

Happy 100th Birthday
to The Hebrew Watchman
first Published for
Rosh Hashanah in September 1925

CELEBRATING100 YEARS

the Hebrew Watchman

1925-2025

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

3 TISHREI, 5786

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

VOL. 104, NO. 1

Memphis Jewish Federation Marks 90 Years of Community Impact



Volunteers from Super Sunday from the '90s through today. Pictured are: Allison Parker, Martha Wagerman, Jan Reisman, Jennifer Roberts (& Liza), Jeri Moskovitz, Michael Greenberg, Olga Yorish, Lee Harkavy, Marlene Gerson.

By Lorraine Wolf, Manager,
Community Impact

As we continue to kick off the 2026 Annual Campaign, we are proud to celebrate a milestone that connects our past to our future: the 90th anniversary of Memphis Jewish Federation. From now through June 2026, this year-long commemoration will honor the extraordinary journey of Federation – its vision, leadership and impact on Jewish life in Memphis, in Israel and across the globe. Federation’s story begins in 1935, when the Jewish Welfare Fund was established with William Loeb as its first president. Formally incorporated in 1939 and renamed Memphis Jewish Federation in 1977, the organization has served as a unifying force for nine decades. Guided by inclusive leader-

ship, Federation has brought together Jews from every background – Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and beyond – to shape the vibrant, caring and unique community we cherish today. A centerpiece of the anniversary celebration is a special photo series, shared through our platforms and *The Hebrew Watchman*, showcasing treasured images and memorabilia that capture pivotal moments in our history. These snapshots not only remind us of where we have been but also reflect the timeless values that guide us forward. “As the current chair of Memphis Jewish Federation,” says Jimmy Ringel, “I am deeply proud and humbled to join the 46 community leaders who have guided this storied organization over the past 90 years. From support-



ing the agencies, schools, youth groups and congregations that directly serve our community, to operating impactful programs like PJ Library, Camp Scholarships, Teen Israel Experience, Israel Missions, Community Relations and Hillels of Memphis, Federation’s influence on Jewish life is both far-reaching and profound.” At the heart of this legacy is the Annual Campaign, Federation’s engine of collective responsibility and community giving. While the needs are ever evolving, the Campaign has remained constant in powering Federation’s mission of ensuring that our whole Jewish community is cared for, connected, and engaged. From Super Sunday traditions to the dedication of our volunteer solicitors, the Campaign continues to

sustain Jewish Memphis while strengthening Jewish communities in Israel and worldwide. In September 1935, the Annual Campaign had a goal of \$40,000. Ninety years later, our goal is 100-fold that amount – 4 million dollars. Leadership, too, defines our story. Since 1935, 47 board chairs, six dedicated executive directors and countless campaign chairs have guided Federation with vision and purpose. From William Loeb, our first board chair, to today’s chair Jimmy Ringel, and from our earliest executive director Jack Lieberman to current president & CEO Laura Linder, lay and professional leaders have worked hand-in-hand to advance Jewish life.

(See Federation Page 2)

MJHR Raises a Record-Breaking \$225,000 at Their 33rd Annual Golf Tournament



Presenting Event Sponsor, Broad River Rehab, sit in their golf carts waiting for the start of the tournament.

By Baylee Less-Eiseman

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab hosted their 33rd Annual Golf Tournament at Ridgeway Country Club on Monday, September 15. The organization raised a record-breaking \$225,000, which will all fund direct patient care. With great weather and big smiles, the team welcomed 108 players, various sponsors and numerous guests to the event that’s been months in the making. “Every year, the golf tournament gives us a reason to get many of our longtime and loyal supporters together for a wonderful day of fun and camaraderie. And even though we don’t host the event at the Home, the mission of the day is never lost. Throughout the day, you can hear many people discussing the cause and noting why it’s important for them to support our seniors

every year. To them, we are sincerely grateful!” Bobby Meadows, executive director, reflects on the day. Both new and returning players competed in the event. Sam Rosenberg from the Tower Ventures team told us, “This year’s tournament was as fun as ever. Great people, great weather and great food. The only thing we were missing was a win! I appreciate the Jewish Home staff for putting on this fantastic event year after year.” The team from CAC Specialty took home the win this year! Congratulations to Peter Winterburn, Kyle Krebs, Dan Roberts and Ryan Dulaney. Many other players won contests across the course including Longest Drive for Women and Men, Closest to the Pin and Putting. No one sunk the hole-in-one this year to

(See MJHR Golf Page 2)

Federation...

(Continued From Page 1)

In addition to serving as Federation board chair herself, Louise Sklar holds the unique distinction of being married to a former board chair, Jerry Sklar, and being the mother of another, Joel Sklar. Sklar notes: “My family has always felt it was necessary to support Jewish causes. We are extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication of our Federation. Without each and every one of you, our agencies would not be as strong and vibrant as they are – not only Memphis, but globally. Our Federation enables every person to participate in making our Jewish world stronger. We must continue to stand up and be counted.”

Locally, Federation’s history is filled with meaningful moments: Pillars of the Community galas, Taste of Israel celebrations, women’s luncheons, visits from notable Jewish speakers and from Israeli officials, Israeli Scouts Caravan performances, programs that engage the broader Memphis community and foster stronger intercommunity bonds, annual meetings, leadership programs and the meaningful work of societies like Maimonides and Lions of Judah. Each program has built connections, inspired philanthropy and strengthened community bonds.

