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13 IYAR, 5786

APRIL 30, 2026

VOL. 104, NO. 32

Ghetto Girls Who Fought Back: Untold Stories of the Holocaust’s Jewish Women Resistance Fighters

Memphis’ 64th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Keynote speaker Judy Batalion.

By Shoshana Cencer

“I started thinking about what I call ‘the emotional legacy of the Holocaust,’” Judy Batalion told a hushed room of more than 500 gathered in solemn remembrance. “How trauma trickles between generations and how much of that shapes who we are.”

At this year’s 64th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration, “The Chain of Memory: Unfading Stories of Courage and Resilience,” that question of memory, inheritance, and responsibility blanketed the packed room from the very first moments.

Hosted by Memphis Jewish Federation’s (MJF) Holocaust Memorial Committee, held at Baron Hirsch Con-

gregation, the event brought together survivors, descendants, religious leaders, educators, Tennessee Holocaust Commission members, law enforcement, and local politicians to honor the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and reflect on the enduring weight of that history.

Jimmy Ringel, MJF chair, offered opening remarks followed by the National Anthem, led by Rabbi Cantor David Julian and sung by third- and fourth-generation survivors, underscoring the continuity.

As father and daughter Commemoration co-chairs, Harry Diamant and Michelle Diamant addressed the crowd,



The 64th annual Yom HaShoah commemoration, held at Baron Hirsch Congregation.

they shared their family’s remarkable stories of survival, resistance, escape, and tragedy.

“My parents were ordinary people who chose to stand up for themselves and fight back, even in truly unimaginable circumstances. Sometimes, resistance is quiet. It’s being here tonight,” Harry noted, a message that felt especially significant amid rising antisemitism. “For the legacy of the survivors, let us remember that no matter who we are or where we’re from, there is always something we can do.”

Winners of the 17th Annual Holocaust Art and Essay Contest were announced: first place essay winner, Hodaya Harary, 11th grader at Goldie Margolin School for Girls; first place art winner, Esther

Zhang, 7th grader at White Station Middle School. All art entries are on display at the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

After third-gen Adam Exelbierd assisted survivors, children, and grandchildren with lighting the massive memorial candelabra as their bios were read by second-gen Elaine Stegman, local rabbis and heads of school from across Jewish Memphis delivered a beautiful unifying message.

Speaker Judy Batalion’s keynote address then became the evening’s emotional and intellectual center. The granddaughter of survivors and a best-selling author, Judy has spent nearly two

(See Yom HaShoah Page 4)

A Roomful of Flour



By Laura Kurcfeld

There is something beautiful about people getting together to make challah. People have different motivations for making this special bread, and when they get around each other and share those thoughts, the energy in the room changes exponentially.

Whether you’re a seasoned challah baker or never made a loaf or rolls in your life, this is a great community ex-

perience of unity and connection. As Jamie Geller stated in a recent article, a challah bake is the “Jewish equivalent of a universal welcome mat.”

Why make challah? Because my Bubbe used to, and the recipe is passed down *dor l’dor*... Because my spouse/kids like it on Shabbat... Because it is spiritually uplifting... Because I pray for others in need as I “take” challah... Because I love cooking anything... Because I want to learn new techniques ... Because I want to see what all the fun is about and try something new... It makes good French Toast... Whatever your reason, come join us and fill the room with flour!

On **Monday, May 11**, the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) will once again be hosting a **Community Wide Challah Bake!** Women, men, and older children (ages 10+) will gather for

smiles, laughter, and camaraderie as a number of community members guide participants in preparing the dough for a delicious challah recipe, and techniques for them to choose from in braiding their challah.

The coordinators of the Community Challah Bake, Laura Kurcfeld and Jessica Weiss, are proud to lead this program and include some special members from every faction of the Memphis Jewish Community to present at different points.

After the dough rises and the presentations conclude, fingers will jump as everyone creates their braided bread in the manner of their choice, and there will also be special toppings to select from to creating what will be the focal point the coming Shabbat. Each person will make two loaves to take home and

bake in their own ovens.

Participants will be provided with materials to take home so they can recreate the delectable soft pillowy loaf again in the future and reference the step-by-step braiding instructions in the comfort of their own kitchen. Please mark your calendars, plan to join, and even bring a friend (or two!) or family member. Pre-Registration is important to make sure there are sufficient supplies for everyone to enjoy the program.

Do you have a simcha or a special person to remember? Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Contact Laura Kurcfeld, Director of the Center for Jewish Life and Learning at MJCC at LKurcfeld@jccmemphis.org for more information.

Register: jccmemphis.org/JewishLife
HW

Chabad's Lag Ba'omer Family Fun Day BBQ with Laser Tag & Bubble Ball Fun for Memphis Jewish Community



Chabad will be having a community-wide Lag Ba'omer Family Fun Day on Tuesday, May 5. Lag Ba'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer Count – is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, traditionally celebrated with outings, cook-outs, bonfires, and other joyous outdoor events all over the world.

“The Family Fun Day here in Memphis will have a delicious BBQ dinner with all the trimmings. We will also have colorful snow cones, cotton candy and much more,” said Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Tennessee. “In addition to the delicious food, there will

be awesome laser tag games and bubble ball fun, inflatables, music and fun for all to enjoy.”

The Family Fun Day will take place at The Chabad Center of Jewish Life at 2570 Kirby Parkway, and starts at 5 p.m. and costs only \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and includes all food and activities.

Reservations should be made by visiting www.JewishMemphis.com/BBQ or by calling Chabad at 901-754-0404.

“Come join us and bring your friends,” Rivky concluded, “It will be lots of fun.” **HW**



THE Hebrew Watchman

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Established September, 1925
By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
Memphis, TN 38177-0846
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The Hebrew Watchman is a
Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Memphis and Mid-South \$36
Out-of-State \$50
Payable in Advance

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by **JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN** PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **THE HEBREW WATCHMAN** PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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4/30/2026

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Trump, in Absentia, Becomes First Non-Israeli to Receive Israel’s Top Civilian Honor

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – Donald Trump officially became the first non-Israeli to receive the Israel’s top civilian prize last Wednesday – but he wasn’t on hand to receive his honor.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that Trump would get the Israel Prize after meeting with him at his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, in December.

“We decided to break a convention, or create a new one, and that is to award the Israel Prize, which in almost our 80 years we’ve never awarded to a non-Israeli, and we’re going to award it this year to President Trump,” Netanyahu said at the time. He added, “It’s going to be awarded to President Donald J. Trump for his tremendous contributions to Israel and the Jewish people.”

Israel’s education minister, who oversees the prize, extended the invitation officially in early February. But even though Trump indicated at one point that he could attend the award ceremony, held annually on Independence Day, he was absent last Wednesday when it took place.

Trump has delighted in his support from Israelis, many of whom have viewed him as unusually willing to go to bat for Israeli interests. A video played at the ceremony in Jerusalem showed him meeting with Netanyahu, speaking to the Israeli parliament last year and announcing the historic normalization deals with Arab countries negotiated

during his first administration.

But conditions changed sharply since Netanyahu announced the prize. In February, Trump joined Netanyahu in launching a war on Iran that has been unpopular in the United States. Reports that Netanyahu persuaded him to enter the war, which Trump has ceased despite not achieving the varied goals he offered, have deepened anti-Israel sentiment among Americans, including Trump’s base.

