

Jewish community came together in support of Israel

On Monday, October 9, we came together as a community to support our Israeli family. A number of friends from the larger Scranton community joined us to stand with us and with Israel. Among those who came were Congressman Matt Cartwright, Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti, Ministerium President Rebecca Barnes and Bishop Joseph Bambera, Representative Kyle Donahue and Councilwoman Jessica Rothschild, all of whom expressed their support for the Jewish community and for Israel in these trying times. The Scranton Police Department provided extra security and we are grateful to Chief Thomas Carroll and the Police Department for their help and support.

The program was rapidly organized after the first news of

the Hamas invasion came over the media. Through a joint effort of the professional leadership of the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel of Scranton and Temple Hesed, we were able to organize in less than 48 hours and convoke the meeting on October 9. About 200 people attended, including a group of students from Clarks Summit University and leadership of different groups in the Scranton area.

The program opened with an invocation by Rabbi Swartz of Temple Hessed, followed by the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Hatikvah” led by Cantor Aronzon of Temple Israel. David Falk, chair of the Community Relations Council of the Federation, welcomed those in attendance and highlighted

the importance of the event and of standing with Israel as advocates and ambassadors. Daniel Chejfec, executive director of the Federation, gave an update of the situation on the ground, shared his feelings and reflections, and also shared some of the ways in which we can all help. Dan Cardonick, executive director of the Scranton Jewish Community Center, reminded people of the importance and centrality of Israel and its culture in what we do as a community and in the program offer of the JCC; he also shared his own personal feelings and reflections. Rabbi Spitzer of Temple Israel followed with a prayer for the IDF. Rabbi Mordechai Fine of Machzikei Hadas shared a passionate defense of our Jewish “mischpocha” and made a passionate call for unity

as he also reminded us of the importance of keeping to the high road. Rabbi Alex Hecht from Beth Shalom Congregation also shared with us his passion for Israel and the Jewish people, and the need to remain united and stand by our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Congressman Cartwright, Mayor Cagnetti, Rev Barnes and Bishop Bambera all shared their strong support for our Jewish Community and for Israel in its time of trial, as well as their desire for peace.

The program closed with the singing of “Shir LaShalom” (“A Song for Peace”), a traditional Israeli song that was sung among others by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995, minutes before being assassinated. Toward the end of the song, one of the lines proclaims “Don’t just say the day will come, bring the day about,” a strong reminder of being actively involved.

In Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Israel Trauma Coalition are helping people from the areas of battle to relocate to safer areas, making sure their children are able to attend school, and helping people cope with the psychological trauma of losing loved ones as well as the impact of being in the war zone. These agencies, among others, are supported by the American Jewish Community with extra funds collected through the Emergency Campaign organized by the Jewish Federations of North America. If you wish to help financially, log into <https://jfed.org/Israel/fund2023> or mail your contribution to the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania to 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510, indicating on the memo line “Israel Emergency.” Remember, “kol Israel arevim ze b’ze” – All Israel are responsible for one another.

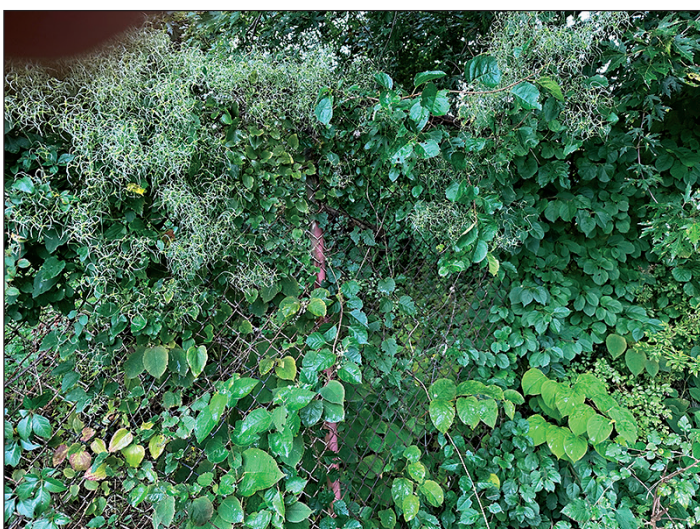
Providence Jewish Cemetery gets needed facelift

Over the last couple of months, we have made significant improvements in the upkeep of the historic Providence Jewish Cemetery. This was made possible by a fund established at the Jewish Federation, the Myer and Shirley Alperin Providence Cemetery Fund. We were able to clear the overhanging trees that were making a part of the cemetery difficult to access. We also learned of a second section of the cemetery, across Eureka Street from

the main section, that I was personally not aware of. That section was badly overgrown (see photos) and inaccessible. We contracted for the cleaning of it, and as you can see from the photos it is now fully accessible. This second section contains a number of graves from 1918 to the early 1920s. The Jewish Federation is fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility of maintaining this historical cemetery, which is an See “Cemetery” on page 6



Grave in the second section of the cemetery



Providence second section before clean up



Providence second section after clean up

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Avi Ganz provides a first-hand look at the first two weeks of the war in Israel.

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Fleeing war

Half a million Israelis displaced by war; Ukrainian orphans sheltering in Israel moved to safety.

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Prepping for war

Israel’s hospitals are moving patients into underground facilities and preparing for more patients.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

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THE PENNSYLVANIA JEWISH COALITION

Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition thanks Pennsylvania legislature for their unanimous support of Israel

The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC) commends the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives for unanimously passing Resolutions to Support and Stand with Israel following the unprovoked terrorist attack by Hamas in which over 1,400 Israelis were killed, over 3,400 Israelis wounded and approximately 200 taken as hostages, including women, children and the elderly.

The Pennsylvania Senate passed two resolutions to Stand with Israel. Resolution 191, introduced by Senators Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks) and Judy Schwank (D-Bucks), passed unanimously. Another resolution, Resolution 185, introduced by Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin), also passed the Pennsylvania Senate by a unanimous vote.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed Resolution 245, introduced by Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny), also by a unanimous vote.

“The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition wishes to thank the Penn-

sylvania Senate and House for their strong and unanimous stance in support of Israel and against terror” noted Jonathan Scott Goldman, chairman of the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition. “The recent horrific terrorist acts against Israel by Hamas cannot be ignored – it is imperative that Israel defend itself and fight for its safety and security.”

Goldman continued, “Hamas’ terroristic acts are an attack on Jews

and all civilized people throughout the world. The state of Israel was formed in 1948 to make sure the Holocaust ‘never happens again.’ As Representative Frankel stated in his remarks before the Pennsylvania House of Representative: ‘NEVER AGAIN IS NOW.’

“I am proud to say that the ENTIRE legislative body of Pennsylvania, the Senate and House of Representatives, together with

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, unanimously STAND WITH ISRAEL.”

The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC) is the eyes, ears and voice in Harrisburg of the Jewish communities across Pennsylvania, including Jewish Federations in Altoona, Erie, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Wilkes-Barre and York.

Half a million Israelis displaced by war

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Almost 500,000 Israelis have been displaced by the war, an Israel Defense Forces spokesperson said on October 17.

