



Message from the Federation President

Israel and the Jewish story

BY DAVID HOLLANDER,
PRESIDENT, JEWISH FEDER-
ATION OF NORTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA

In moments of uncertainty, chal-
lenge and division, it is often helpful

to return to basics and remember
who we are as a people. For Jews
around the world, the connection
to the Land of Israel is not merely
political or contemporary. It is
historical, spiritual, cultural and

deeply woven into the fabric of
Jewish identity.

For thousands of years, Israel has
occupied a central place in Jewish
life. Our prayers face Jerusalem.
Our sacred texts recount the history

of the Jewish people in the Land
of Israel. Our holidays, traditions
and collective memory are filled
with references to Zion and Jeru-
salem. Through centuries of exile,
See "Israel" on page 4

Dorothea Szczesniak Endowment Fund to support
Holocaust education

A little girl of 6 smiled at the
camera, marking her first day of
school, but it was a fleeting smile,
covering a multitude of fear and

uncertainty. Dorothea was unable to
attend public school and was forced
to attend a Jewish school wearing a
Star of David. Children would try to

hide the star out of fear. They lived
in constant fear and humiliation.

It was in 1938, when Dorothea
was 9 that her family fled from Ger-
many. "We sneaked into Belgium
illegally. We were not rich. We had

no money. We had no papers," she
said. They fled only with whatever
they could carry, running for their
lives. They discovered the wonder-
ful and welcoming Belgian people
See "Endowment" on page 4

SAVE THE DATE

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEPA
2026-2027 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
INVITES THE COMMUNITY

October 11, 2026

Scranton JCC

601 Jefferson Ave

Koppelman Auditorium

6:45 PM

From October 7th to the Ballot
Box:

Israeli Society Today

Nathan Jeffay - British-Israeli
journalist, author,
Keynote speaker and
communications professional.



Alex Itzkowitz

Campaign co-chair

Susie Blum Connors

Campaign co-chair

If you see something, say
something

If you see something, say some-
thing. It is important to report any
incident of antisemitism, suspicious
person/vehicle, or any other inci-
dent happening in our community. It
is important because we don't want
any of these acts under reported.
This is especially important when
applying for the Non-profit Security
Grant Program and the Pennsylva-
nia Commission on Crime and De-
linquency Grant Program. Proper
reporting may lead to the award

of a grant which could improve
the safety and security of Jewish
organizations in our community.
You can also make an incident report
on the Federation website which
will automatically send a notice to
the SCN Duty Desk, the regional
director and me.

Tim Brooks
SCN Regional Security Advisor
tbrooks@securecommunitynetwork.
org
872-400-0239

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In history

The latest history column looks
at the 1948-49 war's effect on the
Middle East's demographics and
economics.

Story on page 5

Israel wants teachers

Nefesh B'Nefesh has announced
the launch of Israel's first National
Educators Aliyah Program.

Story on page 14

CANDLE LIGHTING

September 4	7:12 pm
September 11.....	7:01 pm
September 12	8 pm
September 18	6:49 pm
September 20	6:45 pm
September 25	6:37 pm
September 26	7:36 pm
October 2.....	6:25 pm
October 3.....	7:24 pm

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Make health and wellness a priority in your golden era: September is healthy aging month

BY DR. KEN SEBASTIANELLI

Celebrated every September, Healthy Aging Month is an important reminder to focus on the positive aspects of growing older and to take proactive steps toward maintaining health and wellness as we age. This annual observance promotes a simple idea: it's never too late to take control of your health, start new hobbies and engage in activities that support your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. The goal is to inspire healthy lifestyle choices that lead to greater longevity and a better quality of life.

GET MOVING

One of the key messages of Healthy Aging Month is the importance of staying physically active, which offers benefits for both body and mind. Regular exercise improves cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles and enhances flexibility. It also supports mental health by reducing stress, anxiety and depression, while promoting better sleep and



higher energy levels. Whether it's a brisk walk in the park, a yoga session or a workout at the gym, building physical activity into your daily routine is one of the most powerful things you can do for your overall well-being.

BE MINDFUL

Healthy Aging Month also emphasizes the importance of mental and emotional well-being – a crucial part of our overall health that shapes how we think, feel, and behave each day. This includes our ability to manage stress, build and maintain relationships and make sound decisions. Cultivating

emotional well-being involves practices such as mindfulness, self-care and seeking support when it's needed.

Staying engaged through social activities, continued learning and hobbies can help keep the mind sharp and energy levels high. Connecting with friends and family, volunteering and participating in community events can also help combat loneliness and isolation. By prioritizing emotional health, we can lead more balanced, fulfilling lives and face life's challenges with greater resilience and grace.

FOLLOW A HEALTHY DIET

A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains – along with adequate hydration – supports both brain and body health. These foods are packed with essential vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that help protect against chronic disease. Aim to fill half your plate with colorful fruits and vegetables at each meal, since different colors often signal different nutrients.

Fresh, frozen and canned options (without added sugars or salt) can all be nutritious choices.

Portion size and mindful eating matter too. Eating slowly and savoring each bite helps you recognize when you're full, which can prevent overeating. It's also worth limiting processed foods, which tend to be high in added sugar, unhealthy fats and sodium. Small, sustainable changes to your eating habits can add up to a real improvement in your health and well-being.

MAKE HEALTHY AGING AN EVERYDAY GOAL

Healthy aging doesn't require making dramatic changes overnight. Small, sustainable choices can add up over time. Taking a daily walk, reconnecting with a friend, trying a new activity, choosing a nutritious meal or simply making time for something you enjoy can all contribute to greater health and fulfillment.

This Healthy Aging Month, consider what healthy aging means to you and identify a few positive changes you can carry forward throughout the year. Growing older is inevitable, but how we approach the years ahead can make all the difference.

