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Hillels of Memphis Trivia Night Strengthens Connections Across Memphis Jewish Community



First Place Winning Team at Hillels of Memphis Trivia Night.

An evening of trivia became something more meaningful as Hillels of Memphis recently brought together students and community members for a night centered on connection, collaboration and shared experience.

Held at the Memphis Jewish Community Center last Thursday, the event welcomed a diverse mix of participants, including students from the University of Memphis and Rhodes College, young professionals, families and long-time members of the Memphis Jewish community. The room reflected a true cross-section of the community, with generations coming together around shared tables. From the first round, there was a palpable energy – laughter, cheers and lively debate filled the room, creating an atmosphere that was both fun and electric with Ira Lipsey at the helm as the EMCEE.

While the trivia competition provid-

ed the structure for the evening, the true focus emerged in the relationships built throughout the night. Teams formed organically, often blending students with community members who had just met. One student participant, Milena Murov, shared, “As someone who didn’t know anyone on my team at the start of the evening, I was immediately welcomed into my table’s family. By the end of the night, I even received an invitation to join them for Passover Seder!” reflecting a sense of connection that resonated with many in attendance.

Participants leaned on each other’s strengths as the rounds progressed, and the wide range of questions, from pop culture and sports to history and Jewish life, meant that everyone had a chance to shine. The mix of easy, challenging and unexpected questions kept the energy high, with participants excitedly sharing knowledge, strategizing togeth-



A large and diverse crowd enjoyed Trivia Night.

er and celebrating each correct answer. A particularly challenging question about “What year did the Memphis in May music festival honor Israel?” drew cheers from across the room when the correct answer was revealed, capturing both the difficulty of the game and the enthusiasm of the players.

“A program of Memphis Jewish Federation, Hillel is about creating spaces where students feel a real sense of belonging, not just with each other, but within the broader Memphis Jewish community,” said Phoenix Goldberg, director of Hillels of Memphis. “Seeing those connections happen so naturally throughout the night was incredibly meaningful.”

The program reflects Hillels of Memphis’ ongoing efforts to serve as a bridge between Jewish students and the broader Memphis community. By creating spaces that feel both welcoming and participatory, the organization continues

to expand opportunities for engagement beyond campus boundaries.

A highlight of the evening was the premiere of a video featuring current students involved in Hillel, created by former U of M Hillel Student President Eli Ostrow. Through personal reflections and everyday moments, the video offered attendees a closer look at how Jewish life is experienced on campus today. One student reflected on how Hillel provided a “home away from home,” while another spoke about finding a sense of identity and belonging through shared traditions and friendships. For many in attendance, the video offered a meaningful glimpse into the important role Hillel plays in students’ lives.

More than just an evening of entertainment, Trivia Night highlighted the value of community that sparked con-

(See **Trivia** Page 2)

United by Torah: Memphis & Uganda Connect Through Jewish Learning, Music, & Spiritual Enlightenment



Beit Abulafia Jewish Learning Center.
By Shoshana Center

Sometimes the Jewish world feels very small. Other times, it stretches across continents, connecting people who may never have expected to meet, yet find themselves not only becoming friends, but learning Torah together week after week.

That’s exactly what happened with Jason Caplan in Memphis and Odupa Abram in Uganda.

Odupa was born and raised in Morutome, a town of 25,000 in the Butebo District of eastern Uganda. Uganda’s official language is English, but people in his community also speak Luganda and

Swahili. Odupa works as a businessman and elementary school teacher. He’s also the Jewish community’s leader.

Odupa’s family – wife Rachel, kids Isaac and Emunah – all converted to Judaism in October 2016 along with their Putti village through Rabbi Shlomo Riskin from Israel. “We had begun learning and practicing Judaism even before Rabbi Riskin arrived to formalize our conversions,” Odupa explained with his beaming smile during our Zoom conversation. “To me, Judaism is the fundamental faith ushered in by none other than Hashem.”

Today, the village of Putti’s 250 Jewish members practice Orthodox Judaism, following Ashkenazi halachic traditions. “We keep kashrut and Shabbat. We follow halachah,” Odupa said with the confidence of a man practicing his whole life. “Men and women work together to prepare for Shabbat, then women light Shabbat candles. We learn Torah and

teach brachot and Hebrew language.”

Shabbat preparations begin well before sundown on Friday. The synagogue compound is cleaned, animals are cared for, and everything is organized before the community gathers for Kabbalat Shabbat. Despite its relatively small size, the community is incredibly well-equipped for prayer and study and even built a synagogue. They have two Torah scrolls that a supporter in the United Kingdom donated, along with chumashim, siddurim and ritual garments like tallitot, tzitzit and kippot.

Still, the community continued to dream bigger. And that’s where the connection with Jason comes in.

Around 2020, during the Covid pandemic, Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander was searching for someone to help teach Torah to the Ugandan community. Rabbi den Hollander studied in Yeshiva Uni-

(See **United** Page 2)

United...

(Continued From Page 1)



Odupa Abram, his wife, Rachel, and kids Isaac and Emunah.

versity with Jason.

Through Zoom and online connections, Jason began joining the learning sessions. What started as conversations about Torah and classes gradually expanded into new creative and spiritual directions.

Jason introduced the community to his Universal Language Room (ULR) and teachings from Rabbi Abraham Abulafia. ULR is a space for meditation, music and creative expression rooted in Jewish spiritual tradition. Rabbi Abulafia was a 13th century pioneer of a letter-based Kabbalah, focusing on achieving a direct, prophetic union with G-d through meditation. His teachings emphasize permutating Hebrew letters, breathing techniques and mental imagery to unlock inner divine consciousness. Abulafia’s methods inspired Jason to create his own musical, meditative and open dialogue systems.

“When we started learning Abulafia and ULR,” Odupa said, “we saw good changes in our lives. It was wonderful.”

Music and universal language practice became an unexpected catalyst for the community’s growth. Members of the village formed a singing group, eventually entering a regional competition and placing seventh. The achievement infused the community with pride and validation.

“It brought confidence to the community,” Jason said of the impact that went far beyond music. “It also helped increase farming output, which led to funds for an amazing building.”

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood in the village, and the increased productivity helped the community build an incredible Beit Abulafia Jewish Learning Center. Completed in March, the center serves as a space for Torah study and spiritual education.

“We wanted this project because it will help us achieve so many things – teaching our children about Torah and making sure they know the knowledge,” added Odupa, “Learning Torah is fascinating. And Beit Abulafia and Universal Language Room is interesting religiously – relaxing and satisfying.”

