

# THE Hebrew Watchman

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS | SERVING MEMPHIS AND MID-SOUTH JEWRY SINCE 1925

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Anthony Morrison, Jewish Foundation of Memphis Chair; Laura Linder, Jewish Community Partners President & CEO; Cindy Finestone, Memphis Jewish Federation Chair; and Ken Steinberg, Jewish Community Partners Chair, at the 2019 Jewish Community Partners Annual Meeting, one of the last in-person events before the pandemic. Credit: Rena Knopf Photography

## Memphis Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation of Memphis receive Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator

By Emma Figarsky

Memphis Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis have both received a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, which is the highest possible rating. Charity Navigator is the nation’s largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. Federation and Foundation are currently two of 12 Four-Star charities in the Mid-South and remain among the highest-rated nonprofits in the industry, with a score of 96.57 out of 100.

“Between our two organizations, we work with hundreds of donors and hundreds of charitable organizations. This ranking speaks volumes about the professionalism and dedication of our staff and leadership in making sure every dollar is making maximum impact,” said Irvin Skopp, treasurer/secretary of the executive committee of Jewish Community Partners, which operates both Federation and Foundation.

Charity Navigator rates charities by evaluating two broad areas of performance: financial health, and accountability and transparency. These ratings show donors how efficiently a charity uses their support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time, and their level of commitment to being accountable and transparent.

“For decades, the Federation and Foundation have provided ways for char-

itably minded members of the Memphis Jewish community to support the most critical needs of Jewish families as well

**Charity Navigator is the nation’s largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.**

as achieve their personal philanthropic goals,” said Laura Linder, president and CEO of Jewish Community Partners. “Being recognized as a top-tier charitable organization is such an honor. With all of the charitable choices donors have, this ranking helps to remind our supporters as well as the broader Memphis Jewish community that we are a trusted philanthropic partner.”

This ranking signifies that both Memphis Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis exceed industry standards and outperform most charities in their area of work. They have been recognized for adhering to best practices while executing their mission in a financially efficient way.

To learn how to make a gift to Federation’s Annual Community Campaign or open a fund at the Jewish Foundation, visit [jcpmemphis.org](http://jcpmemphis.org). **HW**

## ‘6 Million Steps’ Campaign drives 14m steps toward Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day

LOS ANGELES, April 7 – In the first effort of its kind, people from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. including Holocaust survivors are walking or running to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to spotlight surging antisemitism worldwide. Participants are also sharing their tallies on social media with the hashtag “#6MillionSteps” as part of the innovative Israeli-American Council campaign ahead of Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, which began Wed., April 8 and ended at sundown Thurs. April 9.

The goal by April 11 was to reach 18 million total steps, a multiple of six million, as 18 symbolizes good luck in Judaism and the Hebrew letter equivalent “chai,” life. People of all ages have been gathering for a few weeks in socially distanced events across the country, from the National Mall in Washington to San Jose, amassing more than 13.6 million steps to date.

Events have taken place, or are scheduled to take place, in New Jersey; New York City; at the “Rocky” steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Cleveland; Chicago; Washington University, St. Louis; the University of Georgia, Athens; Atlanta; Tulane University, New Orleans; Orlando; Boulder, Colo.; Las Vegas; the San Francisco Bay Area; and Los Angeles.

In New York, 60 nurses, 10 doctors and 10 support staff in the cardiac intensive care unit at Mount Sinai Hospital even collected the steps they took during the day to support #6MillionSteps.

Participants are posting to a special #6MillionSteps website and connecting their Fitbit or Garmin fitness trackers, or manually entering their total steps while walking, running or exercising. People are also placing a special #6MillionSteps frame to their social media profile. The #6MillionSteps site features interviews with Holocaust survivors and offers resources on rising antisemitism and hate crimes.

Among those taking part are Israeli-American Grammy Award-winning violinist Miri Ben-Ari, who played the Israeli national anthem while

**Israeli-American Council’s Campaign Aims For 18 Million Steps to Memorialize Holocaust victims, Highlight Rising Antisemitism**

walking in New Jersey. Visit <https://israeliamericancouncil.app.box.com> to download and watch the video.

“At a time of growing polarization and extremism, #6MillionSteps is gathering people everywhere in memory of the six million victims, including the 1.5 million children, murdered by the Nazis,” said IAC co-founder and CEO Shoham Nicolet. “By taking six million steps together every week at this perilous time, we are leading the way to fight antisemitism, indifference and ignorance and ensuring we never forget the lessons of the Holocaust.”

To learn more, visit <https://iac360.org/6m/> **HW**



Eighty doctors, nurses and support staff at Mount Sinai Hospital used the steps they take during their workday recently to support the Israeli-American Council’s global #SixMillionSteps campaign. Credit: Israeli-American Council.



# This chef, born next to a matzah factory, is delivering meals to Holocaust survivors



David Teyf delivers a Shabbat meal to a homebound Holocaust survivor in New York City, Aug. 21, 2020. Credit: Benjamin Kanter

By Shira Hanau

(JTA) — Growing up, Passover was always a special time of year for David Teyf. It wasn't just about the holiday. It was also the stories his family would tell about the matzah factory they used to operate behind his grandfather's house in Minsk before they left Soviet Belarus in 1979. Teyf, who was born in that house, was 5 when they left that capital city.

Now a successful chef, Teyf has few memories of the matzah factory. Yet he has found himself thinking about it more often lately as he cooks and delivers weekly Shabbat meals, and more recently Passover meals, for Holocaust survivors living in New York City. He started cooking the meals nearly a year ago, in part inspired by his own grandparents, all four of whom were Holocaust survivors.

"If my grandparents were alive, who would take care of them?" Teyf thought to himself. "A Holocaust survivor who's 90 years old, who's taking care of them? That's when I said to myself, I have to do something."

Teyf is one of many in the restaurant and events industries who found themselves unable to work when the pandemic began last spring. Manhattan's Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, where he runs LOX at Cafe Bergson, closed to visitors last March. So did the 2nd Ave Deli, where Teyf is the executive chef of the second-floor dining room. Soon

the weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other events he was set to cater for the rest of the year were canceled, too.

"I was busy 24/6," Teyf said of his pre-pandemic schedule. "Then when the pandemic started I went from being busy 24/6 to nothing, absolutely nothing."

It was during one of the long walks through Central Park that filled his newly empty days that he started thinking about how his survivor grandparents might have gotten through the pandemic.

Teyf contacted the president and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Jack Kliger, and they reopened the cafe's kitchen with a few workers shortly after Passover 2020. With some financial support and names supplied by local organizations that provide services to Holocaust survivors, Teyf and his team started cooking and delivering Shabbat meals to the survivors at their homes all over New York City. Teyf focused on traditional foods like challah rolls, gefilte fish and kugel but tried to make the foods a little healthier, using less salt on account of the survivors' ages.