Dr. Ken Sebastianelli has served as medical director for Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, a Jewish Senior Life Community, since 2012. Dr. Sebastianelli is a board-certified Internal Medicine practitioner with Prime Med Medical Group, and is affiliated with Geisinger Community Medical Center and Moses Taylor Hospital. He is also a member of the Medical Executive Committee at Geisinger Community Medical Center.

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

COMMUNITY NEWS

Erasing Jewish contributions to humanity

Have you ever heard of Siegfried Marcus? Probably not. He was a Jewish inventor born in 1831 in what Germany is today. While living in Vienna he developed, in 1870, a handcart powered by petrol, and a second vehicle in 1888. His inventions were deemed to be “impractical” and had little to no impact in the further development of what today we call automobiles. His inventions, however, opened up the idea of the automobile as possible. And he isn’t, by far, the only Jew involved in the development of modern cars.

Emil Jellinek was born in 1853 in Leipzig and served as general consul of Austria Hungary on the French Riviera.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

was a co-founder, along with Ferdinand Porsche and Anton Piech of the Porsche Car Company in 1931. The company eventually would build Hitler’s Volkswagen. Rosenberg, however, was stripped of his stake-holding and position in the company under the Aryanization policies of Nazi Germany.

The contributions of these Jewish pioneers to the German motorcar industry were erased by the Nazi regime, as a way to cover the Jewish influence they found distasteful.

There is a new effort these days to erase Jewish

to erase Israeli contribution, too numerous to list, in the fields of information and computer technology, medicine, agriculture, water management, aerospace, etc.

Why do people who hate Jews put so much effort into erasing Jewish contributions to humanity? The antisemitic narrative is based on the image of the Jew as a parasite and selfish to a fault; as people who try to control the world for their own benefit at the expense of non-Jews. Recognizing Jewish contributions to culture puts to lie their whole narrative, so they need to be explained away or erased.

I, for one, remain proud of the contributions of my people to human culture in so many different areas. I refuse to be ignored or erased. I will continue to defend the right of See “Humanity” on page 4

But what matters to our story is that he was an entrepreneur who worked for the Daimler Motoren Gessellschaft and designed the first modern automobile, the Mercedes 35HP, named so after his daughter Mercedes Jellinek. He also commissioned German car designer Wilhelm Maybach to design a great race car based on his specifications. It came to fruition in 1901 and it was called the Daimler Mercedes, which dominated the early car races.

Joseph Ganz was born in 1898 in Budapest who after graduating from the Technische Universität Darmstadt in 1927, became obsessed with building a small car that will not cost more than a motorcycle. The first prototype, in 1930, was the Ardie-Ganz, followed in 1933 by the first version of the Standard Superior, and a second version of the same in 1934. His promotion materials referred to his car as “the people’s car” (Volkswagen). He was arrested by the Nazis and eventually deported to Switzerland. Hitler’s Volkswagen was based on his design of the Standard Superior 1934, a fact that was conveniently left out of the Nazi propaganda for Hitler’s car.

Adolf Rosenberg was born in 1900 in Germany. He raced Mercedes and Benz cars in the 1920s, winning multiple races in Germany. He

contributions to culture, this time in the good old U.S.A. When the Hollywood Academy inaugurated originally the Museum of Hollywood, it completely ignored the role of the early Jewish entrepreneurs who created the first big studios. When Jewish members of the Hollywood community complained they changed the exhibit – focusing on all the negative stories about these early Jewish pioneers.

There are also ongoing efforts claiming that Jews did not participate in the American Revolution nor did they volunteer to serve in the army during the Civil War. Both assertions are false, but that doesn’t stop those who would like to bury the participation of those early Jews. The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. organization was originally created to document Jewish participation in the American Army from its earliest days.

There is also an effort to “de-Judaize” American Jewish achievements. Did you know that the very first Laser was built in America in 1960 by Theodore Maiman, an American Jew? Or that Hedy Lamarr, besides her acting career, developed the frequency hopping system at the foundation of such technologies as Bluetooth, WIFI and GPS?

There is, of course, also an ongoing effort

DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, September 14.....	October
Monday, October 12.....	November
Monday, November 9.....	December
Monday, December 14	January 2027

Happy Rosh Hashanah!



Nestled in the foothills of the Pocono mountains lies the Bais Yaakov of Scranton, a small school where we help your daughter be the best that she can be. Bais Yaakov offers a full academic program both in Limudei Kodesh and secular studies catering to the individual needs of each student. Bais Yaakov has a highly qualified staff including Rabbonim and specialty teachers and offers extracurricular activities, Yemei Iyun, and an exceptional Chess program.

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EOE

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

As we look ahead, let us recommit ourselves to strengthening our community, deepening our understanding of our shared heritage, and supporting one another with compassion and respect. By doing so, we honor our past, strengthen our present and help ensure a vibrant Jewish future for generations to come.

Endowment Continued from page 1

Thank you.

Humanity Continued from page 3

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Rays of light through clouds

BY MARGUERITE BUSHWICK,
LCSW, NCG

As a social worker at Jewish Family Service of NEPA, I assist Holocaust survivors apply for services in order to enable them to live their remaining years as independent as possible, safely and in dignity.

It happened that I was scheduled



to visit Holocaust survivors in the Poconos on one of the days that the area was wrapped in the smoke from the fires from Canada. On my way from Scranton, I could not see any sky nor sun; everything was in a cloud.

One place where I visited, the atmosphere was so quiet and surreal; all the trees enveloped in a gray kind of cloud, deer strolling around the windy road, ducks sitting on both sides of the road and a creek slowly moving. The survivor has been living by himself since his wife passed away a few years ago in a small house. The man was waiting for me with his caregiver. The house was clean, orderly and decorated. It was good to see how the assistance, made possible

through the organization Selfhelp and financed by the Claims Conference, enables this man to continue to live in his own house safely, happily and in dignity.