The Center gives the community the opportunity to continue studying Torah while also exploring the musical and meditative traditions they’re developing with Jason.

“We started with conversation and learning. Then the music group and singing came, and the community became more uplifted,” Jason said, as he’s watched the community grow in deeply meaningful ways. “Everything we learned together has become this structured path. And the Beit Abulafia Jewish Learning Center is now a home for universal language, the study of Rabbi Abraham Abulafia, and the celebration of the divine soul of every human being!”

Jason continues to learn remotely with Odupa and his community and hopes to travel to Uganda one day.

In a world often divided by distance and difference, the partnership between Memphis and a Ugandan village offers a powerful reminder of something timeless in Jewish life: Learning Torah together builds more than knowledge. It builds community and vision to grow. **HW**

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4/9/2026

Star

Memphis Candlelighting Time

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Havdalah, Sat. April 11, 2026 / 24 Nissan, 5786 8:08 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Shemini

Trivia...

(Continued From Page 1)

versation, connection and laughter. As

Hillels of Memphis continues to grow

its programming, events like this serve

as a reminder that strong communities

are built not only through tradition, but

through engagement and connection.

The event was made possible through

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Classes Restarting at the MJCC!

Bridge Beginning Bridge with Debbie Jackson

Please note that the Beginning Bridge lessons originally scheduled for April 2026 have been canceled. We invite you to join us for the next session, which is expected to begin in August. Thank you for your patience!

Mah Jongg Beginning Mah Jongg with Melanie Mann

Melanie has been teaching Mah Jongg at the MJCC and throughout Memphis for years. Her Tuesday night classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register ASAP!

- Tuesday Session: April 14 – May 12, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Thursday Session: April 16 – May 14, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Cost: \$72 for Members / \$80 for Non-Members

Advanced Mah Jongg with Vicki Campbell

By popular demand, we are launching a brand-new advanced class! If you already know the basics but want to improve your Charleston, master defensive play, and take a deep dive into the new 2026 NMJL card, this is the class for you.

- Tuesdays: April 21-May 12, 2-4 p.m.
- Cost: \$72 for Members / \$80 for Non-Members

Music Beginning Ukulele with Vicki Campbell

Learn a fun new instrument with popular instructor Vicki Campbell! Vicki is a member of a local ukulele band and has years of teaching experience. No prior musical experience is necessary, and we will even provide a ukulele for the first few lessons so you can try it out!

- Tuesdays: April 21-May 12, 6-8 p.m.
- Cost: \$72 for Members / \$80 for Non-Members

Reservations & Senior Lunch Program

To register for any of these classes, please call the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810.

Don't forget to join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens of the Memphis Jewish Home.

- Cost: Only \$2 for seniors.
- Reservations: Required by 1 p.m. the day before.
- Contact: Call the front desk at 901-761-0810 or reach out to Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. **HW**

MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club: April Programs

Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. with speaker and entertainment programs following at noon.

Passover Schedule Notice
Please note that no lunch will be served during Chol HaMoed Pesach. The MJCC will be closed Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9, in observance of the Passover Yom Tovs.

Monday, April 13 Ask the Rabbi with Rabbi Yosef Braha

Rabbi Braha returns for one of our most popular and enjoyable programs. Whether you have deep theological questions or simple curiosities about Judaism, holidays or kashrut, this is your chance to get answers. Come for a delicious kosher lunch and stay to listen and learn.

Wednesday, April 15 Team Trivial Pursuit

Join us for our first Team Trivial Pursuit of the spring! We'll cover a wide variety of subjects with a special focus on springtime trivia. We especially encourage newcomers to join in – past winners are often those who claimed they “didn't know much!” There is no charge to play, and lunch is just \$2.

Monday, April 20 How to Center Yourself with Lynn Doyle, M.S.

We are fortunate to welcome Lynn Doyle, a speaker known for being both inspiring and practical. Her talk will provide immediate, actionable steps to improve your daily life. Because the Senior Lunch Room is limited to 20 people, reservations are highly recommended.



The Double D Band

Wednesday, April 22 Monthly Luncheon featuring The Double D Band

Our “Big Senior Luncheon” features one of our most requested musical acts! The Double D Band plays a wide range of genres, with a special emphasis on the 1950s. Featuring guitars and mandolins, this duo has performed in London and New York and has appeared on MTV and the BBC. Entertainment is sponsored in partnership with Creative Aging and April's luncheon is sponsored by First Light Home Care.

- Cost: \$5 (includes kosher lunch and entertainment).
- Group Reservations: You can reserve a table for 6–8 people at the regular meal cost – provide the names to the front desk when calling.

Reservations & General Information

Join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch provided by the Memphis Jewish Home kitchens.

- Cost: \$2 for seniors (unless otherwise noted).
- Deadline: Reservations must be made by 1 p.m. the day before.
- Contact: Call the front desk at 901-761-0810, or contact Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org. Steve is available Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **HW**

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Bornblum’s Lox Box Brings Community Together this Mother’s Day

Bornblum Jewish Community School has always seen itself as more than a school. It’s a community institution, and that identity shows up in the way students and families engage with the wider Memphis Jewish community throughout the year. This Mother’s Day, that commitment takes a delicious new form.

The Bornblum Parent Association (BPA) is launching its first-ever Lox Box fundraiser, and as part of this fundraiser, community members can purchase a box for a senior resident at Plough Towers, the beloved affordable senior housing community in East Memphis that has served Memphis’s Jewish community for decades.

The connection between Bornblum and Plough Towers runs deep. Throughout the school year, Bornblum students make regular visits to Plough Towers as part of the school’s Tikkun Olam program. Those visits are designed to do two things at once: brighten the day of residents who genuinely love seeing the students and teach Bornblum students something that can’t come from a textbook, empathy and perspective. This understanding that being part of a community means showing up for people beyond your own circle is a core principle of a Bornblum education.

“What we see when our students visit Plough Towers is remarkable,” said Rachel Davis, BPA vice-president. “The residents light up, and so do the kids. This Lox Box is a way for our whole community to extend that same warmth

on Mother’s Day.” Leigh Hendry, director of Plough Towers, said the gesture will mean a great deal to residents. “Our residents have such a strong connection to Jewish tradition and to this community,” Hendry said. “To receive a gift like this from the Bornblum family on Mother’s Day would be incredibly meaningful. These are people who love being remembered.”