Trump reportedly planned at one point to accept the prize with a videotaped address, but he did not offer one during the ceremony.

The award for Trump came amid Independence Day festivities that featured an unusual honor for a different non-Israeli head of state. Argentina’s president, Javier Milei, who has been a vocal defender of Israel, became the first foreign leader to light a torch as part of the celebrations.

The only other non-Israeli citizen to be honored with an Israel Prize did not receive the standard one, but instead got a designation for non-citizens. In 1992, Zubin Mehta, the non-Jewish longtime music director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, won a special prize for his contributions to the state. This year, Mehta announced that he was canceling his upcoming appearances in Israel, citing “of my objection to Mr. Netanyahu’s way of treating the whole Palestinian issue.” HW

Food, Friends, Fun: Join Us for an Exciting Week with the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Center!

Looking for great conversation, engaging programs, and a delicious meal? The MJCC Senior Adult Club has it all! Join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by outstanding speakers and entertainment at noon.

Monday, May 4

Speaker: Rabbi Ian Lichter

Kick off the week with Rabbi Ian Lichter, Senior Rabbi of Baron Hirsch Congregation, presenting “The Secrets of Lag BaOmer!”

Discover the meaning behind this joyful holiday, celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer (May 5 this year). Rabbi Lichter will bring the traditions and significance of Lag BaOmer to life while answering your questions. His programs are always lively, insightful, and not to be missed!

Wednesday, May 6

Team Trivial Pursuit is back!

Get ready to think fast and laugh hard! After being postponed, this crowd favorite returns for an afternoon of friendly competition. Join a team, test your knowledge, and enjoy the excitement as surprising answers lead to victory. You never know—you might be the star of your team! Prizes will be awarded, and the fun is guaranteed. Come for lunch or just join us for the game!

Monday, May 11

Speaker: Rabbi Akiva Males

Don’t miss Rabbi Akiva Males of Young Israel of Memphis presenting “Yom Yerushalayim and the Eternal Call of Jerusalem.”

Known for his engaging style, Rabbi Males blends humor, insight, and fascinating facts into every talk. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, laugh, and connect over a meaningful and timely topic.

Wednesday, May 13

Special Art Experience with Mid-South Hobbies

Following a fantastic recent visit to their Summer Avenue location, their talented instructors will guide us through another fun and unique project. No experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm! Best of all, it’s free, and you’ll leave with something you made yourself. If you don’t finish on site, you’ll have everything you need to complete it at home.

Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot in advance!

Join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch prepared by the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home—all for just \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required by 1 p.m. the day before.

To reserve your place, contact Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. Steve is available Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You may also call the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

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Yom HaShoah... (Continued From Page 1)

decades researching Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, particularly the overlooked role of young women.

“I had never heard anything like this,” she said, describing the moment she first discovered accounts of female fighters in a book called “Freuen in di Ghettos/Women in the Ghettos.” “Dozens and dozens of young Jewish women and teenage girls who fought and killed Nazis, smuggling weapons, carrying intelligence, planning uprisings, flinging Molotov cocktails, blowing up German trains.”

Her work to grasp the “Ghetto Girls” was both historical and personal. “I wanted to understand not just the hero, but the person,” she said, referencing Hannah Szenes, the famed Jewish paratrooper Judy first studied in elementary school, and the only woman resistance fighter she’d heard of before her research. “Who chooses to fight? What motivates audacity, courage, and conviction?”

What she found was a vast, largely untold network of incredible resistance. Across several countries, in archives, living rooms, memorial monuments, and former ghettos, Judy unearthed treasure troves of testimonies, letters, photographs, obscure documentaries, and a remarkable collection of 1,500-plus Yizkor (commemorative) books, each published by an Eastern European community that was decimated in the Holocaust.

“I was astonished to learn of the scope of the Jewish underground,” Batalion said. “Over 90 ghettos had Jewish underground units; 3,000 Jews enlisted in partisan rescue groups; 12,000 Jews in hiding were supported. ... Women, ages 16 to 25, were at the heart of these efforts. Hundreds of women.”

Highlighting several superhero-like women, they were brazen couriers, fighters, organizers, educators, and truth bearers. They smuggled weapons in handbags, teddy bears, and marmalade jars. They transported messages between ghettos in their undergarments, shoes, and braided into their hair. They forged documents, built underground networks, extracted Jews, bribed Nazis with whiskey and pastries. They ran underground soup kitchens, orphanages, secret high schools, nurseries, sports camps, a medical school, even Broadway shows, and, in many cases, they took up arms.

There was Frumka, who, at 24, became a youth movement leader in 1938. Renia, who jumped off a moving train and became a courier and smuggler. Fayge, an underground operative who assumed a false identity and smuggled dynamite. Ella and Shoshana, who killed seven Germans and wounded more in Kraków. Zivia, a Warsaw Ghetto resistance leader. Vitka, who ran sabotage missions. Tosia, a courier and underground organizer. Bela, a courier and rescuer helping Jews escape ghettos, who worked undercover in a Gestapo office. Faye, a partisan fighter and photographer. Zelda, Rufa, and another resistance fighter photographed at the liberation of Vilna in 1944.

“They were the radio ... and newspapers,” Judy noted, pointing to pre-war Poland, known as Paris of the North, with its bustling arts and fashion scene and 180 Jewish newspapers and magazines published in Warsaw. “They brought information, inspiration, and hope.”

Judy emphasized that resistance was not only measured in acts of violence, but also in daily defiance. “Smuggling

food, friendship, making art, hugging in barricades to keep warm,” she explained, “even telling jokes during transports to help relieve fear.”

In addition to the incredible photos displayed throughout her presentation, one of the most striking throughlines of Judy’s remarks was the way these stories challenge long-held assumptions about Jewish passivity during the Holocaust.

“These young women had lost everything. And still, they risked their lives time and time again for justice, liberty, and dignity. Their small acts matter ... to them, to the people they rescued, and to generations that follow,” she said of uncovering these histories and bringing these mostly untold stories to light. “I sometimes feel like I’m the granddaughter they never had. If I don’t tell these stories, who will?”

Judy’s closing words offered both a tribute and a charge.

“It is through these young women that I learned that not only is trauma passed through generations of Jewish women, but so is courage, passion, compassion,” she concluded. “The story of Jewish women in the resistance will be a glorious page in the history of our people.”

The remainder of the program contin-

ued in the same spirit of responsibility, remembrance, and continuity. Baron Hirsch’s Rabbi Ian Lichter led the audience in reciting Tehillim/Psalms, followed by second gens leading Kaddish and Cantor Aryeh Samberg passionately singing Kel Maleh Rachamim. MJF’s Student-to-Student teen participants shared a poignant message about the importance of their work educating local students about Judaism. Eleanor Tallie Steinberg, Temple Israel’s cantorial soloist, added emotional depth, playing guitar and singing “A Walk to Caesarea/Eli, Eli,” a poem by Hannah Szenes. Israelis and former IDF soldiers closed the program with Hatikvah, reinforcing a sense of collective identity and resilience.

