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Memphis Jewish Community Center Hosts Pre-Hanukkah Community Celebration



Representatives and guests of The Bornblum Foundation.

Approximately one year ago, the MJCC, coming off a successful night of comedy with Ophira Eisenberg, Ester Steinberg and Noah Gardenswartz, began preparing to go even bigger for our pre-Chanukah event this past December 13. The mission of the MJCC is Connecting, Engaging, and Strengthening Jewish Memphis. At this year’s event, that mission was fulfilled. Over 400 people turned out for a dessert re-

ception followed by a 1-hour-show of non-stop laughter with the one and only Modi. Touching on colonoscopies, Jews in a Cathedral, Skyrizzi, the Catskills, and so much more, every moment was filled with laughter – something we all badly needed. Most importantly, among the 400 people was a representation of every walk of Jewish life in Memphis, Tenn.

In addition to the main event, a youth



Representatives of Cooper Hotels and DoubleTree by Hilton – Memphis, (left) Pace and Aileen Cooper, (right) David and Tova Cooper.

event was running simultaneously with 40 K-6th graders in attendance. Because we were preparing to celebrate the festival of lights, for them it was a night of laser tag and making their own Chanukah-themed LED signs to hang in windows next to their menorahs to help our community bring even more light to the world.

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(See MJCC Page 2)

Hanukkah Light Shining Bright at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab



Residents participating in the menorah lighting with Rabbi Kelman.

By Jasmine Williams

Hanukkah at the Home was filled with music, laughter and joy. The month was filled with many celebrations and community collaborations. The residents enjoyed a performance by the students at Bornblum and their teacher, Robb Zelonky, as well as the TIMPO Band from Temple Israel.

The performances showcased talented singers and choreography.

This year’s Hanukkah Party was a delightful afternoon of latkes, friends and songs from a talented Moyschele’s Merry Mishpocha Klezmer Band. MJHR

staff and volunteers brought more holiday light throughout the week by delivering gifts to the residents’ rooms. The residents received an MJHR sherpa blanket as a Hanukkah gift from the Home.

We are so thankful to our many volunteers from the community and our Resident Service Committee who helped throughout the week. The committee also created a grab-a-gift cart for the residents to pick their own Hanukkah trinkets.

Geri Lansky, resident services com-



Residents Jo and Teresa, enjoying the Hanukkah party together.

mittee co-chair, shared, “I began interacting with the residents more than 25 years ago, when my father was a resident. From the start, I simply enjoyed bringing a laugh or smile to their lives. The Memphis Jewish Home has truly become my home away from Home.”

As Hanukkah comes to a close, the joy shared through the music, laughter and celebration continues to shine through the Home. This season reminds us that there is always light in the community we have. Going into 2026, we strive to continue to be the light in our

residents’ lives through compassion and care.

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. All of our Hanukkah activities are generously funded by the Ben and Larisa Baer Jewish Activities Fund. **HW**

Memphis Jewish Federation’s Pajamakkah Party



Memphis Jewish Federation’s Pajamakkah last week was a blast! The kids loved Hanukkah crafting, snacking on sufganiyot and testing their strength at the Maccabee obstacle course. Thanks to everyone who came out to join in the fun at this beloved annual event — and a big thanks to our event partners: Baron Hirsch, Beth Sholom, Bornblum, BKL ELC, Chabad, Hillels of Memphis, Jewish Foundation of Memphis, Plough Towers, MHA/CYOS, Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service and Young Israel. **HW**

Florida Man Indicted on Gun Charges had Anti-Jewish Materials

(JNS) – A federal indictment was returned charging Lucas Alexander Temple, 20, of Sarasota, Fla., with possessing an unregistered, sawed-off shotgun with its serial number removed and having received child pornographic materials. He faces up to 20 years in prison, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida said last Monday. Per the indictment, federal agents, who searched Temple’s home on Nov. 20, found the unregistered gun and evidence that he had been planning a “racially motivated act of violence, including pipe bombs, multiple firearms,

ammunition, a pressure cooker, literature on how to manufacture explosives and a written plan as to his intentions.” They also found Nazi materials and items related to prior mass shootings and a “large flag bearing the Atomwaffen Division symbol,” the Justice Department said. “The Atomwaffen Division is a U.S.-based racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist group,” whose “targets have included racial minorities, the Jewish community, the LGBTQ community, the U.S. government, journalists and critical infrastructure,” it added. **HW**

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Weekly Torah Portion: Vayechi

MJCC...
(Continued From Page 1)
Flack, Benjamin & Taylor Orgel, Ken & Jill Steinberg, and Anonymous sponsors. Without our sponsors, the evening would not have been possible. The MJCC looks forward to hosting more community events in the future that bring together and keep our Jewish community strong. To see everything happening at the JCC, please visit www.jccmemphis.org. **HW**



Attendees Matthew and Ellee Breit.

I never understood why they put some words in color. Are you only supposed to read the ones in color? Should you be looking for a secret message? Are they trying to sell you on something? Anyway, if you never noticed it before, you’re gonna notice it more now!

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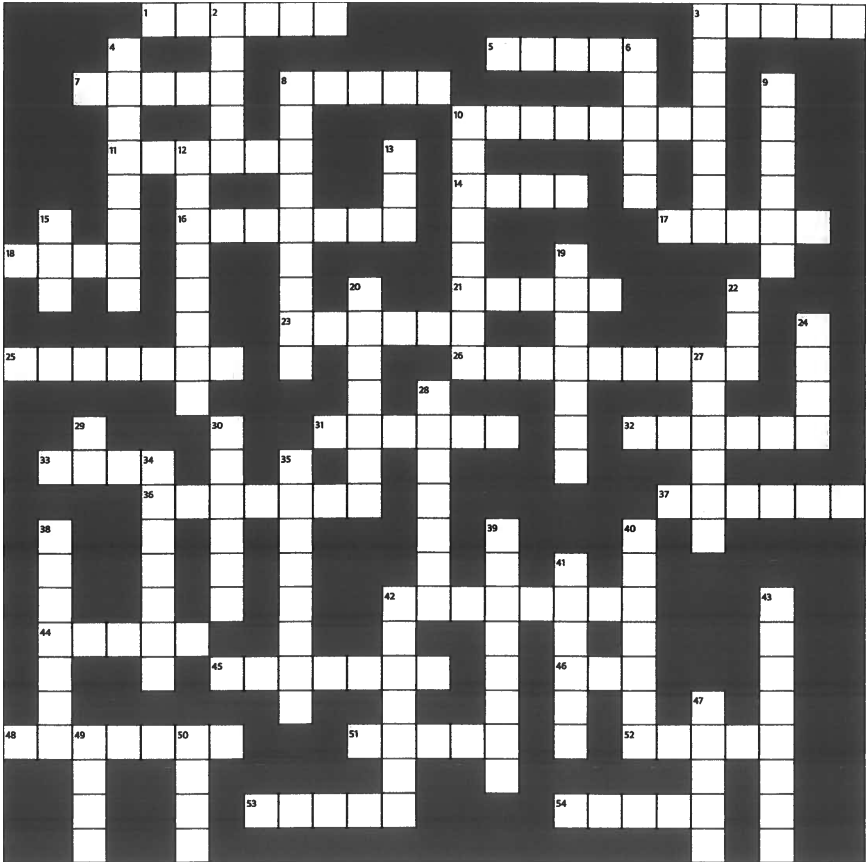
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A YIDDISH CROSSWORD