Equally central has been Federation’s role as guardian of memory and resilience. Through Yom HaShoah observances, the Holocaust Art & Essay Competition and other initiatives, we have honored the six million and amplified the stories of survivors who rebuilt

their lives in Memphis. The resettlement of Russian Jews is another defining chapter – our community opened its arms, welcoming families fleeing oppression and helping them create new homes and futures here.

Federation has also served as the planning arm of Jewish Memphis, convening leaders and stakeholders to address needs and close gaps in services. And our reach has always extended far beyond Memphis. From missions to Israel, Poland and Cuba to emergency campaigns supporting European Jews during the Holocaust, Ethiopian aliyah, Israelis under attack and Jews in Ukraine, Memphis has consistently risen to meet global needs with compassion and resolve – most notably filling a 180-passenger chartered plane to take community members to the D.C. rally to Stand with Israel. Our deep connection to our brothers and sisters in Israel has been reaffirmed through solidarity missions, rallies, impact programs and our enduring sister-city bond with Shoham.

As we honor 90 years of leadership, resilience and giving, we invite you to be part of this living legacy. Together, let us celebrate the leaders who built our foundation, reflect on the values that unite us and envision the bright future ahead.

You can be part of this incredible story by supporting the Annual Campaign. To make your gift and strengthen the next chapter of Memphis Jewish life, please visit: jcpmemphis.org/donate-now. **HW**

MJHR Golf...

(Continued From Page 1)



Golfers pose for picture on Ridgeway Golf Course.

take home a Toyota Tacoma sponsored by Robinson Toyota!

More than 170 donors and sponsors supported the golf tournament this year, including community members and partner companies of the Home. Yet, the tournament wouldn’t have

been as successful without the support of their major sponsors whose combined contributions were more than \$80,000. The presenting sponsor of the tournament was Broad River Rehab, and other major sponsors included: Highland Capital, Turenne PharMed-

THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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

MAILING ADDRESS
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The Hebrew Watchman is a
Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Memphis and Mid-South \$36
Out-of-State \$50
Payable in Advance

Subscriptions
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Submissions
Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to
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Advertising
For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or
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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Sept. 26, 2025 / 4 Tishrei, 57866:32 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Sept. 27, 2025 / 5 Tishrei, 5786 7:26 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeilech



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tures, Alla and Nathan Lubin, Lynn and Gregg Landau, Susan and Alan Kosten, Hal Fogelman, Folks Folly, Curana Health, Wendy and Cary Roter, Nancy and Richard Robinson, Nat Landau and the Jewish Neighborhood House Endowment Fund.

“I am exceedingly grateful for all the community support of this annual event,” commented Director of Development Baylee Less-Eiseman. “It is a labor of love every year to plan, but the outpouring of contributions from people makes it worth every moment. We are very proud that our tournament is one of the most successful in the city!”

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. Find more information at www.memphisjewishhome.org/giving. **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, September 29 Art Project with Mid-South Hobbies

Mid-South Hobbies always bring a very enjoyable project for the group to create. There is no charge for this nice 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.

Wednesday, October 1 Team Trivial Pursuit

This week’s Team Trivial Pursuit will have a few Jewish holiday questions thrown in! Come have fun and test your knowledge. Bring a group or just yourselves. Prizes galore, almost!! The real fun is seeing which team comes up with right answer.

Monday, October 6 New Speaker: Audrey Landers, with Comfort Keepers

Topic: Preventing Falls and other topics

This is by far one of the most important topics that seniors can hear. Falls are one of the leading reasons that seniors end up going into the hospital. If someone just gets one tip that prevents a fall it will be worth attending this program. Come for the lunch and stay for the speaker or just come for the talk. Reservations are just needed for the talk. Hope to see you there.

NEW! Mah Jongg League Sunday, October 5 from 2-5 p.m.

This is the beginning of the new MJCC Mah Jongg League that will occur on four Sundays

Vicki Campbell, who has taught Mah Jongg both at the MJCC and around the city, will supervise our league. There will be prizes at the end for several categories. Sign up for yourself or with a group. The cost for the four (4) Sundays is \$72 for members and \$80 for non-members. Call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 with any questions.

Wednesday October 8 The MJCC will be closed for the Sukkot holiday.

Have a Good Yom Tov and a restful holiday.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **HW**

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EU Plan to Suspend Trade Benefits ‘Empowers’ Hamas, Says Israeli FM

(JNS) – Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar last Tuesday accused European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen of “empowering” Hamas over her plan to propose suspending trade benefits in E.U.-Israel transactions.

In a letter addressed to von der Leyen ahead of last Wednesday’s College of Commissioners meeting, Sa’ar accused the Commission of acting at “blitz speed,” without notice or consultation, in violation of the E.U.-Israel Association Agreement.

The move was an “unprecedented” and “clear attempt to harm Israel while we are still fighting a war imposed on us by the October 7 terror attack,” Sa’ar wrote.

“It is profoundly disturbing that you, by advancing such a proposal, are in practice empowering a terrorist organization responsible for heinous crimes, while Israel, a longstanding partner of the EU, fights an existential war,” the letter continued.

Sa’ar’s letter followed an announcement last Tuesday by the European Commission that it intended to propose suspending some of Israel’s trade privileges, as well as halting certain payments for international cooperation projects, citing alleged human rights violations in Gaza.

