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# Hebrew Watchman CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**1925-2025**

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22 CHESHPAN, 5786

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

VOL. 104, NO. 8

## Memphis Community Comes Together for Eden Golan and United Hatzalah



Eden Golan performing live at the United Hatzalah event in Memphis.  
 Credit: Eli Ostrow

On October 29, the Memphis Jewish Community Center hosted Israeli Eurovision star Eden Golan for a moving performance presented by United Hatzalah of Israel, in partnership with Memphis Jewish Federation.

Golan's performance filled the room with emotion, drawing strength from her story as Israel's 2024 Eurovision representative who stood proudly against antisemitism while sharing her music with the world. Her journey was part of a discussion moderated by Phoenix Goldberg, director of Hillels of Memphis, and Maya Weiser, who were on stage at the Memphis Jewish Com-

munity Center.

"We were honored to welcome Eden to Memphis," said Becca Near, Central States Regional director at United Hatzalah of Israel. "Her music uplifted everyone in the room and reminded us of the power of unity and compassion that drives United Hatzalah's lifesaving mission."

United Hatzalah of Israel operates the world's leading fully volunteer emergency medical service. With over 8,000 EMTs, medics, paramedics and doctors, the organization delivers free, lifesaving care with a response time goal of 90 seconds. **HW**



Eden Golan talking with Phoenix Goldberg and Maya Weiser. Credit: Eli Ostrow



Becca Near, Central States Regional Director, speaking in Memphis.  
 Credit: Eli Ostrow

## Iran Planned to Kill Israeli Envoy to Mexico this Year



Hasan Izadi, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps official in Iran who a U.S. official says planned to assassinate the Israeli ambassador to Mexico in 2024 and 2025, shakes hands with Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a photo, which the Iranian Embassy in Caracas posted on May 24, 2024. Source: Screen capture of Iranian Embassy in Caracas Instagram post.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Hasan Izadi, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps official in Iran,

planned to assassinate Einat Kranz Neiger, the Israeli ambassador to Mexico,

starting in late 2024 and kept the plot going actively through the first half of 2025, according to a U.S. official and the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The official in the Quds Force, which resembles the CIA, previously worked at the Iranian Embassy in Venezuela, where he was second adviser. He used the alias Masood Rahnema.

The U.S. official said that Izadi targeted U.S. and Israeli officials and while he was in Venezuela, he communicated with Hezbollah, the Iranian proxy terror group in Lebanon.

"The plot was contained and does not pose a current threat," said the U.S. official, who spoke anonymously. "This is just the latest in a long history of Iran's global lethal targeting of diplomats, journalists, dissidents and anyone who disagrees with them."

The revealed plot is "something that should deeply worry every country where there is an Iranian presence," the official said.

The Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry told JNS that "we thank the security and law enforcement services in Mexico for

thwarting a terrorist network directed by Iran that sought to attack Israel's ambassador in Mexico."

"The Israeli security and intelligence community will continue to work tirelessly, in full cooperation with security and intelligence agencies around the world, to thwart terrorist threats from Iran and its proxies against Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide," the Israeli ministry said.

Izadi has traveled extensively in Latin America, where he operates a network of informants, JNS learned. While based in Caracas in 2021, Izadi and Hossein Kiani-Mordi, Iran's military attaché, contacted dissidents from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to coordinate attacks throughout Latin America against senior U.S. and Israeli officials.

Izadi is seen shaking hands with Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a photo, which the Iranian Embassy in Caracas posted on May 24, 2024.

Per an in-app, Instagram translation of the post, the embassy stated that Madu-

(See Iran Page 2)

## Christians Protest Amsterdam Venue's Chanukah Boycott



Pieter van Oordt (left) and his brother Roger van Oordt protest the Royal Concert Hall of Amsterdam's decision to ban a Chanukah concert, Nov. 5, 2025. Credit: Courtesy of Christians for Israel.

By Canaan Lidor

(JNS) – Leaders of Dutch Christian Zionists protested last Thursday in Amsterdam against the Royal Concert Hall's decision to cancel a Chanukah concert because it features a cantor who serves in Israel's army.

Separately, France's culture minister, Rachida Dati, condemned calls to boycott the Israel Philharmonic and prevent that orchestra from performing in Paris last Thursday at the seat of its local counterpart.

Dati tweeted "welcome" to the visiting orchestra, saying, "Nothing justifies boycotting culture right now," and adding, "Antisemitism has no pretext." It was a response to calls for a boycott by anti-Israel groups, whose activists police feared would try to disrupt the concert.

Regarding the boycott action in Amsterdam, Amichai Chikli, Israel's minister for Diaspora affairs and combating antisemitism, last Tuesday wrote to Femke Halsema, the city's mayor, asking her to condemn the Royal Concert Hall's decision. "Silence now would be complicity," Chikli warned her. Amsterdam, he added, "must not remain silent while its institutions single out Jews and contribute to the isolation of a small and already vulnerable community."

Pieter van Oordt and his brother, Roger, two leaders of the Christians for Israel movement in the Netherlands, arrived at the Royal Concert Hall last Wednesday and Thursday with banners that recalled the institution's firing of its Jewish staffers in 1941, to protest the current leadership's decision to cancel the Chanukah concert held there annually because of the Israeli cantor, Shai Abramson.

One banner read: "Royal Concert Hall: Jews banned in 1941, banned for Israeli Jews in 2025." Another read: "Banned for Israeli Jews now, soon

banned for all Jews?"

Since Oct. 7, 2023, several Dutch venues have banned Jewish and Israeli speakers at events, including last month's elections event organized by the Center for Information and Documentation in Israel, which is Dutch Jewry's pro-Israel lobby group.

