

THE JEWISH WORLD

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for hostages
in Wash. Park**

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The DNC's platform problem

By Rabbi YAAKOV MENKEN

JNS

At this writing, businesses in downtown Chicago have been boarding up their windows in preparation for “mostly peaceful” protests during the Democratic National Convention. The purpose of these protests is ostensibly apolitical, given that the protesters intend to oppose the current position of both major American political parties and the Robert Kennedy Jr. campaign: supporting Israel in its battle against a genocidal, anti-Semitic adversary. The question, though, is whether that will remain the case after the convention—and whether pro-civilization Democrats, not to mention the DNC's new list of sponsors, will cry foul.

Review

Past conventions have seen a slow but steady decline in support for Israel in the party platform, ever since Barack Obama became the party's nominee. The 2000 and 2004 platforms declared that Jerusalem “should remain an undivided city” as the capital of Israel; the 2008 version, however, said that although it “is and will remain the capital of Israel,” how it is governed should be “a matter for final status negotiations.”

The 2008 platform was the first to separate “Palestinians” from “Arab leaders.” Critically, it removed the “Palestinian” issue from the context of peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, when in reality it was the hostility of the Arab League that created the “Israel-Palestinian conflict.” Only in the most current draft platform is there a new reference to “historic normalization” between Israel and Arab states; this is due to the successful Abraham Accords, signed just a month after the 2020 platform emerged.

Disappearing Positions

In both 2004 and 2008, the party expected Palestinian refugees to find permanent homes in a Palestinian state, rather than Israel, and dismissed the notion that Israel might return to the 1949 armistice line as “unrealistic.” These positions disappeared in 2012 in a platform that explicitly referred to Palestinians as a “people” distinct from Jordanian and other Arabs—a claim that Palestinian Authority head Mahmoud Abbas himself would later reject. Despite Abbas's own words, the 2016 version went even further, claiming that “Palestinians” needed an independent state for their “dignity.” Twice. That

year was also the first time the platform declared Jerusalem a “matter for final status negotiations,” saying that it “should remain the capital of Israel” only after making this point.

Palestinian Rights...

This did not satisfy the “activists.” Delegates in 2016 flew the Palestinian flag on the convention floor while holding up signs in support of “Palestinian rights;” some said that Palestinian flags outnumbered the American ones. Others burned the Israeli flag outside while calling for violence against Israelis by chanting, “Long live the intifada.”

Perhaps not coincidentally, the 2020 platform was worse, kowtowing to the anti-Semitic wing of the party. For the first time since 2000, the platform condemned “unilateral actions” but the example given was “annexation” by Israel, rather than a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. The platform maintained previous opposition to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) as “unfairly” singling out and delegitimizing Israel, yet appended support for “the Constitutional right of our citizens to free speech” as if that were somehow at risk. Since the 2020 convention was held entirely

virtually at the height of the COVID pandemic, there was no way to measure the strength of opposition outside in the streets.

Improvement In Draft?

Against this backdrop, the newest draft platform might seem a welcome reversal. “The United States strongly supports Israel in the fight against Hamas,” it says, along with “the United States wants to see Hamas defeated.” It touts “a strong coalition to counter and deter Iran,” “stand[s] against incitement and terror,” and seeks a Lebanon “free from the grip of Iran-backed Hezbollah.” It retains support for Israel's “qualitative military edge,” opposition to BDS—albeit with that “free speech” proviso—and says that Jerusalem “should remain the capital of Israel,” though with that proviso that its governance “is a matter for final status negotiations.”

Blaming The Jews?

To call this platform an improvement, however, would be myopic. None of the foregoing positions are actually new, nor do they represent a turn back towards fairness to Israel. Instead, the platform repeatedly focuses upon the needs of the “Palestinian people,” as if “Palestinian” were a descriptor uniquely applied to Arabs. Never mind that this is anti-Semitic historical revisionism, erasing 2000 years during which, to the contrary, the only people identified as “Palestinian” were Jews.

These new, exclusively non-Jewish “Palestinians” also warrant the platform's only mention of “food insecurity,” even though the World Food Program USA lists Israel, its territories and Gaza nowhere among the “10 Countries Suffering the Most From Hunger,” and food insecurity affects tens of millions of Americans even today. It is difficult to explain this without referencing humanity's long history of inappropriate finger-pointing at Jews.

The platform even disparages former president and current candidate Donald Trump for “refus[ing] to endorse the political aspirations of the Palestinian people,” as if Jordan never existed or Abbas never declared their people to be one and the same. Caring for “humanitarian suffering” in Gaza is appropriate in context, but when the DNC expresses support for a populace distinguished by support for anti-Semitic massacres to the exclusion of Ebola patients in the Congo, it's appropriate to wonder what their true priorities are.

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CORRECTION

In the article Mazel Tov Leila Sontz Lipman in our Aug. 1 issue a grandchild's name was inadvertently left out. Granddaughter Alison of Manhattan joins with the family in celebrating her grandmother's recent 100th birthday.

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Biden at DNC pledges to continue working for a Gaza ceasefire and return of the hostages

Outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden said on Monday, Aug. 19, in a keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago that anti-Israel protesters “have a point.”

Innocence On Both Sides?

“Those protesters out on the street. They have a point. A lot of innocent people are being killed on both sides,” the 81-year-old told the United Center crowd on the first night of the convention after being introduced by First Lady Jill Biden and their daughter, Ashley Biden.

Four demonstrators were arrested after several dozen anti-Israel protesters breached an outer fence line on the north side of the indoor arena in the city’s Near West Side on Monday evening, *ABC 7 Chicago* reported. The protesters attempted to disrupt Biden’s speech but were pushed back by Chicago police in riot gear, backed by U.S. Capitol police.

“Officers put on gas masks as some protesters tried to bring down a second fence set up in front of police,” according to the *Associated Press*.

“At no point was the inner perimeter breached,” the Chicago Police stated. “There was no threat to any protectees.”

Although anti-Israel organizers had said they expected some 20,000 protesters to descend on the Windy City for the DNC, only a few thousand seemed to have shown up on Monday, the *AP* reported, and reporters covering the event shared photos of fields of unclaimed anti-Semitic signs.

Footage and images circulated on social media purporting to show protesters openly supporting Hamas, a U.S.-designated terror organization. Protesters also accused Biden and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is running for president, of supporting genocide, the *AP* reported.

Biden Pledges Ceasefire Efforts

At least one protester was recorded waving a Hezbollah flag, according to Israel’s *Channel 12*.

Inside the United Center during Biden’s speech, audience members unfurled a banner reading: “Stop arming Israel.” A man is seen trying to rip it out of their hands. After the audience saw the banner, they began chanting, “We love Joe.”

“We’ll keep working to bring hostages home and end the war in Gaza and bring peace and security to the Middle East. As you know, I wrote a peace treaty for Gaza. A few days ago I put forward a proposal that brought us closer to doing that than we’ve done since Oct. 7,” Biden said.

“We’re working around the clock—my secretary of state—to prevent a wider war and reunite hostages with their families and surge humanitarian health and food assistance into Gaza now, to end the civilian suffering of the Palestinian people and finally deliver a ceasefire and end this war,” the president continued.

Blinkin Urges Hamas

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday urged the Hamas terror group to accept the latest proposal for a ceasefire-for-hostages deal with Israel, following meetings with senior officials in Jerusalem.

“In a very constructive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu today, he

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President Joe Biden delivers remarks at 2022 DNC Summer meeting National Harbor, Md.

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Jews on campus should start making ‘good trouble’

By **BENJAMIN KERSTEIN**

JNS

According to the *New York Post*, American Jews are beginning to respond to systemic anti-Semitism in higher education by “voting with their feet.” The *Post* notes that, for the first time, no graduate of the Jewish high school Ramaz on Manhattan’s Upper East Side will be attending Columbia University’s liberal arts college this year

Jews Opt Out

The reason is, unquestionably, anti-Semitism. Ramaz told the *Post* that it has warned students about the extent of anti-Semitism on various campuses and Rory Lancman—an activist, academic, former politician and Columbia graduate—is quoted saying: “Jewish families are voting with their feet and choosing colleges and universities that take anti-Semitism seriously. I would not recommend my daughters to apply to Columbia or other colleges that aren’t committed to protect them as Jews.”

College Activities

On a certain level, this informal boycott is entirely understandable. Indeed, Columbia may be the most institutionally anti-Semitic major institution in the United States. It goes so far as to host a “Center for Palestine Studies” that is, essentially, a shrine to Edward Said, an

alleged scholar who dedicated his entire intellectual life to demonizing Israel and its supporters.

By the end of his life, Said was openly calling for Israel’s dissolution as a Jewish state and, in a stunning (and stunningly racist) act of cultural appropriation, declared that he was “the last Jewish intellectual.”

Obviously, such behavior would never have been tolerated had it been directed at any other minority, but Columbia has long since made clear that its concerns on this score are decidedly conditional. How else, one wonders, could Columbia have transformed a figure as ugly as Said into the object of something very like an idolatrous cult?

No Surprise

It should have been no surprise, then, that when mobs of genocidal racists took over the Columbia campus earlier this year and harassed, intimidated and assaulted Jews, the university leadership refused to take early and decisive action. Instead, it threw its Jewish students to the wolves. The mobs were only ejected at the end of the semester after they smashed a campus building to pieces.

Recently, Columbia president Minouche Shafik resigned, but there is little doubt that, as soon as the new school year begins, anti-Semitism purveyor’s conquest and colonization of the univer-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOWHEREMAN 86.

The statue *Alma Mater* by **DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH** (1903) in front of *Low Memorial library* on the campus of Columbia University.

sity will resume. There is, after all, no one willing to stop it.

Given this, it is not surprising that Jewish students have decided not to waste their talents and money on Columbia University. Indeed, it would have been surprising if they even considered doing so.

After all, no student should willingly allow constant abuse at a school they are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to attend. In fact, no one is obliged to stay in any educational, social, political or cultural institution that treats them like refuse. No non-Jew would stand for it, and no Jew should either.

Jewish Exploitation

There is also a certain sense of vengeance involved. For decades, America’s universities—and many other institutions—have been happy to exploit American Jews’ talents, skills, assets and votes. Then, when the moment came for reciprocity, these institutions chose betrayal instead. There is all the reason in the world for the Jews to say: Fine, let’s see how they do without us.

Should Jews Do This?

Nonetheless, as pleasurable as it can be at times, it is worth asking whether “voting with their feet” is the correct route for American Jews to take.

It may not be, because it is the avowed purpose of today’s anti-Semites, led by the Red-Green Alliance of progressive leftists and Muslim supremacists, to ghettoize American Jews. That is, they seek to strip American Jews of whatever power, influence and prosperity they have achieved over the last several centuries and relegate them to the margins of American life, where they can be easily preyed upon whenever the mood strikes.

Ghettoizing Themselves?

It is horrible for Jews to stay in an anti-Semitic environment but, by departing, they unwittingly risk ghettoizing

themselves. That is, they may end up consenting to what is, in effect, the kind of de facto apartheid that existed in the former Soviet Union and other Communist countries, under which Jews were effectively barred from many educational institutions, government jobs and other aspects of society.

If this ghettoization is accomplished, American Jews will be effectively barred from certain universities, neighborhoods, cities, political and activist groups, and cultural activities. This is what segregation looks like and Jews should not submit to it.

If American Jews wish to avoid doing so, voting with their feet will at times be necessary. But other measures can be taken as well. For example, if Jewish students at Columbia were properly organized, they could engage with the campus Nazis on their own terms and disperse them. They could sue the university not just for redress but for its entire endowment, threatening the institution’s very existence. They could go about the campus in groups and publicly confront those attempting to harass and assault them. They could make it clear that if the Jews have no peace on campus, no one will have peace on campus.

None of this involves breaking the law, but it does require a decision of the will. In many ways, it would be superior to the decision to simply leave. But it cannot be made without a new radicalization, a more aggressive stance that is willing to make what the late civil-rights leader and congressman John Lewis called “good trouble”—trouble that upends an unjust order. As Lewis put it: “Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and redeem the soul of America.”

