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# the Hebrew Watchman

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## Beth Sholom Celebrates a Joyful Installation of Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum



Rabbi Ari Kaiman (right), a mentor, blesses Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum who was formally installed at Beth Sholom Synagogue on April 26. Credit Eli Ostrow

With joy, love and Torah, Beth Sholom Synagogue ushered in a new chapter with the formal installation of Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum on Sunday evening, April 26. Surrounded by family, his mentor and congregants, Rabbi Rosenbaum spoke of his love of the congregation, its passion for learning and of the warmth that greeted him and his fiancée Shana Medel when they arrived in July at Beth Sholom.

“An installation is the celebration and consecration of a relationship,” Rabbi Rosenbaum says. “It is the moment a congregation and a rabbi stop being strangers who met and start being partners who chose each other. It is a relationship brimming with possibility, hope and passion, guided by God, Torah

and abounding love.”

In her remarks, Beth Sholom President Keri Unowsky said, “Over this past year, what has struck me most about Rabbi Sammy is his passion, which infuses our congregation with holy energy, enthusiasm and *ruach*. I love Rabbi Sammy’s passion for Torah...his passion for community building and young family engagement. He understands the importance of creating community to build connection to each other and to Judaism and our *shul*. In this same vein, he is dedicated to creating community among our young families and to engaging with our youth, because he understands that our children are our future.”

Rabbi Rosenbaum has brought congregants a little closer to Judaism



Congregants join Rabbi Rosenbaum and his family, Rabbi Micah Greenstein and Rabbi Kaiman in a spontaneous hora. Credit Eli Ostrow

through a blend of music and Torah. The shul celebrates a musical Kabbalat Shabbat each month, followed by a potluck dinner at a congregant’s home. Recently, he led the Second Soul Band in a joyful and *ruach*-filled Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner at the synagogue. He leads a weekly lunchtime *sugyot* learning class open to the community, and he has built a close bond with Jewish teens in his class, “Judaism for the Journey,” guiding them so they feel well equipped to speak about Judaism and Israel in a world of mounting antisemitism.

“Rabbi understands that as Jews, we must build and plant for our children, as our ancestors built and planted for us,” Unowsky said.

Rabbi Rosenbaum came to Memphis from Los Angeles, where he served as assistant dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, from which he was ordained from in 2023. He also held a part-time pulpit at Temple Ner Shalom in San Luis Obispo, California. Prior to rabbinical school, Rabbi Rosenbaum was a successful musician, creating and celebrating Jewish music across the country and producing two albums of his own music, “Lift” and “We Are the Ones.”

Unowsky noted, “We all love Rabbi Sammy’s passion for music. Not only are we lucky to have a talented musician for a rabbi, but we’re lucky to have a rabbi who can blend the beauty of music and Torah.”

(See **Installation** Page 2)

## MJHR Annual Meeting: Debbie Jackson Wins Aaron Brenner Award, Dr. Bob Eiseman Elected President



The MJHR Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

By Jasmine Williams

On April 27, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) hosted their Annual Meeting. They welcomed the community, staff and family to the Home for an evening recognizing the past and celebrating the future of the Home. With more than 60 people in attendance, it was a special night for the organization.

Bobby Meadows, executive director, opened the meeting with a reflection of the Home’s accomplishments over the year. Meadows shared detailed statistics of the senior care community in Memphis and across the United States, emphasizing the growth we are anticipating in the aging community and the responsibility to continue meeting the needs of the aging community.

MJHR leadership honored the past and recognized the future through

awards and nominations. Immediate Past President Jeri Moskovitz welcomed new board members: Janet Brueck Lang, Erin Ostrow, Robby Rubin and Dr. Alan Tanenbaum. Outgoing President Mitchell Lanksy recognized the outgoing members: Peggy Goodman, Judy Moss, Mark Rosenberg, Andy Salsawsky and Dr. Bill Weiss. Lanksy received warm thanks for all of his work the past two years, and Dr. Bob Eiseman was officially elected as president for 2026-2028.

Meadows gave a special recognition to outgoing President Mitchell Lanksy, for all of his time and dedication the past two years. Lanksy focused on supporting the staff, ensuring the Home was in

(See **MJHR** Page 11)



Installation...  
(Continued From Page 1)



(left to right) Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Rabbi Sammy Rosenbaum, Rabbi Ari Kaiman and Rabbi Joel Finkelstein. Credit Eli Ostrow

sis with the spirituality of davening to give it even greater depth and meaning. Rabbi understands the role that music can play in elevating holy moments to an even higher level.”

The rabbi spent several years in Atlanta, immersing himself in the Jewish community. He served as music educator at The Temple and founded a Moishe House, where he created and provided a community of young Jews with Jewish experiences. He also started The Well, a once-a-month, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service for young Jews. As a rabbinical student, Rabbi Rosenbaum interned each summer at Congregation Sherith Israel. Its spiritual leader, Rabbi Ari Kaiman, who has known Rabbi Rosenbaum since USY days 20 years ago, be-

came a mentor. Rabbi Kaiman came to Memphis to install Rabbi Rosenbaum.

“The rabbinate is one of the most demanding callings in Jewish life,” Rabbi Kaiman said. “But beyond the impossible scope of the job, there is something the work asks of a person that cannot be trained or credentialed. It requires a genuine love of people. Not people in the abstract – but this person, with this story, with this light.” Rabbi Kaiman noted that Rabbi Rosenbaum has always seen the light in others, calling it a gift. “It is rare to find someone for whom that quality is not a professional skill but a natural grace...In a one-on-one conversation, he sees your particular light. In a room full of people, he creates the conditions for everyone to feel each oth-



Rabbi Rosenbaum with Beth Sholom President Keri Unowsky (at right) and President-Elect Anthony Morrison. Credit Eli Ostrow

# THE Hebrew Watchman

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## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 8, 2026 / 21 Iyar, 5786 .....7:33 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. May 9, 2026 / 22 Iyar, 5786 ..... 8:33 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Behar-Bechukotai

er's light at once. The walls come down. God's presence becomes easier to feel. That is a rare and holy gift.”

After the installation, the celebration continued with a southern-style dinner of brisket, chicken, cole slaw, beans, cornbread, banana pudding and apple cobbler. In honor of Rabbi Rosenbaum's passion for and knowledge of fine whis-

key, the night featured bourbon by Old Dominick, including Beth Sholom's hand-selected single barrel eight-year-old bourbon (which any member of our community can receive as a gift for a donation to Beth Sholom of \$118). Music was provided by the Side Street Steppers. *Yasher koach* to event organizers Leslie Epstein and Illysa Werthheimer and Chef Kevin Sullivan of Kitchen Laurel for their hard work.

