made in cash and cannot go to a DAF. For example, a married couple in the 22% tax bracket donating \$2,000 could save \$440 in taxes. Unlike 2025, where standard deduction taxpayers get no charitable deduction, this is a game-changer starting next year.

A Challenge for Itemizers

Donors who itemize deductions typically those with high mortgage interest, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions, have a new hurdle: charitable donations will only count toward your deductions after exceeding 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). For someone earning \$250,000, the first \$1,250 of donations won't count toward their deductions. Only contributions above the 0.5% AGI threshold will reduce your taxes, lowering tax benefits

for your charitable donations.

A Hit for High Earners

Donors in the highest tax bracket, 37%, with incomes above \$626,3502 for single or \$751,6002 for joint filers, will have their itemized deductions including charitable deductions reduced 2/37ths in 2026 effectively reducing their deductions from 37% to 35%. For a married couple with \$1,000,000 of adjusted gross income and \$200,000 in itemized deductions, their deductions would be reduced 2/37ths to \$189,189. Once again, eroding the tax benefit of charitable donations after 2025.

Smart Giving Strategies

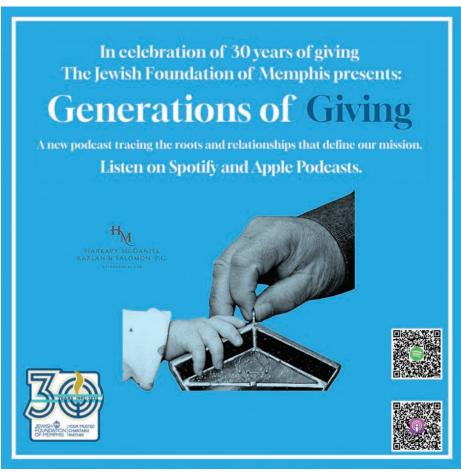
• Bunch Donations: Give multiple years' worth of gifts to a DAF in 2025 to secure a larger deduction before the

2026 rules apply. For example, instead of giving \$10,000 annually, donate \$30,000 to a DAF in 2025. You'll secure a larger deduction in 2025 (with no income floor or 35% limitation) and then you can distribute funds to your favorite causes, like the Jewish Federation campaign, in 2026 and beyond. This strategy lets you itemize in 2025 and use the standard deduction (plus the new \$1,000/\$2,000 charitable deduction) in future years.

• Donate Appreciated Assets: Donating assets that have risen in value may avoid capital gains taxes and may allow a deduction for the asset's full market value in 2025 (if you itemize).

(See Give Page 11)





For 23 years, Jeff Goldstein and his wife, Bunny, have sponsored B'nai Tzedek, the Foundation teen philanthropy program in which his son was an original participant. A Donor Advised Fund holder, Jeff's family is a benefactor of the MJCC and recently funded the construction of the new Sandy and Jerome Goldstein Lodge. Listen to an interview with Jeff 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.

Curt and Hedi Ward's (z"l) first engagement with the Foundation came in 2007 when they created a fund at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis to benefit Temple Israel High School trips to Washington, D.C. and New York. Their commitment to philanthropy continued to grow and ultimately, as part of their estates, several endowments were created to carry on their charitable priorities, including the establishment of an endowment in memory of Curt's sister who was tragically killed, along with her family, in the Holocaust. Each year, through the Kaethe Mela Memorial Fund, stipends are awarded to winners of Federation's Holocaust Art and Essay Contest.

Give...

(Continued From Page 10)

For instance, donating \$10,000 in stock bought for \$2,000 over a year ago skips taxes on the \$8,000 gain and may let you deduct the full \$10,000.

• Simplify with a DAF: If you support multiple charities, a DAF through the Jewish Foundation of Memphis makes philanthropy effortless. Make one large contribution to your DAF, track that single transaction for taxes, and recommend grants to your favorite charities via the Foundation's user-friendly website. For example, donate \$25,000 in appreciated stock to your DAF in 2025 and fund grants to multiple causes over the years, saving

you time, and keeping your giving organized.

QCDs Still Make Sense for 70½+

For those 70½ or older, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) remain a tax-smart option. In 2025 and beyond, you can transfer up to \$108,000² directly from your IRA to charity, counting toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) without being taxed or affected by the 2026 changes. For example, directing \$5,000 from your IRA to a charity avoids taxes on the distribution, even if you take the standard deduction. (Note: QCDs cannot be transferred to a Donor-Advised Fund.)

Why 2025 Matters

The 2026 introduction of the 0.5%

AGI floor and reduced deductions for high income taxpayers makes 2025 the year to act. A DAF with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis allows you to claim the full deduction in 2025 (if you itemize) before the new rules apply, simplify your giving with one donation that can support multiple charities over time, and partner with a local nonprofit that knows Memphis and its needs, as well as nonprofits around the world.

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis is committed to helping donors create lasting legacies through strategic philanthropy.

Act Now

Don't let the 2026 tax changes limit your impact. Contact the Jewish Foundation of Memphis today to set up a Do-

nor-Advised Fund, save on taxes, and support causes you love in Memphis and beyond. Reach out now to make your philanthropy count!

¹Tax Policy Center, 2020 data, https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefingbook/what-standard-deduction.

² Adjusts annually for inflation.

Donors are urged to consult their attorneys, accountants or tax advisors with respect to questions relating to the deductibility of various types of contributions to a Donor-Advised Fund for federal and state tax purposes.

Raymond James is not affiliated with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis.

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