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Thursday, April 17, 2025 • 19 Nisan 5785 • VOLUME 79 NO. 16 • tjpnews.com

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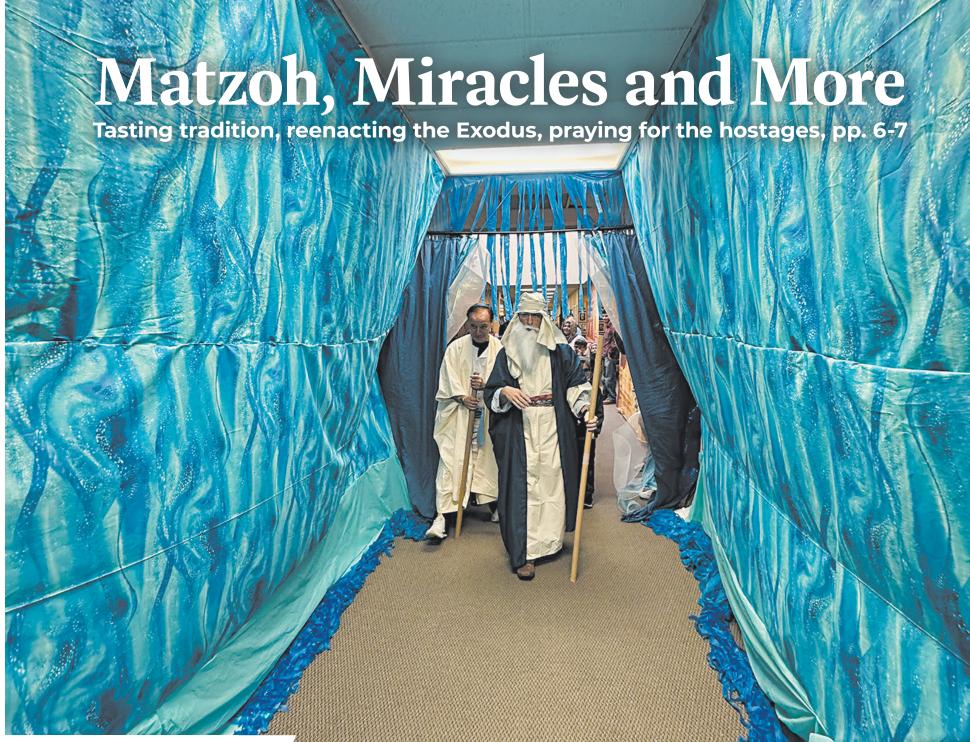
250+ students' visas revoked in Texas

UT, A&M systems among public schools confirming change, p.2

Ouick Look

On Campus Organizations 6-7 Newsmakers Arts & Culture 8-10 11-15 Senior 16-17 Columnists 18 Post Pics Obituaries 19

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INSIDE

Visit tjpnews.com for the latest on the war in Israel Subscribe to our daily newsletter at tjpnews.com/newsletter

Moses(Rabbi Andrew Bloom) and Aaron (Cantor Paul Dorman) lead the Israelites out Egypt as the Red Sea parts at Congregation Ahavath Sholom's annual Mock Seder April 6, 2025.

PA. GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE TARGETED DURING PASSOVER Suspected arsonist arrested; family OK, p.4

Light Shabbat & Yom Tov Candles: Friday, April 18, 7:41 p.m. **Light Yom Tov Candles:** Saturday, April 19, 8:51 p.m.

More than 250 international students' immigration statuses revoked across Texas universities

At least 75 in North Texas have changed status

By Ayden Runnels The Texas Tribune

Editor's note: The reported numbers represent public college students only. Private universities are generally not required to report the immigration status of their students.

At least 252 international students at Texas universities have had their legal status changed in a wave of removals from a federal database that have swept across the state and sity: 1 the nation, according to university officials and media reports.

The students learned in recent days their visas were revoked or their immigration status was marked as terminated in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS database.

Visa revocations prevent reentering the U.S. but do not immediately end an individual's status. SEVIS removals do, limiting students' options and causing a much more immediate effect.

On Monday, the University of Texas System said 176 students at its 14 institutions had been affected

as of Friday. The system did not break it down by institution but several of its schools disclosed their own numbers last week:

• University of Texas at Arlington: 27 • University of Texas at Dal-

las: 19 • University of Texas at El Paso: 10

• University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: 9

• Also on Monday, the Texas A&M University System said 38 students at its 11 universities have been affected:

• Texas A&M University: 23 • Prairie View A&M Univer-

• Texas A&M University Texarkana: 1

• Texas A&M University Kingsville: 9

• Texas A&M University Corpus Christi: 3

• Texas A&M International University: 1

Other universities that reported the number of their international students who have been affected last week include:

- University of North Texas: 27
- Texas Woman's University: 6 .
- Texas Tech University: 3
- Texas State University: 2 (via Inside Higher Ed)

The University of Texas at Austin,

where police arrested dozens for protesting the Israel-Hamas war, and the University of Houston told the Houston Chronicle on Wednesday that some of their international students had a change in their immigration status. Both declined to say how many.

Robert Hoffman, an immigration lawyer with offices in Houston and Bryan, said SEVIS removal also can affect employment eligibility and the status of dependents like spouses and children, whose ability to stay in the U.S. depends on the primary status holder.

"Unfortunately, these kinds of terminations kind of short-circuit due process by not allowing the student the opportunity to hear the specifics of their charges or defend themselves," Hoffman said.

Neither university nor government officials have made it clear how students are being chosen for removal. However, the Department of Homeland Security released a statement Wednesday saying it would begin screening international students' social media for "antisemitic" content. DHS' statement cited two executive orders from President Donald Trump, described by the White House as aiming to crack down on "the explosion of anti-Semitism on our campuses and in our streets," referencing pro-Palestine protests on





college campuses. Several Texas universities, including UNT and UTD, were sites of similar protests.

During a Faculty Senate meeting at UNT on Wednesday, Faculty Senate Vice Chair William Joyner said he had heard from the provost about 16 students whose statuses were removed from SEVIS. A university spokesperson later confirmed to the Tribune that number had risen to 27. No other information was provided, Joyner said in a statement to the Tribune.

"We know nothing other than this, and I am not willing to speculate," Joyner said.

A spokesperson with UTD verified that 19 of their students had their immigration status terminated, and said they were working through the situation with the affected students.

"This is a fluid situation, and we are communicating with affected students about the changes in their status as soon as possible," a statement from the university read.