Jews at Columbia and other institutions have suffered a tremendous injustice, but there is no need for them to flee. For a year now, anti-Semites have been permitted to make bad trouble on campus and indeed everywhere. It’s time for Jews to make some good trouble before the walls of the ghetto close in.

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Porcupine wounds evacuee from Kiryat Shmona

An evacuee from Israel's north was wounded recently when a porcupine violently attacked him on the grounds of the hotel where he was staying.

Shalom Yonassi, a 50-year-old resident of Kiryat Shmona who has been evacuated to the Herbert Samuel Bayit Bagalil Hotel Spa in Hatzor HaGlilit due to the Hezbollah threat, was rushed to Safed's Ziv Medical Center, where surgeons removed 40 spines from his legs and feet.

"We are staying at a hotel in the middle of the Biriya Forest. There are many animals there, including porcupines," Yonassi told Israel's *Channel 12 News*.

"I wanted to go down towards our room and came across a porcupine. The porcupine was standing by a fig tree and was eating. I stopped because I didn't want to disturb him, but the porcupine saw me and started running in my direction," he said about the incident.

"I turned around and wanted to run away, but I ran into a vehicle behind me. I fell to the ground and the porcupine attacked me," he explained.

Yonassi was released from the hospital and returned to the hotel, but will likely need additional surgery on his leg, where the porcupine attack is believed to have caused nerve damage.

Hezbollah has attacked Israel's north nearly every day since joining the war in support of Hamas on Oct. 8, firing thousands of suicide drones, rockets and anti-tank missiles at Israeli border towns, killing more than 20 people and causing widespread damage. Tens of thousands of Israeli civilians remain internally displaced due to the ongoing violence.

Yonassi told *Channel 12*, "Perhaps this is the way to stop the war: Bring 50 porcupines into Lebanon, and then the war will be over."

Also recently, a crocodile attacked



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB DYER/UNSPLASH.

A porcupine.

a staff member at Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo. The man remained in serious condition on Monday, Aug. 19.

following major surgery at Hadassah Medical Center Ein Kerem in the capital.

Thomas Nides insists to JNS that the U.S. vp doesn't support an arms embargo on Israel

By MIKE WAGENHEIM

JNS

During the presidency of Barack Obama, Thomas Nides attended foreign-policy meetings as U.S. deputy secretary of state for management and resources. Just as he saw Obama include Joe Biden, then—vice president, Nides has seen President Biden consult with his vice president, Kamala Harris. "I sat in the Situation Room for hundreds of meetings with President Obama and the vice president, and the vice president was included in almost every major foreign policy decision," Nides told JNS on the sidelines of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Monday, Aug. 19.

"Joe Biden has done the same thing with Kamala Harris," said Nides, who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel from 2021 to 2023. "She's the last person in the room. She's involved in every decision." Harris has been involved actively in White House dis-

cussions about Israel—"what has been clearly, next to the Ukraine war, the most difficult foreign-policy issue that this administration has been to deal with," Nides told JNS.

The vice president, who is now running for president, has faced criticism over her experience with foreign policy. "Kamala Harris has zero foreign-policy experience aside from supporting Joe Biden's weak agenda that has emboldened our adversaries, led to war in Ukraine and enabled Iranian-backed terrorists to attack Israel," Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for the Trump campaign, told *The Washington Post*.

William Barr, a former U.S. attorney general, told *Sky News Australia* earlier this month that "I think she doesn't have much experience in foreign policy, and from what I've seen ... she's ineffective in foreign policy councils."

Harris also drew criticism for issuing a statement after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in July at the White House, which many, including those in Netanyahu's inner circle, viewed as critical of the way the prime minister was handling the ceasefire negotiations. In addition to his view that Harris has extensive foreign-policy experience, Nides told JNS that he disagrees with the assessment that she snubbed Netanyahu.

"She said, 'I stand fully in support of the security of the state of Israel.' She has said that over and over and over again," Nides said. "She also said exactly the same thing that Joe Biden has said, which is, 'I want a hostage deal. Israelis want a hostage deal. The

families want a hostage deal.' We want this war to end. I don't think that's unusual."

The Biden administration, including Harris, is "probably the most pro-Israel-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY JERUSALEM.

Thomas Nides, then U.S. ambassador to Israel, in February 2022.

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From sadness and upheaval to renewed faith, joy and peace

By Rabbi MENDEL RUBIN,
director of Shabbos House,
Fuller Road, Albany

Friends,

I would like to share with you an ancient and very special custom of the Jewish community of Rome. They have kept this tradition since they were exiled there from the land of Israel, almost 2,000 years ago.

On the night of Tisha B'Av, the Jewish national day of mourning for the destruction of the holy temple in Jerusalem, (this year it was observed Aug. 12,13) the synagogue is darkened and each member of the community who comes to the synagogue receives a long candle to use during the evening service and the reading of **Eicha, the Book of Lamentations.**

The candle must be very long, so there will be something left from the candle at the end of the service.

For what purpose?

Their custom is to use the leftover of the candle from Tisha B'Av to be the shamesh candle to light the menorah on Chanukah!

Tisha B'Av is the day we commemorate the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, our holy temple, and Chanukah is when we celebrate the dedication and renewal of the work at the Temple with the lighting the menorah.

The candle that accompanies us in grief and sorrow is the same candle that also accompanies us in joy and celebration. We know that from the trouble and sadness itself, there will be a new energy of salvation and redemption.

This year on Tisha B'Av we didn't need reminders or stories from the past to look back and mourn. Unfortunately this year the Jewish people have experienced, and are still experiencing what true evil is capable of.

Although we are still in the midst of it, we all know what history shows and what the promise of Judaism proved, that this candle of mourning will turn into a candle of great light, the pain and sorrow will turn into blessings of happiness and true peace.

It is customary to rise Tisha B'Av afternoon and clean the house, showing our renewed faith and hope. On the positive side, Tisha B'Av marks the birth and potential of redemption by the righteous Moshiach, a most important Jewish principle: "I fully believe in the coming of Moshiach, and though he may take time, each day I eagerly anticipate his coming!" (Maimonides)

Last but not least, we conclude the Lamentations on a high positive note as we loudly declare: "Return to

us, O G-d, and we will return to You; renew our days as once before!"

Please take to heart this message Rabbi Israel Ruben, director of the Chabad Lubavitch of the Capital District, wrote sharing the Two Sides of Tisha B'Av. Rabbi Israel Rubin wrote this creative article about the two sides of Tisha B'Av based on a Talmudic story at the end of tractate Makkot. It was first published in The Jewish World, on two sides, front on back, of a corner of the page: black background with white text on front, and black text on white background on the other side of the page.

Rabbi Groner, the late Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson's secretary, called to say that the rebbe had very much enjoyed this article. It is easy to understand why, as it is typical of the rebbe's teaching, to seek the positive within the negative, find presence in absence, meaning in mundane. And the rebbe loved relevant, creative, current Torah application that would reach.

This whole idea was based on a Rebbe Schneerson farbrengen. In fact, the rebbe's farbrengen in summer of 1964, where the rebbe explained this Talmud story at great length, with much detailed questions, and passionate answers — was a turning point in my father's (Rabbi

Israel Rubin) Talmudic study, as it was a dazzling eye-opener for him about the meaningful connections between the personal lives and public Torah teachings of these Talmudic scholars. This has since become a cornerstone of my father's style of Torah learning, especially in his scholarly book on the Haggadah and in his Pirkei Avot commentary.

The rebbe was seeing and explaining Torah from the lens of human experience, Torah as intertwined with life, personalizing it. It jumpstarted my father's avid interest in this area and style of Torah learning and teaching, which he continued to develop from his yeshiva years throughout his decades as a communal rabbi, school dean, and author.

My father traces his creative "**The Torah Times**" newspaper, his scholarly book examining the background of the Haggadah story of the five sages at the all-night Passover Seder, his avid interest in and in-depth commentary on Pirkei Avot — it all goes back to this single farbrengen, where the rebbe (after 20 questions exploring the Talmud stories) connects Rabbi Akiva's unique perspective and details and nuances in the Talmudic retelling, to Rabbi Akiva's personal life-story, his background and religious journey.

Biden at DNC pledges ...

Continued from Page 3

confirmed to me that Israel accepts the bridging proposal, that he supports it. It's now incumbent on Hamas to do the same," said Blinken.

"What I would say to Hamas and to its leadership is: If it genuinely cares about the Palestinian people that it purports to somehow represent, then it will say yes to this agreement, and it will work on clear understandings on how to implement it," he told reporters.

"The single quickest, best, most effective way to relieve the terrible suffering of the Palestinians that was instigated by Hamas's attack on Oct. 7 and the war that ensued is to complete this agreement," he added.

Blinken arrived in Egypt on Tuesday ahead of negotiations on the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

Back in Chicago, families of abductees with American citizenship met with members of the Harris campaign, including Ilan Goldenberg, who was recently named its liaison to the Jewish community.

According to *Channel 12*, Golden-

berg reiterated Harris's commitment to Israel's security alongside the efforts to reach a ceasefire deal and return the hostages. The meeting was described as good, with the positions expressed corresponding to those of the Biden administration.


Lip Service?

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a member of the progressive "Squad" and a harsh critic of Israel, made the case for Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, against the ticket of Republican nominee Donald Trump and vice presidential choice Ohio Sen. JD Vance.

Harris "is working tirelessly to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and bringing hostages home," Ocasio-Cortez said to cheers from the crowd.

Delaware Rabbi Michael Beals, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, whom Biden has affectionately called his rabbi and who has campaigned for the president, recited the priestly blessing in Hebrew to conclude the first night of the DNC.

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WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU

Share Your Simchas With Us!

The Magic Of The Written Word

My father, who died in 1954, never had much formal education. He was born in Bialystok, Poland, and came to the United States in 1906 at the age of 17, after a devastating pogrom in his hometown.

From time to time after his arrival in America he wrote letters to the editors of some of the New York Yiddish-language newspapers; those that were published, he cut out and pasted in a notebook. In the 1940's, my father started to write what he called "episodes" from his youth. Many of these stories were published in Yiddish newspapers and in the "Voice of Bialystok," the journal of his landmen's society.

Never opened

I knew he kept a notebook of these clippings, but he never spoke about them. Since they were all in Yiddish I had no idea what was in them. He died

in 1954 and my mother kept the notebook until she died in 1982. In looking through my mother's things, I found the notebook; in all the years since her death I never even opened it.

At the turn of the millennium, I suddenly decided it was time; these stories could be a legacy for future generations. The only problem was that, although I could speak Yiddish, I couldn't read it.

Yiddish is written using Hebrew letters. I knew the Hebrew alphabet, and little by little I taught myself to read Yiddish and began translating the "episodes" into English.

Stuff I never knew!

The results were incredible. I learned things about my father's life that he had never spoken of: How he had been apprenticed to a furniture maker for three years beginning at the age of eight with

only bed and board as his wages; at the end of three years, his parents were paid 20 rubles. What it was like studying with a cruel teacher in a Talmud Torah in Russia before the turn of the 20th century. How he had barely escaped a group of marauding Cossacks. How he had fled Czarist Russia by traveling at night from safe house to safe house via a kind of "underground railroad," and many other fascinating, often sad, experiences. He also related stories about events that he had not experienced but were told to him and obviously made an impression on him.

Because my father committed his thoughts to paper, I have found out things in my father's life that would have been lost forever, and can share them with others.

— Phyllis Ross
Slingerlands



HEROIC! Caricature by painter Henryk Nowodworski, depicting pogrom bialostocki of 1906. Note the assailant wearing a Tsarist army hat with a cockade sideways. (From Wikipedia)

In The Shadow of Death — Escaping the pogrom

Published in Yiddish on April 11, 1930

By Charles (Zachariah) Goldberg

This happened in the year 1906, in the time when waves of pogroms spread over cities and towns all over Russia, and Jewish blood poured out like water, including in the city of Bialystok. Several weeks beforehand we already knew that the local regime had decided that our city would have a pogrom. We heard the information from the Jewish soldiers who were serving in the city militia.

