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Iranian Infrastructure Fair Game to Hit but Question Whether it’s Smart, Former US Military Official Says



U.S. Marines fire rifles during a deck shoot aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7), in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility during “Operation Epic Fury,” April 2, 2026. Credit: U.S. Marine Corps.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – The decision whether to attack Iranian infrastructure is less a legal question than one of whether it’s a “smart target,” according to Lt. Gen. Thomas Trask (ret.), former vice commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.

“It’s easy to make the legal case of why you’re striking a power plant,” Trask said on a Jewish Institute for National Security of America webinar last Tuesday, as U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to destroy civilian infrastructure in Iran.

Trask cited an example of a power plant that supplies power to Fayetteville, N.C., and to Fort Bragg, an army installation outside the city.

“That becomes pretty easy to make a case that that’s a legal military target,” Trask said on the webinar. “Now the question becomes more in the gray. What’s the situation that you want to leave afterwards? Do you want to have a situation where you’re creating another generation that may be against you for the small military gain by knocking out certain civilian infrastructure targets?”

Israel and the United States, which are hoping to rally the Iranian people to take the regime down, “don’t want to make enemies of those people, who have already demonstrated the capabil-

ity to risk their lives to try to overthrow their own government,” Trask said.

Trask said that Washington and Jerusalem are focused on a “second level of targets” beyond Iran’s nuclear infrastructure.

[The prior] weekend, Israel struck Iran’s biochemical sector, which “is directly related to supporting the development of weapons that have been used to support Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis around the proxies that the Iranians have been supporting for years,” Trask said. “It looks like an industrial target, but it’s directly related to military capability.”

The targets also include “barracks, training facilities, equipment and vehicles” that, when destroyed, “would make Iran less of a threat to its neighbors afterward,” he said.

Trump is also reportedly weighing whether to launch ground operations inside Iran, beyond the daring rescue missions over last weekend to retrieve a pair of downed pilots.

But not all ground operations are the same, according to Trask.

“You can go in and control a small amount of territory for a short period of time with a relatively small force in a relatively quick and efficient manner,” he said. There are also “other objectives that you could accomplish by doing that

in parts of the country that would be very achievable for us to do,” he said.

A raid is very different from an invasion with permanent forces, which would have to take control of parts of Iran to reopen the blockaded Strait of Hormuz, he said.

“That would be a lot more difficult. It would take a lot more logistics,” Trask said. “It would involve much heavier forces, with the ability to supply them by air.”

Many are questioning the Trump administration’s claims of “air superiority” over Iran, given that an F-15 was shot down last weekend.

Israeli Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amikam Norkin, a former Israeli Air Force commander and JINSA distinguished fellow, said on the webinar that the term “air superiority” can be misunderstood.

“It means that you can fly and do your mission above the enemy territory, but it does not mean that it’s 100% safe,” he said. “There are still air defense systems spread around the bases.”

“It’s very hard to find them, so we must take an assumption that there is a threat,” the retired Israeli official said. “There is no zero threat.”

Norkin noted that trucks can transport shoulder-fired, surface-to-air guided missile systems, and a high-powered rifle can be used to pick off low-flying targets.

“It’s almost impossible to ever eliminate that,” he said.

Questions remain about how the Iranians have managed to hit targets consistently and accurately given U.S. claims that most of the regime’s ballistic missile capabilities have been eliminated.

Trask said that some launchers are protected underground.

“I can only imagine that the intelligence on that is growing daily,” he said. “There’s probably a good chance that we’re getting a better feel for where they’re coming from, where they’re being hidden, where they’re being supported from, where they’re getting fuel from.”

Even as Tehran’s capabilities are being degraded, “it does demonstrate their resilience, that they’re still able to oper-

“Do you want to have a situation where you’re creating another generation that may be against you for the small military gain by knocking out certain civilian infrastructure targets?” said Lt. Gen. (ret) Thomas Trask said at a JINSA webinar.

ate at the level that they are with ballistic missiles, particularly targeted at Israel right now,” Trask said. “I would have bet that we would have been down to maybe one or two a day by this point, so there they are being more resilient than I think probably we imagined.”

Trask and Norkin agreed that dwindling American and Israeli stockpiles would not play a strategic factor in the war, given that Iran’s stockpile pales in comparison.

“Israel and America can keep attacking Iran for a long time,” Norkin said. “I’m not sure that this is the right thing to do, not because of the amount of the bombs but because of other aspects like the Israeli economy or oil price or other parameters.”

“It’s better for us to achieve our goals in a much shorter time, but the amount of the bombs won’t be the limit,” he said.

Trask said that “there are certainly strategic questions that have to be continually evaluated on ramping up weapons production in the United States.”

“I think that’s part of the president’s budget request that certainly is going to be a large part of making sure that we keep stockpiles robust,” he said. “But as far as continuing this mission at the rate that we have, and even at increased rates, I don’t think there’s a significant concern that we’re going to have any kind of contingency operations because of lack of munitions.” **HW**

Beth Sholom Presents “Survivors: 3 Generations Later,” a Holocaust Panel, on Sunday, April 19

Sons and daughters of Holocaust survivors – known as 2Gs or second-generation descendants – were profoundly affected by their parents’ trauma, and many work to ensure the world “never forgets.” But does that intergenerational trauma extend to the third generation, the grandchildren of survivors?

Some answers to the question will emerge at a panel discussion, Survivors: 3 Generations Later, which will take place on Sunday, April 19 at 1 p.m. at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Leading the panel is Rachel Shankman, a 2G descendant herself and a prominent voice on the subject of antisemitism as well as the Shoah. She will be joined by three local third-generation (3G) descendants, Michelle Diamant, Eric Goldberg and Arielle Moinester.

Diamant is the co-founder of the national news site Disability Scoop. She works to keep survivors’ stories alive as co-chair of the Memphis Jewish Federation’s Holocaust Memorial Committee.

Her grandparents, Stefan and Henrietta Diamant, survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and multiple concentration camps. Her grandfather died when Diamant was two, but her grandmother was open about her Holocaust experience.

“She didn’t sit me down and make a point of it, but she would insert stories here and there,” Diamant says. “She would joke about how she wouldn’t ever go on a diet, because she had been starved plenty, and she made it clear that we were never to buy German products. She would talk about being treated like a fly.

“But,” Diamant continues, “there were more serious stories, too. Thinking back now, I realize that most grandparents don’t casually mention Molotov cocktails or babies being shot.”

Eric Goldberg is a physical therapist at Semmes Murphy Clinic. His grandmother, Ilse Goldberg, fled to Shanghai during the Holocaust. He continues her legacy by serving on the Yom HaShoah

Committee for Memphis Jewish Federation. He also serves on Federation’s Young Adult Social Committee.

Arielle Moinester is Senior Impact Lead at Women’s Earth Alliance, which supports women leaders worldwide who protect the environment and strengthen communities. Her maternal grandparents, Mina and Yahuda Chern, met after they were liberated from Auschwitz and married at a displaced person’s camp in Austria. Moinester’s grandfather died when she was young, but she was close to her grandmother.