"The Royal Concert Hall's boycott action stands out because of its cultural prominence. It's a symbol," Roger van Oordt, the previous director of Christians for Israel, told JNS.

He added that Christians for Israel is considering joining the legal action launched against the Royal Concert Hall by the Chanukah Concert Association, which organizes the annual celebration at the building.

Oscar Hammerstein, a prominent Dutch-Jewish jurist, has called on his countrymen to boycott the Royal Concert Hall unless it reverses its ban.

Hammerstein also presented on X a document he said shows that the grandfather of the current director of the Royal Concert Hall, Simon Reinink, was the official who on Nov. 23, 1940 signed an order that terminated the employment of a Jewish professor from Leiden University.

The fired professor was Eduard Mau-rits Meijers, the founding father of the current Dutch civil code, the Nieuw Burgerlijk Wetboek. The document presented by Hammerstein was signed by Hendrik Jan Reinink, then the secretary-general of the education ministry under German occupation, and Simon's grandfather.

"Eighty-five years later, history repeats itself in chilling fashion: Once again, Jews are being excluded – this time not from the university, but from the Royal Concert Hall, the house of music, where they wished to celebrate Chanukah," Hammerstein wrote. **HW**



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Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Office: 901.763.2215  
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@HebrewWatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman  
Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman  
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman  
Office Manager & Subscriptions  
toni@HebrewWatchman.com

Rebecca Schudel  
Social Media Director  
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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

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  
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Send address changes to:  
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11/13/2025

## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Nov. 14, 2025 / 23 Cheshvan, 5786.....4:36 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 15, 2025 / 24 Cheshvan, 5786 ..... 5:33 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Chayei Sarah

## Iran...

(Continued From Page 1)

ro "visited the residence of the Iranian Embassy in Caracas to pay tribute to the martyr president Raisi and his companions," referring to the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi.

Izadi worked with Majid Dastjani Farahani and Mohammad Mahdi Khanpour Ardestani, JNS learned. Both of the latter are Iranian intelligence officers on the FBI "most wanted" list, and both are thought to have attempted to recruit people in the United States in their plots against U.S. government officials. **HW**

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By Ted Roberts

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## Food Is the Star at Beth Sholom's Taste of Kosher Memphis ~ A Nosh to Remember December 7

Beth Sholom will close out its 70th anniversary year with a festival of kosher food on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue. "A Taste of Kosher Memphis: A Nosh to Remember" will feature an array of tasty meat and parve dishes, thus creating, for one night, the finest kosher restaurant in Memphis.

"There are few places in Memphis where you can get a kosher meal like this," says Rebecca Landau, event co-chair, who is working with Sisterhood President Susan Levko and caterer Kevin Sullivan of Kitchen Laurel to prepare the spread. "It will be a wonderful evening. We'll have a myriad of food stations featuring unique and creative culinary delights that guests can enjoy with friends in a special setting."

"Food will be the star of a Taste of Memphis," says Samantha Alperin, event co-chair. "There will be plenty to drink as well. Candy Bar Bartending will serve up craft cocktails and mocktails, and a coffee bar will offer a wide variety of coffee drinks and teas. The night will truly be a 'Nosh to Remember.'"

Beth Sholom President Keri Unowsky notes that both congregants and Jewish Memphis enthusiastically turn out for the shul's annual December fundraiser, adding that this year's Taste of Kosher Memphis will not disappoint.

"We're planning a warm evening to celebrate the good things that have happened this year," she says. "The shul has accomplished so much: our new spiritual leader Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum is introducing exciting ways for

our community to experience Judaism, and Rachael Rovner, our director of Education, has transformed our religious school into a hands-on creative learning environment. Beth Sholom has much to be proud of as we wind down our 70th year."

Anthony Morrison, vice president of Development, adds that this year Beth Sholom also embarked on its historic L'Dor Vador \$2.5 million capital campaign for the future of Beth Sholom Synagogue, noting that two-thirds of the goal has been met. "Our success to date shows our community is committed to securing the vitality of this synagogue for generations to come," he says. "That's something to celebrate."

Rabbi Rosenbaum notes, "What better way to celebrate our congregation than with delicious food! At Beth Sholom, we are living the Jewish value of finding spirituality all around us. At our Taste of Kosher Memphis, we find it in sharing the enjoyment of delicacies and l'chaims. It will be a spiritual Nosh to Remember."

Rebecca Landau says she appreciates the support of the host committee, whose members are Samantha and Lon Alperin, Judy Bookman, Emily and Corry Davis, Leslie and Jonathan Epstein, Rachel and Josh Feinman, Rebecca and Morris Landau, Joanne Levine and Noah Sabin, Susan and Fred Levko, Rachel and Anthony Morrison, Amy and John Pregulman, Carolyn and Adam Schrier, Jill and Scott Shanker, Keri and Dan Unowsky, and Lauren and Michael Weinberger. 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 11/17

Speaker: Rabbi Akiva Males

Topic: What is Operation Benjamin?

Rabbi Males of Young Israel Congregation always has a very diverse and exciting topic to share. He touches on subjects that are always fascinating and have an interesting conclusion – like reading a good short story. Come have fun and hear about something you probably never knew about, but were glad you learned about it. Reservations are only needed for the lunch.

Wednesday 11/19

Speaker: Josh Goldin with Comfort Keepers.

Topic: Staying Healthy in Winter

Winter is a time that brings on bad weather and sometimes causes problems with our health. Josh will give us tips on how to stay healthy during these colder and shorter days. Josh has given many talks over the past several years and always is enjoyed by the group. He may have some of professionals from Comfort Keepers with him to enhance his presentation. There will be a question-and-answer period following his talk.