He had grown up hearing about how his grandparents had starved during the war. That inspired a slogan for his current project: "No survivor should ever go hungry again."

Teyf and his team do all the deliveries themselves, driving to survivors' homes throughout the five boroughs. Typically they ring the doorbell and leave the

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1138 N. Germantown Pkwy. Ste.101  
P.O. Box 353  
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Office: 901.763.2215  
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman  
Editor and Publisher

Rebecca Miller  
Social Media Director  
Web Development

Larry Nieman  
Advertising Sales Director

Holly Marks  
Communications Manager/  
Editorial Assistant

Herman I. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus  
Barbara B. Goldberger

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meal at the door in order to limit any COVID risk to the survivor. But sometimes a survivor opens the door while the deliverer is still standing there.

"They're very grateful and their smiles mean the world to me," Teyf said. "And they speak Russian, so they give me their blessing."

Even as more and more people are vaccinated and the risks involved with the pandemic decrease for the vaccinated elderly people spending time outside their homes, Teyf isn't planning to end his project anytime soon.

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In fact he's looking for more names, hoping to add to his list of about 70 survivors across the five boroughs, where an estimated 20,000 survivors live.

The Shabbat meals and deliveries remind Teyf of his grandfather and the risks he took to prepare matzah for the Jews of Minsk — a reward that makes the time and cost involved in his Shabbat meals project well worth it.

"When I do these meals and when we cook and deliver," he said, "I always see my grandfather smiling down. I feel him." HW



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# Baron Hirsch’s “Inside Israel” celebrates Israel’s Independence Day

Baron Hirsch will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 73rd Independence Day, in partnership with World Mizrahi's "Israel360" featuring well-known author, Rabbi Moshe Lichtman. Rabbi Lichtman will present, "Israel at 73," on Sun., April 18 at 10 a.m. Rabbi Lichtman was born and raised in Elizabeth, N.J. He received rabbinic ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. He also holds an MS in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University's Azrieli Institute. Rabbi Lichtman moved to Israel in 1991 and has taught in several post-high school programs there. He is best known for his landmark translations of "Eim HaBanim Semeichah,

An Angel Among Men," a biography on Israel's first Chief Rabbi, Rav Kook, "A Question of Redemption" and "Rise from the Dust," and for his highly popular original works, "Eretz Yisrael in the Parashah" and "A Drop in the Ocean." Now in its fourth year, World Mizrahi's "Israel360" reflects Israel's international reach and Mizrahi's mission of spreading Torat Yisrael across the world. To celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim, Mizrahi is virtually bringing inspiring Israeli speakers, thinkers and tour guides to 360 communities all around the globe. To join the Inside Israel lecture on Sun., April 18 at 10 a.m., visit [baronhirsch.org](http://baronhirsch.org). Click on the Virtual Baron Hirsch tab to find Zoom Room information. [HW](#)

# Pfizer reportedly halts shipment of 700,000 COVID vaccine doses to Israel

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Pfizer halted a shipment of 700,000 COVID vaccine doses to Israel, alleging that the country has not paid for a previous shipment of 2.5 million doses. The Jerusalem Post reported last Monday that the shipment was supposed to arrive last Sunday but was indefinitely delayed pending payment. Israel paid for its first 10 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine soon after they were made available, helping the country earn the world's highest vaccination rate. But when its supplies began

to dwindle in February, Israel secured a deal with Pfizer for additional doses. Israel has spent 2.6 billion shekels, or nearly \$700 million, on vaccines so far, according to the Post. The country of over 9 million people has begun to slowly normalize large social events and gatherings, such as concerts and sporting events, with the help of a digital vaccine "passport" system. But close to half the country has still not been vaccinated, including some waiting to see the effects on others. [HW](#)

# New Jewish course in Memphis bucks trend of bleak predictions

This spring, Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad of Tennessee in Memphis will offer This Can Happen, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will address a pressing question on many minds: is the current situation going to get any better? "Many people nurse this idea that matters are getting progressively worse, and fostered by much hysterical media and general dialogue, an environment of fear and despair is all too rampant," said Rabbi Klein of Chabad, the local JLI Instructor in Memphis. "Exploring the science of world history and looking at the actual facts paint an eye-opening picture, one that can provide real, practical hope." Beginning Wed., April 28, at 7 p.m., students who enroll in this course will embark on a journey that will explore one of the most misunderstood and maligned topics in the Jewish canon — the future redemption. This Can Happen presents audiences with an opportunity to finally appreciate what Judaism really means when it talks about a "Messiah." Considering that for many in the modern world, utopian visions of world peace and endless bounty sound like the stuff of fairy tales, this course summons the sources and the data to dispel such primitive notions and educate audiences that the Messianic era is a deep, broad climax to the entire story of the universe. The subtitle of This Can Happen, "a credible case for feeling good about the future," is indicative of an approach to the topic that is particularly timely. "Recent events have put so many



Rabbi Levi Klein

on the edge, and the longer matters drag on, the louder the voice of helplessness becomes," explained Rabbi Naftali Silberberg of JLI's Brooklyn, New York, headquarters. "If we can make — as stated in our title — a 'credible case' to be optimistic about times ahead, that is remarkably edifying." As with all of JLI's programs, This Can Happen is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a synagogue, temple, or other house of worship. People interested in participating may visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) or call Chabad at 901-754-0404 for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Memphis in conjunction with Chabad of Tennessee. [HW](#)

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# Congressman Cohen’s statement on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09) released the following statement in observance of Yom Ha’Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 8:

“On Thursday, we will again remember and mourn the six million Jews and other religious, ethnic and marginalized minorities murdered during the Holocaust. As a Tennessee State Senator, I am proud to have drafted and passed a resolution creating one of the first state Holocaust Commissions in America. The Commission has focused on education and outreach to ensure we never forget this history and therefore avoid

repeating it. The rise of antisemitism, Holocaust denialism and right-wing intolerance in recent years, here and abroad, reminds us that our remembrance is more important than ever. We must continue to speak out against hatred and bigotry in all its forms and hold in our hearts the commitment that ‘never again’ will they rise again.”

Congressman Cohen is a senior member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and has been outspoken in calling attention to the alarming rise of antisemitism in Europe. [HW](#)

# Kustoff introduces the Paving the Way for Rural Communities Act of 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thurs., April 8, 2021, Congressman David Kustoff (TN-08), along with Congressman Rick Crawford (AR-01), introduced the Paving the Way for Rural Communities Act of 2021. This legislation will make it easier to repair America’s roads and bridges by removing burdensome government regulations that are adversely targeted towards rural areas. Specifically, it exempts federally funded projects in our smaller, rural areas from the complex and costly laws such as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

“The Paving the Way for Rural Communities Act of 2021 will remove outdated and burdensome barriers that rural communities in West Tennessee face when it comes to receiving federal assistance for economic development,” said Rep. Kustoff. “It is important that we continue to support rural America by cutting red tape and ensuring these small towns have equal access to economic growth and opportunities, especially with infrastructure projects. I appreciate Representative Rick Crawford and

Senators Blackburn and Hyde-Smith for joining me in introducing this crucial bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on its quick passage.”