Rabbi Rosenbaum sees a bright future ahead. “As Beth Sholom and I grow together, we will walk the path of mitzvot and honor the legacy of this congregation by tending to it side by side. It is an honor to serve as the rabbi, and I can't wait for all that is to come,” he says.

“Above our ark are words from Psalm 100 that we sing together every Shabbat. They are, perhaps, the shortest possible instruction we can follow together: ‘Serve God with happiness, and come before God in joy.’” HW

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# Food, Friends and Fun: A Special Week at the MJCC Senior Adult Club

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club invites you to enjoy another exciting week of engaging programs, meaningful learning, and great company. The regular lunch program begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by speakers or entertainment at noon.

**Monday, May 11**  
**Speaker, Rabbi Akiva Males**  
Rabbi Males of Young Israel of Memphis will present a special talk, “Yom Yerushalayim and the Eternal Call of Jerusalem.” Known for his engaging style, Rabbi Males combines humor with thought-provoking insights, creating a presentation that is both meaningful and enjoyable. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn, laugh and connect over a delicious lunch.

**Wednesday, May 13**  
**Mid-South Hobbies Art Project**  
We are delighted to welcome back Mid-South Hobbies for a hands-on art experience. After a recent and popular visit to their Summer Avenue location, their team returns with another creative and fun project for all to enjoy. No experience is necessary, and there is no cost to participate. If you don’t finish your project on site, materials will be provided to complete it at home.  
Reservations are required by the day before to ensure adequate supplies and meals.

**Thursday, May 14**  
**Field Trip to the Senior Expo**  
Join us for a special field trip to the Senior Expo at Agricenter International. The MJCC bus will depart at 9:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon (note the adjusted time).  
The Senior Expo is a large consumer fair featuring over 60 vendors serving the Mid-South senior community. Attendees

can explore information on senior living, services, medical and non-medical care-giving, and much more. For questions, contact Steve Kaplan.

**Monday, May 18**  
**Guest Speaker**  
We will welcome a special guest speaker presenting “40 Years Volunteering at the Memphis Suicide and Crisis Center.” This powerful talk will share experiences from decades of answering calls – some deeply serious, others unexpectedly lighthearted – offering a unique perspective on this vital community service. A Q&A session will follow.

**Wednesday, May 20**  
**Big Monthly Luncheon**  
Don’t miss our next MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon featuring an exciting musical performance by Earlice Taylor – one of Memphis’ true hidden treasures.  
A gifted three-octave lyric soprano, Earlice Taylor (Charles) brings extraordinary versatility, performing across jazz, blues, classical, R&B, Broadway, and even country and folk. Her remarkable career includes performing with legends such as Coco Taylor and Ethel Waters, as well as Memphis greats including Kirk Whalum, Carla Thomas and Joyce Cobb. She has also entertained audiences aboard the Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen steamboats along the Mississippi River.  
Get ready for an afternoon filled with music, dancing and joyful connec-



Earlice Taylor

tion. At our last luncheon, guests were singing along, dancing and celebrating friendships old and new!  
The cost is just \$5 for lunch and entertainment. You can reserve a table for groups of six or more, and roundtrip bus transportation is available within the MJCC area. Contact Steve Kaplan for details.  
Join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch prepared by the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required by 1 p.m. the day before.  
To make a reservation, contact Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or email [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto: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**

# ‘Hezbollah Obstacle to Peace’ Message Lights Up Times Square

A campaign by the Israeli consulate in New York calls for the advancement of peace with Lebanon.

**By JNS Staff**  
A message singling out Hezbollah as the obstacle to peace between Israel and Lebanon was screened in Times Square, New York last Tuesday.  
The screen showed the Israeli and Lebanese flags side by side, accompanied by a sentence that read, “Two neighbors, one obstacle to peace – Hezbollah, made in Iran.”  
The Israeli foreign ministry posted a video from the square, tweeting, “Neighboring nations deserve better than what stands between them.”  
This campaign was initiated by the Israeli consulate in New York, led by Consul General Ofir Akunis, and the Israeli Foreign Ministry.  
“The world must destroy Hezbollah, which is an Iranian proxy that has destroyed Lebanon,” according to the campaign.  
Jerusalem recently opened official talks with Beirut for the first time in three decades. At the same time, Hezbollah has ramped up its attacks on Israel and Israeli troops deployed in Southern Lebanon. **HW**

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# Memphis Jewish Federation Launches “Ignite Grants” in Celebration of 90th Anniversary

As part of its year-long 90th anniversary celebration, Memphis Jewish Federation has launched a new grant opportunity open to Memphis-based agencies, congregations, schools and youth groups serving the local Jewish community. Individuals and groups are also eligible to apply with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Ignite Grants are designed to spark and support bold, creative ideas that address gaps in service delivery or programming across the greater Memphis Jewish community. Reimbursement grants of up to \$25,000 per funding year will be awarded to new and innovative programs, projects, or initiatives with the potential for meaningful and sustained impact. Cross-agency collaboration is encouraged.

“As a significant and impactful grant-making organization, what better way to celebrate Federation’s 90th anniversary than by offering the community a new grant opportunity?” said Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, Executive Vice President. “We’re seeking fresh ideas to ignite meaningful and lasting change.”

Preference will be given to proposals addressing the following priority areas, though all innovative ideas are encour-

aged:

- Jewish engagement programs serving individuals and families living outside the East Memphis/Germantown corridor or those not affiliated with a congregation
- Jewish engagement initiatives for parents of children and teens under age 18
- Mental health initiatives across all demographics
- Recruitment and retention efforts to strengthen Jewish Memphis

Two rounds of funding will be offered annually, with upcoming deadlines in June and November. Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the first round are due by June 2, 2026.

A small working group of Federation lay leaders met throughout the year to design the new process. The group included Board Chair Jimmy Ringel; Community Grants Committee Co-Chairs Sandra Arnold and Michelle Katz; Board Member and Needs Assessment & Planning Committee member Rachel Siegel; and Community Grants Committee member Jenny Cook.

For more information and to apply, please go to [www.jcpmemphis.org/ignitegrants](http://www.jcpmemphis.org/ignitegrants). **HW**

# From Conversation to Connection: Continuing “Partners Memphis” at the MJCC

By Laura Kurcfeld

“Hi! How are you? I see your name is \_\_\_\_\_. It’s nice to meet you, I’m \_\_\_\_\_. I guess we’ll be getting to know each other tonight, and what a great topic for us to talk about too.”