By Erwin Williamson ©

Yiddish has been the everyday vernacular of the Jewish diaspora for hundreds of years. Because it evolved primarily as a spoken language, the written spelling of Yiddish terms can vary from region to region. Keep this is mind when solving the puzzle – a schmo can be a shmo, already. Please let us know how you enjoyed this puzzle and we will work on getting others! info@HebrewWatchman.com (answers on page 10).

across	down
1 a pest	2 junk
3 Five Books	3 term of endearment
5 ill-mannered	4 confused
7 a potato pancake	6 donut with a college education
8 an expert	8 insane
10 crazy	9 fit to eat or authentic
11 get nothing	10 a big mess
14 be quiet!	12 system of Jewish mysticism
16 little grandmother	13 I'm not impressed
17 to carry	15 not a Jew
18 a snack	19 a teacher
21 expression of dismay	20 an entertainer
23 a detective	22 an all-encompassing expletive
25 wedding canopy	24 a yokel
26 triangular little cake	27 an outdoor booth for Sukkot
31 to paint or spread	28 stuffed fish
32 a small, plain cookie	29 So?
33 a bum	30 a ritual bath
36 egg noodles	34 a braggart
37 curls	35 a simpleton
42 comedian Jerry	38 bargain basement find
44 a sales pitch	39 knock on wood!
45 informal group of wandering musicians	40 analysis of the Holy Scriptures
46 exclamation of surprise	41 a cry
48 an insignificant person	42 coins
51 order of the service	43 of poor quality, lousy
52 expression of admiration or astonishment	47 a crook
53 exile	49 a person of great energy
54 term of respect for an older man	50 the goat of a joke



ADL Says at Least 20% of Mamdani Transition Appointees Tied to Anti-Zionist Groups



Supporters at a campaign rally on Election Night in Brooklyn, N.Y., for New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani answer questions from the media, Nov. 4, 2025. Credit: Liri Agami/Flash90.

(JNS) – At least 20% of those whom Zohran Mamdani, the New York City mayor-elect, has named to his transition committee are connected to anti-Zionist groups, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

The nonprofit said earlier in the week that it reviewed more than 400 appointees that Mamdani has named to 17 transition committees.

One-fifth or more of those appointees have ties to “groups that openly promote terror and harass Jewish people,” such as Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace and Within Our Lifetime, according to the ADL. The same number have shared anti-Zionist or anti-Israel statements, the ADL said.

The ADL also found four Mamdani appointees with ties to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has long

made antisemitic statements.

“The composition of these transition committees will directly influence the administration’s policies and approach to Jewish community concerns, and the current appointments raise serious questions as to whether those concerns will not be adequately represented or addressed,” the ADL stated.

Mamdani told reporters that the ADL report “oftentimes” ignores what he said is the distinction between antisemitism and criticism of the Israeli government.

Scott Richman, director of the ADL’s New York and New Jersey office, said that Mamdani “will most certainly condemn” something he sees as antisemitic, but “his view of what’s antisemitism is less expansive than what the mainstream Jewish community’s view is of what is antisemitism.” HW

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Your Best Self

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

How to Succeed with Your New Year's Resolution

There is an old joke about New Year's resolutions that goes something like this, "If you want to find a good parking spot at the local health club, wait until the second week of January." We all know that most New Year's resolutions never come to fruition. In fact, U.S. News & World Report recently estimated that the failure rate for New Year's resolutions is believed to be about 80 percent, and most lose their resolve by mid-February.

Don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with having resolutions or goals. There is actually something commendable about trying to better ourselves. However, we are suckers if we have a New Year's resolution and expect to attain it without designing and implementing a system to support it. Setting any kind of goal and expecting to reach it just out of sheer intrinsic motivation is not realistic. As statistics show, this approach is destined for failure.

Whatever your resolution is, have an incremental approach and a system in place. If you want to read more, start by reading a few pages per night. Then after a while, start reading five or 10 pages per night. Work your way up to

30 minutes per night or whatever you are comfortable doing. If you want to start running, run from light post to light post. Alternate by walking between every other one. Over time, run a quarter of a mile. Then a half mile.... a mile.... a 5K..... a half marathon. You catch my drift. This incremental approach is a system that will support your growth over time. By being invested in the process in this manner over time, you will be more apt to reach your goal or resolution.

Imagine your goal was to run a marathon, but you had no system in place to get you there, and you have never run any significant distances before. This is how most resolutions are set up – with very little thought or planning. This is why most resolutions are not accomplished. There is a saying about this: "You fail to the level of your systems."

One of the benefits of a mindfulness practice is the cultivation of greater self-awareness. Self-awareness is crucial in the development of habits that can either make or break the systems we have put in place to attain our resolutions or goals. Our habits work in a loop that goes from: CUE to CRAVING

to RESPONSE to REWARD. This loop occurs for both good and bad habits. If your self-awareness is strong enough, you can identify a habit as helpful to your resolution or unhelpful to your resolution. If the habit is good, make the craving attractive. If it is bad, make the craving unattractive. This can be done with some mental effort over time. The eventual goal here is to repeat good habits over and over until they become automatic. In doing so, these good habits will support your systems, and thus, you have a better chance of reaching your objectives. [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.



Greta Thunberg Reportedly Arrested at Pro-Palestinian London Protest

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg was arrested in London last Tuesday during a pro-Palestinian demonstration, according to activist group Defend Our Juries.

A City of London police spokesperson confirmed to JNS that a 22-year-old woman had been arrested "for displaying an item (in this case a placard) in support of a proscribed organisation (in this case Palestine Action) contrary to Section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000."

Two other individuals were arrested earlier for throwing red paint on a building, police said.

"At around 7am this morning hammers and red paint were used to damage a building on Fenchurch Street," the spokesperson said. "A 24-year-old man and a 38-year-old woman have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage. They glued themselves nearby and specialist officers released them and brought them into police custody."