“The regulations of ESA, NHPA, and NEPA add enormous costs to communities as they try to provide safe and updated infrastructure to their residents while juggling the demands of the federal government. In my district, multiple projects have been almost upended, and money washed down the drain because of burdensome regulations designed without Rural America in mind. We should be empowering our rural communities to build up new infrastructure efficiently, not weighing them down with outdated red tape,” said Rep. Crawford.

“Joe Biden’s infrastructure plan will increase government control, tax hard-working Americans, and cause our federal deficit to skyrocket,” said Senator Blackburn. “While America’s roads and bridges need repair, especially in rural areas, there are countless ways to fix this without harming working families. This bill is a tax-free alternative that will strengthen our nation’s infrastructure and remove regulations that prevent rural counties from fixing their roads.” [HW](#)

# Josh Kahane notches second major victory in landmark case against U.S. Government

MEMPHIS, TN – March 30, 2021 – In a unanimous and published March 29, 2021, decision by Circuit Court Judges Alan E. Norris, Amul R. Thapar and John K. Bush, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (“Sixth Circuit”) ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs, denying the Government’s Emergency Motion for Stay. The Government’s effort to stay U.S. District Court Judge Mark Norris’ March 17, 2021, ruling striking down and declaring unenforceable the CDC’s eviction moratorium (“Halt Order”) would have allowed for the continued application and enforcement of the Halt Order during the pendency of the appeal process.

“We are very grateful to the Sixth Circuit for its clear and decisive ruling preventing the Government’s efforts to reinstate serious and unlawful infringements on constitutional standards and fundamentally protected rights,” noted Josh Kahane of Glankler Brown PLLC, who serves as lead counsel for the Tiger Lily Plaintiffs. “Once again, the Judiciary’s correct and just application of the law has effectively defended and preserved important rights of the citizenry.”

The case, Tiger Lily, LLC et al. vs. United States Department of Housing and Urban Development et al., was the first case of its kind filed anywhere in



Josh Kahane

Plaintiffs to undertake comprehensive expedited briefing in opposition. Within 48-hours, counsel for the Tiger Lily Plaintiffs filed two separate opposition responses: one on procedural grounds based upon Fed. R. App. P. 8, and one on substantive grounds addressing the reasons why the Government’s Court of Appeals Motion for Stay failed as a matter of law and should be denied.

On March 30, 2021, the Sixth Circuit panel, made up of Circuit Court Judges Norris, Thapar and Bush, issued and published their Order denying the Government’s Emergency Motion for Stay finding that the Halt Order “falls outside the scope of the statute.”

The Sixth Circuit Court adopted the Tiger Lily Plaintiffs’ argument as grounds to deny the Government’s Emergency Motion for Stay, emphasizing that the Government’s interpretation of the statute would raise serious constitutional problems, because it would violate constraints on Congress’ ability to delegate power to the executive branch. “In the absence of a clear mandate in the Act, it is unreasonable to assume that Congress intended to give the Secretary the unprecedented power of that kind. We will not make such an unreasonable assumption.”

The Sixth Circuit also concluded that the Government’s interpretation of the law violates the long-standing rule that courts should not interpret federal law to usurp traditional areas of state government authority, unless Congress has clearly indicated its intent to do so. “There is no ‘unmistakably clear’ language in the Public Health Service Act indicating Congress’s intent to invade the traditionally State-operated arena of landlord-tenant relationship.”

Perhaps most importantly, the Sixth Circuit concluded that the Government is unlikely to prevail on the merits of its underlying appeal, possibly previewing the Sixth Circuit’s conclusion when it does decide the underlying appeal on the merits. The Tiger Lily case is the only CDC eviction moratorium case in the United States with an appellate decision and, therefore, Tiger Lily serves as the leading case nationally on the constitutionality and lawfulness of the CDC’s eviction moratorium. [HW](#)

## Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals denies U.S. Government’s motion for Emergency Stay

the United States on behalf of such a broad and diverse coalition of business organizations and individuals owning and managing apartment complexes, duplexes, townhomes and single-family residences. Plaintiffs challenged the Government’s attempt to regulate the residential property market and to prohibit all evictions for the non-payment of rent through an obscure statute dealing with quarantine-related measures aimed at stopping the interstate spread of infectious diseases. The Tiger Lily Plaintiffs argued, among other things, that the Government action exceeded its authority, was arbitrary and capricious, and infringed upon constitutionally protected liberties.

Following issuance of U.S. District Court Judge Mark Norris’s March 17, 2021 Order finding and declaring the Halt Order to be ultra vires and unenforceable, the Government immediately took appeal to the Sixth Circuit and filed – in both the District Court and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals – contemporaneous Emergency Motions for Stay Pending Appeal and for Immediate Administrative Stay. Though the District Court Motion for Stay was still pending and unresolved, the Sixth Circuit took up the Government’s Motion for Stay made to the Court of Appeals and ordered counsel for the Tiger Lily

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A two-concert series opens April 17 with Almost Famous, known for their stunning live performances and high energy. On May 14, Grammy-nominated Southern Avenue takes the stage with their boundary-breaking brand of retro soul and electrifying live show. Gates open 6 p.m. music begins at 7:30 pm.

CDC and Shelby County Health Department safety measures include a mask policy consistent with health directives, reduced capacity, contactless ticketing and entry, and socially distanced pod seating.

Tickets are available via Ticketmaster.

Plough Towers: month of remembrance

By Harleen Tague

During the month of April Plough Towers residents will remember Yom HaShoah, honoring those who survived the Holocaust, those who suffered and those who fought bravely for freedom. We honor those residents who survived and honor those memories.

Residents celebrated Passover, the liberation from slavery and the “passing over” of the forces of destruction.

Residents thank KAVOD, a non-profit that helps ensure dignity for all Holocaust survivors, for its support. The Federation Display Case, which commemorates monthly Jewish holidays and is generously sponsored by Memphis Jewish Federation, is filled this month with

Plough Towers Jewish  
Holidays display case was  
funded by a grant from  
Memphis Jewish Federation

items to remember the resident Holocaust survivors lost in the past two years.

The University of Memphis School of Law with Memphis-area legal services will provide a free legal clinic through Zoom.