Those lines were heard many times at the first Partners Memphis program on March 23, when 30 people from different Jewish backgrounds stepped out of their comfort zones to learn and discuss concepts from the teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on the topic of The Seder Experience with people they either did not know well or at all.

I have to admit that at first, I heard things like, “But, Laura, I see that \_\_\_\_\_ came and I’d really like to learn with her. Can I switch?” only to later hear “I’m so glad you paired me with \_\_\_\_\_; I’d never met her before and she’s so interesting; we have so much in common and we had such a great conversation!”

On Thursday evening, May 14, from 7-8:30 p.m., the Memphis Jewish Community Center will hold the second of a series of Partners Memphis bi-monthly programs. There is no charge to attend, no ongoing commitment, and of course there will be plenty of delicious food to enjoy while you schmooze. At Partners Memphis you’ll be intentionally paired with someone from a different Jewish background, and potentially some similarity in background, for a meaningful conversation on a different focus topic each time. Pre-registration is required so that you can be appropriately pre-paired up and the program can start timely.

This month the topic is “Tikkun Olam,” and we are eager to hear those same introductory greetings again. Learning materials are provided by Partners in Jewish Life ([pjl.org](http://pjl.org)) in partnership with the Rabbi Sacks Legacy

Foundation, as the booklets provided for each session are comprised of essays from the teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks with thought-provoking questions for partners to discuss such as: Is the Torah more concerned with rights or responsibilities? What part do you feel you can play in the collective responsibility for our future?

In the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks:

*“I think we need to renew those face-to-face encounters with the people not like us. It’s in those face-to-face encounters that we discover that the people not like us are just people, like us. And that actually, every time we hold out the hand of friendship to somebody not like us, whose class or creed or color are different from ours, we heal one of the fractures of our wounded world.”*

Meet people who may not be just like you, but really are just people, like you! No Hebrew reading, all-English material, open-dialogue discussing the various aspects of the responsibility of every Jew, and social consciousness as we relate to the world around us.

However you identify with your Judaism, even if just Jew-ish, join us as we strengthen connections across Memphis’ Jewish community. It’s an easy and engaging way to expand your circle, share perspectives and discover what unites us.

**What: Partners Memphis – Topic: “Tikkun Olam”**

**When: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 7 p.m. at MJCC**

**Cost: FREE**

**How: Register at [jccmemphis.org/JewishLife](http://jccmemphis.org/JewishLife)**

**Contact: Laura Kurcfeld, [lkurcfeld@jccmemphis.org](mailto:lkurcfeld@jccmemphis.org) HW**

# Volunteer Recognition Month ~ 2026

Recognizing our amazing Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service Volunteers!

*“The fundamental ongoing communication of human value takes place when one person spends a piece of his or her life – some unique and irreplaceable amount of time – in relationship and service to the other.”*

~ Rabbi Yitz Greenberg

April is Volunteer Recognition Month. Now, while we experience the delights of spring, is a wonderful time to recognize the joy that our incredible volunteers bring to others through *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness).

Our dedicated and generous volunteers at the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service (Fogelman JFS) at MJCC bring that joy in a variety of ways:

- Some dig in the dirt and help us grow vegetables and flowers in our FJFS Community Garden.
- Some help with activities of our Inclusion and Diverse Abilities group for Jewish community members with disabilities.
- Some drive Jewish seniors and those with disabilities to appointments and activities (to supplement our paid Shabbat Shalom service).
- Some help Jewish seniors with needed shopping activities.
- Some help community members with simple household chores like putting up a curtain rod.
- Some make weekly deliveries of kosher meals (more than 10,000 last year!), food pantry items and fruit to Jewish seniors and Jewish adults with disabilities.
- Some shop for kosher food items for our food pantry at the local food bank.
- Some help keep our kosher food pantry organized.

- Some visit or make regular telephone calls to isolated Jewish seniors.
- Some help make monthly special Shabbat experiences at local senior living facilities.

We are also very grateful for the special community partnership with the Tikkun Olam Committee of Beth Shalom Synagogue. Their volunteers generously provide thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and produce throughout the year to community members in our kosher meals and food pantry programs.

THANK YOU to each and every one of our Fogelman JFS Volunteers for your continued dedication and generosity. Each of you is precious to us and we are so grateful that you have chosen to share your time and talents with us. YOU make an impact. YOU make a difference! Truly, we could not do what we do without you!

We’d love to invite new volunteers to join our Fogelman JFS volunteer team.

Special areas of volunteer need:

- We need more gardeners!
- Transportation and shopping assistance are crucially important in a community that is so car-dependent, and where many seniors can no longer drive.
- Also, our Inclusion program is growing. We need more volunteers to help with activities and to drive participants to Fogelman JFS/MJCC for programs.

For more information about the Fogelman JFS Volunteer Program, contact Audrey May, Fogelman JFS Intake, Referral and Volunteer Coordinator, at Fogelman JFS 901-767-8511 or [amay@jccmemphis.org](mailto:amay@jccmemphis.org). We look forward to having you join us! **HW**

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# Alan Dershowitz Quits Democratic Party, Calling It ‘Most Anti-Israel Party in U.S. History’

By Grace Gilson

April 21, 2026 (JTA) – Alan Dershowitz, the prominent pro-Israel attorney whose clients have included Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein, announced on [April 20, 2026] that he was leaving the Democratic party and registering as a Republican.

Describing himself as a “lifelong Democrat,” Dershowitz wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed that he had decided to “bite the bullet and register as a Republican,” citing Democratic support for an arms embargo on Israel and the Michigan Senate candidate Abdul el-Sayed’s anti-Israel rhetoric.

“There is no denying that the hard left, anti-Israel wing of the Democratic Party has moved from the fringe to the mainstream,” Dershowitz wrote, adding that “Republicans have their own antisemitic fringe, but for now it remains a fringe.”

The announcement formalized a political evolution for Dershowitz, who defended Trump during his first impeachment and has increasingly broken with Democrats over Israel in recent years.

In 2021, Dershowitz nominated Jared

Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law, and Avi Berkowitz, Trump’s top Middle Eastern envoy during his first administration, for the Nobel Peace Prize over their hand in shaping the Abraham Accords.

Dershowitz — who has recently faced scrutiny over his ties to Epstein, and previously denied allegations of sexual misconduct made by one of Epstein’s accusers — panned the Democratic Party as the “most anti-Israel party in U.S. history” in the op-ed.

“I believe that the Democratic Party’s hostility to Israel represents a deeper and more dangerous shift away from the center and toward a radical approach that is bad for America and the free world,” Dershowitz wrote, adding that he intended to “work hard to prevent the Democrats from gaining control of the House and Senate.”

