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# Hebrew Watchman

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
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## Memphis Jewish Community Marks Return of Hostages with Unity Gathering



**Participants joining in prayers.**

When news broke of the release of the living hostages, Memphis Jewish Federation quickly recognized the need for a communal response to mark this historic and emotional moment – the long-awaited return of captives to their loved ones, their homeland and the Jewish people.

On very short notice, the Federation convened “Marking This Moment,” a unity gathering at the Judy and Larry Moss Pavilion of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The program began with a moving rendition of “Hatikvah,” led by Baron Hirsch’s Cantor Ricky Kampf and joined by rabbis, cantors and heads of school from across the community.

Immediate past chair of Federation,

Scott Notowich, welcomed attendees with poignant words: “Our community has gathered many times over the past two years during trying moments. And now, although our hearts remain heavy, we gather in joy. Through 18 major Jewish holidays and 105 Shabbat dinners, Jewish families in Israel and around the world have had empty chairs at our tables, yellow ribbons on our lapels and fractures in our hearts. Jews everywhere are celebrating this long-awaited moment of relief and joy, and we stand in solidarity with the families and the people of Israel.”

Hila Shimony, member of the Memphis-Shoham Partnership Committee, offered a memorial prayer for those who fell on October 7 and in the two years



**Cantor Ricky Kampf leading Hatikvah.**

that followed. She honored by name every community in the Gaza Envelope and the Nova Music Festival, where so many men, women and children were slaughtered.

A deeply emotional segment on gratitude followed. Community Shlucha Tal Nezry led a tribute to the men and women of the Israel Defense Forces, including: “We stand in awe of their strength, their courage, their valor and their unwavering resolve to confront those who rise against us with hatred and destruction.”

Past Federation President Sam Chafetz then expressed thanks to members of the United States government, noting: “Through their tireless efforts, doors were opened, captive souls were brought back from darkness to light, and hope was restored to grieving families,

a mourning nation and a people aching with loss.”

The gratitude segment concluded with remarks by Andy Groveman, past president of Memphis Jewish Federation, past chair of United Israel Appeal and long-time trustee of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He thanked the professional staff and lay leadership of the Federation, community rabbis, educators, shlichim, youth group leaders and all who had worked tirelessly to support Israel and assist and unify the community through this difficult period. He also expressed gratitude to those young adult Memphians who joined the IDF, and all community members who contributed emergency funds to Israel, took part in

(See Gathering Page 2)

## When a Picture is Truly Worth a Thousand Words



**Screenshot from the video sent to Rabbi Males of the joyous singing that broke out during the Hoshanah Rabbah Minyan at the Nova Festival site in Israel.**

**By Rabbi Akiva Males**

One of the final days of the Sukkos festival is known as ‘Hoshanah Rabbah.’ This year’s Hoshanah Rabbah

(October 13, 2025) was taken to a whole new level of meaning and celebration. On that morning, all 20 living Israeli hostages were released from two hor-

rendous years spent in captivity. Jews across the world rejoiced as those hostages were reunited with their families and loved ones. Who will ever forget the videos of those emotional reunions we were blessed to see?

While we wish there could have been more, we thank G-d for bringing those living hostages home. We pray that the remains of our fellow Jews who are still in Gaza will quickly be brought back to Israel for proper burial. May G-d share His healing with all the former hostages, their families – as well as with Israel’s wounded soldiers and their families. May He also share His comfort with the families of Israel’s fallen soldiers and all in Israel who are in mourning since October 7, 2023.

We in Memphis witnessed this historic milestone from a great distance. However, a friend of ours was blessed to spend Sukkos in Israel, and he sent me an incredible first-hand report that

appears below. I can’t even imagine what the experience he described must have been like ...

May we share plenty more good news ASAP!

~ Rabbi Akiva Males

“Hi Rabbi Males, we hope you & Layala are enjoying a beautiful Sukkos. I want to share with you a powerful experience I had.

On Hoshanah Rabbah, my son and I drove to the Nova Festival site for an unforgettable Shacharis. The Minyan started at 6:35 a.m., the last 3 km to the site were congested with traffic, so we turned onto a dirt side road and parked the car. We walked to the extremely crowded Minyan, which was already up to Shema. I davened, skipped a bit, caught up, saw the sun rising, and finished my Shemoneh Esrei together with the Minyan.

We moved closer to the center. There

(See Picture Page 2)

**Gathering...**

(Continued From Page 1)

the Israel Solidarity Mission and other visits to Israel, and attended the many educational and commemorative programs in the wake of October 7.

"You have each embodied the deepest values of our community – commitment, compassion, unity and love for the people and State of Israel. For your actions, your presence and your example, we are truly grateful," said Mr. Groveman.

Federation's Vice Chair for Israel and Overseas, Jill Shanker, then ushered in a moment of joy, quoting the inspiring Rachel Goldberg-Polin, mother of released hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin: "There is a time to sob and a time to dance, and we have to do both right now," echoing the timeless wisdom of Ecclesiastes.

**Picture...**

(Continued From Page 1)

was a stand with speakers and musical instruments. Hallel took two and a half hours. It was deliberate with lots of singing – and even more "la la la's."

At one point, when the news reported that the first group of hostages was released, everyone joyously broke into "V'Shavu Banim l'G'vulam" [a song based on a Biblical verse about how the Jewish people will return to their homeland]. I attached the video I took of this moment.

There were so many people there and

Run for Their Lives organizer Hannah Chanin, joined by local Israelis, led the Shehecheyanu blessing and a prayer for healing for the released hostages, offering this heartfelt message: "May they be surrounded by thousands of loving people who never ceased to care, to hope, to act and to believe in their safe return."

The program concluded with JCP President and CEO Laura Linder leading the community in a "collective sigh," followed by a stirring rendition of "Am Yisrael Chai" led by Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum of Beth Sholom, accompanied by rabbis, cantors and heads of school from across the community.

If you have not yet submitted a photo of yourself with a memorial candle for Federation's community-wide 10-7 photo mosaic, please send it to [photos@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:photos@jcpmemphis.org). **HW**

we looked out over a huge crowd of men holding their Lulavim aloft. Several were waving Israeli flags, and one an IDF flag. I was very moved specially when I thought about who those people were, and what they were all feeling about the last two years of war, the State of Israel, and the hostages' release.

I hope I have transmitted some part of my feelings to you . . ."