As survivors stood alongside children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the message was unmistakable: Remembrance is not passive. It is active, lived, and carried forward. In a time when firsthand survivor testimony is quite rare, that responsibility is intentionally and urgently shifting to the next generations. And in Memphis that evening, that charge was met with conviction, resolve, and collective strength.

May the memories of those lost in the Holocaust forever be a blessing. **HW**

‘Substantial’ Number of Identifiable Jews at Annual Gun Association Meeting

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Ed Friedman, editor-in-chief of the National Rifle Association’s “Shooting Illustrated” website, admitted that he’s a “bit biased” but told JNS that a conspicuous number of Jews took part in the NRA’s annual meeting in Houston last weekend.

“I’m a little bit biased because I’m looking for it, so I’ll notice it. But seeing people wearing yarmulkes, seeing Chassidic Jews walking through the exhibit halls, it’s a substantial number,” Friedman, who is Jewish, told JNS.

“Obviously, in terms of the NRA at large, in our millions of members, it’s not a huge portion,” he said. “But I would wager that Jews are overrepresented as NRA members versus our percentage of the population.”

That extends broadly to the shooting industry, in Friedman’s more than 20 years of experience.

“The number of gun company board members, CEOs, folks in the media, Jewish gun influencers,” he said. “There are more than you would expect.”

The NRA announced a partnership last week with Lox and Loaded, a post-Oct. 7 “national community organization dedicated to strengthening Jewish communities and their allies through responsible firearm ownership, safety education and structured training,” per a press release announcing the collaboration.

Friedman told JNS that Doug Hamlin, CEO and executive vice president of the NRA, used to run the group’s publications department, where he oversaw Friedman’s work. About a year ago, Friedman said that Hamlin, who was concerned about rising Jew-hatred, asked him how the group could help.

The two were brainstorming when, as Friedman tells it, they happened to meet with representatives of Lox and Loaded at an annual shooting and hunting trade show in Las Vegas.

“They are taking what amounts to a similar approach to what the NRA does, which is trying to reach people who his-

torically have been anti-guns,” Friedman told JNS. (Many Jews are opposed to firearms, including for political reasons.)

“The NRA deals with people who are considering buying a gun for the first time, and maybe it is intimidating,” he said. “We know how to deal with that, and we also offer some of the best training you can find through NRA-certified instructors.”

The partnership between the two groups is intended to focus on educational initiatives, instructor development and training programs.

“We’re helping them spread the word and advising them on some things,” Friedman said. “It’s helping them grow, marketing and giving them access.”

The two also aim to host community outreach events focused on safety.

“There are obviously many people who, politically, have an opinion about the NRA that I would argue is misguided, but that’s their opinion regardless,” Friedman told JNS. “At the same time, I think people recognize we don’t mess around with safety.”

“We teach people how to safely use firearms, particularly for self-defense,” he said.

Lox and Loaded, a nonpartisan organization, says it has more than 48 chapters across the United States with more than 1,000 members, operating under the motto of “shoot and schmooze.”

“In a time when our communities face rising threats and antisemitism, responsible firearm ownership is no longer optional. It’s essential for self-defense and peace of mind,” Gayle Pearlstein, Lox and Loaded’s co-founder, stated.

“Partnering with the NRA allows us to bring world-class training resources to our members and chapters nationwide,” Pearlstein stated. “Together, we’re not just teaching skills. We’re building stronger, more prepared communities where Jews and our allies can stand united in defense of our families and freedoms.” **HW**

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a black smartphone. The screen displays a video of a woman in a white dress performing a ritual in a garden. The video has Arabic subtitles at the bottom. The person holding the phone is wearing a checkered shirt.



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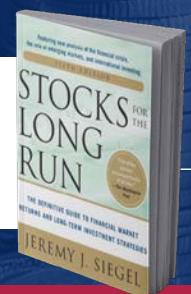
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Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC) Awards Jack Schaffer Patron of the Arts Award



Parke Kennedy, GPAC Executive Director and Jack Schaffer.
Credit: Ziggy Mack @fomoloop

The Patron of the Arts Award was created by the GPAC Board of Directors in 2010 to honor an individual or couple who has demonstrated exemplary support for the performing and visual arts. The award itself was designed by James Vanderpool, Foundry Operations Manager in the Metal Working Facilities at the National Ornamental Metal Museum.

Made of cast bronze, the piece was inspired by the GPAC theater and all the artistry it presents. It includes a piece of the original pine stage, installed 30 years ago. The 2026 Patron of the Arts was presented to Mr. Jack Schaffer on Saturday, April 18, at the annual GPAC Gala. For the past 20 years, Schaffer has been the

most stalwart and passionate advocate for jazz at GPAC. When his involvement with GPAC began, he was leading the Mid-South Jazz Foundation. He approached GPAC’s Executive Director at the time, Tania Castroverde Moskalenko, about incorporating jazz into the GPAC season. Their discussions and ultimate collaboration led to the creation of Jazz in the Box. The initial concept was to showcase local and regional musicians in GPAC’s black box theater, the Watkins Studio Theater, with the aim of eventually bringing larger acts to the main stage and expanding the GPAC jazz audience, a move that led to GPAC’s hugely successful Jazz Series. Jazz in the Box began with a limited number of shows featuring local musicians in the Watkins Studio Theater. The audience’s enthusiastic response led to increased demand, and GPAC accommodated by hosting two concerts per Jazz in the Box performer. GPAC’s jazz patrons were so thrilled that both of every artist’s sets were sell outs! During the pandemic, Jazz in the Box moved to the main stage in the Highland Capital Performance Hall. Today, Jazz in the Box artists come from all over the world and the GPAC jazz club and its offerings are unrivaled in this region. The first Jazz in the Box season was in 2006-2007, and since then, GPAC has presented 154 Jazz in the Box shows. The main stage Jazz Series is now a staple. Since 2006, we have welcomed over 16,000 attendees to our Jazz in the Box shows, and every single show

this season sold out! Patron of the Arts Award-winner, Mr. Jack Schaffer, has been the driving force behind Jazz in the Box and has always played a pivotal role in its curation, spending hours each week listening to jazz, looking for up-and-coming artists, and tracking the greats. Schaffer’s love of jazz has had a significant and lasting impact on GPAC. **About GPAC** Located in the heart of Shelby County, Germantown Performing Arts Center serves the greater Memphis metro area of over a million people and is accessible to all members of the community. GPAC is comprised of the Highland Capital Performance Hall, an acoustically perfect, 854-seat venue featuring a sprung pine stage, an elegant green room, five large dressing rooms, and a spacious lobby for entertaining and assembling; The Grove, a dynamic outdoor venue which can accommodate approximately 900 guests in a lush outdoor setting; and the Watkins Studio Theater, an intimate black box theater. Ray Charles set the bar high when he opened GPAC in 1994, immediately defining this performing arts center as a place where excellence is the norm and where the world comes to perform. GPAC presents world-renowned performing artists in a variety of genres, year-round educational activities for all ages including the GPAC Youth Symphony Program, rotating visual art exhibits, and many community events. The center benefits from a professional infrastructure that possesses a clear direction, strong financial health, professional staff, and a dedicated board of directors. **HW**

Trump: Iran is Losing \$500 Million Daily Due to Hormuz Blockade

By JNS Staff

U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran is losing approximately \$500 million per day due to restrictions on the Strait of

Hormuz, claiming the Islamic Republic is seeking to reopen the strategic waterway as financial pressure mounts.