Dershowitz’s comments are in line with Trump’s statements about Jews and the Democratic Party. He has repeatedly expressed amazement at how any Jews could vote for the Democrats considering his own record when it comes to Israel. **HW**



# Your Best Self

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

## Are Your Actions in Alignment with Your Values?

As a coach who frequently works with athletes and corporate executives on finding their “why,” the first step in ascertaining their purpose is asking them if their actions and their values are in alignment. If a client is considering taking action on something they aren’t quite sure about, I reframe this a bit, and then I will implore them to ask themselves this question: “If I take a step in this direction, will this action be in alignment with my values?”

I often do this with myself as well if I am having “analysis paralysis” (indecisiveness) when faced with an issue. I recently put this into practice when I was struggling with whether or not I should buy tickets for the upcoming World Cup in the USA.

Soccer has been an integral part of my life for a long time. I was first introduced to the sport by my father in the late 1970s. He took me to watch our hometown Memphis Rogues compete in the old North American Soccer League.

I was hooked instantly. Over the years, I have been involved in virtually every aspect of the beautiful game as a player, coach, referee and fan.

I love that many years later the game still connects me with people in often unexpected ways. Just the other day, I was chatting with an Uber driver from Cameroon. I had the best ride with him talking about Roger Milla, the legendary Cameroonian striker and his Indomitable Lions. Two weeks ago, I ate at a Columbian restaurant, and the waiter and I had a blast talking about the passing and dribbling acumen of Carlos Valderrama. It never fails to delight me when this happens. In a world that seems so divided these days, I am grateful that soccer still enables me to connect with a vast array of people.

I’m sad to say that I will not be attending the World Cup this year in the USA. This event is supposed to showcase the game on a global scale and give optimism for the growth of the sport in this

country. Instead, as recent headlines indicate, it has become an apparent greedy cash grab from seemingly every entity involved. The powers that be thought it would be a good idea to: charge astronomical prices for tickets, change seating for many who bought reserved seats, ban tailgating, charge a fortune for parking, and gouge on public transportation costs – to name just a few of the boneheaded decisions that the “players behind the scenes” decided to enact.

It sickens me that this World Cup seems to be more about maximizing profit to a gross degree than showcasing the sport and building goodwill between people from all over the world.

We all know the saying, “Don’t hate the player. Hate the game.” In this instance, it’s the exact opposite. Hate the players behind the scenes, not the game.

My decision sits well with me, as my actions and values are definitely aligned with this. **HW**



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

# Trump to Be Briefed on Iran Military Options

By **JNS Staff**

April 30, 2026 (JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to receive a briefing on plans for potential renewed military action against Iran on Thursday, sources with knowledge of the matter told Axios.

United States Central Command has prepared a plan for a “short and powerful” wave of strikes, likely including the Islamic Republic’s key infrastructure, in hopes of breaking the stalemate in the talks, the outlet cited three sources as saying.

Other options include an operation to take over part of the Strait of Hormuz and reopen it to commercial shipping, and a special forces raid to secure Iran’s highly enriched uranium, according to Axios.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine and CENTCOM commander Adm. Brad Cooper are expected to attend Thursday’s deliberations.

Two sources told Axios that while Trump sees the blockade as Washington’s primary source of leverage in the negotiations, he would consider military action if the Islamic regime still will not concede. U.S. military planners are considering the possibility that Tehran will attack forces in the region in retaliation for the naval blockade, the report noted.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei posted a series of tweets on X last Thursday claiming that a new day is dawning when America’s

bases in the region can’t defend themselves, let alone their local allies.

“A new chapter for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is unfolding,” the leader of the Islamic Republic tweeted.

“Today, it has been proven to not only the global public opinion but even to the rulers of countries that the U.S.’s presence and establishment in the Persian Gulf is the main source of instability in the region,” he added. “The U.S.’s flimsy bases lack the resilience and capability even to ensure their own security, let alone provide any hope for U.S.’s dependents and the U.S.-worshippers in the region.”

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office last Wednesday that “at this moment, there will never be a deal unless they agree that there will be no nuclear weapons.”

The talks with Tehran have “come a long way,” he said. “The question is whether or not they’re going to go far enough.”

The president warned earlier last Wednesday that Iran “better get smart soon,” saying the mullahs “don’t know how to sign a non-nuclear deal” to end the war.

“Iran can’t get their act together,” Trump wrote on Truth Social, posting an edited picture of himself walking through a war-torn scene with explosions behind him while holding a rifle.

“No more Mr. Nice Guy!” the image caption read.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters in Washington last Monday that Trump’s red lines for a deal with Iran have been made “very, very clear,” following Tehran’s latest proposal to end hostilities.

Under the Islamic Republic’s plan, the regime would reopen the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for a long-term ceasefire or permanent end to the war, a U.S. official and two sources with knowledge of the matter told Axios.

Nuclear negotiations would only start at a later stage, after the U.S. military lifts its naval blockade of Iranian ports, according to the reported details of the proposal.

Washington has repeatedly stressed that the nuclear issue must be dealt with from the outset, and Trump was unhappy with Tehran’s offer for that reason, a U.S. official briefed on the deliberations at the White House told Reuters.

CNN cited a source familiar with the matter as saying that the president was unlikely to accept the plan, as it could remove a key piece of American leverage in the talks. **HW**

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# ‘Thought It was End of My Life,’ says Jewish Man Attacked Near Los Angeles Synagogue



An image, which a 32-year-old Jewish man shared with JNS of a man attacking him outside a Los Angeles synagogue on April 27, 2026. At the victim’s request, JNS blurred his face, which was already blurry in the initial image.

By Aaron Bandler

April 29, 2026 (JNS) – A 32-year-old Jewish man, who was attacked last Monday evening near Adas Torah, an Orthodox synagogue in Los Angeles, told JNS that his life flashed before his eyes.

“I don’t know if he said the words, ‘I want to kill you,’ but his facial expression and his attitude definitely gave that message,” said the victim, who spoke to JNS on the condition that he not be named. “I thought it was the end of my life.”

The victim, who said he is a Judaica studies teacher and “just a regular person,” told JNS that “I never would have thought such an incident would happen to me.”

After studying at Merkaz Hatorah Community Kollel, around the corner from the synagogue, last Monday evening, he walked home through an alleyway, as he has done for the past five years, and noticed a blue minivan following slowly beside him. He said he was wearing a kippah at the time.

He made a “Hey, how are you” facial expression toward the driver, whom he described as a black man. The driver made the same expression in response, the victim told JNS.