“I have very strong memories of her,” said Moinester. “She never wanted to talk much about her experience. She always said, ‘You know, that’s the past. Let’s leave it in the past. Let’s move forward.’ I think that’s a common story.”

Shankman notes that many survivors had difficulty talking about trauma they endured to their own children, but unlike in Moinester’s case, “they could

speak to their grandchildren in a very different way.” She adds that sometimes there was a yearning to make sure their stories didn’t die with them. “As [survivors] grew older, they very much wanted to set the record straight,” she says.

Survivors: 3 Generations Later is a unique opportunity for the community to listen to 3G descendants’ stories. “The Holocaust has impacted the lives of both the second and third generations, but the impact is very different,” Shankman says. “But, without question, it is the last generation to have ever known grandparents who went through the Holocaust, who have actually known somebody who lived through it.”

The fourth generation will learn their families’ histories, but it will be different. Diamant notes that her young children will have a chance to watch their great-grandmother’s interviews on video, but adds, “there’s no way for them to truly connect the way I did growing up.” **HW**

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Jewish Groups Condemn Trump’s Threat that a ‘Whole Civilization Will Die’ in Iran



President Donald Trump mimics firing a gun during a news conference in the White House briefing room about the war in Iran on Monday, April 6, 2026. Credit: Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Jewish groups were among those criticizing President Donald Trump and accusing him of using genocidal rhetoric last Tuesday after Trump posted online that “a whole civilization will die tonight” if Iran does not reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

“A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again,” wrote Trump in a post on Truth Social. “I don’t want that to happen, but it probably will. However, now that we have Complete and Total Regime Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, WHO KNOWS?”

The president’s comments came hours before his 8 p.m. deadline for Iran last Tuesday to reach a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and were met by swift condemnation by a group of Senate Democrats, including Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

“We speak today with one voice and one purpose: to condemn President Trump’s threat to extinguish an entire civilization,” Schumer wrote in a joint statement. “This is not strength. Intentionally destroying the power, water or basic infrastructure upon which tens of millions of civilians depend to punish the very civilians who suffer at the hands of the Iranian regime would constitute a war crime, a betrayal of the values this nation was founded on and a moral failure.”

The American Jewish Committee wrote in a post on X that while it “shares the objectives” of Trump’s war with

Iran, it was “alarmed” by the president’s social media posts, adding that the Iranian people “deserve a future defined by dignity, opportunity, and greater integration with the global community.”

Less than two hours before the 8 p.m. deadline, Trump announced that he had agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran proposed by Pakistan, writing in a post on Truth Social, “This will be a double sided CEASEFIRE!”

“We received a 10 point proposal from Iran, and believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate,” Trump wrote. “Almost all of the various points of past contention have been agreed to between the United States and Iran, but a two week period will allow the Agreement to be finalized and consummated.”

Amy Spitalnick, the CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, condemned the president’s remarks, saying in a statement that there were “simply no words to describe the danger of a U.S. president openly threatening to erase an entire civilization.” She alluded to Jews’ history of facing genocidal leaders in her comments.

“Make no mistake: the president’s threats are deeply reprehensible to us as Jews and as Americans, and must be condemned by all leaders – regardless of their stance on the war with Iran,” Spitalnick said. “We know what it means when leaders call for communities and populations to be wiped out.”

Spitalnick was not the only Jewish leader to weigh in. Jeremy Ben-Ami, the president of the liberal pro-Israel lobby J Street, said in a statement that

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 17, 2026 / 30 Nissan, 5786.....7:16 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. April 18, 2026 / 1 Iyar, 5786 8:14 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Tazria-Metzorah

the group was “appalled by President Trump’s heinous remarks.”

“This language – a threat to carry out war crimes – is a searing violation of Jewish and American values, certainly will not lead to the de-escalation we desperately need and is a terrifying example of the senseless violence that has characterized Trump’s leadership,” Ben-Ami said, calling on Congress and the Cabinet to “do everything in their power to restrain and remove him.” Other progressive Jewish groups and

leaders accused Trump of promoting genocide, including Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, which wrote in a post on Instagram, “This is not strength. This is not safety. This is a call for genocide.”

Timothy Snyder, a historian of the Holocaust, also leveled the accusation against the president in a Substack post published last Tuesday titled “The president speaks genocide.”

“To bomb a bridge or a dam or a power plant or a desalinization facility, very likely a war crime in any event, could very well have a different legal significance, a genocidal one, if it takes place after the expression of genocidal intent by the commander and head of state,” Snyder wrote.

For some Jews, the president’s looming deadline for Iran carried added significance as it came during the final days of Passover – and as Iran continued to barrage Israel with missiles.

“Tonight, I pray that the Pharaohs who insist on our demise recognize the harm that they may bring on themselves,” Rabbi Arie Hasit, associate dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Israel, wrote on Facebook. “That they recognize that Iran can put aside its insistence that Israel must be destroyed and that they can make the necessary steps to end this war.”

“And I pray that if they are overcome by Pharaoh, that no leader try to play the part of God,” Hasit continued. “That in the name of my future, we do not wipe out any civilization. That we understand that even the worst of enemies does not justify the use of the fiercest of our power.” **HW**



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IDF Confirms Halt to Iran Strikes, Says Fighting Against Hezbollah in Lebanon Ongoing



IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, Nov. 3, 2025. Credit: Moshe Shai/Flash90

By Charles Bybelezer

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces last Wednesday morning confirmed that strikes against Iran have been suspended following a ceasefire agreement between Washington and Tehran, while saying operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon are ongoing.

“In accordance with political leadership directives, the IDF has halted fire in the campaign against Iran and remains highly prepared to respond defensively to any violation,” the army said in a statement.

The IDF said fighter jets carried out extensive overnight strikes against dozens of ballistic-missile launch sites across the Islamic Republic to significantly reduce the scope of potential attacks.

Key production infrastructure of the Iranian regime was also struck in several areas across Iran, according to the statement.

At the same time, the IDF said targeted ground operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon are ongoing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement last Wednesday expressing support for the U.S.-Iran ceasefire, but said it “does not include Lebanon.”

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said last Tuesday that troops are “deepening the multi-focal effort to degrade the Hezbollah terrorist organization.”

“We continue to establish a forward defense posture to prevent direct fire toward our communities, while simultaneously operating against surface-to-surface fire,” he said.

“In every encounter, our troops prevail over Hezbollah. War carries heavy costs, and we will continue to act to remove threats against our civilians,” he added.

Zamir said last Sunday that the IDF had killed more than 1,000 Hezbollah operatives since the Iranian-backed ter-

rorist group joined the war on March 2, “and that number will continue to rise.”

The military is striking Hezbollah “with determination, extensively and across multiple fronts,” Zamir said during a visit to Ras el-Bayada, a strategic coastal headland located near Tyre that is the northernmost point in Southern Lebanon where Israeli soldiers are currently operating.

“Every terrorist target and any target that supports terrorism in Lebanese territory will be struck,” he vowed, adding that the entire area south of the Litani River has been turned into an “operational zone” where the IDF will remain until it is “free of threats to Israel and our northern communities.”