Defend Our Juries said protesters targeted the location because it houses an insurance firm that allegedly provides services to the British division of Israeli defense contractor Elbit Systems.

Thunberg, known primarily for her climate activism, has increasingly participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. [HW](#)



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Tucker Carlson Named ‘Antisemite of the Year’ as 2024 Winner Candace Owens Ramps Up Anti-Jewish Rhetoric



Conservative political commentator and podcast host Tucker Carlson speaks at Turning Point’s annual AmericaFest conference in Phoenix, Dec. 18, 2025. Credit: Olivier Tournon / AFP via Getty Images

By Philissa Cramer

December 22, 2025 (JTA) – The activist group StopAntisemitism has awarded the conservative personality Tucker Carlson its ignominious honor of “Antisemite of the Year,” citing his frequent invocation of classic antisemitic stereotypes.

The announcement comes as Carlson sits at the center of controversy on the American right about whether extremists should be welcomed in the Republican Party. It also marks the second year in a row that StopAntisemitism has selected a right-wing figure for its accolade, after years of awarding the mantle to mostly left-wing figures.

“Carlson mainstreams antisemitism by platforming and praising Holocaust revisionists and Nazi apologists, while hiding behind irony and plausible deniability,” the group said in a statement. “By legitimizing extremist voices and weaponizing conspiratorial imagery at massive scale, he has helped drag antisemitic ideas back into the mainstream.”

A watchdog presence with more than 300,000 followers on X, StopAntisemitism regularly mobilizes against activists and social media posts. The group has faced criticism for what some perceive as an inordinate focus on Muslim personalities, pro-Palestinian actions and non-prominent individuals. Its defenders deny that, pointing out that StopAntisemitism also regularly spotlights neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers on the right.

Its finalists for Antisemite of the Year included pro-Palestinian celebrities Ms. Rachel, Cynthia Nixon and Marcia Cross; mixed-martial-arts athlete and Holocaust denier Bryce Mitchell; two personalities associated with left-wing network The Young Turks; and social media personalities on both the far left (Guy Christensen) and far right (Stew Peters).

Carlson received the accolade at the end of a weekend in which he was a keynote speaker at the convention of Turning Point USA, the young-conservatives group founded by Charlie Kirk,

who was assassinated this fall. In its announcement, StopAntisemitism noted Carlson’s speech at Kirk’s memorial service, in which he described the murder of Jesus in a way that both his critics and fans interpreted as implying that Jews or Israelis had been behind Kirk’s assassination.

At the convention, the Jewish pundit Ben Shapiro continued his campaign against Carlson and Carlson declared himself to free of the anti-Jewish animus that he has long been criticized as propagating.

“Let me just affirm one final time. Not only am I not an antisemite — and I would say so if I was — I’m not an antisemite for a very specific reason,” Carlson said in his speech. “Not because it’s unpopular or my donors don’t like it. I don’t have any donors. I’m not an antisemite because anti-semitism is immoral in my religion. It is immoral to hate people for how they were born.”

It was the same explanation that Vice President JD Vance offered earlier this month when he said in an NBC News interview that he believed antisemitism is wrong.

In his own speech to Turning Point USA’s AmericaFest, Vance again refrained from criticizing extremists in the Republican Party, saying that he opposes “purity tests” for inclusion in the conservative movement. He also said he believed that antisemitism in the United States was being fueled by “a real backlash” against U.S. aid to Israel.

As the convention was underway, last year’s “Antisemite of the Year,” the right-wing streamer Candace Owens, embarked on a four-hour broadcast eviscerating Shapiro; amplifying antisemitic theories, including that Jews controlled the slave trade; and promoting a classic work of antisemitism by August Rohling, a German Catholic who believed in the blood libel and argued that the Talmud is a secret guide used by Jews for nefarious purposes. Rohling died in 1931. [HW](#)

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Ehud Barak, Jeffrey Epstein Appear in Newly Released Photo



From left, seated: billionaire Thomas Pritzker, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and filmmaker Woody Allen; magician David Blaine stands at left, while the late financier Jeffrey Epstein stands between Barak and Allen, in an undated photo from Epstein's estate released on Dec. 18, 2025. Source: House Oversight Democrats.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – A photo released [week before last] from the estate of the late child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein shows former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak sitting next to Epstein in the company of billionaire Thomas Pritzker, director Woody Allen and magician David Blaine.

The undated photo, in which Epstein appears to rest his hand on Barak's chair, is one of the dozens of photos that Democrats in the U.S. Congress [on December 17] released from the estate of Epstein, who died in custody in 2019, in what prison authorities said was a suicide.

The photos and other documents re-

leased were part of the latest tranche of files released to the public about Epstein, who had close ties with many billionaires and world leaders. Those ties, as well as Epstein's death before he stood trial, have sparked speculations of cover-ups on behalf of accomplices of Epstein, who was arrested and charged with sex trafficking of minors and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors.

In March, both Barak and Ehud Olmert, another former Israeli prime minister, were listed as associates of Epstein in a previous batch of declassified files released by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Other Israelis listed in the declassified documents included Arik Gutman, Avi Gil, Efrat Evani Duud, Elisa Eshed and Neima Yakhof.

Neither the photo released last Thursday nor the documents published in March contained proof implicating any of the people mentioned or seen in the files in the crimes attributed to Epstein.

According to previous reports, Barak visited Epstein at least 36 times between 2013 and 2017. The meetings came well after Epstein's 2008 conviction for procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution.

However, Barak has claimed he was unaware of Epstein's activities. He later

said he regretted having a relationship with Epstein.

Two additional photos released last Thursday show Epstein sitting aboard what appears to be an executive jet plane next to Noam Chomsky, an American linguist, an outspoken anti-Zionist who has said Israel's treatment of Palestinians is worse than Apartheid South Africa's treatment of Blacks.

Epstein is known to have flown a private jet to Little Saint James, a small private island in the United States Virgin Islands, southeast of Saint Thomas. Epstein hosted guests there and, allegedly, they would have sex with victims of Epstein's human trafficking activities. Epstein's plane, which flew to the island and back, was dubbed "The Lolita Express."

Chomsky, 97, has previously appeared in Epstein-related documents, including correspondence about academic and personal matters. In an email, Epstein invited Chomsky and Chomsky's wife to his island.

Chomsky previously told The Wall Street Journal that Epstein had helped him move money between his accounts, but said he received no money from Epstein in return. "I knew him, and we met occasionally," Chomsky said of Epstein. [HW](#)

Menorah Vandalized Outside Jewish Food Pantry in Queens, N.Y.