“There are about half a million internally displaced Israelis at the time,” Lt.-Col. (res.) Jonathan Conricus said during a briefing for reporters.

More than 20 communities near the Gaza Strip have been evacuated as the army gears up for a ground offensive. Another 28 communities within two km. of the Lebanese border have also been evacuated. In recent days, Hezbollah has fired anti-tank rockets into Israel.

The evacuations come on the heels of an October 7 assault by Hamas on Israeli communities near the Gaza border that caught Israelis off-guard. Fighting raged for days as the IDF initially struggled to clear out the terrorists. Terrorists have killed more than 1,400 Israelis and wounded over 4,100 others. At least 199 hostages were taken to Gaza.

Meanwhile, the IDF killed four people trying to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon on October 17



Volunteers in Sderot prepared food packages for residents evacuating the city on October 15. (Photo by Eitan Elhadez-Barak/TPS)

morning. And in Metula, Israel’s northernmost town, an anti-tank rocket fired from Lebanon wounded three people. IDF tanks fired in response toward the source of the fire. The army declared Metula a closed military zone and ordered the remaining residents there and in the city of Kiryat Shmona to enter bomb shelters until further notice.

Israeli communities that took in people from border towns are facing a shortage of doctors, pharmacists and mental health professionals, experts and evacuees told the Knesset Health Committee on October 17. One woman who was

evacuated from Kibbutz Nahal Oz near Gaza to Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek in the Jezreel Valley told lawmakers there weren’t enough doctors to deal with the sudden increase of residents.

Nachi Katz, CEO of Kedem – The Association for Promoting Seniors Housing Communities in Israel, which represents nursing homes and assisted living facilities, warned of a shortage of nurses and security guards.

Gadi Yarkoni, chairman of the Eshkol Regional Council, whose area of jurisdiction is adjacent to the southern Gaza Strip, stressed the need to treat trauma victims, noting that in some of the communities he represents, a quarter of the residents were either murdered, kidnapped or still missing. Yarkoni also urged that preparations be made for the return of hostages being held by Hamas in the Strip.

Dr. Michael Shapiro, who is in charge of emergency medicine in Ashkelon, located eight miles north of the Gaza Strip, pointed to a shortage of pharmacists in the cities to which residents were evacuated.

Tent city for displaced Israelis being built in Ramat Gan

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A tent city is being built in Ramat Gan to house some of the more than 200,000 Israelis internally displaced by the war with terrorists from the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The Tel Aviv suburb’s Kfar Maccabiah resort complex will provide temporary shelter for 1,000 people evacuated from northern communities under fire from the Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist group in Lebanon, Amir Gissin, the CEO of Maccabi World Union, told Israel’s Channel 12 the



Residents of Kiryat Shmona being evacuated due to the threat from Lebanon on October 22. (Photo by David Cohen/Flash90)

week of October 23.

Families that evacuated southern

Israeli communities close to the Gaza border are already staying at the 80-acre compound, which includes two hotels, a convention and events center and a sports club.

The evacuations began after Hamas terrorists from Gaza rampaged through western Negev communities starting on October 7, murdering at least 1,400 people, wounding more than 5,100 others and taking 222 captives back to the Strip. Terrorists in Gaza have fired more than 7,000 rockets at Israel since October 7.

See “Tent” on page 10

The Reporter

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The War Chronicles: Has it really been two weeks?

BY AVI GANZ

Originally published by *The Times of Israel*

I've noticed that there is something different about the giving that is going on all around me. Typically, when it comes to charitable acts of loving kindness, there is a giver and a recipient. The recipient is lacking something that the giver has and a match is made. Without both parties, no transaction would take place. As tens of millions of dollars (maybe it's more than that by now) in cash and supplies pour in from all over the world, I've sensed something different about the giving: People aren't giving because someone else is lacking. People are giving because everyone is "showing up." This is a battle that is being fought from the front lines back but also from the rearguard all the way around the world and up to the front lines.

Stories of "a religious man" who stood at the El Al ticket counter on Motzaei Yom Tov and paid for the flights of dozens of soldiers who were heading home to enlist (not just on WhatsApp and Telegram – I heard this firsthand from a soldier), Gerrer Chassidim from Arad showing up to army bases with a hundred pies of pizza, countless duffel bags sent on commercial flights packed with supplies, notes, and goodies for our men and women in green, the endless logistics and volunteers necessary to efficiently collect, deliver, unpack, and distribute all of it ... communities joining forces and resources to put on a wedding for a couple whose venue was no longer an option, performers traveling the length and breadth of the country to perform for anyone (soldiers, wounded, displaced families) who could use a pick-me-up.... In my Yishuv, some of the "Dodas" were enlisted to paint the new concrete blockades that the Home Front Command was kind enough to drop off at our entrances (because why should safety be less than friendly?), a local handyman volunteered to build an awning over these new guard posts for shade (wasn't Sukkos last month?), and the yeshiva boys filled sandbags for added protection.

There are WhatsApp groups for every conceivable idea. Among them and my personal favorite: groups of people who are not in the military but have cars and are ready willing and able to drive anything or anyone anywhere: supplies ... a soldier to or from his base ... a fresh challah from a loving wife to her dear husband who has been called up ... two duffel bags of medical supplies that arrived at a distribution center from my brother in Florida (thanks Dr. Sam!) and were picked up, delivered and unloaded at



Toddler's shoe in Kibbutz Kfar Aza. (Courtesy; published by *The Times of Israel*)

their destination and then the empty duffel bags brought to our front door an hour later ... new winter jackets from a kibbutz near Herzliya to an embroidery place in Gush Etzion (I called that one in this morning and the volunteer was at the pick up spot minutes later) it is truly incredible! When I first heard of these angels on wheels, it was quite by accident: A fellow pulled up to our driveway and asked if we were 'so and so.' I said no – that's our neighbor and he casually mentioned that he is here to pick up a package to be delivered to a staging area. "I have a car. I am not on reserve duty. This is what I do." It was that simple to him. I was blown away.

A Chabad rabbi (I know, I know – it's always a Chabad rabbi) in the area met me at the check out counter at a housewares store with a smile and a stack of snap-lock storage containers: "Chayalim asked for 80 of these to protect their tefilin from rain." So I bought two, the lady in front of me paid for four, and the guy in front of her got another 2. The store, for their part, graciously gave 20% off for the containers.

Speaking of stores and discounts, a collection for the bbq I wrote about last time netted enough funds to also supply a unit of 90 combat soldiers with some fresh undergarments (remember: you can't do laundry in the field – these guys had spent eight days in active combat without even taking their boots off for a few minutes). I sent a text to the proprietor of a store that had what I was looking for. I didn't ask for a favor; just wanted to know what he had in stock. He called me back an hour later and told me to come in. He met me at the door and immediately showed me what he had set aside – and let me know that he was giving it to me for 40% off. I had

a virtually identical experience the next day at another store shopping for ... you guessed it: socks and underwear! [Side note: I've added "Captain Underpants" to my list of possible epitaphs.] And the battery packs we distributed in the North last week? given to us at cost....