“We issued advanced warnings to the residents of Southern Lebanon for their protection and to enable freedom of military operation,” Zamir said. “We will remain on this line as long as required.”

Hezbollah began firing rockets and suicide drones at Israel shortly after the assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was targeted in the opening strikes of “Operation Roaring Lion” on Feb. 28.

In response to Hezbollah’s violation of the U.S.-brokered Nov. 27, 2024, truce agreement, Jerusalem launched an aerial campaign against the Iranian proxy and ordered IDF troops to advance and take control of additional areas in Southern Lebanon to halt cross-border attacks.

Meanwhile, the IDF said last Wednesday that the Home Front Command was conducting situational assessments and the public would be updated on any changes to defense guidelines.

“The IDF continues to operate across all sectors in order to defend the State of Israel and its citizens, and calls on the public to continue following Home Front Command instructions,” it added. **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Food, Friends, and Fun: Don’t Miss This Exciting Week at the MJCC Senior Adult Club!
The regular lunch program begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by speakers and entertainment at noon on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Monday, April 20
Speaker: Lynn Doyle, M.S.
We are delighted to welcome Lynn Doyle, M.S., as our featured speaker. Her topic, “**How to Center Yourself**,” promises to be both inspiring and practical. Those who have heard Lynn in the past have been asking for her return – and for good reason! She has a unique ability to inspire while also providing simple, meaningful tools you can use right away to improve your daily life. Her presentations are engaging, uplifting, and filled with real takeaways.

There is no charge to attend. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited to 20 participants. Come for lunch and stay for this enjoyable and enriching program. To reserve your spot, call the front desk at 901-761-0810.



Double D Band

Wednesday, April 22
Big Monthly Senior Luncheon Event
Get ready for one of the highlights of the month! Our Big Senior Luncheon returns with the crowd-favorite Double D Band – one of our most requested musical acts. This lively and talented group delivers a fun, high-energy performance featuring a wide range of music, with a special focus on beloved hits from the 1950 and 60s. With guitars and mandolins in hand, and experience performing on MTV, the BBC, and in cities like London and New York, they know how to entertain and keep the audience smiling, singing, and tapping along!

For just \$5, enjoy a delicious kosher lunch along with outstanding live entertainment – an unbeatable combination. Want to make it even more fun? Reserve a table for 6–8 friends and enjoy the afternoon together! Simply call the front desk with your group’s names and request your table.

This month’s luncheon is generously sponsored by First Light Home Care. Entertainment is provided in partnership with Creative Aging. Be sure to reserve early – this popular event fills up fast! We look forward to seeing you there for an afternoon of great food, music, and wonderful company.

Monday, April 27
Team Trivial Pursuit Returns
One of our most popular and entertaining events is back! The room will be divided into teams for a lively and friendly competition filled with fun and surprises. Questions will challenge and delight, and you may be amazed at how much you – or your teammates – know! Often, the most unexpected players come through with the winning answers. Special prizes will be awarded. Bring your friends, enjoy a great lunch, and get ready for an afternoon full of laughs.

Wednesday, April 29
Speaker: Sherry Harbur
We are pleased to welcome back Sherry Harbur for another one of her always informative and engaging talks. Her topic, “Supporting Seniors with Knowledge and Care,” is both timely and important. Sherry’s previous presentation was very well received, and this session is sure to be just as valuable.

Most families make senior living decisions during a time of crisis – this talk will help you stay ahead of the curve and maintain control of your choices. It is perfect for both seniors and their families.

Reservations are not required but are suggested, as seating is limited.

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

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OBITUARIES



Boswell M. Hale Jr.

Boswell M. Hale Jr., 82, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday April 4, 2026.

Born on April 15, 1943, in Memphis, Tennessee, he was a beloved, legendary salesman at Wolfchase Toyota (previously Covington Pike Toyota) and worked there until his death. His pas-

Sol Kirschner

Sol Kirschner passed away on April 7, 2026, at the age of 90. Born on August 2, 1935, in New York City, Sol moved to Memphis as a child, where he formed lifelong friendships and began building the foundation for a remarkable life. Alongside a childhood friend, he co-founded a multi-state auto parts distributorship, an early reflection of his entrepreneurial spirit, determination, and ability to build lasting relationships.

Never one to stand still, Sol later transitioned into investment banking, where his career thrived. He worked with firms in Houston, San Francisco and his beloved Dallas, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients alike. He brought not only sharp insight and integrity to his work, but also a quick wit and sense of humor that made him a joy to be around.

Sol’s humor was one of his defining traits – dry, sharp, and perfectly timed. He had a way of making people laugh in any situation, often with a look or just a few well-chosen words. That same warmth and personality carried through every part of his life, making him deeply loved by family and friends. This kindness extended to all living things; Sol had a profound love for animals and found great joy in their companionship throughout his life.

A lifelong advocate for physical fitness, Sol was a standout high school football player and later a city champion in racquetball. His passion for staying active never faded. Even in his later years, he

sion for sports began at a very young age, including his time playing football at Central High School and Delta State University, where he made lifelong friendships that meant the world to him. Anyone who knew Boswell knew that he loved to watch sports and eat great food. On Sundays, you could always find him at the breakfast counter at Brother Juniper’s with loaded cheese grits and a black coffee. No menu needed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Boswell M. Hale Sr. and Margaret Bowdon Hale, his brother, Edwin Hale, and his wife, Courtney Jane Lewis-Hale. Survived by his sisters, Margaret “Marty” Anne Lindsey and Mary Kathryn Campany, and his daughters, Virginia “Ginny” Hale (Tristan Putman) and Courtney Bressack (Connie Purcell).

Services were held in the Levy-Cooper Chapel at the Temple Israel Cemetery, in Memphis on Wednesday April 8.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to savinglostkids.org and Temple Israel – Memphis. **HW**

was a regular at the YMCA, participating in high-intensity workouts alongside people decades younger – encouraging them, keeping pace and often outlasting them. He approached fitness the same way he approached life: with energy, discipline and a bit of competitive spirit.

Sol also held a deep and enduring passion for Israel, a connection that remained close to his heart throughout his life. It was a source of pride, identity and reflection, and something he shared meaningfully with those around him.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Florence Rosenblatt and Dorothy Less, and his brothers, Louis, Gilbert and Milton. Sol is survived by his loving wife, Jill; his children, Larry (Denise), Jeff (Anna), Elizabeth and Randy (Jana); his grandchildren, Lora, Nathan, Madeline and Benjamin (Amelia), Walker and Emma; and his great-grandsons, Darryl and Oslo.

Above all, Sol will be remembered for his strength, his humor, his deep convictions and the way he showed up fully – for his family, his work and his life. He leaves behind a legacy of resilience, love and laughter that will continue to live on through all who knew him.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, April 12 at Temple Shalom and interment at Restland Cemetery in Dallas.