After a friendly, professional visit, I went to meet another survivor, whom I had arranged to meet at the Jewish Resource Center in Stroudsburg. Arriving at the Jewish Resource Center, I was warmly welcomed by the staff. Rabbi Salkow offered me a tour of the renovated place. It is bright, functional and welcoming. As this was a Thursday, a weekly kosher lunch is offered for seniors through the Area Agency on Aging. The gathered people all looked happy and were commenting on how much they liked the food, how happy they are to come to the center and how warmly they are greeted there. One woman shared with me: “I feel like another person coming here!”

The survivor I came to meet comes with her assistant to these lunches weekly and this is the only time this lady socializes with other



people besides her caregivers and doctors. The assistance she has been able to secure through the organization Selfhelp and the Claims Conference has made it possible for her to stay in her own house and live as independent as possible and with dignity.

I am honored to be part of the chain of services that help Holocaust survivors live their remaining years as independent as possible, safely and with dignity.

I feel that I saw “rays of light through the clouds” when meeting the survivors and seeing how independently they are able to live with the assistance made possible to them.



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The Jewish Federation of NEPA is excited to offer local, community organizations the opportunity to post events to our Community Calendar. Published events will be included in our weekly Ma Nishma NEPA email.

MA NISHMA NEPA

How to Submit a Community Event

Step 1

Visit www.jewishnepa.org

Step 2

Click the button (top right)

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

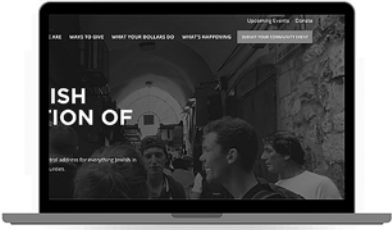
Step 3

Register or log-in

Step 4

Include your event details and submit the form. Events will be published once approved.

We reserve the right to edit the content of the event submissions and approve or deny publication of events.



jewishnepa.org  570.961.2300

Fall into the great outdoors: Dining under the stars and sky during Sukkot

BY ETHEL G. HOFMAN

(JNS) – Sukkot, the week-long “Festival of Booths” that celebrates the gathering of the harvest, starts immediately after Yom Kippur. It begins this year at sundown on Friday, September 25, and continues through Friday, October 2.

A celebration of thanks, feasting in the sukkah—or even eating at least one meal in these temporary huts—is the keynote item of the holiday. Family and friends are invited to come and eat in the outdoor structure. It may be built in backyards, on patios and even on balconies of condos and other units. Sukkot harkens back to ancient times when farmers built flimsy booths for shelter while bringing in the harvest, as well as a reminder of the 40 years of traveling in the desert by the Israelites on the way to their Promised Land.

Not everyone, however, can have their own sukkah due to rules of apartment dwelling, rules of construction, weather-related issues and other practical reasons. So, the next best thing is visiting someone else’s. Find a friend, neighbor, local synagogue, or Hillel or Chabad House. Don’t go empty-handed, though! Bring a dish that highlights fall produce, such as squash and pumpkin, pomegranates and apples.

Think: Cook and carry out. Pear and Plum Bisque, a creamy blend, may be served cool or at room temperature. Just pull from the fridge before setting out to a sukkah. Chicken Pastilla, a favorite Moroccan dish, and the Lamb Stew

may be made ahead of time and frozen. Thaw it before reheating. Normally, we think of couscous as a savory dish, but the Cochin Couscous mixed with fruits is served as a dessert. Cochin, on the west coast of India, was one of the Jewish centers of the spice trade. And there are few dessert dishes easier than the Berry Compote Crumble, topped with crisp, crumbled phyllo dough.

To dining among the sky and stars ... *chag sameach!*

SUKKOT-TO-GO TIPS:

- ◆ Use foil pans for dishes to be reheated in the host’s oven.
- ◆ Use a thermos for hot soups or a tightly lidded plastic container for cold soups.
- ◆ For Chicken Pastilla or other pastry dishes, use an oven-proof pie dish that is easy to warm in the host’s oven. Do not microwave a pastry dish, though; it toughens the pastry. Cook it in a foil pan and serve at room temperature.

PEAR AND PLUM BISQUE (DAIRY)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Italian plums are a late-season stone fruit. They have a slightly tart flavor and a distinct egg-like shape with a purple skin and a powdery white or blue coating.
- ◆ No need to peel the pears.

8-10 Italian plums, stones removed and quartered

2 ripe pears, cored and cut into ½-inch chunks

¾ to 1 cup apple juice

¼ cup Greek yogurt

2 Tbsp. honey or to taste

Pinch nutmeg

Place plums, pears, ¾ cup apple juice, yogurt, nutmeg and honey in a blender or food processor. (You may have to work it in two batches.)

Blend until plums and pears are finely chopped and the mixture is smooth. Adjust honey to taste. If too thick, add more apple juice to desired consistency.

Serve chilled.

CHICKEN PASTILLA (MEAT)

Serves 6

Cook’s tip: Substitute cooked brisket for chicken.

2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 large onion, coarsely chopped

4 cups shredded, cooked chicken

2 tsp. bottled minced garlic

2 tsp. freshly ground pepper

2 tsp. cumin

1½ tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. allspice

1 Tbsp. sugar

1 cup snipped parsley, loosely packed

¼ cup snipped cilantro, loosely packed

¾ cup almonds, finely chopped (optional)

About 1¼ cups chicken stock, divided

3 eggs

1 sheet prepared puff pastry

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Heat the olive oil in a large deep pot over medium heat. Add the onion. Lower the heat and cook until the onion is softened.

Add the chicken, garlic, pepper, cumin, cinnamon, allspice, sugar, parsley, cilantro and almonds. Add ¾ cup of chicken stock or just enough to moisten. Set aside.

Whisk the eggs with ¼ cup of chicken stock. Pour into a small skillet and scramble softly over low heat. The mixture should be soft and creamy. Stir into the chicken mixture to thoroughly combine. Spoon into a 10-inch pie dish.

