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# Hebrew CELEBRATING 1925-2025 Watchman 100 YEARS

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## Finding Allies & Common Ground: Partnerships Power the Unknown Child Foundation



A group of students tour the Unknown Child Exhibit at the DeSoto County Museum in Hernando, Mississippi.

By Shoshana Cenker

Many Jews grow up learning how to show up for one another, through chesed, tzedakah, and tikkun olam. Even so, for those in smaller communities, like the Mid-South, we're often "the only Jew in the room," in schools or offices. Leah Fox-Greenberg, new executive director of the Unknown Child Foundation (UCF), has been there. But from her perspective, rather than isolating, it was formative. "It taught me early that being

different doesn't have to divide us," she explained, "it can be the very thing that brings us closer."

That lesson is at the heart of the Unknown Child Foundation, an incredible organization in Mississippi dedicated to honoring the 1.5 million children murdered in the Holocaust and ensuring their stories are remembered and carried forward. While UCF's mission may be rooted in Jewish history, its strength



The exhibit includes 35,000 pennies collected through Pennies Project, where non-Jewish students in Mississippi collected 1.5 million pennies - one for each child murdered in the Holocaust.

comes from something bigger: partnership. "We cannot do this work alone," Leah added. "Keeping memory and voices alive requires allies."

When Leah recently stepped into her role supporting the Unknown Child Foundation, it felt familiar. "I grew up watching my father, Andy Fox (OBM), model this exact kind of work," she shared. "Long before 'interfaith collaboration' became a buzzword, he was

building relationships as the director of Catholic Charities, partnering with Bishop Dozier, and showing me that meaningful change rarely happens in a closed circle."

That same principle guides UCF today. It wasn't founded by Jews, but by Christians who felt called to ensure the youngest victims of the Holocaust are

(See Exhibit Page 2)

## JCC & Temple Israel Partner to Elevate Performing Arts in Jewish Memphis



**TIMPO Musicians.**

On Sunday, November 9 performers from The Theatre Conservatory at the Memphis Jewish Community Center and Temple Israel Music Programming and Outreach (TIMPO) gathered with Conservatory Artistic Director Jonathan McCarter and TIMPO Director Emily Groff Heilborn to showcase the

talent of performing artists in Jewish Memphis and discuss ways to continue to elevate and promote this important community.

This Demo Day and Information Session occurred in the Danzinger Chapel at Temple Israel. If you were not able to make this session there is another ses-



**MJCC Theatre Singers.**

sion scheduled for Thursday, December 11, at 7 p.m., in the Belz Theater at the JCC.

Both The Theatre Conservatory @ the J and TIMPO are excited to be starting this partnership to seek opportunities to elevate the Performing Arts in Jewish Memphis and hope you will join them

for their next upcoming Demo Day and Information Session.

For additional information please reach out to Conservatory Artistic Director Jonathan McCarter at [jmccarter@jccmemphis.org](mailto:jmccarter@jccmemphis.org) or TIMPO Director Emily Groff Heilborn at [emilyh@timemphis.org](mailto:emilyh@timemphis.org). **HW**

**Exhibit...**

(Continued From Page 1)

not forgotten. Their tremendous dedication and partnership with the Jewish community is shaping UCF's next chapter. "UCF was never meant to be insular," Leah noted. "Its mission has always been outward-facing, connecting across faiths, communities, and divides."

"The focus of Unknown Child Foundation is the 1.5 million murdered Jewish children of the Holocaust. It does seem a strange project for an all-Christian board to adopt, which we were initially. Knowing now that we are into our 16th year, are any of us looking back with regrets? NO!" shared Diane McNeil, president, UCF Board of Directors. "There's teachers Susan Powell and Melissa Swartz Wheeler, who spearheaded the Pennies Project and brought in survivors Jack Cohen and Paula Kelman to speak to Horn Lake Middle School students. There are home school students who've been raising funds for 15 years, telling the world about Jewish children murdered in the Holocaust. And Rob Long, DeSoto County Museum executive director, who wanted the Unknown Child Exhibit at the Museum and even created a "Jewish Room" to share stories of local Mississippi Jews and their influence on Mississippi and beyond. Joy Lucius visited the Museum and wrote a book about two sisters murdered in the Holocaust, never dreaming her visit would have such an impact. These are brief snippets of the rewards of Jews and Christians working together on a cause that should matter to the whole world. I believe we all agree that partnering and collaborating with others different than ourselves has enriched all our lives, and hopefully, when the Memorial is a reality, we will see the world a better place. What an honor for so many who are already part of this."