Here's the thing (or one of them, anyway): there is an air of unity all around and it's not from singing or even from pizza or sandwich delivery. It is a sense of togetherness that is expressed through a thousand or a million or tens of millions of individual acts and it is felt by everyone here. We, the Jewish People, have been dealt a heavy blow and our response as a nation is to strengthen one another. As I was cleaning up after a barbecue we arranged with Yeshivat Har Etzion for some 60 or 70 soldiers in and around Gush Etzion, the last group of young men had just sat down to wash and eat (after several other groups had come and gone back to their guard posts). They turned to me and insisted that I sit with them to eat. I told them that I wasn't hungry and they still insisted that I join them. This was a seuda of dibbuk Chaveirim and camaraderie; not a "mission" or a "chessed project." They wanted to learn about me and I about them. We shmoozed. They ate. They broke out cigarettes for dessert. Hugs, handshakes, and a pat on the back ... and they were back to another shift in the dark and in the cold, but they weren't alone. After we finished cleaning up and I was about to leave, we heard the unmistakable iron dome "booms" (that's what they're called in Hebrew, anyway) nearby. The soldiers gathered around their communications device and two of them came to stand with me and my two boys ... and updated us and comforted the boys when they got the all-clear and we could drive home safely.

See "War" on page 8

DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming *Reporter* issues.

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Friday, November 10.....	December
Monday, December 11	January
Monday, January 15	February
Monday, February 12	March

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Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold the hybrid event “HBI Fall Seminar – Scholar in Residence with Allegra Goodman” on Monday, November 13, at noon. Goodman will talk about her collection of stories, “The Family Rubinstein.” For more information or to register, visit <https://brandeis.zoom.us/j/98123456789>.

◆ Uri L’Tzedek will hold the virtual event “Neither Pro-Choice Nor Pro-Life: Abortion in Jewish Law” with Rabbi Sarah Mulhern on Monday, December 4, at noon. The cost to attend is \$18. For more information or to register, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98123456789>.

◆ Roundtable at the 92nd Street Y will hold virtual program Adam Gopnik on the Marx Brothers on Thursday, November 9, from 2:30-3:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$44. Gopnik will “explore the Marx Brothers’ revolutionary absurdism – a lecture in celebration of 92NY’s 150th Anniversary.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/adam-gopnik-on-the-marx-brothers>.

◆ YIVO’s Yiddish Club will hold two events this fall: musician Lorin Sklamberg on Sunday, November 19, at 2 pm (yivo.org/YiddishClub21); and actress and singer Dylan Seders Hoffman

on Sunday, December 10, at 2 pm (yivo.org/YiddishClub22).

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold the discussion “What Makes a Book Jewish?” on Thursday, November 16, at 7 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will host a panel conversation with Jewish writers Allegra Goodman, Dani Shapiro and Ruth Knafo Setton. For more information or to register, visit www.hadassahmagazine.org/2023/09/20/what-makes-a-book-jewish/.

◆ HUC Connect will hold a series of webinars, including “Frank Stella: Jewish Themes” on Tuesday, November 14, at 2 pm; “Illuminating Ecclesiastes” on Tuesday, November 29, at 7:30 pm; and “Confronting Controversy on Stage” on Tuesday, December 5, at 2 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/public-programs-events/huc-connect-upcoming-events/webinar/>.

◆ The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards is now accepting applications. The awards “recognize young changemakers who have significant impact in leading initiatives that embody the values of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.” Fifteen Jewish teens annually receive awards of \$36,000 each. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 5. For more information, visit <https://dillerteenawards.org/apply/>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold “Planning for Peace of Mind: Feel Empowered

with Advanced Directives” with Rabbi Dr. Jason Weiner and Rabbi Sherre Hirsch on Thursday, December 14, from 3-4 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/planning-for-peace-of-mind-feel-empowered-with-advanced-directives/>.

◆ The Jewish Women’s Archive has made its Nicki Newman Tanner Oral History Collection open to the public. The collection offers “hundreds of interviews with leaders, activists, and community members across the United States, documenting their encounters with major events and movements of the 20th and 21st centuries and the many ways that gender, class, place, and religious and ethnic identities have shaped women’s lives.” For more information or to access the collection, visit <https://jwa.org/oralhistories>.

◆ The Tikvah Fund is offering the six-part lecture course “Israel on the Precipice: The Yom Kippur War at 50,” which explores “the history, politics and impact of the Yom Kippur War.” The course, which is taught by Dr. Michael Doran, senior fellow and director of the Center for Peace and Security in the Middle East at the Hudson Institute, who served in the George W. Bush Administration, as a senior director in the National Security Council, a senior advisor in the State Department and a deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Pentagon. For more information or to register, visit <https://yomkippurwar.tikvahfund.org/>.

◆ The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History will hold the virtual Weitzman Book Club. On Tuesday, November 14, at 2 pm, the discussion will focus on “Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance” with Rebecca Clarren discussing her new book “The Cost of Free Land.” On Tuesday, December 12, at 2 pm, the discussion will focus on the “Boston Chocolate Party” with Rabbi Deborah Prinz discussing her books “The Boston Chocolate Party” and “On the Chocolate Trail.” For more information or to register, visit <https://theweitzman.org/events/virtual-book-club-series/>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual program “I Could Nosh” with author Jake Cohen on Wednesday, November 15, from 3-4 pm. The cost to attend is \$31. Cohen will discuss recipes from his newest New York Times best-selling cookbook, “I Could Nosh: Classic Jewish Recipes Revamped for Every Day.” For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/i-could-nosh-with-author-jake-cohen/>.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will offer two virtual programs in its “Between the Lines” series: Meryl Ain will discuss about her new award-winning novel, “Shadows We Carry,” on Tuesday, November 21, from 1-2 pm (www.jtsa.edu/event/between-the-lines-shadows-we-carry/); and Israeli author Agur Schiff about his novel “Professor Schiff’s Guilt” on Tuesday, December 12, from 1-2 pm (www.jtsa.edu/event/book-talk-professor-schiffs-guilt/).

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the hybrid book talk and performance “Sholem Asch: Underworld Trilogy,” with Caraid O’Brien on Wednesday, November 29, at 7 pm. The event includes a discussion of the book “Sholem Asch: Underworld Trilogy” and performances of scenes from the book. For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/sholem-asch-underworld-trilogy-caraid-obrien.

See “Online” on page 6

P A C E Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment

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A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) is a permanent fund that endows your Jewish community Annual Campaign gift as a lasting legacy. A PACE fund will continue to make an annual gift in perpetuity on your behalf.

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For more information contact Daniel Chejfec at
Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)

Stand with Israel

I'm writing this column with a heavy and broken heart. Yesterday we learned about the massacre at the nursery in Kfar Azza: 40 babies and young children brutally killed by Hamas terrorists. And this is an episode that adds on top of the ones we heard of before: young men and women killed at a music concert, murderers from Hamas rampaging through Israeli towns killing anybody in sight and more.



Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) have done an incredible job in getting people to safety and

job in the aftermath helping people deal with the sense of loss, fear and insecurity that this barbarity will leave behind. The Emergency Fund

military campaign in Gaza will probably be long and difficult, trying to rescue those kidnapped while destroying the infrastructure of Hamas. If you know people in Israel, reach out to them; let them know they are in your mind and in your heart.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

helping others locate their relatives and friends; providing a safe haven for elderly and children. And the Israel Trauma Coalition, dealing now with the physical trauma of those affected, will have an even larger

David Adom and Zaka. It is our way to express our unity and support for our Israeli mischpocha, our Israeli family.

While we yearn for peace, we know it is not coming soon. The

If you wish to contribute to the Emergency Fund, you can do so online at <https://jfed.org/israel/fund2023> or if you prefer to send us a check, indicate in the memo that it is for the Emergency Fund and we'll make sure it gets there.

We are one people. *Am Israel chai!*

The scale and cruelty of the barbaric attack is incomprehensible and questions our sense of humanity. That is why it is more important than ever that we remind ourselves of who we are—of our ethical values and of our respect for life. If we become them, they won.

I spent the first days of the attack in constant contact with my family in Israel, who, thank God, are safe. As time went on, I learned that the two sons of an old friend of mine were among those who were kidnapped—and the same day I learned that the son of an old professor of mine was killed in the first wave of the attack.

This is one of the times that I am reminded why I work at the Federation. I was able to take action, work with others to organize our own act of solidarity on Monday, October 9, at the JCC, and continue to support the NGOs that make a difference in the field: The Jewish

Jewish community reaction to Hamas attack on Israel

The Jewish Community of Northeastern Pennsylvania condemns the October 7 unprovoked attacks by Hamas terrorists against Israel targeting civilians. We stand in solidarity with the people of Israel and its government as they work to save lives. We call on peace loving people both here and in the national and international community to stand with Israel and condemn Hamas and those who reject peace.

We welcome the strong words of President Biden in condemning these appalling acts, as well as other leaders from the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, and Ukraine. We are thankful for the support from our friends in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

As in 1973, Israel was again attacked on a Holy Day, the Festival of Rejoicing in the Torah (Simchat Torah). The reports of massive civilian deaths, injuries and the kidnapping of soldiers and civilians are distressing. As we pray for the victims and their families, we are grateful that the Iron Dome defense system was able to prevent many more rockets from inflicting even worse damage.

Although we have confidence that Israel will prevail and make the perpetrators pay the price for their aggression, right now our hearts go

out to the victims and their families. Hamas, its backers and groups like it that intend to destroy Israel and harm Jews must not be allowed to continue to foment hate and carry out acts of terrorism.

While coexistence between Israel and its neighbors has improved over the years, today's dastardly attacks demonstrate that full peace is not yet at hand. We hope that a universal condemnation of Hamas and rejection of their destructive ideology and tactics will be a significant step in that direction.

JFS hires new social worker to help support growing mental health needs

JFS is excited to announce the hiring of Kimberly Stout-Kramer, L.S.W., to help support the growing need for mental health counseling in our area. Kim brings with her an approach to social work that is rooted in empathy, respect and empowerment.



Kimberly Stout-Kramer, L.S.W.

they can feel safe exploring their choices and building community connections and support. Using different evidence-based interventions and community resources, Kim provides an eclectic therapeutic approach tailored to her client's unique needs.

Kim holds a bachelor of science in human development and family studies, with a minor in child maltreatment and advocacy, from Pennsylvania State University and a master of social work degree from Marywood University.

Established in 1915, Jewish Family Service is a human service organization, which reflects the See "JFS" on page 6

She has experience working with various social issues such as intimate partner violence, substance abuse, homelessness, complex trauma, grief and mental health concerns. Kim has a particular interest in empowering transgender and gender-diverse children, teens, young adults and their families by creating a supportive, affirmative environment where

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Innovation in conservation: 3D printing used to heal mountain goat

BY SVETA LISTRATOV

(JNS) – Israeli veterinarians were recently able to set the leg of a mountain goat kid using a printed harness, speeding its successful return to the wild.

Workers at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve first encountered the young animal, which was limping, earlier this year. Wildlife experts and veterinarians decided to delay capture until it was weaned. Eventually, a joint operation led by Dr. Tomer Nisimian, chief veterinarian at Israel's Nature and Parks Authority brought the injured kid in for treatment at the Safari Wildlife Hospital.

Nisimian noted the complexity of caring



A young mountain goat being treated at Israel's Safari Wildlife Hospital on September 28. (Photo by the Safari Wildlife Hospital)

for mountain goat kids and the challenges faced during treatment. "Taking care of baby goats is more complicated than expected," he said. For example, he explained, once touched by a human hand, it is possible that the mother will no longer approach it. Therefore, care must be taken to keep contact to a minimum.

"Beyond that, it was important to make sure that the bone is not contaminated" before setting it and closing the wound, he said.

The medical team discovered an open fracture in the goat's right foreleg, requiring an innovative solution. Collaborating with Synergy3d Med, a 3D surgery specialist company, they designed a removable 3D-printed harness that could secure the leg while also remaining removable for necessary adjustments and wound care. This solution proved effective, closing the wound, stabilizing the leg and allowing for minimal lameness during healing.

Following its recovery, the kid, named Bioné – a combination of Bionet and Beyoncé – was successfully reintroduced to its herd.

Online..... Continued from page 4

◆ The Bender JCC will hold the eight-session lecture series "Biblical Archaeology Forum." The cost of the online series is \$48. Lectures include "Discovery of a Temple Near Jerusalem Challenges Traditional Views of Religion in Ancient Israel" on Sunday, November 12, at 3

pm; "Wisdom and Folly in Early Jewish Wisdom Literature on Wednesday, January 10, at 8 pm; "Imperial Terror and Personal Trauma in the Second Temple Period" on Wednesday, February 7, at 8 pm; "Reconstructing Mysteries of the Sanctuary of the Great Gods at Samothrace" on Sunday, March 10, at 3 pm; "Excavating Theater History at Pompeii's House of the Four Styles" on Thursday, April 18, at 8 pm; "After 1177 B.C.E.: The Survival of Civilizations" on Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 pm; and "Piracy and the Late Bronze Age Collapse" on Wednesday, June 19, at 8 pm. For more information about individual programs, visit www.benderjccgw.org/arts-culture-jewish-life/biblical-archaeology-forum/. To subscribe to the series, e-mail BAF.JCCGW@gmail.com.

JFS..... Continued from page 5

Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy and educational programming, our services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family and community life. It is this agency's mission that drives all services and activities of Jewish Family Service.

Cemetery... Continued from page 1

important part of our local history. More work remains to be done, as a tree had fallen against the fence in the back and the fence needs to be repaired.