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached via email at: [rabbi@yiom.org](mailto:rabbi@yiom.org) **HW**

## Chabad of Memphis Draws on Jewish Mysticism to Offer a Refreshing Approach to Finding the Meaning in All Parts of Life



**Rabbi Levi Klein**

Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad of Memphis will lead a six-session course, *The Kabbalah of Meaning*, beginning Tuesday, November 4 at the Chabad Center

of Jewish Life in Memphis. "We're addressing the question of meaning in life from a classic Jewish perspective," he says. "There are questions you answer once in a lifetime. Then there are questions worth revisiting at each stage of life. This topic is in the second category."

Developed by the internationally acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, *The Kabbalah of Meaning* draws from kabbalistic perspectives to offer a bold, fresh approach to a well-worn topic.

"We often think that the most meaningful experiences are distinct from our everyday life," Rabbi Klein says. "In this course, we'll see how to better see the profound meaning already there in every breath of life."

While the course addresses how we can find greater meaning in specific areas of life, its primary message is that all of life's many disparate activities can add up to a cohesive, meaningful whole.

"Life is busy," Rabbi Klein says.

# THE Hebrew Watchman

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10/30/2025



## Memphis Candlelighting Time

**Erev Shabbat, Fri. Oct. 31, 2025 / 9 Cheshvan, 5786 ..... 5:48 p.m.**  
**Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 1, 2025 / 10 Cheshvan, 5786 ..... 6:43 p.m.**

**Weekly Torah Portion: Lech-Lecha**

"This is a chance to step back and see how all the seemingly unrelated parts of our lives can add up to a cohesive whole."

The course's six sessions combine the study of classic texts with practical applications for modern living. Each session explores one fundamental aspect of meaning and purpose, providing tools that participants can immediately incorporate into their daily lives.

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open

to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 901-754-0404 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Memphis in conjunction with the Chabad Center for Jewish Life.

*The Kabbalah of Meaning* is certified for continuing education credits for doctors, psychologists, social workers, LMFTs, and LMHC/LPCs in the state of Tennessee. **HW**

## CORRECTION

*"In a recent article by Laura Linder about the Jewish Foundation of Memphis's Donor-Advised Fund incentive, partner agencies eligible for the incentive should have also included Plough Towers and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab." HW*

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## Need a Ride? Call Shalom Shuttle

So far in 2025, Kay & Allen Iskiwitz Shalom Shuttle has given 1,272 rides!

Transportation is a very real issue for many people over 60 years of age or for those individuals of any age who are unable to drive due to a disability. As an integral part of the Jewish community, Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (Fogelman JFS) at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) provides an array of compassionate social services and a connection to any additional services needed. We form collaborative relationships with you, our clients, to enhance your well-being and help you thrive. We approach this mission with the highest lev-

el of responsibility, professionalism and integrity.

One of our key services is Kay & Allen Iskiwitz Shalom Shuttle, which is able to help with the transportation challenge. Our experienced driver provides transportation to members of our Jewish community who are at least 60 years old as well as those adults of any age with special needs. Transportation is provided with door-to-door assistance for just \$5 one-way to locations within Shelby County. Please note we are unable to accommodate those individuals in wheelchairs. Pre-registration/reservations are required and can be made by contacting Fogelman JFS at 901-767-8511. HW

## American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (Survivor Day or ISOSLD) is the one day a year when people affected by suicide loss gather in their local communities to find comfort and gain understanding as they share stories of healing and hope.

Survivor Day was created by an act of Congress in 1999 and since then has been sponsored and supported by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Every year, hundreds of organized events are held in the U.S. and around the world.

A local Survivor Day event will be held in Memphis on **Saturday, November 22 at Church Health Community Room at Crosstown Concourse from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.** To learn more about International Survivors of Suicide Loss

Day, visit [afsp.org/SurvivorDay](http://afsp.org/SurvivorDay) or email [gcptrson@gmail.com](mailto:gcptrson@gmail.com) for further details.

Additional Information: Registration prior to the event will be required to ensure that all attendees are prepared for and understanding of expectations related to the event.

This event is for survivors of suicide loss only with the exception of needing a support person with you during the event. If you do have a need for a support person, it will be required for that person to register as well.

This event is intended for ages 18 or above. If there is a loss survivor that would benefit from attendance under age 18, please feel free to reach out to the main organizer to discuss appropriateness.

Snacks, coffee and water will be provided. 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, November 3**

**Speaker: Rabbi Cantor David Julian with Or Chadash Synagogue**

**Topic: Jews and Thankfulness**

Rabbi Julian will bring an uplifting message we need to hear in these times. He will also leave time for a Q&A following this talk. Come have a nice kosher lunch and hear this interesting talk. Reservations are only required for the lunch.

**Wednesday, November 5**

**Team Trivial Pursuit!**

The seniors received a gift of a new set of Trivial Pursuit questions, which was used in the last Trivial Pursuit session. It led to a lively back and forth team effort, that saw the lead go back and forth until one of the teams finally pulled out a win. It was a lot of fun with some of the quieter team members having the right answer. Prizes were given out to both the winning team and a different prize to the other team. Reservations are needed for the lunch.

**Monday, November 10**

**Special Program with Tal Nezry, MJCC Community Shlucha**

**Topic: The Day the Hostages were released in Israel**

Tal's IDF service was as a behavioral diagnosis scientist in the Air Force. The tremendous effect it had in Israel was amazing! This will be one of the most interesting talks of the year. As the room is small, please make reservations to ensure that everyone has a seat.



**On Nov. 10, Tal Nezry, MJCC Community Shlucha, will discuss the Day the Hostages were released in Israel.**

**Wednesday, November 12**

**Field trip to Hillels of Memphis**

Hillels of Memphis enriches the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Hillel envisions a world where every student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. As a pluralistic Jewish student organization, Hillels of Memphis strives to make this vision a reality at University of Memphis and Rhodes College. A student's involvement with Hillel is one of the strongest predictors of future Jewish leadership – stronger than Jewish day school enrollment, Jewish camp experiences or membership in a Jewish youth group. As the leading authority on Jewish campus life, Hillel reaches, engages and equips tomorrow's leaders today. This should be a great opportunity to see the excitement that Hillel creates on college campuses. We will have a personal tour by Hillels of Memphis Director Phoenix Goldberg. Dessert refreshments will be served following the tour. Come for the daily lunch at the MJCC then join us on the MJCC bus for the tour, leaving at 12 p.m. This should be a fun excursion.