And a grant from Jewish Foundation of Memphis B’nai Tzedek teens, is helping to fund three special programs: Tower’s Knitting Ladies, who pay this generosity forward by knitting items for the West Clinic, Crossroads Hospice, Missions to Haiti, and various community shelters; New Resident Welcome Baskets and Creative Aging of the Mid-South, which helps support arts in our community.

April is also National Volunteer Recognition Month. The residents thank the Plough Towers Board of Directors, the Towers in-house residential volunteers, and the many volunteers that devote their time and energy to making the Towers a safe, enjoyable, welcoming environment.

While residents, now vaccinated, are beginning to remember the normalcy of walking outside, and taking trips to stores in the area, everyone must still wear masks and distance themselves from others.

For more information on Plough Towers events happenings, visit [ploughtowers.org](http://ploughtowers.org) and Plough Towers Memphis on Facebook. [HW](#)



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# Israel bows in memory of the 6 million annihilated in the Holocaust

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – A two-minute siren wailed across Israel on Thurs., April 8, as the country stood still to commemorate the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day events got underway on Wednesday evening at a state ceremony at the national memorial, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Hundreds gathered on Thursday morning in front of the museum’s Warsaw Ghetto Uprising memorial for a wreath-laying ceremony. Attendees included Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin, Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin and Supreme Court president Esther Hayut. Various events and ceremonies have been taking place on Thursday with special programming in the broadcast media, including testimonies of survivors and documentaries retelling their ordeal. Speaking at Wednesday’s event,

Rivlin called on Israelis to embrace Holocaust survivors as they struggle with their old age and the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic. “Some 900 died because of the virus; they survived the death camp and the ghettos, the detention and the journey to Israel, but they waged their final battle behind masks, frightened,” he said. “They were thirsty for contact with others, and tonight our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families.” Speaking about his upcoming departure from office as his term ends, Rivlin vowed that he would not relinquish his duties to keep Holocaust survivors in mind. “Despite my presidency coming to an end, I will never end my commitment as a human being, Jew and Israeli to remember you and to remind others about the Holocaust, and teach people the values you have instilled in all of us,” he said. This article first appeared in Israel Hayom. [HW](#)



Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

Jerusalemites stand for two minutes of silence as the siren sounds across Israel to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 8, 2021.

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credit: © Natalia Fedosenko/TASS via ZUMA Press

A man mourning during a ceremony at Auschwitz, January 27, 2020.

This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day fell on Thurs., April 8. But some people remember the Holocaust every single day of their lives, either because they were one of its victims, or, with good reason, they believe it could happen again. Others never give it a thought, and some don’t even believe it ever happened. Worse yet, some actually believe that Jews caused the Holocaust. Some depressing statistics from an article entitled, “First Ever 50-State Survey on Holocaust Knowledge of American Millennials and Gen Z,” can be found on <https://www.prnewswire.com/>

- In perhaps one of the most disturbing revelations of this survey, 11 percent of US millennial and Generation Z respondents believe Jews caused the Holocaust.
- The findings were more disturbing in New York where an astounding 19 percent of respondents felt Jews caused the Holocaust; followed by 16 percent in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Montana and 15 percent in Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Additional statistics from the survey of millennials and Generation Z:

- 63 percent of all national survey respondents do not know that six million Jews were murdered.
- Ten states with the highest Holocaust knowledge scores: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Maine, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Iowa, and Montana.
- Ten states with the lowest Holocaust knowledge scores: Alaska, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

How do you explain the systematic murder of over 6 million men, women, and children, just because they were Jews? Between 1941 to 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators committed these unspeakable atrocities on a scale that is impossible to imagine. No words can capture the horror, so WhoWhatWhy.org offers a small collection of high-quality videos, which give you a glimpse, in a way that words cannot, of what the Holocaust was like. Links to the videos can be found at <https://whowhatwhy.org/2021/04/08/holocaust-remembrance-day> [HW](#)

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The Biden administration is breaking the law by restoring Palestinian aid

By Mark Goldfeder

(JNS) – April 7, 2021 The Biden administration has quietly notified Congress that it intends to distribute \$125 million in aid to the Palestinians, reportedly to “regain their ‘trust and goodwill’ after the Trump-era cuts.” The assistance package is set to take effect on April 10. That decision is shameful, illegal and immoral, and Congress should not let it happen. It is shameful to blame the Palestinians’ loss of aid on former President Donald Trump. It was Congress, not Trump, who set the conditions for Palestinian aid. And it was the Palestinians, not Trump, that violated those terms with impunity. Hiding behind fake partisan politics to call what happened “Trump-era cuts” is nothing more than revisionist history. It is illegal for the Biden administration to restore that aid because every year since 2014 the United States has made clear in annual appropriation legislation—adopted by a massive bipartisan majority each time—that if the Palestinian Authority were to initiate an investigation by the International Criminal Court, and/or as long as they were actively supporting such an investigation, America would cut

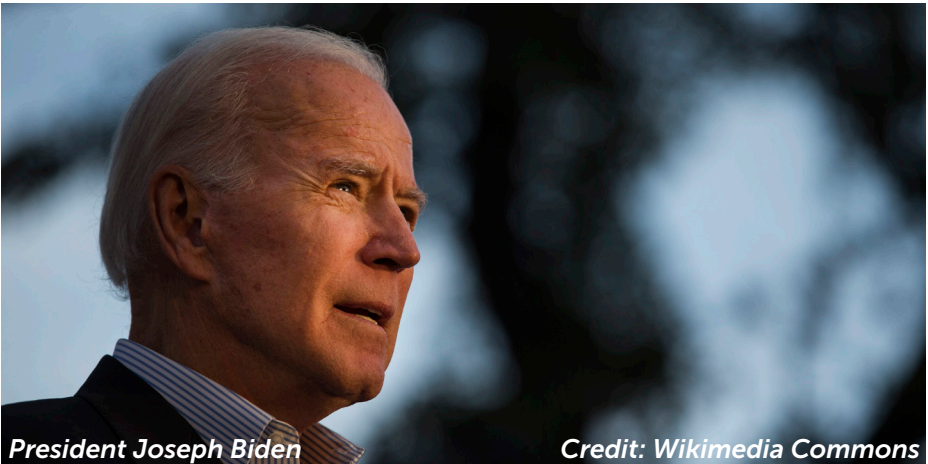
its funding. This requirement was reaffirmed again very recently, by a strong bipartisan majority, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Despite these clear and repeated warnings, the P.A. did initiate and does continue to openly and officially support just such an investigation. By law, it must be held to account for the willful disrespect for and disregard of American laws, values and interests. Anything else reflects the soft bigotry of low expectations. Finally, restoring aid is immoral because the Biden administration knows exactly what the P.A. does with its international aid money. In a recent non-public report to Congress, the administration confirmed that the P.A. has continued to use that money to pay stipends through its official Martyr’s Fund to murderous terrorists and their families. The P.A. spent at least \$151 million in 2019 on its “pay-for-slay” program and at least \$155 million in 2020. The fact that this program is codified in P.A. law—including that deadlier attacks get more money which incentivizes bloodshed—is beyond sickening. Congress was rightfully sickened and in 2018 passed an overwhelmingly bipartisan law called the Taylor Force Act, which prohibits the U.S.