“All of a sudden, he just opens the door,” he said. “I don’t know what he was saying. He pounced me, immediately put his hands over my neck, shaking me back and forth, trying to choke me.”

The man used “a window breaker or window chiseler, I don’t know what you call it” as “a weapon as he was choking me against my neck,” the victim told JNS.

“He pinned me to the corner, and I don’t even know how, I just see I’m rolling on the floor, and as I’m vulnerable on the floor,” the victim said. “He gives me a stare and he says, ‘free Palestine’ and he goes back to his car.”

“I just ran back to safety, try to find a friend in the kollel, go into his car and call the cops from there,” he told JNS. He added that since the attack, it has been “definitely harder to walk alone.”

“You take your regular daily walk for granted, which you think should be fine and safe,” he said. “Now it’s a little bit hard to walk to shul.”

He added that the incident shows that “this can happen to anybody.”

“People shouldn’t think that, ‘Oh this is not going to happen to me,’” the victim told JNS. “It can happen to anyone walking the streets, anyone with their groceries, anyone. Anyone going anywhere.”

The incident has made the victim more motivated to be “100 times more effective” in teaching the next Jewish generation on “what it means to be Jewish” and “how we should always be proud to be Jewish,” he told JNS.

Ron Galperin, interim Los Angeles regional director at the American Jewish Committee, told JNS that “we are outraged by the reports of an assault last Monday night near Adas Torah Synagogue in the Pico-Robertson

neighborhood.”

“While facts are still emerging, the details known so far are deeply concerning,” he said. “From what we’ve learned so far, this attack was not an isolated act of violence. It reflects a troubling pattern: the normalization of antisemitic behavior in our communities. No one should be targeted or attacked because they are Jewish. Period.”

The attack occurred in the district of Katy Yaroslavsky, a member of the Los Angeles City Council and a Democrat, who is Jewish.

“Last night, an individual assaulted a man leaving Adas Torah Synagogue in Pico-Robertson. According to preliminary information, the suspect approached the victim, attacked him and fled the scene while shouting antisemitic remarks,” she told JNS. “The victim received medical attention and is recovering. LAPD has informed our office that this is being investigated as a hate crime.”

“Hate incidents and hate crimes in Los Angeles have increased significantly over the past several years. When hate speech targeting Jewish communities increases and becomes normalized, violence against our community follows,” Yaroslavsky told JNS. “This pattern has existed for thousands of years, and we need to call it out directly for what it is. Antisemitism has no place in Los Angeles, and I call on my colleagues and fellow community leaders to condemn this violence, protect the freedom to worship and stand with Jewish Angelenos.” [HW](#)

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# Dividend-Paying Stocks: Pros and Cons

*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*

A dividend is a portion of a company’s profit that’s paid to shareholders. That means dividend-paying stocks may provide a source of income. But they can also carry some degree of risk.

So, what do investors need to consider when it comes to dividend-paying stocks? In this Q&A, Austin Pickle, senior wealth investment solutions analyst with Wells Fargo Investment Institute, provides important information for investors to keep in mind.

### 1. What are the potential benefits of dividend-paying stocks?

“One of the big benefits is that these stocks may provide a more reliable income stream compared to some other investment options,” Pickle says.

Companies tend to issue dividends on a routine basis, such as quarterly or semi-annually, which may create a dependable income stream. Another benefit? The stocks can yield some favorable tax treatment.

“It’s going to depend on your tax situation,” Pickle says, “but in general, you may have a relatively lower tax rate for dividends compared to income gained by selling investments.” As long as the dividend-paying stock meets IRS requirements for a qualified dividend, the

dividend is taxed at the lower long-term capital gains tax rate instead of being taxed as regular capital gains income. “So an investor could receive income from a dividend-paying stock without selling the stock and have a lower tax bill compared to that of a non-dividend-paying stock, which must be sold to receive income,” he says.

### 2. Who should include dividend-paying stocks in their portfolio?

Many types of investors have the potential to benefit from dividend-paying stocks. “But these stocks may be more valuable for investors who are a bit older — maybe those in retirement or close to retirement who really value a more reliable income stream,” Pickle says. “I think they’re typically beneficial from a diversification perspective, especially when interest rates are low. Dividend-paying stocks tend to have an inverse relationship with interest rates: When interest rates go down, you may see some of these dividend-paying stocks perform better.”

### 3. What are the risks associated with dividend-paying stocks?

“Firms can reduce or cancel their dividends — especially during times of economic uncertainty and times of crisis,”

says Pickle. “And there’s still the risk that dividends could be cut periodically, even without the trigger of a crisis event. And if tax rates change, it could mean you’d pay more, as well.”

### Explore your options with professional advisors

Pickle stresses that investors should discuss the pros and cons of dividend-paying stocks with a financial advisor to help make sure they fill a need within an individual investment portfolio and make sense for a specific financial situation.

“You should also talk to your CPA or tax professional to make sure that you understand what the tax consequences are for your particular situation,” he advises.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities. There is no guarantee that dividend-paying stocks will return more than the overall stock market. Dividends are not guaranteed and are subject to change or elimination.

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# A Freed Israeli Hostage Spoke at UCLA Without Incident. Then the Student Government Weighed In.



Omer Shem Tov speaks onstage during the humanitarian award dinner for Warner Bros. Discovery President and CEO David Zaslav presented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel on October 30, 2025 in Beverly Hills, California. Credit: Jon Kopaloff/Getty Images for Simon Wiesenthal Center

By Andrew Lapin

April 28, 2026 (JTA) – An event at the University of California, Los Angeles featuring the freed Israeli hostage Omer Shem Tov has become the latest flash-point in campus dialogue over Israel, after the university’s student government issued a statement condemning the talk.

The event itself went off without disruption. But the school’s Undergraduate Students Associated Council issued a letter the same day declaring that bringing Shem Tov to campus was an example of “selective platforming of narratives that obscure the broader reality of ongoing state violence.”

The statement ignited a firestorm. The student government has drawn ire from a sitting University of California regent, the campus Hillel, and its own president, who accused a faction of student leaders of passing the resolution with underhanded methods.

The controversy comes as UCLA continues to face scrutiny under the Trump administration’s campus antisemitism push, much of it tied to student protester actions after Oct. 7. UCLA is currently facing a lawsuit from the Justice Department over what the administration said was the fostering of a hostile work environment when protesters took over sections of campus and sought to bar “Zionists” from entering; the school has also settled a \$6.13 million lawsuit with Jewish groups over the same instances.