Place the puff pastry on top, trimming to fit. Cut three 1-inch slits on top. Bake in a preheated



Pear and Plum Bisque (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

After Continued from page 5

received Jordanian citizenship. Over time, the UNWRA became increasingly ineffective and did not pay attention to the reintegration of the refugees into productive life. This, in spite of the fact that the agency’s budget is significantly larger than the office of the high commissioner for refugees. The UNWRA employs over 30,000 people, compared to 20,305 employees of the office of the high commissioner, which serves refugees in over 126 countries. The UNWRA concerns itself only with Palestinian refugees.

So what of the Jewish refugees from Arab lands? They did not qualify for support from the UNWRA, and they rebuilt their lives with the support of the state of Israel and Jewish communities around the world, especially the

United Palestine Appeal (renamed United Israel Appeal), the United Jewish Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee.

The Arab countries controlling the areas of the British Mandate not controlled by Israel had, in theory, authority over the refugees: Egypt in the Gaza Strip and Jordan in the so-called “West Bank” (Judea and Samaria). Neither of them did anything to prevent the refugees from constantly crossing the green line into Israel. While some of these Palestinians just crossed to try to live on their land, many crossed to attack *kibbutzim* and Israeli population centers. This border crossing and the subsequent Israeli counterattacks and retaliation defined the dynamics of the conflict from 1948 to 1956. That will be the topic of the next article.

See “Sukkot” on page 12

New Year Greetings from these Community Institutions

Rosh Hashanah

Greetings

from

THE REPORTER GROUP

Happy Rosh Hashanah



Temple Hesed wishes the entire Jewish community a happy and healthy New Year.



Temple Hesed

1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

The Reform Congregation of Scranton



Jewish Family Service OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

WISHES GOOD HEALTH & HAPPINESS TO ALL IN THE NEW YEAR!

L'Shanah Tovah

www.jfsnepa.org

At JCC Camp Daleville, *chesed* is more than a lesson – it’s a way of life

At JCC Camp Daleville, the Jewish value of *chesed* – loving-kindness – is more than a concept taught in the classroom or discussed during Shabbat. It is woven into the fabric of camp life and reflected in the everyday actions of campers and staff.

This summer, campers participated in the Dear Someone Special program through KindnessMap, a global initiative dedicated to making kindness visible. As part of the program, campers created heartfelt cards for others, sharing words of encouragement, gratitude and compassion. Each completed act of kindness was then logged on the live world map at KindnessMap.org, joining thousands of other acts of kindness from around the globe. This initiative was launched and shared with us by Stacey Bamford, a member of our Jewish community.

The program demonstrates a simple but powerful truth: even the smallest act of kindness has the ability to brighten someone’s day and inspire others to do the same. Every thoughtful gesture creates a ripple effect, extending far beyond the person who gives or receives it.

The theme of kindness was reinforced during the camp’s weekly *oneg* Shabbat program, where JCC CEO Dan Cardonick spoke with



campers and counselors about the enduring significance of *chesed* in Jewish life. The Hebrew word *Chesed* appears more than 240 times throughout the Torah, underscoring its central role as one of Judaism’s foundational values.

“Kindness is one of the greatest gifts we can offer another person,” Cardonick shared. “It doesn’t have to be grand or dramatic. A smile, a kind word, or helping someone in need can have a lasting impact. We hope our campers leave not only with wonderful memories, but with a lifelong commitment to making the world a little brighter through acts of *chesed*.”

By connecting the lessons of KindnessMap with Jewish tradition, Camp Daleville encourages campers to recognize that every act of kindness matters. Whether at camp, at home or in their own communities, campers are reminded that one thoughtful gesture can inspire another, creating a chain reaction that reaches people they may never even meet.

At JCC Camp Daleville, teaching Jewish values extends beyond words. Through programs like KindnessMap and meaningful Shabbat experiences, campers learn that *chesed* is not simply something we talk about – it is something we live.





L'Shana Tova!

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Charred First Temple beams unearthed in City of David

BY STEVE LINDE

(JNS) – Archaeologists excavating Jerusalem’s City of David have uncovered massive charred wooden beams believed to have collapsed during the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E., a discovery researchers say offers an extraordinary window into one of the most pivotal moments in Jewish history.

The beams were found during excavations at the Givati Parking Lot site, conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University in the City of David, within the Jerusalem Walls National Park.

According to excavation director Efrat Bocher, the beams likely formed the roof of an inner courtyard in a First Temple-period building that collapsed during the city’s destruction.

“The beams appear to have served as the roof of an inner courtyard in a building from the First Temple period,” Bocher said. “During the destruction, they collapsed onto the floor. We believe that the plaster cladding of the building’s walls, melted by the fire, covered the charred wooden beams and ultimately enabled their exceptional preservation.”

Researchers said the discovery is unusual because wood rarely survives for millennia in Israel’s climate.

“It is very rare in Israel to find wood with such a large number of growth rings,” said Dr. Johanna Regev of the Israel Antiquities Authority, who is studying the find. “Here, in the City of David, we found thick beams with many rings, offering significant research potential—with more growth rings enabling higher dating resolution.”

Until now, she said, archaeologists could generally date such finds only within a range of hundreds of years. “Now we can attain much greater precision, narrowing the dating range down to as little as 10 years,” Regev said.

The excavation is directed on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority by Dr. Yiftah Shalev and Bocher, together with Prof. Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University.

The archaeologists believe Jerusalem’s returning Jewish residents intentionally left parts of the destruction layer intact when rebuilding the city, preserving the memory of the catastrophe.

“The concept of a landscape of memory is familiar from many cultures around the world,” Shalev said. “Preserving memory is a human need, seeking to preserve what once existed. Here we see it in its clearest form: a deliberate choice to leave ruins in place as a testament to the destruction and build the new layer over them.”

With Tisha B’Av, the annual fast commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, beginning on the evening of July 22, Bocher said the discovery carries particular emotional resonance. “We are just before Tisha B’Av,” she said. “This discovery makes you feel that you are witnessing the very moment of destruction, the moment when it all happened. It’s deeply moving.”

Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said the find reinforces the historical connection of the Jewish people to Jerusalem.

“Jerusalem’s soil continues to provide tangible evidence of the city’s ancient past,” Eliyahu said. “The wooden beams burned in the destruction of

See “Beams” on page 12



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At 101, an Israeli photojournalist and Holocaust survivor still sees history through the lens

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS

(JNS) GIVATAYIM, Israel — Nearing 102 years old, curiosity has not left Dan Hadani. The centenarian's life story, which begins in prewar Poland and continues in the nascent state of Israel, weaves a narrative of renewal and resilience that, in many ways, mirrors the history of modern Israel.

He survived a selection at Auschwitz conducted by the sadistic torturer Dr. Josef Mengele, also known as "the Angel of Death." With no family left after the Holocaust, he immigrated to Israel alone in 1948 to begin a new life. Hadani was immediately drafted into the Israel Defense Forces and served for 15 years in the Israeli Navy, beginning while the War of Independence was underway.

Despite having no formal training in photography, he embarked on a decades-long career in photojournalism. What began as a hobby and a source of income with the Kodak camera he had brought from Germany gained momentum during his final year of military service in the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, following his naval service.

After his discharge, he followed his passion by founding a photography agency, where he rubbed shoulders with Israeli and world leaders while documenting Israeli history for three-and-a-half decades.

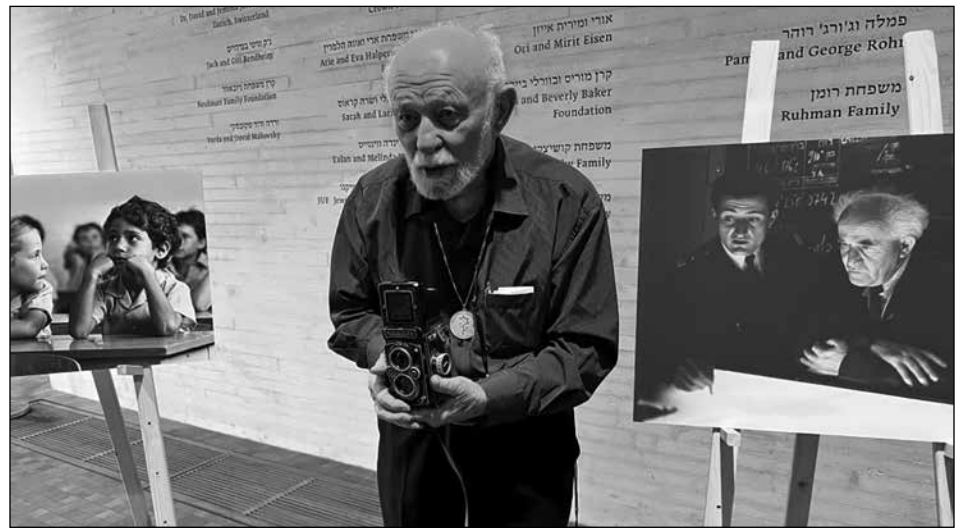
"From my childhood I was curious and remained curious," Hadani told JNS in an interview in mid-July at his apartment in suburban Tel Aviv, where he scrolls through decades-old photographs on his cellphone with the ease of someone a fraction of his age. "Until today, I didn't only want to know what, but how?" he said.

Hadani's hobby became his profession after he was discharged from the military in the mid-1960s.

He founded the Tel Aviv-based Israel Press Photo Agency (IPPA), which operated from 1964 to 2000. The private news photography agency employed professional photographers who documented many of the defining moments in Israel's history.

In an era before e-mail, Hadani recalls mailing four to eight photographs — complete with captions he wrote himself — twice a week to 25 newspapers around the world that retained his services. "They always say a picture is worth a thousand words, but it isn't worth anything if there are no words attached to it," he quipped.

His work took him to Washington, DC, where he photographed Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, images the ever-active centenarian proudly displays on his computer alongside photographs



Israeli photojournalist Dan Hadani stands with photographs from his archive at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, where he donated his vast collection documenting decades of the country's history, on July 23. (Photo by Rina Castelnuevo)

of Israel's founding father and first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, visiting his naval base, and the first truck delivering ice in Tel Aviv.

After closing the agency in 2000, when most people his age would have been thinking about retirement, Hadani embarked on a 15-year effort to digitize hundreds of thousands of negatives. Last decade, already in his 90s, Hadani donated his life's work — 400,000 digitized negatives, another one million negatives and tens of thousands of slides — to the National Library of Israel.

"At first, I was going to destroy them because I didn't want to see them end up littered in the street," Hadani said matter-of-factly. He had even planned to buy two paper shredders after failing to sell the collection when, by chance, a National Library official contacted him that very day and suggested donating it instead.

Hadani still remembers the seven-ton truck that arrived at his home in 2016 to transport the meticulously stored boxes of negatives. "There

See "Lens" on page 14

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Sukkot Continued from page 7

oven for 25 minutes, or until pastry is puffed and golden.
Serve warm.

LAMB STEW WITH FALL VEGETABLES (MEAT)

Serves 6-8
Cook's tips:
◆ May substitute chicken or beef for lamb.
◆ Trim the fat from the lamb.
2 lbs. boneless lamb shoulder, cut into 1½-inch pieces
1 Tbsp. sweet paprika
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 large onion, cut into 1-inch chunks
1½ tsp. dried thyme
1½ tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning
1 tsp. salt
1 (14½ oz.) can diced tomatoes
2 red bell peppers, seeded and cut into ¼-inch wide strips
2 yellow zucchini, sliced ½ inch thick
Dust lamb with paprika. In a large pot, heat oil over medium-high heat.
Add the lamb, cook, turning, until nicely browned all over, about 7-8 minutes. Reduce heat to medium.
Add the onion. Cook for 5 minutes or until the onion is translucent.
Sprinkle with thyme, lemon pepper and salt. Stir in the tomatoes and ⅓ cup hot water.
Bring to a simmer. Cover and cook for 1 hour.
Add the bell peppers and zucchini. Cook for 30 minutes longer or until the lamb is tender.
Serve hot.

