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A Decade of Leadership: Plough Towers Celebrates Leigh Hendry



Plough Towers Board of Directors President Steve Baer presents Leigh Hendry with a plaque celebrating her 10 years of service as Executive Director.

By Steve Baer

Strong leadership defines the character and culture of a senior living community. For the past decade at Plough Towers, that leadership has come from Executive Director Leigh Hendry.

On November 11, the Board of Directors recognized Hendry's 10 years of service, presenting her with a plaque during its board meeting that evening. The recognition was approved earlier at the Executive Committee meeting and reflects Hendry's steady presence at the heart of the organization.

During her tenure, Hendry has played a key role in strengthening Plough Towers' long-term stability. She was instrumental in establishing the facility's first endowment fund, an important step in securing future support for its residents. She also guided the organization through the challenges of the pandemic, a particularly difficult period for senior living communities. Her leadership helped maintain safety, clarity, and continuity during a time filled with uncertainty.

Hendry's work has touched every part of the Plough Towers community, from operations and resident services to relationships with partners and supporters. The board's recognition reflects deep appreciation for her professionalism, dedication, and the consistency she has brought to the role over the past decade.

"It is such an honor to be recognized by the board of Plough Towers," Hendry said. "We really are like a family that makes my job so much easier."

Before joining Plough Towers, Hendry built her career in nonprofit and community-focused work, bringing experience that strengthens the organization today. Over 10 years, her leadership has helped Plough Towers remain a welcoming and reliable home for Memphis seniors.

This milestone underscores Hendry's commitment and the impact of her decade of service. For residents, staff, and board members alike, her leadership continues to be a cornerstone of the Plough Towers community. **HW**

MJHR Residents Give Back: Spreading Warmth this Winter Season



Resident Joyce D. posing with her hand-knit hats before donating them to Youth Villages.

By Jasmine Williams

This season, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab residents are giving back to their community in a tangible way. From coat drives to hand-knitting hats, there is no stopping their generosity.

The inspiration for giving back came from a personal connection. Whether experiencing a need themselves at a young age or witnessing children without winter items, they agreed no child should be cold in winter and decided to do something meaningful for the community.

When Activities Director Doris Vas-

sar stepped into her role in 2019, she spoke with many residents and realized they shared a passion for giving back. After a conversation with Resident Council President Jo B., they identified a donation program, Coats for Kids, which they wanted to support. That small conversation led to the residents participating in Coats for Kids every year in the future. This annual project is coordinated by the Home's Resident Council, a resident-led and elected group of leaders.



Residents Jo B. and Eva M., and Activities Director Doris Vassar, posing with a few donated coats before dropping them off at Coats for Kids.

Donating coats and hats brought back childhood memories of winter for them, growing up and seeing the giant donation boxes that people could come and grab as they needed, and ice skating in the morning. The most meaningful part for the residents is knowing that they are helping, that a child will have a warm winter, and that someone out there was

thinking of them.

Jo expressed, "It makes me feel good inside that I can give back. I'm not rich where I can give a big donation, so it feels good to see my friends at the Home giving something. We don't know how long we'll be able to do it, but we want

(See Home Page 3)

My Teen Israel Experience



Hodaya enjoyed a jeep tour in South Israel and a sunrise with fellow Next Step participants at the top of Masada..

By Hodaya Harary

Hodaya Harary, daughter of Dr. Mendy Harary and Shira Isenberg, is a junior at the Goldie Margolin High School for Girls. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to offset the costs of her NCSY Next Step Israel Internship program. All rising juniors and seniors are eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2026 are open and can be accessed at jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund.

This past summer, I had the incredible privilege to attend NCSY's Next Step Israel Internship program – an opportunity of a lifetime. Next Step, which blends classic touring with an authentic internship experience, empowered and inspired me in so many ways. Throughout my trip, I was able to enhance my professional skills, connect with a diverse group of Jewish teens from New Jersey to Panama, and see the land of Israel from a whole new perspective.

This wasn't my first trip to Israel, but in many ways, it was a brand-new experience. In the past, I'd always traveled with family; this summer, I came to Israel barely knowing anybody.

Additionally, I had never really toured Israel in depth before. With Next Step, I got to trek the expanse of the entire country, starting in the North and making our way down to Central and then the South. Each place we stopped revealed a glimpse of what life was like for the people living there. We swam in the Kinneret and Sea of Galilee, we plucked potatoes along the Salad Trail, and we retraced the steps of Jewish soldiers in King Hezekiah's tunnels. Visiting the Kotel and Maarat Hamachpela (Cave of the Patriarchs) was particularly poignant – it was hard to believe I was standing in the same historic and holy places where our forefathers once stood.

The most impactful experience for me was hiking the Snake Path at Masada.

This wasn't your typical hike. We had to wake up before dawn to beat the treacherous midday heat. After arriving at the foot of the mountain, we began our hike in blackness. It was one of the most physically and mentally demanding challenges in my life. The steep climb featured hundreds of rocky stairs, as the sun beat fiercely overhead – even in the early morning. The higher the elevation, the more difficult the trail became. Yet my friends and I soldiered on, encouraging each other as we took step after step – and enjoyed the reward of a stunning sunrise unfolding before our eyes. After an hour of hiking, we made it! We had reached the top of the trail. There, a tour guide led us through the ruins of King Herod's fortress, detailing the fierce battles that occurred there against the Roman Empire. It was mind-blowing to hear the stories and see the remains of events that transpired centuries ago.