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](mailto: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

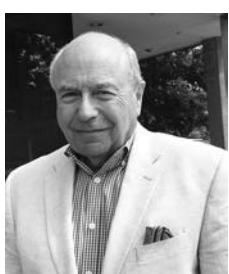
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# A Great Conversation: The CEO of the Nova Exhibit on What's Next for the Released Hostages

By Alyson Krueger

(October 15, 2025) – Over the last two years, after the October 7 attacks on Israel, Josh Kadden has become a close friend – more like a family member – to survivors and released hostages.

After the October 7 attacks on Israel he quit his tech sales job to become CEO of the Nova Exhibition, which tells the story of what happened at the Nova Festival, an open-air music festival that was in full swing on the day of the attacks (he is now on the board of the exhibit.) There, 400 people were killed, and 44 people were taken hostage. The festivalgoers who managed to escape have harrowing tales of playing dead, hiding for hours and watching their friends and partners get murdered.

The exhibit – put on by the producers of the Nova Music Festival as well as American partners including Scooter Braun and Joe Teplow – opened in New York City before traveling to Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Miami, Toronto and Washington D.C. It is currently in Boston and Berlin before going to Chicago in November. It features original items from the festivals including burned cars and portable toilets that were shot through. Hundreds of thousands of people have visited it including politicians, celebrities, athletes and school kids.

One of the most incredible parts of the exhibit is that survivors are also there to personally tell their story to visitors. It is how Kadden has gotten to know many of them.

The group is also working together on the Tribe of Nova Foundation, which is providing assistance for those impacted

ed by the massacre. They have weekly meetups, healing concerts and memorial events. I'll never forget attending a dance party they held in New York City on the first anniversary of October 7 to help the survivors be able to dance and feel joy again. They are opening a permanent center in Israel where survivors can get therapy, talk with one another and get financial aid if needed.

This week 20 hostages were released, many of which were taken from the Nova Festival. I talked to Kadden about what is next for this community and how they heal from here. Below is an edited version of our conversation.

## The Nova Exhibition opened six months after October 7. How did it come together so quickly?

A series of gatherings were happening for the Nova survivors on these farms. Hundreds of kids would gather for these healing events, and it was a way to hear their stories. There was also this expo that was set up in Tel Aviv, which was a home for people to come and pay their respects to the survivors. The producers of the music festival brought the cars and the festival stage there. They also brought everyone's stuff, so it was a lost and found with people coming to claim their belongings.

Some American philanthropists including Scooter Braun went and saw these gatherings and heard their stories, and it was a very humanizing moment, because they realized these were just kids at a music festival. They knew they needed to bring this experience to America. We raised money, and then we had 60 days to

pull off this very serious production.

## What was that like?

It was very intense. We had these Israeli partners, the Nova Festival people, who had been seriously traumatized. They've lost everything, they lost complete faith in humanity. They were confused why people were not believing their story. Also, every decision from the name of the exhibit to the graphic used – was this photo too bloody too gory? – we had to get approval from 400 families. I had to really earn their trust.

I also realized I couldn't handle listening to all of their stories all the time. I lived in the exhibit every day for over a year and heard every video, every recording, every soundtrack. And that meant I had to create a very serious boundary if I was going to run the exhibit and come to work every day.

A lot of them are family now forever. I became really close with them, because I treated them like I treat my friends or anyone else I know. I make fun of them, we joke around. Whereas other people would treat them like pets in a zoo.

## What do you mean by that?

They became overnight celebrities for going through something that nobody wants to go through. For example, I was out to dinner with Noa Argamani in Los Angeles recently, and people recognized her, and one minute someone sends over dessert, and then there is a round of drinks, and then someone is paying for her meal. On the way out she got bombarded.

**Noa and other released hostages spent so much time advocating to get the other hostages released. What do they do now that it's happened?**

So many of the hostages have become professional survivors. They have gone around and told their stories and raised money, but they have put their professional and educational lives on hold.

We also don't know the research. By reliving their experiences all the time, I don't know how healthy that is. Maybe

it is, but maybe it isn't. There is also this really weird dynamic, where some survivor stories are more interesting than others, so there are some that people want to hear from more, but everyone went through their own shit.

We now need to help them to go build a life, and not to be a career survivor.

**What about the mental health issues so many survivors are now grappling with? How do you help with that?**

It's important to note that the survivors you've seen on TV and met – those are the ones who are able to come to America and tell their story. There are a lot of them who can't even get out of bed.

The foundation is building a facility right outside of Tel Aviv, which is opening in the next two months. Up until now they've been doing a variety of services and programming – community gatherings, yoga, physical health, cold plunging. We are exploring ways to do more clinical therapies as well.

I've become a little more riled up on the mental health crisis we are going to be seeing. Roei Shalev was someone I knew – he was in LA and New York with us. And I know that everyone wishes they did more. You have to honor him, which means you have to double down on providing the services these survivors need.

**What has this week been like for you and the community?**

Monday was a really complicated day. This whole week is an anniversary of people's lives being completely ruined, and that is a trigger. If you lost a loved one two years ago or are waiting for a body to come back or are the family of a soldier, it's really hard.

On the other hand we have to celebrate, and we have to have some joy right now for the people who are alive. You can cry, and you can dance, you can sing, and you can laugh. It's a really weird feeling. HW

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## Inspections Deal with UN Nuclear Agency 'Null, Void,' Iran Says

(JNS) – The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said last Monday that the Islamic Republic had cancelled its inspection agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in Iraq, Ali Larijani said that his country had followed through on the Iranian foreign minister's threat to break off cooperation with the IAEA if nuclear snapback sanctions were reimposed.

"Our foreign minister announced after the Cairo meeting that if the trigger mechanism is activated, the negotiations will be considered null and void," Larijani said, per the Islamic Republic News Agency. "If the agency has a request in this regard, it should submit it to the secretariat of the supreme national security council so that it can be reviewed."

In September, Iran and the IAEA agreed at a meeting in Cairo to resume nuclear inspections in Iran, including at sites that the United States and Israel

bombed during the 12-day war in June.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran's foreign minister, said that agreement would be cancelled if France, Germany and the United Kingdom completed snapback sanctions against Iran at the U.N. Security Council under resolution 2231, which formalized the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

The three countries initiated snapback in August citing Iran's failure to comply with the terms of the deal and U.N. nuclear sanctions on Iran were reimposed in late September.