STUFFED PEPPERS, ISRAELI-STYLE (MEAT)

Serves 8
Cook's tips:
◆ May be cooked in crockpot, 4 to 5 hours at low heat.
◆ Use 1 cup store-bought diced onion.
◆ The sliced bottoms of peppers may be chopped and added to the meat mixture.
◆ Use 1 teaspoon each of cumin and coriander for Shawarma Seasoning.
2 large red bell peppers
2 large yellow bell peppers
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1½ lbs. lean ground beef
1 large onion, chopped
1 cup cooked couscous
2 tsp. shawarma seasoning
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground pepper

1¾ cans (15 oz. each) tomato sauce, divided
½ cup chopped parsley
Preheat oven to 400°F.
Slice off the tops of the peppers. Remove seeds and membranes and rinse. If needed, cut a thin slice from the bottom of each pepper so they stand upright.
Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the ground beef and onion and cook, stirring, until no pink remains in the beef. Drain off any fat.
Add the couscous, seasoning, salt and pepper. Mix well.
Pour 1 can of tomato sauce into a 9-inch square baking dish. Stuff peppers with the meat mixture.
Place stuffed peppers upright in the baking dish. Pour the remaining tomato sauce over. Cover tightly with foil.
Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until the peppers are tender. Remove foil.
Spoon remaining sauce over and sprinkle with parsley. Cut in half to serve.

COCHIN DESSERT COUSCOUS (PAREVE)

Serves 6-8
Cook's tips:
◆ May use Israeli couscous, which is larger and rounder than the traditional couscous. It's also known as pearl couscous.
◆ Toss the bananas in a little orange or lemon juice to avoid browning.
2 packages (approximately 5.8 oz. each) couscous
2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. cardamom
¼ tsp. nutmeg
¼ cup brown sugar or to taste
2 firm bananas, coarsely chopped
1 (15-oz.) can pineapple chunks, drained
2 ripe mangos, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
¼ cup chopped pistachios
Nondairy whipped topping (optional)
Cook couscous according to package directions. Transfer to a large bowl.
Stir in the lime juice, spices and brown sugar to taste. Cover and let stand for 5 minutes.
Fluff with a fork. Fold in the bananas, pineapple and mango. Sprinkle with pistachios.
Serve warm. Top with nondairy whipped topping, if desired.

BERRY COMPOTE CRUMBLE (PAREVE)

Serves 4-6
Cook's tips:
◆ Use fresh berries, but frozen ones are also flavorful and convenient.
◆ Any preserves may be substituted for marmalade.
¼ cup sweet red wine

½ cup orange marmalade
2 cups frozen blueberries
2 cups frozen strawberries
1 cup frozen raspberries
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. nutmeg
1 Tbsp. cornstarch, mixed with 3 Tbsp. of water
½ roll thawed phyllo dough, cut into ½-inch slices
1 Tbsp. margarine, melted
Preheat oven to 400°F.



Berry Compote Crumble (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

In a medium pot, combine the wine and marmalade. Warm over medium heat until the marmalade is melted.
Stir in frozen berries, cinnamon and nutmeg. Warm over medium heat until the berries are thawed, about 8-10 minutes.
Stir in the cornstarch mixture and bring to a boil. Cook for 1 minute, stirring often. Transfer to a 10-inch ovenproof or foil pie dish.
Cool in the fridge for 10 minutes. Crumble the phyllo dough on top to cover. Drizzle with melted margarine.
Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes or until phyllo is nicely browned.
Serve warm or at room temperature.
Ethel G. Hofman is a syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.
Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/feature/fall-into-the-great-outdoors-dining-under-the-stars-and-sky-during-sukkot>.

Beams Continued from page 10

the First Temple stand as a powerful reminder of the Jewish people's presence in Jerusalem some 2,600 years ago. On the eve of Tisha B'Av, this discovery underscores that our connection to Jerusalem is rooted not only in faith, but also in history, archaeology and collective memory. It is our responsibility to continue uncovering, preserving and passing this heritage on to future generations."
The latest discovery, the archaeologists said, adds to a growing body of archaeological evidence uncovered in the City of David documenting life in ancient Jerusalem and the Babylonian destruction of the Kingdom of Judah nearly 2,600 years ago.
Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/feature/charred-first-temple-beams-unearthed-in-jeruselems-city-of-david>.

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Nefesh B’Nefesh launches teacher *aliyah* program

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Nefesh B’Nefesh announced on August 5 the launch of Israel’s first National Educators Aliyah Program, a joint effort with the Education Ministry and the Aliyah and Integration Ministry to recruit Jewish teachers from North America amid a worsening national teacher shortage.

The shortage is considered most severe in English, math and science, and in the country’s central regions, according to the organization. Thousands of teachers already in the system lack full certification or are teaching outside their fields, it said.

The program is intended to let candidates complete credential recognition and licensing before they immigrate rather than after, so they can enter classrooms soon after arrival. Orga-

nizers expect to begin identifying hundreds of prospective teachers this year, with placements targeted for the 2027-28 academic year.

The Education Ministry will map staffing needs by subject, region and school, and a centralized database will match candidates with openings. *aliyah* fairs, webinars and parlor meetings are planned across North America during 2026-27. Post-arrival support will include job placement, certification coursework, Hebrew-language instruction for the classroom and mentoring by veteran immigrant teachers.

“The teacher shortage is one of the greatest challenges facing Israel’s education system, and we are committed to addressing it with every tool at our disposal,” Education Minister Yoav Kisch said.

The initiative follows the International

Medical Aliyah Program, launched by Nefesh B’Nefesh in 2024, which the group said has brought more than 1,000 physicians to Israel.