“I am disgusted and appalled by the Council’s recent statement condemning an on-campus event featuring former Israeli hostage Omer Shem Tov,” Jewish UC regent Jay Sures, a leading Hollywood talent agent, wrote in a lengthy open letter published earlier last week. “Talk about a missed opportunity.”

UCLA’s Hillel, together with the campus’s Israel Studies center and its Student Supporting Israel club, hosted Shem Tov for an event earlier last month coinciding with Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The school’s Jewish chancellor Julio Frenk, who has been outspoken about his commitment to combat antisemitism on UCLA’s campus, attended the talk with his wife.

Shem Tov, 24, was abducted from the Nova music festival by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, and held captive in Gaza for 505 days. His parents co-founded the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, an Israeli group that advocated for the hostages’ release during the war. Since his release he has spoken widely on college campuses and in other venues, including to Turning Point USA, the

conservative group. A previous campus stop by Shem Tov, at Duke University, also caused controversy when comedian Jerry Seinfeld introduced him by saying pro-Palestinian protesters were worse than the Ku Klux Klan.

The UCLA student government letter opposing Shem Tov’s talk said the event was “elevating a single narrative, absent of critical political and humanitarian framing.” It also condemned the school’s Israel Studies center for hosting the talk, writing, “Universities must not be complicit in the production or amplification of one-sided narratives that erase systems of oppression and occupation.”

In an Instagram post, Hillel at UCLA and Students Supporting Israel jointly accused the student board of antisemitism.

“Members of UCLA student government (USAC) have once again shown they are anti-dialogue, anti-learning, anti-truth, anti-student, anti-Jewish and antisemitic in condemning our beautiful event last week with Omer Shem Tov, a young man kidnapped from a music festival and held, tortured, and treated inhumanely as a hostage and human slave by Hamas in Gaza for over 500 days,” the groups wrote.

Sures’s note had more pointed criticisms of the student government’s stance.

“Omer Shem Tov is not a representative of the Israeli government,” he wrote, later adding, ““You claim you want balance in programming and more than ‘a single narrative’ from speakers at UCLA. Balance, by definition, inherently involves equal consideration of more than one point of view. By condemning this speaker’s public appearance on our campus, your words and actions make clear you have no interest in balance at all. That is the biggest double standard of all.”

In his talks, Shem Tov often describes his experience of psychological torture in captivity and concludes that his Hamas captors had “no humanity.” He has described carrying hundreds of boxes of food aid from the United Nations into Hamas’ tunnels in Gaza, saying that Hamas was taking the rations for its own members. At a recent Harvard talk, Shem Tov also said of Gaza’s non-Hamas citizens, “I’m sure there is some who wish for peace and want peace. But I can say this: the majority of them, the majority of them, they want to eliminate us.”

In his own statement, student body president Diego Bollo said he and several other council members, including one who had been involved in promoting the Shem Tov event, had not been present at the meeting where the letter was drafted and voted on.

“It is my belief that the councilmember who introduced this letter chose to bring it forward on a day when [the member who promoted Shem Tov] was not present and therefore unable to offer her perspective as someone with knowledge of the organized event featuring Omer Shem Tov,” Bollo wrote.

He and the other student leadership also fielded public comment opposing the letter at a subsequent meeting, and Bollo said he would review “our internal processes for drafting and releasing public statements.”

UCLA’s own statement backed the groups that had hosted Shem Tov, saying, “The event’s message was one of resilience and respect for human rights and dignity – a message we support.” The school’s statement added, “The condemnation of such a peaceful event to share a story of resilience in the face of extreme suffering is antithetical to the values of our Bruin community.” **HW**

## OBITUARY

Alvin Herbert Kriger

Alvin Herbert Kriger, age 83, passed away on April 25, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born and raised in Memphis, Tenn., Alvin graduated from high school in 1960 and went on to receive degrees from UW-Madison, UW Law School and NYU Law School. Alvin was a partner in several Milwaukee-based law firms before opening his own practice in Estate Planning where he worked until his passing.

He is survived by the love of his life for 35+ years, Grace Kriger, who will always remember his zest for life, and care and kindness for others; his children, Jason (Mary) Kriger, Sarah (Milt) Hwang and Angelo (Tina) Mortellaro; his grandchildren, Taylor, Brittany, Ethan, Juliana, Marco, Sam and Colin and great-grandson Max. He is also survived by his former wife and mother of Jason and Sarah, Pam Kriger, sister-in-law Judy Kriger, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney and Rose Belz Kriger, his mother-in-law, Grace Helbig, his brother, Morris (Judy) Kriger and his step-daughter, Marcella Mortellaro.

A memorial service has not been scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Morris J. Kriger Memorial Fund of the Kosten Pancreatic Research Foundation (<https://www.kostenfoundation.com/make-a-donation/>) 6060 Poplar Ave. Suite 140 Memphis, TN. 38119. 901-606-5330 or the charity of your choice. **HW**

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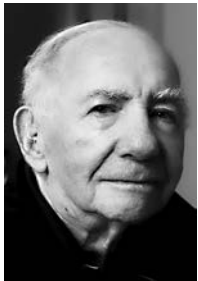
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# Seek the Springtime Sun



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

By Ted Roberts

(4/3/12) – Nobody can accuse us of ignoring G-d’s handiwork. We Jews have prayers for everything from your backyard rose bush to the eye color of Zayde’s newest grandchild. See your rabbi for a complete catalogue.

The good Jew, the appreciative Jew, reveling in the expanded Garden of Eden G-d has given us to roam in, says a prayer over nature’s beauty; the sunset, the mountains, the loaf of Challah on the Shabbos table, the newly delivered infant. If he’s observant, he says the proper prayer. If he’s your run-of-the-mill – semi-affiliated, gefilte fish eating, Pesach observant – Israelite, maybe his heart speaks in its own language – maybe he doesn’t know the proper words, but deep down inside there’s a murmur of thanks, appreciation as he glimpses the miracle even of his bodily functions, much less the blessing of sitting at the Shabbos table surrounded by loving

family. And if he doesn’t say, “Ha Matzi Lechem Min Ha Oretz,” still he thinks how gracious of G-d to provide.

He even notices for the first time that the tulip tree beside the dining room window is displaying lavish pink blossoms. (Is there a special prayer for a tulip tree in full bloom? I’m only a scribbler – ask your rabbi.) Spring – the renewal, the revival, the resuscitation of life enhances our gratitude.

But unlike the pagans our ancestors encountered in Canaan and the various theologies we were exposed to after Sinai, we are careful to worship the Creator, not His creation. We understood that the sun, moon, and throbbing sea are miraculous creations. Visual symbols of His invisible power. This was our gift to the world, this understanding of an unimaginable, transcendental creator. Don’t pray to the Sycamore grove that crowns the hill, but to He who puts life in lifeless wood.