The expenses were covered by the special fund mentioned before, but they also forced us to use some of the principal. We are asking the community to help us continue the mitzvah of caring for these Jewish graves and preserving the history of our community. If you wish to help, mail your contribution to Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Providence Cemetery Fund, 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

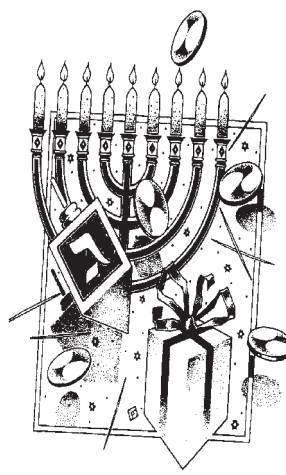


Providence second section before clean up

SCRANTON JCC PROJECT JOY 2023

Dear Friends,

I would like to once again thank you for your generous response to past years' Project Joy. During the Christmas/ Chanukah holiday time, Project Joy gives toys, clothing, socks, books and stuffed animals to many needy children in our area. Many agencies submit their wish lists to me which are accommodated to the best of our ability. Last year, over 150 children from the Catherine McAuley Center, St. Josephs Center, Jewish Family Services, Children's Advocacy and Lackawanna Children & Youth had better holidays because of your generosity.



We will be wrapping the gifts in the JCC auditorium with our incredible team of devoted volunteers on Thursday, December 7th, starting at 9:00 am. The more the merrier, and friends are more than welcome.



I ask that you continue to help out by sending your generous contributions to the JCC with your donation made out to JCC Project Joy. As in the past, we will also accept all unwrapped new toys. This year's deadline will be December 1st since the agencies require the gifts well before Christmas and Chanukah.

Thank you for your continued support for this extremely worthwhile project. These agencies count on us every year and it is very much appreciated by all.

Sincerely,

Carol Leventhal, Chairperson

Phone 570-587-2931/ or email jeff@graphicsart.net

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Kids who fled Ukraine leave new homes in Israel amid rocket fire

BY JNS STAFF

More than 100 orphans who were moved to Israel after evacuating from the Ukrainian town of Zhytomyr shortly after the Russian attack in February of 2022 have been forced to again flee following the October 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel.

The children have been relocated to the central Israeli village of Kfar Chabad through the coordination of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) and the Chabad-Lubavitch movement,

which was also responsible for their initial move to Israel.

Their initial escape to freedom required a trip from the “Alumim” orphanage in Zhytomyr via the Carpathian Mountains until they reached Romania nearly a week and a half later. From there, they made it to Israel and the village of Nes Harim near Jerusalem until September. With the start of the new school year, the group moved to Ashkelon to an expanded dorm setting better suited to their needs.

Weeks later, their lives were again

Children evacuated from Ukraine to southern Israel had to shelter from rocket fire before moving to the more centrally located Kfar Chabad in mid-October. (Photo by IFCJ)



Children evacuated from Ukraine to southern Israel left again for safety to the more centrally located Kfar Chabad in mid-October. (Photo by IFCJ)

thrust into chaos with the attack by Hamas on October 7. IFCJ organized their evacuation from the war zone to the relative safety of central Israel and the community of Kfar Chabad, where they are now living in the “Or Simcha” youth village.

In their new home near Ben-Gurion International Airport, sirens are heard periodically, but the students are able to get out of their dorms and feel relatively safe, according to IFCJ President Yael Eckstein.

“The pain of seeing young Jewish children forced to flee for their lives is something that we hoped was a

thing of the past,” she said. “But the difference is that today, we can do everything in our power to make sure they are taken to safety and can live with the hope of a better future. That is our commitment to them and all who need our support.”

She added that “the kids are able to learn and participate in all sorts of therapeutic sessions. They have been through so much, but we can only hope and pray for better days ahead – for them, for our soldiers and for the injured, and, of course, that the hostages be returned home safely.”

Hamas employs Nazi propaganda tactics, senior Israeli official says

BY JNS STAFF

Don’t buy the propaganda of Hamas, a murderous terrorist organization that has adopted Nazi-like tactics, said a senior Israeli political official in response to the release of two hostages by the organization.

Hamas released Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Cooper, 79, both from Kibbutz Nir Oz, on October 23. Their husbands remain in captivity along with more than 200 abductees seized by the terrorists during their October 7 rampage.

“Just as the Nazis carried out

engineered and staged tours for the Red Cross of a ‘clean’ concentration camp to deceive the world and present themselves as humane, so Hamas, while slaughtering babies, raping women and shooting children, tries to present itself as humane by releasing a handful of abductees it supposedly took care of. Hamas are the new Nazis,” the diplomatic source said.

The Israeli official referred to tours Nazis gave to the Danish Red Cross and the International See “Hamas” on page 9

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Rare Psalm inscription uncovered in Judean Desert

BY YORI YALON

(JNS – Originally published by Israel Hayom) – An inscription written in Koine Greek, the language of the New Testament, was unearthed by Hebrew University archaeologists during excavations at the Hyrcania Fortress, about three miles west of Qumran in the Judean Desert.

Paraphrasing Psalm 86, the inscription reads, “Jesus Christ, guard me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you.” The first section of the original psalm reads “Lord” instead of “Jesus Christ.” It was found
See “Rare” on page 12



The Hyrcania Fortress excavations. (Photo by Michael Haber/The Hebrew University)

War Continued from page 3

We delivered more meals to some hungry guys who couldn't leave their posts and headed home.

Other initiatives include the family who picked, packaged, delivered and sold lettuce for a farmer who had been called to reserve duty and would lose his crop and his income if someone didn't step in (The lettuce sold out in an hour once an announcement was made in the Yishuv email list), the daily rotations of volunteers working with our daughter and One Family Fund to match displaced families with willing hosts and/or empty apartments (some 350 families!!), and the never-ending and copious tzitzis-tying campaigns in so many shuls and yeshivot all over the country as Chayalim continue to request this part of their uniform which may have been discarded from their earlier days in the military. Everyone is showing up. Everyone is here, physically or otherwise. Everyone has been affected and everyone is in this together.

But this isn't about that. Or, it isn't just about that, anyway. You see, we all have our ways of obtaining information and in addition to the countless “News Sources,” that flood our eyes and our minds, the algorithms that feed so many of them mean that there are literally unlimited permutations of the plethora of tidbits. When we lean in the direction of feel-good stories, the likelihood is that those will be the ones we see. If we are interested (for now, anyway) in the antisemitic uprisings around the world (Hey College Campuses...we see you!), you'll get that, and if you are reading about or watching the absolutely horrific testimonies of the brutal savagery committed by Hamas and their enablers, that will be what gets sent in your direction. The truth is that all of it is happening at once and while we sometimes like to think of darkness and light on a linear scale, one does not necessarily cancel out the other. The great Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Chaim Shmulevitz, talks about Ohr VeChoshesh Mishtamshin B'Irbuyva: Darkness and light can function concurrently. In this reality, we see exceptional darkness and exceptional light. A friend and mentor recently Tweeted about adding light

to turn hatred into love and I suggested that this isn't a game of Othello. We can't always flip a tile. As King Solomon says quite clearly (And The Birds sang rather sweetly) there is a time for love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace and while, as is widely quoted from Rav Kook z"l, light does indeed disperse darkness, some darkness needn't be dispersed: it needs to be eradicated.