Students who are removed from SEVIS have only a few options for recourse, said Phillip Rodriguez, another Bryan-based immigration lawyer. Students can choose to leave, or apply to reinstate their status.

Hoffman said choosing to remove students from SEVIS rather than revoking visas creates a more difficult appeal process.

"I think they're proactively making it so that they basically can't continue studies, or making it extremely difficult to continue their studies here in the United States without some sort of intervention," Hoffman said.

UNT has one of the highest inter-



University of North Texas students walk past the school's Eagle mascot sculpture. As of Monday, 27 University of North Texas students were removed from the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System database, according to school officials.

national enrollments in the U.S., with over 8,000 international students, most of whom are graduate-level, according to university data. Nineteen of the 27 students at UNT who had their SEVIS records removed were graduate students, according to a university spokesperson. UTD has over 4,500 international students, according to the university website.

Disclosure: Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Texas - Arlington, University of Texas - Dallas, University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Houston and University of North Texas have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's iournalism.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune org/2025/04/09/texas-universities-internation al-students-legal-status/.



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Pew: More US adults view Israel unfavorably since '22

Staff Report

(JNS) More than 500 days after the Hamas-led terror attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, most Americans view Israel unfavorably, according to new data from the Pew Research Center.

Some 53% of Americans see the Jewish state in a negative light, up 11 percentage points from 2022, when 42% had unfavorable views, and in 2025, about double the number of U.S. adults say that they see Israel very unfavorably: 19% compared to 10%.

Democrats and those who lean left (69%) were much likelier than Republicans and those who lean right (37%) to see Israel unfavorably. That view rose for both Democrats (16 percentage points) and Republicans (10 percentage points).

Younger Americans tended to see Israel less favorably. Among those 18 to 49, 71% of Democrats and those who lean left see Israel unfavorably (up from 62% in 2022), and 50% of Republicans and those who lean right (up from 35% in 2022) see the Jewish state unfavorably. For those over 50, 66% of Democrats (up from 43%) and 23% of Republicans (up from 19%) see Israel unfavorably.

Pew surveyed 3,605 American adults between March 24 and 30, before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent visit to Washington. Some 32% of respondents said they have at least some confidence in Netanyahu.

Jewish Americans were the group that most favored Israel, 73% to 27%, followed by white evangelical Protestants, 72% to 26%.

The negativity is driven by Muslim Americans (81% negative and 19% positive) and those who are unaffiliated with any religion (69%

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negative and 28% positive). Catholics also leaned negative, 53% to 45%.

Republicans (50%) were much likelier than Democrats (15%) to be confident in Netanvahu. About 17% of Republicans, and those who lean Republican, had a lot of confidence in the Israeli prime minister, and 37% of Democrats, and those who lean Democrat, said they had no confidence at all.

About the same percentage of American Jews (53%) lacked confidence in Netanyahu as did the overall U.S. adult population (52%), although 45% of American Jews had at least some confidence in the Israeli prime minister, compared to 32% of American adults. Only 8% of Muslim Americans expressed confidence, while 87% said they had no confidence.

Most Americans (54%) told pollsters that the war against Hamas is at least somewhat important to them-down from 65% who said the same in January 2024, shortly after Oct. 7.

Republicans and those leaning right (55%) and Democrats and those leaning left (56%) reported that the war matters to them in similar numbers. Republicans (69%) and Democrats (61%) over the age of 50

were likelier than Republicans (41%) and Democrats (51%) between 18 and 49 to say that the war matters to them. Some two-thirds (66%) of all respondents said the war was at least somewhat important to U.S. interests

Jews were the likeliest (93%) to say the war mattered to them personally, followed by Muslims (68%), white evangelical Protestants (66%), Protestants and non-evangelical white Protestants (58% each), Catholics (56%) and those who are religiously unaffiliated (47%). Just 4% of Jews said that the war wasn't personally important to them, compared to 25% of Muslims.

Last year, 75% of adults said the war against Hamas was at least somewhat important for U.S. national interests. That number dropped to 66% in January. Some 92% of Jewish Americans and 66% of Muslim Americans said that the war was important for U.S. interests.

Nearly a third (31%) of U.S. adults said that U.S. President Donald Trump favors Israel too much. Just 13% of Republicans and those who lean right, and 50% of Democrats and those who lean left, agreed that Trump supports the Jewish state too much. Only 3% thought Trump was



Photo: Avi Ohayon/GPO) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to reporters before flying to Washington, D.C., Feb. 2, 2025.

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favoring the Palestinians too much, with similar numbers across the aisle.

Pew found division in the Jewish community on the question. Jews were likelier (36%) than Americans overall to say that Trump favors Israel too much. Some 43% said he was striking the right balancesomething 29% of the general public said. About 2% said he favors the Palestinians too much, and 17% were unsure. (Among Americans broadly, 37% were unsure.)

"By comparison, in February 2024, when we asked about former President Joe Biden's approach, Jewish adults were less likely to say Biden was favoring Israelis too much (13% vs. 36% for Trump) and more likely to say he was favoring Palestinians too much (18% vs. 2% for Trump)," Pew stated. "Jewish Americans were about as likely to say Biden was striking the right balance as they are to say that about Trump (45% vs. 43%)."

Pew found that about the same number of Muslim Americans (70%) said that Trump and Biden favored Israel too much.

Less than half (46%) of American adults think a two-state solution is possible, down from 52% in late 2023. Those who at least lean left (56%) were much more likely to think a two-state solution is possible than those who at least lean right (36%).

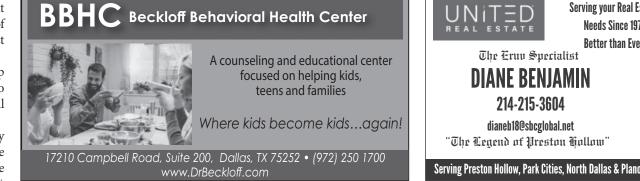
The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.9 percentage points.

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THE INTEREST BEARING EXCHANGE

For more than four decades, Bill Roth has been a steadfast presence in the Dallas Jewish community, embodying a deep commitment to service, leadership and giving back. A graduate of George Washington University and Southern Methodist University School of Law, Bill is president of the William Roth Co., a respected commercial real estate firm. Yet it is his dedication to community that truly defines him. He has generously shared his time and talents with numerous organizations, including serving as president of both Tiferet Israel Congregation and Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas. His leadership has also extended to roles on the boards of Congregation Shearith Israel, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas. Bill is a member of Temple Emanu-El and a past president of MetroTex Association of Realtors. Whether mentoring the next generation or supporting the vulnerable, Bill leads with compassion and integrity. His love for his family – his wife, Heddy; children, Brian and Jennifer; and grandchildren, Brendan and Wynne --mirrors the devotion he shows to the broader community. With a heart for service and a legacy of leadership, Bill Roth continues to make Dallas a better place for all.