I don't think I realized the impact the experience had on me until long after we were back at the bottom. Hiking Masada showed me that when we encounter challenges, it's easy to give up – but we can lean on each other to make it to the top. Continuing to push forward, taking yet another step, even in rough conditions, is really, really hard – but really, really worthwhile, if we can stick with it. With each shaking step I took up the mountain, I pushed myself to the limits. And when I finally got to the top, I don't know what I enjoyed more: the most exquisite sunrise, or the delicious feeling of accomplishment.

I am so thankful to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for the Teen Israel Experience grant, which allowed me to go on a trip I'll never forget. From interning at an Israeli startup and touring so many historic and meaningful sites to spending time with my advisors and friends, Next Step helped me connect with the land of Israel, my Judaism, and myself. None of this would have been possible without this incredible grant, and for that, I'm so grateful. **HW**

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12/4/2025



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Dec. 5, 2025 / 15 Kislev, 5786.....4:29 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Dec. 6, 2025 / 16 Kislev, 5786 5:29 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayishlach

Fifth-Grade NYC Teacher Arrested for Alleged Online Threats

A fifth-grade teacher at a Manhattan private school was arrested after allegedly posting online threats aimed at participants in an interfaith event at the City College of New York, prosecutors and law-enforcement sources said, according to the New York Post.

Joshua Penn, 39, of Corlears School, is accused of sending the message after a Nov. 13 event, during which a speak-

er singled out a "Zionist" attendee and urged Muslim students to walk out.

Penn reportedly admitted to police that he sent the messages. He was charged with second-degree aggravated harassment and pleaded not guilty, per the Post. His next court date is set for Jan. 15. Corlears School told Post that Penn is on administrative leave. **HW**



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Home...

(Continued From Page 1)

to continue it for as long as our health allows it."

Another resident, Joyce D., took her benevolence one step further this winter and hand-knitted over 25 hats for foster children at Youth Villages. It's a hobby that she has pursued her whole life after learning to knit from her aunt during her winter visits to Chicago. Joyce wants children in the community to know, "When you grow up, help other people. It doesn't have to be money. Visit them, tell them stories, donate your time. It's important because you know how you felt when someone helped you, so I hope you give that same feeling back."

Kindness became a part of the conversation, and what it means to them. Kindness for Joyce and Jo means everything. It is generosity, compassion, and knowing you are in people's thoughts. They also shared how inspired they were by the staff at the Home to keep the donation program going. The kindness staff have shown them inspires them to share that kindness with the community.

The residents are excited to help the community more in the future. Their ideas range from food drives to gift baskets; however it benefits the community, they want to participate.

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. HW

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., and speakers and entertainment start at noon.

Monday • December 8 Team Trivial Pursuit with Kevin Payne

We're kicking off the week with Kevin Payne and his special version of Team Trivial Pursuit. Kevin writes his own trivia questions, so you're guaranteed a fresh and fun challenge – not the same old trivia you've heard before. Come enjoy a great lunch, catch up with friends, and maybe learn something new. If you plan to come just for the game, please let Steve Kaplan know so we can save you a seat. Don't forget – lunch reservations are due the day before. Just call the front desk. Come on out and have some fun!

Wednesday • December 10 Field Trip to the Memphis Pink Palace (MoSH)

Featuring the new exhibit: "LAST WHISTLE: Steamboat Stories of Memphis"

We're heading out on a field trip! MoSH has a wonderful new exhibit featuring steamboat models and artifacts from the old Mud Island River Museum collection. It's a great chance to take a closer look at the boats that helped shape Memphis' history and charm. You'll see beautifully detailed models and hear the stories behind them. Cost: Just \$2 plus museum admission. Please call the MJCC front desk to save your spot.

Thursday • December 11 12-2 p.m. Art With Amillia

Participants will create simple and fun holiday greetings cards using sharpie, oil pastels and watercolor paint. No experience is required, all are welcome to this seasonal craft time!

Amillia is an enthusiastic, licensed art instructor with five years of teaching experience. She specializes in painting landscapes and portraits using symbolism and emotion. Amillia believes that the process of creating is more valuable than the product and enjoys guiding others on their journey to discover their inner artist. In partnership with Creative Aging.

Monday • December 15 Guest Speaker: Sherry Harbur Topic: How to Declutter Without Feeling Overwhelmed

Feeling a little buried in "stuff"? You're definitely not alone! Sherry Harbur will walk us through some gentle, practical ideas for clearing out those extra tchotchkes and treasures we've all collected over the years. There's no charge for the talk, and you're welcome to enjoy lunch and stay afterward.



Candace Mache

Wednesday • December 17 Monthly Senior Adult Club Luncheon

Special Guest: Candace Mache

We've got a wonderful luncheon planned featuring the talented Candace Mache, who brings a soulful blend of blues and jazz. Think Peggy Lee meets Nina Simone – smooth, classic, and full of heart. You're in for a treat. Entertainment is provided in partnership with Creative Aging.

Cost: Only \$5 for lunch and entertainment.

This month, we're gathering in honor of Otto Malone, who recently passed away at the remarkable age of 101. Otto was a bright, joyful presence at our events – always showing up in themed outfits, always ready to make someone smile. He will be deeply missed. This luncheon is generously sponsored by Silverts Adaptive Clothing and Footwear. Their representative, Cindy Longmire, will be there to share information for anyone interested. As always, lunch is kosher and prepared by the Memphis Jewish Home. Call the front desk at 901-761-0810 to reserve your seat.