Each Lox Box is packed with New York bagels, smoked salmon, cream cheese, traditional accompaniments and pastries, all kosher and prepared in the Bornblum kitchen. Boxes come in two sizes, The Delancy and The Broadway, and buyers can add Dinsthul’s chocolates or delivery to sweeten the order.

The fundraiser benefits Bornblum’s faculty and staff, supporting the BPA’s year-round efforts to recognize and appreciate the teachers who make Bornblum what it is.

For community members, and especially out-of-town children whose moms live in Memphis, it is a genuinely easy Mother’s Day solution. “It’s a no-brainer” said Jeffrey Kay, Bornblum dad. “It’s so simple and supports the school. It’s something moms will actually love, and we get to do a mitzvah by sending a second box for a Plough Towers resident. It feels like a win-win.”

Orders must be placed by April 24, with pickup at Bornblum on Sunday, May 10. To order, visit: <https://bornblum.crowdchange.co/loxbox>. **HW**

Your Health Understanding Headaches: Common Types, Triggers and When to Worry

By Cindy Katz, DNP

Headaches are one of the most common health complaints seen in primary care. If you’ve noticed you’re getting headaches more frequently – especially daily or near-daily – you are not alone.

While most headaches are benign, they can significantly impair quality of life, productivity, mood and sleep.

Understanding the type of headache and triggers is essential for effective treatment and prevention.

Why Am I Getting So Many Headaches Lately?

An increase in headache frequency is commonly linked to lifestyle changes, physical strain, stress or environmental factors. In many cases, multiple triggers occur simultaneously.

Common reasons include:

- Increased stress or anxiety
- Poor sleep or insomnia
- Dehydration
- Excessive screen time
- Muscle tension in the neck and shoulders
- Skipped meals or blood sugar fluctuations
- Hormonal changes
- Caffeine overuse or withdrawal
- Illness or viral infections
- Alcohol use

Most Common Types of Headaches Tension Headaches (Most Common)

Tension headaches account for the majority of recurrent headaches.

What they feel like:

Dull, aching pressure
Tight “band-like” sensation around the head

Forehead or temple pain
Mild to moderate intensity
Often worse later in the day

Migraines

Migraines are headaches that can be disabling.

What they feel like:

Moderate to severe throbbing pain
Usually one-sided
Nausea and/or vomiting
Sensitivity to light, sound, or smell
Pain worsens with activity
May last from hours to days

Some individuals experience visual disturbances (aura) before the headache begins.

Cluster Headaches

Less common and often occurs at the same time of day.

What they feel like:

Severe, piercing pain around one eye
Occur in clusters over weeks or months

Eye redness and tearing
Nasal congestion on the affected side

Sinus Headaches

Usually associated with sinus inflammation or infection.

What they feel like:

Pressure in the forehead, cheeks, or around the eyes
Facial tenderness
Nasal congestion
Pain worsens when bending forward

Treatment Options

Treatment depends on the type and severity of the headache.

Immediate Relief Includes:

- Hydration
- Rest in a quiet, dark room
- Cold or warm compress
- Gentle neck stretching
- Over-the-counter medications (acetaminophen, NSAIDs when appropriate)

For frequent or severe headaches, a healthcare provider may recommend prescription medications or preventive therapies.

When to Worry: Red Flags That Need Medical Attention

Seek prompt medical evaluation if a headache:

- Is sudden and severe (“worst headache of your life”)
- Occurs after a head injury
- Is accompanied by fever, stiff neck, confusion, or vision loss
- Causes weakness, numbness, or difficulty speaking
- Becomes progressively worse over time
- Is a new onset after age 50
- Occurs in individuals with cancer or immune suppression

The Bottom Line

While headaches are extremely common, they are not something you simply have to “live with.” Understanding the underlying cause allows for targeted treatment and meaningful prevention.

If headaches are frequent, severe, or interfering with daily life, seek guidance from a healthcare provider. Medical evaluation can help rule out serious conditions and create a more personalized management plan. **HW**

Hollywood Studio Complex Targeted with Anti-Israel Graffiti



The Hollywood Sign overlooking Los Angeles in Southern California. Credit: 12019/Pixabay.

(JNS) – Police are investigating anti-Israel graffiti at Sunset Bronson Studios in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Red graffiti reading “Zionist,” alongside a Star of David, was discovered on a studio sign at the corner of Sunset

Boulevard and Bronson Avenue. A second nearby sign at Sunset Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue was similarly defaced, according to local news station KTLA.

The incident was reported early last Sunday morning. The Los Angeles Police Department was “not able to provide any information on a possible suspect,” according to the outlet.

Sunset Bronson Studios, formerly the Old Warner Brothers Studio, is owned by Hudson Pacific Properties. It houses sound stages and production offices used by Netflix, as well as KTLA’s facilities. The property is designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. **HW**

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Trump Vows More Iran Strikes After Bridge Attack



U.S. President Donald Trump updates the nation on the war with Iran from the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington, DC, on April 1, 2026. Credit: Alex Brandon-Pool/Getty Images.

By JNS Staff

President Donald Trump warned on Friday that U.S. forces have not yet “started destroying what’s left in Iran,” vowing more attacks on critical infrastructure following airstrikes that destroyed the country’s tallest bridge.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump wrote,

“Bridges next, then Electric Power Plants! New Regime leadership knows what has to be done, and has to be done, FAST!”

Trump last Thursday again urged Iran to “make a deal before it is too late,” after the strike on a major bridge connecting Tehran to the nearby city of Karaj.

“The biggest bridge in Iran comes tumbling down, never to be used again – much more to follow,” Trump wrote on Truth Social, sharing footage of the attack.

“It is time for Iran to make a deal before it is too late, and there is nothing left of what still could become a great country!” the president added.

The B1 bridge, part of a central transit route between the western part of the Iranian capital and Karaj, is considered the tallest bridge in the Middle East, with a height of at least 446 feet.

In response, Iranian state media said that bridges across the region had become “legitimate targets” for the Islamic Republic. Outlets linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps specifically mentioned the Arik Bridge on Route 87 in Israel, linking the Lower Galilee to the Golan Heights.

Last Wednesday, Trump said that the U.S.-Israel military campaign against Iran could conclude within two to three weeks as the “core strategic objectives” are near completion.

“Never in the history of warfare has

an enemy suffered such clear and devastating large-scale losses in a matter of weeks. Our enemies are losing and America, as it has been for five years under my presidency, is winning and now winning bigger than ever before,” Trump said in an address to the nation from the White House.

“We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks; we’re going to bring them back to the Stone Age, where they belong,” he vowed.