Sadly, Holocaust education is slipping. "Many Jewish kids today don't receive in-depth Holocaust education, and many non-Jewish kids never hear about it beyond a paragraph in a textbook, if that," shared Leah. "We're losing institutional knowledge. That's where Unknown Child steps in."

The Foundation works directly with schools, providing teachers with lesson plans, videos, and educational material created with guidance from Yad Vashem. Its name-search database lets users look up children's names who perished and offers their story. "We're making sure people understand the importance of every child's story," Leah said, "and that the way they were silenced matters."

Turning this critical education into something tangible is what sparked

the UCF, through the Pennies Project: non-Jewish students in Mississippi, many in home school programs, collected 1.5 million pennies — one for each child murdered. Now, 35,000 of those pennies are displayed in a remarkable exhibit at the DeSoto County Museum. The remainder of the pennies are in storage, waiting for a permanent memorial park and museum to be built.

Unknown Child is securing land on which to build the memorial at Circle G Ranch in Southaven, once Elvis Presley's serene getaway. Priscilla Presley is involved. "The stunning memorial plans can be seen at the DeSoto County Museum," Lead said, "and our website, [unknownchild.org](http://unknownchild.org)."

The Unknown Child Foundation — neither a religious nor political org — is determined to bring awareness, not by talking down to people, but by listening. By showing up. By building relationships. By collaboration. That's how hearts and mindsets shift, even with the rise of antisemitism.

"To accomplish UCF's pursuit of making sure we never forget the 1.5 million children who perished and couldn't live out the hopes and dreams for their future, it's essential that our organization collaborate with not only individuals who believe in our cause but also with other organizations who can join with us in remembering and honoring these precious and never-to-be-forgotten children," noted Peter Felsenhal, UCF board member. "Whether it's collaborating and partnering with us on educational projects, generating funds to support our educational efforts and the establishment of a permanent memorial, reflection, and educational center, or simply to provide guidance and moral support, it's imperative that we solicit and encourage others to join with us. Not doing so would be a great disservice to the innocent young children of the Holocaust whose lives were tragically and viciously ended."

There are many ways to help: visit [unknownchild.org](http://unknownchild.org) and the Museum; search a child's name and learn their story; share with friends of all faiths; explore volunteer opportunities with UCF; donate. UCF is participating in Giving Tuesday for the first time this year, with "generous donors offering to match gifts through December," explained Leah. "That match is up to \$4,000, but we expect it to increase as high as \$10,000. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 from Giving Tuesday through December 31."

Readers are also cordially invited to attend the Unknown Child Foundation's open house on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2 -

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11/27/2025



## Memphis Candlelighting Time

**Erev Shabbat, Fri. Nov. 28, 2025 / 8 Kislev, 5786.....4:30 p.m.**  
**Havdalah, Sat. Nov. 29, 2025 / 9 Kislev, 5786 ..... 5:29 p.m.**

**Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeitzei**

4 p.m. at the DeSoto County Museum in Hernando, Mississippi.

"The Unknown Child Foundation is doing sacred work, but not solitary work," Leah reminds us. "And that's exactly the point. When we work together, when we truly listen, when we reach across differences with humility and hope, we don't just honor the children of the Holocaust — we build a future worthy of them." **HW**

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Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

Monday, Dec. 1

Speaker: Tim Flesner

Topic: Fall Prevention Techniques

Falling is the leading cause of seniors going to the hospital, which sometimes leads to other serious problems. Mr. Flesner runs a home health company and is very familiar with dangers that falling poses to seniors. He has given many excellent talks to the seniors this year. Please come hear this excellent speaker on a very important topic.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

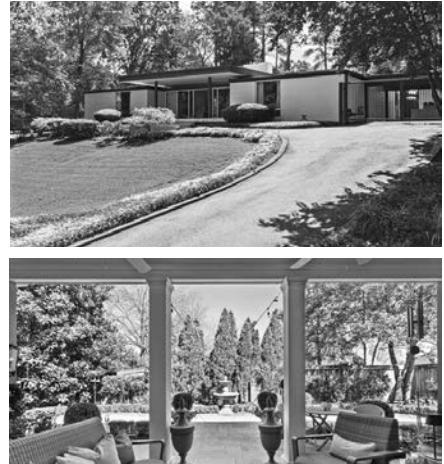
Field Trip to Baron Hirsch Synagogue for their Last Monthly Senior Luncheon of the year

The food, provided by their terrific group of cooks, is always excellent! They always have great entertainment provided by Creative Aging! Join us for a nice lunch. If you need to use the MJCC Senior bus, please call the front desk at 901-761-0810. The cost for the bus is \$2, and lunch is paid at Baron Hirsch for \$5. All reservations should be called in to Baron Hirsch 901-683-7485.