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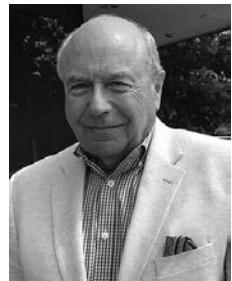
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Hamas Followed 100,000 IDF Soldiers Online Before Oct. 7 Attacks

Hamas had closely followed 100,000 Israeli troops on social media and other networks for years before executing the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre, meticulously collecting information about Israel Defense Forces posts along the border, including how to operate Israeli tanks, Israel's Army Radio correspondent Doron Kadosh reported last Sunday.

The terrorist organization established an array of some 2,500 members who took part in gathering data online, piece by piece, for five years before the attacks on the northwestern Negev, according to Kadosh.

This intelligence apparatus tracked Israeli soldiers on social media, created fake accounts – such as a WhatsApp group for recruits into an elite IDF combat unit – and gained access to soldiers and officers who shared seemingly trivial data such as random photos and videos from their bases.

"By cross-referencing photos and videos taken inside bases – from soldiers' TikToks to images from beret ceremonies or discharge events – Hamas built precise models of IDF positions: where the rear gate was, where security cameras were placed, where the rapid response team was stationed, and where the armory was located," tweeted Kadosh.

"Using this information," the correspondent continued, "Hamas built maps, simulations, and even simulators. It purchased a 3D simulation software at full 1:1 scale, and constructed simulators of bases and outposts. Nukhba terrorists could put on virtual-reality headsets in Gaza and rehearse their infiltration of each outpost."

He went on to report that the Israe-

li intelligence community knew about Hamas's project, but "did not imagine" how accurate it was.

An officer in the Israeli Air Force, who saw Hamas's preparations to raid a base he served at, told Kadosh, "Hamas knew this base better than I did."

Hamas's intelligence unit managed to join WhatsApp groups related to the IDF. For example, it joined a recruitment group belonging to the Egoz commando unit, the report continued.

This way, Hamas tracked individuals over the course of years, seeing them become commanders and officers, in what provided a broad picture of almost every platoon or battalion in the IDF.

Hamas "produced daily reports on routine IDF activity: where each platoon was located, where every Iron Dome battery was positioned, and whether the IDF had made changes in its force deployment or quietly moved forces from one sector to another. Cross-referencing the thousands of information items flowing in from the networks enabled them to obtain sensitive information about sensitive IDF systems and units," according to Kadosh.

The terrorist group even put together a special force that was trained to operate the Israeli Merkava tank. Through an advanced simulator program and a long period of training, this special Nukhba force managed on Oct. 7, 2023, to disable IDF tanks in the Gaza border area and render them unusable, the report stated.

"The terrorists knew about a secret button in the tank which, when pressed, disables the tank for a certain period," noted Kadosh. HW

Khamenei: Iran Defeated U.S., Israel in June's 12-Day War

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei last Thursday night delivered a blistering broadside against the United States and Israel, accusing the allies of committing global crimes and claiming Tehran emerged victorious from the 12-day conflict in June.

"The Zionist regime's attacks on Lebanon, its aggressions against Syria, and its crimes in the West Bank and Gaza are all carried out with the U.S.'s backing. And due to these actions, the U.S. has truly become despised," Khamenei said in a televised address.

Turning to the war against Hamas – which he called "one of the most significant tragedies in the history of our region" – Khamenei asserted that "the Zionist regime has been severely disgraced. And the U.S. stands beside that oppressive regime in its infamy and disgrace."

"People around the world know that if the U.S. hadn't been involved, the Zionist regime wouldn't have been capable of committing such extensive atrocities in Gaza," he added.

Addressing the aerial conflict in June, Khamenei claimed the United States and Israel suffered losses "far greater than the material damage inflicted on our country."

"According to some accounts, the Zionist regime had planned and prepared for this war for 20 years. There were 20 years of planning to start a war in Iran and to incite the people so they would fight the system. But the situation turned against them, and they failed," he said.

"In the 12-Day War, the U.S. and the Zionist regime came and perpetrated malicious acts. They took a beating and left empty-handed. That is, they didn't achieve any of their objectives. We suffered losses in the 12-Day War. We lost precious lives; there's no doubt about that. That's the nature of war. But the Islamic Republic showed that it is a center of determination and power. It is capable of making decisions and standing firmly."

"In the 12-Day War, the Iranian nation undeniably defeated both the U.S. and the Zionists," Khamenei said.

He concluded with a sweeping denunciation, saying that "the most detested ruling organization and gang in the world is the Zionist regime. The U.S. is like it in this respect, and the way the

Zionist regime is detested has definitely spread to include the U.S. as well."

Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that although the Islamic Republic is prepared to engage in talks about its nuclear ambitions, its missile program is not up for discussion.

"We are ready to talk to address concerns about our nuclear program. We emphasize the peaceful nature of our nuclear program. It is possible to reach a fair agreement, but Washington has set impossible and unacceptable preconditions," Araghchi told Al Jazeera.

He added, "There will be no negotiations on our missile program. It would be foolish if one hands over his weapons."

The top diplomat moreover stated that his country is "prepared for any scenario" in the wake of its war with Israel in June. Tehran expects "hostile behavior from the Zionist regime. We are at the apex of preparedness at all levels. Israel will suffer another defeat in any future war," he said.

"We have gained a lot of experience from the recent war and tested our missiles in a real battle," Araghchi continued. "If the Zionist regime launches an attack, it will come with dire consequences for it."

The 10-year nuclear deal between Iran and world powers expired on Oct. 18, with Tehran announcing it is no longer bound by the 2015 agreement. Under the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), financial sanctions on Iran were lifted in return for promised limitations on its nuclear program.