Monday 11/24

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch Synagogue

Topic: Thanksgiving and The Jews

His talks always lead to great discussions and a fun question and answer period. He brings up points that many of the participants find unusual and engaging. With the Thanksgiving holiday just a few days away, come learn about how it resonates with the Jewish People.

Wednesday 11/26

Annual Thanksgiving Bingo

Holiday prizes included. Come have fun and socialize right before the holiday. Have a Great & Happy Thanksgiving!

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

## Texas Republican Introduces Bill Seeking to Revoke Tax-Exempt Status of Groups with Terror Ties

(JNS) – Legislation introduced in the House last Tuesday seeks to revoke the tax-exempt status of extremist groups with close ties to terrorist organizations.

"It is absurd that the U.S. has provided organizations with ties to terrorism tax-exempt status," said Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas), sponsor of the bill. Americans are "inadvertently subsidizing terror against themselves," he added.

"No organization with ties to terrorism should receive a tax benefit," he said, stating that organizations, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations, should be immediately stripped of their nonprofit status.

"CAIR has ties with Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and other extremist organizations that routinely use violence and commit horrific acts to advance their political agenda," Roy said. "CAIR's national executive director even praised Hamas's barbaric Oct. 7 attacks against Israel." (CAIR, which has repeatedly denied allegations of terrorism ties, blamed Israel for being attacked on Oct. 7.)

The legislation has drawn support from several Republican lawmakers. If enacted, the measure would take effect for taxable years ending after the date of enactment.

Mark Levin, a Fox News host who is Jewish, commended the bill's introduction, writing, "Great job, Chip Roy." HW

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# Mayor-Elect Mamdani Condemns Swastika Spray-Painted on Jewish School



A swastika spray-painted in red on a window of Magen David Yeshivah in Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 5, 2023. Credit: NYPD Hate Crimes.

JNS) – While Jewish families across New York City were processing election results last Tuesday, vandals spray-painted multiple large red swastikas on the walls of Magen David Yeshivah, one of the largest Sephardic Jewish

schools in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The New York Post reported that the suspect "wore all black" and "fled on foot."

"Brooklyn's Jewish community wakes up to two swastikas at Magen

David Yeshivah in Gravesend," representative Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) posted on social media, urging mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani to condemn the graffiti.

City and national figures, including Republican Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, the Combat Antisemitism Movement and Joel Petlin, superintendent of the Kiryas Joel School District in Upstate New York, also linked the vandalism to Mamdani's victory.

"It's probably not a coincidence that Magen David Yeshivah was attacked with a swastika on the night of the Mamdani election, after they required that all applicants to their school be registered to vote," Petlin said.

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) condemned the graffiti as "a wake-up call that Mamdani is ushering in the pro-terrorist antisemitic takeover of NYC aided and abetted by the worst governor in America." She also called on both

Mamdani and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul to respond.

After Hochul issued a statement calling the graffiti a "hateful display of antisemitism," Stefanik fired back, writing that the governor should "get your endorsed Communist antisemite to condemn."

By midday last Wednesday, Mamdani released his own statement: "This is a disgusting and heartbreaking act of antisemitism, and it has no place in our beautiful city. As mayor, I will always stand steadfast with our Jewish neighbors to root the scourge of antisemitism out of our city."

Community WhatsApp groups in the Flatbush and Boro Park neighborhoods of Brooklyn reported finding more swastikas last Wednesday near a Jewish cemetery on McDonald Avenue; carved into the seat of a school bus for Orthodox Jewish children with special needs; and on a wall near the offices of Central Hatzalah. HW

## Neo-Nazis Raise Money for Georgia Man Wearing Nazi Uniform Who Allegedly Assaulted UGA Student



A man wearing a Nazi uniform assaults a woman outside of a bar in downtown Athens, Georgia. (Screenshot)

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A Georgia man wearing a Nazi uniform was arrested week before last after allegedly assaulting a University of Georgia student outside a bar, in an incident that has gone viral on social media.

A noted white supremacist is taking credit for helping the alleged assailant, Kenneth Leland Morgan, make bail after several days.

The altercation, which took place outside Cutter's Pub in downtown Athens, began after the assailant was allegedly denied entry to the bar and asked to

leave, according to UGA student newspaper Red and Black.

Morgan, who was born in 1992, was then confronted by two women outside of the bar, one of whom was Jewish, and the group got into a "yelling match" over his Nazi uniform, the victim, Grace Lang, told the Red and Black.

Lang, a 23-year-old UGA student, attempted to intervene in the confrontation and reached to rip off Morgan's red swastika armband, after which he hit her in the face with a glass pitcher, according to video of the assault circulating on social media.

"His blatant attempt to instill fear and create outrage in the community was what sparked the issue," Lang told the Red and Black. "I grabbed the armband, not him, to remove a hate symbol. The bar we were at doesn't even have glass pitchers, and I have no clue where he brought it from. I didn't see it in his hand, but he was clearly ready to use it against anyone."

Lang sustained a broken nose and a black eye from the assault and told the Red and Black she received four stitches on her nose bridge in the emergency room.

"We are horrified by the actions of an individual who, while in downtown Athens wearing a Nazi uniform, assaulted a female University of Georgia student. The man is not a student and is not affiliated with the University," the university said in a statement. "Members of UGA's Student Care and Outreach team are in contact with our student who was assaulted in this off-campus incident, as well as other students who witnessed this heinous antisemitic behavior."

Local Jewish leaders denounced the incident. "The Nazi symbol is the symbol of absolute evil. It's the symbol of hate," Rabbi Michoel Refson, co-director of Chabad-UGA, told local media, noting that his grandmother survived Auschwitz. "It's painful, it's upsetting, it's hurtful."