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

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In 2024, Fogelman JFS collected 4,006 items for our Peggy E. & L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Food and Baby Pantry during the annual food drive! That is ALL from community donations. Get involved and help us reach our goal this year as we begin our annual food drive from Thanksgiving to New Years. We are able to provide this service because of generous community donations.

Items needed include pasta and rice, tuna fish, juice, peanut butter,

**Graffiti During Mexican Protests Against Claudia Sheinbaum's Government Calls Out 'Jewish Whore'**

**By Philissa Cramer**

(JTA) – Mexico's Jewish community has condemned antisemitic graffiti apparently directed toward the country's Jewish president during an anti-government protest last Saturday.

The graffiti painted on the door of the Supreme Court building said "puta judia" or "Jewish whore," in what has been widely interpreted as a reference to Claudia Sheinbaum. It also included a crossed-out Star of David.

The graffiti was painted during a youth-led protest that responds to rising

canned fruits and vegetables, full-sized hygiene items, size 4/5 diapers, cereals and snacks. Please make sure all items are certified kosher.

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Margolin Hebrew Academy

To learn more about Fogelman Jewish Family Service programs, please call 901-767-8511. HW

violence, crime and corruption, particularly by drug cartels. Dozens of people were reportedly arrested and injured in last Saturday's protests.

"The Jewish Community of Mexico strongly condemns the antisemitic remarks and expressions" during the march, the community said in a statement last Sunday. "Antisemitism is a form of discrimination according to our constitution and must be rejected clearly and unequivocally."

Sheinbaum, elected last year, is Mexico's first Jewish president. She has not made her Jewish identity a part of her public persona and is not a regular participant in the country's tight-knit Jewish communities.

Israel's foreign minister, Gideon Saar, also condemned the graffiti. "Israel strongly condemns the antisemitic and sexist slurs directed at Mexico's President @Claudiashein," he tweeted while sharing a picture from the protests. "There is no place for such attacks in political discourse. All forms of antisemitism, in any context, must be rejected unequivocally."

Some of Sheinbaum's detractors have previously invoked her Jewish background, including former President Vicente Fox, who called her a "Bulgarian Jew" in an apparent attempt to minimize her candidacy. He apologized, but made a similar comment after Sheinbaum briefly donned a rosary with a crucifix after being given one during a campaign stop. "JEWISH AND FOREIGN AT THE SAME TIME," Fox tweeted. Sheinbaum produced her birth certificate multiple times to dispel rumors that she was born in Bulgaria. HW

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# Estate Planning

## The Price of Neglecting an Estate Plan: Familial Strife

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

The old saying that “everything changes once money is involved” proves itself true time and time again—especially when a loved one becomes incapacitated or passes away without a clear estate plan. In these moments, emotions run high, grief clouds judgment, and even the closest families can find themselves in heated disputes over finances, property, and decision-making authority. Sadly, these conflicts are not rare. They often arise simply because the individual who passed away—or who can no longer make decisions—failed to establish a coherent plan. The consequences can be devastating for the family left behind.



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### The Aftermath of Losing a Loved One

When someone dies without a comprehensive estate plan, confusion and conflict often follow. Spouses, children, siblings, and even grandchildren may assert competing claims about what

“mom wanted” or what “dad promised.” Statements such as “Dad told me I was getting the car” or “He said you were left out of the will” become impossible to prove and fuel resentment. Without written instructions, the family is thrust into uncertainty.

In these situations, state intestacy laws determine how assets are distributed. As a result, beneficiaries can become entangled in lengthy legal battles over the rightful distribution of the estate. What should be a time of unity and healing instead becomes a breeding ground for animosity and mistrust.

The absence of a clear estate plan leaves room for interpretation, misunderstanding, and speculation. Greed, jealousy, and long-standing family tensions can escalate, especially in the emotionally charged period following a death. Family members may feel overlooked, unappreciated, or unfairly treated, leading to resentments that can last for decades. A well-crafted estate plan does more than distribute assets—it communicates care, clarity, and intention. When that plan is missing, emotional wounds can linger long after the legal matters are resolved.

### Disputes During Incapacity

Estate plans are not only designed for end-of-life matters. They also play a critical role when an individual becomes incapacitated and can no longer make

medical or financial decisions. Without a plan identifying who should serve as guardian, conservator, or agent under a power of attorney, families may find themselves battling over who should take charge.