(JNS) – The New York City Police Department is reportedly investigating the Dec. 15 vandalism of a menorah outside Tomchei Shabbos of Queens, N.Y., a Jewish food pantry, as a possible hate crime.

The New York Post reported that, according to police, a suspect approached a vehicle parked in front of the charity

at about 3:12 p.m. and tore a Chanukah menorah from the vehicle's roof, damaging the display. The menorah was valued at about \$250.

A photo of the suspect shows a man clad in a dark-colored beanie, sunglasses, gray hoodie and black coat while carrying a dark bag.

Lynn Schulman, a member of the New York City Council, said that the "heinous act of antisemitism" took place in her district "and is being thoroughly investigated by the NYPD."

She added that "these incidents are happening more frequently and are totally unacceptable." [HW](#)

A photo of the suspect shows a man clad in a dark beanie, sunglasses and layered outerwear while carrying a dark bag.



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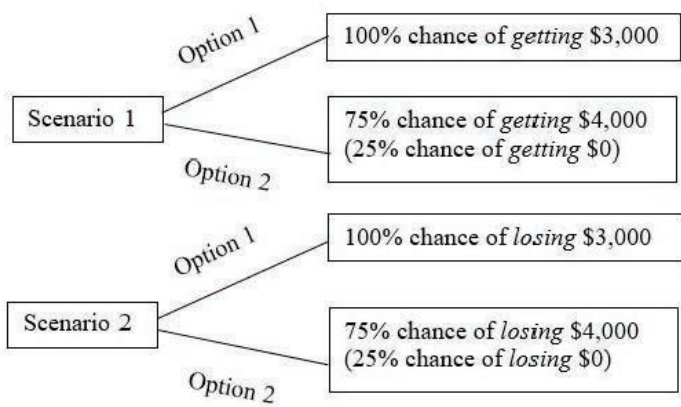
What is Behavioral Finance ... and Why Should You Care?

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
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Investors may like to think they're completely rational in their decision-making, but that's highly unlikely. We don't stop being human beings when it comes to investing, so psychology and emotions are apt to play roles – sometimes large ones – in the choices we make.

Behavioral finance studies investors' real-life behavior and common biases. It considers the roles emotions and psychology play in making financial decisions and aims to identify factors that cause investors to sometimes act irrationally.

A key concept in behavioral finance is "prospect theory," which describes how investors make decisions involving risk and gain. Studies have shown people frequently consider losses far more undesirable than they find comparable gains desirable. For example, take the following scenarios:



Given the first scenario, most people will avoid the risk and take option one (the sure \$3,000 gain). On the other hand, when presented the second scenario, most favor option two (the 75% chance of losing \$4,000) because it offers the possibility of avoiding the pain of a loss.

Keep in mind – and this is important – all four choices are mathematically equivalent. This means individuals' responses were based primarily on their emotional reactions to fear of loss vs. enjoyment of gain, not rational decision-making.

The psychology of risk and reward

If you ever wonder why markets sometimes act in ways that defy logic, behavioral finance helps explain it. For example, bubbles can form when prices rise based on investors' emotional reactions rather than the fundamentals. Once their sentiment eventually changes, a precipitous sell-off can follow.

Take what's come to be known as the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s. Soon after the internet's introduction, investors realized its potential to transform our everyday lives. What they were over-optimistic about were internet-based companies' abilities to quickly create profitable businesses.

In response to investors' enthusiasm, the NASDAQ Index, where many of these companies' stocks were listed, rose 189% during the two years leading up to its peak in March 2000. Perhaps more significantly, the price/earnings (P/E) ratio – a measure commonly used to determine how expensive stocks are (the higher the ratio, the more expensive stocks are considered to be) – was 175.¹ By comparison, it was only 25 as of October 25, 2024.²

That suggests many investors were caught up in the furor over the New Economy and ignored the fundamentals. When investors realized it would be a long time before many of these companies became profitable, the bubble burst and stock prices plummeted.

The lesson for investors is the importance of being diversified and investing primarily based on fundamentals – not on emotion and the fear of missing out on the next "big thing." Of course, diversifi-

cation strategies do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate the risk of loss.

1 Source: Nasdaq and Bloomberg, March 10, 2015.

2 Source: Bloomberg.

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Camp Sabra Announces Major Scholarship & Grant Opportunities for Summer 2026

ST. LOUIS — Camp Sabra is proud to announce new scholarship and grant opportunities for Summer 2026, made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Michael Staenberg. These awards expand access to Camp Sabra's confidence-building, friendship-forming, Jewish identity-strengthening overnight camp experience. Scholarship & Grant Opportunities for Summer 2026 include:

- Michael Staenberg Second Year Camper Grant

Eligible returning campers may receive up to \$850 toward Summer 2026 tuition if they received a 2025 One Happy Camper grant—helping make a second summer at Camp Sabra possible.

- Tuition-Free, Need-Based Scholarship

Camp Sabra will award up to 10 full-tuition, need-based scholarships to ensure financial circumstances never prevent a child from experiencing the magic of camp.

"A tuition free, need based scholar-

ship to Camp Sabra is a game changer. There are families who want to send their children to Jewish summer camp, to Camp Sabra, but simply cannot afford it. Because of Michael Staenberg's generosity, families who once thought camp was out of reach can now say yes," said Kim Sloan, camp director at Camp Sabra. "The second-year camper grant is also incredibly impactful. The first year sparks interest, but the second year is when camp truly becomes a child's summer home. This support helps families bridge that gap and gives campers the chance to belong."

Families interested in applying for a scholarship or have any questions are encouraged to reach out to Camp Sabra Associate Director Lisa Deutsch at Lisa@campsabra.com.

About Camp Sabra

Camp Sabra is the overnight summer camp of the St. Louis Jewish Community Center, where children build independence, confidence, friendships, and lifelong Jewish connection. [HW](#)

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OBITUARIES



Tommy Herschel Jagendorf

Tommy Herschel Jagendorf, beloved husband, attorney, and lifelong Memphian, passed away at the age of 82.

Born in Memphis on August 15, 1943, Tommy lived a life defined by devotion, intelligence and quiet generosity.

For 56 years, Tommy stood beside his wife, Dolores “Dodie” Santi Jagendorf, the love of his life, whom he tenderly referred to as Bootsie. Married in 1969, their nearly six decades together stood as a testament to loyalty, resilience and an unshakable bond.

Their love story began almost like a movie: a young Dodie, riding on the back of Tommy’s motorcycle, meeting her forever love in a moment that quietly ushered in the beginning of a lifetime side by side.

A proud Memphian, Tommy attended Christian Brothers High School and later Rhodes College. He earned his law degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and went on to build a distinguished legal career marked by honor, acumen and discipline.