“Iran is collapsing financially! They want the Strait of Hormuz opened immediately – Starving for cash! Losing 500 Million Dollars a day. Military and Police complaining that they are not getting paid. SOS!!!” Trump posted on Truth Social last Wednesday. “Iran doesn’t want the Strait of Hormuz closed, they want it open so they can make \$500 Million Dollars a day,” Trump wrote in an earlier post, adding that Tehran is “starving for cash” and facing internal strain. “They only say they want it closed because I have it totally BLOCKADED (CLOSED!), so they merely want to “save face.” People approached me four days ago, saying,

U.S. president says Tehran is seeking the reopening of key oil route amid economic pressure.

‘Sir, Iran wants to open up the Strait, immediately.’ But if we do that, there can never be a Deal with Iran, unless we blow up the rest of their Country, their leaders included!” The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world’s most critical maritime chokepoints, through which a significant portion of global oil shipments pass, meaning disruptions can significantly affect global energy markets. Trump announced an extension of the ceasefire with Iran last Tuesday. “Based on the fact that the government of Iran is seriously fractured, not unexpectedly so and, upon the request of Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, of Pakistan, we have been asked to hold our attack on the country of Iran until such time as their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal,” Trump stated. The president said he has directed the military to continue the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and has extended the ceasefire “until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other.” The United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes against Iranian nuclear and military infrastructure on Feb. 28. **HW**

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Estate Planning Why Create An Estate Plan?

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

Estate Planning applies to every-one, regardless of age or net worth, in different ways and at different times throughout an individual’s life. More specifically, estate planning applies to anyone who owns a home, has children or grandchildren, has been divorced, owns a business, or expects to receive an inheritance.

Here are seven (7) examples of areas proper estate planning serves to protect:

- 1. INCAPACITY:** Proper planning enables one to control and designate who will manage the individual’s or couple’s affairs in the event of disability or death. When one fails to plan properly in the State of Tennessee and becomes incapacitated, through a Conservatorship court case, a Probate Judge will determine who makes key decisions (medical and prop-erty) for the incapacitated individual.
- 2. LONG TERM CARE:** Proper planning enables individuals and cou-ples to plan for long term care and long term care expenses. Nursing homes today can cost as much as \$150,000+ per year. Thus, a long-term stay can even impoverish wealthy families. With proper planning, however, one can shel-ter assets and keep most, if not all, of the family’s wealth intact. Because over two-thirds of those who reach the age of sixty-five (65) will be placed in a nursing home for some period, in many cases, Long-Term Care planning is es-sential to preserving the individual or couple’s assets.
- 3. PROBATE COURT:** Proper plan-ning enables individuals and couples to avoid Probate Court during the individu-al’s lifetime (as discussed briefly in “1.” above) and when one dies. As mentioned in previous articles, Probate Court is public, expensive, time-consuming and, whenever possible, in our opinion, should almost always be avoided.
- 4. CREDITOR PROTECTION:** Proper planning enables individuals and couples to protect assets inherited by heirs from lawsuits, divorces, and other potential claims.



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- 5. INCENTIVE PLANNING:** Prop-er planning enables individuals and cou-ples to impose discipline upon and in-centivize children and/or grandchildren who may not be capable or experienced in asset management. Proper planning ensures that children and/or grandchil-dren spend their inheritance wisely and receive their inheritance in the right ways and at the right times throug-out their lives. Otherwise, children and grandchildren will receive their inheri-tance in one lump sum as soon as they reach the age of eighteen (18), which, in our experience, is typically before heirs are mature enough to do so. Proper planning shields inheritance from in-experience and mismanagement by in-cluding specific conditions, incentives, and rewards in the plan.
- 6. SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING:** Proper planning enables individuals and couples to provide for Special Needs children and grandchildren. Special considerations and planning are needed to avoid the loss of governmental ben-efits for Special Needs individuals and beneficiaries.
- 7. LIMIT FIGHTING WITHIN THE FAMILY:** Sadly, in our experi-ence, once money is involved in an es-tate, beneficiaries and heirs often fight over their inheritance, which leads to lengthy and expensive estate litigation. Proper planning enables individuals and couples to prevent or discourage such fights and challenges and can even work to bring the family together at the time of death or incapacity. [HW](#)

Nearly Half of Young Americans View US Relationship with Israel as a Burden, Survey Finds

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Nearly half of young Amer-icans, 46%, believe that the United States’ relationship with Israel is mostly a burden to the United States, accord-ing to a new survey from the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School. The Harvard Youth Poll, which polled 2,018 Americans aged 18 to 29, found that just 16% of those surveyed de-scribed the U.S. relationship with Israel as mostly a benefit. Respondents were asked about their view of other U.S. alliances, including Canada, which 53% saw as beneficial, and Ukraine, which 21% saw as ben-eficial. Israel received the lowest per-ceived benefit of any country tested. The survey also found that 55% of

young Americans believe the U.S. mil-itary action in Iran is not in the best in-terest of the American people. It comes as attitudes about Israel among young Americans in recent years have grown sharply negative. Earlier this month, a Pew Research Center sur-vey found that 70% of Americans aged 18 to 49 held a somewhat or very neg-ative opinion of Israel. That view was split among partisan lines, with 84% of Democrats in that demographic holding a negative view of Israel, compared to 57% of Republicans. The Harvard survey was conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs between March 26 and April 3 and had a margin of error of 2.74 percentage points. [HW](#)



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How Much Cash Should I Have on Hand?

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

“How much cash should I have now?” It seems like a simple question, but the answer can be complicated – especially in times of market volatility. Apart from an emergency fund, the amount of cash or liquid assets you need depends on many factors, including the current state of the market and major life events.

“There isn’t really a general rule in terms of a number,” says Michael Taylor, CFA, Vice President – Senior Wealth Investment Solutions Analyst at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. “We do say it shouldn’t be more than maybe 10% of your overall portfolio or maybe three to six months’ worth of living expenses.”

Taylor notes that the number could change depending on what’s going on in the economy and markets. “You should make sure your emergency fund and cash reserves can meet your current needs,” he says.

Taylor shares five events that should prompt a conversation with your financial advisor about how much cash to have on hand.

1. When the market is in flux

The state of the market can have an impact on how much cash you should have on hand, how long you decide to hold an asset as cash, or when to convert assets to cash. This can be espe-

cially true when you foresee a large discretionary purchase such as a vacation home or a luxury vehicle.

“Plan for those purchases or defer them so you don’t have to liquidate assets at a loss during market uncertainty,” Taylor says.

2. When your job status may change

If you’re contemplating a career move such as starting a business, retiring soon, or facing a possible layoff, consider meeting with your financial advisor. “If you don’t have enough cash on hand during those transition periods, you might have to dip into an investment account or sell a stock at an inopportune time,” Taylor says. “That means you could end up losing money when you can least afford it.”

3. When your marital status is about to change

Getting married or paying for a wedding? According to “The Knot 2023 Real Weddings Study,” on average in 2023, couples spent \$35,000 total on their wedding, including ceremony, reception and engagement ring. Note that doesn’t include a honeymoon or the expense of setting up a household.