These disputes are often deeply personal and can fracture family relationships. Siblings may disagree over what their parent would have wanted, who is best suited to manage care, or how finances should be used. When no clear decision-maker is named, courts may need to intervene—adding stress, delay, and expense to an already difficult situation.

### The Simple Solution: Planning Ahead

Fortunately, these problems are largely preventable. Spending just a few hours to establish a comprehensive estate plan can spare a family from conflict and confusion during some of life’s most challenging moments. A thoughtful plan ensures that a person’s wishes are honored, assets are distributed as intended, and decision-makers are clearly identified.

Far from being a mere legal formality, a well-crafted estate plan can bring families together, providing clarity, comfort, and peace during times of grief. By planning ahead, individuals and couples can protect both their legacy and the harmony of the family they leave behind. **HW**

## Trump Welcomes Freed Israeli Hostages, Praises Them as Heroes



**U.S. President Donald Trump addresses released hostages and their families at the White House, Nov. 20, 2025. Credit: The White House/X.**

**By Steve Linde**

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump warmly welcomed a delegation of former hostages and family members to the White House last Thursday. In a message shared by the White House, he told them: “You’re not a hostage anymore ... today you’re heroes.”

The delegation consisted of 26 former hostages, including 17 of the 20 living captives who were released in the Gaza ceasefire deal that Trump brokered in October.

Trump handed each member of the delegation a special presidential coin. In his remarks to all the hostages, he said, “It’s an honor to get to know all of you. I know some of you already. I know some of the previous hostages that we got out very well. We love you all, and our country loves you all ... You’re amazing people.”

Trump addressed captivity survivor Matan Angrest directly. “Because of his service in the IDF, Matan was subjected to severe beatings, even at times losing consciousness. Alone and under special guard, he went through hell,” the president said. “Matan never broke, and today he’s a living testimony to the

toughness, heart and faith of the Jewish people. I’m telling you, you’re a great inspiration to everybody.”

Members of the group, supported by the Bring Them Home Now campaign, stressed that their mission would continue until the remains of the last captive were returned home to Israel for burial.

“The fight isn’t over ... This won’t be over until everyone comes home,” the group posted on X.

Three bodies remain in Hamas custody, those of Israel Police Sgt. Maj. Ran Gvili and Dror Or, and Thai citizen Sudthisak Rinthalak, who was working in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

During the meeting, former hostages Gali and Ziv Berman presented Trump with a mezuzah recovered from the remains of their family home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, where they were abducted on Oct. 7, 2023. They included a letter thanking Trump for his successful efforts to secure hostage releases.

Trump has met with hostage families several times since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack, saying repeatedly that bringing all remaining hostages back is a top priority. **HW**

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## IAF Kills Five Terrorists Who Emerged from Underground in Rafah

(JTA) – The Israeli Air Force last Friday killed five Palestinian terrorists who emerged from underground infrastructure in Rafah, east of the Yellow Line.

The cell advanced toward IDF troops operating in southern Gaza, “posing an immediate threat to them,” the army said.

The Air Force subsequently struck and killed the terrorists.

“IDF troops in the Southern Command remain deployed in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and will continue to operate to remove any immediate threat,” the military added.

The Yellow Line demarcates the areas of Gaza under Israeli military control per the terms of last month’s U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Jerusalem and the Hamas terrorist organization.

Infantrymen from the IDF’s Kfir Brigade discovered an eight-tube rocket launcher loaded with four rockets and aimed toward Israeli territory during operations near the Yellow Line area in Gaza, the military said last Thursday.

The troops located the launcher during area-clearing activities conducted in accordance with the ceasefire agreement.

In a separate operation, brigade forces uncovered additional weapons including Kalashnikov rifles, fragmentation grenades, explosives, ammunition magazines and military uniforms, the military said.

The Kfir Brigade has been tasked with defending the Yellow Line area and dismantling infrastructure used by terrorist organizations to attack Israeli soldiers and civilians, according to the statement.

Hamas has consistently violated the truce since it went into effect on Oct. 10, including several terrorists firing on Israeli troops in the Khan Yunis area last Wednesday, prompting Israeli retaliatory strikes in Gaza.

The IDF eliminated two Palestinian terrorists last Tuesday after they breached the ceasefire line by attempting to cross into IDF-controlled territory in the Strip.

IDF reports Hamas infrastructure in Gaza’s Beit Hanoun

The IDF last Thursday released an animated intelligence briefing detailing what it described as extensive Hamas terror infrastructure in Beit Hanoun, a city in the northeastern Gaza Strip.