The president stressed that his administration did not seek regime change in Iran, but that has already transpired after its original leaders were killed.

He threatened that if an agreement is not reached, “we are going to hit each and every one of their electric generating plants very hard and probably simultaneously. We have not hit their oil even though that’s the easiest target of all, because it would not give them even a small chance of survival or rebuilding. But we could hit it and it would be gone, and there’s not a thing they can do about it.” [HW](#)

3 More Men Arrested in London Arson of Ambulances Owned by Jewish Emergency Service



The burnt wreckage of Hatzola ambulances as fire services continue to monitor the scene after they were set on fire overnight next to Machzike Hadath Synagogue, on March 23, 2026, in the Golders Green area of London, England. Credit: Leon Neal/Getty Images

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – Three more men have been arrested in London in connection with a series of fires on ambulances owned by the Jewish emergency service corps Hatzola, London’s Metropolitan Police Service announced last Wednesday.

Two British men, ages 20 and 19, and a 17-year-old dual British and Pakistani citizen were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson. The men were arrested at three different addresses, which were being searched, the police said.

The arrests follow the arrest last week of two British men, ages 45 and 47, in connection with the arson. Those two suspects were released on bail and are being closely monitored while they await a hearing, police said, and their identities have not been made public.

The ambulance arson, which occurred in London’s Jewish neighborhood of Golders Green, is being treated by law enforcement as an antisemitic crime, but authorities have not labeled it as terrorism even as the Metropolitan Police’s counter-terrorism unit is leading the investigation.

“Since this appalling attack last week, we have been working continuously to investigate and identify those responsi-

ble,” the unit’s commander, Helen Flanagan, said in a statement. “We know concern among the Jewish community remains high, but I hope these arrests show that we are doing everything we can to bring those responsible to justice.”

A group called Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya, or the Islamic

Movement of the People of the Right Hand, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

French authorities announced last Wednesday they suspect that the same group is also behind an attempted bomb last Saturday on a Bank of America building in Paris. The group has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks throughout Europe in recent weeks, all of them up to now on Jewish institutions. Security analysts know little about the group, which was unheard of until early March, but say it may be tied to pro-Iranian cells based in Europe.

The London ambulance arson has given rise to a new set of antisemitic conspiracy theories. Last Monday, the mayor of Bath, England, resigned from his position after drawing criticism for sharing social media posts amplifying claims that the ambulance fires were a “false flag” attack staged by Jews or Israelis.

Police in London said they would deploy drones to monitor security in Jewish neighborhoods during the Passover holiday, with concerns about additional attacks running high. [HW](#)

Rubio: War on Iran ‘Our Last Best Chance’ to Prevent Nuclear Push

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The military campaign against Iran was “our last best chance” to eliminate the conventional threat posed by missiles and drones that Tehran has built to shield its pursuit of nuclear weapons, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last Wednesday.

He added that the Iranians were “on the verge” of manufacturing so many missiles and drones that “no one could do anything about their nuclear weapons program in the future.”

U.S. President Donald Trump “made the right decision to wipe it out now. That is the goal of this operation – to destroy their conventional missiles and their drone program,” Rubio stated. [HW](#)

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Tensions Flare at Passover Seder Over Mamdani’s Inclusion



New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani speaks during a Passover seder in Manhattan on March 30, 2026. Credit: Jewish Telegraphic Agency

By Grace Gilson

(New York Jewish Week) – New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani was briefly interrupted by a heckler during an appearance at a Passover seder in Manhattan last Monday night, marking a tense moment that highlighted ongoing strains between the mayor and segments of the Jewish community.

“The rising tide of antisemitism has caused enormous pain for so many Jewish New Yorkers. Doors are locked that used to be open, routine subway journeys felt fraught, synagogues that once felt like sanctuaries now require armed protection,” Mamdani said before he was interrupted by an individual in the back of the room who stood and shouted, “Every Jewish organization is a target.”

Attendees responded with a blend of shushes and a single voice shouting, “Stop the xenophobia, let him speak.”

“This is New York City, and we love to be here,” Mamdani said as the audience erupted in cheers. “I say it because we know that if there was complete decorum anywhere that we were, then we would have to ask ourselves if we had left the city that we love, and it is important to be here and to acknowledge that this is what it means to love and to lead the place that we call home.”

The episode, which took place at Jewish entrepreneur Michael Dorf’s annual seder at City Winery in the Meatpacking District, comes as Mamdani has faced scrutiny from segments of New York’s Jewish community over his responses to antisemitic incidents and continued alignment with pro-Palestinian activists.

“I have to say I didn’t vote for him,” one male attendee, who asked to remain anonymous for his privacy, said following the seder. “I have certain feelings about him that I think a lot of other people have, but that’s neither here nor there. But that was kind of surprising that a couple of people kind of went out of their way to heckle.”

While the mayor has previously marked Jewish holidays with Jewish leaders and organizations aligned with him on his criticisms of Israel, the event at City Winery involved a lineup of speakers and attendees with differing views.

“Mamdani was here, which is great, yeah, I guess, because he knows at the seder, you lean to the left,” joked comedian Olga Namer later in the evening. “A little bit about me, I’m a Syrian Jew, yes, so that’s good, because I know, at least I’m confident, that Mamdani likes half of me.”

Ahead of the evening, which also featured addresses by former CNN anchor Don Lemon, Israeli musician David Broza and Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie of the non-denominational Lab/Shul, observant Jewish comedian Modi Rosenfeld announced that he had cancelled his appearance, claiming that he had been unaware of the mayor’s inclusion.

“We were not told Mamdani was participating in this event until today,” Rosenfeld’s team said in a statement on Instagram following criticism from pro-Israel activist Shai Davidai. “Modi will no longer be participating.”

Davidai, the former Israeli business school professor at Columbia University, took aim at the Israeli participants in the seder, writing in a post on Instagram, “This is why we’re losing.”

“I have nothing against any of these individuals, but I do have a problem with giving Mamdani a kosher stamp of approval while so many of us are out in the streets fighting against his anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli policies, actions, and rhetoric,” Davidai wrote in an updated caption announcing Modi’s cancellation.

City Council Speaker Julie Menin, who has been seen as a counterweight on Mamdani, used part of her remarks to highlight the passage of her “buffer zone” legislation for religious institutions, which were introduced after a pro-Palestinian demonstration outside of Park East Synagogue in November.