Whether the measures can gain the required support of all 27 member states remains unclear; Germany has already signaled opposition, and a previous

push to suspend research funding failed to secure consensus, the DPA news agency reported.

Pressure through sanctions “will not work,” Sa’ar wrote, adding that Israel “will not be bent through threats while Israel’s security is at stake.” The minister also argued that the proposal was “replete with false accusations and legal flaws,” citing reliance on “Hamas-controlled sources” and claiming the Commission had bypassed due process requirements.

In announcing the proposal to introduce sanctions, the spokesman for E.U. foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said that “The EU has consistently urged Israel not to intensify its operation in Gaza City,” warning that a full ground offensive would cause “more destruction, more death, and more displacement” while worsening the humanitarian situation and endangering hostages.

Sa’ar countered that Israel has made “extensive and unprecedented efforts” to facilitate humanitarian aid and that any suspension of the agreement would be “wholly inappropriate and disproportionate.”

He mentioned the Holocaust, noting that 80 years had passed since World War II. For Europe to harm Israel “while there is an attempt to annihilate the surviving remnant of the Jewish people and its only state marks the trampling of every moral standard and disregards Europe’s historical responsibility,” he said. **HW**

IDF Chief: ‘Intensify Blows Against Hamas’ in Gaza City

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir held a situational assessment in the Gaza Strip last Tuesday, where he praised soldiers and urged them “to intensify blows against Hamas and to decisively defeat the Gaza City brigade.”

Zamir said forces were carrying out “the most moral and important duty – the return of all the hostages and the dismantling of Hamas’s military and governing capabilities.”

He conducted a field tour during the 98th Division’s operation in Gaza City and met with commanders on the ground as the next phase of “Operation Gideon’s Chariots” began.

“The threat has changed, but so have we; we come better prepared. This is a move of decisive importance for the continuation of the war,” said Zamir. **HW**

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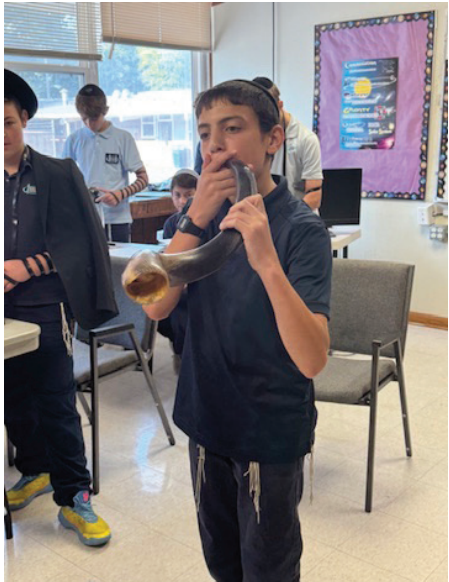
Memphis Jewish Schools Gear Up for Rosh Hashanah with Crafts, Workshops, Hands-On Activities



Bornblum Jewish Community School 2024 Rosh Hashanah card contest.



Rabbi Joel Finkelstein blows a shofar with MJCC Early Childhood Center kids.



MHA students blow shofar.



Elliott Evans at Temple Israel’s Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center makes apple cakes with Judy Bearman.

By Gila Golder

As the High Holidays began with Rosh Hashanah eve on September 22, students in Memphis Jewish schools were well prepared! From toddlers to teens, each child has enjoyed a variety of educational programs designed to engage and inspire.

The Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) Early Childhood Center has hosted community rabbis, cantors and educators to blow the shofar for the preschoolers and teach them about the holiday. To kick off the month of Elul, Rabbi Cantor David Julian of Or Chadash Synagogue showed the children

different types of shofars and demonstrated the *Tekiah*, *Shevarim* and *Teruah* blasts. Special visitors have also included Rabbi Noach Karp of Memphis Jewish Experience, who taught the difference between a noisemaker and an authentic shofar; Rabbi Leah Sternberg of Temple Israel, who told a story about how G-d chose the sound of the shofar to awaken the Jewish people to the new year; and more. As Rabbi Karp prepared to blow the extra-long *Tekiah Gedolah* blast, he joked, “My face is going to turn into a tomato!”

At Bornblum Jewish Community

School, the arrival of Rosh Hashanah is marked by a tradition that has carried on for more than three decades. Each year, students take part in a Rosh Hashanah card contest, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the holiday. The winning design is shared with the community – displayed in the school’s hallways and offered as an e-card – and the student artist is rewarded with a shofar. It’s a celebration of both artistry and heritage, connecting generations of Bornblum students to the spirit of the New Year.

Margolin Hebrew Academy/Cooper Yeshiva of the South (MHA/CYOS) planned fun Rosh Hashanah workshops and activities for its preschool, elementary, and middle and high school students. The preschool classes joined together for a challah bake with Morah Katie Lichter. Morah Katie explained the meaning of each ingredient in the challah dough and how it connects to the Torah and to Rosh Hashanah. Together, they sang the blessing for separating challah and each child got to shape their own round challah to take home. Beekeeper Rick Stone, of Warren Road Honey Farm, visited the preschool with a sampling of different honeycombs and beeswax for the children to see and even touch. They each got a bottle of honey from Mr. Rick’s farm to enjoy at home with their challah! In the MHA middle school, the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah are a time to learn and reflect. The students write letters to themselves describing their goals for the year. The

envelopes are sealed and collected – and returned to the students on the last day of school to see how much they were able to accomplish! The Big Sister/Little Sister program matches 7th and 8th grade girls with 5th and 6th grade girls and is designed to promote unity among the student body before Rosh Hashanah and create a positive environment. Middle school students also wrote Rosh Hashanah cards in Hebrew under the direction of Morah Tami Hershkovitz and Bat Ami girls Bat Tzion, Tair, Tehila, and Shelat. Mrs. Anat Kampf, principal of the MHA junior high, said, “The Bat Ami girls and the Kollel Torah Mitzion boys add a tremendous amount of excitement and love for Israel throughout the school, and their presence here is invaluable.”