Tommy also proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps, an experience that shaped his character, toughness and lifelong sense of duty.

Beyond his profession, Tommy cared deeply about causes greater than himself. He was a committed advocate for animal welfare and conservation, supporting numerous organizations quietly and faithfully, never seeking recognition – only impact. He was also a generous and caring donor to Baron Hirsch Synagogue, supporting its mission with humility and devotion.

Tommy had a fierce appreciation for Cuban cigars, was an avid reader of history and war books, and an avid lifelong sports fan. He especially loved cheering on his alma mater, the University of Memphis.

A devoted animal lover, Tommy leaves behind his beloved cats – Pumpkin, Winter and Groucho – and had rescued and lovingly cared for seven additional cats at a second residence, exhibiting his lifelong commitment to giving animals a safe and caring home.

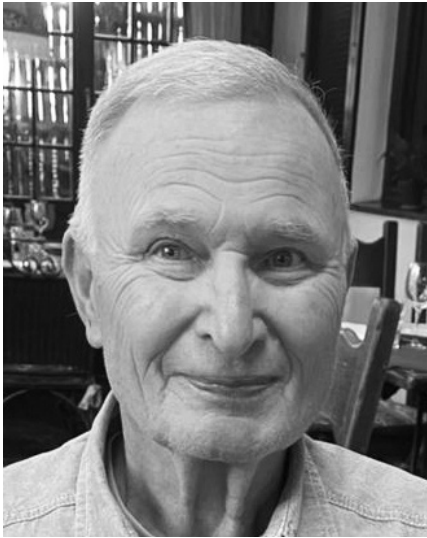
He was preceded in death by his parents, Hans and Greta Jagendorf, and his sister, Ann Shanker.

Tommy is survived by his niece, Greta (Shanker) Baum, nephew Jonathan Shanker, his devoted sister-in-law, Rita (Santi) Grivich, niece Gina (Grivich) Farrar, nephew Marcus Albert Santi, and, most importantly, his adopted son, Mike MacKay, who shared with Tommy unwavering love, steadfast support, countless laughs, and deeply cherished memories that spanned many meaningful years.

Tommy Jagendorf lived with purpose, loved without compromise and stood firm for what mattered. His legacy is not found in accolades, but in kindness, strength, grace and extraordinary love.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Donations in Tommy’s memory may be made to an animal charity of choice or to Baron Hirsch Synagogue. **HW**



Isaac Lisogorski

Isaac Lisogorski, born September 20, 1946, passed away after a life defined by perseverance, discipline and an exceptional work ethic.

Born in Poland, Isaac’s early life was shaped by hardship and history. He later immigrated to Israel and eventually to the United States, where he built his life through determination and relentless

effort. A proud Vietnam War veteran, Isaac embodied toughness, responsibility and endurance throughout his life.

He worked hard, exercised regularly and valued physical strength and routine. He also loved traveling and explored many parts of the world with curiosity and independence.

Isaac had a sharp sense of humor and enjoyed joking with others and making people laugh. He was social, engaging and appreciated good conversation. He also loved his family deeply.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Anna Lisogorski.

He is survived by his son, Eric Lisogorski (Sara), his five grandchildren, Orian, Liel, Adele, Harel and Eliana, of Cleveland, Ohio, his wife, Irina Lisogorski, and his brother, Shaya Lisogorski.

Burial took place at Baron Hirsch Cemetery on December 29, 2025.

Isaac’s life journey across continents stands as a testament to grit, self-reliance and the value of hard work. His memory will endure through the example he set. **HW**



David Wagner Neuman

David Wagner Neuman, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2025, just three days before his 90th birthday. Born on December 25, 1935, in Brooklyn, New York, David’s life was a gift to all who knew him – a life marked by love, laughter and unwavering devotion to family.

Adopted at birth by Lena Wagner Neuman and Louis Neuman, David grew up in Brooklyn before his family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, during his teenage years. There, he thrived both academically and athletically, playing football and earning acceptance to the University of Oklahoma. However, when his father unexpectedly passed away, David returned to Albuquerque to care for his mother – a decision that reflected his deep sense of responsibility and love. He attended the University of New Mexico, where he earned a degree in business, before he and his mother eventually returned to New York.

David’s athletic talent led him to play professional football for the Montreal Alouettes, and he was even drafted by the Chicago Bears – a remarkable achievement that spoke to his determination and skill. Ultimately, David transitioned into a successful business career, beginning with a position selling Kaywoodie pipes. Later, he moved his family to Phoenix, where he co-owned a grocery store called Carlitos Market. His entrepreneurial spirit continued as he launched his own business, The Ice Man, delivering commercial ice to restaurants, bars, construction sites, and numerous events – a venture that became a cornerstone of

his professional life.

On June 18, 1960, David married the love of his life, Isabel Finke, after a whirlwind romance that began with a blind date. In true Dave Neuman fashion, he proposed on their second date, and Isabel said yes without hesitation. Their marriage of 65 years was a testament to enduring love and partnership, filled with shared adventures, mutual respect and countless cherished memories.

Together, David and Isabel raised three daughters—Randi Levin, Leslie Spillman and Andrea Malkin – instilling in them the values of kindness, integrity and resilience. Though an only child, David built a family that became his greatest joy, including seven grandchildren: Adam, Jessica, Jacob, Grant, Shaine, Morgan and Amanda, and a son-in-law, Arthur Malkin. Each of them carries forward his legacy of love and strength.

David was admired for his integrity, generosity, and quick wit. He had a remarkable sense of humor and was known for his memorable sayings, including:

“What time does the balloon go up?”
“If you throw enough against the wall, something will stick,” and his playful question, “Who did your hair today?”

He was also renowned for his humorous take on Jewish prayers, often joking during Kol Nidre and Avinu Malkeinu: “Avinu Malkeinu, who stole the bananas.”

These moments of levity brought joy to family and friends and will be fondly remembered for generations.

Beyond his professional and athletic accomplishments, David found joy in simple pleasures – family gatherings, storytelling and offering guidance to those who sought his wisdom.

He is survived by Isabel, his devoted wife; his daughters Randi, Leslie and Andrea; his son-in-law Arthur; and his seven grandchildren, who will forever hold him in their hearts. His legacy is one of compassion, resilience, humor and love – a life well lived and deeply treasured.

A service was held to celebrate David’s extraordinary life. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to dance La Vida Loca in his memory. **HW**

Obituaries Continued on page 10



Sidney Maurice Katz

We are deeply saddened to share news of the passing of Sidney Katz, a remarkable man whose life was filled with music, commitment and love. At 96 years old, Sidney left behind a legacy that touched many lives through his extraordinary talent as a musician, his leadership in the housing finance industry and his unwavering devotion to family, faith and community.