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Passover arson targets Shapiro home

Wire Report

(JNS) A man suspected of setting fire to the Pennsylvania governor's mansion while Gov. Josh Shapiro and his family were sleeping inside overnight Saturday was arrested.

Shapiro, his wife Lori, their four children, two dogs and another family were safely evacuated, the governor said.

The incident occurred after the family celebrated the first night of Passover in their home in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Photos show part of the mansion completely burned, with walls blackened by soot and furniture destroyed, including a table that appears to have been where the Passover seder was celebrated.

"Last night at about 2 a.m., my family and I woke up to bangs on the door from the Pennsylvania State Police after an arsonist set fire to the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg," Shapiro wrote on X.

'The Harrisburg Bureau of Fire was on the scene, and while

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they worked to put out the fire, we were evacuated from the residence safely by Pennsylvania State Police and assisted by Capitol Police. Thank God no one was injured and the fire was extinguished," the post continued.

"Every day, we stand with the law enforcement and first responders who run toward danger to protect our communities. Last night, they did so for our family-and Lori and I are eternally grateful to them for keeping us safe."

The 38-year-old suspect, Cody Balmer, is expected to be charged with attempted murder, terrorism, aggravated arson and aggravated assault against an enumerated person.

The suspect had planned to beat Shapiro with a hammer if he found him, according to court documents released Monday.

Balmer jumped over the residence's fence carrying homemade incendiary devices, Pennsylvania State Police Lt. Col.

George Bivens told reporters at a Sunday press conference.

He apparently evaded state troopers who were guarding the residence.

"While [police] were searching is when he attacked at the residence, [and] broke in and set the fires," Bivens said. "He clearly had a plan. He was very methodical in his approach."

The attacker's motive remains unclear.

Addressing reporters at the same press conference, Shapiro said, "This kind of violence is becoming far too common in our society. And I don't give a damn if it's coming from one particular side or the other, directed at one particular party or another, or one particular person or another. It is not OK, and it has to stop. We have to be better than this."

The governor emphasized that he will not be deterred by the arsonist and vowed to "work even harder" than before.



Photo: Commonwealth Media Services A soot-stained placard advertising Passover crafts for children in the mansion of the Pennsylvania governor on April 13, 2025.

"If he was trying to terrorize our family, our friends, the Jewish community, who joined us for a Passover seder in that room last night, hear me on this: We celebrated our faith last night, proudly, and in a few hours, we will celebrate our second seder of Passover," he added.

Shapiro, 51, is considered a potential presidential candidate for the Democratic Party in 2028.

Pennsylvania Republican Party Chairman Greg Rothman condemned the incident, saying, "I know I speak for all Republicans in saying we are grateful that Governor Shapiro, his family and mansion staff are safe."

U.S. Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania said, "Whoever did this must be held to the fullest extent of the law."

Vice President JD Vance described the attack on X as "really disgusting violence. ... I hope whoever did it is brought swiftly to iustice."

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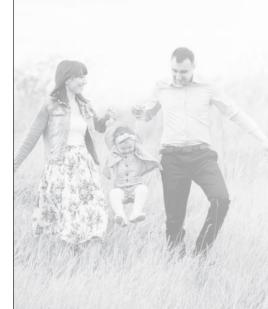
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Published by Texas Jewish Post, LTD, at 7920 Belt Line Rd., Dallas, Texas 75254. Subscription Rates: Texas: \$65 per year, Other States in U.S.: \$85 per year, Foreign: \$175 per year. Subscriptions are payable in advance. Unless notified otherwise, it is understood that all subscriptions are renewed automatically upon expiration. Please allow four weeks from date received by the Texas Jewish Post for address changes to take effect. The Texas Jewish Post (ISSN 0040-439X) is published weekly, with an additional issue the last week of June. Periodicals Postage Paid at Dallas, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Texas Jewish Post, 7920 Belt Line Rd., Dallas, Texas 75254.



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ORGANIZATIONS

'Challenging Antisemitism' series debuts at DHHRM

Next two installments of 'Crucial Conversations' slated for May and June

By Michael Sudhalter

A significant flight delay from Los Angeles to Dallas couldn't prevent a world-renowned Holocaust expert from sharing his expertise during the first night of the "Crucial Conversations: Challenging Antisemitism" program at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum on Monday, April 7 before an audience of 225 people.

Dr. Michael Berenbaum, project director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., lamented the nine-to-10-hour delay, which caused him to miss about two-thirds of the first of three "Crucial Conversations" programs this spring.

The "Crucial Conversations" program started in 2020 with a series on racism and continued in 2021 with the roots of antisemitism, dating back approximately 3,500 years.

The series will continue with Session 2, "Campus Antisemitism at Home and Abroad," on Tuesday, May 13, and Session 3, "(Strategies



Photos: Courtesy DHHRM From left: Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Dr. Charles Asher Small and Dr. David Patterson at the opening installment of "Crucial Conversations: Challenging Antisemitism," April 7, 2025, at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

for) Combating Antisemitism," on
Tuesday, June 10.to understand four words — source,
goal, priority, stability. The sources

Berenbaum, despite missing nearly all but the Q&A portion of the 97-minute program, made up for time on the tarmac with a brilliant, rapidly delivered address during his relatively brief time on the panel.

"I traveled about nine or 10 hours to give a 12-minute speech," Berenbaum said. "If you want to understand antisemitism, you have to understand four words — source, goal, priority, stability. The sources of antisemitism differ: religious, political, economic, social, cultural, racial. Depending on what the source is, the goal differs."

Berenbaum said a society's stability, or lack thereof, has a direct correlation to the safety of its Jewish community.

"Our grandparents accepted the notion that it's difficult to be a

Jew," he said. "For my generation, it wasn't difficult to be a Jew. We have to teach and educate ourselves and the next generation of Jews about the majesty, the mystery, the glory, the sacredness and the sanctity of being Jewish, so they are capable of assuming the burden. They will live in a world where being Jewish is a burden."