The children at Temple Israel’s Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center joyfully prepared for the High Holy Days with hands-on experiences and holiday traditions. They baked challah and made apple cakes with Judy Bearman, enjoyed a special visit from a local beekeeper to learn how honey is made, and gathered with clergy to explore the traditions and meaning of the holidays. They went hands-on with creative crafts, including making shofars, crafting Rosh Hashanah cards, and creating apple decorations. These activities are designed to help the youngest learners at Temple Israel connect with the beauty and sweetness of the season while creating cherished memories. **HW**

Doctors Without Borders Should Be Probed for Mirroring Hamas Propaganda, Stefanik Says

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) wrote to Pam Bondi, the U.S. attorney general, last Thursday asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Doctors Without Borders for alleged violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Stefanik cited recent media reports suggesting that the group, known internationally as Médecins Sans Frontières, has “orchestrated an ongoing media blitz and paid for advertisements accusing the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation of ‘orchestrated killing’ and spreading other inflammatory falsehoods.”

The accusations in those advertisements “mirror propaganda continuously pushed by Hamas,” threatening the foundation’s efforts to provide aid in Gaza while circumventing looting and profiteering by Hamas, Stefanik said.

The foundation was established as an alternative or complementary distribution mechanism to the United Nations, whose convoys have been looted extensively, according to U.N. data.

Stefanik wrote to Bondi that by “using its platform and resources to amplify Hamas-aligned disinformation,” Doctors Without Borders “may cross well

into unlawful activity.”

The Anti-Terrorism Act “makes clear that no individual or organization may provide material support to a designated terrorist group, including through propaganda,” Stefanik noted.

The congresswoman also wrote that Doctors Without Borders has not included the plight of the hostages in Gaza in any of its promotional materials and has not “campaign[ed] for them to receive medical treatment.”

She also pointed to questionable actions by Doctors Without Borders staff, including one staffer whom Israeli of-

ficials accuse of being a rocket expert for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group. Another publicly urged Palestinians to “fight and die as martyrs.”

Doctors Without Borders is a registered U.S. nonprofit, which comes with prohibitions on political activity. Stefanik asked Bondi to investigate potential violations of the latter as well.

The congresswoman called the issue “a matter of U.S. national security, the protection of U.S. taxpayers and donors and the defense of legitimate humanitarian organizations in one of the most dangerous conflict zones in the world.” **HW**

State Department to Designate Four Iranian-Aligned Militias as Foreign Terror Groups

(JNS) – The Trump administration is designating four Iran-aligned militia groups as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, the U.S. State Department announced last Tuesday. The groups were already labeled Specially Designated

Global Terrorists.

The militias – Harakat al-Nujaba, Kata’ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, Harakat Ansar Allah al-Awfiya and Kata’ib al-Imam Ali – have aligned with the Iranian regime and have, or have pledged to, at-

tack U.S. military bases and personnel, per the department. Iran has also provided material and financial support to some of these FTOs, it said.

“Iran continues to provide support that enables these militias to plan, fa-

cilitate, or directly carry out attacks across Iraq,” said the State Department.

These designations are in line with U.S. President Donald Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran. **HW**

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Kosten Foundation Kick It 5K Benefitting Pancreatic Cancer Research

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Start of the Race 2024.



Pancreatic Cancer Survivors at the 2024 Kick It 5K.

The Kosten Foundation will hold its 15th annual Kick It 5K benefitting pancreatic cancer research and support on October 26. The event is presented by Baptist Memorial Health Care. The Kick It 5K will be held at Shelby Farms Park beginning at 1 p.m. Runners, walkers or anyone who would like to support the pancreatic cancer research can register and/or donate to the cause on the event’s website at <https://kickit5k.raceroster.com/>.

“This year marks the 15th annual Kick It 5K, and we are grateful to see how much this event has grown into a tradition of hope and community,” said Alan Kosten, chairman of the Kosten Foundation. “We encourage everyone to sign up and join us at Shelby Farms Park on October 26 to have fun and help us raise critical funds for pancreatic cancer research and support. We are especially thankful to Baptist Memorial Health Care for serving as our presenting sponsor and standing with us in this fight.”

Registration for runners and walkers will be \$40, plus service fees, to participate in the Kick It 5K. All proceeds from the event go towards funding pancreatic cancer research. The Kick It 5K is the Kosten Foundation’s largest fundraising event, and at its largest, the race has included more than 2,500 participants. Proceeds from last year’s race, combined with the Kick It Pickleball fundraising event proceeds and other fundraising efforts, allowed the Kosten Foundation to donate a combined \$195,000 to three different pancreatic cancer research teams with three different approaches to helping to fight and cure pancreatic cancer.