Morgan was later apprehended by police and booked on suspicion of two

misdemeanor counts of simple battery and one felony count of aggravated assault. The Athens-Clarke County Police Department did not immediately respond to an inquiry by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about the incident.

There are signs that Morgan is becoming a cause célèbre for neo-Nazis in the United States. The white supremacist Paul Miller, who gained notoriety for making hate-filled videos while wearing Nazi garb, said on social media that he was working to secure Morgan's release and directed followers to a crowdfunding campaign that he said was from Morgan directly.

"I am in contact with @GasChambers," Miller tweeted last Sunday, referring to an X account that says it has raised money for. "We are going to pay the bail for Kenneth in the next few days he will be free. Gaschamber was very kind and gracious. We just spoke on the phone. We are going to get Kenneth out very soon."

Last Monday morning, Morgan was held in the Clarke County Jail on \$1,500 bond, but by that evening, he had been removed from the jail's online registry of inmates.

Miller said the donation campaign was needed because Morgan had lost his job over the incident. The crowdfunding campaign, on a site that bills itself as a Christian alternative to GoFundMe and is reportedly popular among extremists, has raised more than \$5,000 so far, with donors listed as "White Power," "Joseph Goebbels" and "H3il H1tler."

The incident is not the only recent Nazi controversy to roil the UGA campus. In January, UGA students staged a protest against the reinstatement of a professor in the engineering college, George Raymond Haynie III, who was placed on leave after allegedly hosting a neo-Nazi event on his property.

In April, after the school established an advisory committee on Jewish student life, it was awarded an "A" grade by the Anti-Defamation League for its efforts to combat campus antisemitism. HW

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# Freed Israeli Hostage Says Captors Sexually Abused, Tortured Him

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Recently released Israeli hostage Rom Braslavski has revealed for the first time that he was sexually abused and tortured by his captors in the Gaza Strip.

The 21-year-old was working as a security guard at the Nova music festival in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. He was taken captive and held for over two years before gaining freedom last month along with the other 19 remaining living hostages as part of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

In excerpts of an interview with Israel's Channel 13 News shared with The Daily Mail, Braslavski said that his Palestinian Islamic Jihad captors stripped

him naked and tied him up.

"They stripped me of all my clothes – underwear, everything. They tied me up from my ... while I was completely naked. I was torn apart, dying, with no food," he said.

"I prayed to God, 'Please, save me, get me out of this already.' And you just say to yourself, 'What the f\*\*\*?'"

He continued: "It was sexual violence – and its main purpose was to humiliate me. The goal was to crush my dignity. And that's exactly what he did."

"Yes. It's hard for me to talk about that part specifically. I don't like to talk about it. It's hard. It was the most horrif-

ic thing," he continued.

"It's something even the Nazis didn't do. During Hitler's time, they wouldn't have done things like this. You just pray for it to stop. And while I was there – every day, every beating – I'd say to myself, 'I survived another day in hell. Tomorrow morning, I'll wake up to an-

other hell. And another. And another. It doesn't end."

He added: "I came back from meeting the devil."

His mother, Tami Braslavski, said last month that he was held alone for two years, and was offered better treatment if he agreed to convert to Islam. **HW**

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## Israel, India Sign Defense Pact to Boost Strategic Ties

(JNS) – Israel and India signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to expand defense, industrial and technology cooperation during high-level talks last Tuesday, the Israeli Ministry of Defense announced.

The annual meeting of the bilateral Joint Working Group was led by Israel's Defense Ministry director general, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amir Baram and Indian Defense Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh. As part of the visit, the Indian delegation also met Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz and attended a forum with CEOs of Israeli defense firms focused on strengthening industrial-defense ties.

The agreement, signed by Baram and Singh, aims to deepen collaboration in defense manufacturing, research and technology, officials said.

"This strategic dialogue with India takes place at a critical juncture for both countries. Our strategic partnership is based on deep mutual trust and shared security interests," Baram said. "We view India as a first-rate strategic partner and are determined to continue deepening cooperation in the fields of defense, technology and industry." **HW**



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## Lowenstein Speaker Series Welcomes Dr. Rachel Fish for a Weekend of Learning and Connection

The Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) is honored to welcome Dr. Rachel Fish for two days of learning, conversation, and community connection as part of the Lowenstein Speaker Series sponsored by the Lowenstein Foundation, taking place November 16-17.

The MJCC also extends a heartfelt thank you and appreciation to additional co-sponsors *Facing History and Ourselves* and are thankful that this event is made possible, in part, by a grant from *Memphis Jewish Federation*.

At a time when antisemitism continues to rise across the globe, Dr. Fish brings both deep scholarship and compassionate insight to help our community understand these challenges and face them with strength and clarity.

Dr. Fish is the co-founder of Boundless, a think-action tank that partners with community leaders across North America to strengthen Israel education and combat Jew-hatred. She also serves as Special Advisor to the Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism, Associate Research Professor at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor at The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Fish will lead two public programs for the Memphis community:

• Sunday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. – *Conversation with Jewish High School Students at the MJCC*.

• Monday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. – *“How Worried Should American Jewry Be About Its Future?”* a community-wide discussion exploring the pressures facing North American Jewry and the evolving relationship with Israel in today's cultural climate.

In addition to these public events, Dr. Fish will meet privately with Jewish agency professionals and leaders from the broader Memphis community.

We are grateful to our community partners who have joined in making this important visit possible: *Baron Hirsch Congregation, BBYO, Beth Sholom Synagogue, B'nai Tzedek, Bornblum Jewish Community School, Chabad of Tennessee, CTean of Memphis, Hillels of Memphis, Memphis Jewish Experience, Jewish Student Union, NCSY, Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue, Temple Israel and Young Israel of Memphis*.