“We all should be able to worship or not worship as we see fit,” Menin said. “We all should be able to go into, whether it’s a synagogue, a church, a mosque or any house of worship, freely

without intimidation and harassment, so I’m very proud that we were able to pass this bill.”

Mamdani has not confirmed whether he will sign the legislation, with a spokesperson telling the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he “wants to ensure both the right to prayer and the right to protest are protected here in New York City.”

Former Comptroller Brad Lander, who is currently running for Congress in New York’s 10th Congressional District, joked during his remarks late in the evening that he “did not tell the mayor that we were doing a live reenactment of the four sons during his speech,” making a tongue-in-cheek reference to a core element of the Passover haggadah.

“He gets heckled and, you know, and it kind of goes along with the territory, I thought he dealt with it very gracefully,” Lander told JTA. “As a lot of people said in here tonight, not everyone in that room agrees with each other.”

Indeed, at the conclusion of the seder, several attendees said that they were not aware that the mayor was slated to appear – and questioned his understanding of the holiday’s core narrative.

“If City Winery did not inform people of the politicians in particular, because he’s very polarizing, to have him up there really upset people,” said one attendee, who requested anonymity because she had participated as a private individual. “It feels inauthentic to have him speak about matzah or Judaism, when the whole holiday is about Jews that were enslaved by Pharaoh and then went back to the homeland of Israel.” **HW**

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Top Cost-Conscious Spring Break Tips You Need to Know

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

Due to inflation, economic uncertainty, or upcoming major expenses, you might not want to spend as much on spring break this year as you have in the past. It's important to keep in mind that a goal for the break is to recharge long term, and long-term wellness includes financial wellness.

Here are six cost-conscious spring break tips to consider before recharging, reconnecting, or disconnecting all together during your time off:

1. Understand your budget. Before making arrangements, take a good look at what you can afford. Review your emergency fund. We generally recommend a six-month emergency fund for single income households and three months for dual income households. Also, keep in mind any anticipated large upcoming expenses. As you are enjoying your vacation, be sure to track your spending to make sure you are staying within your parameters. You can have fun on any budget!
2. Consider staying with friends or loved ones. Lodging tends to be the most expensive part of any trip. If you have any family or friends who live in an interesting or fun area for your kids,

ask those friends or family if you can visit for several days or even consider a house swap for a week. If you plan ahead, you could get lucky enough to stay at a relative's home while they are away on vacation. They could benefit from free house and/or pet sitting as well.

3. Take a road trip. Airfare can also be a large expense. Taking a road trip will remove this as well as the need for a car rental at your destination while adding more flexibility to your planning. Traveling even a short distance from home can feel novel and give you the sense of reprieve you're looking for.

4. Make it an adventure. Consider incorporating challenging hikes or bike rides. These activities are often inexpensive or free and take up a good amount of time. Having an element of adventure will make your trip more memorable and bonding for those you share it with. Plus, you will have calories to spare for dinner and dessert later!

5. Plan smaller day trips in your area. Rather than making memories during one long expensive trip, consider pretending to be a visitor in a new city and contact the visitor center for the top

10 things to do in the area. Each child could pick a top choice whether it be a museum, hike, art gallery, amusement park etc. and they are the leader/decision maker for their designated day. This can also include what type of food to eat for lunch-dinner or if they are older, they could research which restaurant to frequent for lunch or choose a place to picnic. You could also coordinate with a few other families and put each parent in charge of the kids' outings each day. Of course, this may work best if the group is on the smaller side.

6. Consider if this is the right time for you financially to reimagine what kind of "break" you need? Maybe instead of traveling consider taking a cooking class, resetting your exercise routine, or even catching up on some much-needed sleep. Staycations can be fun and relaxing if you take the time to build an enjoyable itinerary that suits your needs and interests. Go visit that museum or art gallery that you were always too busy to explore. It may also be the ideal time to tackle home projects that you have been putting off because of work. Volunteering at a local charity is mean-

ingful and fun and you could possibly meet a new friend along the way!

Remember the goal is to recharge to thrive once the break is over, so think through what's most important for you this year. A cost-conscious spring break might set you up for financial and long-term wellness.

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‘Somebody Came into My House to Shoot My Babies’: Temple Israel, Federation Call for Federal Security Measures After Attack

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – A rabbi from Temple Israel and the heads of the Jewish Federations of North America met with members of Congress last Tuesday to call for a near-four-fold increase in federal security spending after [the previous] week’s attack on the Reform congregation in Michigan.

Eric Fingerhut, president and CEO of the Federation, told JNS that it was “sheer miraculous luck” and years of preparation from the synagogue’s security team that prevented the attacker from carrying out a massacre.

Ayman Mohamad Ghazali, 41, a U.S. citizen born in Lebanon, rammed his vehicle into the synagogue in West Bloomfield Township, a suburb of Detroit, shortly after noon on March 26. His truck was laden with improvised explosives believed to be gasoline and fireworks, according to the FBI. Ghazali struck one of the temple’s security officers with the vehicle and began firing a gun through the windshield, unable to exit the stuck truck. Ghazali then shot and killed himself after engaging in a gunfight with synagogue security and his truck catching fire.

“This could have been the greatest terrorist tragedy in America since 9/11,” Fingerhut said. “It would have been the greatest attack on Jews since Oct. 7 if the truck had gotten inches further through the hallway instead of being stopped by the walls and by the armed security guards.”

Rabbi Jen Lader told JNS that the hallway Ghazali drove the truck into is usually “filled with children” under the age of 5. “We have babies in the building who are in a stroller to sleep for nap time,” Lader said. “One of our guys was hit by the car. He was unconscious and broke his leg and has lots of injuries, and he woke up and dragged himself over to the wing, which is right in the hallway where our two rooms of our littlest babies are, and bolted the door shut, so that they wouldn’t get hurt.”

None of the 140 children at the synagogue’s early childhood center was harmed, and the security guard was the only member of its staff who was injured.

Lader showed JNS images of the aftermath of the attack, one of which she agreed to share for publication, of shattered glass in the hallways and nursery rooms of the synagogue and the incinerated hallway where she normally spends time high-fiving children.

Fingerhut said that the Trump administration and members of Congress from both parties support additional security efforts for Jewish institutions but were “shocked” by the descriptions they shared of the attack in Michigan.

“The question is: Do they understand how close we are to the kind of tragedy that would change America forever?” Fingerhut told JNS.