Since the war, which also saw the U.S. bomb Iran's nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan on June 21, Tehran has refused to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nation's nuclear watchdog.

This prompted the United Nations, led by Britain, France and Germany, to on Sept. 27, to reimpose international sanctions on Iran under the "snapback" mechanism built into the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal. The mechanism restored restrictions on arms transfers, missile technology and sensitive financial dealings. HW

Florida Neo-Nazi Allegedly Planned to Livestream Domestic Terror Attack

(JNS) – Federal authorities reportedly arrested a grocery store worker in Sarasota, Fla., who is accused of sharing bomb-making instructions in encrypted, neo-Nazi group chats that the FBI monitored and planning to livestream a terror attack.

Lucas Alexander Temple, 20, who used the online handles "Devilwaffen999" and "Micah Fischer," was taken into custody on Nov. 20 at his parents' home, according to news reports. At press time, there was no statement from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Temple was charged initially with distributing information on explosives, but

prosecutors later filed a complaint alleging possession of an unregistered gun after agents found a sawed-off shotgun in his bedroom, according to the Independent. Per an affidavit that the paper reviewed, detectives found Nazi literature and a flag and copies of journals of mass shooters in his bedroom.

The investigators also reportedly found what appeared to be a written plan for a livestreamed domestic terror attack. "Write manifesto. Notify friends of livestream. Put flags on car. Play music on speakers during operation," it reportedly stated, referring also to "motion-activated bombs in doorways." HW

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Your Best Self Be Bored

A monthly column by **Greg Graber** (Graber Performance Coaching LLC)

A few years ago, Dr. Nancy Collier wrote a wonderful book, "The Power of Off." She presented us with some staggering statistics:

*The average person spends more than eight hours per day on his or her phone or laptop. This is more than most of us sleep each night.

*Young adults average 110 daily texts.

*Most people check their smart phones 150 times per day.

*The average person spends 13 hours per week checking/working on email.

*Seventy percent of children think their parents spend too much time on their devices.

*The average person spends about 12 hours per day staring at screens (phones, computers, electronic reading devices, TVs, etc.).

Some of the issues from our excessive screen use may include but are not limited to: a desynchronized body clock, altered brain chemistry, loss of focus, and raised stress hormones.

Dr. Victoria Dunckley, MD, specializes in working with children who have what is referred to as "Electronic Screen Syndrome." Some of the symptoms from this include dysregulated moods

(irritable, tearful, rageful, etc.), impaired cognition (poor focus, forgetful, and disorganized), and dysfunctional behavior (oppositional, impulsive, and low empathy).

From a neurological perspective, brain scans of tech-addicted individuals reveal the extensive damage that our devices and gadgets can wreak on our brains, including gray matter atrophy, thinner cortex, white matter fragmentation, reduced dopamine (receptors and transporters), and abnormal processing. Basically, the brains of tech-addicted individuals look similar in terms of damage to the brains of people who suffer from alcohol and substance abuse.

When is the last time you just sat and did nothing? I'm not suggesting you become a sloth. I am suggesting, however, that you build in a few pockets of silence and stillness per day when you put your phone down and let yourself be bored. It seems that boredom is the great enemy in our society. Part of the reason for this is because we are not comfortable sitting along with just our thoughts and emotions. We immediately have to pull out our phones and look at social media. Sitting alone with our thoughts and emotions has its benefits. Most sig-

nificantly, it will help you to improve your self-awareness. Being bored isn't a bad thing, either. Entering a state of boredom clears space in our heads. This space is where we tap into creativity and imagination. Great stuff happens here!

So, the next time you are having a nice meal with your significant other, and the urge to whip out your phone and check your Facebook profile washes over you, resist the urge to do so. It's a win-win: 1. You're helping yourself stay in the present moment. 2. You are giving your mate the best possible gift ever: your full attention.

And the next time your children ask for their devices because they are

"bored," say "No." Tell them that boredom is a good thing. They may look at you like you are crazy and pitch a fit initially. However, over time, they will thank you for it. **HW**



Greg Graber, the author of *Slow Your Roll-Mindfulness for Fast Times*, is an internationally respected coach who helps teams, schools, organizations and individuals thrive. From NBA coaches to soccer moms, he offers mental performance coaching, wellness counseling and executive coaching. For more information (and *The Hebrew Watchman* discount), email Greg at info@greggraber.com, or visit his website at www.greggraber.com.



'I Don't Understand the Internet,' John Cleese Says in Apology for Posting Anti-Israel Content

(JNS) — Comedian John Cleese, of "Monty Python" and "Fawlty Towers" fame, told the London Jewish News that he was "extremely sorry" for posting anti-Israel material on social media without checking it.

"I don't understand the internet," he told the paper. "People create things and don't care that they can be disproved."

In an article that ran on Nov. 26, the paper reported that Cleese "now intends to stop commenting on Israel online." The next day, the comedian shared a social media post accusing Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) of dual loyalty for his support of Israel.

In an hour-long interview, which the paper intends to publish in its magazine, Cleese "condemned Hamas as 'the nastiest of all terrorist organisations' and stood firmly by Israel's right to defend itself, while expressing concern about some actions of the Israeli government," the paper reported.

"He also voiced concern about record levels of antisemitism in the UK, saying he was deeply saddened by reports from Jewish friends who told him how unsafe they now feel," it added. **HW**

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Young Israel Thanks Local Heroes on Thanksgiving



Some of the Shul-made pumpkin pies and 'Thank You' posters that YI's youth and adults shared with local firefighters on Thanksgiving Day 2025.