A divorce can set you back as well, thanks to legal fees, asset division, and other costs. That means you need enough cash on hand to weather the transition

from being single to getting married or vice versa. Talking to a financial advisor ahead of time can help you identify how much on-hand cash you need.

4. When your child is ready for college

According to projections by Wells Fargo Advisors based on the College Board’s “Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid,” the estimated cost of attending a private college for four years (including tuition, fees, and room and board) starting in the 2024 – 2025 school year is more than \$251,000.¹

“It’s important to plan so that you have enough liquidity to pay those tuition bills when they arrive,” Taylor says.

5. When you receive a windfall

If you receive an inheritance, a large bonus, or a generous financial gift, ask your financial advisor about investment options relative to the amount of cash you should have in your portfolio. If that money stays in savings or short-term CDs, it won’t decrease in value, but it also may not be able to earn to its full potential.

Your long-term goals, risk tolerance, and spending and saving habits also affect how much cash you should have on hand. A financial advisor can help you strike the right balance.

¹ Total yearly costs for in-state tuition, fees, books, and room and board (transportation and miscellaneous expenses not included). Base is 2024 – 2025 school year. Costs for all future years projected by Wells Fargo Advisors in November 2024 assuming a 3.3% national average increase per year for private colleges (based on a 10-year historical average).

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Phelan to Step Down as US Navy Secretary

(JNS) – U.S. Navy Secretary John Phelan is stepping down from his role and leaving the Trump administration. “Secretary of the Navy John C. Phelan is departing the administration, effective immediately,” Sean Parnell, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, said last Wednesday. “We are grateful to Secretary Phelan for his service to the department and the United States Navy. We wish him well in his future endeavors.” “Undersecretary Hung Cao will become Acting Secretary of the Navy,” Parnell said. Phelan, 62, who managed the fortune of Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell, held the position for just a year. The Senate confirmed him last March. There was no explanation offered for his departure, which comes as the United States continues its naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, during an extended ceasefire with Iran. [HW](#)

The announcement came without explanation amid a U.S. naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz.

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Southern Poverty Law Center Indicted for ‘Manufacturing’ Extremism



Alt-right members preparing to march as part of the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Va., hold Nazi, Confederate and Gadsden “Don’t Tread on Me” flags, Aug. 12, 2017. Credit: Beyond My Ken via Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – The U.S. Department of Justice unsealed an indictment last Tuesday charging the Southern Poverty Law Center with fraud and related offenses, alleging the civil rights nonprofit funneled millions to individuals affiliated with white supremacist and extremist groups between 2014 and 2023 to “manufacture extremism.”

The indictment alleges that the SPLC, which is headquartered in Montgomery, Ala., publicly claimed a commitment to “the dismantling of white supremacy and confronting hate across the country” but that “some of their donated money was being used to fund the leaders and organizers of racist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nation and the National Alliance.”

A federal grand jury in Alabama charged the Montgomery-based nonprofit with 11 counts, including wire fraud, bank fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering, according to prosecutors.

“As the indictment describes, the SPLC was not dismantling these groups,” said Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche in a press conference last Tuesday. “It was instead manufacturing the extremism it purports to oppose by paying sources to stoke racial hatred.”

The document states that the organization maintained “field sources” embedded in extremist groups, including one, paid approximately \$270,000, who “made racist postings under the supervision of the SPLC and helped coordinate transportation” to the 2017 Unite the Right Charlottesville rally, which resulted in one person’s death.

It claims that donors “were not told that some of the donated funds were to be used by the SPLC to pay high-level leaders of violent extremist groups.”

One field source listed in the indictment was an “Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America.” Another was “an officer in the National Socialist Movement and the Aryan Nations-affiliated Sadistic Souls Motorcycle Club” and was paid more than \$300,000 by the SPLC.

A field source listed as F-30, “led the National Socialist Party of America, was the former director of a faction of the Aryan Nations and a former member of the KKK,” according to the indictment.

It alleges that F-30 was paid more than \$70,000 between 2014 and 2016, overlapping with a time period in which the individual “was featured on the SPLC’s ‘Extremist File’ webpage.”

Prosecutors further allege the SPLC moved the funds through shell entities

“If these allegations are true, the SPLC is likely to be the largest single funder of white nationalist extremism in the United States,” stated Christopher Rufo, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

and bank accounts with no legitimate business activity “designed to conceal the true nature, source, ownership and control of fraudulently obtained donated money.”

Christopher Rufo, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, called the allegations “incredible.”

“The supply of right-wing ‘hate’ was so low that a left-wing ‘anti-hate’ group had to subsidize it, so it could then raise money to fight it,” Rufo stated. “If these allegations are true, the SPLC is likely to be the largest single funder of white nationalist extremism in the United States. One hopes it will mark an extremely poetic ending for the group, which, one hopes, will end in bankruptcy and, for some, prison.”

Bryan Fair, board chair for the SPLC, responded to the allegations, claiming the group’s use of field sources, which he called “informants,” was part of its mission in collecting vital information to stop threats, and that it shared what it learned from those sources with federal law enforcement, including the FBI.

“These individuals risked their lives to infiltrate and inform on the activities of our nation’s most violent and extremist groups,” Fair said. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Bernie Weinman

On April 20, 2026, the Honorable Bernie Weinman passed away at the age of 92, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on April 24, 1934, to Max and Celia Weinman in Memphis, Tenn. After graduating from Central High School, he attended the University of Alabama before earning his bachelor’s degree from Memphis State College (now the University of Memphis). He later attended Southern Law School (now University of Memphis Law School), earning his law degree in 1961. After five years of practice, Mayor William B. Ingram appointed him as judge of the Memphis City Courts, becoming the youngest judge and the first Jewish judge on the court. During his tenure in the City Court, Weinman served as the Chief Administrative Judge between 1971 and 1974, during which time he instituted innovative programs such as providing alcoholism treatment and services, instead of incarceration, to those with multiple drunkenness convictions and he was an avid advocate for the rights of indigent defendants.

Weinman was elected to the State of Tennessee Criminal Court for Shelby County in 1974 where he served as the Judge of Division II for 30 years. There, he presided over many of Memphis’

highest profile criminal cases and issued numerous notable rulings, including a case of first impression, which was affirmed by the US Supreme Court, that held that victim impact statements can be used in capital sentencing hearings. Following his retirement, he served as Assistant Disciplinary Counsel (a newly created role) for the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, served on the Shelby County Civil Service Commission, and partnered in the law firm of Weinman and Associates with his son, Michael Weinman. Throughout his career, Weinman received numerous honors, including President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference (1990-1991) and long-time faculty member of the National Judicial College in Nevada.

Weinman’s most treasured roles were as husband, father and grandfather. In 1955, he married the love of his life, Marilyn Goldman. They were married for 70 precious years and raised four children, Sharon Weinman (Patricia Quigley), Mike Weinman (Alison), Chuck Weinman (Teresa) and Becky Weinman-Crouch (Billy Crouch). He was Pepop to 11 adoring grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Among his other passions were his beloved dogs, Bismarck, Anna Belle, Helen and Duke. Most importantly, he was a lifelong and completely devoted fan of the Memphis Tigers in good and hard times. He rarely, if ever, missed a game.