In a perverse sense, the attack on Temple Israel represented a best-case scenario. The synagogue spends \$250,000 annually on security personnel and has invested millions on other security features. Its guards responded to the threat immediately and prevented a much larger tragedy, with no fatalities other than the assailant. But it also showed the vulnerability of a congregation that thought

it was secure. Lader said that the Temple Israel community is now reckoning with those two conflicting facts – that the community is safe and that “this is a devastating catastrophe.”

“We had every possible prevention method in place,” Lader told JNS. “We were so prepared. We just practiced three weeks before, and everything worked beautifully, and still, somebody came into my house to shoot my babies.”

“We have to hold both of those things at the same time,” the rabbi said. Fingerhut described the kinds of additional security measures that Temple Israel and other Jewish institutions across the country are now forced to consider when even the most secure of such facilities are saved only by the inches it would have taken to allow Ghazali to exit the car.

“We need to extend the perimeter,” Fingerhut told JNS. “We’re going to have to put up gates around parking lots. It’s going to be license recognition and cameras and people watching these cameras around all the perimeters of all of our institutions.”

In the 2025 fiscal year, Congress spent \$274.5 million on the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which is designed to help improve the physical security of Jewish day schools, synagogues and other at-risk sites. The Federation and Temple Israel asked members of Congress, including House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) to raise that figure to \$1 billion. The grant program is intended to bolster physical security, and so its terms currently allow state agencies that distribute the federal money to cap the percentage of spending that can go to paying the salaries of security guards. It also requires those guards to be independent contractors. Fingerhut told JNS that those restrictions should be lifted.

“The security guards that are the most effective are the ones that work for the synagogue, work for the Jewish community center,” he said. “They know the building. They know the people. They know how to respond.”

The Federation estimates that the American Jewish community now spends some \$765 million annually on security on top of grants from the federal government, a burden that is not shared by most other religious denominations in America. Churches in the United States do not usually have armed guards and don’t have to contemplate installing license plate scanners to prevent would-be attackers from staking out their parking lots. Media reporting and some commentary on the attack has further singled out Temple Israel and other U.S. Jewish institutions by drawing connections between the synagogue, the attack and Israel.

The New York Times wrote that Temple Israel was “founded in 1941, dedicated to the formation of a Jewish state,” and the mayor of Dearborn Heights, Mich., stated in the aftermath that Ghazali “lost several members of his own family, including his niece and nephew, in an Israeli attack on their

OBITUARIES



Fay Epstein LeVine

Fay Epstein LeVine passed away peacefully on March 22 at her home, just four days before her 93rd birthday.

Born in Memphis, she was the youngest of the nine children of Shai and Lena Epstein.

When Fay was born the family lived on McLean Blvd., near the Memphis Zoo. She often recalled hearing the animals in her room at night. The family home was always full of friends and cousins, and there Fay learned her love of family meals and sharing holiday celebrations. After attending Snowden School, Fay attended high school in Fairfax, VA.

A lifelong lover of the arts, Fay took dance, piano and later cello from the late Vincent DeFrank, a renowned cellist and founder of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra who encouraged her to attend Indiana University where she earned her B.S. in botany and plant biology.

Fay married Earl LeVine and moved to Houston, Texas, where she had three children: Jeff, Amy and Marty. The family later moved to San Antonio, Texas, then to New Jersey, where Fay earned a master’s degree in library science from Drexel University and began a long career as a librarian.

Later, the family moved to Monsey,

N.Y. After Earl’s passing in 1976, Fay returned to Memphis with her youngest son, Marty. She joined the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library as manager of the cataloging department and worked there for more than 27 years, until her retirement.

Fay and Marty were well known and loved in the Memphis Jewish community. Fay was active in Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth synagogue. She was a strong and independent working mother who loved Memphis and her community, and it loved her back.

She was a founding member and passionate advocate for Heads Up, later re-named the Mid-South Brain Injury Association.

An avid plant lover and gardener Fay loved orchids and was a member of the Memphis Orchid Society.

She is survived by her daughter, Amy Shayne of Memphis, Jeff (Gail) LeVine of Cedar Park, Texas, grandchildren Zak (Chana Ahuva) Shayne, Aviva (Adam) Goldfaden, Avery LeVine and Marshall LeVine, great-granddaughter Shalva Zehava Shayne and three sisters-in-law, Frances Epstein, Barbara Epstein and Miriam Epstein.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, and her son, Marty, as well as her siblings, Louis, (Rozzie and Reva) Epstein, Sol Epstein, Evelyn (Ed) Weiss, Dr. David (Edie) Epstein, Dr. Isadore, (Trudy) Epstein, Juliet (Norman) Sulkin, Dr. Eugene Epstein and Bill Epstein.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 23 at Anshei Sphard Cemetery. Canale Funeral Directors had charge.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Charitable & Cemetery Foundation at Jewish Community Partners, 6560 Poplar Avenue or online at <https://jcpmemphis.givingfuel.com/asbee-donations> or to a charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

home in Lebanon.”

Mayor Mo Baydoun did not mention that two of Ghazali’s brothers killed in those strikes were members of Hezbollah, according to the Israeli military, and the FBI is investigating whether Ghazali had ties to the terrorist group. While motive and potential intelligence or law enforcement failures to identify an affiliation with a foreign terrorist organization are relevant to stopping future attacks, Lader told JNS that some media organizations and commentators threaten Jews by being willing to treat those circumstances as a mitigating or justifying factor for Ghazali’s actions.

“This week, it’s been the New York Times. It’s been PBS. It’s been NPR. It’s been CNN,” she said. “I feel like I’m living in a dream world and it’s obscene. And you know what? It’s going to get us killed.”

For now, many U.S. Jewish institutions can afford the ever-increasing costs of ever-increasing security measures, but creating fortress-like institutions cannot solve the underlying problem of Jew-hatred as visited upon a tight-knit community like the Jews of West Bloomfield, whom Lader described as “the nicest people on Earth.”

“These are people who would give you the shirt off their back without knowing you,” she said. “These are people that run an unbelievable number of social service agencies to help other people and volunteer their time and money.”

“The nicest, most wonderful people

on the planet are the ones whose babies people are trying to kill,” she said. “My daughter told me this week that she’s afraid to sleep in my house,” Lader told JNS. “She said that if these people are coming to find me at work, then what’s to say they’re not gonna find me at home?”

The attack in Michigan – like the wave of attacks on synagogues in Europe, like the attack on Jews celebrating Chanukah at Bondi Beach in Australia, like the car-ramming and stabbing attack in Manchester, England – raises urgent questions about the need for increased funding for the security of synagogues and schools. It also raises more fundamental questions about the place of Jews in the United States and the West. It’s not yet clear whether attacks on Jews might join school shootings and other forms of mass violence that Americans have largely grown accustomed to, or whether a concerted effort on the part of lawmakers and law enforcement might somehow reverse the trend.