"We believe that applying the trigger mechanism was a wrongdoing on the part of Europe that has no basis, and in fact, the Europeans abused the snapback, while the Iranians had met all the conditions for the past 10 years, but today China and Russia do not accept the return of sanctions against Iran," Larijani said.

"Resolution 2231 is over, and what China and Russia are doing is based on the text of the agreement," he said. HW

# Cruising the Dalmatian Coast with Azamara



**Debbie and husband David at White Nights aboard the Azamara Pursuit.**

**By Debbie Rosenthal**

I have recently returned from one of the most unforgettable journeys – a 10-night Croatia Intensive voyage aboard the Azamara Pursuit. From the moment I stepped onboard, I knew this wasn't just another cruise. Azamara has quickly become one of my favorite cruise lines, and here's why.

Azamara's unique Country-Intensive Voyages are designed to let travelers dive deeper into a single destination including the most iconic destinations as well as hidden gems while focusing on longer stays, overnight visits and immersive excursions, ensuring that guests truly experience the culture, history and spirit of each port.

Sailing with only 700 guests, Azamara's boutique ships dock in smaller, less-traveled harbors, allowing access to hidden gems. And whether it's a local cooking class, sampling regional wines, listening to traditional music or photographing medieval villages, Azamara's Ashore immersive land and enrichment programs are designed to let guests become part of the fabric of life in each destination.

This was my third visit to Croatia's Dalmatian Coast, which is nothing short of magical. My itinerary took me across the sparkling sapphire Adriatic with its mountainous coastline, calling at both world-famous destinations and charming, lesser-known ports. From Dubrovnik's medieval walls to Split's Roman heritage, and from the storybook streets of picturesque Korčula to the time-forgotten beauty of Zadar and Rovinj, every stop felt like stepping into history. The rugged mountains, sun-drenched islands, warm hospitality and vibrant folk culture make it irresistible. And for food and wine lovers? Croatia is a paradise. With over 300 wine regions, local cheeses, olive oils and freshly caught seafood, every meal is an experience in itself.

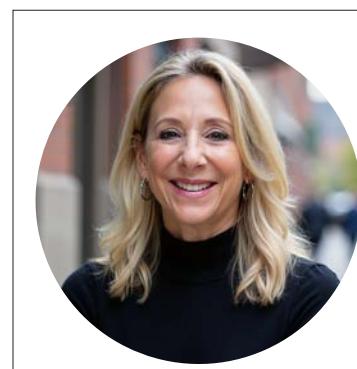
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**By Mike Wagenheim**

(JNS) – A thinly-veiled Holocaust punchline didn't resonate with the audience at "Saturday Night Live" last weekend, Fox News reported.

Colin Jost, host of the show's "Weekend Update" segment, said that U.S. President Donald Trump made the decision to send billions of dollars of aid to Argentina, "because if history is any guide, a lot of Trump officials will end up fleeing to Argentina."

The joke was a reference to Nazis, who fled Europe for Argentina and other Latin American destinations after World War II in order to avoid prosecution.

Fox News reported that the quip "was met with muted laughter and an awkward pause from the studio audience, to Jost's seeming surprise as he said, 'OK, one clap.' He added he was 'just kidding.'"

Jost's satirical news segment also included jabs at disgraced former congressman George Santos, whose seven-year prison sentence for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft was commuted by Trump the prior week.

Santos lied about his family's Jewish heritage, including claims that his own grandparents fled the Holocaust. He wrote years ago in a position paper that he was a "proud American Jew." Last Saturday, he thanked Jesus "for never abandoning me." **HW**



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# Estate Planning

## The Dreaded Right Lane on Poplar

By Benjamin I. Wachtel, Esq. and David L. Mendelson, Esq.

If you are like us, or most Memphians for that matter, you despise the right lanes on Poplar Avenue.

When we present workshops on estate planning and, specifically, on what happens upon incapacity without a plan in place, we often use the example of a healthy, typical, mid-aged couple cruising down the right lane on Poplar when they are crushed by a drunk driver and, as a result, rendered incapacitated, or in some type of vegetative state. This example is effective because it highlights a point many people disregard or fail to carefully consider, which is the fact that – whether due to mental health related issues, physical health related issues, an unexpected accident as in the Poplar case, cognitive impairment, etc. – one can become legally incapacitated at any age and at any time. In our experience, sadly, people often fail to plan for incapacity and assume that legal incapacity and disability are concerns reserved for the elderly. We categorize this logic as the faulty, “it won’t happen to me” logic. From a planning, legal, and pragmatic perspective, for the incapacitated individual and for his or her family, incapacity without a plan is often even worse than death without a plan. Incapacity without a plan leads to otherwise preventable expense and suffering for the individual and for his or her family.

It is important to define our terms and explain what it means to be legally incapacitated in Tennessee. Tennessee Code Annotated and other statutes do not outright and explicitly define “capacity” or “incapacity.” Tennessee conservatorship statutes, however, define a “person with a disability” as follows:

**“Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older determined by the court to be in need of partial or full super-**

  
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vision, protection, and assistance by reason of mental illness, physical illness or injury, developmental disability, or other mental or physical incapacity.” T.C.A. § 34-1-101

What happens in Tennessee when one becomes incapacitated without any plan in place? Who makes medical decisions (for example, whether to have a procedure, which medications to take, which physicians to see, etc.) for the incapacitated person? Who makes property decisions (managing accounts, paying the mortgage, liquidating assets, paying credit cards bills, etc.)? Who cares for the children of incapacitated parents?

The key understanding in this area is that without any plan in place should one, God forbid, become incapacitated, via a Conservatorship or “living probate” proceeding, a judge or jury – not the incapacitated individual, nor his or her family – will determine who makes key medical and financial decisions for the incapacitated individual. The Conservatorship process is a nightmare for families and is entirely avoidable with basic estate planning.

The bottom line is that anyone, regardless of age, net worth, or health status, can become incapacitated at any time and, in the event of incapacity, basic estate planning, via Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives, prevents the nightmare of the Conservatorship or living probate proceeding. **HW**

## Israeli Kibbutz Swamped with Bookings After Listing Among UN’s 52 Best Tourism Villages

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Just days after Kibbutz Neot Smadar was added to the U.N. Tourism 2025 list of 52 Best Tourism Villages in the world, the kibbutz’s tourism director told Hebrew-language outlet Ynet last Monday that the small community in Israel’s south could not handle the flood of booking requests.