The army demonstrated, using Hamas’s own captured video and IDF documentation, how the area contained a tunnel network beneath civilian homes, along with thousands of above-ground structures used for weapons storage, firing positions and command centers.

It also showed armed terrorists operating from an elementary school that had a tunnel shaft beneath it.

Troops “neutralized terrorist infrastructure” that posed a threat to Israeli civilians, the IDF said. **HW**

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# U.S. Citizen Long Detained in Saudi Arabia Returning Home to Florida

(JNS) – Saad Almadi, 75, a dual U.S.-Saudi citizen detained in Saudi Arabia since 2021, is on his way back to Florida, coinciding with U.S. President Donald Trump's White House meetings with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Almadi, a naturalized U.S. citizen who moved to the United States in 1976, had traveled to Saudi Arabia to visit family and manage personal property. Upon arriving in Riyadh, he was detained and questioned about social media posts he had made from his home in Boca Raton that were critical of the Saudi government.

One of the posts in question included Almadi's support of renaming a street in Washington, D.C., in memory of Jamal Khashoggi, the Washington Post journalist who was brutally murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2018. Bin Salman's reported involvement in Khashoggi's murder pushed him into pariah status for years.

While Almadi initially received a 19-year prison sentence, he was freed in 2023 but remained under a travel ban.

Almadi's family confirmed on Nov. 19 that he was "airborne from Riyadh" moments after Trump and the Saudi crown prince appeared together on stage at an investment forum in Washington.

"This day would not have been possible without President Donald Trump and the tireless efforts of his administration," the family wrote. "We hope

the support and care we received will continue for those still held hostage in Saudi Arabia and in other parts of the world." **HW**

**Dr. Matthew Breit  
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# Are You Prepared to Handle a Personal Financial Crisis?

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

Individuals who are married or in a committed relationship face the possibility they'll end up managing complicated finances alone at some point. Unfortunately, the first time many experience this is during a personal crisis following divorce or a spouse's or partner's death.

Here's a list of thought-provoking questions pertaining to financial fitness and crisis preparedness. Use them as a starting point to check on how prepared you are to handle a personal financial crisis. Begin by reviewing the questions, determine what you've already done, and check those items off the list. For the questions you need to address or take action on, seek the advice of professional advisors and trusted family members.

## Asset management

- Do I have a clear picture of where my assets are located?
- Will my retirement assets provide a comfortable retirement for my life expectancy?
- Do I have a well-diversified portfolio?
- Are my investments appropriate in today's economy?
- Are my assets titled properly?
- Do I have an emergency fund?
- Am I taking advantage of techniques to help reduce my taxes?

## Estate planning strategies

- Do I have a will?
- Is my will current?
- Have I determined what my family may owe in estate taxes?
- Have I funded my estate-tax liability?
- Have I explored and taken advantage of wealth-transfer techniques?
- Do I wish to provide for charitable giving?
- Are my power of attorney, living will, and beneficiary designations up-to-date?

## Debt management

- Do I know my credit rating?
- Could I get a loan if I applied?

## Insurance

- Do I have enough insurance coverage to:
  - Cover medical expenses?
  - Provide for disability/long-term care?
  - Provide for family members' security?
  - Fund an estate-tax liability?

## In addition ...

- Have I coordinated my advisors' (attorney, CPA, banker) activities?
  - What changes in my life are likely to occur within the next three years?
  - Do I know the status of my parents'/ children's financial situation and the implications for my financial well-being?
  - Would I be prepared for a family

emergency if it happened tomorrow?

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# Florida Man Arrested for Allegedly Using Hamas Symbol in Tiktok Threats

(JNS) – Federal prosecutors in Maryland unsealed an indictment on Nov. 19, accusing Arsham Rashidi Dizajgan, 27, of Gainesville, Fla., of allegedly sending six online threats that targeted Americans using symbols associated with the Hamas terror organization.

While living in Maryland from late 2024 until March 2025, Dizajgan allegedly used TikTok to post images and videos of U.S. citizens marked with upside-down red triangles—an icon that Hamas uses to single out targets—accompanied by threatening remarks, per the indictment.

Prosecutors say that he also posted content vilifying Americans and non-Muslims and praising violence.

"When an individual uses social media to issue violent threats and signals support for a foreign terrorist organization, the FBI will hold that individual accountable," said Jason Carley, special agent in charge of the FBI Jacksonville field office.

"We take these threats seriously and will move quickly to ensure online rhetoric does not turn into real-world harm," Carley said.