The young Jewish men decided to set up a self-defense organization; being a young man myself then, I also joined the group. Feverish activity began. We drilled and were assigned various responsibilities; we prepared ourselves as if for a war. Naturally, everything was done in strict secrecy.

The day comes

The day came that has been designated for the pogrom. From quite early on a lot of restlessness could be detected among the peasants. There was a lot of commotion in the marketplace;



CORPSES: During the 1906 pogrom, between 81 and 88 Jews were killed by soldiers of the Imperial Russian Army, the Black Hundreds, and about 80 people were wounded. (From Wikipedia)

the air seemed filled with gunpowder. The shops were closed. Very few Jews showed themselves in the street. And if

a Jew was seen, he was running and not walking. One could read the fright on every Jewish face.

Eleven o'clock.

The self-defense group sends out patrols. At exactly twelve o'clock a religious procession is supposed to pass by. That is to be the signal to begin the slaughter. And now the lonely tolling of the town clock is heard. Each clang is a monotone: one, two, three--and so on until twelve.

Priests in front

In the distance the procession can be seen. Priests march in front, carrying holy images, and behind them is a crowd numbering in the thousands. The streets are heavily guarded by police and soldiers. Everything seems calm. The thought begins to cross my mind that perhaps all the fear is for nothing. But suddenly a terrific explosion is heard. The very air shudders. It is a bomb, the provocation that is the herald for the slaughter. People run around, shooting begins, and bullets fly overhead.

I run from a patrol to a central meeting place to join the comrades from the

Continued on page 18

No more T-U

The **Times-Union** newspaper, which had been collaborating with **The Jewish World** to provide our subscribers with the Sunday T-U, has ended that program. Alas!

Friends have suggested that without the T-U to occupy Sunday hours, readers could profitably spend time reviewing Jewish texts like **Pirkey Avot!**

Got bats?

Call Chris Morrison
(518) 222-7625

United Bat Control of New York
1 Nates Ct, Burnt Hills, NY

Calendar of Events



FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

JTS In The Berkshires: "What If The Torah Is Forgotten? On The History Of An Idea And The Legacy Of The Rabbis" –11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Company, Elayne P. Bernstein Theater, 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. Dr. Yitz Landes, assistant professor of rabbinic literatures, Jewish Theological Seminary, to discuss. \$15. Info.–Alisa Braun, 212-678-8819 or sabraun@jtsa.edu.

Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service – 5:30 -6:30 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Beth Emeth Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Eikev**, in-person and via Zoom with Director of Program Operations Andrea McNellis. Reg-www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Jewish Heritage Night With the Tri-city Valleycats– 4 p.m. Joseph Bruno Stadium, 80 Vandenberg Ave., Troy. Baseball night sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern N.Y. Info.–518-783-7800.

S.J.C.F.: The God of Isaac Performances– 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Shaara Tfille Synagogue, 84 Weibel Ave., Saratoga Springs. Info.– 518-584- 2370 or barbaraopitz47@gmail.com.

John Heilemann Lecture–7:30 p.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, Mass. The national affairs analyst for MSNBC and CNBC and host, creator, and executive producer of Showtime's *The Circus* will be the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation lecturer. Free. Also live-streamed. Reg.–templeoffice@ansheamunim.org, 413- 442-5910.

The Jewish Influence In Catskill History–1230 p.m. Temple Israel Catskill, 220 Spring St., Catskill. 2024 Centennial Lecture. Historian, congregant Steven Mann will discuss. Luncheon, silent auction. \$36. Info., Reg. by 8/16–<https://www.templeisraelofcatskill.org/centennial-lecture>, text Steven at 518-751-8986 or email stevenaamann@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

CBAJ Lunch And Learn, Talmudic Personalities: Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi– 12:30 -1:30 p.m. Beth Abraham

–Jacob Synagogue, 380 Whitehall Rd., Albany. Rabbi Kean to discuss. Free. Reg., Info. Seanan Herrick, 518-469-5819, ext. 3.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service – 5:30-6:30 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Agudat Achim Great Moments in History: "After the Torah: The Destruction of the Temples, Babylonia and Yavneh"–7:30 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue, 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Prof. Stephen Berk (on four consecutive Thursdays) to lead discussions. Cost is \$54 for the series or \$18 per lecture. Info., Reg. –518-393-9211 or <https://www.agudatachim.com>. See 9/12, 19, 26.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

CGOH Open Doors Program–5:45-7 p.m. Temple Gates Of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Jammies And Jeans, Shabbat family service, dinner, tours, refreshments. Focus on kids, Jammies And Jeans is first Friday of the month until Dec. 6. \$12. Info., Res.–Arnie Rotenberg, 518-374-8173.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

S.J.C.F.: Zoom Panel Discussion of "The Autobiography Of Miss Jane Pittman"–7 p.m. The film tells the American experience from the civil war to civil rights from the memories of a fictional 110 year old former slave. Info., Reg.– 518-584-8730, sjca.sjcf@gmail.com.

Asya Markova Piano Concert–12-2 p.m. Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn. Info. – 518-436-9761.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Bethlehem Chabad JWC Trip To NYC– 8 a.m. 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Info., Res. www.bethlehemchabad.org/nyc / info@bethlehemchabad.com, 518-439-3310.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Finding Home (Hungary, 1945)–7 p.m. in person, Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst, Mass., and Zoom. The little-known postwar Jewish experience will be reviewed with Dean Cycon, author, and several musicians. Reg for Zoom required., yiddishbookcenter.org.

Agudat Achim Great Moments in History: "The Modern Miracle: The First Congress, 1948, and the Six-Day War"–7:30 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue, 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Prof. Stephen Berk (on four consecutive Thursdays) to lead discussions. Cost is \$54 for the series or \$18 per lecture. Info., Reg. –518-393-9211 or <https://www.agudatachim.com>. See 9/5, 19, 26.

Safety And Security Program–10 a.m. The Jewish Federation of NENY,

184 Washington Ave., Ext., Albany. Shelly Shapiro, 518-783-7900.

Daughters Of Sarah Kosher Night Out – 7 p.m. The Massry Residence, 182 Washington Ave., Ext., Albany. Farm-to-table by Executive Chef Paul Ozimek. \$80 Info., Reg.–518-724-3260.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Carrot Festival–10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue, 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Annual family fair featuring produce, music, and vendors. Info.–518-393-9211.

Anita Norich To Discuss Celia Dropkin's Desires –2 p.m. Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst, Mass., and Zoom. Norich recently translated the book. Free. Reg. for Zoom required., yiddishbookcenter.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Jewish Coalition For Literacy Kick-off– 10 a.m. Jewish Federation of NENY, 184 Washington Ave., Ext., Albany. Info.– Miriam Kean, 518-783-7800.

Agudat Achim Great Moments in History: "The Golden Age of American Jewry: Hollywood, Spielberg, Uris, and Wiesel Changed Our View of Jewish Life"–7:30 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue, 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Prof. Stephen Berk (on four consecutive Thursdays) to lead discussions. Cost is \$54 for the series or \$18 per lecture. Info., Reg. –518-393-9211 or <https://www.agudatachim.com>. See 9/5, 12, 26.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21-28

SJCC film Fest: "The Jewish Jail Lady And the Holy Thief"–8-9:30 p.m. Schenectady Center, 2565 Balltown Rd. Documentary about couple's efforts with creating jewish recovery center. Info.-518-3778803.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Hadassah Walk for Women's Health–1-3 p.m. Albany JCC, 349 Whitehall Rd., Albany. Fund-raiser. Info.–518-783-7800.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

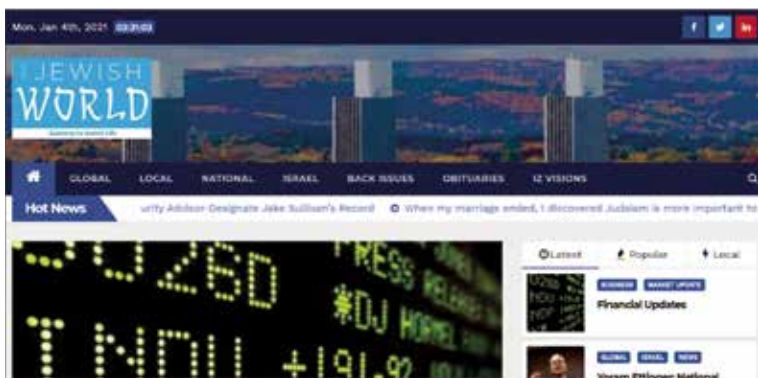
Bethlehem Chabad Mega Challah Bake – 6:30 p.m. 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Info., Res.– bethlehemchabad.com/challah / info@bethlehemchabad.com, 518-439-3310.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Agudat Achim Great Moments in History: "Important Dates in November: The Balfour Declaration, Kristallnacht, the United Nations Partition Plan, and the American Upcoming Election. The Golden Age of American Jewry: Hollywood, Spielberg, Uris, and Wiesel Changed Our View of Jewish Life"–7:30 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue, 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Prof. Stephen Berk (on four consecutive Thursdays) to lead discussions. Cost is \$54 for the series or \$18 per lecture. Info., Reg. –518-393-9211 or <https://www.agudatachim.com>. See 9/5, 12, 19.

How much are you missing?

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www.jewishworldnews.org

Oct. 7 hero saved dozens at Nova festival, now he rehabilitates combat soldiers and tries to live normally

By NATAN GALULA

JNS

Lt. (res.) Yehonatan Skariszewski, 30, knew he could not return to his nine-to-five office job after his experiences on Oct. 7 and its aftermath. Terrorists murdered his father, Rody, early on the day of the invasion after his father ran into a Hamas roadblock in the “Gaza Envelope,” the area of Israel adjacent to the Strip.

Skariszewski drove straight south from Tel Aviv, encountering the havoc wreaked by Hamas-led terrorists in the region, looking to save lives. In the weeks that ensued, he entered the Palestinian enclave as part of the Israel Defense Forces ground incursion, tasked with evacuating wounded troops.

“After doing something of such significance, how can you return to the fluorescent-lit office and scold your sales representatives for not meeting their targets? I couldn’t,” Skariszewski told JNS via Zoom on Tuesday.

Hands-On Labor

An army buddy, Yitzak Sarusi, contacted him several months ago and asked if he would be interested in forming a nonprofit association that trains combat soldiers in

company, was wounded fighting in Beit Hanoun, in the northeastern Gaza Strip.

Shortage of Laborers

“I started everything from square one,” Sarusi related when we met at the Supernova festival memorial site near Kibbutz Re’im in late June. “I take youngsters before their military service, lone soldiers [those without close relatives in Israel who can help them], reserve soldiers who are a bit lost, including two soldiers who were wounded, and I train them at my expense.”

Skariszewski stressed that it is in the interest of the state to train Jews in manual labor. “There is a shortage of at least 100,000 laborers right now,” he noted, referring to Israel’s barring for security purposes the entry of Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria since Oct. 7.

Their association, “For the Home, For Tomorrow,” trains 30 workers and is involved in the effort to rebuild the communities of the Gaza Envelope, devastated by the Oct. 7 attack.

“We just started fund-raising. Most of the association’s expenses are coming out of our own pockets,” Skariszewski said.



Lt. Yehonatan Skariszewski (rear, second from left) and his IDF reserve unit inside the Gaza Strip.

home town,’ he told me, ‘and terrorists are murdering us.’ I thought he was on drugs.

“He started a video call and sent me his location. Twenty minutes later Andrei and Nizozi arrived at my home and we raced down south,” Skariszewski recalled.