As to Spring and the hope that it brought to the primitive human heart (“Look, the tree was not lifeless. Buds and fruit decorate its limbs. Amazing, it comes back every year.”) the ancients had numerous myths involving their gods – the deliverers of Spring. Their explanations were poetic if not accurate – usually a variation involving evil Hades – the god of the underworld and his

capture of a beneficent goddess. Nature mourned her departure, and the trees shed their leaves like tears. All nature turned brown with grief and mourned her departure. Somehow, she always escaped – at least temporarily. Nature flared into life in wild exultation. The trees fruited and the lowly grape vine leafed and offered its fruit.

These myths of gods and goddesses who misbehaved like their human counterparts were prevalent at a time when our prophets were explaining that an invisible presence of goodness was driving nature. An ethical power whose greatest hope for man is to see his children walk in the footsteps of their Creator.

You can learn a lot from your rabbi – you can also learn from nature. To watch a mama cat handle its young may be as informative as a chapter in Genesis. The wired care and affection she exhibits is as strong a proof of a supreme creator as Genesis. She is a prime exhibit of the proof that somewhere, somehow a power started and maintains the engine of life we call the world. Put a potted bulb, say an amaryllis, in a sunny window. When the warmth of the sun beams down on the green shoot from the earth, it seeks the sun. It leans into the sun. And only by continuing to turn it can you keep it straight. Oddly, this plant –

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By Ted Roberts

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with no brain like us or even the cat – seeks its power source. In a way it has no independence. If it leans away from the sun – if it’s removed from the sun, it dies or is horribly distorted.

So is it with us with the exception that we often cannot find the sun or since we are endowed with freewill, choose the dark – not the sunlight. Seek the sun, especially in Spring.

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

## Tennessee Governor Signs Bill Recognizing ‘Judea and Samaria’ in Official Materials

By Jessica Russak-Hoffman

April 29, 2026 (JNS) – Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed legislation into law last Monday requiring state agencies to use “Judea and Samaria” instead of “West Bank” in official materials.

The Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act, passed earlier last month by the Tennessee General Assembly, bars state entities from using “West Bank” in guidance, rules, press releases, briefings

and other government documents, with limited waivers allowed at an agency head’s discretion.

The law states that “Judea” and “Samaria” are “historically, biblically and legally accurate terms” for the region.

Yigal Dilmoni, CEO and co-founder of American Friends of Judea and Samaria, which led educational and public awareness initiatives in the United States about the region in Israel, told

JNS that Tennessee’s passage of the bill will help shape public understanding and further unite the two nations over shared “Judeo-Christian values.”

“It slowly will change the narrative for Israel,” Dilmoni said. “It’s very important, not only for Israel, but also for the United States, that people will be more familiar with the real history and will fight against all the lies spoken about Israel.”

“They are starting to speak the truth, and to teach the children the truth,” he said.

Dilmoni, who is on military reserve duty in the Israel Defense Forces, told JNS that updating government documents and materials to reflect the region’s name further unites Israel and the United States, which “share the same interest, not only in this war, but also in sharing the truth.” HW

## ISRAEL INSIGHTS Cedars of Lebanon: Where Art Thou?

By Howard Weisband

Supposedly we are in the midst of a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. Rather, more realistically, Sarit Zehavi referred to the situation as “an illusion of a ceasefire.”

Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi is the founder and president of Alma, a nonprofit and an independent research and education center specializing in Israel’s security challenges on its northern border, where she lives.

Zehavi’s April 28 newsletter describes the situation: “The situation is incredibly difficult to bear. We are supposed to be returning to a routine, but there is no real routine. Schools in several northern communities have shut down again. Because of this, parents cannot go to work, and many of our people are still mobilized in the reserves.

“There is a continuous, exhausting psychological tension. We are living in a state of high alert, feeling that at any moment, everything could escalate back to the full intensity we experienced before.”

The supposed ceasefire with the Lebanese came about secondarily to the ceasefire with the Iranians. President Trump declared that there exists a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon once he learned that Iran insisted that Lebanon was included in their own ceasefire.

What the Lebanese knew in advance is hard to say, but the Israeli media widely reported that Israel’s Prime Minister, Government, and the IDF all learned of the existence of a ceasefire from reports in the international media.

Prime Minister Netanyahu was in a bind. He had to accept the existence of a ceasefire given his relationship with the President. However, both his Cabinet and even the opposition had extremely negative reactions. Backed by the Israeli public, especially the residents of the north, there is a very strong call for the IDF to “finish the job,” that is to militarily remove the Hezbollah threat on Israel’s northern border.

Yair Lapid, leader of the opposition, looking toward forthcoming 2026 national elections, said that: “all the promises of this government [are] crashing against the ground of reality,” and that the next government he leads would permanently remove the Hezbollah threat.

A Jerusalem Post editorial on April 19 stated that “Israel needs to make its own decisions based on its own needs, with the only consideration the country should have concerning the North being to keep the residents safe.”

Further, it rightly shared the insight that: “... the crux of the situation is that a ceasefire or even a peace agreement

between Israel and Lebanon doesn’t really mean anything, because it’s Hezbollah that is the cancer inside Lebanon that threatens both countries.”

This was backed by Lebanon’s Ambassador to the U.S., Nada Hamadeh Moawad, who acknowledged that “Hezbollah is a mutual problem for both Israel and Lebanon.”The problem in Israel is described above. But what is the problem in Lebanon?

In brief, Lebanon is a sovereign state without sovereignty.

Hezbollah, a terrorist entity, a funded and armed proxy of Iran, sworn to destroy Israel, is embedded within the country. It has wormed its way into Lebanon’s parliament and governance, and its terrorist militias are stronger than Lebanon’s own army.

The current President of Lebanon, Joseph Aoun, is the former commander of the Lebanese army. He has tried to focus on restoring state sovereignty and managing the ceasefire negotiations with Israel. Though President Trump has tried to support him, going so far as to invite Aoun and Netanyahu to the White House in order to hammer out some type of peace accord, Hezbollah maintains the strength in the country.

Naim Qassem, Hezbollah’s current

leader (following the elimination of others via Israeli actions), said on April 27, that “the direct negotiations and their outcomes are as if they do not exist for us, and do not concern us at all. No matter how much the enemy (Israel) threatens, we will not retreat, we will not surrender, and we will not be defeated.” Disarmament is not in his consideration whatsoever.