Biden administration resumes payments to UN group that gives Palestinians aid, despite Israel’s objections

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON(JTA)—April 7, 2021, The Biden administration resumed U.S. funding for UNRWA, the U.N. agency that administers to Palestinian refugees and their descendants, overturning Trump administration policy and drawing a rebuke from Israel’s government. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced \$235 million in aid for the Palestinians in a statement Wednesday, including \$150 million for UNRWA, \$75 million in humanitarian assistance, and \$10 million for peace-building programs. The money is in addition to \$15 million Blinken announced last month that would go to coronavirus relief, and to \$40 million that will go to security training for Palestinian police. The Associated Press reported that the Biden administration notified Congress on Monday of the money for security training. “U.S. foreign assistance for the Palestinian people serves important U.S. interests and values,” Blinken said in the statement about the funding for UNRWA and humanitarian assistance. “It provides critical relief to those in great need, fosters economic development, and supports Israeli-Palestinian understanding, security coordination and stability. It also aligns with the values and interests of our allies and partners.”

Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to Washington, immediately posted on social media a video saying Israel opposed the re-funding of UNRWA. He cited reports that UNRWA continues to allow anti-Semitic textbooks in the schools it administers and the claim that UNRWA’s definition of a Palestinian refugee is too broad, encompassing descendants of refugees. “We believe that this U.N. agency for so-called ‘refugees’ should not exist in its current format,” Erdan said. “UNRWA schools regularly use materials that incite against Israel and the twisted definition used by the agency to determine who is a ‘refugee’ only perpetuates the conflict.” The breadth of the UNRWA definition of a refugee was the reason President Donald Trump cut funding to UNRWA. Biden campaigned on renewing the funding. The \$75 million in humanitarian assistance cited in Blinken’s statement must according to U.S. law not go to the Palestinian Authority as long as it continues to pay families of Palestinians who have killed Israelis or Americans. A workaround is for the funding to go to nongovernmental groups that administer assistance. “All assistance will be provided consistent with U.S. law,” Blinken’s statement said. **HW**



President Joseph Biden Credit: Wikimedia Commons

government from resuming Palestinian aid until these payments to terrorists are stopped. Taylor Force was a U.S. Military Academy graduate and veteran of both Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2016, he went on a graduate school trip to Tel Aviv, where he was stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist. The P.A. labeled his killer a “heroic martyr,” and the murderer’s family began to receive their regular payments alongside all the other glorified killers. It is a disgrace to Taylor Force’s memory—and a grave disrespect to the memories of all those who have been killed—to try to curry favor with a governmental authority that would and actually does, certifiably and admittedly, pay to have us murdered. The Biden administration will likely try to skirt the law by supplying the aid to civic groups instead of the P.A. directly, but that is not an answer for two reasons. First, the law prohibits any funding that directly benefits the P.A., and there is no question that this is the in-

tention. Second, according to a recent report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, between 2015 and 2019 the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is the agency in charge of distributing this funding, did not ensure that the sub-awards from its allocations were not going to terrorists. That is why more than a dozen organizations and two-dozen-plus members of Congress sent letters to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week, urging them not to let the American people down by rewarding those who disrespect our terms and devalue our very lives. It is not too late to change course. Congress should make clear that the Palestinians need to regain our trust and goodwill before we send them financial support. At the very least, we must be absolutely sure that they will not use that very aid to glorify and pay the murderer of an innocent American soldier. Dr. Mark Goldfeder is the director of the National Jewish Advocacy Center. **HW**

Teachers union president draws criticism for saying Jews ‘part of ownership class’

(JNS) The president of a national teachers’ union said American Jews are part of an “ownership class” in the United States who want to take opportunities away from others. Randi Weingarten, longtime president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)—the second-largest teachers’ union in the country—made the remark during an interview with JTA published on April 1. When asked about parents who have been criticizing teachers who are resistant to resuming in-person learning in schools due to possible exposure to COVID-19, Weingarten, who is Jewish and lives in New York City, targeted American Jewish critics in particular. “American Jews are now part of the ownership class,” she said. “Jews were immigrants from somewhere else. And they needed the right to have public education. And they needed power to have enough income and wealth for

their families that they could put their kids through college and their kids could do better than they have done.” “What I hear when I hear that question is that those who are in the ownership class now want to take that ladder of opportunity away from those who do not have it,” she added. StandWithUs slammed Weingarten for her offensive comments. “We work with many Jewish students and parents in Los Angeles, and are extremely disappointed by Randi Weingarten’s inaccurate and dangerous generalizations about our community,” said Roz Rothstein, co-founder and CEO of StandWithUs. “Her comments are shockingly out of touch with the actual experiences of countless Jewish families before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, give undue legitimacy to anti-Semitic stereotypes, and they do nothing to help bring people in Los Angeles together during this difficult time.” **HW**

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# The secret not-so-Jewish history of gefilte fish

By Rachel Ringler

April 7, 2021 - This article originally appeared on The Nosh, 70 Faces Media's Jewish food site.

Some see gefilte fish as a delicacy, others as something too disgusting to contemplate. Either way, it would probably appear on most people's short list of classic Ashkenazi foods. For good reason — it's been part of the Eastern European Jewish diet for hundreds of years.

The funny thing is that gefilte fish didn't start out as a Jewish food. The first mention of gefuelten hechden (stuffed pike) comes from a 700-year-old, non-Jewish, German cookbook in which poached and mashed fish was flavored with herbs and seeds, stuffed back into the skin and roasted. It was a popular dish for Catholics during Lent, when eating meat was forbidden.

By the Middle Ages, that Catholic dish had migrated into the Jewish kitchen under the moniker gefilte (stuffed) fish. The rabbis considered fish to be the perfect food to kick off a Sabbath or holiday meal, since fish symbolize the coming of the Messiah and fertility. Plus, for the Jewish communities in Germany and Eastern Europe, it was easy to gain access to the fresh, sweet fish that is ground to make the dish. They were surrounded by well-stocked rivers, streams and lakes.

Gefilte fish even satisfied some religious commandments. It is prohibited to light a fire and begin cooking on the Sabbath and most holidays. Gefilte fish, happily, can be made in advance of the Sabbath day, chilled and eaten cold. There is also an injunction against picking bones from flesh on the Sabbath, as one might do when eating fish. With gefilte fish, you get the fish without the bones.