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For more information and registration, please visit [www.jccmemphis.org](http://www.jccmemphis.org). Registration is required for all events. **HW**

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# Dividend-Paying Stocks: Pros And Cons

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

A dividend is a portion of a company's profit that's paid to shareholders. That means dividend-paying stocks may provide a source of income. But they can also carry some degree of risk.

So, what do investors need to consider when it comes to dividend-paying stocks? In this Q&A, Austin Pickle, senior wealth investment solutions analyst with Wells Fargo Investment Institute, provides important information for investors to keep in mind.

## 1. What are the potential benefits of dividend-paying stocks?

"One of the big benefits is that these stocks may provide a more reliable income stream compared to some other investment options," Pickle says.

Companies tend to issue dividends on a routine basis, such as quarterly or semi-annually, which may create a dependable income stream. Another benefit? The stocks can yield some favorable tax treatment.

"It's going to depend on your tax situation," Pickle says, "but in general, you may have a relatively lower tax rate for dividends compared to income gained by selling investments." As long as the dividend-paying stock meets IRS requirements for a qualified dividend, the dividend is taxed at the lower long-term capital gains tax rate instead of being taxed as regular capital gains income. "So an investor could receive income from a dividend-paying stock without selling the stock and have a lower tax bill compared to that of a non-dividend-paying stock, which must be sold to receive income," he says.

## 2. Who should include dividend-paying stocks in their portfolio?

Many types of investors have the potential to benefit from dividend-paying stocks. "But these stocks may be more valuable for investors who are a bit older – maybe those in retirement or close to retirement who really value a more reliable income stream," Pickle says. "I think they're typically beneficial from a diversification perspective, especially when interest rates are low. Dividend-paying stocks tend to have an inverse relationship with interest rates: When interest rates go down, you may see some of these dividend-paying stocks perform better."

## 3. What are the risks associated with dividend-paying stocks?

"Firms can reduce or cancel their dividends – especially during times of economic uncertainty and times of crisis," says Pickle. "And there's still the risk that dividends could be cut periodically, even without the trigger of a crisis event. And if tax rates change, it could mean you'd pay more, as well."

## Explore your options with professional advisors

Pickle stresses that investors should discuss the pros and cons of dividend-paying stocks with a financial advisor to help make sure they fill a need within an individual investment portfolio and make sense for a specific financial situation.

"You should also talk to your CPA or tax professional to make sure that you understand what the tax consequences are for your particular situation," he advises.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities. There is no guarantee that dividend-paying stocks will return more than the overall stock market. Dividends are not guaranteed and are subject to change or elimination.

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## Jewish Fire Commissioner of NYC Resigns Day After Mamdani Win

(JNS) – Robert Tucker, who is Jewish, submitted his resignation as New York City fire commissioner "first thing" last Wednesday morning, hours after Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of the city, the New York Post reported.

Sources told the paper that Tucker will step down on Dec. 19 and will go back to running a private security firm that he led prior to joining the Fire Department.

Tucker was sworn in, on his personal

## OBITUARIES



**Melvin Joel "Buddy" Ballin**

Melvin Joel "Buddy" Ballin passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on October 30, 2025, at the age of 91.

He was predeceased by his beloved parents, Rose and Al Ballin, and his sister, Carolyn Weinman. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Jean; children, Barbara and Bruce Newman and Steven and Josie Ballin.

He was "Pop" to his cherished grandchildren, Allison and Louis Kapp, Scott Newman, and Benji, Ellie, and Samantha Ballin and to his two great-granddaughters, Ava and Ruby Kapp, who brought him immense joy.

Buddy was a graduate of Central High School, Memphis State, and served as a navigator in the United States Air Force. He was the longtime owner and operator of Freudberg's women's apparel from 1959 to 1991 and later served as president and chairman emeritus of King Furs & Fine Jewelry, a family business he guided with vision and dedication from 1985 through today.

A devoted community leader, Buddy served as president of the Memphis Jewish Community Center, where his warmth and generosity left a lasting mark. He will be remembered for his kindness, integrity and love of family – a life truly well lived.

Services and burial were held Sunday, November 2, 2025, at Temple Israel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ARTSmemphis, Mid-South Food Bank, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Planned Parenthood of Tennessee or Temple Israel. [HW](#)

Hebrew Bible from his bar mitzvah, as the 35th commissioner of the New York City Fire Department in August.

"News of Tucker's resignation came just as the FDNY boss was set to fly to Israel later last Wednesday to meet with a fire commissioner in the Jewish state," the Post reported. [HW](#)

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## OBITUARIES



**Erma Joy Lewis Cohen**

Erma Joy Lewis Cohen was born in Memphis on November 27, 1933, as the youngest, and much doted upon, child of Lena Sarsar Lewis and Julius Lewis. She is predeceased by her parents, her husband, Sheldon Avern Cohen of Lake Geneva, Wis., her siblings, Bobbie Lewis Brenner (Aaron), Aileen Lewis Sharpe (Harold), and Jack Lewis (Nicole). She is also predeceased by her much beloved son, Brett Lewis Cohen (Elaine). Erma's other children Max Jeffrey Cohen (Ellen), Elizabeth Cohen

(Mark Toubin), and Barry Leland Cohen (Jennifer z'l) will miss her deeply. Erma devoted her life to her immediate and extended family and friends, including her nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews and many dear cousins.