His fellow panelists, Dr. Charles Asher Small and Dr. David Patterson, also shared profound insights. Before Berenbaum's delayed flight, Patterson was slated to be the moderator. Instead, the Museum's Barbara Rabin Chief Education Officer, Dr. Sara Abosch-Jacobson, served as moderator, and Patterson joined the panel.

"The panelists are all brilliant," Holocaust Museum President and

see DHHRM, p.20



Levine Academy enjoys Passover preparations



Photos: Courtesy of Levine Academy



making matzoh.



Bonnie and Jeffrey Whitman with pre-K grandson Gavin Becker Early childhood Jewish studies specialist Suzanne Sobel with 2s student Olivia Kupstin cutting apples for charoset.

(IMA) Select

For weeks leading up to Passover, students at Ann & Nate Levine Academy brought the Exodus story to life through joyful learning, hands-on activities and meaningful community moments that spanned early childhood

Pre-K students in the Pesach play.

through eighth grade.

Across grade levels, students explored the themes and traditions of Passover in interactive and engaging ways —t hrough storytelling and classroom games, building "bricks" like the

Israelites, tasting matzoh with frosting, and participating in Seders and Passover experiences that deepened their connection to the holiday.

Among the highlights was a heartwarming pre-K play, where young students took the stage to share the story of Pesach through

songs and performance in front of family and friends. The school also welcomed early childhood grandparents and special friends for a hands-on matzoh-baking experience, creating sweet and lasting intergenerational memories.

These celebrations weren't connection.

just about learning facts - they were about living Jewish values and building a strong sense of community and tradition. Students not only gained a deeper understanding of Pesach, but also experienced firsthand the power of shared stories, heritage and

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Temple Shalom to honor Ann Weintraub as 2025 Woman of Valor

Temple Shalom Sisterhood will present its 2025 Woman of Valor Award to Ann Weintraub Sunday, April 27. Weintr

Born in Missouri, Ann spent her childhood living all over the South before settling in the Metroplex 20 years ago. A professional graphic artist, she worked for advertising agencies and Fortune 500 companies before founding her own company, AMJ Design, in 2007.

At Temple Shalom, Ann served as president of Sisterhood from 2017 to 2019 after years of holding board positions. As Sisterhood president, she emphasized the need for Sisterhood to engage in social justice issues, such as domestic violence. She served two years on the temple's board of trustees and for three years was vice president of marketing and communications for Women of Reform Judaism's Southwest Region.

Ann has created tribute books for temple events such as the Shalom Award and Woman of Valor, as well as graphics for the Israel Symposiums. Today, she serves as the Traditions Gift Shop marketing and publicity director and has been on the Traditions steering committee for nearly a decade.

From 2018 to 2019, her Sisterhood presidency coincided with her husband Steve Weintraub's Brotherhood presidency—a first in Temple Shalom history earning them the "power couple" moniker. Ann assists wherever needed; she has worked on mah jongg tournaments and helped

with cooking and kitchen duties for events such as CHAI and Chanukah dinners. Ann is the mother

of Rhys Johnson (Jenna) and stepmother to Steve's children, Jennifer Weintraub, Eric

Weintraub and Laurel Harwood. Most of her grandchildren — Skylynn, Jayden, Ezra, Olivia and Dexter — live locally, and she makes it a point to stay in touch with them. Her parents, Temple members Paula and Jerry Mandel, and her brothers, Roger Mandel and Adam Mandel, along with his wife, Jamie, also live locally.

Ann is passionate about serving Temple Shalom, Sisterhood and the Women of Reform Judaism, and Sisterhood is excited to celebrate her on Sunday, April 27, at Temple Shalom. Registration information will be available soon.

Questions may be directed to Chris Harris at nansnotes1@gmail. com.

CAS reenacts Exodus at annual Mock Seder

Congregation Ahavath Sholom's Learning and Engagement Center (LEC) in Fort Worth celebrated its annual Mock Seder on April 6, with games, hands-on activities, and lively storytelling. Students and staff brought the Passover story to life in a fun and meaningful way.

One of the highlights of the day was a spirited reenactment of the parting of the Red Sea. Rabbi Andrew Bloom portrayed Moses, Cantor Paul Dorman took on the role of Aaron and Sydney Ratner stepped into the role of Miriam. Together, they

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led students through a hallway transformed into the parted sea a moment filled with excitement and imagination. The entirety of the Seder was organized by the talented LEC director, Fani Kiselstein.

In a powerful and unifying moment, the entire Seder paused to offer prayers for the release of the hostages, reminding all present of the enduring relevance of the Passover message: from bondage to freedom.



Reenacting the Exodus at Congregation Ahavath Sholom's Mock Seder, from left, Cantor Paul Dorman (Aaron), Rabbi Andrew Bloom (Moses), Fani Kiselstein (Egyptian Task Master), Yair Galaganov (Pharoh) Sam Kaplan (Egyptian Soldier) Ethan Levi (Egyptian Soldier) Sydney Ratner (Miriam).



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'Bad Shabbos' makes good comedy

By Alan Zeitlin (JNS)

Director and writer Daniel Robbins was looking for a different kind of comedy when producer Adam Mitchell brought him an idea he had never seen on screen. Robbins, a Modern Orthodox graduate of the Ramaz Day School in Manhattan and Westchester Day School in Mamaroneck, New York, was hooked.

"Co-writer Zack Weiner has these very crazy, lively Shabbat dinners on the Upper West Side with his family," Robbins told JNS. "His mom – to keep things light when entertaining - will sometimes prank a guest. So, the producer, Adam Mitchell, heard about these pranks and asked what would happen if one ended with someone dying. Zack said that could be a pretty funny movie. I agreed."

He said some of Weiner's mother's pranks included serving soup in shot glasses and presenting courses on very small plates.

"Bad Shabbos" stars Milana



Ashley Zukerman and Milana Vayntrub as Benjamin and Abby, a couple with some issues to work through in the comedy film "Bad Shabbos."

Vayntrub — best known as Lily his work in Max's "Succession" from the AT&T commercials – as Abby, a woman having issues with her boyfriend, Benjamin

and the Netflix trilogy "Fear Street." Abby's brother, David (Jon

(Ashley Zukerman), known for Bass), is anxious because he's

engaged to Meg (Meghan Leathers), and her Catholic parents are coming over for Shabbat dinner. Their brother Adam supports the Israeli army

but takes medication for a personal condition. The parents, Richard and Ellen (David Paymer and Kyra Sedgwick), exhibit various quirks — including

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In this comedy, the concern isn't just overcooked kugel or dry brisket — it's a guest's sudden death that sends the evening spiraling into chaos.