The downside of gefilte fish is that it takes a lot of time to prepare. That pain, though, is offset with economic gain: You need a relatively small amount of fish to feed many. Before the ground fish is cooked, it is mixed with seasonings, egg and either bread or matzah meal for binding and stretching a little further. Poor families might ask the fishmonger for just the fish head, skin and bones. The skin would be stuffed with bread and other fillers, while the bones and head would flavor the broth.

Given how time consuming it was to grind the fish and return it to the skin, a new kind of stuffed fish eventually emerged — one that wasn't stuffed at all. The name remained; the method changed. Fish was shaped into patties and poached in a seasoned fish broth.

Over time, gefilte fish became synonymous with the shtetl and with Sabbath and holiday meals. There were



many permutations to the dish, some of which signaled your ancestry. German Jews made it from pike. Polish Jews used carp and/or whitefish. British Jews used saltwater fish like cod or haddock. Jews from southern Poland and northern Ukraine served a sweetened fish, since sugar beets were plentiful there. Lithuanian gefilte fish was heavy on the pepper. The Jews of Russia and Belarus put beets in their poaching liquid for a pink-tinged fish and broth.

As the Eastern European Jews left their shtetls, they brought their cuisine with them. Many of us have heard stories of fresh carp swimming in bathtubs on Manhattan's Lower East Side. They were purchased from the fishmonger early in the week and left to frolic in the tub before their home sacrifice. Thursday's fresh carp became Friday night's first course. And it heralded the start of the Passover seder, too.

Over time, gefilte fish lost some of its appeal. Did you really want a carp in your bathtub waiting for its end? Did you really want your home reeking of the malodorous scent of fish? For some, preparing it was a triumph of old school cuisine. Others were happy to move on.

And that's when some enterprising Jewish businessmen moved in to fill the gefilte fish void.

Shortly before the Second World War, Sidney Leibner, the son of a fish store owner, began selling ready-made gefilte fish under the name Mother's Fish Products — first canned, and later in glass bottles. Mother's was joined by Manischewitz, Mrs. Adler's, Rokeach and others. Old World met New in mass-produced jars of gefilte fish.

The bottled stuff was just palatable, but in the late 1970s, consumers were offered the chance to make their own fresh gefilte fish without the fuss, muss and odor: Frozen loaves of ready-made gefilte fish swam in to save the day. All you had to do was boil water with carrots, onions and celery, then pop in the frozen loaf.

As many of us have begun to look back on our roots, the food of the shtetl has made a comeback in recent years. Millennials Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern are leading the way with "their mission to reimagine Eastern European cuisine." Their cookbook, "The Gefilte Manifesto," is filled with Old World recipes including herbed gefilte fish, baked terrines of fish and poached gefilte "quenelles," as well as the original deal: Old World Stuffed Gefilte Fish.

As author Stephen King wrote, "Sooner or later, everything old is new again." As it is with life, so it is with gefilte fish. [HW](#)



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## Helen Mirren to play Golda Meir in upcoming film 'Golda'



Golda Meir in France in 1965. Credit: Gamma-Keystone/Getty Images

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — It's a Meir moment. Academy Award winner Helen Mirren will portray Golda Meir, Israel's only female prime minister, in an upcoming biopic set during the Yom Kippur War. Production on "Golda" will begin later this year, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The news follows the announcement last month of another star-powered production on Meir, a series titled "Lioness" led by Israeli actress Shira Haas of "Unorthodox" fame.

While "Lioness" will follow Meir from "her birth in Kiev to her American

upbringing in Milwaukee, her role in the formation of Israel and her rise to become the new nation's first and only female prime minister," according to a report in Deadline, "Golda" will focus on the turbulent Yom Kippur War period.

Along with the rest of Israel, Meir and her all-male cabinet were taken by surprise by the attack on the eve of the holiday in 1973 by Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian forces. The ensuing bloody conflict — chronicled in the recent acclaimed Israeli production "Valley of Tears" on HBO Max — shattered the nation's growing sense of confidence at the time in an embattled region.

"Golda" will be directed by Israeli filmmaker Guy Nattiv, who won the 2018 Academy Award for best short for "Skin," a film involving neo-Nazis that he later made into a feature.

"As someone who was born during the Yom Kippur War, I am honored to tell this fascinating story about the first and only woman to ever lead Israel," Nattiv said in a statement. "Nicholas Martin's brilliant script dives into Golda's final chapter as the country faces a deadly surprise attack during the holiest day of the year, a core of delusional generals undermining Golda's judgment.

He added: "I could not be more excited to work with the legendary Miss Mirren to bring this epic, emotional and complex story to life." [HW](#)



# Movie studio, hotel and mixed-use entertainment complex opening in the Mid-South

MVP3 Entertainment Group, LLC, an entity formed in Memphis that focuses on purpose-driven films, music and television productions, while giving back to nonprofits, recently partnered with ATWEC Technologies, Inc., (ATWT on the OTC Markets) to start an entertainment mecca in the Mid-South.

ATWEC Technologies sells child safety solutions to schools and day care centers worldwide. AT-WEC and MVP3 partnered to create MVP3 Studios & Partners, LLC, the umbrella for a multi-use center that will have six production sound stages, music recording studios, television network, retail, museum, art gallery, restaurants, office space rental, indoor sports complex and family entertainment.

This venture will also include hospitality that features a 150-room hotel, developed by The Worsham Hotel Group (based in Atlanta), which develops limited and full-service hotels, boutique inns and private-owned residences.

“We have formed the ultimate entertainment powerhouse with three brands. All different cultures, businesses with the same mission and the like-minded spirit to make a difference to help Memphis and the surrounding cities get back on their feet economically within the entertainment industry. We want to be the example that this world needs to come together. My motto is, ‘You got sticks, I got a match and together we can make a fire,’” said Marie Pizano, CEO/Founder of MVP3 Entertainment Group.

This trifecta entertainment powerhouse will be the home of MVP3 Studios, ATWEC Center and a hotel (name/brand TBD with the Worsham Hotel Group), and will include approximately six movie theaters that will show blockbuster hits and new theater releases from MVP3 Studios.

Darnell Stitts of ATWEC Technologies had a vision that mirrored Pizano’s. “As fate would have it, after

engaging in conversations and exchanging some of the same visions for the Majestic Complex, we decided to form an alliance to accomplish both our goals,” Stitts said. “Marie is a major piece to the puzzle that is needed to ignite the fire that we both share. Together, we can ignite the sticks and keep the fire lit for all to enjoy its heat.”

MVP3 Studios & Partners has purchased the property owned by Michael Lightman Realty Company, The Majestic Theater, an 80,000-sq.-ft. building, and the 20 acres of land that it resides on at 7051 Malco Crossing, at the corner of Riverdale Rd. and Malco Crossing in Memphis.