After graduating as Valedictorian from Central High School in Memphis, Erma attended the University of Wisconsin where she met Sheldon, and they soon married. They spent the first years of their 60-year marriage in England where Sheldon was stationed during the Korean War before returning to Memphis to start a family. Erma was an involved mother of four, dedicated to supporting the interests of her children, welcoming their friends into her home, serving as Carpool Queen for every possible activity, leading their youth groups at Temple Israel, teaching Sunday School, and being a comforting and sympathetic ear in every circumstance. Her eight grandchildren, John (Mariyah) and Annie Cohen, Jonathan (Sami Cummins) and Benjamin Cohen, Josie and Ian Toubin, and Ethan and Gabriella Cohen, brought her the greatest joy. She reveled in the simple pleasures of their visits, cooking with them, touring the

Memphis Zoo, eating endless burgers at Huey's, traveling to the Lit Family Farm and reading story books. Each book that Erma chose to read had the accompanying stuffed characters, which she used to act out the stories to the delight of her grandchildren. When a visit to Memphis was scheduled, Erma set to work baking challah, cheese braids, pound cake, cinnamon rolls, refrigerator rolls and endless cookies, especially for Chanukah and Passover. Break the Fast was a regular family event, and Erma outdid herself year after year with her delicious holiday foods, each a special family tradition. Her noodle kugel is legendary.

Erma was similarly devoted to Temple Israel where she served as Youth Group director for longer than anyone can remember and as Sisterhood president from 1988 to 1990. She ran Mitzvah Day at Temple Israel for years, and she coordinated the cooking of countless meals for Temple functions. One recipe in her vast repertoire begins, "Sweet and Sour Meatballs – yield 1400 meatballs." She volunteered with such dedication to Temple Israel in so many capacities that when her children were grown, she joined the administration

there and worked devotedly for many happy years. Temple Israel was Erma's second home.

Erma has left her family and friends with so many memories of a long life well-lived. From her alphabetized pantry, to her precise housekeeping practices, from her pride in those she loved, to her enjoyment of staying current with youth, from her beautifully coordinated outfits (both from her father's store Julius Lewis and from Chico's) and perfectly coiffed hair, to her matching sets of jewelry, Erma was one of the most beloved mothers and grandmothers around. She touched so many lives in the world around her. She was simply joyful. There are generations of Memphians who knew Erma, were practically raised by her, and have wonderful memories to share. Erma was an important part of the lives of so many and will be dearly and truly missed.

Services were held on Friday, November 7, 2025, at Temple Israel Cemetery in the Levy-Cooper Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Erma's memory to Temple Israel, 1376 East Massey Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38120. **HW**



**Brad Magodivtz**

Brad Magodivtz, 66, of Memphis, Tenn., passed away on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at St. Francis Hospital surrounded by family and friends. A one-of-a-kind father, grandfather, brother, uncle, great-uncle and friend, Brad was a devoted member of the Jewish community in Memphis and will be remembered for his wisdom, humor and love of fishing.

Born November 12, 1958, in Memphis to Barbara and Jerome Magdovitz, Brad graduated from Christian Brother's High School and went on to study at the University of Georgia, where he became a lifelong Bulldogs fan (Go Dawgs!). Brad built his career as a certified financial planner with New York Life, but always said his greatest success are his children and grandchildren. Nothing gave him greater joy than seeing his family happy and enjoying life.

More than a congregant at Chabad of Tennessee, he became a part of Rabbi and Rivky Klein's family as well as the entire Chabad community. Brad dedicated himself to Torah study and living Jewishly.

He is survived by his children, Andrew (Marissa) and Dina (Sean); his grandchildren, Rocky and Barrett; his sister, Sharon Davis; his nephew, Austin Davis (Arash); his nieces, Meredith Poppel (Elliott) and Logan Davis; and his great-nephew, Heath Jordan Poppel. Brad will be remembered by family, friends and the Jewish community for his love of good conversation, practical jokes and lots of laughter. May his memory always be a blessing.

The funeral was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at Chabad of Tennessee.

Donations can be made to Chabad of Tennessee, Bornblum Jewish Community School or Margolin Hebrew Academy. **HW**

### Maxine Molasky

Maxine Molasky, a beloved wife, mother, sister and friend, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

She was the devoted and loving wife of nearly 54 years to her high school sweetheart, Bobby Molasky, and the cherished mother of Aaron Molasky (Danielle), Rachel Cacciola (Ron) and Ben Molasky (Whitney). Maxine was the proud grandmother of Micah, Melia, Ellasyn, Asher and Maddox, and step-grandmother to Kenneth, Kendrick and Tatyana.

Maxine spent her life caring for those she loved, giving endlessly and selflessly of herself to provide comfort, happiness and opportunity to her family. She created a home filled with warmth, laughter and kindness. After many dedicated years, she retired from her position at the MUS Library, where she was admired for her hard work and kind spirit. Throughout her adult life, she traveled often and loved exploring new places, especially cruising and vacationing with her family.

She will be remembered for her devotion, generosity and the love she so freely gave to family and friends. Maxine's legacy of compassion, warmth and unwavering care will continue to live on through the lives she touched and the family she so dearly loved.

Services were held at Beth Shalom Cemetery on Monday November 3, 2025. **HW**

## Israel Meteorological Service Logs Hottest-Ever November Night in Jerusalem

(JNS) – Jerusalem last Tuesday experienced its warmest November night since the Israel Meteorological Service began keeping records in 1950, Hebrew media reported last Wednesday morning.

The minimum temperature recorded overnight was 23.2 degrees Celsius (73.8 degrees Fahrenheit), according to Israel's Channel 12 News.

The previous overnight minimum record, 22.1 degrees Celsius (71.8 degrees Fahrenheit), was set in 2012.

Last Monday, the 75-year-old daytime temperature record for Jerusalem was broken when the Israel Meteorological

Service recorded a high of 31.8 degrees Celsius (89.2 degrees Fahrenheit) at the city's station.