The photograph at the top of this piece is that of a toddler's shoe. It was photographed by my friend in one of the kibbutzim that was massacred on Shemini Atzeret 5784, October 7, 2023. That photograph, and everything it represents, is haunting. It conjures up some of the worst images we have ever seen and it is real and it is recent. And we must internalize what it means and never forget it.

As we do our best to process the horrors, the inspiration does not in any way counter or mitigate the evil that has been perpetrated. The inspiration is a result of togetherness and the limitless potential of our unified force and it is or can be very useful in keeping despair at bay. As elements of life have begun to slowly acquire some form of consistency, I appreciate the exceptions – the beautiful ones and the terrible ones – to keep me focused. This is not normal. We cannot white wash or even dim the tragedy and the desecration. But we can do our part to show up and to meet the exceptionality with some of our own. If dissonance is crippling, then meeting exceptionality where it is, may just be the appropriate response.

May we vanquish the darkness and continue to bask in the light long after it is gone.

As always, thanks for listening.....

P.S. Most of the kids started (some) school. Yay!

About the author: Avi Ganz is the program director of Ohr Torah Stone's Yeshivat Darkaynu. He lives with his wife and five children in Gush Etzion, where he plays the blues on his Hohner and reminisces fondly of his days playing tackle football with the IFL.



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“Stunned, sickened” by Harvard’s silence on Hamas, Wexner cuts ties

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The Wexner Foundation supports up to 10 Israeli “outstanding government and public service professionals” to study in a one-year, mid-career master’s degree in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School, per the philanthropy’s website. The goal of the Israel fellowship, per Wexner, is “providing Israel’s next generation of public leaders with superlative training.”

The webpage, which notes Harvard’s “rich environment that is conducive to reflection and dialogue about Israel’s policy challenges and the diverse leadership strategies that could address those challenges,” will need updating. Wexner told the Harvard Kennedy School on October 16 that it is cutting ties after more than 30 years. “We believed that at its core, HKS was a school with moral purpose, matching the core values we embrace in our own work,” wrote three Wexner leaders: Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson (president), Ra’anana Avital (director general, Israel) and Abigail and Leslie Wexner (chairmen).

“We have observed that this cherished tolerance for diverse perspectives has slowly but perceptibly narrowed over the years. A disappointing consequence of this trend is that our Wexner Israel Fellows are increasingly marginalized, their voices and views even shouted down,” the philanthropy leaders wrote. “Disappointingly, HKS has been slow to craft a strategy to enable Israeli students to engage in productive – even if difficult – dialogue within the school. We believe this is an unfortunate trend for the entire MPA student community.”

Following Hamas’ terrorist attacks on October 7, which killed more than 1,400 Israelis, the

Wexner leaders were “stunned and sickened at the dismal failure of Harvard’s leadership to take a clear and unequivocal stand against the barbaric murders of innocent Israeli civilians by terrorists,” they wrote.

“Since then, many of our Israel fellows no longer feel marginalized at HKS. They feel abandoned,” the leaders wrote. “Our core values and those of Harvard no longer align. HKS is no longer a place where Israeli leaders can go to develop the necessary skills to address the very real political and societal challenges they face.”

Gilad Erdan, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, praised Wexner’s decision. “The leadership of Harvard have proven they have lost their moral compass. Not only do they allow Jew-hatred and pro-terror rhetoric to permeate their campus, but they cannot bring themselves to immediately condemn terrorism,” the diplomat wrote. “I call on every North American Jew and supporter of Israel to send this message to every university that behaves similarly.

“If your child’s university thinks twice before condemning the murder of innocents or allows a culture of hate to grow on campuses unhindered, then it cannot receive one more cent from any of you,” Erdan said. “Whoever stays silent after the massacre of children does not hold the moral credibility to educate our children.”

“It shouldn’t have taken this long to realize what a morally compromised institution Harvard has become, but... better late than never,” wrote Jeff Jacoby, a columnist for *The Boston Globe*.

The week of October 13, Idan Ofer, an Israeli billionaire, and his wife Batia quit Harvard’s Executive Board. “We denounce those who seek

to place blame on the people of Israel for the atrocities committed by the terrorist organization, Hamas,” the couple said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

FBI: Antisemitic hate crimes up 25 percent in 2022

The FBI’s newly released 2022 hate-crime statistics, which are based on data that some 78 percent of U.S. law enforcement agencies agreed to provide, reveal that 2,044 incidents – of a total of 11,643 – were based on religion, and 1,124 of the religion-based incidents involved hatred of Jews. “Antisemitic hate crimes rose 25 percent from 2021 to 2022, and antisemitism accounted for over half of all reported religion-based hate crimes,” U.S. President Joe Biden said on Oct. 16, addressing the FBI stats. “To those Americans worried about violence at home, as a result of the evil acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas in Israel, we see you. We hear you.” The president added that he directed his team, including U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Attorney General Merrick Garland (both Jewish), to “prioritize the prevention and disruption of any emerging threats that could harm Jewish, Muslim, Arab-American or any other communities during this time. “My administration will continue to fight antisemitism and Islamophobia,” Biden said.

Netanyahu to Putin: We “won’t stop until Hamas is destroyed”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Oct. 16 that Israel intends to eliminate the Hamas terrorist group in Gaza. “The prime minister made it clear that Israel had been attacked by brutal and abhorrent murderers, had gone to war determined and united and would not stop until it had destroyed Hamas’ military and governing capabilities,” per a readout from Netanyahu’s office. It was the first phone call between the two leaders since Israel launched “Operation Swords of Iron” against Hamas after the terror group’s Oct. 7 massacre that claimed more than 1,400 lives and left more than 4,100 people wounded. The terrorists took at least 222 hostages back with them to Gaza. Putin expressed his “sincere condolences” to Israeli families and friends of those killed in the terror rampage, emphasizing “total rejection and condemnation of any actions that result in civilian casualties.”

Hamas Continued from page 7

Red Cross in June 1944 of the Theresienstadt Ghetto in Czechoslovakia, a way station to the extermination camps.

“It was all an elaborate hoax. The Germans intensified deportations from the ghetto shortly before the visit, and the ghetto itself was ‘beautified.’ Gardens were planted, houses painted and barracks renovated. The Nazis staged social and cultural events for the visiting dignitaries. Once the visit was over, the Germans resumed deportations from Theresienstadt, which did not end until October 1944,” according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Lifshitz described to the press how she was treated well by the terrorists while held captive in Gaza, despite the fact that Hamas terrorists killed more than 1,400 Israelis, wounded thousands, decapitated babies and raped women, all while filming their crimes. The press conference has been described as a public-relations disaster by Israel advocates, which they say served to whitewash Hamas’s monstrous crimes.

Yoseph Haddad, a well-known Israeli Arab activist who has dedicated himself to explaining Israel’s positions to the world, posted his frustration on X, saying it “drives me crazy how we fall into the trap of Hamas’s psychological warfare.

“The ‘dedicated and humane treatment’ of ISIS-Hamas is already echoing around the world.

They have already forgotten about the horrors we watched yesterday,” Haddad tweeted.