“We have our own slate of films, plus we’re partnering with other production companies that share our vision for content. We have also partnered with film distribution companies and have a structured business plan that will work on bringing the city together, while creating multiple revue streams to encourage economic growth, tourism and redefine what this entertainment industry needs to bring back its integrity in media and music. Partnering with ATWEC Technologies, and its innovations, we will be able to sanitize the air with their KV-X Sterilization System for the movie studio, hotel and family center,” added Pizano.

Phase 1 is scheduled to open July 1, 2021, with six movie theaters, dining, movie refreshments, catering, events and a rental theater for hosting corporate events, presentations, singer/song-writer nights and more.

Phase 2 will open in late fall with retail gift shops, music recording studios, TV network and office rental space. Phase 3 is the 150-room hotel, and Phase 4 will showcase new technology, sports complex and family center with plans for an indoor theme park.

For more information about the MVP3 Studios visit MVP3studios.com [HW](#)

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas Eugene Gadberry

Devoted husband, father, son and friend, Thomas Eugene Gadberry, 51, of Germantown, Tenn., passed away unexpectedly on April 6, 2021.

Tom was an avid sports fan, and at an early age, developed a love of trivia and history, which guided him to a career in education. He spent 12 years in the Shelby County school system as a teacher, administrator and coach.

Tom was born in Sikeston, Mo. He attended Sikeston High School, University of Mississippi and the University of Memphis where he obtained a master’s degree in education.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Sheri Greenberg Gadberry, his daughter, Isabella Ruth Gadberry of Germantown, Tenn., and his parents, Brenda Wilson of Sikeston, Mo.



and Gene Gadberry, of Des Arc, Mo.

A private memorial service was held on April 7, 2021, at Beth Sholom Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to Beth Sholom Synagogue, the Memphis Jewish Federation or a charity of your choice.

### Marlene Jablin Rudner

Marlene Jablin Rudner, 78, ascended into heaven on April 1, 2021. She was one of the sweetest, most loving and caring women who ever walked the earth. Devoting her life to nurturing her family, she was very proud of her two sons, her beautiful daughter, and her grandson. A whiz at mahjong, she always placed in the finals in the many tournaments she enjoyed. After her husband, Lawrence, retired, she assisted him as he became one of the most sought-after guest lecturers on the most luxurious cruise lines in the world. Correcting, editing and working the extremely complex graphics during his lectures on their itineraries, she played a major role in the lectures’ success. The inseparable pair had the good fortune to be able to cruise all over the world. Marlene enjoyed this way of life for 19 years, visiting every continent, sea and ocean on the planet. She was especially proud of transiting through the Panama Canal 76 times and rounding the horn 19 times. She was predeceased by her par-



ents, Michael and Anne Jablin, and her daughter, Kayla. Marlene is survived by her husband, Lawrence, her sons, Brian and Jason, brother Herb Jablin of Palm Beach Fla., niece Merle Jablin Obrien of Aspen, Colo.; and nephew Burton Jablin of Nashville, Tenn., and all those friends for whom she was always present. Rest in Peace, beloved Marlene.

If you wish to make a donation to Marlene’s memory, please make it to the charity of your choice.

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The Chumash, our survival manual dazzling though it may be, has some strange streaks of quirkiness whose meaning is unclear without the

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Brotherly Love  
Love is oft smothered by biblical brothers

assistance of a roomful of scholars. If Raschi was momentarily revived and sat beside me, my first question would be: “What is this thing about brothers – why such perpetual and persistent enmity, beginning in the dawn of time with Cain and Abel?” Cain, of course, is the inventor of fratricide. A mysterious story. Why does the Lord protect the hotheaded brother and stamp Cain with a special stamp that says, “Don’t kill this man”. And swears His own vengeance seven-fold on the gangster brother. Our first biblical encounter with brotherhood. I can see Schwarzenegger as Cain when they make the movie. And Woody Allen as Abel. Now, consider Joseph and his siblings who sell him like a used car. And it must have been a premature post-Chanukah sale day because all they got was 20 shekels. A healthy, young slave and all they get is 20 shekels? Shows you how little they valued him and how desperate they were to get rid of him. My biblical consultant (no not Raschi – but a friend at the office) tells me that’s a 50% discount off the then current price. But how about the most prominent

set of brothers in Torah – Jacob and Esau. Jacob, the master manipulator; Esau, a blue-collar hunter. As we all know, Jacob, in an elaborate plot that would win an Oscar, steals Esau’s blessing. Naturally, Esau is not happy about this. He blusters and asks the duped papa, “Have you only one blessing?” Isaac mumbles a second blessing, which sounds more like a punishment than a benediction: “By your sword you shall live and you shall serve your brother.” He adds a slender, hopeful note that sooner or later he will break free. Esau runs off and marries the daughter of Ishmael. Yes, the same Ishmael who Sarah kicked out of her cozy tent into the wilderness – along with his mama, Hagar – bringing to mind another set of brothers, Isaac and Ishmael, who never loved each other. (Incidentally, Ishmael was the father of Midian. So when Moses married Zipporah the Midianite he was marrying into the Abrahamic clan.) Esau, who sounds like a shotgun-toting redneck, mumbles just wait till the old man dies; I’ll put a spear into Jacob, who stole my legacy. Our Book goes on to tell us that Jacob has a lifelong fear of Esau. But when they meet years later Esau, the victimized Esau, “fell on his neck and kissed him”. Jacob has all kinds of gifts for his brother – to appease his supposed anger, which seems to have disappeared with time. But the redneck brother refuses them. He’s got plenty, he tells Jacob. The brothers reconcile. And maybe that’s the

lesson the Torah conveys. Reconciliation, forgiveness is G-d-like. Is He not a G-d of mercy and forgiveness? We should likewise walk in His ways. And oddly enough, if you question the typical Torah-reading Jew as to the behavior of Esau, you get a negative report. I’m a scribbler, not a scholar, but I believe the blackened image of Esau comes from the behavior of his descendants, the Edomites, who blocked our passage through their land as we wandered in the wilderness, seeking a home in Canaan. And then there’s that king of dysfunctional families – “the sweet singer of Israel” – David Hamelech. The case brought by the prosecution is overwhelmingly simple. Ammon, one of David’s sons, forces his sister, Tamar, who tells her other brother, Absalom – “for Absalom hated Ammon because he had forced his sister Tamar.” And who knows what lust bubbled in the heart of Absalom, who you recall later waged war against his father, David. Of all the brothers in Torah, none equals the devotion and loyalty of Moses and Aaron—two brothers who led the fleeing slaves through the perilous land of Canaan. Moses was clearly the conductor of this movement, with Aaron playing second fiddle. Hostility and jealousy are absent except for one brief episode where Aaron objects to Moses’s selection of an Ethiopian wife. He also laments the fact that the Almighty speaks directly to Moses, but not to him. G-d intervenes and quickly settles the feud. He should do the same for all us brothers. The syndicated humor of ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the US, on National Public Radio, and numerous web sites. [HW](#)