In honor of Sol’s lifelong love for animals, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to In-Sync Exotics P.O. Box 968 Wylie, Texas 75098 or an animal rescue shelter of your choice. **HW**



Irma Shainberg Sheon

Irma Shainberg Sheon, civil rights and social justice advocate, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, in her home in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was 92.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and New Madrid, Missouri, during the Jim Crow era, Irma developed an early awareness of – and hatred for – racial injustice. She could not understand why African American adults referred to her as “Miss Irma,” while she was required to call these elders by their first name. She found no explanation acceptable and moved to the north at 18 to attend the University of Illinois. She acknowledged racism in the north was not much better, “it just looks different,” which inspired her to fight even harder.

Influenced by her mother, Rose Shainberg, a human rights activist, Irma dedicated much of her life to advance equal opportunity, combat discrimination and advocate for social justice causes.

After college, she married physician Robert “Bob” Sheon in 1957. The couple later moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he became a leader in rheumatology at the Toledo Clinic and the Medical College of Ohio.

In Toledo, Irma became active in civic and community affairs. She protested the Vietnam War and was appointed by the Mayor to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, advocating for fair hiring practices and expanded access to jobs. She also worked to es-

tablish healthcare and labor rights for migrant farmworkers.

Irma played a key role in Holocaust education efforts in northwest Ohio. As founding director of the Holocaust Resource Center in Toledo, she helped build the institution into a regional resource for teachers and students. She was instrumental in bringing the “Facing History and Ourselves” curriculum to local schools, promoting education about the Holocaust and the dangers of prejudice. She made many lifelong friends, including one whose son needed to find a kidney donor. Irma was a match and gave the gift of her kidney to extend the life of another.

Later in life, she and Robert moved to the Washington, D.C., area to be closer to grandchildren and continue her advocacy and philanthropic work.

Throughout her life, Irma wrote countless letters to advance social interests. In 1967, she wrote the Memphis Commercial Appeal demanding an end to segregating readership by unnecessarily listing the Negro race of certain victims of fire or crime (“It is 1967, after all!”). At age 80, she used social media to garner support to end the practice of gerrymandering and published 12 letters to the editor in the Washington Post on the topic.

Among her passions were her spending time with her children and grandchildren, reading and the Washington Nationals (she once covered her wedding day picture with an image of Bryce Harper). Her SPOC mantra (Stay Positive, Optimistic, and Calm) guided her every day.

Her death certificate aptly lists her occupation as “social justice warrior.”

She is survived by her three children, Sarah Gerecke (Jeff), grandchildren Renata Gerecke and Claudia Gerecke; Amy Sheon, grandchildren Zachary Krislov, Jesse Krislov and Evie Krislov; and David Sheon (Michal Fishman); grandchildren Nathan Sheon and Lila Stith, and great-grandchild Rosemary Stith.

Donations may be made to the Equal Justice Initiative at cji.org **HW**

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Influencer Myron Gaines Performs Nazi Salute, Denies Holocaust Death Toll at Ohio University Event

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – The influencer Myron Gaines visited Ohio University a week ago Thursday as part of a national campus tour, performing a Nazi salute and claiming that the Holocaust’s death toll had been purposefully distorted.

Seated at a table on the campus of Ohio University wearing a hoodie that read “Let Em Cook – Oy Vey,” a meme mocking Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, Gaines greeted the students gathered with a Nazi salute before saying, “Number one, women are stupid, Jews control America and Blacks are criminals.”

Later during the event, Gaines, whose real name is Amrou Fudl, was asked by a Jewish attendee how many people he believed had been killed by the Holocaust, to which he replied “271,000 at best.”

During the ensuing debate, Gaines attempted to cut off the student, saying “hold on one sec, Jew,” claimed that Israel had propagated lies about the Holocaust’s death toll to serve its “victim narrative” and denied evidence that rape occurred during Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Referring to the war in Gaza, Gaines said, “If they could deny a genocide in 2023 all the way to 2026 with 1080p footage, what makes you think they won’t lie about a tragic event from World War II, from which they derive their victim narrative.”

Gaines’ visit to the school follows a series of incendiary campus appearances, including at the University of Florida and the University of South Carolina.

Best known for co-hosting the popular podcast “Fresh and Fit,” which centers on misogynistic views about dating and gender roles, Gaines has increasingly embraced antisemitic conspiracy theories since the summer of 2023, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In October, Gaines defended a leaked group chat where Young Republicans operatives praised Adolf Hitler, writing on social media, “Yeah we like Hitler.

No one gives a f–k what you woke Jews think anymore.” In January, Gaines was among a host of far-right influencers including Nick Fuentes and Andrew Tate who drew outcry for singing along to Ye’s “Heil Hitler” at a Miami nightclub.

The Hillel chapter of Ohio University decried Gaines’ appearance on campus in a post on Instagram and hosted a lunch during the time period that he was slated to speak to offer students an alternative to his program, according to the Cleveland Jewish News.

“We are deeply troubled by the decision of our fellow Bobcats to invite a podcaster with a long and horrible track record of antisemitic, misogynistic, and homophobic content,” the Ohio University Hillel wrote. “At a time when our students are feeling especially vulnerable due to rising antisemitism, this choice is especially concerning.”

The editorial board of the school’s student newspaper, The Post, criticized the university administration for not releasing a statement denouncing Gaines’ appearance in an op-ed published last Tuesday.

“A man who promotes antisemitic conspiracy theories, claims Jewish people control the world – as evident by the shirt reading ‘The Great Noticing’ worn

by one of Gaines’ lackeys – and performs a Nazi salute on a college campus is not engaging in meaningful dialogue,” the op-ed read. “That is not a thoughtful debate, it is hate made into spectacle.”

In response to a request for comment from JTA, an Ohio University spokesperson said that while it was “not legally permitted to prohibit free speech, including controversial speech,” it was “aware of the ways in which some instances of protected speech can personally impact vari-

ous members of our community” and had been in communication with the campus Chabad and Hillel chapters to “support impacted students, faculty and staff.”

“Moving forward, we remain committed to working alongside our University community, and within the established boundaries of the law, to foster a respectful campus environment that furthers our institutional mission and supports the success of our students, faculty and staff,” the statement read. **HW**

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Passover is Past, but Mysteries Remain



*Editor’s note:
This story is being
reprinted in memory
of Ted Roberts in
appreciation of his
longtime service
as a newspaper
columnist.*

By Ted Roberts

4/22/12 – Our Torah is full of conundrums, and nothing brings them into the light of examination like Pesach. Well, the holiday has gone and as usual it leaves a trail of mysteries in its wake. To cite a few:

1. Why does Moses, a man on speaking terms with G-d, marry a non-Jewish child of the desert like Zipporah. Why is she called a Cushite – a land a thousand miles south of Midian, her home. She’s also called a Midianite, which makes sense. And to add to her disabilities, she’s the daughter of a Midianite priest. Talk about adding insult to injury. (There is a moderating factor here since the Midianites or Kennites spring from the Abrahamic line. Keturah, Abraham’s concubine, is referred to as a Kennite. Still, it seems strange. Midian and Egypt were full of softig, nubile Jewish ladies. What does Cush or Ethiopia have to do with it? Maybe there was a second wife,

wonder some of the sages.)