Sidney’s lifelong passion for music shone brightly as he mastered the tenor saxophone and clarinet, delighting family and friends at weddings and special occasions. His early days saw him playing alongside legends like Elvis Presley and performing at President Harry Truman’s inauguration. Later in life, he recorded the beautiful album “Sax after

60,” a testament to his enduring love for music and his gift for bringing joy to others.

Beyond his musical talents, Sidney was a senior executive at National Mortgage Company for 43 years and an active member of numerous community organizations. He served as past president of the Baron Hirsch Congregation and Margolin Hebrew Academy, always striving to give back and support those in need.

Sidney’s passions extended to tennis, reading and listening to music, taking great joy in even the simplest of life’s pleasures. He cherished his family: his loving wife, Dorothy, her children and grandchildren; his children Joel, David, Judy and Aaron; and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will forever hold him in their hearts.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elaine Margolin, brother Gilbert, and sister Barbara, and his parents Alex and Rose Katz.

Funeral services were held in Memphis, where he was loved and respected by all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, the Margolin Hebrew Academy or the American Cancer Society.

Sidney’s legacy of love, music and community will remain with us always. He will be dearly missed but never forgotten. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Linda Cooper Young

Linda Cooper Young passed away peacefully on December 24 at her home in Memphis. She lived a life of deep love, grace and strength, and we will miss her dearly.

Born on October 20, 1943, to Meriam and Harry Cooper, Linda Diane Cooper was the eldest of five children. After graduating from White Station High School, Linda enrolled at University of Oklahoma, where she was a proud member of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority, and Washington University in St. Louis, before transferring to Memphis State University. Following college, Linda worked as a social worker before devoting all her time to her family.

The turning point of her life was a chance encounter in 1963 at Memphis State Student Center, where she caught the eye of university senior, Edward “Eddie” Young. Linda often recounted the joy of their courtship, culminating in Eddie’s proposal the day before Thanksgiving. They married in August 1965. They moved to Nashville while Eddie attended Vanderbilt Law School. Upon Eddie’s law school graduation in 1966, they returned to Memphis to grow their family.

Linda and Eddie shared many joyful years raising their children, Brad and Julie. They also cultivated a shared passion for travel, with Venice, Italy, San Francisco, Chicago and New York be-

ing among their favorite destinations. Their love of adventure extended to wonderful and memorable trips taken with their children, grandchildren and extended family. After Eddie’s passing in 2022, Linda found pleasure in choosing unique and beautiful flowers for her garden, and in taking trips rich with cherished new memories with her children and grandchildren.

Always proud to be part of a large, close-knit, loving family, Linda is survived by her adoring children, Brad Young (Terri) of Atlanta and Julie Lovinger (Todd) of Tampa. She is also survived by her five beloved grandchildren – the lights of her life – who called her “Honey:” Blake, Carly and Brandon Lovinger, and Josh and Anna Young. Always proud to be part of a large, close-knit, loving family, she leaves behind her siblings: Allan Cooper; Ronnie Cooper (Tracey); Steve Cooper (Linda Stephens); and her little sister, Caren Abis (Barney), whom she affectionately referred to as “Kekes,” all of Memphis. Linda is also survived by her sister-in-law Ellen Salky (Sammy) of Memphis, and many cherished nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. Linda was preceded in her passing by her beloved husband, Eddie Young; her parents, Meriam and Harry Cooper; and her niece, Sara Natalie Cooper, all of blessed memory.

Her family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable, caring and capable women who ensured Linda’s home, garden and care were in order: Janwana Beasley, Tibyea Malone and Eva Swietkowski.

Every Shabbat, Linda would make the same meaningful toast. She would look at Eddie, raise her glass, and say, “Never above you. Never below you. Always by your side.” May she now rest in peace, always at Dad/Pappy/Eddie’s and Mimi and Papa Harry’s side.

Funeral services were private. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Linda’s memory to the Memphis Jewish Federation or Temple Israel. **HW**

Vance Declines to Draw a Line Against Rising Influence of Antisemitic Figures in Republican Party



Vice President JD Vance speaks on the final day of Turning Point USA’s annual AmericaFest conference at the Phoenix Convention Center on Dec. 21, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona. Credit: Caylo Seals/Getty Images

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – In the latest round of conservative infighting over the mainstreaming of antisemitic figures within the GOP, Vice President JD Vance has once again declined to draw a red line.

At the center of the controversy that has roiled the Republican Party is Nick Fuentes, the antisemitic and white nationalist livestreamer who set off a firestorm after he voiced his disdain for “these Zionist Jews” in a friendly interview with conservative commentator Tucker Carlson in October.

Since then, Vance has failed to meet calls from Jewish conservatives to set a boundary against antisemitic voices within the Republican coalition.

Last Monday, in an interview with UnHerd, Vance downplayed the influence of Fuentes and instead argued that the focus on his presence in the GOP was crowding out a larger discussion about anti-Israel animus within the party.

“I think that Nick Fuentes, his influence within Donald Trump’s administration, and within a whole host of institutions on the right, is vastly overstated, and frankly, it’s overstated by people who want to avoid having a foreign-policy conversation about America’s relationship with Israel,” said Vance.

Vance also dismissed claims about the prevalence of antisemitism across the political spectrum, saying that much of what is alleged to be antisemitism is in fact “a real backlash” against Israel.

“Ninety-nine percent of Republicans, and I think probably 97% of Democrats, do not hate Jewish people for being Jewish. What is actually happening is that there is a real backlash to a consensus view in American foreign policy. I think we ought to have that conversation and not try to shut it down. Most Americans are not antisemitic, they’re never going to be antisemitic, and I think we should focus on the real debate,” said Vance.

Earlier last month, Vance also dismissed claims that antisemitism is surging within the Republican Party and said that the “the single most significant thing you could do to eliminate anti-semitism” was lowering immigration to the United States.

A poll released this month by the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank, found that nearly four in 10 GOP voters believe that the Holocaust was greatly exaggerated or did not happen “as historians describe.” It also found that roughly equal shares of Democrats and Republicans, around one in five, hold anti-Jewish sentiments.

Vance told UnHerd that while Israel is an important U.S. ally, a sentiment long held by the GOP, the party needed to widen its tent to include diverging opinions on the Jewish state.

“I happen to believe that Israel is an important ally, and that there are certain things that we’re certainly going to work together on,” Vance says. “But we’re also going to have very substantive disagreements with Israel, and that’s OK. And we should be able to say, ‘We agree with Israel on that issue, and we disagree with Israel on this other issue.’ Having that conversation is, I think, much less comfortable for a lot of people, because they want to focus on Nick Fuentes.”