Participants can look forward to a post-race lunch, live music, and a pre-race ceremony memorializing those lost to pancreatic cancer, and honoring survivors of the disease.

The Kosten Foundation has raised and donated more than \$3 million to pancreatic cancer research programs. The Foundation hosts a free monthly support group meeting for pancreatic cancer patients, survivors, and anyone else affected by the disease. Those interested in learning more about the Kosten Foundation’s mission or sponsoring the Kick It 5K can find more information on their website at kostenfoundation.com. [HW](#)



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3 Steps for Raising Kids with Money Smarts

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
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Regardless of how much money a family may have, parents have a responsibility to teach their children about finances. Starting early, children need to learn about how to be financially responsible once they leave the house and become independent.

Here are three steps parents can take starting today:

1. Find teachable moments
It can be difficult to find time to sit down and talk specifically about money, but natural opportunities to teach pop up practically every day.

For example, you can incorporate financial responsibility into an impromptu math lesson about money: If you find something the child wants that originally cost \$100 and is on sale for 30% off, you can ask how much the new price is – and, now that they are only spending \$70, what they might do with the leftover \$30.

2. Take a lifelong view toward financial literacy

Every child should have a tool kit of basic financial literacy skills, including concepts such as how to spend, how to save, how to give, and the value of a dollar.

This can start very early with an exercise as simple as a three piggy banks analogy. You encourage the child to divide any money he or she receives into

three piggy banks: spending, saving, and community/charity. This shows the concept of different purposes of money rather than having it all be for spending. Repeating this exercise can help ingrain the habit of saving regularly.

By late childhood or adolescence, parents can add concepts such as what it means to invest, what companies one might invest in, and how to assess risk with an investment.

You can encourage children in high school to think about college expenses by examining the costs and coming up with a credible college budget. Ask them to consider basic questions: What will you need in order to make this happen? What will the family need to supply, and what is the student expected to supply in terms of tuition, books, room and board, transportation, and normal spending money?

And parents and grandparents can continue to encourage responsible, long-term financial responsibility by giving young adults an incentive to begin saving for retirement early. If you're able, and they have earned income, offer to match what they save into a Roth IRA. It's also wise to encourage contributions to a 401(k) at work.

3. Show how it's done
Your child's healthy relationship with

money begins with an open and honest relationship within a family that models good money behavior. These discussions can be challenging, but the fruit is well worth the labor.

Stress education and expect them to do well in school. Parents who do really well in teaching financial literacy typically lead by example – they tend to be savers and are more careful with spending money. Remember to be that example.

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

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U.S. Treasury Sanctions Individuals, Entities Linked to Iran's 'Shadow Banking'

(JNS) – The Trump administration is sanctioning two Iranian national financial facilitators, as well as more than a dozen other individuals and entities, that are part of Iran's "shadow banking" network aimed at facilitating funding transfers to the Islamic regime and its proxies, the U.S. Treasury Department announced last Monday.

Using cryptocurrency, Iranian nationals Alireza Derakhshan and Arash Estaki Alivand coordinated the purchase of more than \$100 million in Iranian oil. Shadow banking evades sanctions via money laundering through cryptocurrency schemes and fake overseas front companies, according to the department.

The money, which includes profits from the sale of Iranian oil, has been used to fund Iranian military operations and its terror proxies abroad, stated Treasury.

"Iranian entities rely on shadow banking networks to evade sanctions and move millions through the international financial system," said John Hurley, undersecretary of the treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, adding that "we will continue to disrupt these key financial streams that fund Iran's weapons programs and malign activities in the Middle East and beyond." [HW](#)

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Trump Deploying National Guard to Memphis Will Help City’s Crime Problem, Rabbis Say



Downtown Memphis, Tenn. Credit: Brian Wolf/Pexels.

By Aaron Bandler

(JNS) – Memphis, Tenn., has a “dire” crime problem, and the city is “suffering from tremendous levels of violent crime that have overwhelmed its local government’s ability to respond effectively,” according to a memorandum U.S. President Donald Trump issued on Sept. 15.

Citing FBI data, the president stated that Memphis had the “highest rate of violent crime per capita” in 2024, “including some of the highest per capita rates of murder, robbery and aggravated assault, and property crimes such as burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, in the country.”

“The city, a beacon of American culture that was Elvis’s home and is often called the birthplace of rock and roll and the blues, should be safe and secure for all of its citizens and Americans who visit its historic landmarks such as Graceland, Beale Street and the Memphis Pyramid,” Trump said.

He stated that state and local leaders requested federal help and that he intended to act quickly to ensure that the city has the help it needs. He also requested that the Tennessee governor deploy the National Guard to the city.

Two Memphis rabbis told JNS that the latter would be a good idea.

“Crime in this city is higher than anywhere else in the country,” David Julian, the rabbi and cantor of Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue in Memphis, told JNS.

“Parts of the city of Memphis are closed down at night that used to be open,” he said. “There’s just a general fear of walking a good section of the entertainment areas of the city. Nobody goes there anymore.”

Julian said that “all the help the police can get is welcome,” including from the

National Guard, “as long as it’s done in a legal and cooperative way with the police force that’s here.”

Trump said that the federal task force he had assigned to Memphis will be a “replica” of the one he created to fight crime in Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Akiva Males of Young Israel of Memphis, an Orthodox congregation, told JNS that “many members of our community – not just the Jewish community, but the entire Memphis area – have been quite concerned about crime in our city.”