2. How to ethically reconcile the death of the firstborn Egyptian infants? They, in their helplessness never whipped an Israelite slave. We know that G-d asks us not to exult over Egyptian deaths. They too, are my children, He announces. Hard to explain. My advice is to ask your rabbi. It seems ethically inconsistent.

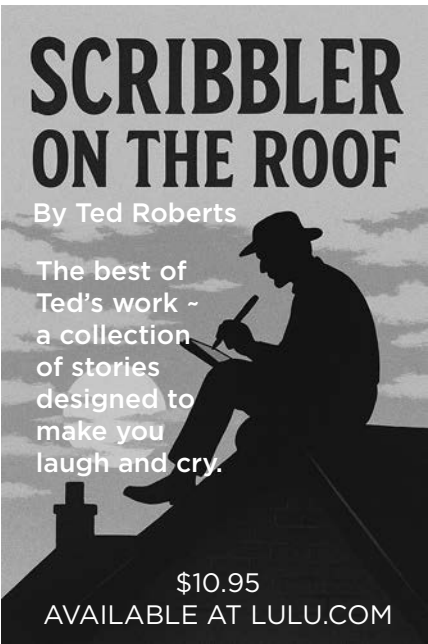
3. Mystery No 3. Why does Aaron always get a pass? Recall, along with Miriam, his jealousy over Moses and his tight relationship with G-d, and separately his complaints about the “Cushite woman” mentioned above. He basically asks our question: Why couldn’t he marry a Jewess? How are you going to lead 600,000 fractious Israelites through a barren desert when you didn’t even marry one? Some commentators suggest he married a Cushite? Midianite? Pagan? since they were desert people and knew every sand dune in the Sinai. They could serve as his navigators. Could be.

But nevertheless Miriam is struck with leprosy because of her Loshon Hora – Aaron gets a pass. And the mercy extended to Aaron is further strengthened by the golden calf episode. Aaron is babysitting hundreds of thousands of Israelites as Moses climbs Sinai to receive Torah. And what does he return to? A gritty orgy in the desert. Moses

says, “Aaron, how could this happen?” Aaron replies: “The people are evil. . . make us gods”. (This! After the plagues and the Red Sea miracle.) The people gave me gold “and I cast it in the fire and this calf came out.” If you believe that, you’ll believe it snows in Goshen. Not a satisfactory answer in any court of law. 3,000 men were killed, but Aaron gets off scot free. Thousands of Israelites die – Aaron is not even suspended without pay. Mystery of mysteries. Cynics answer that this section of Torah was written by the priests who were most anxious to preserve the cult of Aaron. Could be.

4. The final conundrum is how hundreds of hungry Jews (we love to eat) survived in the Sinai desert – no tsim-mus – no stuffed cabbage – no knaidlach. Easy. G-d provided manna and quail, which between two matzos was edible. But the mystery that hammers hardest at this father’s heart, the greatest ethical puzzle, is why Joseph, who is leading the good life in Egypt – assistant CEO to Pharaoh while Jacob is crying at home – NEVER, NEVER writes the old man a letter. “I’m fine, how are the boys, come visit.” That’s all he had to say. As Ecclesiastes says, “There’s nothing new under the sun.” My kids don’t write, email, fax either.

Deeper and blacker and more convo-



luted than all, is that misty business at Meribah, where Moses evidently “put the Lord your G-d to test.” His punishment is shocking and frankly, to the 21st Century reader, unjust. Forty years of hiking through the desert with our rebellious ancestors – and he isn’t even privileged to enter the Promised Land. He is tortured by a vision of it from Mount Nebo. “I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” Some piece of the puzzle of Torah is missing.

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

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Waiting

By Howard Weisband

President Trump has issued his final decree to Iran, so he has said in his own colorful diplomatic style, either make a deal on our terms tonight by 8 p.m. EST/ 3 a.m. Israel time (as I write on the eve of the seventh day of Passover).

“We have a plan... where every bridge in Iran will be decimated by 12 o’clock tomorrow night, where every power plant will be out of business, burning, exploding and never to be used again. I mean, complete demolition, by 12 o’clock, and it will happen over a period of four hours if we want that to happen,” he said.

“We don’t want that,” he added, noting that the U.S. may end up helping Iran rebuild, in which case he would not want to have to reconstruct expensive infrastructure like that.

One definition for “waiting” provided by Miriam-Webster is “to remain stationary in readiness or expectation.”

Remain stationary? Hardly.

The United States military, like the IDF, has shown that no soldier is left behind. In an intricate daring rescue operation deep inside Iran, two pilots have been found and brought back to safety,

even as bombing raids continue. Likewise, Israel continues to be fully active in the air over Iran and Lebanon, and on the ground in Lebanon destroying infrastructure and supply routes of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, and eliminating enemy leadership in both countries.

Meanwhile we are waiting as well, for another 12 hours, to know what the outcome of the U.S. deadline will be, what will be already “old information” once this column is published and read.

All the above represents our waiting on a geo-military and geopolitical level, a macro level. However there very much is simultaneously a micro level as well, waiting on a personal level.

Passover is an exquisite holiday, for many the most meaningful holiday on the Jewish calendar. We are in preparation mode for weeks beforehand, even as we wait for the holiday to arrive, and to celebrate its beginning with the Seder itself.

Fortunately, like many other families in Israel, we’ve been able to celebrate the holiday together at one point or another, with all of our children and grandchildren, with the exception of one

grandson, who is currently serving in the army, in a tank unit on the Lebanon border. We’re in touch with him, and he too is well, TG. We pray that he serves well and returns safely, along with all of our soldiers.

Meanwhile, we are waiting... well prepared, no panic, cautious nonetheless. When the army Home Command sends us warnings on our phones, then quite possibly a siren in our area, we head for the reinforced safe room in our apartment. Residents of older buildings must quickly move to bomb shelters in their building or within the neighborhood.

Sirens signalling incoming missiles from Iran or from Hezbollah in Lebanon can occur in the middle of the night or within the midst of the day. After the first day of Pesach, in the evening before our family members headed home, a siren occurred in Jerusalem. I have a picture of 10 of us in our mamad, safe room... “The family that shelters together stays together!”

We’ve been caught in similar situations while shopping in a supermarket and in a doctor’s office... then it’s to the shelter we go for a 10-15-minute period,

waiting until the all-clear sign. Booms we may hear are generally the sound of interceptors destroying the missiles. They are 92-93% accurate. Unfortunately, a few get through the defensive umbrella, or large pieces of shrapnel fall causing some injury or death and damage.

We’ve been rather fortunate in Jerusalem. Missiles have been aimed and struck much more often in the north and in the south of the country. A few days ago, an apartment building in Haifa took a direct hit, tragically killing four people.

We wait. And we continue to pray for security and peace for all peace-loving peoples.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

Penn Must Turn Over List of Jewish Employees to Trump Administration, Federal Judge Rules

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – A federal judge ruled on [March 31] that the University of Pennsylvania must turn over lists of Jewish employees as part of the Trump administration’s investigation into antisemitism on its campus.

The ruling marked a significant blow to the school and its Jewish leadership, who submitted court filings opposing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s requests for information on its Jewish employees in January. The EEOC’s subpoena stemmed from a 2023 probe into Penn’s handling of antisemitism complaints from Jewish employees.