Even Ichilov Hospital (Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center) attempted to free itself of responsibility for the press conference held there, which has come under increasing criticism.

“Ichilov was asked to allow the hostage and her family and the media to speak in an organized and coordinated manner. Coaching the family regarding the style and content of the messages is not our responsibility, but that of official security and public relations figures, who have been in direct contact with the family,” the hospital said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

New York Times defends rehiring freelance writer who praised Hitler

Palestinian filmmaker Soliman Hijji has posted on social media of being “in a state of harmony, as Hitler was during the Holocaust” and wrote, “How great you are, Hitler,” according to the media watchdog HonestReporting. Hijji freelanced for *The New York Times* from 2018 until 2021. Per the *Times*’ website, his last piece prior to the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel was on July 14, 2021. Since Oct. 12, he has had nine bylines – four of them videos – in the *Times*. His most recent piece, which bears his sole byline, is titled: “At a hospital in southern Gaza, a backup generator becomes a critical lifeline.” “We reviewed problematic social-media posts by Mr. Hijji when they first came to light in 2022 and took a variety of actions to ensure he understood our concerns and could adhere to our standards if he wished to do freelance work for us in the future,” according to a *Times* spokesperson. The spokesperson added that Hijji “has maintained high journalistic standards. He has delivered important and impartial work at great personal risk in Gaza during this conflict.” “For most normal businesses or organizations, an employee expressing support for Adolf Hitler is a clear red line with no second chance. Not, however, for *The New York Times*,” wrote Simon Plosker of HonestReporting.

Tent Continued from page 2

Gissin added that the number of people staying in the tents will be capped to ensure that everyone can reach bomb shelters in the case of rocket attacks. He added that the tents would keep the refugees dry during the winter months.

The Red Sea resort city of Eilat also plans to erect a tent city to house

evacuees. The hotels there are full, at an unprecedented 100 percent of their capacity.

Around 100,000 of the evacuees were instructed to leave their towns and villages in the north and south by the government, while the other half left on their own initiative, the government said.

More than 2,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews volunteer for IDF

More than 2,000 ultra-Orthodox Israelis have asked to be enlisted in the IDF, in an unprecedented mobilization in the haredi sector. The volunteer recruitment follows Hamas’ murder of more than 1,400 Israelis and wounding of thousands of others on Oct. 7, the bloodiest one-day attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. About 150 haredim arrived at the IDF recruitment office at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan on Oct. 23 as the military begins to draft them as volunteers. Most of the volunteers, who ranged in age from their mid-20s to late 30s, are members of the Lithuanian (Litvak) stream of ultra-Orthodoxy. Ultra-Orthodox male yeshiva students are generally exempt from military service as part of a widely-criticized decades-old arrangement. The accord had been slated to be reviewed and renewed this autumn in the Knesset. In the first years of the state, Israel offered exemptions from military service to 500 ultra-Orthodox Jewish scholars, a number that has mushroomed to tens of thousands over the decades. The ultra-Orthodox believe that studying Torah is the best protection for the state, a view that has drawn resentment from the rest of the public as the numbers who avoided military service swelled.

Man who intimidated witnesses, jurors in Tree of Life trial pleads guilty

Hardy Carroll Lloyd, 45, of West Virginia pleaded guilty on Sept. 19 of obstruction of the due administration of justice. The self-proclaimed “reverend” of his own white supremacist group admitted in court that he made online threats to jurors and witnesses in the trial of Robert Bowers, 50, the convicted murderer of 11 Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, 2018. Bowers is currently imprisoned in the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, IN, after a jury agreed unanimously in August to his receiving the death penalty. As part of his plea agreement, Lloyd had to acknowledge that he chose his victims based on actual or perceived Jewish religion and to accept a prison sentence of six years and six months.

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadline: November 15 (December issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend Chanukah greetings to the community by purchasing a Chanukah greeting ad, which will appear in our December issue (deadline: November 15). You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles B, E & F), the larger one is \$38 (styles A, C & D) and the largest one (style G) is \$74.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact Kathy Brown at 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244; or e-mail advertising@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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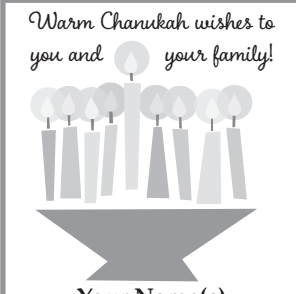
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Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"




Style B - \$20 • Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"




Style C - \$38 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"




Style D - \$38
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"



Style E - \$20
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



Style F - \$20
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



Style G - \$74 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 3.95"

Israel releases photos of massive Hamas fuel stockpiles

BY JNS STAFF

Israeli authorities released on October 24 aerial images of Hamas storage tanks in the Gaza Strip containing at least half a million liters of fuel, stressing that questions regarding fuel shortages should be addressed to the Islamist group and not Jerusalem.

“Near the Rafah border crossing [to Egypt], Hamas owns fuel tanks, containing hundreds of thousands of liters of fuel. Please refer the ones complaining about no fuel in Gaza to Hamas,” the Israeli Defense Ministry’s Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit tweeted.

“Hamas has fuel. Hamas has quite a lot of fuel,” IDF spokesman Lt. Col. (res.) Jonathan Conricus told CNN’s Wolf Blitzer. “And they can decide where to use that fuel. And I find it strikingly absent from the discussion... what is Hamas doing with the resources that it has? It’s only about Israel and Egypt and international organizations. What about Hamas? Why aren’t questions posed to Hamas: ‘Why don’t you use some of the fuel you have stockpiled and hoarded in advance of this situation and use it for the civilians?’”

In a separate interview with TIMES NOW, an English-language Indian news outlet, Conricus said, “We are not obliged to provide any aid to an enemy entity that uses all the energy and resources it has to kill our civilians and fight us.”

Conricus reiterated that Hamas has stockpiled fuel and water that it could provide to hospitals.

He also noted that out of “compassion and understanding,” Israel has set up a humanitarian zone in the south of the Strip and allowed aid to flow to Palestinian civilians.

Some have questioned Israel’s decision to allow goods to enter the Gaza Strip, particularly as Hamas still holds more than 200 hostages taken during its October 7 massacre, and aid for civilians in the past has been systematically diverted to the terrorist group. Even UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, has been described as an extension of Hamas.

Kobi Michael, senior researcher at Tel Aviv’s Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), who co-authored a 2020 report on UNRWA, told JNS in 2021 that “UNRWA is a very problematic organization. It is fully controlled by Hamas. Hamas uses the facilities of UNRWA for weapons storage and to launch rockets. All of the local employees of UNRWA are Hamas people. Nobody’s allowed to work in UNRWA without the permission of Hamas.”

On October 24, UNRWA posted on social media that without fuel, it will have to half all of its operations in the Gaza Strip as of the night of October 25.

The Israel Defense Forces responded to the message with an aerial photograph that showed 12 large white vats lined up in two rows.

“These fuel tanks are inside Gaza. They contain more than 500,000 liters of fuel,” the IDF posted. “Ask Hamas if you can have some.”