The Meteorological Service added that the trend was expected to continue through Thursday and Friday, with the potential for more records to be broken.

Meanwhile, rainfall remains absent across much of the Jewish state, with dryness persisting since the start of the rainy season on Oct. 1.

In August, two Israelis died during a record-breaking heat wave that saw highs of approximately 49 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) from the country's north to south. **HW**

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# Tucker Carlson Hosts Nick Fuentes for a Friendly Conversation About 'These Zionist Jews'



**Nick Fuentes sits down for an interview with Tucker Carlson, Oct. 28, 2025. (Screenshot)**

**By Andrew Lapin**

October 29, 2025 (JTA) – Tucker Carlson wanted to know: What does Nick Fuentes actually believe?

"Everybody's going to be like, 'You're a Nazi, you just like Fuentes,'" the former Fox News personality mused on his show [on Oct. 28]. "But then I'm like, 'I don't think Fuentes is going away. Ben Shapiro tried to strangle him in the crib in college, and now he's bigger than ever.'"

So Carlson invited the avowed antisemite and white nationalist livesreamer onto his online talk show. There, the two had a friendly conversation about the Jews, and whether it was right to blame them for everything.

And Fuentes, whose own platform has only grown in the wake of the assassination of conservative archrival Charlie Kirk, made clear what he believes. Asked who in the conservative movement needed to be taken down, he responded, "These Zionist Jews."

The sit-down, which had been rumored for weeks, carries implications for the growing popularity of antisemitism and anti-Israel voices on the right. Both men have followings in the millions, and Carlson has maintained close ties in President Donald Trump's orbit even as he has become a vociferous critic of Israel and helped platform Holocaust revisionists.

Fuentes, meanwhile, has launched a far-right attack on mainstream conservatives using antisemitism as his chief plank – an ideology that an increasing number of young conservative operatives are also embracing. On YouTube, the top comments under the two-hour episode were rife with antisemitic memes.

Even as he signaled broad alignment with Fuentes's views on Israel, Carlson gently sought to distinguish himself from his guest's more overt antisemitism.

"I'm not that interested in 'the Jews,' but I am very interested in the foreign policy question," Carlson said at one point, bringing up his fingers for air

## Kevin Roberts Admits 'Mistake' But Says Not Stepping Down at Fiery Heritage All-Staff Meeting

**By Andrew Bernard**

(JNS) – Kevin Roberts, president of the Heritage Foundation, told the conservative think tank's staff last Wednesday morning that he would not resign amid fallout from a video he released in which he defended Tucker Carlson's interview with Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes.

JNS obtained a recording of the confidential, in-house meeting, in which Roberts conceded that he had "made a mistake" backing Carlson in the social media video that he posted on Thursday.

"I didn't know much about this Fuentes guy. I still don't, which underscores the mistake," Roberts said. "I realized in prayer and in conversations with a lot of friends and colleagues that, in fact, if I made the mess, my moral obligation is to clean it."

Roberts also apologized for referring to Carlson's critics as a "venomous coalition," which he called a "terrible choice of words" and for which he apologized, recognizing that many Jews could interpret the phrase as an antisem

quotes. Later, he told Fuentes, "The second you're like, 'Well, actually, it's the Jews,' first of all, it's against my Christian faith. Like, I just don't believe that, and I never will. Period. And second, then it becomes a way to discredit. That's when I was like, 'This guy's a fed.'"

In response, the young man who opens his "America First" online shows with animated depictions of Jewish conspiracies outlined his own core belief: that "neoconservatism," an ideology he opposes, is Jewish in nature because it prioritizes allegiance to Israel over traditional conservative principles.

"As far as the Jews are concerned, you cannot actually divorce Israel and the neocons and all those things that you talk about from Jewishness: ethnicity, religion, identity," Fuentes told Carlson. While some Jews do oppose Israel, he acknowledged, among his enemies in conservatism, "I see Jewishness as the common denominator."

Fuentes continued, "They're a stateless people. They're unassimilable. They resist assimilation for thousands of years. And I think that's a good thing. And now they have this territory in Israel. There's a deep religious affection for the state. It's bound up in their identity." Modern neoconservatism, he said, stemmed from "Jewish leftists who were mugged by reality when they saw the surprise attack in the Yom Kippur War."

Fuentes insisted he doesn't hate all Jews: "Not to be that guy and say that thing, but my best friend is a Jewish person," he said, also claiming his "assistant" is Jewish (it was unclear if he was referring to the same person). He then went on to blend his understanding of Jewish American anxieties, some of which have been articulated by leading Jewish communal figures, with the dual-loyalty trope.

"If you are a Jewish person in America, it's sort of rational self-interest, politically, to say, 'I am a minority. I am a religious, ethnic minority. This is not really my home. My ancestral home is in Israel,'" Fuentes said. "They have this international community across borders, extremely organized, that is putting the interests of themselves before the interests of their home country."

Even beyond Israel, Fuentes also sought to paint Judaism as incompatible with the European tradition to which America's modern right aspires. "They hate the Romans because the Romans

mitic trope.

During a question-and-answer session that lasted more than an hour, two staff members told Roberts that they no longer had confidence in his leadership. Others expressed doubts that Heritage could repair its reputation without a clear denunciation of Carlson.

Amy Swearer, a senior legal fellow at Heritage, told Roberts that many of her colleagues believed that he should resign but are afraid to say so.

"Dr. Roberts, over the last week, you have shown a stunning lack of both courage and judgment," Swearer said. "There's nothing ambiguous about what we saw happen. Tucker Carlson invited a Holocaust-denying neo-Nazi onto his show and then spent roughly two hours doing little more than flirting with him."