“We all would love to see as much law and order as possible,” he said. “I don’t think anyone who’s not a criminal has anything to be nervous about, and I think that anything that can be done to help the scourge of violence and criminality that seems to have taken a foothold in Memphis, we can welcome that.”

Having the National Guard in Memphis would increase “feelings of security” among many of Male’s congregants, he told JNS. He said that he doesn’t think there would be many National Guardsmen in more Jewish areas.

“The parts of the town that need the increased presence are a short drive away,” he said. “But it’s not in the immediate vicinity.”

Julian told JNS that last Monday morning, there were two shootings and “some carjackings” in the city, “within a few blocks of my house,” as well as “roving people in hoodies running into driveways, smashing windows and cars around the neighborhood.”

There hasn’t been overt antisemitic activity in the eastern part of the city, where the Jewish community is primarily located, but “the average crime rate still exists,” he said.

“A rising surf lifts all boats. If the community becomes safer, we’ll feel safer,” Julian said.

Males said that the only aspect of Trump’s decision that makes him nervous is that it may not address the root cause of the problem. Crime in Memphis is reflective of a broader pattern of “the breakdown of family structure” in many cities across the country, he said.

“Without that problem being addressed, and it needs to be addressed by the leaders of the community, I don’t think we’ll be able to get to the bottom of this,” he said.

But while the National Guard is in Memphis, it “can only do good in terms of lowering the crime rate,” Males said.

Members of Congress whose districts include Memphis are divided on the matter.

Rep. Steven Cohen (D-Tenn.), who is Jewish, stated that “for Memphis, major investments in proven programs will make a difference,” while “deploying the National Guard through a short publicity stunt will not.”

“I certainly hope this is not a facade for increased U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement enforcement in Memphis,” Cohen stated. “That’s what I think this is about, and that would harm our local economy, particularly the tourist and construction industries.”

Rep. David Kustoff (R-Tenn.), who is also Jewish and whose district includes eastern Memphis, stated that he supports Trump’s decision.

“It is important for the long-term success in Memphis to have additional and permanent federal law enforcement officers and agents who can work in conjunction with state and local officials,” Kustoff stated.

“If you were to poll the other rabbis in the community, you’re going to get a hodgepodge of replies because, unfortunately, it’s a highly volatile political issue,” Julian told JNS. “Everybody wants a safe neighborhood, but there hasn’t been the ability to do anything about it.”

Males told JNS that “all of us want to live in a community, and in the city and in the country, where we’re not scared of crime and we’re not scared of lawlessness, and all of us greatly endorse law and order.”

“It’s sad that it’s come to this. I don’t think anyone’s feeling happy about it, but by the same token, because of the fact that everyone wants to live in a sense of law and order, any tools that can be used, that are obviously legal, to make that happen would be much appreciated,” he said. **HW**

OBITUARIES

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“He was a unique guy.” “You had to love Mike Epstein.” To understand, you had to be there. We celebrate the life of Michael Epstein, who is now at peace. He lived a fulfilling and varied life. He was fiercely competitive in his sports and various hobbies and interests, and a fair minded and tireless hard worker in his professional life.

He really enjoyed seeing his name in The Hebrew Watchman each week back in the day and reading about his exploits in the 18-and-over as well as the 30-and-over basketball leagues at the JCC as “Mike, the Killer Epstein,” so we don’t want to deprive him of his last public mention.

He will be missed but will live on in his reflection in the lives of his wife, Amy Thomas Epstein; son and daughter-in-law, Aaron and Hannah Epstein; daughter and son-in-law, Jamie and Ruvi Gibber; but most especially in the loving eyes of his adoring grandchildren – Shaindy, Yoel Chaim, Dovid and Ari Gibber; Eden, Emmet and Coby Epstein – who will always remember their Tito, either firsthand or by the stories their siblings will tell.

Michael’s mother, Barbara Epstein, and siblings, Sam Epstein and Eileen Segal, Lisa and Nathan Garfunkel and Halle and David Garfunkel, along with countless nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and grand nephews; aunts, step-uncle, and cousins; sisters-in-law Eileen Exelbierd, Wendy Thomas and Pam Thomas, and brothers-in-law Morris Thomas and Stuart Thomas; as well as lifelong friends and, lastly, special caregivers JoAnn, Toni, Terri and Bridgette carry memories that will forever be cherished.

His memory will not only be a blessing, it will be a shining light for us all. **HW**

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‘Free Palestine,’ Jewish Actor Hannah Einbinder Says in Emmys Speech as Hollywood Debates Growing Israeli Film Industry Boycott



Hannah Einbinder accepts the Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series award for “Hacks” onstage during the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards at Peacock Theater on September 14, 2025, in Los Angeles, California. Credit: Kevin Winter/Getty Images

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Hannah Einbinder made her ardent pro-Palestinian views known on one of the entertainment industry’s biggest stages when she won an Emmy award for best supporting actress in a comedy last Sunday night.

“Go Birds, f— ICE and free Palestine,” the Jewish comedian and actress, wearing a red Artists4Ceasefire pin, said to cheers during her acceptance speech for her role in the HBO show “Hacks.”