In a 32-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Gerald J. Pappert dismissed arguments by Penn and the leaders of Jewish groups on campus who said in separate filings that the Trump administration’s requests were “disturbing and unconstitutional.”

“Penn and other groups and associ-

ations the Court permitted to intervene significantly raised the dispute’s temperature by impliedly and even expressly comparing the EEOC’s efforts to protect Jewish employees from antisemitism to the Holocaust and the Nazis’ compilation of ‘lists of Jews,’” Pappert wrote. “Such allegations are unfortunate and inappropriate.”

While Pappert wrote that Penn does not have to provide information to the EEOC about which Jewish organization each individual is affiliated with, he ordered that the school comply with the EEOC’s subpoena by May 1.

“Though ineptly worded, the request had an understandable purpose – to obtain in a narrowly tailored way, as opposed to seeking information on all university employees, information on individuals in Penn’s Jewish community who could have experienced or wit-

nessed antisemitism in the workplace,” Pappert wrote.

A Penn spokesperson said in a statement that the school would appeal the ruling, adding that the school remains “committed to confronting antisemitism and all forms of discrimination.”

“While we acknowledge the important role of the EEOC to investigate discrimination, we also have an obligation to protect the rights of our employees,” the statement read. “We continue to believe that requiring Penn to create lists of Jewish faculty and staff, and to provide personal contact information, raises serious privacy and First Amendment concerns. The University does not maintain employee lists by religion.”

The school’s Hillel chapter, which was among the Jewish groups on campus to submit a court filing opposing the EEOC’s subpoena, wrote in a statement

posted to Instagram that it was “deeply concerned by the recent court ruling” and urged the school to appeal it.

“Compelled government lists of Jewish individuals carry a dark historic resonance,” the statement read. “Subjecting faculty to such disclosures without their consent undermines the very civil rights these investigations seek to uphold.”

The leadership of the campus’ Chabad and MEOR chapters did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The leaders of each of the Jewish groups had joined Penn in opposing the Trump administration’s request.

The ruling comes as the Trump administration has ramped up its prosecution of antisemitism allegations at top schools across the country in recent weeks, including separate federal discrimination lawsuits at Harvard University and UCLA. **HW**

60% of Americans Have an Unfavorable View of Israel, Up Sharply Since 2022, Survey Shows

By JTA Staff

(JTA) – Six in 10 Americans say they have a very or somewhat unfavorable view of Israel, up 20 points since 2022, according to a new Pew Research Center survey released this week.

About half of them say they have a “very unfavorable” view of Israel, a proportion that has tripled in the last four years.

The survey of 3,500 U.S. adults conducted late last month, weeks into the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, offers the latest signal that anti-Israel sentiment is surging

among Americans. Multiple previous polls have shown that Americans newly sympathize more often with the Palestinians over the Israelis.

The poll results come as politicians on both sides of the aisle are pushing for Israel to receive less or no U.S. aid, and as the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC has become a punching bag especially among Democrats.

The latest poll replicated the partisan divide widely detected in polling, with about 80% of Democrats saying they

have an unfavorable view of Israel, compared to 40% of Republicans. Nearly half of Democrats under age 50 said they have a “very unfavorable” view of Israel.

While Republicans continue to hold an overall favorable view of Israel, they are split on their assessment of its leader, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to the Pew survey, which had a margin of error of 1.9 percentage points. As many have little or no confidence in him as have a lot or some confidence – though among Republicans

under 50, only 30% said they had any confidence in him.

The poll is the second released this week to detect opposition to the Israeli government among Jewish Americans specifically. The Pew survey found that 56% of U.S. Jews have little or no confidence in Netanyahu when it comes to world affairs. A smaller survey by the Jewish Electorate Institute found that 63% of respondents described themselves as both “pro-Israel” and critical of Israeli government policies. **HW**

Tucker, Megyn Kelly, Candace, Alex Jones ‘Stupid People,’ Trump Says



Tucker Carlson speaking with attendees at the Indiana University tour stop of the “This Is The Turning Point” tour at IU Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Oct. 21, 2025. Credit: Gage Skidmore via Creative Commons.

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump said last Thursday that Tucker Carlson, Megyn Kelly, Candace Owens and Alex Jones share in common that they are “stupid people” with “low IQs.”

“They know it. Their families know it, and everyone else knows it, too,” the president wrote. “Look at their past, look at their record. They don’t have what it takes, and they never did. They’ve all been thrown off television, lost their shows, and aren’t even invit-

NYPD Arrests Teen for Threatening to Kill Jewish Kids in Brooklyn



A New York City Police Department officer at a New York City Council meeting, March 18, 2026. Credit: Gerardo Romo/NYC Council Media Unit.

Police said the suspect made threats of mass harm on a recorded video chat.

By Jessica Russak-Hoffman

(JNS) – A New York City teen has been arrested and charged with hate crime and aggravated harassment, making terrorist threats and threatening mass harm after announcing his intention to kill Jewish children in Brooklyn, N.Y., the New York City Police Department said last Tuesday.

In a video chat recording shared on social media by New York City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, 18-year-old Eslam Alsaedi said, “If I see Jewish people in the U.S.A., I swear to God I’ve got to kill them. I try to kill kids. You know the kids for the Jewish people? I try to kill them.”

In the video, Alsaedi said he lives in Harlem and wanted to go to Brooklyn because he reportedly heard somebody say a lot of Jews live there. “I want big building, a lot of Jewish people, a whole school with kids,” he said.

The NYPD told JNS a complaint report was “filed for terrorism” last Monday in the 32nd Precinct.

Alsaedi was arrested on April 6 at about 6:30 p.m.

“He thought he would get away with it. We contacted NYPD’s counterterrorism unit, and they were immediately on it,” Vernikov said. “This must be prosecuted both locally and federally to the fullest extent of the law.”

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has not yet commented on the terror threat or the arrest. **HW**

ed on TV because nobody cares about them. They’re nut jobs, troublemakers and will say anything necessary for some ‘free’ and cheap publicity.”

Trump said that the four, who he said have been fighting him “for years,” think that “it is wonderful for Iran, the number one state sponsor of terror, to have a nuclear weapon.”

“Now they think they get some ‘clicks’ because they have third-rate podcasts, but nobody’s talking about

them, and their views are the opposite of MAGA,” Trump said, using the initialism for Make America Great Again.

The president added that Carlson, who has frequently spread antisemitic conspiracy theories and hosted guests who deny the Holocaust and are harsh critics of the Jewish state, is a “flailing fool,” who “couldn’t even finish college.”

“He was a broken man when he got fired from Fox, and he’s never been the same,” Trump said. “Perhaps he should

see a good psychiatrist.”

The four are “losers” who are “just trying to latch on to MAGA,” he said. “As president, I could get them on my side anytime I want to, but when they call, I don’t return their calls because I’m too busy on world and country affairs and, after a few times, they go ‘nasty.’”

The president added that his MAGA movement is about “winning and strength” and “not allowing Iran to have nuclear weapons.” **HW**



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Tax Season Surprise? Take Steps to Reshape Your Strategies.