“In the guest rooms they told me, ‘Enough, we’re collapsing, we can’t keep up,’” said Adva Meir-Weil. “Suddenly there were so many inquiries,” the director added.

The kibbutz, located in the southern Arava, was “very surprised” to be included in the prestigious U.N. list, Meir-Weil continued, “but on the other hand we worked four years [to achieve] this. When we received the announcement in September we were thrilled and glad,” she related.

In the letter, the U.N. agency praised the kibbutz for its cultural and natural richness and its commitment to sustainability “in all three dimensions: ecological, social and economic,” according to Ynet.

The list of new villages was announced on Oct. 17 in a special ceremony held in Huzhou City, China.

The small towns were selected from over 270 applications from 65 U.N.

**Neot Smadar’s director of tourism said that the kibbutz’s guest rooms could not keep up with the influx of inquiries.**

Tourism Member States, according to the international body’s website.

Following the recognition, Israel’s tourism ministry and the Southern Arava Regional Council issued a joint statement, saying that Neot Smadar “serves as a unique model of a cooperative ecological community and offers an exceptional tourist experience that includes an Art Center – built over 15 years by community members – an organic boutique winery, an inn featuring local produce, desert guest rooms, artist workshops, stargazing alongside the Weizmann Institute’s survey telescope, and guided tours through breathtaking desert landscapes,” per Ynet.

The kibbutz welcomed “this important international recognition and hope it will serve as a springboard for the continued development of tourism in the Arava and in Israel as a whole.”

Neot Smadar was founded in 1989 and is home to some 250 residents. **HW**



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# Consider These Three Suggestions if You Inherit a Trust

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

David "Chico" Esparza, senior fiduciary strategist with Wells Fargo Wealth & Investment Management, remembers meeting two clients, a brother and sister whose parents had passed away. "Unfortunately, their parents had not discussed their estate plans with the adult children. When the siblings learned they were the beneficiaries of a sizable trust," Esparza recalls, "they had no idea what to do next."

The brother and sister had many questions. Who handles the estate? What are the terms of the trust? And what should their next steps be? "The bank was appointed as successor trustee, so we explained the timeline and process for settling the trust estate," Esparza says. "It helped to ease their minds to know that professionals would be handling the numerous tasks required for an orderly estate settlement."

As Esparza's clients found, stepping into the role of beneficiary can feel a bit like stepping into the unknown. Here, Esparza offers three suggestions for those in similar situations.

## 1. Build an advisory team.

A good first step for the beneficiary is to meet with the trustee who is tasked with executing the terms of the trust. It may be an individual, such as a CPA or lawyer, family member, or potentially a corporate trustee such as Wells Fargo Bank.

"There will be a lot of questions, so it's important to establish a communication plan and outline tasks that need to be accomplished along with a general timeline for how long it will take to settle the estate," Esparza says.

In some instances, once the estate is settled, a new trust is funded with the beneficiary's share of the estate; in other cases, assets will be distributed outright to the beneficiary. If the assets will be retained in trust, the trustee collaborates with an investment advisor to help manage the assets according to the terms of the trust.

"The trustee and investment advisor will create a plan that is based on the terms of the trust and considers the needs of the beneficiary," Esparza says. "A best practice is for beneficiaries to seek the guidance of a tax advisor regarding tax implications related to trust distribution."

## 2. Understand the terms of the trust.

One of the first questions a beneficiary might have is, "What benefits do I have under the trust?" Beneficiaries are well served to seek independent counsel for questions regarding interpretation of their interest under the trust.

Esparza explains that a trust can be a useful tool for holding, managing, and distributing property as outlined by the trustor(s) – the creator(s) of the trust – in the trust agreement, but each trust is unique in how assets can be distributed to beneficiaries. Some common areas of discussion include:

**Beneficiary or beneficiaries:** Is there a sole beneficiary or several beneficiaries of the trust? How do the terms address the rights different beneficiaries have to distributions from the trust?

**Age restrictions:** Does the beneficiary have to reach a certain age before accessing some or all of the trust?

**Distribution restrictions:** Can bene-

ficiaries access the principal or just the income from the trust? Does the beneficiary need to provide the trustee with proof of the beneficiary's own income and expenses to receive distributions? What categories of expenses can the trust cover for the beneficiary? (Typically, trusts with discretionary provisions have ascertainable standards that can cover health, education, maintenance, and support.) Can distributions be adjusted for inflation?

**Lifetime of the trust:** Does the trust terminate once the beneficiary reaches a certain age, or is it meant to last the beneficiary's lifetime? Is any portion of the trust designated for future generations?

"Trusts present an opportunity to preserve, accumulate, and transition generational wealth," Esparza says. "For that reason, the trustee should be prudent and equitable in administrating the trust, giving consideration to the current needs of the beneficiary as well as the long-term goals and objectives of the trust."

## 3. Ask questions before taking distributions.

"Before taking a trust distribution, some beneficiaries find it useful to inquire about the potential tax consequences. That's where a tax advisor should provide guidance," Esparza says. "Beneficiaries also may consider consulting with the trustee and the rest of their advisory team about additional considerations or impacts a trust distribution may have on the investment plan." In addition, beneficiaries should consult with their own legal counsel if they have specific questions regarding their rights with respect to a trust.

Esparza shares the story of a young beneficiary who wanted to use her trust fund to purchase a luxury car when

she turned 16. "I posed this question: 'Would a less-expensive car meet your transportation goals and help preserve trust assets for the long term?'" he says. "It is important for beneficiaries to stay connected with the trustee and to ask clarifying questions so they understand the goals and objectives established by the grantor."

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## Netanyahu Meets with Head of Egyptian Intelligence

(JNS) – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his senior staff met last Tuesday in Jerusalem with Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting focused on advanc-

ing U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan, Israel-Egypt relations – including efforts to strengthen the peace between the two countries – as well as other regional issues. **HW**

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# TRL: Totally Reimagined Learning. How an MTV Alum is Remixing the Jewish Day School Experience

By Peter Ephross

(JTA) – Working at MTV is not typical training for a Jewish day school teacher. But Oren Kaunfer is no ordinary Jewish teacher.

The New England native had a successful career in television before deciding he wanted a more meaningful job. Kaunfer, the son of a prominent Conservative rabbi from Providence, Rhode Island, enjoyed the creativity of the entertainment business. But working on animation for shows like “Celebrity Death Match” just wasn’t checking his fulfillment box.