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Thanksgiving is a wonderful and obvious time to stop and say 'Thank You' to some very important people whom we don't often recognize – our local firefighters, police officers, Sheriff's deputies, and our friends at Veterans Security Group. After all, rather than spending Thanksgiving at home with their families, those hard-working heroes spend that day on duty keeping our neighborhoods safe and secure.

Ten years ago, Young Israel (YI) began the tradition of sharing some Shul-made pies and 'Thank You' posters with our local firefighters on Thanksgiving. This heart-warming program – named 'Pies for Our Guys' – has been very well-received. In 2020, YI added the Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and Veterans Security Group (VSG) to our list of pie recipients, and we excitedly continued the tradition this year as well. (The hard-working VSG security personnel help keep Young Israel safe each Shabbos and Yom Tov.)

YI thanks the many children and parents who joined together at Shul on Sunday morning, Nov. 23 to create appreciative posters, and to prepare / bake 69 (a new record!) mouth-watering pumpkin pies. Taking part in these activities was also loads of fun for all the participants.

In the days leading up to Thanksgiving, my wife Layala and I – as well as YI's youth representative Asher Ryp – delivered 50 of the Shul-baked pumpkin pies and some of the 'Thank You' posters to our friends at VSG, the Memphis Police Department on Appling Farms Parkway, and the Shelby County Sheriff's Substation in Arlington. Each group was noticeably touched and was happy to bring YI's pies home and enjoy them

with their families on Thanksgiving.

On Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 27, Young Israel brought dozens of children and adults together to say "Thank You" to our firefighters at Fire Station 21 (located just next to Kroger on S. Mendenhall Road). Our visit was made even more special by the participation of Fire Chief Colin Burress – the new head of the Memphis Fire Department. He expressed his appreciation and thanked all in attendance.

The children then presented the final 18 of their pumpkin pies, as well as their hand-crafted Thanksgiving posters to the very appreciative – and noticeably touched – firefighters. The firemen gladly treated our entire group to a walk through their fire station, offered us a close look at their equipment, and even let the children climb into their trucks.

Finally, after asking us to back up to a safe distance, the firefighters fully extended the ladder affixed to their truck parked in the station's driveway. One of the brave fellows then put on a safety harness and climbed to the top of the ladder. As he stood and waved to us from 100 feet above Mendenhall Road, all I could think of was how happy I was to be standing on the ground!

Visiting and thanking our fire fighters on Thanksgiving made the day so much more meaningful for everyone involved. Young Israel thanks everyone who helped sponsor this heart-warming program. YI also thanks the many children and parents who once again helped us express our appreciation to our community's first responders and our Shul's security professionals.

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbim@yiom.org **HW**

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What Should You Know if You Hit the Jackpot?

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

Picture this: You've just won the lottery or received a large inheritance. You start daydreaming about all the wonderful things you'll buy, the vacations you'll take, and not having to worry so much about money.

If only it was that simple to live on Easy Street. The truth of the matter is if you don't properly plan on how to receive your windfall and invest it wisely, you could instead find yourself on the road to financial disaster.

If by chance you become an overnight millionaire, you might want to consider the following before you quit your day job or buy that new luxury car.

Consider taking winnings in a lump sum

If you're disciplined enough not to spend the money all at once, you may want to consider taking it all in a lump sum. Typically, receiving your winnings this way will give you more money in the end than if you were to get payments over a number of years.

For example, if you receive \$1 million and pay half of that in taxes, you'll end up with \$500,000 to invest. At a hypothetical 10% rate of return, your winnings would have the opportunity to grow to more than \$3.3 million in 20 years. By comparison, if you chose to receive your windfall in 20 annual installments of \$50,000 and invest each year at that same 10%, you would end up with approximately \$2.8 million – a difference of more than \$500,000.*

The more money you can get invested right away, the better off you could be.

Keep in mind this example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect the performance of any specific investment. There is no guarantee you would be able to obtain a consistent rate of return.

The installment option may be better if you're a spendthrift

On the other hand, if having an account with a lot of money in it is too tempting for you to handle, you may want to take your fortune over a period of several years. You may not have this option with every type of windfall, but if you happen to win the lottery, the sponsor may invest your winnings for you. You may get a better rate of return by taking the money in a lump sum, but that's no use if you end up spending all of it without planning.

Keep income taxes in mind

A significant amount of what you win or inherit will likely go to pay federal and state income taxes. And remember, a multimillion dollar payout in 2025 would put you in the highest federal tax bracket at 37%. If you also have to pay state income taxes, you may end up losing half of your money to taxes.

In cases where winning lottery tickets are purchased outside your home state, it's possible that you would be taxed in your home state and the state where you purchased the ticket. Careful tax planning may help you keep as much of the money as possible.

What happens when you die?

Not surprisingly, federal estate tax laws are complicated. That being said, here are a couple things to keep in mind:

- If you're married, the money from your winnings or inheritance – no matter how much – may be passed to your spouse free from federal estate taxes.

- If you die in 2025 and your estate is worth \$13,990,000 or more, your heirs could incur federal estate taxes.

You need to discuss the possible implications of federal estate taxes and how to plan for them with an estate planning attorney.

*The \$50,000 annual installment in this example does not take into account any income taxes. Gross amount is being invested to achieve the projected future value. Example also assumes investments are growing without annual taxes on the earnings.

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Copy of 'Superman' No. 1, Once Worth 10 Cents, Sells at Auction for \$9.12m



A person points to an illustration in a comic book collection. Credit: Mikhail Nilov/Pexels.