The 90-minute film debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival last June, where it won the Audience Award. It has also been recognized at festivals in Miami, Boston and Sedona, Arizona.

"Bad Shabbos" will have its Dallas premiere at 7 p.m. Monday, May 19, at Studio Movie Grill on Royal Lane, as part of the Aaron Family JCC Dallas Jewish Film Festival.

'A real tightrope'

Why hasn't there been a Shabbat comedy before?

"It's such a good question," Robbins said. "I don't know, but that was part of the impetus behind making it. We just wanted to create an authentic depiction of Shabbos in a Modern Orthodox house and show what that energy is like. We know it so well. If we could mix that with a dead-body thriller, we knew it could be funny."

He added: "I don't know why Shabbos movies don't exist. Some might avoid it because of the restrictions — you can't use phones, etc. So far, we stand alone in the genre."

Robbins said the goal was to make a positive Jewish film while balancing the exaggerations typical in comedy.

"That was a real tightrope," Robbins said. "There are some negative depictions of Jews. I love Judaism and the traditions."

While Robbins enjoyed ethnic-centric films like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and "Meet the Parents," he found others inauthentic or forced. To avoid that, he shot "Bad Shabbos" in a real Upper West Side apartment.

"I feel like a lot of comedies feel fake," he said. "The more real it is, the funnier it is. Every item and person had to go up one elevator. Even a big New York apartment feels small with 30 people in it."

He said he knew Vayntrub before her commercial fame and admired her comedic timing. Her being Jewish made her "an obvious choice."

One surprise casting: rapper Method Man (Clifford Smith) plays a helpful doorman. "I didn't think we'd get him," Robbins said. "We sent him the script and he was down. He killed it."

In a rare cinematic moment, Adam (Theo Taplitz) wears an Israel Defense Forces T-shirt while lifting weights — though his character would likely never make it through basic training.

'A battle worth fighting'

"Bad Shabbos" includes moments of authentic Jewish rituals: the blessings over candles and wine, recited in Hebrew while characters wear yarmulkes — a detail missing from many Hollywood portrayals.

One crowd-pleasing scene was partly ad-libbed. According to Robbins, the script called for Paymer's character to distract guests by inventing a blessing. Bass picked it up mid-scene and mimicked it, creating a moment that felt organically rehearsed.

Robbins said he hopes viewers are entertained, but he'd also be happy if it inspires interest in Shabbat.

"It would be great if people learned about Shabbos through the movie," he said.

Citing the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Robbins said: "It's the best



Daniel Robbins, director of the comedy film "Bad Shabbos."

tradition in Judaism and has kept us going for so long. Just the idea of the whole family gathering together and turning off their phones — that would be nice." "I don't want to get too thematic," he added, "but I guess the takeaway is: getting along with family can be a battle. But it's a battle worth fighting."



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Wishing you a happy Passover.

Jewish Stories at the USA Film Festival

By Susan Kandell Wilkofsky

The USA Film Festival returns this month with a powerful documentary, a compelling short film and some familiar faces — and here's the best part: you're invited to attend.

Written by Beth Lane and Aaron Soffin, "Unbroken" is Lane's feature debut. The daughter of a Holocaust survivor, Lane embarks on an international quest to uncover answers about the fate of her mother and six siblings, who escaped Nazi Germany.

This compelling documentary chronicles the story of the seven Weber siblings who narrowly avoided capture and ultimately fled Germany. Hidden for a time in a laundry hut by a benevolent farmer, the children spent two years surviving on their own in war-torn Europe.

Emboldened by their father's plea to "always stay together," the siblings relied on their instincts and resourcefulness to survive hunger, fear, bombings and isolation. Their journey culminates in a heartbreaking ultimatum: separated from their



Actor and Dallas native Stephen Toboloswky will moderate the discussion following the screenings of "Unbroken" and "Watching Walter," the short in which he stars.

father, the children are told they must declare themselves orphans in order to flee to safety in America. What they didn't know at the time was that this moment of salvation would also tear them apart — for the next 40 years.

Writer, director and producer Beth Lane will attend the screening. Dallas native Stephen Tobolowsky will moderate an on-stage conversation with Lane following the film.



"Unbroken" is a documentary about the story of the seven Weber siblings.

Preceding "Unbroken" is the 17-minute short film "Watching Walter," directed by Mitch Yapko

and producer Mitch Yapko, writer and executive producer Mark Dylan Brown, executive producer and actress Cynthia Gravinese-Brown and actor Stephen Tobolowsky.

Susan Kandell Wilkofsky is co-founder and program director of 3 Stars Jewish Cinema. She is a member of the North Texas Film Critics Association.

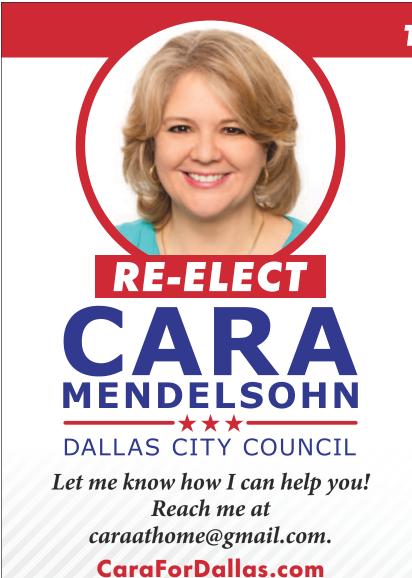
Here are the details:

The "Watching Walter" and "Unbroken" will screen at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at the Angelika Film Center of Dallas at Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Attendees must check in by 6:30 p.m.

The screening is free for members of 3 Stars Jewish Cinema. Non-members are welcome to attend, but tickets are limited and priority is given to members. RSVPs are required by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, or while tickets last. To RSVP, email Maristella at 3starscinema@gmail.com and show your confirmation at the theater.

These are not the only films in the festival, which runs from April 23 to April 27. Don't miss the salute to Nancy Kwan and writer/director Jon Avnet plus many more films to choose from!

For the full festival schedule, visit usafilmfestival.com.



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Senior services shine at JCC's Senior Expo 2025



From left, JCC staffers Sharon Cane, Lauren Chapman Kidd, Anna Angorina and Kay Hale.



Estate Transition Agency, one of the vendors at the JCC's Senior Expo, March 18, 2025.