(That volume is about 132,000 gallons.)

On October 23, U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said during the department’s press briefing that “the humanitarian organizations that are operating inside Gaza to distribute the humanitarian assistance that we have flowing in from Rafah need to have the ability to do so; they need fuel to be able to do so.

“Fuel is important for the desalination of water; it’s important to the provision of medical care,” he added. “The Israelis do have legitimate concerns about the diversion of any fuel to Hamas. You can understand why they would be concerned about that.”

On October 16, UNRWA wrote in a since-deleted social media post that “a group of people with trucks purporting to be from the ministry of health of the de facto authorities in Gaza [Hamas] removed fuel and medical equipment from the agency’s compound in Gaza City.”

The Israeli Prime Minister’s Office assured JNS on October 22 that Israel has the ability “to make sure that aid is not being smuggled to Hamas; that Hamas is not using those humanitarian corridors in order to smuggle war materiel.”

An official from the UNRWA and an Egyptian source said six trucks loaded with fuel to power generators at two hospitals entered Gaza from Egypt on October 22. However, the PMO and COGAT denied the report, claiming that the trucks were already inside Gaza and transferring fuel within the Strip, from U.N. fuel depots to hospitals.

Israeli hospitals go underground amid Gaza war

BY ZVI SHELEG

With a ground war in Gaza and escalation of rocket fire imminent, Israeli hospitals are going

underground. The Galilee Medical Center in the northern city of Nahariya has moved its 700 beds below ground and has a series of tunnels

for ambulances to safely deliver patients. The hospital is located just 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the Lebanese border.

“As of Saturday, we began preparations to move all the inpatients of the medical center to protected hospitalization and treatment spaces,” said the hospital’s deputy director, Dr. Zvi Sheleg.

“The critical sites themselves, the ER, the shock [trauma] rooms, the operating rooms are all protected every day so that it’s the same space. All the underground hospital sites are connected by tunnels through which the wounded, teams and more can be transported,” he said.

He added that 30 percent of the beds have been placed on standby and are being made ready to receive patients.

Since October 7, terror groups in Lebanon have been firing anti-tank rockets at Israeli military positions and communities near the

See “Hospitals” on page 12

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

ADL: Antisemitic incidents boom 388% in U.S. since Hamas attack

The Anti-Defamation League has released a new report documenting a sizable increase this month in crimes and protests targeting Jews. “Preliminary data from ADL Center on Extremism indicates that reported incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault increased by 388 percent over the same period last year,” the organization said before laying out the numbers. From Oct. 7-23, 2022, the ADL found 64 incidents with four related to Israel. This year during the same period, the figures ballooned to 312 incidents

with 190 related directly to the current conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. A map of the incidents shows clusters in various states and regions. In California, the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles featured high levels of anti-Israel rallies, some with support for terrorism. Numerous protests also took place around Detroit, near the state’s 12th District represented by Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). High levels of anti-Israel protests – some with overt advocacy for Hamas and outright hatred toward Jews – also took place in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, which was marked by anti-Jewish and anti-Israel vandalism and harassment. Indiana and Ohio saw six and eight protests, respectively.

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Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook

Hospitals. Continued from page 11

border, including Nahariya. “So far, we have received over 200 wounded from the battles near the

Lebanese border, some of them soldiers, some of them civilians,” Sheleg noted.

When possible, patients will be transferred to hospitals in central Israel “so we can maintain our level of alertness,” he stressed.

“Our preparedness should be such that we can respond to a significant flare-up on the northern border and treat patients here in the protected and underground spaces under a prolonged missile attack,” Sheleg explained.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group is believed to have 100,000-150,000 missiles.

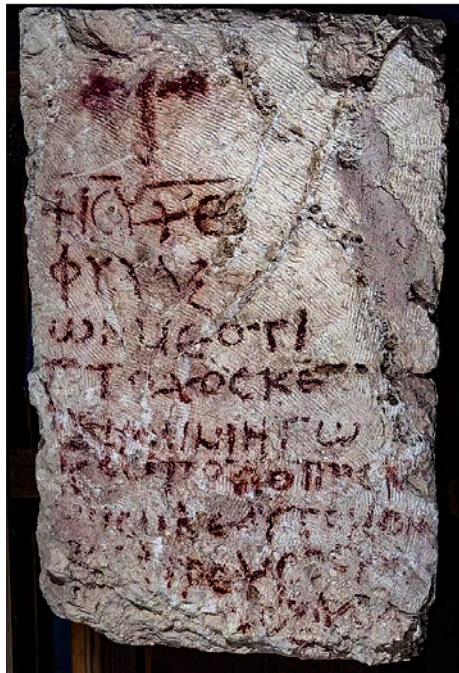
Following the Second Lebanon War of 2006, Haifa’s Rambam Hospital designed a three-level, 1,500-vehicle underground parking lot that can be converted into a 2,000-bed hospital within 72 hours. Rambam staff has already completed the conversion at the request of Israel’s Home Front Command. During the coronavirus pandemic, one floor was used as a COVID ward. The floor can function independently with electricity, water and oxygen supply.

Rare Continued from page 8

on the side of a large building stone painted in red under a cross, most likely created by a monk from the Kastellion, a small Byzantine monastery that was built on the ruins of the Hasmonean fortress at the end of the 5th century C.E.

Oren Gutfeld and Michal Haber of the Hebrew University directed the excavation in cooperation with Tennessee’s Carson-Newman University and the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery that helps veterans transition back to civilian life through archaeology.

Avner Ecker, of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, who helped to decipher the inscription, said, “This is one of the most common psalms used in the ancient Christian liturgy. It appears that one of the monks drew a graffito of the cross on the wall and underneath it, he penned a prayer he knew well. Based on the style of the script, the inscription dates back to the first half of the 6th century C.E. Several grammatical



The Koine Greek inscription. (Photo by Shay Halevi/Israel Antiquities Authority)

errors in the transcription suggest that the writer did not speak Greek as his native tongue, but rather, he might have been a local, perhaps even a native of the region, and spoke Aramaic or another local language.”



Workers at the Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya prepare a protected underground area to receive patients, on October 24. (Photo by Yoav Dudkevitch/TPS)

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



Friends of *The Reporter* make big news!

The Federation is asking members of its communities to support its “Friends of *The Reporter*” Campaign which seeks to raise \$5,000 to assist in funding the newspaper.

The newspaper is delivered monthly to each and every identifiable Jewish home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reporter is the primary intercommunal newspaper of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Supplementing synagogue newsletters, bulletins and e-mails, *The Reporter* is issued to hundreds of Jewish households throughout our region. Over the past several years, the publishing cost of the newspaper has increased dramatically although the newspaper continues to be provided at no charge to members of our Jewish communities in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Federation has assumed the financial responsibility of funding the newspaper at a cost of \$23,990 per year and asks only that its readers assist it in raising \$5,000 as part of its “Friends of *The Reporter*” Campaign to offset a small share of these expenses.

We would be grateful if you would care enough to take the time to make a donation for our efforts in bringing *The Reporter* to your door.

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

With best wishes,
Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania
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