Lader described a conversation with a colleague after the Oct. 7 attacks about the “100-year blips” in history of greater tolerance for Jews in places like Germany before the Holocaust and pre-Reconquista Spain.

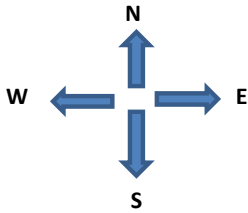
“I think that we’ve been blessed, all of us, to have lived some of our lives in one of these blips,” she said of the United States. “Now I think that the blip is probably over.” “I hope that I’m wrong,” she said. **HW**

Word Search by Rabbi Cantor David Julian

Editors Note: Let’s try this again. This time with the word list!

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Simply write the "coordinates" next to each word! See sample box below.

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BARECH	_____	KARPAS	_____	SIMPLESON	_____
BLOOD	_____	KORECH	_____	TARFON	_____
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FREEDOM	_____	MURRAIN	_____	YACHATZ	_____
FROGS	_____	NIRTZAH	_____	YADCHAZAKAH	_____
HAGGADAH	_____	OMER	_____	YERUSHALAYIM	_____
HAIL	_____	PESACH	_____	ZROANTUYAH	_____

Iran Barrages Wound 15 in Central Israel on Eve of Passover

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Four missile barrages from Iran wounded at least 15 people in central Israel last Wednesday, the eve of Passover. Of the 15 wounded, one child suffered serious injuries, Channel 14 reported. The girl was in critical condition, according to the report, with shrapnel injuries to her legs. Another two of the 15 suffered medium injuries, and the rest were lightly wounded.

Another child sustained moderate injuries when a car hit him as he was heading to a shelter in Rishon LeZion. Eleven impact sites had been located at time of publication, including one in Bnei Brak. At least one of the missiles

launched had a cluster warhead, according to Hebrew media reports.

Last Wednesday’s barrages on central Israel, the country’s most populated area, came amid preparations for Passover.

The Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command has not issued any specific restrictions for the holiday, but emergency instructions apply, including a ban on gatherings of over 50 in open spaces and 100 in buildings, provided there is a shelter nearby.

According to data published last Wednesday by the Ministry of Health, emergency services documented 6,286

people who required medical assistance due to injuries sustained as a result of “Operation Roaring Lion,” which Israel and the U.S. launched on Feb. 28 against the Iranian regime. Of those, about 100 were in [the] hospital last Wednesday, including one in critical condition, another 13 with severe injuries, 20 with medium injuries, and 64 with minor injuries.

More [than] 20 people have been killed, including an indirect result of missile and drone launches, in car accidents during air-raid sirens and other situations related to the war, according to Hebrew media reports. **HW**

IDF Strikes 50 Iranian Ballistic Missile Sites During Passover

By JNS Staff

(JNS) –The Israel Defense Forces struck more than 50 ballistic missile sites across Iran during the Passover holiday as part of its ongoing “Operation Roaring Lion,” the military said last Thursday night.

The IDF said Israeli aircraft struck dozens of launch and storage facilities over the past 24 hours, deploying more than 140 munitions in central and western Tehran. An Israeli F-35I fighter jet reportedly destroyed a missile launcher after identifying a launch attempt.

Separately, the IDF said it eliminated Makram Atimi, commander of Iran’s ballistic missile unit in the Kermanshah region, in a precision airstrike. Several other battalion commanders involved in missile launches against Israel were also killed, according to the military.

The IDF said the strikes aim to degrade the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ missile and aerial defense array and curb Iranian fire toward Israeli territory.

Between Monday and Wednesday, the Israeli Air Force dropped some 650 munitions on about 400 targets linked to the Iranian regime, including sites in the heart of Tehran, the military said.

The IDF further degraded the regime’s capabilities, striking approximately 15 weapons manufacturing sites, including a central complex of the Iranian Ministry of Defense that housed a production and development facility intended for missiles to be launched at aircraft.

In parallel, the IDF struck air defense systems, launch sites, and facilities for the production and storage of ballistic missiles.

Last Wednesday, the IAF hit a base belonging to the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The IAF also hit the IRGC’s central headquarters in Tehran, which was used to manage budgets for security bodies and fund military and terror activities worldwide.

In recent days, the IDF said it identified that the Iranian regime had begun relocating its command centers into mobile units, with commanders operating from within them, and targeted at least one such unit.

Earlier last week, the IAF struck and eliminated Jamshid Eshaqi – the commander of the Oil Headquarters for the Iranian regime’s forces. The Oil Headquarters enabled the continuation of its activities and military buildup through profits from oil sales, the IDF said.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commander Adm. Brad Cooper said last Thursday that the campaign was making “undeniable progress” following a month of sustained strikes on the Islamic Republic’s military assets.

“We don’t see their navy sailing. We don’t see their aircraft flying, and their air and missile defense systems have largely been destroyed,” he said. **HW**

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Meet Leigh Hendry

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 former Director of Adult Day Services, Leigh Hendry.



Leigh Hendry

By Shoshana Cencer

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

I was born and raised in Memphis; I'm a fifth-generation Memphian. I graduated from the University of Alabama with a double major in criminal justice and sociology. My career began working in the courts downtown. After a while, I thought about a career change and ended up working at the Home.

My husband, Rob, and I have a blended family of five grown children between us and seven grandchildren.

My passions are golf and tennis. My husband and I actually met on a golf course at Windyke Country Club. We even got married there; it was the Club's first real wedding. We love to travel. I also enjoy cards games, reading, and our two dogs.

MJHR: How did you become connected to MJHR?

My grandfather Abe Goodman Jr., who was a past president of the board back when it was the B'nai B'rith Home, had a passion for the Home and loved it. When he was president, there was some

turnover of executive directors. And for a very short time, he had to come in and work until they hired a new executive director. I'd often go with him to the Home back then. My mom, Patty, even went to the Home as a child with Abe to volunteer. So, there was history there.

When I worked for the courts and realized I wanted a career change, someone told me about a position at the Home. There were four important people who brought me into the Home: my grandfather, Abe Goodman Jr., Warren Wurzburg Sr., Marvin Silver and Maxine Cohen. In 1996, I joined the Home in the activities department and then became the director of the former Adult Day program. It was all wonderful!

MJHR: Share your favorite MJHR story.