The title of this column relates metaphorically to the Biblical references to the Cedars of Lebanon. Described in an AI overview, they represent “strength, beauty, prosperity, and divine power. Highly prized for their durability and fragrance, this wood was used by Kings David and Solomon to build palaces and the Temple in Jerusalem.”

Lebanon today, a sovereign state without sovereignty, can no longer provide that same strength to Israel.

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



100STORIESfor100YEARS

A special project by  
Memphis Jewish  
HOME&REHAB

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

## Meet Darcus Milloway



Darcus hands out mints to a staff member at the Home.  
By Jasmine Williams

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

I was born in Arkadelphia, Texas. We moved to Memphis when I was about four.

I have a brother, Marcus, and two half-sisters, Leanna and Karen. I started working in the shoe business. I had a store on Lamar Ave., and then I started selling gas. I got married and have a daughter, her name is Judith, she's 36

years old. We went on a trip to Disneyland with my wife's family. We were on the Monorail, and she told me she was pregnant. I don't really have hobbies. I just like to have fun as life goes along.

**MJHR: How did you become connected to MJHR?**

I was in an accident and had my legs removed. I was getting therapy at Allenbrooke Nursing & Rehab Cetner, and that's where I met Bobby Meadows, the

current executive director of the Home. My roommate at Allenbrooke had a granddaughter who babysat Bobby's daughters. Bobby told me he was moving to Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, and I liked how he ran things, so I asked if I could move to the Home with him. So, I moved!

**MJHR: Share your favorite MJHR story.**

Well, I've had so many. When I followed Bobby to Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, I came with my roommate. I moved here with him from Allenbrooke, and we were in a way kind of close. We were able to do things together.

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

Really for them to keep doing what they are doing. Bobby is great, maybe we can have two of him? That would make it better!

**MJHR: How did your tradition of passing out mints to people at the Home begin?**

I've always been a happy person, and I've always wanted to make people smile. There was this lady who used to live here at the Home. She gave me peppermints, but I couldn't eat them, so I gave them away to other people. I don't think she knew that I was giving them away. When I started handing out the mints to other people, I saw that it made



Darcus gets his wish granted by MJHR's Wishmakers program.

people smile or laugh, so I kept doing it. It's enjoyable.

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](http://www.memphisjewishhome.org/giving). **HW**

**MJHR...**  
(Continued From Page 1)

solid financial standing, and encouraged the organization to identify unmet needs during his term.

We awarded our Aaron Brenner Award to an outstanding volunteer and long-time board member, Debbie Jackson. Jackson's dedication to MJHR includes working on the resident services committee, fostering intentional relationships with the residents and establishing the Caregiver Café, a monthly caregiver support group held at the Home. She deserves this award and

many more for her unwavering commitment to our community.

Our keynote speaker, Joshua Gortler, president and CEO Emeritus of Kline Galland, shared his thoughts on the benefits of Jewish senior care organizations for our communities, what sets them apart and why we need to ensure their stability and longevity. Gortler shared the history of Jewish elderly homes and how he began his career in the Kline Galland Home in Seattle, Washington. Since working at Kline Galland, he has

made changes to improve the quality of life for the senior community in Seattle. Recently, he relocated to Memphis to be closer to his family.

Judy Royal, board member of Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, put it nicely, "The 2026 Annual Meeting was absolutely perfect from beginning to end. The turnout was fabulous – no vacant seats! From the speaker to the election of new officers and to Debbie Jackson

winning the Aaron Brenner Award, there were so many great moments for MJHR."

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



Aaron Brenner Award recipient, Debbie Jackson (r), with MJHR Director of Development, Baylee Less-Eiseman.



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Celebrating



years of the

Memphis Jewish Federation

A look back on our history in photos

Memphis Jewish Federation and its Lemsky Endowment Fund support the people and State of Israel in numerous ways, including funding that assists vulnerable and at-risk populations. Federation also works to meaningfully connect Memphis Jews to Israel through celebratory and solidarity gatherings, mission trips, grants for Israel experiences and local programming, its sister city partnership with Shoham, support for shlichim (emissaries), the Israeli Scouts program, and more.



Participants in Memphis Jewish Federation’s delegation to the Rally for Israel in Washington, DC - November 2023.



Federation-MOMentum Israel Trip - November 2018.

MEMPHIS STANDS WITH ISRAEL.

JOIN WITH  
THE JEWISH AND GREATER  
MEMPHIS COMMUNITY,  
INCLUDING  
RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL  
LEADERS  
TO SHOW OUR UNITED  
SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.

  
Thursday  
July 24, 2014  
Temple Israel  
1376 E. Massey Rd.  
5:30 pm


One of many Federation-organized solidarity gatherings for Israel - July 2014.

Lemsky Teen Israel Experience Participants:  
Adam Eckstein, Edie Price Efron, Erin Cooper, Melissa Goldner Bloomfield, Alison Schwartzberg, Lydia Bloom Medwin, and Ben Thorp - Summer 1997.





6.18.2014/7:30 p.m.  
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FOR THE  
*Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary  
of the Establishment of  
The State of Israel*  
IS PRIVILEGED TO PRESENT  
*The Honorable Abba Eban*  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES  
IN AN ADDRESS  
WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 28, 1958  
AT EIGHT-THIRTY  
AMPHITHEATER, ELLIS AUDITORIUM

**ISRAEL IN CRISIS**  
SEMINAR  
MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
**SUNDAY, October 28**  
CONGRESSMAN DAN KUYKENDALL  
ISRAELI GENERAL CONSUL SHLOMO LEVI  
DR. RICHARD REMNICK, MEMPHIS STATE  
PROF. OF RUSSIAN POLITICS  
MRS. LEO BURSON, NAT'L OFFICER, HADASSAH  
MODERATOR: JACK LIEBERMAN,  
EXEC. DIR. OF J.W.F.  
2:00 PRESENTATION AND PANEL  
3:00 GROUP DISCUSSIONS  
\* The mood in Congress  
\* Soviet Motivation  
\* The Israeli Viewpoint  
\* The Drive of Zionism  
DON'T MISS THIS STIMULATING DISCUSSION . . .  
NO SOLICITATION  
SPECIAL at 8 PM  


Israel in Crisis Seminar responding to the Yom Kippur War - October 1973.

(Below): Then-high school student Sarah Broniscer at the MFOI Israel Festival - Spring 2014.



(Left): Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan performs at the then-Levitt Shell - June 2014.



Bornblum Jewish Community School's 8th Grade trip to Israel - April 2018.



(Right): The Memphis- Shoham partnership committee visits the National Civil Rights Museum - October 2017.