Friends suggested Kaunfer consider working at the Jewish Community Day School in Boston’s suburbs, where his daughter was about to enter kindergarten.

He attended a retreat for the pluralistic Jewish community school, warmed up to the idea and in 2012 applied for a job as madriach ruchani, or spiritual educator. School administrators liked his nontraditional career experience, combined with his day school background and musical talent.

“I went from producing promos earlier in the summer to being on lunch duty in September,” Kaunfer recalled.

Fast forward 13 years and Kaunfer plays a unique role at the K-8 school of approximately 170 students. Leading the Jewish life team, Kaunfer works with children of various ages and uses technology and creativity to teach Judaism and get students to think imaginatively about their spiritual life and practices.

In fourth-grade Bible study, Kaunfer has students use stop-motion animation to create films with their own midrashic interpretations of a Jewish text. He has co-taught a class where students develop a coding project to enhance the experience of Jewish prayer.

During COVID, Kaunfer used virtual reality headsets (delivered to students via contactless delivery) to facilitate joint prayer services while students were sequestered at home. An accomplished musician who plays guitar, mandolin and harmonica, Kaunfer re-imagined Kabbalat Shabbat on Zoom as a live TV variety show.

“Tefilah does not reside solely inside the prayerbook,” Kaunfer said.

Kaunfer’s career journey isn’t merely a feel-good story. It highlights one possible solution to a growing challenge faced by Jewish day schools across North America: how to fill a critical shortage of teachers, particularly Judaic studies teachers.

The dearth of teachers is a national challenge, and it’s even more pronounced at Jewish schools, where Judaic studies educators need additional qualifications such as Jewish knowledge and Hebrew proficiency. A recent report from the Jewish Education Innovation Challenge (JEIC) and Prizmah, two groups that support day schools, put the problem bluntly: “School and field leaders are struggling with recruiting, training and retaining talented educators.”

Sharon Freundel, managing director of JEIC, whose mission is to improve the quality of Jewish education in day schools across North America, said the COVID pandemic worsened the problem. Some veteran teachers retired to avoid remote teaching, while others did not feel comfortable returning to the classroom when in-school learning resumed.

“We need to figure out a variety of ways to attract more people to Jewish teaching – and to keep them – and we

need to be operating on multiple tracks simultaneously,” Freundel said.

“Identifying and motivating talented individuals currently working in other professions is one important piece of the puzzle.”

Prestige and pay are part of the challenge. Kaunfer is an example of someone whose career trajectory carries the potential to change perceptions related to the prestige of teaching in a Jewish school.

To enhance the pipeline of Jewish teachers, JEIC, together with Touro University, is launching a pilot program this month that aims to spark interest in day school teaching from a young age: among high school seniors in Jewish day schools. Students from four prominent day schools are taking a pedagogy class at Touro University for college credit and then student-teaching at their own schools, including the Ramaz School in New York City, North Shore Hebrew Academy on New York’s Long Island, Atlanta Jewish Academy, and Maimonides School in Brookline, Massachusetts.

JEIC is also surveying communities across North America to see how it can improve benefits for Jewish day school teachers, including facilitating special discounting at such institutions as synagogues, Jewish camps and even kosher markets – similar to how U.S. military service members are eligible for special discounts.

The Prizmah day school network, which includes about 315 Jewish day schools and yeshivas across North America, launched a pilot program in Boston using a recruiter to fill open Judaic studies positions at local Prizmah-affiliated schools. For this school year, the program will be expanded to Jewish schools in Chicago.

“There’s no silver bullet to solve the Jewish teacher pipeline issue,” said Rabbi Marc Wolf, Prizmah’s chief program and strategy officer.

JEIC and Prizmah are not alone in trying to recruit more teachers to the profession and support them with incentives. National and local foundations, Jewish federations and local Jewish institutions also are involved.

For its part, JEIC receives support from Touro and the Mayberg Foundation for its fellowship program. Prizmah is partnering with Boston’s federation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Beker Foundation, a Jewish family foundation in Boston. Chicago’s Jewish federation, the Jewish United Fund and Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago are helping with Prizmah’s efforts in the Windy City.

Investing in Jewish education is a communal must, Freundel said, because Jewish day schools are the single-most important institution for building a positive Jewish identity among the next generation of involved Jews.

Kaunfer says his career switch was an incredibly meaningful Jewish choice, and he speaks reverently about the growing pile of student thank-you notes he has received over the years. Jewish teaching also brought Kaunfer into the family business: His family helped establish a Jewish day school in Providence, his mother is an award-winning day school teacher, and his brother, Elie Kaunfer, is president and a founder of the Hadar Institute, which trains Jewish educators, rabbis and others.

Prayer is one of Kaunfer’s main areas of focus, and he approaches it in unconventional ways. He screens different versions of TV ads to demonstrate to students how people reciting the same text can send different messages. Using the childhood classic “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” he gets students talking about their own “prayer journeys.” He draws connections between the physical elements of Jewish prayer – bowing, kissing, standing on one’s toes – and improvisational dance.

The head of school at JCDS, Shira Deener, hailed Oren Kaunfer as a boon to the school’s Jewish culture and character.

“Oren is an extraordinary educator and an unbelievable musician,” Deener said, adding that his musical talents have helped transform the school’s weekly Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Susie Tanchel, who hired Kaunfer when she was head of school at JCDS and now is vice president at Hebrew College in Boston, said people like Kaunfer are evidence that Jewish edu-

## OBITUARIES

### Sidney Bernard Hoffman

Sidney Bernard Hoffman, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 90 in Memphis, Tenn.

He was born on January 10, 1935, at Baptist Central Hospital in Memphis and attended Central High School.

On December 26, 1965, Sidney married the love of his life, Barbara Cohen Hoffman. Together they had two children, Mark and Caryn, to whom they devoted their entire lives. Their marriage of almost 50 years was an enduring example of love and commitment.

Sidney began his career in the funeral business, working for Berco Funeral Products with his lifelong friend Bobby Bernatsky. He eventually started his own funeral supply business, Camar Funeral Products, named for his two children.

Sidney enjoyed vacations in Florida and South Carolina with his family, including grandchildren Emma, Connor and Jay. In his later years, he was cared for by his son, Mark, at his home in Arlington, Tenn.

Sidney will be remembered for his love of the Atlanta Braves, Memphis Tigers, a great lunch, and above all, his family, in whom is legacy lives on. HW

cators can be found in all kinds of unexpected places. Finding other motivated and talented professionals looking for meaning in their careers can be an important part of the solution of addressing the Jewish day school teacher shortage, she noted.