When I was running the Adult Day program, the Home also had a children's daycare on-site at the time, right across the hall. It was open to kids from the community and the Home's staff. I remember two very special things from that time. One was that we'd take the Adult Day program participants across the hall, and they would rock the babies. It was priceless. The other was when Carol Hoxie, who was director of the children's daycare, would take kids around the Home in little buggy strollers, and they'd also visit the Adult Day program participants. Everyone would light up! We would do fun things like balloon volleyball or story time, where our participants would read stories to the kids. That was just so special.

I also remember a gentleman in particular, a Holocaust survivor, who didn't want to be picked up and taken to the Home for the Adult Day program. But after a little while, it became the most important thing to him. It was a very rewarding program.

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

It's not even hope; I just know that the beautiful reputation is going to con-



Leigh with a participant from a Daytimes scrapbook!

tinue because there's so many people who want to look out for and protect the Home and the integrity it's stood for all these years. I love to tell the story from 1927: If you were going to be allowed to move into the Home, you had to be able to walk up the stairs and carry your suitcase. And I think that sets the tone: The Jewish Home has grown and learned how to come up with the services the community and the elderly need and how to take care of them. So, the needs are going to be different, but the Home does such a great job of staying on top of everything.

I feel a lot of pride because across the country, MJHR is recognized for its top-notch care and looking at things in a manner that's going to be for the best for everybody. When the Memphis Jewish Home talks, people listen.

MJHR: Is there anything else you'd like to share about your connection?

I had pride before I ever got involved with the Home, but once I was working

there and seeing it all firsthand, I gained even more pride. That was at the time of the Eden Alternative, when Dr. Bill Thomas came up with the idea that the biggest problem in nursing homes was loneliness, helplessness and boredom. And if you could come up with ways to overcome all that through caring activities and compassionate staff, then they would have a better quality of life, live happier and thrive better. It was a wonderful program, but the whole time we went through it, I felt like that was how the Home always operated anyway. It's a special 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**

Rubio: US Will Re-Examine Relationship with NATO Post-War



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio leaves Joint Base Andrews in Camp Springs, Md., en route to Vaux-de-Cernay Abbey, France, for the G7 Foreign Ministers meeting, March 26, 2026. Credit: Freddie Everett/U.S. State Department.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last Tuesday that the United States would have to reexamine its role in NATO in the wake of the refusal by

some European allies to allow American forces to use their military bases during the war against Iran.

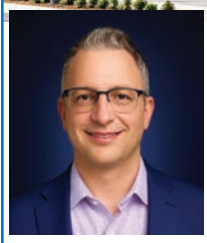
"We're not asking them to conduct air strikes," he said during an interview with Fox News. "When we need them to allow us to use their military bases, their answer is no, then why are we in NATO? You have to ask that question," he added. "Why do we send trillions of dollars and have all of these American forces stationed in the region, if in our time of need, we won't be allowed to use those bases?"

"Unfortunately, after this conflict is concluded, we're going to have to re-examine that relationship," he continued.

Since the start of the war on Feb. 28, Spain has refused to allow the U.S. to use its airspace, while France, Italy, and the United Kingdom have periodically withheld such permission as well. **HW**

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‘New York Times’ Accused of Whitewashing Antisemitic Term



A person cycles past the front of “The New York Times” headquarters on Eighth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan on June 24, 2025. Credit: Gary Hershorn/Getty Images.

(JNS) – The New York Times is facing backlash over its characterization of the term “J-pilled,” with critics accusing the paper of downplaying the antisemitic nature of the word.

In an article titled “I Think That MAGA Is Dying: Inside the Youth Movement at CPAC,” reporter Nathan Taylor Pemberton wrote that, “20-somethings in rumpled suits were gathered in clusters, debating the merits of a ground invasion in Iran, the conservative backlash against those who were ‘J-pilled’ (far-right slang for skepticism of Israeli influence), the backbreaking costs of American life and what they saw as the slow demise of the Trump era.”

Critics said the description misrepresented the term. An entry on Urban Dictionary, a crowdsourced online dictionary for slang words and phrases, de-

fines “Jew pill” as adopting conspiratorial or hostile beliefs about Jews.

“They are so used to smoothing out woke left antisemitism, they did the same to woke right,” political writer Katya Sedgwick stated.

Jerry Dunleavy, chief investigative correspondent for Just the News, wrote that the paper is “just casually whitewashing what ‘J-pilled’ actually means (hint hint: ‘Israel’ doesn’t start with ‘J.’)”

Lahav Harkov of Jewish Insider compared it to “when the BBC translates Palestinians talking about the ‘Yahood’ (Jews) as Zionists.”

Melissa Weiss, executive editor of Jewish Insider, questioned how multiple editors at the Times looked at the story without asking what the “J” stood for.

“Here’s a hint. It isn’t Israel,” Weiss stated. [HW](#)

ISIS’s Easter Message: Set Fire to Synagogues, Churches Worldwide



The Synagogue of the Jewish Community of Rotterdam after a fire started, March 13, 2026. Credit: Media TV via ANP/AFP via Getty Images

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – The Islamic State (ISIS) has called on Muslims to carry out arson attacks against synagogues and churches across the United States, Europe and elsewhere over the Easter weekend in its weekly propaganda outlet Al-Naba.

The Islamist terror group framed the call as a response to Israel’s closing of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, The New York Post reported last Thursday.

In late February, Israeli authorities closed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on the Temple Mount to Muslim worshippers, citing security risks. On March 20, fragments from an interception of an Iranian missile fell near the Temple Mount and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Meanwhile, due to the security situation and Israel’s Home Front Command guidelines, the public was not allowed to visit the Jewish holy site, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, during the Passover holiday.

“In the face of the tragedy of the clo-

sure of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, it is incumbent upon Muslims everywhere – those who yearn to come to the aid of the site of their Prophet’s Night Journey – to rise up and set fire to the Jewish synagogues scattered across America, Europe, Russia, India, and elsewhere,” ISIS declared.

“The same applies to the synagogues in Tunisia, Morocco, the UAE, and Syria; their locations are well-known, and their details have been published,” it said.

The ISIS paper also called for attacks on “Jewish gatherings” around the world, ordering its supporters to “emulate the actions of the ‘Sydney Heroes,’” referring to the Dec. 14 shooting attack at a Chanukah party at Sydney’s Bondi Beach that left 15 Jews dead and more than three dozen wounded.

ISIS also claimed to have caused 60 casualties in “15 operations” over the past week [HW](#)



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