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# Local Reads

## The Jewish World of Elvis Presley

by Roselle Kline Chartock

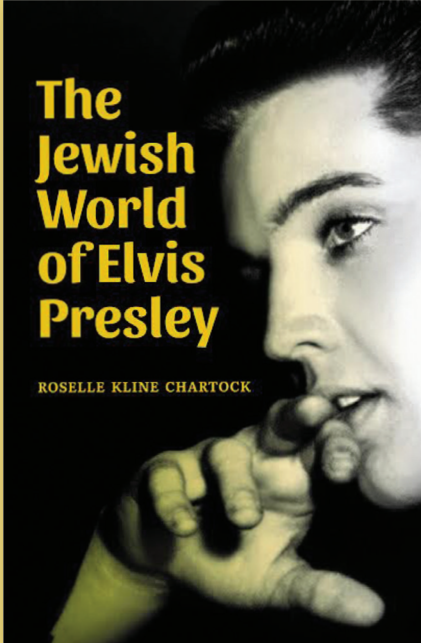
*Editor’s note: While at the time of print, I have not finished “The Jewish World of Elvis Presley,” I have to admit, there are stories about Jewish Memphis that are new to me, even after all of these years reporting and writing about the Memphis Jewish community. Thank you Roselle for sharing.*

In her new book, *The Jewish World of Elvis Presley*, Roselle Kline Chartock reveals a little-known side of this rock ‘n’ roll icon, in particular, Presley’s deep affinity to Jews as well as evidence of his own Jewish heritage. Chartock notes that, “At first glance these two words, Elvis and Jews, may not seem to go together,” referring to Elvis’ background growing up in a poor fundamentalist Christian family in the Deep South, an area sometimes known for its anti-Semitism. Yet, despite this background, Chartock notes, Elvis Presley developed many personal relationships with the Jews he befriended in Memphis – including merchants and members of his inner circle, the Memphis Mafia – and those he met in the music and movie industries. In this vivid description of Elvis Presley’s Jewish world – that also reflects his

humanitarian and philosophical interests – Roselle Chartock introduces voices and stories that few Elvis fans and the general public have heard before. In just one example, in his foreword for the book, Hal Lansky describes how his father, Bernard, whose Jewish roots extend back to Eastern Europe, “first saw a shy young Elvis staring at the clothes in the window of Lansky Brothers, my father’s clothing store on Beale Street, and invited him in.” That encounter started a lifelong relationship between Elvis and the Lanskys. Hal tells the rest of that heart-warming story and several more. In his review of Chartock’s book, Lansky writes, “I have read many articles and plenty of books about Elvis. However, none of them kept me wanting to read and read until I finished the book.” According to Chartock, whenever she would tell people about El-

vis’ Jewish heritage and his Jewish friends, as well as his interest in the Jewish religion, they’d say that they “had no idea.” While there are a few books and articles about Presley that

include brief references to Elvis and Jews, this volume is the first to bring together in one place the many parts of Elvis Presley’s Jewish world. Available on Amazon. [HW](#)



A new book by  
**Roselle Kline Chartock**

Now available on  
Amazon.com

[roselle.chartock@gmail.com](mailto:roselle.chartock@gmail.com)



Prince Philip, center, enjoys a lighthearted moment with the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment in Toronto, Canada on 27 April, 2013. Credit: Jamie McCaffrey

## Prince Philip, who opposed Nazis and was first British royal to visit Israel, dies at 99

By Cnaan Liphshiz,  
Ron Kampeas

(JTA) — Prince Philip, perhaps the closest member of the British royal family to Jews and Jewish causes, has died at 99. Buckingham Palace announced his death on Friday. Philip, who had been married to Queen Elizabeth II for 74 years, since five years before she ascended to the throne, had been in declining health for some time. Also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, Philip’s support for Jewish and pro-Israel causes ran deep. His mother, Princess Alice of Greece, sheltered a Jewish family during the Holocaust and is recognized as one of fewer than 30,000 “righteous among the nations” by Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum. Philip’s four sisters each married German nobles, at least three of whom became Nazis. But Philip, educated in Britain, joined the allied war effort. As an adult, he showed little patience for Nazi collaborators; he was instrumental in making a pariah of his wife’s uncle Edward, who after abdicating the throne dallied with Nazi Germany. Philip over the years spoke multiple

times at Jewish and pro-Israel events. Philip, who had a passion for environmental preservation, spoke multiple times at Jewish National Fund events and lent his royal sponsorship to other Jewish events. He came under attack in the 1960s for speaking to pro-Israel groups, and, famously impervious to criticism, ignored the attacks. In 1994, Philip was the first British royal to visit Israel, when he accepted Yad Vashem’s recognition of his mother and visited her burial site at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. At Yad Vashem, Philip planted a maple tree in memory of his mother, who was married to Prince Andrew of Greece and helped shelter three members of the family of a late Greek-Jewish politician in her palace in Athens. The Gestapo was suspicious of Alice, even questioning her, but the princess, who was deaf, pretended not to understand their questions. Alice later became a nun. “The Holocaust was the most horrific event in all Jewish history, and it will remain in the memory of all fu-

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ture generations,” Philip said at the time. “It is, therefore, a very generous gesture that also remembered here are the many millions of non-Jews, like my mother, who shared in your pain and anguish and did what they could in small ways to alleviate the horror.” The 1994 visit broke with what was then an unofficial but nonetheless binding ban on royals traveling to Israel, which had been enforced following violence by Zionist fighters against British targets in the years that predated the establishment of the State of Israel in what had been before 1948 the British Mandate over Palestine. For all its trappings, Philip’s 1994 visit was in a personal capacity. The Royal House ended its policy on official visits to Israel in 2018, when Prince William, Prince Philip’s grandson, visited Israel,

the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. Philip’s retirement from public life in 2017 triggered an outpouring of plaudits for a life well-lived from Jewish groups and leaders. Those groups expressed grief upon his death Friday. Philip’s life “was spent in public service, from his active duty in the Navy during World War II to the tens of thousands of engagements which he carried out over six and a half decades of royal duties,” the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Marie van der Zyl, wrote in a statement. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin joined dozens of other heads of state who expressed their sympathies with the Royal House. Rivlin used the traditional Jewish phrase when speaking about a deceased person, ending his tweet about Philip with “May his memory be a blessing.” [HW](#)





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