Provided by Mike Stein

Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151
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If tax season resulted in you owing more to the IRS than you expected, you may want to revisit your investment-related tax strategies. Doing so can help put you in a better position and avoid having to face unexpected surprises. These steps can help.

Review your investment portfolio for tax efficiency

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- Do you have investments in taxable accounts that distribute nonqualified dividends or taxable interest?
- Do you have actively managed funds that are generating significant capital gains?
- Could these investments be held in tax-advantaged accounts instead?

2. Evaluate the tax impact of the types of investments you select for your taxable accounts.

- Compare taxable bonds or bond funds with tax-exempt bonds or bond funds. Determine which are better for your situation.
- Work with a financial advisor to identify investments that will distribute primarily qualified dividends. Qualified dividends generally are taxed at the preferential long-term capital gain rates while nonqualified dividends are taxed at ordinary income tax rates.

- Mutual funds can distribute capital gains at year-end, delivering income that may be difficult to predict. If this is a concern, review other investment options that could offer more control over the recognition of capital gains.

3. Identify any unexpected taxable events that occurred. Determine if they

are going to reoccur and think about actions you may want to take to help mitigate that impact.

Formulate your plan

Work with both your tax advisor and your financial advisor to build your overall plan.

First, schedule an appointment with your tax professional to discuss your situation and review your tax projection. Running multiple-year projections can assist with determining when to increase or decrease income and/or deductions.

Then, follow up with your financial advisor to evaluate your portfolio strategies and any investment changes that may help reduce your tax bill. If you're nearing retirement, a financial advisor can also run multiple scenarios to help you understand the potential portfolio and tax implications of your retirement income strategy.

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Kick It Pickleball Tournament Benefitting Pancreatic Cancer Research Set for May 15–17



Players in action at past Kosten Foundation Kick It Pickleball Tournaments.

The Kosten Foundation will host its third annual Kick It Pickleball Tournament Presented by Baptist May 15–17 at Suggs Park in Collierville, marking the first time the event will be held in Collierville. Early bird registration is available through April 3. Participants can register now at pickleballtournaments.com/tournaments/0fde7bc8-bfb3-4865-b17f-bf53f2ff21ef.

“The Kick It Pickleball Tournament brings our community together to support pancreatic cancer research while enjoying competitive play in a fun, welcoming environment,” said Alan Kosten, chairman of the Kosten Foundation. “We are grateful for the continued support from our sponsors, participants and volunteers who help advance our mission.”

The Kick It Pickleball Tournament builds on the success of previous years, with the 2025 event raising more than \$50,000 for pancreatic cancer research.

The tournament features multiple di-

visions, including men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles, with a round-robin format designed to accommodate a range of skill levels. Spectators are encouraged to attend, and players and guests are welcome to bring chairs and tents for comfort during the event.

The Kosten Foundation continues to expand its impact through events like the Kick It Pickleball Tournament and the Kick It 5K, both of which support pancreatic cancer research and patient services.

Since 2003, the Kosten Foundation has donated more than \$3 million to pancreatic cancer research, funding initiatives in cities such as Dallas, New York City and Edinburg, Texas. In addition to research funding, the Foundation provides the only free pancreatic cancer support group in the Mid-South, offered both in-person and virtually.

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact Alan Kosten at 901-606-5330 or Jeffrey Goldberg at 901-606-7542. **HW**

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Vance: ‘Misunderstanding’ Led Iran to Believe Lebanon was Included in Truce



U.S. Vice President JD Vance speaks to the press before boarding Air Force Two to return to Washington, D.C., from Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, April 8, 2026. Credit: Jonathan Ernst-Pool/Getty Images.

(JNS) – U.S. Vice President JD Vance said last Wednesday that Washington never indicated Lebanon would be included in the ceasefire with Iran, attributing Tehran’s claims to the contrary to a “legitimate misunderstanding” about the terms.

“I think the Iranians thought that the ceasefire included Lebanon, and it just didn’t,” Vance told reporters on the tarmac in Budapest, Hungary. “There’s a lot of bad faith negotiation and a lot of bad faith, you know, propaganda, going on. I think this comes from a legitimate misunderstanding,” he said.

“We never made that promise. We never indicated that was going to be the case,” continued Vance, who [was] set to lead a U.S. delegation to Pakistan on Saturday for talks aimed at ending the war on the Islamic Republic.

“What we said is that the ceasefire would be focused on Iran and the ceasefire would be focused on America’s allies, both Israel and the Gulf Arab states,” according to the vice president.

However, Israel has offered “to check themselves a little bit in Lebanon because they want to make sure that our negotiation is successful,” Vance stated. “That’s not because that is part of the ceasefire. I think that’s the Israelis trying to set us up for success.”

“Look, if Iran wants to let this negotiation fall apart – in a conflict where they were getting hammered – over Lebanon, which has nothing to do with them and which the United States never once said was part of the ceasefire, that’s ultimately their choice. We think that would be dumb, but that’s their choice,” he concluded.

Hezbollah began firing rockets and

suicide drones at Israel on March 2, in retaliation for the Jewish state’s targeted killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the opening strikes of “Operation Roaring Lion/Epic Fury” on Feb. 28.

In response to the terrorist organization’s violation of the U.S.-brokered Nov. 27, 2024, truce agreement, Jerusalem launched an aerial campaign against Hezbollah and ordered IDF troops to advance and take control of additional areas in Southern Lebanon to halt cross-border attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed in an address last Wednesday night that Lebanon is not part of the truce with Iran.

“I insisted that the temporary ceasefire with Iran not include Hezbollah. And we continue to strike them forcefully,” the premier said in a prime-time address following the conclusion of the Passover holiday in Israel.

Earlier last Wednesday, the Israeli Air Force launched its largest coordinated strikes against Hezbollah terror targets in Lebanon since the start of “Operation Roaring Lion.”

The large-scale wave of attacks targeted Hezbollah headquarters, military infrastructure and command-and-control centers in Beirut, the Beqaa Valley and Southern Lebanon, according to the Israeli army.

Netanyahu said Hezbollah last Wednesday suffered “the greatest blow since the pagers,” in reference to the Sept. 17-18, 2024, attacks in Lebanon, which wounded thousands of terrorist operatives. “We attacked 100 targets in 10 minutes, in places Hezbollah was certain were immune,” he said. **HW**

London Music Festival Canceled after UK Bars Ye’s Entry Amid Pressure from Jewish Groups

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – London’s Wireless Festival has been canceled after the British government denied entry to Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, following mounting pressure from Jewish groups over his history of antisemitic remarks.

The organizers of the popular three-day festival confirmed its cancellation in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, writing that the British government had withdrawn the artist’s electronic travel authorization, denying him entry into the United Kingdom.

“Multiple stakeholders were consulted in advance of booking YE and no concerns were highlighted at the time,” said the festival, which had earlier defended its booking by saying Ye “had the legal right to perform” in the United Kingdom.

“Antisemitism in all its forms is abhorrent, and we recognise the real and personal impact these issues have had,” the statement continued. “As YE said today, he acknowledges that words alone are not enough, and in spite of this still hopes to be given the opportunity to begin a conversation with the Jewish community in the UK.”