On Sunday, Vance also declined to condemn antisemitism on the right at Turning Point USA’s annual convention, instead encouraging the party to widen its tent.

The convention, titled AmericaFest, was roiled by debates over antisemitic figures within the party. Vance told attendees that he “didn’t bring a list of conservatives to denounce or to de-platform,” adding that that party has “far more important work to do than canceling each other.”

“When I say that I’m going to fight alongside of you, I mean all of you — each and every one,” said Vance. “President Trump did not build the greatest coalition in politics by running his supporters through endless, self-defeating purity tests.”

At the beginning of AmericaFest, Vance also earned a 2028 presidential endorsement from Turning Point’s leader Erika Kirk, widow of its slain founder Charlie Kirk. The convention itself was also marked by internal Republican divisions over whether the party should lend its platform to figures espousing antisemitic rhetoric, including Fuentes.

Franklin Foer, a staff writer for The Atlantic, titled his Monday op-ed “J. D. Vance Fails a Simple Moral Test,” accusing Vance of welcoming antisemites into the Republican coalition.

“By failing to denounce anti-Semitism, Vance has emboldened its adherents to flaunt their prejudices more openly, to dehumanize Jews with greater abandon,” wrote Foer. “He told the Turning Point audience that he doesn’t want to ‘impose any purity tests’ when, in reality, he was granting license to those who celebrate the most murderous purity test of all time.”

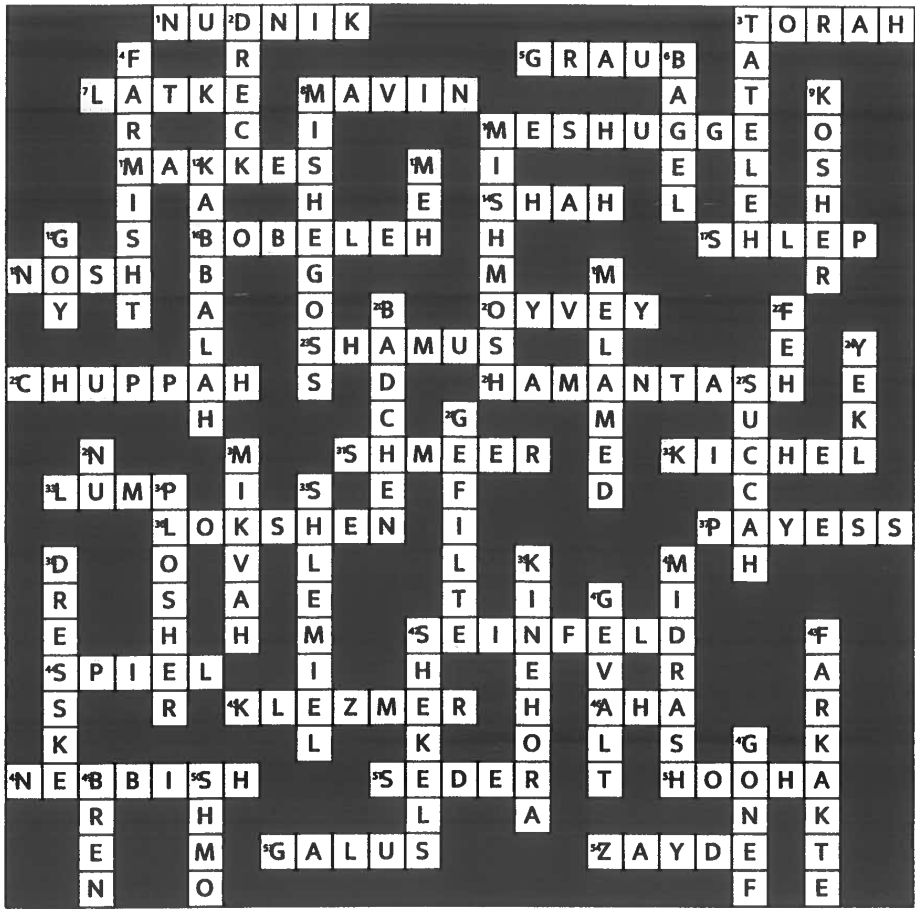
Jonathan Tobin, the editor-in-chief of the Jewish News Syndicate, also criticized Vance in an op-ed last Monday for failing to utilize a “chance to distinguish his national conservative vision from the views of Fuentes and Carlson.”

“By passing on a golden opportunity to draw a line in the sand between his ideas and those of right-wingers who share the left’s hatred for Jews, he’s telling us that he wants their votes,” wrote Tobin. **HW**

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Crossword Puzzel Answers from page 4





Celebrating 30 Years of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis

30 Years, 30 Moments

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

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



August 2022: The Temple Israel Cemetery Sustainability Fund (TICSF) was established as the fourth Support Organization of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. The TICSF was created to secure and financially sustain the Temple Israel Cemetery in perpetuity. This includes providing sustaining funds for the perpetual care, maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery while Temple Israel retains ongoing responsibility for the Cemetery’s ownership, operations, management, and oversight.

\$100 Million Spent on Anti-Israel Efforts Yearly at U.N., Says Israeli Envoy Danon



Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, addresses the Security Council on June 4, 2025. Credit: Evan Schneider/U.N. photo.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Israel’s envoy to the United Nations claimed last week that the global body spends upward of \$100 million on anti-Israel activity each year.

Ambassador Danny Danon said the United Nations intends to soon approve its 2026 operating budget, and that his office has identified the \$100 million “which is dedicated to activities against the state of Israel – to investigations, to discussions, to comprehensive decisions that work against us.”

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency, commonly known as UNRWA, is tabbed to receive \$86.5 million next year, according to documents viewed by JNS.

The Palestinian-only aid and social services agency is under fire for ties to Hamas, and several countries and enti-

ties, including the United States, have suspended and reduced funding for the agency.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told JNS at a press briefing last week that “I think we can deliver humanitarian aid without UNRWA,” calling it “a corrupted organization that’s unsalvageable, period.”

Critics have accused the agency of primarily serving a political agenda, but U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres refused to propose financial cuts or related reform for UNRWA, despite the United Nations’ severe cash crunch.

Outside UNRWA, documents viewed by JNS attribute \$4 million in budget requests for entities housed within the U.N. Division for Palestinian Rights, in-

cluding the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which largely acts as an advocacy organization.

Without parallel in the U.N. system, the Division for Palestinian Rights employs 15 people, and Israeli officials accuse the entity, which falls under the purview of the U.N. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, not of aiming to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but of disseminating a one-sided narrative.