A preserved copy of "Superman" No. 1 has become the "world's most expensive comic book," selling for \$9.12 mil-

lion on Nov. 20, according to Heritage Auctions.

The 1939 original featuring the Man

of Steel – a character created by two Jewish men, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster – was found in a box of old newspapers by a Northern California family clearing out the attic of their late mother's home.

Heritage Auctions authenticated the volume and confirmed it as the highest-graded unrestored copy ever recorded, scoring a 9.0 on a 10-point scale from the Certified Collectibles Group.

Lon Allen, vice president of the auction house, called the sale a "milestone in pop culture history."

Originally priced at 10 cents in 1939, "Superman" No. 1 was the first comic book devoted to a single superhero. Siegel and Shuster, both born in 1914 to Jewish immigrant families – Siegel in Cleveland and Shuster in Toronto – worked together on sketches and story ideas while in high school in Cleveland. While they first envisioned Superman

as a villain, they eventually reimagined him as a hero shaped by biblical influences and the rise of fascism.

"Jewish fans have embraced him as a Jewish avatar," Roy Schwartz, a board member of the American Jewish Historical Society, told JNS. "There's a sense of personal pride in his popularity, a kvelling."

Schwartz, the author of "Is Superman Circumcised? The Complete Jewish History of the World's Greatest Hero," said the first "Superman" comic book is a "very Jewish story."

He added that the issue, published "only eight months after Kristallnacht," includes a prequel scene in which Superman thwarts a lynch mob – "highly evocative coming from the children of Russian Jews who fled the pogroms."

"As the very first superhero, he's imbued the whole genre with Jewish resonance," Schwartz told JNS. **HW**

Buildings Defaced with Antisemitic Graffiti in Bondi Beach, Australia



Graffiti on the wall of a recently closed-down Jewish-run business in Melbourne. Credit: Courtesy of the Zionist Federation of Australia.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Antisemitic graffiti has been sprayed on buildings and bollards at North Bondi in Sydney, local media reported last Saturday.

Police cordoned off the area to investigate the incident. Officers advised lo-

cals to avoid the area, according to The Sydney Morning Herald.

The Jewish Australian Association, a membership-based community organization guided by "center-right Australian values," as stated on its website,

posted images of the vandalism on X, writing that "Bondi Beach [was] hit by wave of antisemitic graffiti."

It added that the New South Wales police were "hunting for suspects."

It was not initially clear who was behind the graffiti-spraying. One photo captured a derogatory comment against the Israel Defense Forces.

The "J7 Annual Report on Antisemitism 2025" published in May found that Australia experienced a fourfold increase in documented antisemitic incidents in 2024 – the steepest rise among English-speaking countries with available data.

The report compiles statistics from member organizations of the J7 task force, a global coalition formed in 2023 that includes the Anti-Defamation League in the United States and partner groups in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Germany and Argentina.

While the United States reported the highest number of incidents in absolute terms – 9,354 in 2024, up from 8,873 the previous year – Australia registered the most dramatic relative increase, with reported antisemitic incidents rising from 495 to 2,062. **HW**

Father of Last Slain Israeli Hostage Fears His Son Won't Return



Ran Gvili, 24. Credit: Courtesy of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum.

The father of Israel Police Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, one of two deceased hostages still held in Gaza, said last Thursday

that Hamas claims not to know where his son's body is located and expressed fear Israel may never recover him.

"We pray that there won't be another Ron Arad, another Goldin, and that we won't carry this around for many, many years," Itzik Gvili told the Kan public broadcaster. "Hamas says they're looking, but they don't see any progress. They're shaking us up, playing games, and hanging us."

Lt. Col. Ron Arad is an Israeli Air Force navigator who ejected over Lebanon in 1986, was captured by Amal terrorist group and later handed over to Hezbollah. He is still missing.

Lt. Hadar Goldin was killed in Gaza during a 2014 battle with Hamas and his remains were held there before being returned to Israel earlier this month.

Gvili said neither Israel nor the ter-

rorist groups in Gaza know his son's location. He noted that the Hostages and Missing Families Forum is closing "because there is no justification for keeping this entire organization focused on one kidnapped person."

Ran Gvili, 24, a Yasam counter-terror unit police officer, left the hospital on Oct. 7, 2023, to rush to the defense of civilians under attack. He was scheduled for surgery at the time.

He was killed that day while battling Hamas terrorists at Kibbutz Alumim.

"He went out to save people, he wasn't kidnapped," his father said. "Just as Rani didn't forget the country that day, so I don't want the country to forget him."

The bodies of two murdered hostages remain in Gaza, those of Gvili and Thai agricultural worker Sudthisak Rinthalak. **HW**

OBITUARIES

Dessie Sewel

Dessie Sewel, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away in Memphis, Tennessee, the city she proudly called home for 76 years. Born in 1929 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Dessie brought with her to Memphis a steadfast spirit, a generous heart, and a quiet strength that touched all who knew her.

Dessie attended Washington University in St. Louis. She married the late Lester M. Sewel and moved to Memphis in 1949. Dessie built a warm and welcoming home rooted in love, faith, and tradition, raising her two children, Patsy Sewel Gruenberg and the late Perry Sewel.

Dessie's life was grounded in community and service. She was an active and devoted member of Baron Hirsch Synagogue. Her support of Jewish life in Memphis included membership to Temple Israel and Memphis Jewish Federation.

Her civic and charitable commitments were wide-ranging and deeply felt. As all of those in the community can attest, Dessie was kind, generous, gracious, warm, completely dedicated to her family, her community, and the Jewish people.