Focus On The Living

“Meanwhile, I was on the line with Sharabi, instructing him on how to treat the wounded, how to prepare a defensive line, how to use the spare ammo that they had. He and a few others found an abandoned [IDF] tank and remained near it. I kept telling him that a chopper was on its way, to prevent him from breaking down mentally,” Skariszewski said.

They reached Kibbutz Re’im, adjacent to the music festival, around 11 a.m. and Skariszewski observed large numbers of terrorists. That is when he knew his father was not alive. Somehow, he managed to shake that thought off. “I had to focus on those who were still alive,” he said. Two guns

“The three of us had only two guns,” he continued. “Luckily, an IDF unit had just arrived and together we took out a heavily armed terrorist squad. We took their Kalashnikov rifles and split from the military unit, which continued into Re’im. We tried to enter the festival grounds, but couldn’t. There were too many terrorists. I told Andrei we have to break in with his vehicle. Bullets whizzed around us but somehow we managed to reach the tank. We found about 30 to 40 frightened civilians.”

Helping The Wounded

Skariszewski’s first mission was to evacuate the wounded.

“Andrei had some Ikea shelves in his car, which we turned into a stretcher. Four times Andrei evacuated injured people unscathed. I told him he needs to repent and become religious. He said, ‘No problem, but I’m not Jewish.’ More

and more festival-goers came to our location until we amassed more than 100 attendees. We became the ‘safe compound’ in the Nova festival, with my Kalashnikovs.”

The hardest part, he continued, was to decide whom to save.

“If I left the compound in an attempt to save stranded individuals, I would risk the lives of a hundred people. There were also grown men having panic attacks. I had to raise my voice and command the situation even though I was just a civilian like them,” he said.

Finding Dad

Eventually, military personnel and civilians in vehicles arrived and everyone was evacuated. When the sun began setting, Skariszewski gathered Gerasimuk and Nizozi and drove south to his family on Route 232, which runs along the Israeli communities near the Gaza border.

“The entire area was a war zone,” Skariszewski recalled. “Smoke billowed on the road and we could barely see a few feet ahead. Fields were burned—a tank was parked on the road, burned, a man was carrying bodies and covering them, seemingly senseless, from the side of the road—it was unreal. A 10-minute drive took us 30 minutes.

“I got home [to the moshav] and found my mother and sister hiding in a closet. My father was not there. We traced his car with a GPS tracking app and drove to a junction near Ohad. Andrei, Nizozi and I started combing the area and then I saw the car; it was hanging on top of a ditch. I found him inside, lifeless. What do I do—leave him there? Who do I call? There are a thousand bodies outside. I closed his eyelids and returned to my mother and sister to break the news.”

Relativity

I met Skariszewski and Sarusi at the Nova Festival Victims Memorial, situated

Continued on page 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATAN GALULA

The Nova Festival Victims Memorial site near Kibbutz Re’im, June 2024.

specialized hands-on labor such as construction, welding and carpentry.

“Many soldiers who return from the battlefields in Gaza find it difficult to switch back to their regular lives. They need psychological help, they don’t sleep at night, but they are not the type to receive treatment on the sofa. Our association helps put these soldiers back on track through skilled physical work. Working with the hands can be very soothing to the soul,” Skariszewski said.

Sarusi is an independent contractor who deals in construction and welding. Four of his workers were murdered at the Supernova music festival, the open-air music festival that was held in the western Negev on the weekend of Oct. 7. Sarusi’s little brother, a manager in his

Pogrom Seemed Surreal

Raised in Moshav Ohad, near the city of Ofakim and the Gaza Strip, Skariszewski had relocated to Tel Aviv and worked in a sales company. On Oct. 7, he woke up in that metropolis to the blare of air-raid sirens. The first to call him that morning was his mother, from her home in Ohad, saying she did not know where his dad was.

Next, he received calls from his sergeants, Andrei Gerasimuk and Yakir Nizozi, who alerted him that something was happening in the south.

“Two minutes later I get another call from Daniel Sharabi, a friend of mine. I hear terrible shouting in the background. ‘I’m at [the Supernova festival] near your

Hezbollah fires 75 rockets at northern Israel

Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah launched a 55-rocket barrage at the Upper Galilee and Golan Heights on Tuesday morning, Aug. 20, followed by a 20-rocket barrage in the afternoon, according to the Israel Defense Forces. Around 10 of the first set of projectiles were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system, with the rest falling in open areas. There were no reports of injuries.

Israel Fire and Rescue Services were working to extinguish fires caused by the rocket impacts.

Shortly after the first attack, the Israeli Air Force struck one of the Hezbollah launchers. Both salvos came after the IDF attacked a Hezbollah weapons depot deep inside Lebanese territory on Monday, Aug. 19, and eliminated a key member of the Iranian terror proxy's missile unit in a drone strike.

Hezbollah said that Monday's barrages were in response to the IDF attack in the area of Beqaa in eastern Lebanon, in which IAF fighter jets struck several weapons storage facilities in the area. "Following the strikes, secondary ex-

plosions were identified, indicating the presence of large amounts of weapons in the facilities struck," the IDF said.

The Hezbollah terrorist killed was identified as Hussein Al Hussein. He was struck in the area of Deir Qanoun in Southern Lebanon. Hussein was a significant terrorist in Hezbollah's Rocket and Missile Unit in the area of Yarine, according to the IDF.

Earlier on Monday, the IDF struck a terrorist cell operating from a Hezbollah military structure in the area of Tayibe in Southern Lebanon. IAF fighter jets struck the structure in which the terrorists were operating.

The IDF also said that on Monday night it attacked two Hezbollah launchers in the areas of Mansouri and Taybeh in Southern Lebanon which were ready to fire rockets at Israel.

An IDF chief warrant officer was killed and another officer seriously wounded on Monday morning when a drone launched from Lebanon slammed into Moshav Ya'ara in the Western Galilee, the army confirmed.

At least three others were injured in the attack.

New UN exhibit memorializing terror victims completely ignores Jews, Erdan says

When the United Nations marks International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism on Wednesday, August 21, it will treat some victims as more equal than others, according to Gilad Erdan, the outgoing Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. The Israeli envoy posted a video walk-through—in Hebrew with English subtitles—of an exhibit about global terror victims at U.N. headquarters in New York, in a place where all visitors enter the building.

Guess What Is Missing?

There are mentions of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in 2001 and the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, as well as references to terror in Indonesia and Kenya. "But what's missing?" Erdan asked.

"There's not a single mention of any attack carried out by Palestinians against Israelis," he said. "We are about to mark one year since the massacre and the largest terrorist attack against Jews and Israelis since the Holocaust. Yet the U.N. doesn't think it needs to be displayed on its walls."

There is a display of a "Palestinian victim," which the U.N. exhibit identifies as occurring in "Palestine," Erdan noted, "so that people might think she was harmed in Israel, but when you

read the fine print, it turns out she was actually injured in an attack in New Zealand."

The exhibit "Memories," which is on view until Aug. 27, "aims to raise awareness about the human stories that lie at the heart of each victim and survivor of terrorism, as well as the long-lasting impact each terrorist attack has on its surviving victims," per the U.N. website.

"It also seeks to highlight the commonalities that connect victims across the world and to emphasize the importance of preventing terrorist attacks and the emergence of new victims," it adds. "It is in connection with the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (Aug. 21)."

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme of the Counter-Terrorism Center of the U.N. Office of Counter-Terrorism organized the show, which the U.N. Office of Counter-Terrorism also endorsed, according to the U.N. website.

"There is no place more corrupt and morally twisted than the U.N., and we must all unite to spread this message worldwide, demanding the closure and the dismantling of this organization, and the establishment of a new body that truly represents noble values," the ambassador said.

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU
Share Your Simchas With Us!

*Maybe you'll get everything you wished for ...
Maybe you'll get more than you ever could have imagined ...
Who knows where life will take you ...*

*What we do know is you
Will always get more at the ...*

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By Rabbi SHLOMO RISKIN

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Not by bread alone does a human being live, but rather by that which comes forth from the Lord's mouth does a human being live. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

EFRAT, Israel—How does the Bible view “life,” that span of time that every individual desperately wishes to preserve and to lengthen, but which is rarely properly utilized? The sad truth is that no one is quite certain how best to use whatever time he/she may be given or to what purpose to dedicate it. How best to “spend” one’s life is the question of questions, and one who lives without asking and answering that question runs the risk of leaving this world without ever having lived at all.

A Training Period

Apparently the Almighty came to the conclusion that the newly freed Israelites were not yet ready to enter the Promised Land; they required an educational “training” period of 40 years—a complete generation—in the desert no-man’s-land. They were to experience a kind of “trial by heat and by cold,” with lessons to be learned by a strange mixture of divine bounty mixed together with human uncertainty:

You shall remember the entire journey on which the Lord your God led you these 40 years in the desert in order to afflict you, to test you to know that which is in your heart; will you keep His commandments or not? He will afflict you and He will make you hungry; He will provide you with the manna to eat which neither you nor your ancestors experienced previously in order to teach you that not by bread alone does a human being live but rather by that which comes forth from the Lord's mouth does the human being live. (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

Lessons

This major desert experience of the manna was a kind of “timeout” from the Garden of Eden punishment that *by the sweat of your brow shall you eat bread*. On the one hand, God was the beneficent provider of food, a food which the Israelites only had to gather rather than to manufacture, with every individual receiving precisely what he/she needed each day; on the other hand, the Israelites had neither the discomfiture nor the exhilaration which is derived from the competition, the ingenuity, the sickness unto death of failure and the dizzying satisfaction of success, which accompany the backbreaking tension-producing dedication to the market place or the agricultural farm. What was the significance of the manna? Which lesson did it convey?

The most ancient (and I believe, authentic) versions of the rabbinically ac-

Coming to terms with our life spans and relations with Hashem



DEPOSIT PHOTO BY SOMEGIRL

Not by challah alone!

cepted Aramaic translation of the biblical text, **Targum Onkelos**, translates the last words of the verse we have just cited: *Not by bread alone does the human being exist but rather by that which comes forth from God's mouth does a human being live.*

Targum differentiates between the bread necessary for human existence, and the word of God essential to human life. “Existence” is physical subsistence; “life” is essence, the word of God, the life of spirit, of intellect, of sensitivity, of love.

Forbidden Shabbat Activities

For a clearer explanation of **Targum's** intent, let us study the second mishnah in the seventh chapter of Tractate Shabbat, where the mishnah provides us with the list of the 39 prohibited physical activities on the Sabbath (melakhot). The Midrash generally assumes that the source of these prohibited activities is the list of very constructive acts involved in the building of the tabernacle to God, the mishkan (**Exodus 31:13**). Whichever creative acts were involved in the construction of the tabernacle were prohibited on the Sabbath. However, one of the prohibited activities of this mishnah is “baking,” and in the construction of the mishkan the dye extracts of the plants had to be “boiled” to color the fabrics used to beautify the sanctuary. So why does the mishnah list “baking” rather than “boiling”?

The Talmud explains the discrepancy by saying that the mishnah wished to highlight the procedures in bread manufacture; and indeed when looking at the prohibited acts from this perspective, the entire mishnah assumes a wholly different focus. First it prohibits bread manufacture, then clothing manufacture, then leather manufacture, and finally acts of building. In effect, the mishnah is teaching that the search for food, clothing, and shelter — so central to physical existence and nutritional subsistence — is to be eschewed on the Sabbath day. The days of the week are for physical existence; the Sabbath is for spiritual and intellectual life! Existence and life are the two most crucial elements in our human sojourn in this world.

The truth is that animals, no less than humans, also require food, clothing

(protection from the elements), and shelter. What makes the human being uniquely human is that which goes beyond physical existence: the spiritual spark of God within him/her, the soul, the heart, and the mind of the human being, which enables him/her to think, to give, to communicate with the other, to love, to repair, and to create.