The pointed political commentary (mixed in with a cheer for the Philadelphia Eagles) came as Hollywood continued to wrestle with a growing petition to boycott Israeli film institutions amid its ongoing war in Gaza. Einbinder, a

vocal pro-Palestinian advocate, was an early signatory to the petition circulated by Film Workers For Palestine and one of the most prominent Jewish names on a list of entertainment industry personnel that now numbers more than 4,000.

That list also includes several top-draw talent and filmmakers, including Emma Stone, Adam McKay, Ava DuVernay, Ayo Edebiri, Ilana Glazer, Abbi Jacobson and Yorgos Lanthimos. More notable Jewish names have joined the list since its release, including actor Andrew Garfield, whose father is Jewish; musician Mica Levi, who scored the Holocaust drama “The Zone of Interest”; and Rebecca Lenkiewicz, the screen-

writer of acclaimed Jewish-themed films “Ida” and “Disobedience.”

Two days prior to the Emmys, Paramount – whose network CBS aired the telecast – became the first major American studio to publicly oppose the boycott.

“We do not agree with recent efforts to boycott Israeli filmmakers. Silencing individual creative artists based on their nationality does not promote better understanding or advance the cause of peace,” the company said in a statement. “The global entertainment industry should be encouraging artists to tell their stories and share their ideas with audiences throughout the world. We need more engagement and communication – not less.”

Both Paramount’s former chair Shari Redstone and David Ellison, its new owner following a high-profile merger, are Jewish and avid supporters of Israel. Ellison is rumored to be planning to install a pro-Israel media executive, The Free Press editor Bari Weiss, into a leadership role at CBS News. The studio is also reportedly preparing a bid to acquire rival studio Warner Bros. Discovery, which also owns HBO.

One of the boycott’s biggest supporters, actor Javier Bardem, responded to Paramount’s objections on the Emmys red carpet last Sunday.

“I want to clarify something based on Paramount’s letter,” Bardem, wearing a keffiyeh, told Variety. “Film Workers for Palestine do not target any individuals based on identity. The targets are those film companies and institutions that are complicit and are white-washing or justifying the genocide and its apartheid

regime. We do stand with those who are helping and being supportive of the oppressed people.”

Bardem added, “I cannot work with someone that justifies or supports the genocide. That’s as simple as that.” (He wasn’t the only red-carpet personality to sport pro-Palestinian garb: A non-Jewish “Hacks” castmate of Einbinder, Megan Stalter, wore a sign reading “Cease-fire!” on her handbag as she walked the red carpet.)

Einbinder herself elaborated on her acceptance speech in interviews after her win. “It is my obligation as a Jewish person to distinguish Jews from the state of Israel, because our religion and our culture is such an important and long standing institution that is really separate to this sort of ethno-nationalist state,” she said backstage, adding that she had “friends in Gaza who are working as frontline workers, as doctors.” She, too, insisted the boycott was not intended to target individuals.

In its own statement, Film Workers for Palestine also accused Paramount of “intentionally misrepresenting” the boycott. Like Bardem, the group said the boycott did not apply to Israeli individuals, only to institutions. Israeli entertainment-group leaders have disputed this claim, responding that all Israeli creatives work with the targeted institutions and would be harmed by a boycott.

Other Jewish winners at the Emmys last Sunday included Seth Rogen, whose Apple TV+ sitcom “The Studio” took home several comedy awards, and the HBO documentary “Pee-Wee as Himself,” a posthumous portrait of Jewish actor Paul Reubens. **HW**

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German Shop Posts Sign: No Entry for Jews

(JNS) – A shop owner in Flensburg, northern Germany, has sparked outrage after hanging a sign in his store window reading “Jews are forbidden here.”

He claimed it was a protest against Israel’s military operations in the Gaza Strip. Despite police arriving at the scene last Wednesday night, the sign remained in place, according to German media reports published last Thursday.

The sign, written in large letters, read “Jews” with “forbidden here” underneath, followed by four exclamation points. In smaller letters it added: “Nothing personal, not even antisemitism, I just can’t stand you.”

The store owner, Hans Platen-Reisch, 60, insisted he was not being antisemitic. “Jews live in Israel, and I can’t tell who supports the strikes and who doesn’t,” he told a local paper. “To me, it’s hypocrisy. They always say history must not repeat itself, and then they do the same themselves.”

Simone Lange, a former lord mayor of Flensburg, filed a complaint with the police. “I went to the police station today and filed a report about the incident,” she wrote on Facebook.

Felix Klein, Germany’s commissioner for combating antisemitism, condemned the act in an interview with German television. “This is clear antisemitism, with direct connections to the Nazi period, when Jews were boycotted and signs

like these were widespread,” he said. “This must not be tolerated under any circumstances.”

German Education Minister Karin Prien of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the first Jewish woman to serve as a federal minister in Germany’s modern history, praised the legal complaints against the shop owner. “Anyone who expresses or justifies antisemitism opposes everything our democratic life represents,” she told a local newspaper. “We stand firmly with the Jewish community. Let there be no doubt: We will not tolerate antisemitism – not in Flensburg, not in Germany, not anywhere in the world.”

Annabel Fescher, head of the regional Green Party branch, also called for swift action. “We expect the competent authorities to investigate and prosecute this case. Antisemitic provocations like this cannot be accepted,” she said.

Israel’s Ambassador to Germany Ron Prosor posted on X in German, “The 1930s are back! In Flensburg, ‘Jews forbidden’ is once again hanging in a shop window – in the year 2025. Just like back then, in the streets, cafés and shops of the 1930s.”