Agents tracked Dizajgan to Florida, where he was arrested last Wednesday. FBI officials said the investigation leaned on rapid coordination across Baltimore and Jacksonville field offices, in addition to local police. [HW](#)

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# IDF Uncovers 'Complex' 4.3-Mile Hamas Tunnel Network in Gaza's South



A Hamas terrorist tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip, Nov. 20, 2025. Credit: Israel Defense Forces.

(JTA) — The Israel Defense Forces said last Thursday it had uncovered one of the largest and most complex Hamas tunnel networks found so far in Gaza, a route stretching more than 4.3 miles and descending roughly 82 feet.

The underground route, which the military said ran under "a densely populated Rafah neighborhood and through an UNRWA compound, mosques, clinics, kindergartens and schools," included 80 hideouts.

In addition to being employed by senior Hamas terrorists to store weapons and plan attacks during extended stays, the network was used to hide the remains of slain IDF Lt. Hadar Goldin for 4,000-plus days.

Hamas terrorists killed Goldin in Shejaiya, Gaza City, on Aug. 1, 2014, hours after a ceasefire took effect in that year's war ("Operation Protective Edge") between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group. His body was returned on Nov. 9, 2025, as part of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal.

Defense Minister Israel Katz tweeted last Thursday, "This is the tunnel where Lt. Hadar Goldin was held. More than 8 kilometers and 80 (!) bedrooms.

"We must destroy the underground terror city that Hamas built in Gaza. The IDF is working non-stop to carry out the mission," continued Katz, who added, "Until the last tunnel."

Katz said on Oct. 12 that he had instructed the military to prepare for the destruction of Hamas's entire tunnel infrastructure as part of U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to disarm the terrorist group.

"The major challenge for Israel after the [first] stage of returning the hostages will be the destruction of all of Hamas's terror tunnels in Gaza, both directly by the IDF and through the international mechanism that will be established under U.S. leadership and oversight," Katz tweeted.

"This is the primary meaning of implementing the agreed principle of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip and disarming Hamas," wrote the defense minister. "I have instructed the IDF to prepare to carry out the mission."

On Nov. 11, hours after Goldin's funeral at the Kfar Saba Military Cemetery, the IDF announced it had destroyed the tunnel into which the Givati Brigade officer's remains were taken in 2014.

Over the weekend, Israeli forces destroyed another Hamas tunnel that terrorists used to kill three of their fellow soldiers some 11 months ago.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on Nov. 2 that the army was "sys-

tematically eliminating" two Hamas pockets in areas of the Gaza Strip under Israeli military control – in Rafah and Khan Yunis.

Speaking at the weekly Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu stressed freedom of action to protect troops positioned in the Strip, saying that "if there is an attempt to harm our forces, we strike those who inflict the harm and also their organization, for the purpose of protecting our forces."

Last Wednesday, the Israeli Air Force carried out a wave of strikes in response to terrorist fire targeting troops in the Khan Yunis area.

The IDF last Thursday confirmed that the airstrikes killed Abdallah Abu Shamala, identified as the head of Hamas's naval array, and Fadi Abu Mustafa, a senior terrorist involved in holding Israeli hostages.

According to the military, Abu Shamala played a central role in Hamas's seaborne terrorist operations, including a 2014 attempt to infiltrate the IDF's Zikim outpost and planning the Oct. 7, 2023, maritime assault.

Abu Mustafa, described as the "chief constructor" of the Khan Yunis Brigade's tunnel network, was involved in guarding Israeli hostages including Nimrod Cohen and David Cunio, the IDF said.

Also last Thursday, IDF soldiers opened fire at two Hamas terrorists who crossed the ceasefire-instituted Yellow Line and approached troops in southern Gaza, the military said, adding that "a hit was identified."

Hamas has consistently violated the ceasefire since it went into effect on Oct. 10, including several terrorists firing on Israeli troops in the Rafah area on Oct. 19, killing two and prompting Israeli retaliatory airstrikes. HW

## OBITUARIES



**Barbara Miller Ostrow**

Barbara Miller Ostrow passed away peacefully on November 14, 2025, at the age of 82, nine days before her 59th anniversary with her loving husband, Max.

She was predeceased by her beloved son, David, her parents, Sara Lee and Robert Miller, and her sister, Judy Deutsch. In addition to her husband, Max, she is survived by the couple's dear and loving daughter, Natalie Ostrow.

Barbara was a graduate of Ladue High School in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended the University of Arizona in Tucson. She was the proud mother of and devoted her life to the raising of her two children. Barbara and Max enjoyed traveling, especially cruising to various countries around the world.