“Oren is a special guy, but there are other special people in the world,” Tanchel said. “He’s not the only one.”

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Jewish Education Innovation Challenge, a bold initiative to radically improve the quality of Jewish education in day schools across North America. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team. HW

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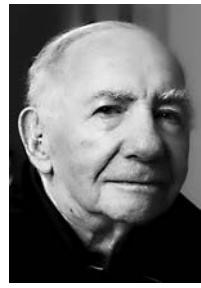
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# Forgiveness



**Editor's note:**  
This story is being  
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**By Ted Roberts**

(October 15, 2012) – Yom Kippur is over. And I'm feeling pretty good about the state of my soul. I approached everybody I had cheated, insulted over the year. They all forgave me except one schliemel who I yelled at, cursed and gigantically insulted because he thinks X instead of Y is going to win the election. (I'll apologize for that next year.) Meanwhile, I know – given my record – I'm in the Book of Life!

Then my comfort index was shaken by my Christian secretary. She asked a simple question: "Let's say you're a saint," she says, "and have already apologized for what you screamed at your wife when she served you the raw meatloaf?" But after you were through regurgitating tonight's meatloaf and last

week's over-peppered chicken you sat her down, looked her straight in the eyes and begged her forgiveness. Now it's the 10-day gap between Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur. Ten short days to correct a year of misbehavior. And so many competing faux pas to address. "Must you go back," she asks, "and ask forgiveness from your poor wife who doesn't have a clue about meatloaf production?" And in reparation should you bring her a meatloaf cookbook? And maybe there and then bake a beautiful, smoking, well-done meat loaf? Basic question: Must you apologize during the 10 days of grace? An excellent question. I told her it depended on the magnitude of your sin.

The whole conversation stimulated my Jewish imagination. I was Maimonides, who said that G-d practiced triple entry bookkeeping; a Book of Life, a book of MAYBE, and the dark, gloomy Book of Death. But what about me, I thought. Why didn't I have a book, "The Book of Stupidity" wherein I noted every injustice I had practiced on my fellow man and woman? (My granddaughter insisted that the time I dropkicked the cat between the two sofa sections should also be noted.)

My book should list date, incident and my apology/forgiveness if one was of-

fered. (Acts of grandfatherly discipline would be omitted since these were provoked by kids, not me.) Then at Rosh Hashonah time I could audit my book for forgiveness calls. Should I go back, since I asked forgiveness for a \$50 overpayment utility bill, which slipped through the city's accounting system – it was really 100.

But as I began to attack my list, I reflected that justice is a two-way street. Why was nobody calling me and asking forgiveness? There must have been dozens of sinners who had maltreated me, and they were as quiet as the dust in the tomb of Hamen. Maybe that would make up for some of the calls I neglected. I figured if 10 sinners ignored their pleading with me and I neglect five of my obligations, I would still end up in that glowing Book of Life.

Only 10 days. How could you cram a year's mistakes in 240 hours? Each moral variation (I prefer that phrase to "sin") was very complex and needed much talk to put in perspective, like when I borrowed my neighbor's riding lawn mower. (He was out of town.) I forgot to tell him – three gallons of gas at \$3.29 per gallon – and I forgot to tell him that upon returning the machine I pruned his petunia bed. So many details.

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And after all, the Lord's Book of Life was finite, too. Seven billion potential sinners – some, unlike me, were multiple transgressors. Imagine the thickness of that book? It would make the Humash look like a T J Maxx pamphlet. Some minor sinners would have to be omitted. Why not me?

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

## Young Israel of Memphis Shares Rosh Hashanah Care Packages with U.S. Air Force Academy Cadets



Some of the Jewish U.S. Air Force Academy cadets who received YI's Rosh Hashanah care packages before Rosh Hashanah 5786 / 2025.

**By Rabbi Akiva Males**

Do you remember how nice it felt to receive a care package from home when you were away at camp or school? What if you were a U.S. Jewish serviceman / woman during the season of Yom Tovim (Jewish Holidays)? Can you imagine how lonely it must feel to be away from

family and friends during such a special time of the year? Now imagine how that Jewish man / woman in uniform would appreciate receiving a care package before Rosh Hashanah.

For the eighth year in a row, Young Israel (YI) of Memphis played a role in lifting the spirits of some of our country's brave Jewish troops, who were far away from a normal Yom Tov setting. Since 2018, our Shul has been sending Rosh Hashanah care packages to the rabbi serving as the Jewish Chaplain at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colo. He then shares those packages with the greatly appreciative Jewish cadets at the USAFA.

In 2024, Rabbi Alan Kahan became the new Jewish Chaplain at the USAFA. When I reached out to Major Kahan during this past summer, he assured me that he was excited to continue this beautiful tradition.

Prior to Rosh Hashanah 5786 / 2025, in partnership with Memphis' own Ricki's Cookie Corner, YI sent Chaplain Kahan 30 Rosh Hashanah care packages – consisting of Ricki's signature cookies and challah rolls (along with some other

sweets and a YI Shanah Tovah card) – to distribute to Jewish cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy. YI also sent a special gift of challahs and cookies for the Kahan family to enjoy over Yom Tov.

During Rosh Hashanah, the care packages were distributed to the very appreciative Jewish USAF Academy cadets. In a subsequent email to me, Major Kahan wrote:

*"The cadets loved the care packages – and so did my family! This year, we used them for Kiddush on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, so I took a picture of two cadets with the treats from Ricki's just before Yom Tov began. (Please note that I covered the cadets' names for privacy.) Thank you for spreading Simchat Yom Tov [festive joy] far beyond Tennessee's state lines!"*

Additionally, after sharing Ricki's delicious baked goods with the previous USAFA Chaplain (Rabbi Shaul Rapoport) and his family for the six years they were stationed in Colorado, YI felt it would be meaningful to also send them some challahs and cookies to enjoy over Rosh Hashanah in their new posting. We included a note thanking them for their

service to our country and the airmen / women of the U.S. Air Force and wished them much ongoing success.