Most human beings spend their lives working for their physical existence, amassing commodities and the ultimate commodity (money), and collecting objects and things. In the desert they were freed from this pursuit, with the exception of the little time it would take to gather the manna — and no one could take more than his/her needed portion. They could spend the great majority of their time receiving — and pondering over — God’s words, God’s desire that we share with those less fortunate, God’s gift of family and friendship and community and love. The Sabbath day prohibits physical work but stresses family togetherness, Torah study, communal prayer, time out for God, meditation, and nature walks; the Sabbath is a day of life, not mere existence!

An Eternal Shabbat?

The desert experience was a kind of eternal Sabbath, a taste of a more perfect world, when we learn to do without ma-

terial extras but would hopefully begin to understand that the real purpose of human life would be to live by God’s words. In that more perfect world, we would hopefully learn that the necessities for our existence — just as our existence itself — is fundamentally a gift from God, and that the ultimate purpose of our existence is to link ourselves to life, to God, to His will, and to His eternity. On the Sabbath, we sanctify wine, we bless the challah bread, we use the table of food as a means for songs of praise to God and words of Torah, and we link existence to essence, subsistence to God.

Life Regrets

No wonder, then, that the Hebrew word “chayyim” (life) is always in the plural, because there can be no meaningful human life devoid of loving relationships with others. The two letter “yud’s” (or two yids, Jews) in the center of the word are the shortened form of expressing God’s name, while the outer Hebrew letters “het” and “mem” form the Hebrew word “hom” (warmth); love, sensitivity, and caring are central for meaningful human activity on earth.

I have never met an individual on his deathbed who regrets the hours he didn’t spend in the office, but most individuals on their deathbed regret the hours they didn’t spend with family and close friends. People are not remembered for the structures they erected; they are always thought about for the lives they have touched and the human situations they have helped.

Rabbi Yitzhak of Berditchev once saw a person running to and fro, as if he were “chasing his own tail.” “Where and why are you running?” he asked. “I am running to make a living,” came the reply. “Just make sure that in the process, you don’t lose your life,” remarked the wise rabbi.

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is chancellor emeritus of Ohr Torah Stone and chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel.

How to answer Hillel's paradox

- *If I'm not for myself, who will be?*
- *If I'm only for myself, what am I?*
- *And if not now, when?*

In three pithy lines, Hillel presents us with a paradox central to being Jewish: my individuality is sacred; so is trying to help others. I must attend to myself and focus on my needs — and — if I don't serve others, am I truly human?

And Hillel says, Solve this puzzle—now!

The prophets told us the creator wants us to take care of other people, and most of us believe this is our duty.

If you want to do good, you have to be alive.

If we're thrown into cattle cars, smashed with rockets, raped and disfigured, abducted, and murdered, we can't do good for anybody!

Our first duty is self-preservation, survival.

Become stronger, more aware, and potent!

Join with the Jewish people, your bulwark for 4000 years, your shield for the future.

See page 2

Israel's state attorney seeks probe of Israeli singer over 'incitement' against Gaza

Israeli State Attorney Amit Aisman has requested permission to open a preliminary criminal investigation against Eyal Golan, one of the Jewish state's most famous musicians, on suspicion of "incitement to violence" against the residents of the Gaza Strip, it was revealed on Monday.

Aisman's decision stems from remarks Golan made following the Oct. 7 Hamas-led massacre of some 1,200 people, mainly Jewish civilians, in which the popular singer urged soldiers to "wipe out" the terrorist enclave.

"Erase Gaza. Don't leave a single person there," Golan told *Channel 14* in an Oct. 15 interview, adding, "They are simply human animals, people that came to murder women, children and babies."

Golan's remarks were cited earlier this year in South Africa's case against the Jewish state at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

According to Israel's *Kan News* broadcaster, Aisman is also seeking to probe Kobi Peretz, a musician who chanted, "May their village burn, may Gaza be erased," during a concert for Israel Defense Forces troops in November. Peretz's words were also quoted in the ICJ application.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOSHE SHAI/FLASH90.

Israeli musician Eyal Golan performs at Bloomfield Stadium in Jaffa, June 13, 2024.

Aisman's requests are awaiting approval from Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, who has the final say in the matter.

In July, Aisman asked Baharav-Miara for approval to open a probe into National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's comments on the war against Hamas, accusing him of "incitement to violence."

In the 10 months since Hamas murdered some 1,200 people, Ben-Gvir has repeatedly urged the government to eradicate the terrorist organization. "To destroy Hamas, we have to go into Rafah to the end, do a root canal. To return our hostages, we need to stop the fuel [supply to Gaza], establish that humanitarianism is only for humanitarianism," the Otzma Yehudit Party leader

stated in May remarks from the Temple Mount.

Sources inside Aisman's office told *Kan* that the request came against the background of the Jan. 26 International Court of Justice ruling ordering Israel to "punish the direct and public incitement to genocide."

Earlier this year, Aisman ordered a probe into three Israelis on charges of "murdering" a terrorist who infiltrated the Jewish state on Oct. 7. According to prosecutors, the three men—who met up after arriving in the south to fight on the morning of Oct. 7—detained a member of Hamas's elite Nukhba Force and executed him after an interrogation.

Some 3,000 terrorists, from Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Fatah and unaffiliated "civilians," infiltrated the Jewish state on Oct. 7. The security forces killed approximately a thousand of the terrorists and captured many others.

Israeli ground forces entered Gaza on Oct. 27 following a weeks-long air campaign in response to the Oct. 7 massacre. Jerusalem's stated goals for the war are to destroy Hamas as a military and governing force in Gaza, ensure that it can not threaten Israel again and return all hostages get the .

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German court upholds conviction of 99-year-old ex-Nazi camp secretary

A German court rejected an appeal on Tuesday, Aug. 20, by a 99-year-old former secretary to the SS commander of a Nazi concentration camp who was convicted of complicity in the murder of more than 10,000 people during the years of World War II and the Holocaust. Irmgard Furchner was given a two-year suspended sentence in December 2022 for being an accessory to murder eight decades ago when she worked for the commander of the Stutthof concentration camp, about 20 miles east of Danzig, now the Polish city of Gdansk.

Furchner's lawyers had cast doubt on whether she had truly been aware of what was going on at the camp during her time as a stenographer in the commander's office, from 1943 to 1945. But the Federal Court of Justice found that Furchner, a civilian worker and the first female to be tried for Nazi crimes in decades, "knew and, through her work deliberately supported the fact that 10,505 prisoners were cruelly killed by gassings, by hostile conditions in the camp," by transportation to the Auschwitz death camp and by being sent on death marches at the end of the war.

A German Jewish leader welcomed the ruling. "For Holocaust survivors, it is enormously important for a late form

of justice to be attempted," said Josef Schuster, the head of the Central Council of Jews. "The legal system sent an important message today: Even nearly 80 years after the Holocaust, no line can be drawn under Nazi crimes," he added.

About 65,000 people died at Stutthof—the first Nazi concentration camp set up outside Germany during World War II and the last to be liberated—including Jewish prisoners, Polish political prisoners and captured Soviet soldiers, some of whom were gassed to death.

Furchner, who married an SS squad leader after the war, made international headlines when she tried to flee as her trial was set to begin in September 2021, leaving the retirement home where she lives and heading to a metro station. She was caught after several hours in the nearby city of Hamburg and held in custody for five days.

After 40 days of silence, she told the court: "I'm sorry about everything that happened. I regret that I was in Stutthof at the time—that's all I can say."

Presiding judge Dominik Gross said during the trial it was "beyond imagination" that Furchner could not have noticed the smoke and stench of mass killing, stating: "The defendant could have quit at any time."

Olympic gold for Charlotte “Eppy” Epstein— women swimming champion of an earlier time

O mermaid bold, long may you hold the wreath you’ve won by swimming, And spoil for gents their arguments Regarding Votes for Wimmen!” To a Lady Swimmer – William F. Kirk 1914.

By MARILYN SHAPIRO

I love to swim. So it is no surprise that I spent much of the first week of the 2024 Paris Olympics watching the swim competition. I cheered on Team USA as they won 25 medals in the 39 events in the Paris La Défense Arena. As I yelled, “Go! Go! Go!” at the screen during the 1500 freestyle, Katie Ledecky’s last race, my granddaughter admonished me. “Your screaming isn’t going to make a difference,” she said. Hey! Maybe it did! Ledecky won her 14th medal as part of her participation over four Olympics.

J. Woman Fights Assumptions

Ledecky, Torri Huske, Jenny Thompson, Dara Torres, Janet Evans, Donna De Varona, and every woman who has dived into an Olympic pool have a Jewish woman to thank. Charlotte “Eppy” Epstein, considered the “mother of women’s swimming in America.” was not an exceptional swimmer herself but she believed that athletic competition was as important for women as it was for men. Her determination and leadership had an impact not only the sport of swimming, but also how women perceived their own bodies and their place in the world.

Until Epstein transformed women’s swimming, women were discouraged from swimming or, for that fact, from “breaking a sweat anywhere but in the kitchen.” Glenn Stout wrote in his 2009 book, **Young Woman and the Sea, How Trudy Ederle Conquered the English Channel and Inspired the World.** Social bias against women’s participation in sports was the norm. This was maybe best expressed by Olympic founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France, who thought women’s competition in athletics was “physically dangerous for such delicate flowers and morally offensive.”

Customs And Costumes

Even if they could get in the water, they were hindered by the standard female bathing costumes. Kristin Toussaint described them in a 2015 **Boston Globe** article: “black, knee-length, puffed-sleeved wool dresses worn over bloomers with long black stockings, bathing slippers, and even ribboned swim caps.” In 1907, Annette Kellerman, an Australian competitive swimmer and vaudeville star, was arrested for indecency by Massachusetts’s police for wearing a one-piece bathing suit that ended in shorts above her knees. “Kellerman may have been thoroughly covered,” Tousse-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING HALL OF FAME.

Charlotte Epstein (1884 – 1938) poses in the back row, second from right, with members of the 1924 American Olympic team. Epstein was the founder of the Women’s Swimming Association, and team manager of the American women’s swim team at the 1920 Olympics, the first in which women were allowed to compete, and at two other Olympic Games. She is shown here, back row, second from right, with the 1924 American Olympic team.

saint said, “but to her fellow bathers, she may as well have been naked.”

Epstein changed the narrative in 1914 when she founded National Women’s Life Saving League, which offered the “delicate flowers” a place to swim and take lessons. Using negotiating skills she learned through her job as a court reporter, she convinced the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) to permit women to register with their organization for the first time and to sponsor competitive women’s meets. According to Stout, Epstein worked “behind the scenes... extolling the advantages of having a women’s swim association managed by women while deftly praising the example set by the AAU as an organizing body without peer—essentially killing the organization—and its male overseers—with kindness.”

Advancing The Sport

In 1917, she struck out on her own, creating the New York City Women’s Swimming Association. (WSA), to further advance the sport. She successfully battled the U.S. Olympic Committee, enabling American female swimmers and divers to compete in the Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. (Through her efforts, swimming dresses and bloomers were replaced with outfits closer in style to Annette Kellerman’s.) The success of the American women’s swim team led to the inclusion of track and field and other sports for women in future Olympic Games.

Epstein served as the women’s swimming team manager for the 1920, 1924, and 1932 Olympics. Her swimmers and divers dominated the games, holding 51 world records over the course of her

22 years coaching. Her protégés included Eleanor Holm, Aileen Riggan, Helen Wainwright, and Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel. Epstein also served as chairwoman of the national AAU women’s swimming committee.

Champion For Women

Her Jewish roots became part of her legacy. The WSA team swam at the Young Women’s Hebrew Association of New York for national championship meets in the 1920s. In 1935, Epstein served as chairwoman of the swimming committee of the Second Maccabiah Games. In 1936, Epstein refused to attend the Berlin Olympic Games and withdrew from the American Olympic Committee in protest at U.S. participation in the “Nazi Olympics.”

During her lifetime, Epstein also used her position to battle for women’s suffrage, staging “suffrage swim races” with her teammates, and fought for further bathing suit reform, distance swims, and additional competitive events for women. Epstein’s major influence on swimming continued until her death in 1938, just short of her 54th birthday. She was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Jewish Sport Hall of Fame.