We wish to express our profound appreciation and gratitude to Marge Gurley. For over 30 years, she provided the care, comfort, and friendship necessary for Dessie to continue living independently in her cherished home.

At the time of her passing, the caregivers of Comfort Keepers and the nurse and staff of Hospice of Hope provided the support and loving attention, allowing Dessie to die peacefully in her home.

She is survived by her daughter, Patsy Sewel Gruenberg (Alan Gruenberg, MD), grandchildren Matthew and Eva (Rahel), loving cousins, nephews, and nieces of the Minnen and Shaltupsky extended families.

May her memory be for a blessing.

If you wish to send a donation in her memory, please consider sending to Baron Hirsch Synagogue or Temple Israel. **HW**



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Trump to 'Permanently Pause' Migration from 'Third World' after Shooting of National Guard in DC

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump announced shortly after midnight last Friday that he would “permanently pause migration from all third world countries,” after an Afghan immigrant allegedly shot and killed a member of the West Virginia National Guard near the White House.

Trump wrote the message as a “Thanksgiving salutation,” before launching into criticism of the “stupid” Americans, who have allowed the country to be “divided, disrupted, carved up, murdered, beaten, mugged and laughed at” over immigration policy, including former president Joe Biden.

“I will permanently pause migration from all third world countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover, terminate all of the millions of Biden illegal admissions, including those signed by sleepy Joe Biden’s autopen, and remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States, or is incapable of loving our country, end all federal benefits and subsidies to noncitizens of our country, denaturalize migrants who undermine domestic tranquility and deport any foreign national, who is a public charge,

security risk or non-compatible with western civilization,” Trump wrote.

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national, was arrested last Wednesday for allegedly shooting Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, near Farragut Square Park, just north of the White House. Beckstrom died of her wounds last Thursday, and Wolfe reportedly remains in critical condition.

Lakanwal entered the United States in 2021 as part of the Biden administration’s “Operation Allies Welcome,” a resettlement program for Afghans who had served with U.S. forces. Before Afghanistan’s fall to the Taliban, Lakanwal served with an Afghan counterterrorism unit that worked closely with the CIA. The New York Times reported.

It’s not clear which countries will face new immigration restrictions following Trump’s announcement. The U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services announced last Wednesday that it was halting all requests from Afghan nationals pending further review and issued new guidance for negative factors to be considered for requests from 19 “high-

risk countries” that Trump previously scrutinized in an executive order.

Those countries include many of the world’s conflict hotspots, including Afghanistan, the Republic of the Congo, Chad, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

JNS sought comment from the White House and U.S. State Department about what countries were included in Trump’s “third world” announcement last Friday.

In addition to criticizing Biden, much of Trump’s message focused on Minnesota, where he claimed “Somalian gangs are roving the streets looking for ‘prey’” under the governance of Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.).

“The seriously retarded governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz, does nothing, either through fear, incompetence or both, while the worst ‘congressman/woman’ in our country, Ilhan Omar, always wrapped in her swaddling hijab, and who probably came into the U.S.A. illegally in that you are not allowed to marry your brother, does nothing but hatefully complain about our country, its Constitution and how ‘badly’ she is

treated,” Trump wrote.

He added that “her place of origin is a decadent, backward and crime-ridden nation, which is essentially not even a country for lack of government, military, police, schools, etc.” (A City Journal investigation suggested that Minnesota tax dollars helped fund the Somali terror group al-Shabab.)

Omar has long faced questions about her previous marriage to Ahmed Nur Said Elmi, who shares a surname with her father. Whether they have any familial relationship is unknown, but Omar has denied that Elmi is her brother.

Although Trump said that his migration pause would apply to “all third world countries,” he reiterated, last Friday, his claim that white South Africans face a “genocide,” for which he created an asylum program in February.

“They are killing white people and randomly allowing their farms to be taken from them,” Trump wrote. “South Africa has demonstrated to the world they are not a country worthy of membership anywhere, and we are going to stop all payments and subsidies to them, effective immediately.” HW

Huckabee Helps Out at Thanksgiving Dinner in Kiryat Gat Base



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet, celebrate Thanksgiving together with American service members stationed in Kiryat Gat, Israel, on Nov. 27, 2025. Credit: The U.S. Embassy Jerusalem.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet, paid a visit to the American military facility in Kiryat Gat, southern Israel, to help serve Thanksgiving for the 150 American service members stationed there.

“They are far from home, but they had a true American feast! God bless our troops!” the ambassador tweeted.

The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem posted on X a message of gratitude, saying, “Today we are thankful for our friends, families, the unbreakable U.S.-Israel bond that strengthens both our nations ... and the universal agreement that pumpkin pie is always a good idea.”

Since the ceasefire in Gaza took ef-

fect on Oct. 10, the U.S. military has led a multinational initiative, including representatives from some 40 countries, to stabilize postwar Gaza and develop a longer-term framework for governance and reconstruction.

As part of the 20-point peace plan proposed by Washington, the U.S. military established the Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) headquartered in Kiryat Gat to oversee the implementation of the plan and help manage the future of the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. is doing this in coordination with Israel, whose military is setting up electrical and water infrastructure to support Gazan towns on its side of the Yellow Line inside the Strip. HW

California Man Faces Up to 15 Years for Threat to 'Blow Up Every Synagogue in a 20-Mile Radius'

(JNS) – Elijah Alexander King, 36, who allegedly threatened to bomb every synagogue within a 20-mile radius, was arraigned last Tuesday on a three-count federal indictment, the U.S. Justice Department said.