After receiving our gift package, Chaplain Rapoport sent me the following thoughtful email:

*"Dear Rabbi Males and YI of Memphis, the treats from Ricki's arrived and were tremendously appreciated. There have been a lot of changes for my kids over the past 8 years in the military. In fact, no two years look alike – and not even two Yamim Noraim [High Holiday seasons] look alike. One thing that they have grown to really cherish is the treats from Memphis. For them, it has come to mean "it's time for Rosh Hashanah!" I am more grateful than words can express. Best wishes to you and your community for the coming year – Shana Tovah!"*

Young Israel of Memphis thanks Ricki's Cookie Corner ([www.rickiscookies.com](http://www.rickiscookies.com)) and each of the generous sponsors who brought this heart-warming project to fruition.

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached via email at: [rabbi@yiom.org](mailto:rabbi@yiom.org) HW

## Holocaust Survivor Buried in Backyard So Relatives Could Continue to Collect Benefits

**By Idan Avni**

A couple from Carmiel in northern Israel buried a 93-year-old Holocaust survivor – the woman's mother – in their backyard in order to keep collecting her monthly reparations, worth 18,000 shekels (about \$5,400), according to police.

The case began about a month ago, when a woman from Bat Yam, a daughter of the deceased, reported to police that she had received information suggesting her mother had died. Her mother had lived with her in the past but moved out two years earlier following a family dispute, relocating to Carmiel to live with another daughter. The two had since lost contact.

However, the Bat Yam daughter said she tried to keep tabs on her mother from a distance, and upon learning of her possible death, began making in-

quiries. When she discovered that her mother was still officially listed as being alive, she contacted police.

Fearing for the woman's wellbeing, officers from the Carmiel Police Department were dispatched to the couple's residence. When no one answered the door, they forced entry. The couple were home, said police, and the house was filled with cobwebs, its windows sealed with duct tape. The two gave conflicting accounts of the mother's whereabouts, arousing suspicion.

The couple was separated and questioned. The daughter, 64, stumbled over her answers, while her partner first claimed the woman had been buried in Haifa, then changed his story to say she had been buried near the northern border. He eventually said she died in April 2024 but refused to disclose the burial site.

Investigators suspected the woman had been buried in the villa's backyard. Initial excavations, assisted by police dogs, turned up nothing. But they later discovered that the body had been kept in a home freezer for two days before being secretly buried.

About three weeks ago, the investigation took a grim turn when the male suspect killed himself in his detention cell. Soon afterward, a breakthrough came when a contractor who had done work at the house pointed police to a spot in the garden where he believed a deep pit had been dug. A small excavator was brought in, and two weeks ago, at a depth of three meters (10 feet), officers uncovered the woman's body.

Investigators believe the woman was not murdered, but are awaiting autopsy results from the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute to confirm the cause of death. Au-

thorities suspect she was buried in secret so her daughter and the man could continue collecting roughly 18,000 shekels (about \$5,400) a month from state and private reparation programs. The pair had also reportedly used the deceased's account to pay the villa's rent.

"This is one of the most harrowing cases I've encountered in 26 years on the force. A 93-year-old Holocaust survivor buried in her own backyard by her own family," said Chief Inspector Alon Reuveni. "It was our privilege to recover her remains and give her a proper Jewish burial."

The daughter is under investigation for fraud, obstruction of justice, failure to report a death and violating mandatory legal obligations. Police await the autopsy results to determine whether criminal charges for homicide are also warranted. HW



Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis

# 30 Years, 30 Moments

## A Look Back at the Legacy of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis in Photos

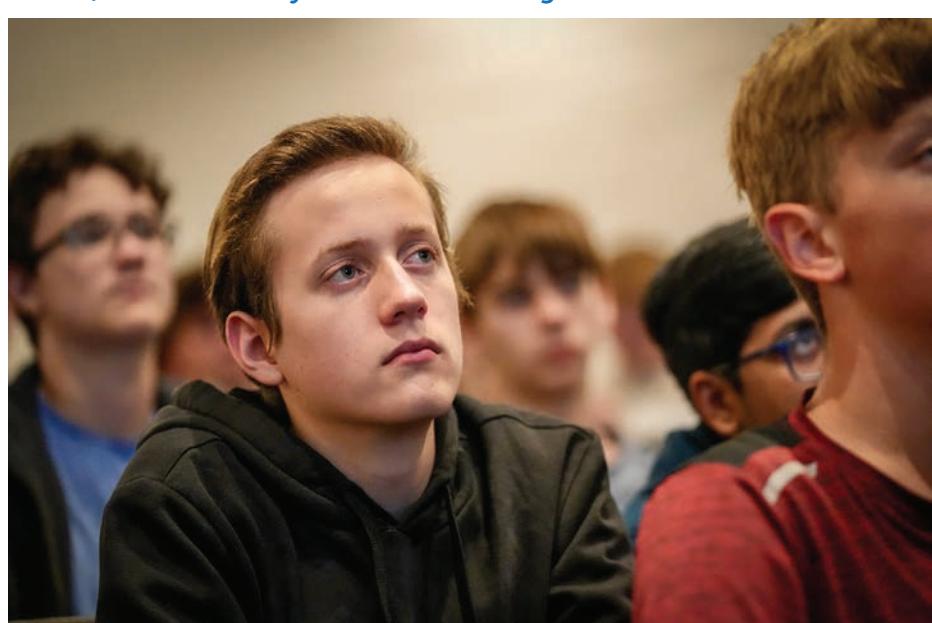
*In honor of the 30-year anniversary of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, we are showcasing the Foundation's history and impact through a content series across multiple platforms, including a photo series highlighting key moments in the Foundation's history.*

**2017:** The Jewish Foundation completed five years of the Life and Legacy Program and honored each agency partner for their outstanding achievements. Through this effort, more than 550 legacy commitments were secured, representing \$11 million in future gifts.



## Community Holocaust Awareness Initiative

Memphis Jewish Federation kicked off its Community Holocaust Awareness Initiative "CHAI" for the 2025-2026 school year with second-generation Holocaust survivor, Ida Eleazer, speaking to the 10th grade at Houston High School on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. Eleazer shared the story of her survivor father, Max Notowitz. Sophomore Nava VanderWalde helped coordinate the program with her English teacher, Coach Zeke Vezina, after their study of Elie Wiesel's "Night."



Ida Notowitz Eleazer at podium for the Community Holocaust Awareness presentation at Houston High School.

## CORRECTION

*"In a recent article by Laura Linder about the Jewish Foundation of Memphis's Donor-Advised Fund incentive, partner agencies eligible for the incentive should have also included Plough Towers and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab." HW*



Engaged students at Ida Notowitz Eleazer Houston High presentation.

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