“By motivating young women to follow their passions in a sport that did not yet fully accept them, Epstein truly changed the way women thought about swimming,” according to **Women in Swimming**. “Her impact did not end in the pool; once women gained freedom over their bodies in sports, they were better able to achieve liberation in other facets of society.”

Thank you

On Wednesday, July 31, after binging on a morning of Olympic events being broadcast on NBC, I headed for the small pool in our Colorado rental complex. I swam 1,500 meters in over an hour, approximately four times Ledecky’s time of 15:30.02 minutes in Paris earlier that day. I may not be setting any world records, but I too am a beneficiary of efforts of the small Jewish powerhouse from Brooklyn. I did not fear being arrested for wearing a TYR swimsuit, and no one feared that this “delicate flower” could not survive the multiple laps. I tip my Speedo swim cap to you, Eppy!

Added note: Disney Plus recently released “*Young Woman and the Sea*.” Based on Glenn Stout’s 2009 book, the movie tells the story of Epstein’s most well known protégé, Gertrude Ederle, the first woman who swam the English Channel. Sian Clifford, who played Epstein, said the movie is “a beautiful, inspiring story that should have been told before.” Not only did Larry, my husband, and I enjoy the movie; our nine-year-old granddaughter loved it as well.

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Marilyn Shapiro, formerly of Clifton Park, is now a resident of Kissimmee, Fla. **Keep Calm and Bake Challah: How I Survived the Pandemic, Politics, Pratfalls, and Other of Life’s Problems** is the newest addition to her line-up of books. It joins **Tikkun Olam**, **There Goes My Heart** and **Fradel’s Story**, a compilation of stories by her mother that she edited. Shapiro’s blog is theregoesmyheart.me.

Colonie Chabad establishes new home

The Jewish community in Colonie recently celebrated the grand opening of a new Chabad home.

Rabbi Mordechai Rubin of Chabad Colonie kicked off the event. “Really, I have no words to say today. But I think I can get it in one word. ”WOW!” Maybe I can sum it all up in two words: “Thank You!” Thank you to Hashem, for all his blessings, and to the rebbe for his vision and leadership.”

Rubin continued, Thank you to the entire community, to everyone who came here today, dear friends and family who have come from afar, Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky from Chabad HQ, my parents, and my in-laws. “This historic milestone, a beautiful 2-acre property, a home for Jewish life, is what they call a team effort! You were asked to stand up to the plate, and boy, you did. My friends, we aimed for the fences and not only hit a home run, we hit a Grand Slam!”

Rubin, referencing, the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson said, “The rebbe, taught that Torah, though given over 3,330 years ago, remains relevant today. On Shabbat we just read about Bilaam, an anti-Semite and prophet who was hired to curse the Jews. But every time he tried, blessings came out instead! This story reflects Jewish history: Despite “curses,” the Jews emerge victorious, transforming



From left, Chana Rubin (with baby Mendel), Rabbi Yossi and Sara Paltiel; Risha, Mushka and Rabbi Mordechai Rubin; Micki and Norman Massry; Rabbi Yisroel and Rochel Rubin at the recent opening of the new Colonie Chabad house.

challenges into blessings. Even after Oct. 7th, we are opening a new Jewish Center!

Of the blessings that emerged from Bilaam’s attempted curses is the famous prayer and song “Mah Tov,” “How wondrous are your tents Yaakov, your

dwelling places Yisroel.” This refers to places like our Chabad center, a place for Jewish students at Siena College to call home and feel Jewish pride, a place where Jews from all walks of life and ages are welcomed for a Shabbat or holiday dinner.”

Following Rabbi Mordechai Rubin’s remarks, Rabbi Yisroel Rubin, director of the Capital District Chabad, who is noting 50 years since the rebbe sent him to establish Chabad in the capital region, recited a psalm for the safety and protection of Jews everywhere, especially our heroes and the hostages in the Holy Land.

“We all have moments in our lives where our hearts are too full for words. This is one of those moments,” said the co-director Chana Rubin. “This event is reminiscent to me of the building of the tabernacle, the home the Jews made for G-d in the desert. Every Jew was invited to participate in its building. Not only were they invited to contribute, but also in order for it to be a house for G-d it needed that all Jews were involved, making it a real home for G-d. Same is true here; everyone is involved!”

Micki Massry then read Psalm 121 in English, a psalm that echoes how G-d always protects us.

Mushka Rubin, 6, took the podium and led the crowd in the enthusiastic recitation of two Torah passages.

Senator Jake Ashby and Councilman Jeff Madden both expressed their encouragement: Ashby commented, “I am honored to bring a proclamation, and we are here with the Jewish community. In fact, I visited Israel last summer, and please know we are here for you.”

Marilyn Tanner, said, “I am so happy to be here. This community is like my family...When things have been rough for me personally, with some health challenges, Rabbi and Chana were



Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky (Chabad World HQ), left, and Rabbi Mordechai Rubin, co-director of the Colonie Chabad



Linda Grimm, left and Linda Chandler



Violinist Josh Sussman and other musicians played for the crowd.

really there for me, visiting me in the hospital and offering emotional support. I love bringing my friends here; we enjoy a fun time together. I feel so at home in this space and proud to be a Jew. We all loved the old place, but this space was so needed and it’s really amazing to have, I’m so glad I could be a part of it.”

Rabbi Mordechai Rubin presented Norman and Micki Massry with a crystal menorah engraved with a dedication, thanking them for their generous matching funds and partnership in establishing this new home for Jewish life.

“There’s one word that sums up this rabbi —amazing!” Norman Massry said. “I look for opportunities. This is one I couldn’t miss! I am amazed that you have lit the spark in many Jews there I never even knew existed especially at Siena College. Your work is really needed on campus.

Those attending also enjoyed other highlights including musical entertainment by violinist Josh Sussman, the cheeseboard and dessert table and the L’chaim at the wine bar featured a personalized shot glass each guest could take home as a memento.

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Local Chabad emissaries for students join Campus Chabad Conferences in Israel

By Rabbi MENDEL RUBIN

Each year Chabad on Campus International hosts summer conferences, usually in the NY/NJ/CT area, but this year, given the circumstances in Israel and on college campuses, decided to host the conferences in Israel.

There was a May trip for the Chabad on Campus Women, local attendees were Raizy Rubin of Shabbos House Chabad at the University at Albany and Laiky Rubin of the Union College Chabad.

The mens' trip was in July, and attended by local Chabad on Campus rabbis: Mendel Rubin of Shabbos House Chabad at University at Albany, Shmuly Rubin of Union College Chabad in Schenectady, Shlomo Morrison of Chabad at RPI, Mendy Mathless of University Heights Chabad, and Mordechai Rubin of Chabad at Siena.

The trip included visits to Sderot, the site of Nova festival in Re'im, and the Rehabilitation Hospital at Sheba Medical Center in Tel HaShomer. The representatives heard first-hand from survivors and rescuers, from wounded soldiers and families impacted by October 7th and its aftermath. They visited a new Israeli college campus in Kiryat Ono, danced at a Torah completion celebration at Ohel HaGevurah (for families of victims) in Jerusalem, and danced with units of soldiers at a special



Raizy Rubin of Shabbos House Chabad at the University at Albany and Laiky Rubin of the Union College Chabad at May Chabad Israel conference.

Ishay Ribo concert in scenic Leshem. They welcomed Shabbat at the Kotel on Friday night and visited Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the Machpela Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hebron.

The conference opened in Kfar Chabad (celebrating the 75th year since its founding), and closed with a formal banquet in Airport City near Tel-Aviv. Most of the conference days were spent traveling to places around Israel, but the conference was based in Jerusalem.



Several of the local Chabad group attending the men's July trip in Israel.

For Shabbat and the latter portion of the conference they were joined by their Israeli Chabad on Campus counterparts, many of whom serve in the IDF, especially this year when many more reservists were called up. They shared how deeply their campus life and student constituents were affected this year.

Wherever the attendees went, Israelis told them how meaningful it was to have the conference in Israel in a year like this. Ironically, while the American Chabad rabbis were concerned for the situation in Israel, the Israelis were concerned about the situation on college campuses in America.

Speaking at the conference, Natan Sharansky (former Soviet dissident, former member of Knesset and head

of the Jewish Agency, now chairman of an institute studying anti-Semitism) expressed a sentiment oft-repeated by many Israelis met on the trip, how Chabad on Campus serves (in a sense) on the frontlines.

Many of the local representatives extended their trips taking an opportunity to meet alumni now living in Israel. Alumni get-togethers for campuses in the Capital Region were held in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Beit-Shemesh. The attendees also met other Chabad on Campus Shluchim and Shluchos, now all preparing for the coming semester, enriched and informed by the conference experience, enthusiastic to share with returning students in the year ahead.

Thomas Nides insists to JNS ...

Continued from Page 5

el administration that one could have ever imagined," Nides added.

Arms Embargo

The former U.S. envoy, who served briefly as vice chairman for Wells Fargo after his diplomatic tenure in Jerusalem, told JNS that Harris, contrary to widespread belief and reporting in **The New York Times**, isn't open to discussing an arms embargo on the Jewish state.

After leaders of the so-called "uncommitted" movement, which discourages Democrats from voting for candidates who support Israel, told the **Times** that Harris agreed during a Detroit rally to meet with them about an embargo, Harris's national security adviser denied that she was open to the possibility of a weapons ban on the Jewish state.

"OK, can I be clear?" Nides told JNS. "The vice president does not support an embargo. You know that, and I know that. There's no question about that." "If you're walking in a photo line and someone says, 'Will you meet with me,' What, do you turn to him and say 'No, I'm not meeting with you.'

Come on, everybody," he said.

"She's been very clear. She's not supporting an arms embargo. Does President Biden support an arms embargo? Does the Democratic platform support an arms embargo?" Nides added. "We're not having an arms embargo, full stop."

Israel /Palestinians

Nides told JNS that he thinks that Netanyahu "cares deeply about the security of the State of Israel." "Do I agree and disagree with him? Yes," the former envoy said. "But the Israeli people will have to decide—long term—is the prime minister good or bad for Israel?"

Nides pivoted from politics to topography and sociology, and broader statements about the Jewish state.

"My view is that this is Israel. It's a beautiful place with beautiful people, who are unbelievably resilient. They'll get through this," he said. "But this is the most painful thing that the State of Israel has gone through since its creation 75 years ago, and my heart bleeds for them every day."

During his tenure in Israel, Nides emphasized dealing directly with Pal-

estinians. On the sidelines of the DNC in Chicago, he demurred when JNS asked who could lead Ramallah in the wake of Hamas's destruction and in what appears to be the closing period of Mahmoud Abbas's long tenure as leader of the Palestinian Authority, most of which he has done by decree.

"First of all, there's plenty of people who could be part of the leadership, and the Palestinian people will have to make the decision," Nides said.

The Palestinian Authority "will have to be involved in governance of some level" in a post-Hamas Gaza,

according to Nides.

"In Gaza, they're the only ones who can really do it—with the help of the Saudis, the Emiratis, the Egyptians, the Jordanians," he said. "But they'll be part of it."

Citing Hamas's use of human shields, Nides said that the U.S.-designated terror group "doesn't care about the Palestinian people." "The fact of the matter is their view—and they've articulated it—the more innocent Palestinians die, the better because it's about martyrdom," he said. "That's sick."



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Tuesday women's Torah topic class set by Bethlehem Chabad

BETHLEHEM—Bethlehem Chabad invites women from the community to join a weekly class starting on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 9:30 a.m. and recurring every Tuesday. According to organizers, the program at 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar, Caffeine for the Body & Soul, is designed to inspire and enrich daily life through Torah topics.

Chanie Simon, who will lead the dis-

cussions said, “this gathering will offer an atmosphere of conversation, pastries, and coffee, and provide a setting for dialogue and connection.

This event is open to women of all backgrounds, and they may bring babies and toddlers.