“When the government removes barriers, actively facilitates professional licensing and credential recognition, and supports new immigrants as they transition into the workforce, the results speak for themselves,” said Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer.

Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/news/israel-news/nefesh-bnefesh-launches-teacher-aliyah-program>.

Israir plans New York flights by October

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS

(JNS) – Israeli airline Israir announced on August 18 that it will launch flights to New York by October. The move comes as service on the lucrative transatlantic route remains limited, with only Israeli carriers currently flying nonstop to and from the United States after all three U.S. legacy carriers froze their flights due to the war with Iran.

While American carriers, led by Delta and United, are scheduled to resume service to Tel Aviv in September, airfares remain stubbornly high throughout the fall due to heavy postwar demand.

Israel’s second-largest carrier said it plans to start its New York flights by October 19 pending final FAA approval, with tickets set to go on sale in late August. It will bring forward the launch date if the final authorization comes in sooner. Israir did not cite a starting price for the route on August 18, but plans on offering economy, premium and business fares.

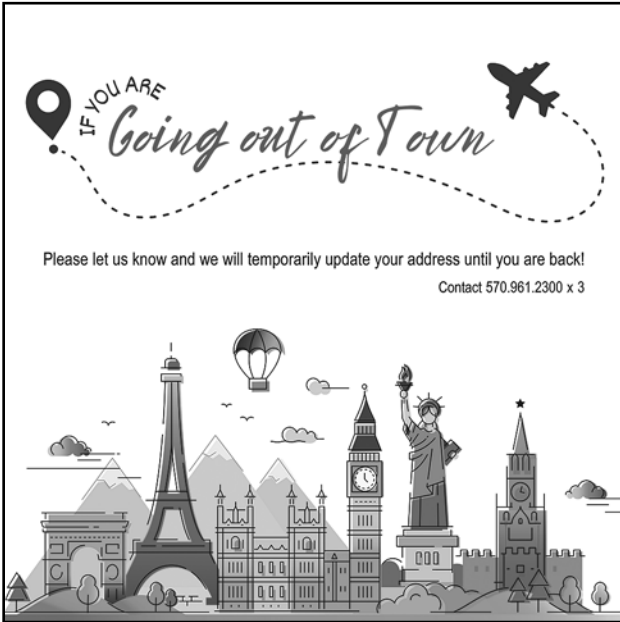
It is expected to run a daily flight to New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport this fall, joining competing service by El Al, Arkia United and Delta.

Travel consultants said that the entry of an additional Israeli carrier on the top international route out of Tel Aviv was “significant news” for consumers and is expected to bring down airfares.

“We anticipate that as the supply of direct flights to New York grows, we will see a positive impact on pricing and availability, particularly

during periods of high demand,” Yoni Waxman, deputy chairman of Israel’s Ophir Tours, told JNS. “The fact that it is an Israeli carrier offers

See “Israir” on page 14





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LensContinued from page 11

were days I almost cried,” he recalled. “It pained me that I was going against the principles of an independent photographer who started with nothing, but this was the history of the state of Israel.”

In August, the National Library held a special ceremony unveiling the Dan Hadani Collection. It was only later in life that Hadani, who Hebraized his name after immigrating to Israel, publicly shared the story of his childhood during the Holocaust.

He was born Dunek Zloczewski in Lodz, Poland, in 1924 to a Zionist family that planned to immigrate to what was then British Mandatory Palestine before World War II. The family even reached Italy before a friend of his father’s, who had just returned from the Holy Land, persuaded them not to continue because of the Arab riots against Jews in the 1930s.

“That was our fate, and all the tragedy of Auschwitz,” he said.

Eight decades later, Hadani vividly remembers the brutality of the Germans as they entered Polish towns, murdering Jews trying to flee Lodz and pushing them into city sewers. “The

spirit of mankind cannot comprehend what I saw,” he stated. After his father, who had fallen ill, died in the Lodz Ghetto, Hadani, his mother and sister were deported to Auschwitz on one of the last transports in 1944. He lost sight of them within seconds of arriving at the Nazi death camp and never saw them again. He later learned that they had both been murdered.

Hadani still remembers looking into the open train cars and seeing the bodies of those who had not survived the journey lying alongside buckets of human waste. “It was a nightmare,” he said.

Soon afterward, he came face to face with German SS officer and physician Josef Mengele during one of the camp’s infamous selections. Mengele pointed in Hadani’s direction, prompting him to respond in German: “Did you mean me?” The Nazi guards looked on in astonishment, accustomed to complete silence during the selections.

“Stand still, dog,” Mengele shouted, pointing instead to the man behind Hadani.

After the war, Hadani returned to Lodz to find he had no family left. He made his way to Italy before immigrating to Israel.

Eighty years later, the Hamas-led terrorist attacks in southern Israel on October 7, 2023, brought back painful childhood memories, leaving him feeling that another kind of Holocaust had struck the Jewish state.

“You are living on a volcano,” he said. “Did you prepare yourself for that?”

Turning 102 in August, Hadani – who drove himself until last year and now receives only

minimal assistance from a caregiver – is already focused on his next project: a book. “There is no ‘I am tired’ for me,” he said. “This is something that I take with me from the Holocaust.”

He rises at 6 am each day and still goes out for coffee with friends in Tel Aviv. “I have to move about,” he said.

Looking back on his remarkable life, which began in tragedy, Hadani said he accomplished things that defied all logic. “It’s not how old you are; age is just a number,” he said.

Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/feature/at-101-an-israeli-photojournalist-and-holocaust-survivor-still-sees-history-through-the-lens>.

Israil.Continued from page 13

an additional advantage, especially given how much importance Israeli travelers place on flight continuity and certainty.”

“We have been waiting for quite some time for an additional Israeli airline to compete directly with El Al in flying nonstop to New York,” said Mark Feldman, CEO of Jerusalem’s Ziontours. “If Israil wants to gain market share, they will need to aggressively market – and not match – El Al prices, and then the Israeli public will jump at this option.”