The resident of San Luis Obispo, Calif., near the coast some 100 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, was charged with three counts related to making threats and conveying hoaxes.

The defendant, who pleaded not

guilty and who had been in federal custody since Nov. 6, is set to go to trial on Jan. 13, the department said. He is to be released on bond.

He is accused of making the threat that “I’m gonna blow up every synagogue in a 20-mile radius” on social media on Aug. 28, using what the Justice Department said was an email address and phone number that “he is known to use.”

Shortly after posting the threat, King wrote that “this is a real threat. Send the

police and report me for terrorism,” and some 10 minutes later, he searched on his phone for synagogues nearby, the Justice Department said.

Even after police had King sent to a hospital for monitoring, he kept posting on social media, according to the Justice Department, including writing that “I got arrested and put on a three-day psych hold for my posts against the Jews.” He also allegedly shared someone else’s post saying that there

is a need for “Jew control” not “gun control.”

King has also posted “antisemitic rhetoric, including praise for Adolf Hitler,” and messages with “images of weapons, including a handgun, knives and mace,” and has sent “numerous” racist emails and voicemails to the police detective who placed the psychiatric hold on him, the Justice Department said.

King faces up to 15 years in prison for the charges. HW

Terrorists in Syria, Houthis Included, Plan to Attack Israel, Katz Says

(JNS) – Israel is not heading toward peace with Syria as hostile forces, among them the Iran-backed Houthis, are planning a ground incursion into communities in the Golan Heights, Defense Minister Israel Katz said last Wednesday, speaking in a closed meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The minister noted that the defense establishment is taking such a scenario into account in its plans to protect Israel’s north, according to Israel’s public

broadcaster Kan.

He further stressed that Israel is watchful over the situation of the Druze in Syria.

“The [Israel Defense Forces] have a prepared plan; and if raids on the Druze Mountain happen again, we will intervene, including blocking the border,” he said, apparently referring to the dozens of Israeli Druze who in July crossed the border into Syria at Majdal Shams to aide their relatives who clashed in heavy fighting with Sunni Bedouin and

regime forces.

Kan also reported last Wednesday that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas terrorist organizations were bolstering their “military” forces in Palestinian camps in Syria, including near Damascus, with the cooperation of the regime.

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa is not necessarily involved in this development, but other elements within the regime are fully aware of it, according to the report.

Islamic Jihad denied the report.

Kan cited a Syrian security official who said that “If there are things that bother Israel regarding the Palestinian organizations, then they should update the Syrian side, and it will be handled.”

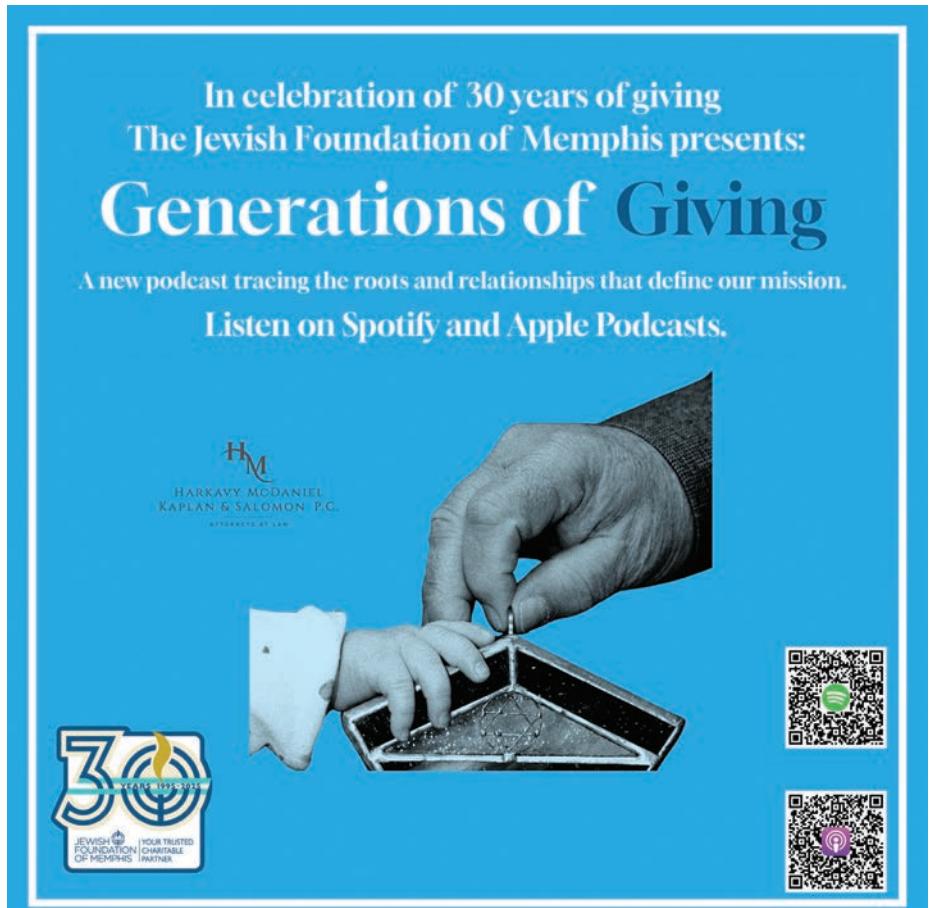
The official added that there is no intention whatsoever to allow military actions against Israel, and any launch toward it harms the Syrian state, which is trying to rebuild itself. HW



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