Far right, Katharine Rubenstein from Angel Valley Hospice greets seniors along with other vendors at the JCC's Senior Expo, March 18, 2025.



A bird's-eye view of the main hall at the JCC's Senior Expo, March 18, 2025.

The JCC's Senior Expo, which dates back to the early 2000s, was held Tuesday, March 18.

After a few years of being held outdoors due to the pandemic, attendees and vendors alike were happy to return indoors. The entire bottom floor of the J was utilized for the event. More than 60 vendors promoted their products and services focused on the needs of seniors. In addition to vendor booths, the event included crafts, game instruction and topic discussions. The Legacy Senior Communities — the Expo's title sponsor hosted ongoing educational talks throughout the day. A craft room offered attendees the chance to make their own mezuzah, and Rummikub lessons were led by the J's very own "professional" senior

Rummikub players.

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After a delicious hot dog lunch, everyone left smiling with full goodie bags in hand.

The JCC staff said the Senior Expo would not have been possible without its "sponsors, vendors and especially our amazing Senior Expo committee and volunteers."

-Submitted by Sharon Cane

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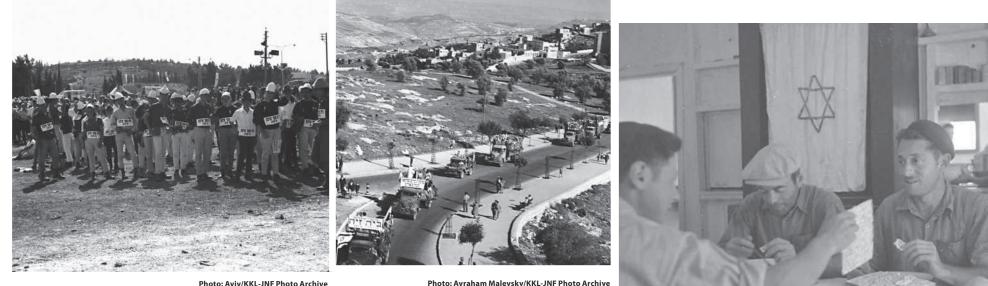
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Passover nostalgia: Rare photos of Israeli celebrations



The three-day Passover March in Jerusalem.

Photo: Avraham Malevskv/KKL-JNF Photo Archive The parade of communities surrounding Jerusalem, Passover 1949.

Photo: Yaakov Rosner/KKL-JNF Photo Archive A Passover meal in the dining hall of Kibbutz Hafetz Haim, 1940s.

Wire Report

(JNS) In honor of Passover, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) has

historical photographs, offering a unique glimpse into how the holiday was celebrated in the Land

> The Joint Commission

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unveiled a rare collection of of Israel between 1925 and 1971. The newly released images from the KKL-JNF photo archive capture cherished customs and landmark events—some still

observed today, others preserved only in memory.

Highlights include matzoh being baked by kindergarteners in 1925, reflecting a tradition deeply embedded in early Zionist education; a Passover meal in the dining hall of Kibbutz Hafetz Haim in the 1940s; and the 1958 pilgrimage to Mount Zion, a



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Photo: Aviv/KKL-JNF Photo Archive Children drumming during the three-day Passover March, 1970.



Seder night in Jerusalem.

Matzoh being baked by kindergarten children.

symbolic alternative to ascending to the Western Wall during the years when the Old City of Jerusalem was out of reach for Jews.

Also featured are blackand-white photos of children drumming in the three-day Passover march of 1970—a tradition that evolved into the contemporary Jerusalem March—and documentation of preparations for the Samaritan Passover sacrifice on Mount Gerizim in 1971, an ancient ceremony still practiced today.

"These photographs open a window into the past and allow us to reconnect with the traditions and moments that shaped Passover celebrations in Israel," said Efrat Sinai, director of archives at KKL-JNF.

"The kindergarten matzah baking in 1925 reflects how these customs were integrated into Zionist education from the beginning, while the 1958 ascent to Mount Zion captures the yearning for a united Jerusalem before the city's reunification," she noted. "Each image is a world unto itself rich in memory and history—and KKL-JNF is proud to preserve and share this cultural heritage with the public."

The archive continues to document the story of Israel through tens of thousands of historical photos, serving as a living record of traditions, holidays and formative events.

As the nation celebrates Passover, this collection offers a poignant reminder of the collective journey of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.



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Queens Holocaust survivor recalls her rescuer

By Steve North

SENIOR

Editor's note: This story was written April 10, 2024. Time and date references have not been updated.

(New York Jewish Week) I've known Hanna Slome all my life. She and her husband, Henry Slome, were close friends of my parents. I knew that Henry fled Nazi Germany and that Hanna had somehow escaped from Czechoslovakia, but I didn't know the details of her journey.

Neither, it turned out, did Hanna. It was only in 1999 — 60 years after the event — that she discovered she was one of 669 children, most of them Jewish, who had been saved from the Nazis by Nicholas Winton, a British stockbroker.

Winton's extraordinary scheme to rescue Czech children by bringing them to the UK was first recognized publicly in 1988, during a BBC television show in which he was reunited with dozens of those he had saved. Now, a new feature film, "One Life," chronicles the courageous and perilous humanitarian project. Anthony Hopkins stars as Winton, who in early 1939 spent a month in Prague - just six weeks before Germany occupied Czechoslovakia - and devised a complex plan to raise money, forge documents and find homes for as many Jewish children as possible in England.

Hanna — who turned 99 on Thursday — never spoke much about how she ended up in England. "I didn't want to relive that part of my life," she told me in a phone interview on Friday. It wasn't until she watched a documentary about Winton 25 years ago that she was astonished to find her name on the list of children who arrived



Hanna Slome, right, and the author's late mother, Bunny North, in a photo taken in 2017.

in Britain through the Czech Kindertransport he organized.

Hanna Beer, who was 14 at the time, lived in the city of Ostrava. Her father and older brother had managed to reach London; she and her mother had planned to follow. Hanna believes her father must have learned of Winton's operation and signed her up for it.

While "One Life" depicts heart-wrenching scenes of parents saying goodbye to their children at the Prague train station, Hanna remembers a more intimate moment from the night before her departure. "I was lying in bed with my mother," she said, "holding her hand and telling her I didn't want to go. She promised me she would come to England very soon." That reunion never happened.