Israil operated transatlantic flights to New York from 2004 to 2008, when rising fuel prices forced it to suspend the route.

Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/news/israel-news/israil-plans-new-york-flights-by-october>.

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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.

Your gift to fund our regional Jewish newspaper matters a great deal to our readers and we would be very grateful for your financial support.

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

With best wishes,
Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue
Scranton, PA 18510

I will support continuation of our expanded Federation Reporter by contributing:

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Sderot grows in the shadow of Gaza

BY LINDA GRADSTEIN

(JNS) SDEROT, Israel – It’s hard to believe that the population of this city, less than a mile from the border with Gaza and with less than 20 seconds to reach a bomb shelter if a rocket is fired from the Strip, has actually increased since October 7, 2023.

According to city statistics, Sderot had 35,477 residents in 2023. Today, it has 42,000 – an increase of nearly 20 percent.

One of those new residents is Hila Malka, who was born in the United States and grew up in Beit Shemesh as the daughter of American parents. “We wanted to strengthen the city, and we fell in love with it,” she told JNS. “It’s a very warm community with really good people.”

She works for the Reut Foundation, an NGO that supports the city’s residents with a variety of programs, including providing Shabbat food for families with a parent serving in the reserves and running a summer camp for at-risk children. Reut also sponsored an English-language tour of Sderot in August, attracting several religious families, including one with six children that made *aliyah* from Toronto just a year ago.

Many Israelis, especially “Anglos,” as English speakers are called here, have never visited Sderot.

Residents are proud of their city and want to make sure the story of what happened here is not forgotten.

Nir Kalfa, 49, a lawyer and father of six who was born in Sderot, told the group about his experiences on October 7, when he was in his home’s safe room with his wife and five of their six children. Several of the dozens of armed terrorists who took over Sderot passed in front of his house. One of his daughters, a teenager, was spending Shabbat with friends, and Kalfa got into his car to try to bring her home before being stopped by police. He said residents did not realize the extent of the attack until several hours had passed.

Overall, 72 Israelis were killed in Sderot on October 7, including a group of Holocaust survivors who were vacationing in the city. One of the fiercest battles took place at the Sderot police station, where terrorists seized the building, killed 11 police officers and fought Israeli forces for hours until the station was demolished.

Today, the site of the police station serves as a memorial and was the first stop on the Sderot tour. Towering concrete and steel pillars, accompanied by music, stand next to a memorial path containing stones and metal from the original

police station, an emotional reminder of the battle that took place there.

The next stop was a coffee cart overlooking Gaza established in memory of Capt. Shilo “Chico” Cohen. His father, Aryeh Cohen, described how his 24-year-old son, who served in the Israeli Air Force’s elite Shaldag unit, was home on a short leave on October 7. As soon as he heard about the attack, he grabbed his pistol and headed to Kibbutz Be’eri, one of the communities hardest hit in the Hamas massacre. He joined a group of other special forces soldiers and fought at Be’eri, where he was killed late that afternoon.

His father dug up a tangerine tree near the site, as well as a piece of the wall of the home in Be’eri where Chico was killed. They are now placed at a lookout point overlooking what used to be Beit Hanoun in Gaza. All profits from the coffee cart go to the Reut Foundation.

A CITY BUILT ON RESILIENCE

Sderot was founded in 1951 as a transit camp for Jewish immigrants, including those from Iran and Kurdistan. About one-third of its residents are Orthodox, including many of the new arrivals, while many residents who are not Orthodox nevertheless consider themselves traditional.

“No businesses are open on Shabbat,” Kalfa told JNS. “But the swimming pool is open for anyone who wants to go.” He said Sderot offers residents several advantages, including housing that is far cheaper than in central Israel, a warm com-

munity and significant tax benefits. With train service to Sderot, Tel Aviv is just 58 minutes away.

Kalfa said that while October 7 was traumatic for the entire city, residents had already been living under the threat of rocket attacks from Gaza for more than 20 years. Residents have less than 20 seconds to reach a bomb shelter and many of the city’s public buildings, including entire schools, are reinforced.

In the wake of October 7, there was a desperate need for therapists, and Kalfa said many children, including his own, show signs of post-traumatic stress. The city has marshaled resources to help, including a large Resilience Center that offers a range of services.

On an August afternoon, about 40 children enthusiastically banged drumsticks on overturned yellow pails as Amiram, an energetic teacher, shouted commands and led them in songs. The at-risk children spent their summer vacation at a camp at the Resilience Center. They received two meals a day and go home only to sleep. During the school year, the center provides homework assistance and other services.

Residents want the world to know that despite the trials of the past three years, they remain optimistic.

“Sderot is a beacon of resilience, strength and hope,” Kalfa told the group. “Despite all of the challenges we’ve faced, we didn’t give up and we’re still here.”

Originally published at <https://www.jns.org/feature/sderot-grows-in-the-shadow-of-gaza>.

Knesset votes to dissolve, sets Oct. 27 election date

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS)—Israel’s 25th Knesset voted on July 17 to dissolve itself in its second and third (final) readings, clearing the way for national elections on October 27. The measure passed with the support of coalition and opposition lawmakers, and without any votes against.

The vote heralds the end of the tenure of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s current coalition, which became the first Israeli government in decades to complete a full four-year term. Israelis will elect the 26th Knesset in the upcoming elections.

Before approving the dissolution bill, the coalition secured passage of legislation keeping mandatory Israel Defense Forces service for men at 32 months; it had been set to drop to 30 months at the beginning of 2027. The bill passed with the backing of ultra-Orthodox lawmakers despite a longstanding dispute over military conscription for *haredi* yeshiva students that had strained the coalition.

Originally published at www.jns.org/news/israel-news/knesset-

votes-to-dissolve-formally-sets-oct-27-election-date.

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

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