Elsewhere, the budget documents viewed by JNS show approximately \$800,000 a year dedicated to funding travel and training for Palestinian journalists, \$4 million for the U.N. Human Rights Council’s commission of inquiry on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – which has issued a series of reports highly critical of Israel, including charges of genocide and calls for boycotts – and nearly \$1 million promoting a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone, which Israeli officials say singularly targets Jerusalem.

Additionally, the United Nations itself estimates that the cost of a debate runs between \$11,000-\$17,000, and an 8,500-page report costs around \$24,000 for production and translation services.

With debates and reports aimed at criticizing Israel running at around 100 per year across the U.N. system, according to figures viewed by JNS, the cost runs at around \$3 million a year, and with 30 regular U.N. General Assembly debates last year dedicated to recurring Israel-related items, plus other Israel-focused debates at other U.N. institutions, the cost

for those likely exceeds \$1 million.

Other costs were more difficult to pin down, including the salaries and related expenditures for four U.N. High Commission for Human Rights staff members dedicated to investigating, compiling and publishing the annual U.N. blacklist of companies doing business in Judea and Samaria, and five staff members employed by the same entity’s Working Group of Business and Human Rights that focus on encouraging boycotts of Israel.

While U.N. special rapporteurs and so-called independent experts are not salaried, their travel and other administrative costs are paid for by the United Nations. This includes Francesca Albanese, the special rapporteur for Palestinian rights, who was sanctioned by the United States for threatening American businesses with reputational harm and prosecution for doing business in and with Israel.

“It is a shame that so much money is dedicated to activities against Israel instead of going to places that really need the investment,” Danon said.

Israel paid nearly \$21 million in dues to the United Nations this year, while the Palestinian Authority, which holds non-member observer status but was granted unique enhanced rights by the General Assembly last year, contributes nothing to the general budget, as it is not required to do so.

Guterres’ office has repeatedly demurred when asked by JNS about the significant financial costs of anti-Israel activity within the U.N. system, saying that it is a matter for member states. **HW**

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Antisemitic Booth at Turning Point Event Told to Remove Offensive Slurs Against Ben Shapiro



Liberated hostage Omer Shem Tov speaks with Luke Moon, of Generation Zion, at Turning Point USA's America Fest event in Phoenix, Dec. 19, 2025. Credit: Audrey Hoffman. | Audrey Hoffman

By Jessica Russak-Hoffman

(JNS) – A staffer at Turning Point USA spoke to organizers of an antisemitic booth, in full view of JNS, at the student movement’s AmericaFest event in Phoenix, after which JNS saw booth occupants remove a statement on a screen that directed a homophobic slur at Jewish commentator and Daily Wire cofounder Ben Shapiro.

The offensive statement was displayed in an outside vendor’s “prove me wrong” booth – as a topic ostensibly for attendees to debate with the booth organizers – on the second day of the conference, held Dec. 18-21, which drew 31,000 people, including about 10,000 students, according to Turning Point.

A student associated with the booth, who said that he is 19 but turned his badge around so that JNS couldn’t identify him, declined to give his name but said that it was his idea to display the slur about Shapiro and he typed it out.

The unnamed student told JNS that he meant it “as a joke.”

The prior night, Shapiro had delivered a speech, in which he decried Jew-hatred, including in the conservative move-

ment. He gave the talk immediately after an address from Erika Kirk, CEO of Turning Point and widow of the movement’s cofounder Charlie Kirk. Charlie Kirk was shot and killed as he held an event on a Utah campus on Sept. 10.

On the first day of the conference, the offensive booth – which is distinct from the conference’s official “prove me wrong display” – stated on a screen that “Israel is not America’s greatest ally.”

Emilio Martinez, who told JNS that the booth in question was his, sat in front of the screen and shouted into a microphone that Israel could have killed Charlie Kirk and that the Israeli intelligence agency had advanced knowledge of the al-Qaeda terror attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

The booth also displayed posters stating “deport all illegals” and “abortion kills more than guns.” There were two chairs set up with microphones. (It developed a reputation as the event’s “groyper” booth, or a site associated with followers of Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes.)

Dennis Feitosa, 40, who is running for Congress as a Republican in California’s 30th congressional district, sponsored the booth, according to Martinez. Feitosa was one of its debaters, and the name of his comedy social media channel, Def Noodles, was displayed on the booth. (JNS sought comment from Feitosa’s campaign and from the California Republican Party.)

Martinez, the other debater, told JNS that “we lean into topics that people don’t want to talk about.”

“What I said was, ‘If they were our greatest ally, why didn’t Mossad, why didn’t they tell us that 9/11 was going to happen?’” he told JNS, of Israel. JNS asked if Martinez had evidence that Israel had prior knowledge of the attack. “I said, ‘If they knew,’” he said.

Martinez told JNS that Ben Shapiro “created” Fuentes by pushing him away. JNS sought more information.

“Hitler was upset with the Jews,” he said. “The Jews were the leaders in the socialist movement and the Bolshevik movement.” He added that if Jews could go back in time, they ought to talk to Hitler rather than getting “defensive.”

He also told JNS that “the Jewish question” is “the narrow path that Christians have to walk” to support Israel and Jews while fulfilling their obligation “to tell the world about Jesus.”

JNS asked if he was comfortable using the phrase “Jewish question” given that antisemites have used that term, Martinez said that he aims to “take the word back.” He claimed to have Jewish ancestry and told JNS that “my ancestors were forcibly converted in Spain.”

JNS sought comment from Turning Point about why such blatant antisem-

itism and Holocaust denial was permitted to have a platform at the event. Turning Point declined to comment.

Some 50 feet from the booth, Generation Zion, a group that formed after Oct. 7 to empower Jews and Christians to confront hatred against both groups and against Israel, had a vendor booth set up.

Students who are members of the group were debating in favor of Israel and Jews at the antisemitic booth, even as Omer Shem Tov, the liberated Israeli hostage, was interviewed on camera at Generation Zion’s booth. Prior to that interview, he addressed the conference from the main stage, receiving a standing ovation.

Gabriella Magenheimer, 21, a student associated with Generation Zion, told JNS antisemitic “groypers” have tried to brainwash students “into literally making you believe Hitler.”

“This is the fight that we’re fighting against the left, and if we have to fight it against the right, that’s fine,” she said. “These are the new Hitler Youth.”

Magenheimer told JNS that fighting with a young woman at the event, with a video recording spreading on social media, “wasn’t on my list.”

“But I’m always going to defend the Jewish people,” she said. “I’m always gonna say what’s right.”

Luke Moon, founder and president of Generation Zion, told JNS that the difference between his and the nearby booth is that the pro-Israel one “was respectful.” The other one was “intentionally provocative and antagonistic, and meant to stir up the kind of divisiveness that we’re seeing really promoted here by unsavory elements,” he said. **HW**

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