At an early age, she became a Life Member of Hadassah. She was also an avid bridge player and enjoyed the friendships she made with fellow bridge players in their Tuesday morning sessions at the Germantown Pickering Center.

Barbara was a unique life force. Her infectious, dimpled smile and warm, generous personality made an immediate impression on everyone she met. During the course of a general conversation, she might ask an outrageous, off-the-wall question only because of her genuine interest in getting to know the person better. People loved her jovial personality.

Funeral services were held at Beth Shalom Memorial Gardens on Monday, November 17, 2025. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Beth Shalom Synagogue, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the charity of the donor's choice. HW

## Bill To Address the Threat of 'Vehicular Terror' Passes House

(JNS) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted 400 to 15 last Monday to pass a bill that aims to stop what its author, Rep. Carlos Giménez (R-Fla.), calls the growing terror threat of "vehicle-based attacks."

H.R. 1608 cites the Jan. 1 attack on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, in which the attacker drove into a crowd and then shot at police officers. The attacker killed 14 people and injured dozens of others.

The bill calls on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to submit a classified report to Congress within 180 days assessing "the current and emerging threats posed by vehicular terrorism."

That includes identifying possible

threats in the future due to "misuse" of self-driving cars and ride-sharing services.

The department would also be directed to detail "strategic placement" of physical barriers, geofencing and other technologies "designed to monitor, restrict and manage vehicle access" and "vehicle immobilization systems and remote disablement technologies."

Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said the department must take "decisive steps to prevent future attacks," particularly as the United States prepares for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympics. HW

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# After Outrage, Coast Guard Says It Will Continue to Define Swastikas as Hate



Admiral Kevin Lunday prepares to testify during his confirmation hearing to be the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Nov. 19, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Credit: Heather Diehl/Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – The Coast Guard says it will continue to bar the display of swastikas and nooses after drawing fierce criticism following the revelation of new rules that would redefine the symbols as “poten-

tially divisive” rather than icons of hate.

The regulations, first reported last Thursday by the Washington Post, permitted the symbols to be displayed in Coast Guard members’ private quarters

and said they would be barred from public spaces only if they undermined “good order and discipline, unit cohesion, command climate, morale or mission effectiveness.”

Following the Washington Post report, the Coast Guard’s top official said the regulations had been mischaracterized and that promotion of the symbols “will be thoroughly investigated and severely punished.” Soon, new regulations were issued that said swastikas, nooses and other symbols of hate would be prohibited in all Coast Guard “workplaces, facilities, and assets.” It did not address members’ private quarters.

The Washington Post’s report about the new regulations – which also include the removal of gender identity as a protected characteristic and a higher bar to prove harassment – had elicited wide concern from Jewish groups.

“The swastika and the noose aren’t ‘potentially divisive.’ They are explicit symbols of antisemitism and hate,”

tweeted Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League. “Treating them as anything less than hate symbols is a dangerous mistake.”

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, who heads the Reform movement’s political arm, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, wrote to the Coast Guard’s acting commandant, Admiral Kevin Lunday, to offer “the strongest objection” and call for a reversal.

“The decision to weaken these standards is an indelible stain on the Coast Guard and a violation of the good that our nation stands for,” he wrote. “I urge you in the strongest terms to immediately rescind this policy and return these symbols of hate to the forbidden category in which they belong.”

The Coast Guard is a branch of the U.S. armed forces. Lunday took his role in January after President Donald Trump fired his predecessor, the first woman to helm the Coast Guard, on his second day in office. HW

## Netanyahu: U.S. Assured F-35 Sale to Riyadh Won’t Imperil Military Edge



The Israeli Air Force and U.S. Air Force hold a joint F-35 drill in southern Israel. Credit: IAF.

(JNS) – Jerusalem has received assurances from the United States that the sale of F-35 stealth fighter jets to Saudi Arabia will not imperil its qualitative military edge, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last Thursday.

Netanyahu, in an interview with the Abu Ali Express platform that was published last Thursday night, said U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, during a phone call they held last Wednesday, expressed his commitment to maintaining the Jewish state’s regional military superiority.

“They didn’t ask us before the sale of the F-35s, but once it happened, I spoke with him and made sure of it,” the prime minister said, adding that Saudi Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman “didn’t get everything he wanted.”

The Abu Ali Express interview with Netanyahu was posted hours after a spokeswoman for his office made similar remarks to the press.

Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump are both committed to upholding the “long-standing understanding that Israel maintains the qualitative edge when it comes to its defense,” Shosh Bedrosian said, speaking from the Jewish state’s capital during a briefing for reporters.