Roberts also had many supporters among those who asked questions in the panel session, including those who supported his original video and were opposed to steps that the foundation had proposed to foster better understanding

destroyed the Temple," he said. "We don't think that, as Americans and white people."

To hear Fuentes tell it, his radicalization was a story of first being taken in by, before later rebelling against, influential Jewish conservatives. Israel was his breaking point, he insisted.

Ben Shapiro, Mark Levin and Dennis Prager were his right-wing heroes in high school, Fuentes said; he would parrot Shapiro talking points in debates and was a member of a Facebook group for young fans of PragerU. As a college freshman in 2017 he fell into the orbit of The Daily Wire, Shapiro's media company, after a debate against his school's progressive student body president went viral. Fuentes would soon drop out of college to pursue conservative media full-time.

Quickly, Fuentes claimed, he became suspicious of Shapiro's pro-Israel views. When a staffer asked him if he had any interest in traveling to Israel, he responded, "No, I think I have everything I need right here in America.... And that was a little bit of foreshadowing."

Later, he said, he would challenge Daily Wire staff: "I would say, 'So, why do we give Israel all this money?'" he recalled. "They would say, 'You're asking it in an antisemitic way.'"

But Fuentes, in his recollection, "was genuinely inquisitive. I wanted to know. Is there an actual reason?... There's a lot of these neocon Jewish types behind the Iraq War." The Daily Wire's rejection of his questions on Israel, he said, spurred his shunning across the broader mainstream conservative movement and led to him going independent with his preaching of more insidious forms of Jewish control.

Comparing himself to Shapiro, Fuentes reflected, "I didn't come from some strange background. I come from a normal home. My parents are Catholic." (In recent weeks, Shapiro and some other voices on the right have warned of a rise in antisemitic conspiracies among their ranks.)

Even as Fuentes became a Trump loyalist in the run-up to the 2016 election, he said, he broke with conservatives by supporting President Barack Obama's decision to abstain from, rather than back, a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

"Fox News and all the pro-Israel conservatives are calling him an antisemite.

between Christians and Jews.

"A handful of young colleagues and I had no issue with the points you made in the original video," one unidentified female staffer said. "Gen Z has an increased unfavorable view of Israel, and it's not because millions of Americans are antisemitic. It's because we are Catholic and Orthodox and believe that Christian Zionism is a modern heresy."

Evan Myers, an adviser to Roberts's office, said that he feared that the "demand" for interns and junior staff to attend Shabbat dinners would violate his Christian faith.

"For many Christians, Friday is a special day of prayer and abstinence to commemorate the death of Christ," Myers said. "I assume that no staff will be required to attend the Shabbat dinners, but my concern is that these dinners will serve as a sort of informal litmus test."

Victoria Coates, a vice president and Heritage co-chair of its National Task Force to Combat Antisemitism, said that attending Shabbat dinners was a recom

They're saying, 'He hates Jews! He's an antisemite! He hates Israel!'" Fuentes recalled. "It seemed hypocritical. It seemed like how, when conservatives would critique anything about race, we got called racist. Or anything about feminism, we got called sexist. All Obama did was uphold U.S. policy on the West Bank that we've had since '67, which is, we don't support the settlements. I said, how is it antisemitic to just be consistent on our U.S. foreign policy?"

On Israel, Carlson said, they agreed.

"I always thought it's great to criticize and question our relationship with Israel because it's insane and it hurts us," Carlson told him. "We get nothing out of it. I completely agree with you there." He also blasted Christian Zionists on the right he used to support, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, whom he said have been "seized by this brain virus."

Later discussing the war in Gaza, Carlson added, "One of the reasons I'm mad about Gaza is because the Israeli position is, everyone who lives in Gaza is a terrorist because of how they were born, including the women and the children. That's not a Western view. That's an Eastern view. That's non-Christian. That's totally incompatible with Christianity and Western civilization. They say, 'Oh, we're the defenders of Western civilization.' Not with that attitude, you're not."

The two did agree on some Jews they both respect, including Glenn Greenwald, an iconoclastic Israel critic formerly on the left who himself hosted Fuentes recently on his own podcast, and Paul the Apostle.

Elsewhere, the men discussed whom Fuentes wants to see be president next (he picked Ye, the superstar rapper who has embraced Nazism) and his 2022 dinner at Mar-a-Lago with Ye and Trump, where Fuentes said the once and future president said, "This guy's hardcore. I like this guy." (Trump has since claimed he didn't know who Fuentes was when they dined together.)

When asked to share his unfettered core beliefs with Carlson, Fuentes obliged, painting a vision of a future America that Jews did not have the right to inherit.

"We do need to be right-wing. We do need to be Christian. We do, on some level, need to be pro-white," he said. "Not to the exclusion of everybody else but recognizing that white people have a special heritage here, as Americans." HW

## Kevin Roberts Admits 'Mistake' But Says Not Stepping Down at Fiery Heritage All-Staff Meeting

mendation and describing that as a "demand" is a "gross mischaracterization." She added that she took "some offense" at the description.

"It was made in generosity of spirit and in the hopes of increased dialog on this issue," Coates said. "Evan, I'm deeply sorry that you could not see that as a generous offer, but rather a personal attack on you. It was not."

Roberts and other Heritage senior staff said that there would be no "retaliation" for staffers who had spoken candidly in the meeting, even as much of the meeting was devoted to decrying leaks to the media from within the organization.

"Journalists you're going to be leaking to will know you're a low form of humanity," Mike Gonzalez, a senior fellow at Heritage said. "If you speak to a journalist about this, you are probably not going to be found out, but you will know in your heart you're a Judas, and the journalist will know who you are." HW



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