While Ye had previously been granted permission to enter the country, his electronic travel authorization was later withdrawn on the grounds that his presence in the U.K. would not be “conducive to the public good,” according to the BBC.

The cancellation of Ye’s slated appearance in London came as the festival faced a wave of rescinded sponsorships as well as criticism from Prime Minister Keir Starmer over its headliner, who has previously vowed to go “death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE” and released a song last year titled “Heil Hitler.”

Prior to the revocation of Ye’s travel authorization, the artist said that he would be “grateful for the opportunity to meet with members of the Jewish community in the U.K. in person, to listen.”

Ye, who has previously apologized for his antisemitic rhetoric, added, “I know words aren’t enough. I’ll have to show change through my actions. If you’re open, I’m here.”

Starmer, who had previously called Ye’s selection to head the festival “deeply concerning,” wrote in a post on X last Tuesday that the artist “should never have been invited to headline Wireless.”

“This government stands firmly with the Jewish community, and we will not stop in our fight to confront and defeat the poison of antisemitism,” Starmer wrote. “We will always take the action necessary to protect the public and uphold our values.”

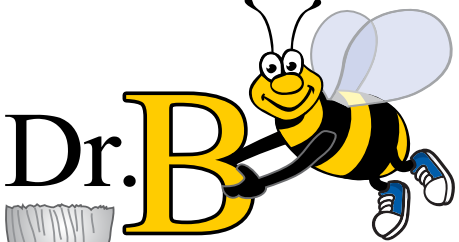
British Jewish groups that called for Ye’s entry permit to be revoked cheered the decision.

Phil Rosenberg, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, welcomed the government’s decision in a statement, adding that it was “deeply regrettable that Wireless Festival invited him in the first place and then doubled down when the Jewish community and our allies objected.”

“We hope that lessons are learned across the music industry. Music festivals should be places where all communities feel welcome, not venues that platform individuals with records of profiteering from antisemitism, racism and other repulsive views.”

The Campaign Against Antisemitism, a British antisemitism watchdog, took aim at the festival’s statement announcing the cancellation.

“It’s nice that now Wireless is saying ‘Antisemitism in all its forms is abhorrent’ when just a few hours ago the festival promoter was saying we all need to forgive Kanye for declaring himself a full-blown Nazi only recently,” the group wrote in a post on X. “There are plenty of musicians in the world who could have headlined this festival and brought delight to thousands of fans. Maybe next time organisers should look beyond Nuremberg to fill their roster.” **HW**



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HOME&REHAB

In 2027, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) will celebrate 100 years of serving patients. In honor of this accomplishment and all the people who made it possible, we are telling 100 of their stories. Over the next two years, we will publish 100 Stories for 100 Years – a weekly column spotlighting resident, staff, and lay leader stories with the Home from throughout our history. This week, we are sharing words from our president of Family Council, Charlotte Peterson.

Meet Charlotte Peterson



Charlote and her mother enjoy the outdoors at MJHR.

By Shoshana Cenker

MJHR: Tell us about yourself (hometown, education, family, hobbies, career).

I’m a Memphian, grew up with two brothers, and graduated from then-Memphis State with undergrad degrees in math and biology education and a master’s in physical education. I was the University of Memphis’ women’s tennis coach for 32 years, and I had played on the team. After that, I was an event manager for women’s basketball, volleyball and softball for eight years.

I’m blessed to have 13 great-nieces and -nephews and many great-great nieces and nephews.

I love traveling and had the chance to go to wonderful places as part of my

job. I loved being a coach. I love sports, especially pickleball and golf. I’m a college sports enthusiast and watch all the tennis I can.

MJHR: How did you become connected to MJHR?

In 2022, my mom went to the Home for rehab after being in the hospital. She’s now a resident. MJHR is a wonderful, beautiful place, and I knew it was the best.

MJHR: Share your favorite MJHR story.

I love being involved with the residents and helping where I can. I just love to be a bright light to the residents. Sometimes I’ll say to them, “You must be in the Ms. America contest,” and they smile. I would want someone to do that



Charlotte and her family enjoy the Thanksgiving Luncheon at MJHR.

for my mother.

MJHR: What do you wish for the future 100 years of the organization?

It’s such a wonderful place; a light in the dark for so many people. I hope and pray that it continues and that the support continues, so the Home is always the bright spot in many lives.

MJHR: Tell us about your work as president of the Family Council.

As president of the Family Council, I try to bring in speakers to inform residents and their family members in a positive way. We’ve had lawyers come, for example. I try to build relationships between family members and how we can better serve those at MJHR. The Family Council is an open forum for all.

I love the staff at MJHR in every as-

pect of what they do. I see administrator Bobby Meadows talking to people and consoling them. Doris, the activities director, provides fun and laughter for the residents. I love the nurses – I feel like my mom has some of the best nurses caring for her. The atmosphere is wonderful – I can go on and on. It’s a wonderful place.

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. Find more information at www.memphisjewishhome.org/giving. **HW**

Trump: Iran Will Not Possess Enriched Uranium, Will Dig Up All ‘Nuclear Dust’

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump said last Wednesday that Tehran will not possess enriched uranium and that together with Washington they will “dig up and remove all of the deeply buried ... nuclear ‘dust.’”

Posting on Truth Social, the president said that the reportedly 440.9 kilograms of uranium has been under satellite surveillance since “Operation Midnight Hammer” in June.

“Nothing has been touched from the date of attack. We are, and will be, talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran,” Trump wrote.

Many of the 15 points have already

been agreed to,” he added, referring to the plan, presented to Iran by the United States, to end the conflict, which started on Feb. 28 during a joint U.S.-Israeli preemptive attack on the Islamic Republic.

Iran, on the other hand, proposed its own 10-point plan, which is “a workable basis on which to negotiate,” Trump stated last Tuesday.

The sides are expected to meet in Islamabad, Pakistan later this week to begin negotiations.

In an earlier post last Wednesday, Trump hailed the two-week ceasefire agreement with Iran, suggesting the deal

could mark the beginning of a ‘golden age’ in the Middle East.

“A big day for World Peace! Iran wants it to happen, they’ve had enough! Likewise, so has everyone else!” Trump posted on Truth Social.

“The United States of America will be helping with the traffic buildup in the Strait of Hormuz. There will be lots of positive action! Big money will be made. Iran can start the reconstruction process. We’ll be loading up with supplies of all kinds, and just ‘hangin’ around’ in order to make sure that everything goes well,” he continued.

“I feel confident that it will. Just like

we are experiencing in the U.S., this could be the Golden Age of the Middle East!!!” he added.

Trump said last Tuesday evening that he agreed to a “double-sided ceasefire” with Iran after talking to the Pakistani prime minister, who “requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran.”

If the Iranian regime agrees to the “complete, immediate and safe opening of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks,” Trump stated. **HW**



BETH SHOLOM
SYNAGOGUE

SURVIVORS: 3 GENERATIONS LATER

A PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW GRANDCHILDREN OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS CARRY ON THEIR LEGACY

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