For all who knew him, Weinman will be deeply missed for his incomparable sweetness, kindness, wisdom and sense of humor (including a staple of dad jokes.)

The funeral was held at Temple Israel on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Donations in his honor should be made St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. **HW**

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Mamdani Accuses Trump Admin of ‘Killing Thousands,’ Defends Jew-Hatred Policy Rollback

(JNS) - Zohran Mamdani, the mayor of New York City, accused U.S. President Donald Trump of “killing thousands of people” in the Iran conflict and defended his decision to revoke his predecessor’s executive orders about Jew-hatred and anti-Israel boycotts in an interview at City Hall with Leila Fadel, of NPR.

Fadel pressed the mayor multiple times about his relationship with Trump, with whom Mamdani has met at least twice at the White House since he began his term at City Hall in January.

“I’ll keep the nature of the conversations with the president between the two of us,” Mamdani told NPR. “What I will tell you is that it is no secret, not my concerns, I would describe it more as a deep opposition to this war, a deep opposition that comes out of a concern for what our politics are incentivizing in this moment, the killing of civilians, as opposed to the uplifting of working-class people across this country.”

Fadel noted that Trump has called Mamdani a “communist lunatic” and that the mayor called the president a “fascist.”

“Now that you’ve met with him, that

you’ve spoken with him multiple times, do you still think he’s a fascist?” she asked. “Yes,” Mamdani said.

She asked if the mayor has told Trump that he considers him a fascist. “Yes,” Mamdani said. Asked how Trump responds, Mamdani said that “I think everyone saw in the conversation we had in the Oval Office after our first meeting.”

“He seems to like you. Are you and the president friends?” Fadel wondered. “I would say that he’s the president and I’m the mayor,” Mamdani said. “The basis of the relationship comes from those two positions.”

“Look at the war in Iran today,” he told Fadel in response to another question. “We’re talking about a federal administration that has spent close to \$30 billion killing thousands of people at a time when working class people across this country cannot afford the bare minimum.”

Jew-hatred

Mamdani, who has said that he wants to build stronger relationships with Jewish New Yorkers, has drawn “significant support from liberal and leftist Jewish Americans, Jewish communities,”

Fadel said.

“But you also drew a lot of skepticism, and there was a lot of fear that your sharp criticisms of Israel would also translate into something else,” she told Mamdani. “You did not renew two executive orders from your predecessor, one that adopted a broad definition of antisemitism, and another that prohibited city employees from engaging in the boycott, divest and sanctions movement against Israel. And this drew some concerns from some Jewish groups here. Why did you make that decision?”

Mamdani said that he made the decision to revoke every executive order that his predecessor, Eric Adams, signed after he was indicted on federal charges.

“That was a moment at which many New Yorkers started to ask themselves: ‘What was the motivation of any one executive order?’ Was it driven by self-interest, or was it, in fact, being driven by what it should be, which is public interest?” the mayor told NPR. “We’ve also sought to show that we are fully committed in fulfilling what we had spoken about over the course of the campaign to not just keep Jewish New Yorkers safe across the city alongside each and every

New Yorker, but also to celebrate and cherish those same New Yorkers.”

The mayor, who has said that he would have the Israeli prime minister arrested in the Big Apple and whose spokeswoman said that synagogues violate international law by hosting pro-Israel events, told NPR that “over the course, for example, of Passover, it’s been an incredible opportunity for me to attend a number of seders, to host Jewish City Hall officials at our home at Gracie Mansion for a seder, to sit there as staffers look for the afikomen, to get a better sense of what it means to lead a city with such incredible beauty and breadth of Jewish life across the five boroughs and also to get a glimpse into the amount of service that so many organizations within the Jewish community are providing.”

Fadel asked how the mayor’s administration plans to define Jew-hatred.

“We actually have the Office to Combat Antisemitism here at City Hall, and one of their jobs is to not only define that but frankly to conduct a listening tour to actually bring in the perspectives of Jewish New Yorkers from across the five boroughs,” he said. **HW**

Netanyahu Heckled at Israel’s Official Memorial Day Ceremony as Bereaved Families Grasp for Comfort

By Deborah Danan

(JTA) – TEL MOND, Israel – Thousands of Israelis gathered in cemeteries all over Israel to commemorate the nation’s fallen soldiers and terror victims on Memorial Day, as public mourning collided with political anger, fresh wartime uncertainty and the private after-shocks consuming bereaved families.

In a Memorial Day message to bereaved families, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also addressed the war against Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah, saying Israel has “already removed an existential threat.”

A short while later, President Donald Trump told CNBC’s Joe Kernan that he “expects to be bombing” Iran again if talks collapse ahead of Wednesday’s ceasefire deadline.

“We have returned all our hostages, struck our enemies hard, and made Israel a nation stronger than ever before,” Netanyahu said at an official Memorial Day ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

His comments prompted a heckler in the crowd to yell out, “Some of them died in tunnels,” in reference to the Israelis kidnapped to Gaza by the Hamas terror group and held underground.

Skirmishes broke out during a speech by MK Ofir Sofer, of the far-right Religious Zionist party at the Kiryat Shaul military cemetery in Tel Aviv, when attendees attempted to snatch signs held up by protesters that read “Government of death” and “I refuse to hear words of comfort from a government of criminals.”

At a cemetery in Tel Mond, Eyal Golan, whose sister Shirel died by suicide on her 22nd birthday, a year after surviving the Nova massacre near the Gaza border, also had harsh words for the government.

Reflecting on Knesset debates he attended after his sister’s death, as he pushed for a law in her name to provide unlimited, comprehensive mental health care to victims of terror, Golan said he was furious at what he described as the performative behavior of politicians from both the coalition and opposition.

“Off camera, they speak to each other normally,” he said. “But the moment the cameras turn on, it’s showtime. They fall into their roles, shouting and attacking each other. I’m sitting there thinking, how can this be real?”

“Instead of coming together, they just deepen the divide,” he said, but he credited two Knesset members from opposite sides of the political aisle – Moshe Gafni of United Torah Judaism and Mervav Michaeli of Labor – with taking up the cause and advancing the legislation.

Eyal and other members of his family say the government failed Shirel as she grappled with acute PTSD in the months after the attack. Now advancing the bill, he said he hopes it will spare other families the same fate.

“The whole point of my crusade is to save others. No one will be able to bring back my sister. If I’m able to save one more soul, I’ve done my job,” he said.

The legislation, known informally as the Shirel Golan law, passed a preliminary reading in January 2026.

Sitting close to his daughter’s grave, covered in flowers, wreaths and candles, Eyal’s father Meir said he has fallen into a strange nightly ritual. Every night, he wakes up at 3 a.m. and makes himself a cup of coffee. He opens the smart TV to her YouTube account and for an hour or so watches the videos she had liked and subscribed to, including trance music emblematic of the Nova scene. At 4 a.m., he returns to bed.

“As soon as I turn it on, it says, ‘Hello Shirel, welcome back,’” Meir said, adding that it gives him a measure of tranquility, as if his daughter “is still around.”