In London, Hanna's father and brother lived in a refugee boarding house. Hanna stayed with about five different foster families over the next few years. "But my father would sit on the steps of their houses on many nights to make sure I got home safely," she said. She worked as a maid and still regrets that her formal education ended at age 14. After World War II, Hanna's father sent her to New York City, where she had relatives. Hanna believes he had already learned that her mother had been killed at Bergen-Belsen. Not long after putting Hanna on the ship, her father returned to his apartment and took his own life. Her brother remained in England.

Photo: Steve North

Despite the trauma and loss, Hanna built a life in the U.S. She married Henry Slome, settled in the Flushing section of Queens and had two children, Jesse and Judy. She is now a grandmother of seven and a great-grandmother of nine. (Many live in Israel, as Judy made aliyah decades ago.) "I have a boyfriend who's nine years younger than me," Hanna said with a laugh. "He lives nearby and calls me every day!"

Self-sufficient and still living in her family home, Hanna traveled to Prague in 2009 with her daughter for the 70th anniversary of her escape. She and some of the other rescued children retraced their journey to London, where they were greeted by Winton himself, then 100 years old. He even welcomed them to his mansion in



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Photo: Matej Divizna/Getty Images

Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 mostly Jewish children from the Nazis by organizing their escape from occupied Czechoslovakia to Great Britain, receives the Order of the White Lion — the highest honor of the Czech Republic — from President Milos Zeman at Prague Castle, Oct. 28, 2014.

Maidenhead for a visit. (Winton died in 2015 at age 106.)

Although Winton was honored with numerous awards, including a knighthood, Hanna says he was haunted by the children he couldn't save. "I know he was unhappy that he only saved 669," she said.

Winton's largest scheduled transport of Czech Jewish children was set for Sept. 1, 1939. That same day, Germany invaded Poland and the borders were sealed. "Within hours of the announcement, the

.

train disappeared," Winton later wrote. "None of the 250 children aboard was seen again. We had 250 families waiting at Liverpool Street that day in vain. If the train had been a day earlier, it would have come through."

Hanna celebrated her 99th birthday at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan, watching a new Holocaust film, Irena's Vow, about a Polish housekeeper who sheltered Jews. She has seen "One Life" several

She has seen "One Life" several times, including at its New York

premiere in January. "The fact that I lost my whole family — and six million others — that's what makes me emotional," she said.

For years, Hanna spoke to school groups about Sir Nicholas and her survival. Now approaching 100, she reflects with gratitude and joy: "Oh, boy, what a life I've had. I'm so happy to be here."

"One Life" is currently playing in select theaters nationwide and is streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Paramount+ and other platforms.

SIDEBAR

Hanna Slome honored on her 100th birthday

Wire Report

(JNS) Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) visited Holocaust survivor Hanna Slome — who turned 100 on April 11 — at her home in Flushing, Queens, part of Meng's congressional district.

To mark the occasion, Meng proclaimed April 11 "Hanna Slome Day" throughout New York's Sixth Congressional District.

"I am proud to commend and recognize Hanna for a century of courage, service and inspiration," Meng said. "Her message of resilience and hope continues to inspire generations and will do so for many years to come."

"It is an honor and privilege to wish her a very happy 100th birthday, and I send her my warmest congratulations," she added. Slome, a native of Czechoslovakia, was rescued through the Kindertransport in 1939, which brought more than 600 children to England from Nazi-occupied territories.

Nick Winton, the son of Kindertransport organizer Sir Nicholas Winton, joined Meng for the visit.

Slome immigrated to the United States at 19, settled in New York City and later married. She became a mother of two, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of 10.

She has spoken to school groups about her Holocaust experience and was active in Flushing's Temple Gates of Prayer Congregation Shaarai Tefilla,



Photo: Courtesy Office of Rep. Grace Meng Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) with Holocaust survivor Hanna Slome and Nick Winton — son of Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved Slome and 668 other children at Slome's 100th birthday celebration in Flushing, New York.

an egalitarian Conservative synagogue.



Photo: AFP/Michal Cizek via Getty Image

Survivor Hanna Slome looks at a historical train in Prague named "Winton," after the British stockbroker who helped save her and 668 other children during the Holocaust, Sept. 1, 1999.the British stockbroker who helped save her and 668 other children during the Holocaust, Sept. 1, 1999.

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A month of miracles and meaning

Nissan, the current month, derives its name from the Hebrew word for "miracle." The common term for miracle — neis — also means something that is raised or elevated. One explanation is that a miracle lifts the seemingly ordinary natural order, revealing the divine orchestration behind it — something we might otherwise take for granted.

True choice is rare

Smack in the middle of this month named for miracles comes the allencompassing festival of Pesach, the Festival of Freedom, which paved the way for the birth of the Jewish nation. But Pesach doesn't just commemorate a collective liberation — it offers us the chance to experience something deeper. As we relive the Exodus and pass our heritage on to our children, we also touch a very personal kind of freedom.

True personal freedom, in simple terms, means not being bound by our innate inclinations — whether base desires, emotional reactions or rigid perceptions of reality. It's the ability to exercise independent will, regardless of circumstance. But how often are our actions truly "free" decisions, rather than automatic responses driven by emotion or self-interest?

This question is addressed in a well-known mystical discourse taught during Nissan - one that challenges many assumptions about free will. Most of what we call "choice" is influenced by some internal or external pressure: logic, emotion, environment or personal gain. True free choice (bechirah chofshit) is not just the ability to pick between options. It only surfaces when the paths before us seem equally compelling. With no strong emotional or logical pull in either direction, we must dig deeper to decide. That's when real choice begins.

This helps explain why, according to the esoteric teachings of Torah, choice is the soul's most profound expression. Left on its own, the intellect will always lean toward self-interest. To keep the mind impartial, it must be guided by a deeper allegiance. At the same time, we are not meant to operate with intuition or faith alone. We must work actively with the mind — and through the mind — to choose



That's

faith and drink-

ing the four

low the unique **D'VAR** mitzvot of the TORAH holiday - eating the bread of

By Rabbi Dan Lewin Nissan

cups of wine - the soul expands. We are infused with added strength to make those daily positive choices going forward. We emerge from the marathon nights of the Seder renewed, with greater clarity and less pull toward impulse.

Seudat Moshiach

Redemption is another central theme of Pesach. What began on the first night - the physical exodus from Egypt - carried within it the power for all future redemptions. Many assume that the Seder is the peak of the holiday, with the remaining days less potent or significant. But the spiritual energy of Pesach builds through the week, reaching its peak during the final days.