“That has been true yesterday. That has been true today. And the prime minister believes that will be true tomorrow and in the future, of course,” she added, responding to a question from Reuters.

Last Thursday’s comments marked Jerusalem’s first official public remarks on the sale to Riyadh, which Trump first confirmed ahead of a meeting with Prince Mohammed earlier this week.

Speaking alongside the prince in the Oval Office last Tuesday, Trump said Jerusalem had been made aware of the arrangement with Riyadh.

Israel would “like you to get planes of reduced caliber,” Trump told the prince, as reporters looked on. “I don’t think that makes you too happy.”

“As far as I’m concerned, I think they are both at a level where they should get top of the line,” Trump said of Jerusalem and Riyadh.

However, Reuters cited U.S. officials and defense experts as saying last Wednesday that the F-35 jets Washington intends to sell Saudi Arabia will be less advanced than those operated by the Israeli Air Force.

Israel’s military has unique permission to modify F-35 fighter jets, allowing it to integrate its own weapons systems and add radar-jamming and other upgrades without requiring U.S. approval.

Jerusalem has reportedly signaled its opposition to the proposed sale of 48 fighter jets to Riyadh. Outgoing Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer raised concerns regarding the sale during a meeting with top officials in Washington last week, Kan News reported last Saturday.

Two Israeli officials told Axios on Nov. 15 that Jerusalem had asked the Trump administration to condition any F-35 sale on Riyadh fully normalizing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Trump last Tuesday would not confirm reports Israel asked that the sale be conditioned on Riyadh joining the Abraham Accords.

Currently, the IDF is the only military in the Middle East that has the F-35. Washington previously mulled selling F-35s to the United Arab Emirates, subject to several security guarantees, but the deal fell through due to the Biden administration’s demand to restrict the use of the stealth fighter jets.

The Israel Defense Forces has raised a formal objection to the sale, warning the political echelon that the move could harm the IDF’s qualitative military edge.

An Israeli Air Force position paper prepared for Jerusalem’s political leadership warns that long-range operations carried out with the F-35 fleet rely on exclusive access to the jets.

According to the IAF’s assessment, the deployment of identical stealth jets by Riyadh could undercut the Jewish state’s operational advantage.

The document also warned that if Saudi Arabia were allowed to purchase F-35 squadrons from Lockheed Martin, the deal could delay existing Israeli orders and interfere with the IAF’s modernization plans. HW

## Fetterman, Terrell Awarded for Pro-Israel Advocacy

(JNS) – Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) and Leo Terrell, chair of the U.S. Justice Department task force to combat Jew-hatred, were among the honorees awarded for speaking out on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people at a ceremony in Washington last Wednesday.

Speaking at the Endowment for Middle East Truth’s annual “Rays of Light in the Darkness” gala, Fetterman said that the more people “back away from Israel,” the more he would “lean in stronger.”

“What Hamas has started was a full-on war against civilization and trying to destroy Israel,” Fetterman said. “It’s my supreme honor to be the very, very committed voice and vote whatever Israel

needs to destroy their enemies and to create enduring peace in the entire region.”

During his acceptance speech, Terrell called Daniel and Ruth Lischinsky onto the stage. Their 30-year-old son, Yaron, was a staff member at the Israeli Embassy in Washington who was shot and killed alongside his soon-to-be fiancée, Sarah Milgrim, 26, outside the Capital Jewish Museum in May. The man charged with their killing allegedly shouted “Free Palestine” during the attack.

“In Israel, we have a problem. Here in the States, you have a problem, and it’s called hatred of the Jewish people. It’s called antisemitism,” Daniel Lischinsky said.

“The same antisemitism that provoked Oct. 7, that performed Oct. 7, the same antisemitism that came, that killed, that murdered Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky,” he said. “We are all of us in the same boat. We are, all of us, in danger.”

Without specifying to whom he was referring, Terrell said that he believes that some members of the Trump administration have what he called “Jewish fatigue” in regard to fighting antisemitism.

“‘Oh, we’ve done enough. ‘Oh, we’ve settled a few cases.’ We have never done enough as long as Jewish-Americans are not afforded the same rights,” Terrell said. “It is an ongoing fight.”

**Speaking at the EMET annual gala, Fetterman said the more people “back away from Israel,” the more he would “lean in stronger.”**

“You cannot get tired. I will never get tired,” he said. “This is an American issue, a Western civilization issue.”

Yechiel Leiter, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, was also honored at the event, as were Szabolcs Takács, Hungary’s ambassador to the United States, and Anila Ali, a Pakistani-American Muslim civil-rights advocate. HW



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