Later, as Eyal made the 45-minute drive back to his home in the central Israeli city of Holon, he described the journey as the emotional hinge between mourning and the return to ordinary life.

“It’s a kind of magic hour during which I store the grief of the day in a box in my mind,” he said. “By Independence Day, I’ll go back to my main role, being a father to two daughters.”

He added, “That journey is a microcosm of Israeli society.”

Meir’s late-night visits to his daughter’s digital world are part of a wider private language of mourning that has taken hold among bereaved Israeli families, many of whom continue to reach for their dead through screens. On phones across the country, especially on the

popular messaging platform WhatsApp, parents and siblings keep sending messages to loved ones who were killed, writing as if the conversation never ended. The messages, some of which were recorded in a special Memorial Day project by the Ynet news site, come at unguarded moments, during a football game, before a birthday, or in the middle of the night.

“What a goal, Yahav,” one father, Nir Maayan, wrote to his son, Yahav, who was killed in Gaza in January of last year.

Texting his son from his graveside, Nir wrote: “There are days of collapse, of longing, of not being able to accept reality. Moments when I try to imagine your final moments. What did you think? What did you feel? Answers I will never know. So I just rest my head on you, and somehow you comfort me and hold me. Someone is watching over me from above.”

“Tomorrow is your birthday, send mom a message,” a sister wrote to her deceased brother.

“The sky is beautiful today,” another wrote.

Dorit Ron keeps on texting her son Itai, who was killed on Oct. 7 at the Nahal Oz base near the Gaza border. “I expect an answer, a sign that he’s okay and with his father,” she said, according to the report. “Even though I know he won’t reply, to me he’s alive, just nearby, in another dimension.” **HW**

Teens in 2 States Arrested Over Threat that Shuttered Houston Synagogue

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Two teenagers were arrested last week for an alleged plot to drive through a Houston synagogue and “kill as many Jews as possible,” according to local authorities.

Angelina Han Hicks, 18, of Lexington, North Carolina, was arrested at her home last Wednesday and charged with conspiring with two other individuals to commit an attack on Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Jewish house of worship in Texas, according to the Davidson County Sheriff’s Office. She is

being held in the Davidson County jail under a \$10 million bond.

In Houston, a 16-year-old boy was also arrested in relation to “a threat directed towards certain Jewish institutions in our area.” It was unclear whether the second arrest was connected to Hicks, but the judge who ordered Hicks detained said she should be prevented from communicating with unnamed co-conspirators.

“At this time, there is no other known credible threat,” the Houston Police Department said in a statement.

Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform

synagogue, and the Shlenker School, a preschool and elementary school that shares its campus, closed following the threats last Wednesday.

District Court Judge Carlton Terry said the alleged conspiracy was “to kill as many Jews as possible by driving through a congregation at a synagogue.” He said Hicks should remain in custody after her arraignment.

“Allowing a co-conspirator a chance to communicate with either of those individuals or those who could relay a message puts lives at risk,” Terry wrote.

The arrests come one month after a man drove a fireworks-laden truck into Temple Israel in suburban Detroit. The attack, which left the assailant dead, also followed an arson attack on Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi, that left the synagogue’s library destroyed.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston announced last Wednesday that it would go forward with events that were planned to mark Israeli Independence Day despite the reported threats. **HW**



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 one of our past presidents, Geri Lansky.

Meet Geri Lansky



Geri Lansky

By Shoshana Cenker

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

Born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, I moved to Memphis in 1976 after marrying my husband, Hal. We have three adult children and four grandchildren who all live in Memphis. While raising my own kids, I volunteered with all their activities and was heavily involved in the Jewish community. I was also the buyer for the Lansky Gift Shop at The Peabody Hotel. I enjoy volunteering, mahjong, tending to indoor plants, traveling, sports, and working out.

MJHR: How did you become connected to MJHR?

My first connection with MJHR came when it was located in Midtown, and I volunteered for the annual clothing sale

with the National Jewish Council of Women. Then, in 2003, my father was unexpectedly admitted to the MJHR and lived there for several years. That’s when my connection with the MJHR became strong. I spent each day caring for my father with the help of the phenomenal staff. When my father passed away, my love for the MJHR stayed strong, and I kept in touch with other residents and staff. I then became a board member and president and now co-chair the Resident’s Services Committee.

MJHR: Share your favorite MJHR story.

When my dad was living at the Home, I started calling Bingo for the residents in his dining room. At first, it was just on Dad’s floor, but as other residents heard about it, more joined. I’d give out small prizes like quarters or kosher snacks.

Another special memory is from MJHR’s 75th anniversary. We had author Mitch Albom come celebrate the occasion with all of us. Mitch chatted with the residents and took photos with everyone, including my dad. I still have that framed photograph, which I truly cherish. The entire event was a really nice celebration.

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

I hope to see an assisted living facility built on the property. Also, I’d love for the entire city to know how much of a hidden gem the MJHR is to our community.

The staff is top-notch, stemming from the leadership of the Home’s administrator, Bobby Meadows — they are what makes MJHR the special place it



Geri (r) and her dad at MJHR’s 75th Anniversary Celebration alongside Mimi Grossman.

is. I was MJHR’s board president as we said goodbye to an administrator and part of the hiring team that welcomed Bobby in as the new administrator. From there, it’s been a big turnaround; we bounced back.

MJHR: Anything else you’d like to share about the Home?

We welcome anybody of any age to volunteer at the MJHR. We have so many residents who thrive when they have volunteers who become their “family members.” During their visits, the volunteers speak with them, address any needs, and just get to be with them for one-on-one attention.

Currently, I’m the co-chair of the Resident Services Committee, which I love.

We’re responsible for organizing all the decorations for the residents’ parties. And each Friday, we help the Adult Day participants arrange fresh flowers in vases for the residents’ dining rooms. I just love the sweet ladies from the Ronna K. Newburger Adult Day Center who are always eager to help.

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**

Iranian woman arrested at Los Angeles airport for allegedly trafficking weapons for Islamic Republic

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Federal agents arrested Shamim Mafi at Los Angeles International Airport last Saturday night, before the Iranian national boarded a flight out of the country, for allegedly trafficking weapons for the Iranian regime, the Justice Department said.

Mafi, 44, of Woodland Hills, a neighborhood in Los Angeles, was charged with conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and faces up to 20 years in federal prison, the department said last Monday.

“This individual came from Iran and gained legal status under the Obama administration,” stated Todd Blanche, acting U.S. attorney general. “While enjoying a life in the United States, this

woman was allegedly breaking the law by brokering lethal weapons deals with Iranian adversaries. This will not stand, and anyone who breaks our laws and threatens national security will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.”

According to the department, Mafi, who owns and runs a company in Oman, became a lawful permanent resident in October 2016.

“In early 2025, Mafi brokered weapons deals on Iran’s behalf through her company,” including a contract worth more than \$70 million “for the sale of the Iranian-made Mohajer-6 drone from Iran’s defense ministry to Sudan’s military,” the Justice Department alleged. “She coordinated the Sudanese delegation’s travel to Iran and was paid more

than \$7 million.”

“She also brokered the sale of 55,000 bomb fuses to Sudan and submitted a letter of intent to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to purchase the bomb fuses for Sudan,” per the department. “Mafi also brokered the sale of millions of rounds of ammunition from Iran to Sudan.”

Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Americans must receive permission from the U.S. Treasury Department to do business with goods or services tied to the Iranian government, and they cannot work with people whom the federal government has blocked, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a U.S.-designated terror group, and the Iranian de-

fense ministry.

“At no time did Mafi apply for or obtain the required licenses from the U.S. Treasury Department to engage in any transactions alleged in the complaint’s affidavit,” the Justice Department stated. “She also never registered with or applied for approval from the U.S. Department of State’s Directorate of Defense Trade Controls to engage in brokering activities with respect to U.S. or foreign defense articles.”

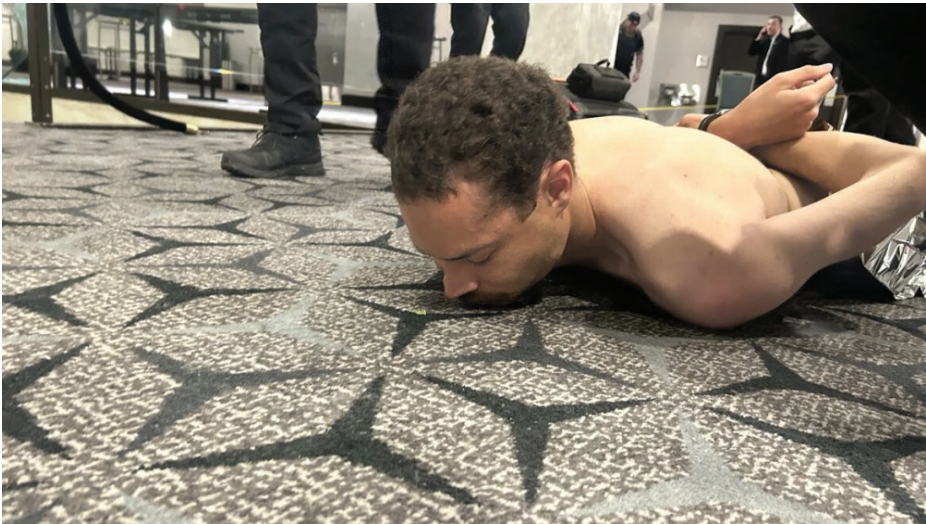
The Justice Department added that records, which the federal government obtained after executing a search warrant, showed that Mafi and an Iranian intelligence officer contacted one another 62 times between December 2022 and June 2025. **HW**



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'A Room that was Just Totally Unified,' Trump Says after Shots Fired at White House Correspondents' Dinner



A photo, apparently of a suspected shooter at the White House correspondents' dinner, which U.S. President Donald Trump shared on April 25, 2026. Credit: U.S. President Donald Trump/TruthSocial.

By JNS Staff

"Very brave" Secret Service agents stopped a suspect with "multiple weapons" at the White House correspondents' dinner in Washington on Satur-

day, U.S. President Donald Trump said after he was moved to the White House in what the pool reporter described as the fastest motorcade in which he had

ever traveled. The suspected attacker's actions led to a "room that was just totally unified," the president said. He added that law enforcement is going through the suspect's home in California. The suspect was described as having a "long gun." "He's a very sick person," Trump said. The president said that he spoke with a Secret Service agent, who was shot at a "very close distance" with a "very powerful gun." "The vest did the job," he said of the agent's bulletproof vest. "I just spoke to the office and he's doing great. Great shape," he added. "Very high spirits." Trump added the hotel building was, in his opinion, not a very secure building and that is one reason, he said, why he is expanding event spaces at the White House. "They've wanted the ballroom for 150 years," he said. "We need levels of security that probably no one has ever seen before."

"We'll do it better within 30 days. We'll make it bigger and better and even nicer," Trump said of the event. "I fought like hell to stay, but it was protocol." "Probably a lone shooter, but we will find out," he said. "We will find out very quickly." "I heard a noise. I sort of thought it was a tray going down," Trump told a reporter. "It was either a tray or a bullet. I hoped it was a tray." "It was quite far away, but it was a gun," he said. "I was watching what was happening. Probably should have gone down even faster." "We had resources sitting at tables. Some in disguise," the president said. "He had a long way to go," he added of the suspect, whom he said was stopped at the "first line of defense." "It's not going to deter me from winning the war in Iran," the president said. He added that he didn't think that was a motivation for the suspected shooter. [HW](#)

Israeli Cabinet Unanimously Approves First Ambassador to Somaliland

By JNS Staff

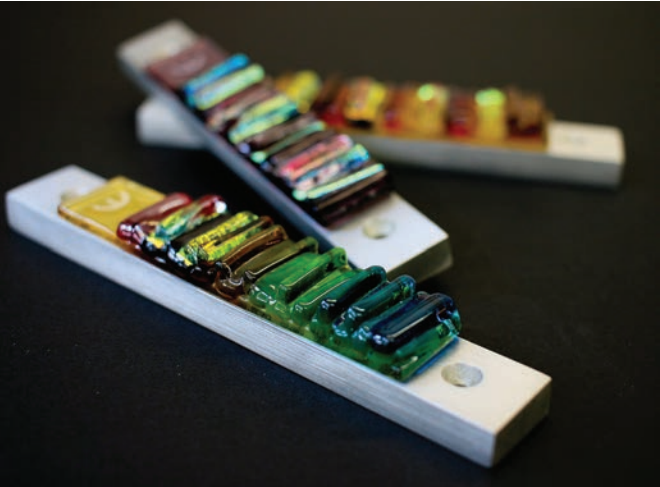
Israel's Cabinet on Sunday unanimously approved the appointment of Michael Lotem as the Jewish state's first ambassador to Somaliland. Lotem, a senior diplomat, was announced as Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar's pick for the post on April 15. Lotem finished a three-year tour as ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and the Seychelles in August 2025, and has since served as a non-resident economic ambassador to

Africa. He had previously served as ambassador to Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. "The posting will initially be non-resident. Lotem will be based in Jerusalem rather than in Somaliland, managing the bilateral relationship through visits and direct engagement," the Somaliland Chronicle reported on April 18. Somalia, which does not recognize Somaliland's 1991 declaration of independence, reacted angrily, saying it "categorically rejects" any attempt to grant diplomatic or political recognition on any part of what it still considers its territory, the Somali Guardian reported on April 15. "Such actions risk destabilizing regional progress and emboldening divisive narratives," said Somalia's Foreign Ministry. In a joint statement on April 18, the foreign ministers of Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Libya, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Turkey also condemned Israel's announcement, calling it a "flagrant violation" of Somalia's sovereignty. Israel became the first country to rec-

ognize the self-declared nation of Somaliland on Dec. 26, 2025. "The State of Israel plans to immediately expand its relations with the Republic of Somaliland through extensive cooperation in the fields of agriculture, health, technology and economy," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A Sunni-majority country, Somaliland practices tolerance and has expressed support for Israel and the Abraham Accords, the U.S.-brokered 2020 deal between Israel and several Muslim states. [HW](#)



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Top Right: Tree of Life Mezuzah by Seeka \$185
Above Left: Mezuzahs by Alicia Kelemen \$115 • Above Right: Copper Seder Plate by Steven Bronstein \$425

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