Interested participants may e-mail Chanie at chanie@bethlehemchabad.com for information or to register.

The DNC's platform problem

Continued from Page 2

Can Sponsors Help?

Don't forget: This is merely the draft. Democrats have yet to produce a platform acknowledging that Vice President Kamala Harris is now at the top of the ticket. We also have no idea how many who supported the burning of Israeli flags outside the 2016 DNC might now be seated as delegates inside. The amended platform may be much, much worse.

What has also changed at the DNC is the list of sponsors. With the exception of AT&T, which, with its predecessors, has provided communications services to both major conventions for more than a century, this year's corporate sponsors all seem to be new. Per **The Chicago**

Tribune, these include United Airlines, McDonald's, Archer Daniels Midland Co., CME Group, Cboe Global Markets Inc. and Peoples Gas.

It could be that these corporations, whose reputations are newly tied to the actions of this year's DNC, are the only ones who can step on the brakes, preventing the party from lurching further into anti-Israel and anti-Semitic territory. It seems unlikely that backhand support for Hamas and genocide is what they signed up for, and they can condition support for the DNC and the Harris campaign upon a platform that—as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu so aptly put it—favors civilization over barbarism. One can only hope that this will prove to be the case.

Oct. 7 hero saved dozens ...

Continued from Page 9

in the Re'im parking lot near the kibbutz where the music festival took place. The site displays photos of the 364 attendees murdered and 40 more hostages on posts. Trees newly planted by the victims' families could be seen about 100 feet away. The scope of the massacre was quietly concretized under the hot sun of June.

“My loss is small,” Skariszewski said. “My father was 57 years old, but he had children, he lived life. A family friend who paid his respects at my father's funeral buried two of his sons and a soon-to-be daughter-in-law. Who am I to complain? The cemetery near Ohad used to bury one grandmother every once and a while. Now? We had to bury our father in 15 minutes because there were so many burials.”

Skariszewski spoke fluently and courageously, but his eyes revealed a man who did not sleep well.

Entering The Strip

Entering the Gaza Strip was not easy, he related, as he had a broken family to take care of, but he felt that he needed to.

“A reserve mobility unit was missing a commander and for me it was the perfect fit. Their mission was to evacuate wounded soldiers, so while our actions were dangerous, we were not the first line into combat,” Skariszewski said.

“The unit's morale was pretty low. I brought my soldiers from the reserves

with me [veterans of the Givati Infantry Brigade who volunteered] and we raised the spirits of everyone. We were in [Gaza] for over two months with our Hummers. Other than four soldiers who died on the spot, everyone we evacuated survived.”

Skariszewski described the Gaza Strip as a dystopian terrorist society.

“We saw ammunition everywhere: rifles, bullets, explosive belts, Iran-made grenades, everything. There were pits of tunnels in kindergartens; we found Hitler's ‘Mein Kampf’ in Arabic in every other house; every home had a flag of either Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad or Fatah; we saw photos of [Yasser] Arafat and [Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed] Yassin on their walls. Even in education they propagandized. Their math books read things like, ‘If you kill 4 Jews plus 3 Jews, how many Jews have you killed?’ For children—it's insane.”

Now Skariszewski lives with his mother in Ohad and is trying to get used to civilian life. He returned to working at his former sales company, but in a “calmer” role, he noted. In his spare time, he is helping Sarusi grow their For the Home, For Tomorrow association and delivers lectures about his experiences to anyone who is interested.

“This is my form of therapy. I can't talk about this [with a therapist], but to retell my story and help other combat soldiers, that's how I am taking care of myself.”

Schenectady Jewish Community Center appoints Amy Landauer-Ruder as new board president

SCHENECTADY—The Schenectady Jewish Community Center (SJCC) has appointed Amy Landauer-Ruder as its new board president.

Landauer-Ruder has been a member of the Center for the past 12 years and has been a board member for six of those years. She has worked to support and strengthen the organization's early childhood, camp, and aftercare programs. In addition, she has served as the lead volunteer for the SJCC's new playground project and led efforts to build the splash pad.

Landauer-Ruder has also been involved in leadership and advocacy roles outside the SJCC. She is the immediate past president of both the Craig Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the PTO Council for the Niskayuna Central School District, and she serves on various district committees and safety groups. Landauer-Ruder is also a member of the board of the Niskayuna Community Foundation and will be chairwoman of its 25th anniversary celebrations next year.

“I'm excited to work with Amy in this new role. Her energy, passion and concern for our community will be a



AMY LANDAUER-RUDER

tremendous asset to our JCC and members,” said David Posner, CEO of the JCCs of the Capital Region.

As the new board president, Landauer-Ruder said she is excited “to take steps to help beautify and enhance the grounds, programs, and facilities for all aspects of JCC life and complete our capital campaign fund-raising.”

In her free time, Landauer-Ruder can often be found on the river with the Aqueduct Rowing Club, canoeing and kayaking with her family, and going on hikes. She resides in Niskayuna with her husband, Adam, and her two children, Maia and Noah.

The Robert and Dorothy Ludwig Schenectady JCC on the Golub Family Campus has been in existence for more than 100 years. According to administrators, the SJCC mission is to build a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community that embraces Jewish values, culture, identity and connections to Israel, engages the local community and enhances the body, mind and spirit of members. Information is available by calling 518-377-8803, or at www.schenectadyjcc.org or www.facebook.com/SchenectadyJCC.

Bethlehem Chabad lists Crown Heights bus trip for women

BETHLEHEM Bethlehem Chabad has scheduled a trip for local women to enable them to experience the Chasidic community of Crown Heights on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Those attending will meet at 8 a.m.

The day will begin with a visit to the Rebbe's Ohel. According to organizers, this will be a meaningful experience for all attendees as it is customary to pray at the resting place of the righteous leading up to the holiday of Rosh Hashanah. Following the ohel visit, the women will

make a walking tour of Crown Heights. The trip will also include an opportunity to visit Chabad World Headquarters, and meet Chasidic women entrepreneurs, to discuss their stories and successes. Participants will dine at one of the area's popular kosher hotspots.

The fee for the trip is \$60, which includes transportation, boxed lunch, and tour (dinner is separate) and registration is required by Thursday, Aug. 29.

Reservations and information may be obtained at www.bethlehem.com/nyc

Gates of Heaven to open its doors to community at Sept. 6 'Open Doors Event'

SCHENECTADY—Congregation Gates of Heaven has announced that an “Open Doors Event” will be held on Friday, Sept. 6.

According to organizers, this program is an opportunity to meet rabbi and staff, learn about the congregation and its Sunday morning Gates Quest, a school program designed for children to explore their Jewish heritage.

Highlights:

Jammies & Jeans Family Service: The event begins at 5:45 p.m. with a Jammies & Jeans service, a family-friendly event for families with children.

Family Shabbat Dinner: A kid

friendly Shabbat dinner featuring pizza, mac and cheese, mozzarella sticks, and ice cream is set for 6:15 p.m.

Community Tour, Refreshments: From 6:30-7 p.m., tours refreshments, and staff availability will be featured.

Shabbat Service, Oneg Shabbat: At 7 p.m. a regular Shabbat Service followed by an oneg Shabbat is planned. Those who have joined the congregation in the past two years, will be acknowledged.

Information may be obtained by contacting Arnie Rotenberg at arotenberg@cgoh.org or 518-374-8173 or on the congregation's website at www.cgoh.org.

We do not forget — Let our people go!



Locals demonstrating for the hostages that were taken by Hamas as it started a war on Oct. 7.

Community leaders and concerned citizens from across the Capital District gathered in Albany's Washington Park on Sunday, Aug. 4 to remember the 116 hostages being held in Gaza—with a particular focus on the kidnapped Americans. At press time now 109 hostages, both living and dead, remain captive in the Gaza Strip, over 319 days after the Hamas-led Oct. 7 invasion.

"Today is a milestone we hoped to never reach: More than 300 days since terrorists violently stole over 200 people from Israel," said Laura Weisblatt, co-founder of Amidah Albany. "Amidah stands with community leaders, faith leaders, and elected officials, to remember those still being held and tortured in underground tunnels in Gaza— including eight Americans. We affirm our support for Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state, and a safe haven for Jews," continued Weisblatt. "Israel and the Jewish people are not going anywhere."

The event—sponsored by Amidah Albany, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, and Run for Their Lives—brought together community leaders. In addition to speakers and singing, the program included a march through Washington Park in solidarity with the hostages.

The eight American hostages:

- **Edan Alexander:** Tenafly, New Jersey
- **Itay Chen** (killed in Israel, body held in Gaza): New York City
- **Sagui Dekel-Chen:** Bloomfield, New Jersey
- **Hersh Goldberg Polin:** Berkeley, Calif.

- **Gadi Haggai** (killed in Israel, body held in Gaza): New York
- **Judith Weinstein Haggai** (killed in Israel, body held in Gaza): New York
- **Omer Neutra:** Plainview, New York
- **Keith Siegel:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina

"Several of the kidnapped are from New York State. They were taken from a music festival, from inside their homes, from their morning walk," said Run For Their Lives leader Amanda Aussems Pozkanzer. "We cannot and we will not forget them. We've been saying this for 302 days and we'll keep saying it until they are home: Bring them all home—now!"

Jeffrey Handelman, board chairman of the Jewish Federation of NENY added, "It's a sad reality that rallies like this that are taking place around the globe are needed to stand as a reminder—but we'll keep showing up until every hostage is home and Israelis can live in peace with their neighbors."

"I wholeheartedly support Israel's right to exist and will continue to stand with my Jewish friends and neighbors as we urge Hamas to release the hostages—including the four hostages from New York State—so they can return home safely," said Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan.

"We are rallying today, because since October 7th we've been tragically reminded of how much Israel is core to our collective identity as a people," said David Posner, CEO of JCCs of the Capital Region. "Israel is a blessing in our lives, and we will never relent in its defense. There is but one Jewish state, at the center of one Jewish people," Posner continued. "As a people, we have existed for more than 3,000 years, and we will



Demonstrators in Washington Park in Albany on Aug. 4

work for 3,000 more."

"The Jewish people have overcome years and years of anti-Semitism, hatred, pogroms, destruction, violence, expulsion, exile, ethnic cleansing and genocide," said Deborah Zamer, Albany Common Council member. "The State of Israel is our safe haven—the place that has prevented the Holocaust from happening again. The place that takes in Jewish refugees from all over the world. The place we can live freely, and survive," continued Zamer. "Being a Zionist means you support self-determination of Jewish people, not at the expense of any other people. We yearn for peace, coexistence, and dignity for all people living in the land."

Amidah Albany is a local grassroots group, organized in response to rising anti-Semitism in the Region since the

attacks of October 7, 2023. The group's initiatives include: standing up for the Jewish community; standing up for Israel's right to exist, defend itself, and ensure the safety of its residents; fighting anti-Semitism in all its forms, <https://www.amidahalbany.com>.

Run for Their Lives (R4TL) – Albany Group is the locally based group of the R4TL initiative, a global movement to raise awareness and call for the release of the hostages held by Hamas. The group gathers every Sunday to dedicate at least 18 min of each week to advocate for the release of innocents taken from their families and held captive in Gaza. <https://run4lives.org>.

Readers are invited to the join with them.

Information about the JFNENY may be found at www.jewishfedny.org.



Obituaries

EUGENE BERKUN

93, of Albany, and Coconut Creek, Fla., Aug. 13 2024; survived by wife Barbara (Schnur) Berkun; brother Richard (Jo Ann) Berkun, sons Andrew (LiFang) Berkun, and David (Debbie) Berkun; daughter Paula Binyamin; grandchildren Samuel, Ruth, and Sarah Berkun, Benjamin, Erez and Barak Binyamin, and Hannah Berkun; and great-grandchild Amelia Elinor Binyamin.