He added, “This is exactly how it started – step by step, sign by sign. It is the same old hatred, only in a new guise.”

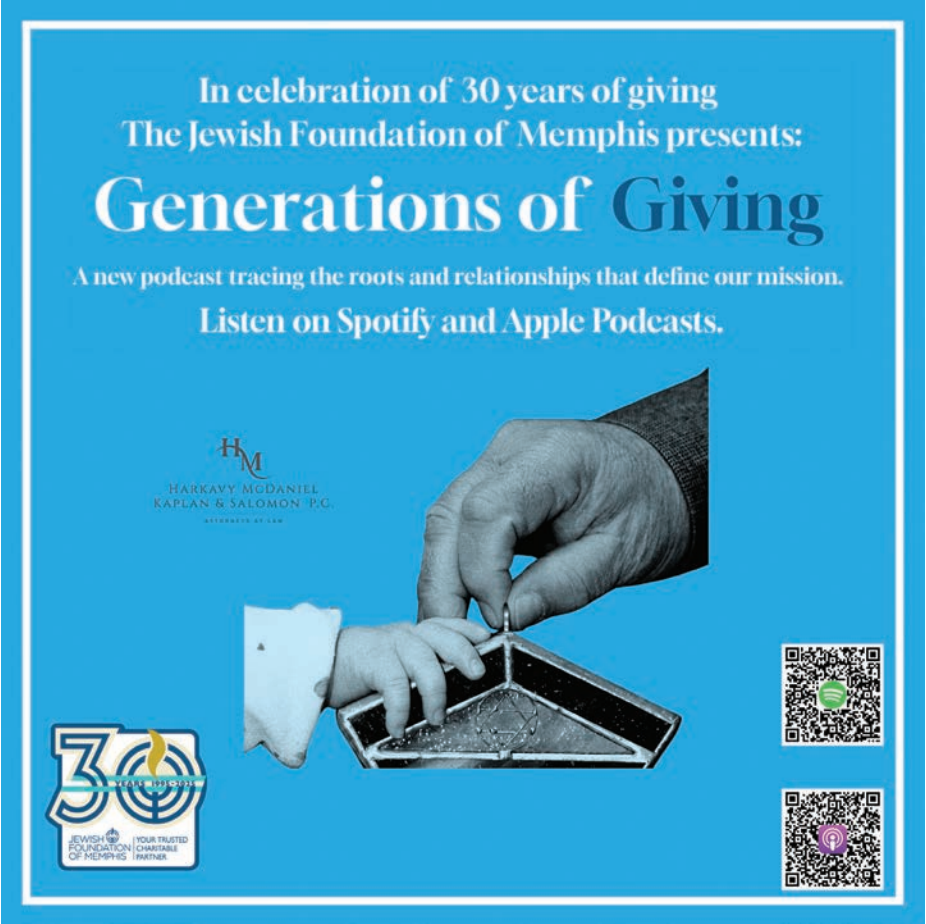
Originally published in *Israel Hayom*. **HW**



Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis



Ted Cohen is a third-generation fundholder at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Despite their busy lives expanding their young family, he and his wife, Andrea, are active members of the Memphis Jewish community and are both currently on the Foundation’s 30th Anniversary Planning Committee.



Super Sunday: A Celebration of Community and Impact

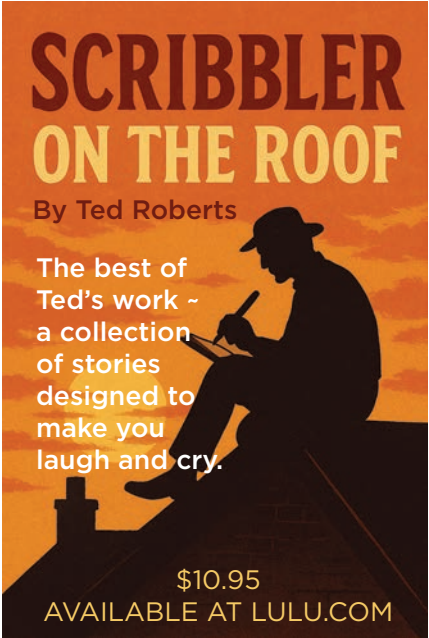


Super Sunday 2025 was a day of energy, unity and generosity! We were honored to have Ira Lipsey serve as our lively emcee, joined on stage by Jimmy Ringel, chair of Memphis Jewish Federation, who helped lead the program. The room was filled with pride as

some of our incredible Lions of Judah turned up to show their unwavering commitment to Jewish life in Memphis and beyond. In another powerful moment, representatives from Memphis’ synagogues, day schools and Jewish agencies marched across the stage, a

visible reminder of the breadth and depth of the work we support together. One of the highlights of the day was Federation’s presentation of grant checks to each local Jewish organization that provides education and programming for children from birth to

age five. Federation secured this impactful grant from a national funder and through a matching grant from a local donor, the Herbert Shainberg Foundation. This milestone embodies what happens when local dedication meets national partnership: greater impact for all. And the momentum didn’t stop there. Following the pep rally, our community-wide phone-a-thon raised more than \$250,000 in just two hours – a true testament to the generosity and commitment of our Memphis Jewish community, where we are all in for each other. Super Sunday once again reminded us that when we come together as a community, we can do extraordinary things. Thank you to every volunteer, donor and agency who helped make the day a success. [HW](#)





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