ZINAIDA BORODULINA

93, of Niskayuna, July 29, 2024; widow of Yurly; survived by son, two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ROBERT KURZON

81, of Albany, Aug. 5, 2024; survived by daughters Alison Kurzon Johnson and Emily (Brandon) Baker; son Andrew (Carrie Wallace) Kurzon;

grandchildren Elyssa, Samantha, Maxwell, Elliot, and Henry; and sister Judith (Al) Wieden.

SCOTT MEYER

73, of Albany; Aug. 4 2024; survived by wife Annette Nanes; daughters Orah(Tim) LeHockey and Lily Meyer; grandchildren; Naomi and Dylan LeHockey; and brother Mitchell (Susana), Meyer.

RICHARD PREISMAN

86, of Niskayuna, Aug. 9, 2024; survived by wife Barbara; daughter Sandra; son David (Davida) Preisman; and grandchildren Victoria and Juliana.

GLORIA ROLAND

100, of Slingerlands, Aug. 3 2024; widow of George Roland; survived by sister Vicki Meisner; sons Keith and Michael; grandchildren Ethan and Sean; step-grandsons, David and Alex; great-granddaughters Ayyah and Mar-eyla; step-great-grandchildren Harper and Micah.

The Jewish World publishes obituaries containing age, date of death, spouse and immediate family survivors at no cost. For other options, contact Jim@JewishWorldnews.org

Our Special Connection

Rabbi Leible Morrison and his wife Elisheva of Beth Tephilah in Troy, create a weekly family bulletin that has as a focus the Torah portion of the week and each week includes a "special connection" section highlighting an individual who has died during the week featuring that portion. Shown here is Va'etchanan, which was read in the synagogue on August 17.

JULIUS PLATT Z"l

Julius Platt Z"l passed away on the 3rd portion of the Parshah of Va'etchanan. In this portion, Moses specifies which cities on the east side of the Jordan River would become cities of refuge once the Jewish people would conquer the land of Israel. A city of refuge is a place that a person who accidentally killed somebody could run to and by law be protected against the killed man's relatives who might want to take immediate revenge on the killer.

The cities of refuge law impacting the east side of the Jordan River would not go into effect until the cities west of the Jordan River were established after the Land of Israel was conquered. It would make more sense to first specify the cities on the west side of the Jordan River first and then specify the ones on the east side.

Just because Moses was now on the east side of the Jordan was no reason to specify those cities. Rashi, a great Torah commentator, answers this question. Rashi quotes from the Talmud Makot which states that Moses said, "Any commandment that is possible to fulfill, I will fulfill" (Makkoth 10a), as translated by the Judica Press.

better understand this statement by Moses in the present everyday world, let us take a look at the life of Julius Platt.

Julius Platt was born in Lodz, Poland around 1910. He came to America when he was 10. His father was a furrier and a tailor. Julius had two brothers and a sister. They both passed away of health-related issues at a young age that could have been helped today.

Julius had a very strong Jewish identity and came from a traditional home, but he wasn't religious growing up.

He was very strong and robust. He took jobs that required a lot of strength. Initially, he worked as an apprentice to a butcher and then he became a butcher. He was known to be able to pick up a side of beef weighing more than 200 pounds and carry it on his shoulder.

Julius eventually found a job working for the state as a maintenance man. There was a woman that worked in the state that he assumed was not Jewish and would not talk to her. Then one day he heard her speaking Yiddish to a friend. He could not believe it and just stared at her.

Rosalind Feldman, his future wife, asked him what he was staring at and that started their relationship that lasted more than 50 years.

Julius inherited his parents' house on 14th street in which he always lived. This house was away from the Hudson River

where coal-producing factories made the air dirty.

During the late 1940s Rabbi Cohen became the rabbi of Beth Israel Bikur Cholim (that would evolve into Beth Tephilah synagogue today). Rabbi Cohen's wife had asthma and found it hard to breathe near the synagogue. Julius, being the generous man he was, offered them the bottom apartment of his two family home at a very reasonable price so that Mrs. Cohen would not get sick.

Julius got married in 1951 with Rosalind and lived in the top apartment of their house above the Cohens. Rabbi Cohen had a profound effect on Julius' life as a no nonsense type of rabbi. He told people the law without any sugar-coating. Julius loved the strong authority figure of Rabbi Cohen and this ignited his heart to become a sincere religious Jew. This took a lot of courage because all of his acquaintances did not know him like this.

Julius was always very straight. He called himself a rebel because he went against societal norms to follow his beliefs. He loved to sing Jewish songs with his strong baritone voice. Whenever he was called up to the Torah, his beautiful voice elucidated the blessings loud and clear.

He belonged to several religious societies of Beth Tephilah Bikur Cholim. He belonged to the Chevra Kaddisha, the holy society that prepares the deceased for burial. He belonged to the Chevra Tehillim, the society that would say psalms by the house of very ill people. He belonged to the Chevra Bikur Cholim, the society that would visit the sick recovering and healing in hospitals.

Even after these societies had ceased operations he still did these good deeds as an individual. He built his own sukkah, (a temporary dwelling built on for the holiday of Sukkot) till almost the last years of his life and helped others with getting the pine branches to cover their sukkah.

He always helped others with the holiday of Passover. I remember Julius' koshering Meir Lazar's Z"l oven with a little blow torch. Meir was older and lived alone and appreciated Julius' help. Julius would always host Nathan Rosenstein, when Nathan was a young man, for Shabbos. If anyone was sick from our community even if Julius barely knew him or her, he was soon by their side visiting.

If anybody needed anything fixed he was there. He always was at shul for all the prayer services. You could count on Julius to always say Kaddish for anyone who couldn't attend services. He always put a smile on people's faces by saying L'chaim with his favorite drink Old Grand Dad 100 proof. On Shabbos he would always walk the two miles to shul, rain or shine.

Once he broke his leg and still came to services on crutches. If you come down the hill you have to go back up to get home, which he did masterfully.

Continued on page 19

In The Shadow of Death ...

Continued from Page 7

self-help group. As I run I feel as if my feet don't even come near the ground. Bullets fall around me. Who knows if I will arrive safely at the rendezvous. Suddenly I see in the distance a Cossack patrol coming towards me. Continuing to run means going directly into the hands of the Cossacks. I approach the closest door. The door is shut tight. I shove with all my strength and the door opens. I run quickly into the courtyard; I want to push the door closed, but it is already too late.

Into the woodpile

The sound of hoof beats gets closer.

I squeeze into a little corner between the stalls under a mountainous woodpile. Quickly I creep in between the logs; I cover myself with wood all around. I hold my breath; I'm afraid to breathe. Lying like that for a few minutes, I hear that the Cossacks are already in the courtyard. They are searching and rummaging in every little corner. (What I lived through then is dreadful even now as I recall it.) Through something like a miracle they don't look through this pile of wood. They remount their horses and dash off at a gallop. A cold sweat pours over me. I remain there until it gets a little quieter and I drag myself to the meeting place of the self-help group.



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Iz Visions Moses Has A Dream



Zipporah, I dreamt that we starred in a movie called "The Ten Commandments!"

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Berk lecture series at Agudat Achim begins Sept. 5

SCHENECTADY—"Great Moments in History" is the topic Prof. Stephen Berk will cover during his scholar-in-residence series at Congregation Agudat Achim on four consecutive Thursdays in September. This is an in-person event at 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Lectures start at 7:30 p.m.; cost is \$54 for the series or \$18 per lecture.



PROF. STEPHEN BERK

Our View of Jewish Life." **Thursday, Sept. 26:** "Important Dates in November: The Balfour Declaration, Kristallnacht, the United Nations Partition Plan, and the American Upcoming Election."

Berk is the Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust and Jewish Studies at Union College. He has lectured extensively about a variety of Jewish topics throughout the United States and abroad. Last October, he was a featured speaker at a community rally hosted by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks by Hamas. Registration may be obtained at 518-393-9211 or on the congregation's website at <https://www.agudatachim.com>.

Berk will discuss:
Thursday, Sept. 5 "After the Torah: The Destruction of the Temples, Babylonia and Yavneh"
Thursday, Sept. 12: "The Modern Miracle: The First Congress, 1948, and the Six-Day War."
Thursday, Sept. 19: "The Golden Age of American Jewry: Hollywood, Spielberg, Uris, and Wiesel Changed

Friday, Aug. 23, 19, Av. Shabbat candle lighting at 7:26 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 24, 20, Av. Sedrah: Eikev Shabbat ends at 8:26 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 30, 26, Av. Shabbat candle lighting at 7:14 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 31, 27, Av. Sedrah: Re'eh. Shabbat ends at 8:14 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 30, Av. Rosh Chodesh Elul.
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 1, Av. Rosh Chodesh Elul.

Friday, Sept. 6, 3, Elul. Shabbat candle lighting at 7:02 p.m.
Saturday, Sept., 7, 4 Elul. Sedrah: Shoftim. Shabbat ends at 8:01 p.m



CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Bar Mitzvah



MICAH THIELL, son of Sara and Aaron Thiehl of Poestenkill, will be bar mitzvah on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 at Beth Emeth in Albany .

Maternal grandparents are Jane and Bill Ginsburgh of Albany. The late Hon. Richard A. Hanft was also a maternal grandparent.

Paternal grandparents are Carol and Bruce Thiehl, Irondequoit, NY.

Micah is obsessed with baseball and plays on Averill Park's modified team, as well as on a local travel team. He loves his position as catcher. He also enjoys playing tennis with his sister. Micah is a member of his school's chorus, and plays trombone in both band and jazz band. He has been an All-County participant and was chosen for the Suburban Council's middle school jazz band last year. He also plays piano. Micah volunteers his time helping his mom run a food distribution program for local students and families who encounter food insecurity. This summer, he took on more planning responsibilities for this program. He is also a madrich at Sunday School.

Our Special Connection

Continued from Page 18

On the festivals when a person can carry, he would take his son and daughter in each arm and carry them both ways. He would give charity to every organization that asked of him and there were many in need of a little tzedakah. All the charity collectors that would come to Troy would stay by his house and be treated like a king and gave a sizable donation because he did not want them to leave empty-handed.

Julius appreciated the chance to do a mitzvah. He looked at it as what it is supposed to be, a great privilege.

Now we can see through Julius' example, how throughout his life, Moses jumped at the chance to honor G-d's command to separate the cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan even though these cities would not be used till after the other cities of refuge would be specified in the Land of Israel. Since he was on the east side of the Jordan near these cities, knowing he was not allowed to go into the Land of Israel and he passed away before the Jewish people would enter into Israel, Moses felt compelled to specify the cities now so he could have the chance to do this mitzvah!

Our Special Connections" is a project that takes the life experiences of loved ones that have passed and uses them as a commentary on each using a portion of the Torah. The "Special Connection" is that your loved one's "commentary" provides insight for people learning Torah and provides an everlasting legacy and elevation for the soul of that special person in your life!

We are trying to make a website that has these memories. Please share some memories with us of your loved ones. Please call Leible at 518-894-3490.

Summer salad satisfies!

Watermelon Feta Salad

This is a fresh salad that is best prepared within one hour of serving.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cubed seedless watermelon (1 pound of watermelon equals 1.5 cups cubed)
- 1 medium/large cucumber, chopped
- ½ cup fresh mint, chopped or fresh bay leaves
- ½ cup thinly sliced red onion (about ½ of a medium red onion)
- 1 cup crumbled feta (approximately 6 oz.)
- ¼ PICS Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 tbsp PICS Red Wine Vinegar
- Flaky kosher salt to taste

Instructions:

Place cubed watermelon, chopped cucumber, sliced onion and chopped mint into a large bowl.

In a small bowl, combine the olive oil, red wine vinegar, and salt into a small bowl, and whisk together. Pour



the dressing on the salad and add the crumbled feta. Toss lightly to coat and distribute cheese crumbles. Garnish with some fresh mint or bay leaves and serve!

Recipe provided by Price Chopper/Market 32. The kosher store has moved to the new Market 32 location at the former ShopRite, 1730 Central Ave. The Jewish World has a commercial relationship with Price Chopper.

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