On the seventh day of Pesach, the Jewish people were finally and fully free from their enemies. The sea split in the ultimate miracle, the pursuing Egyptian army was swallowed, and the people burst into song - Shirat HaYam, read from the Torah on that day. But the eighth day looks forward. Its Haftorah, Isaiah 10:32-12:6, describes the "root of Yishai" - the Messianic figure - and the everlasting kingdom of Israel. According to the Zohar, "a reflection of the light of Moshiach" shines on this day.

Beginning with the Baal Shem Toy, and more widely publicized in 1906, a cherished Chassidic custom developed: on the final day of Pesach, we hold Seudat Moshiach — the Feast of Moshiach — and drink four cups of wine. The four cups at the Seder correspond to the four expressions of redemption in Exodus 6:6–8, with the final phrase alluding to the future era. Another explanation connects them to four punishments destined for the

Why Pesach resonates so deeply

Dear Rabbi Fried,

Perhaps you can explain why Pesach seems to be so central to Judaism, far more than the other holidays, just judging by the level of participation by Jews that otherwise don't do very much Jewishly. Just about everyone I know either does or joins some Passover seder even if they don't go to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. Do you have a reason for this?

Dear Rabbi Fried,

We have had quite a discussion in our family why it is that Passover is the most observed Jewish holiday and have come up with a variety of reasons, of which I will not bore you with at this time. We decided to submit this to you to perhaps shed some more light on the subject and we appreciate your words. Chag sameach.

Charles and Rita

Dear Michael, Charles and Rita,

Jewish sociologists have spilled much ink over this question and, as you found in your family, there are numerous takes on the subject. I also have wondered about this phenomenon over the years, and I think there may be a number of factors which puts the Passover Seder so high on the Jewish pedestal - some of them cultural, others spiritual. From a purely sociological perspective there is some merit to all the reasons found, but still, in my book, they add up to the intensity of dedication to the seder that we find in Jewish households throughout the world for over



Michael G. RABBI

By Rabbi Yerachmiel D. Fried

3000 years. I would like to offer a perhaps metaphysical or spiritual reason why we find this to be so.

I have always felt that the Passover events are key factors in defining our belief system. The core of our belief in G-d is based upon the miracles which our people witnessed in Egypt during the ten plagues, followed by the splitting of the sea. When G-d first "introduces" Himself to us by proclaiming, in the Ten Commandments, "I am the Lord, your G-d," He does not

end the introduction by qualifying Himself as the One "who has created the heavens and earth." He does not describe Himself as the "Creator of the universe," which would seem to be the logical ending of this crucial introduction. Instead, G-d chooses to conclude with: "Who has taken you out of Egypt, from the house of bondage." Why would G-d choose to introduce Himself as one who has performed one isolated event rather than with the much greater identity as the One who is Creator of all?!

The answer is: Seeing is believing! The entire Jewish nation witnessed the miracles of Egypt. But nobody

see FRIED, p.17

Count toward something special

Dear Families.

Let's talk about counting - specifically about counting the Omer. Some people don't know what I'm talking about, some think it's meaningless today, and some, like me, have an app on their phone. It reminds me, gives me the blessing and even offers thoughts to consider each night. At this point in the calendar, we're nearing the end of this period — Shavuot is coming.

So what is it?

The special period between Passover and Shavuot is called *sefirah*, meaning "counting," from the practice of counting the omer, which is observed from the night of the second seder of Passover until the eve of Shavuot. The counting of seven weeks — during which the *omer* offering of the new barley crop was brought to the Temple — serves to connect the anniversary of the Exodus from Egypt with the festival that commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Tradition holds that the Israelites were told in Egypt the Torah would be given to them 50 days after the Exodus. As soon as they were liberated, they were so eager for the arrival of the promised day that they began to count, saying each time, "Now we have one day less to wait for the giving of the Torah."

Does it matter today?

The omer count continued even after the standard calendar eliminated its original function — to let people know when to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It remains an opportunity to help us move out of enslaving patterns of thought and behavior. For the ancient Israelites, each day was a step away from the defilement of Egypt and a step toward spiritual growth. Like the Israelites who began to prepare for their encounter at Mount Sinai as soon as they crossed the Reed (or Red) Sea, we use the seven weeks beginning on Passover to similarly ready ourselves for Shavuot. During this time, we're supposed to evaluate our behavior and work to improve ourselves.



SHALOM FROM THE SHABBAT LADY

> **By Laura** Seymour

We all count down to something special - maybe something good (can't wait for my vacation), maybe something stressful (10 days until I have jury duty). But I count something each of you should consider counting.

As many of you know, I'm now Camp Director Emeritus, and camp will always be my happy place. I'm counting how many days until camp. I'm also counting how many young lives

we will impact at camp. How many can we count? Here's the story I remind our staff — the leaders

of tomorrow whom we impact each summer: A little boy was walking along the beach, where

hundreds of starfish had washed up. Starfish can't survive out of the water, so the boy began throwing them back into the ocean, one at a time. A man approached and said, "There are too many. You can't make a difference." The boy picked up another starfish, tossed it into the water, and said, "Made a difference to that one."

That's what we do — make a difference one at a time.

The challenge with counting the omer, or any countdown to something special, is making the anticipation as meaningful as the experience itself. Prepare to make a difference — in the lives of others and your own.

Days of the Omer for Hebrew year 5785 begin at sundown Sunday, April 13, 2025, and end at nightfall Sunday, June 1, 2025.

Laura Seymour is Jewish experiential learning director and camp director emeritus at the Aaron Family ICC.

TEXAS JEWISH POST ☆ SINCE 1947

What happened to our moral compass?

A daughter's perspective

My father, Morris Watkins, z"l, was a gentle man with simple needs and a kind spirit. He genuinely liked people, and they in turn liked him. It didn't matter what car you drove or how much money you earned he judged his wealth by the friends he amassed on his journey. And rich he was.

While living in a retirement community, he befriended a man about 20 years his junior. Until they really started talking, neither one knew the other's religious background. They liked each other as people — as aging brothers in the same environment. As their



bond deepened, they discovered that they were an anomaly: one was an Arab, the other a Jew.

Their friendship didn't skip a beat. It continued to grow, based on honesty, respect and — of course a great deal of humor. They realized that though they came from different cultural backgrounds, they were very much alike. Their bond was grounded in shared core values, morals and ethics. They were open

to learning about one another's backgrounds and embraced their differences. I never heard either one of them say anything derogatory about the other.

Over the next few years, they spent hours together almost every day - at meals, in-

house activities, sharing stories — building their tower of friendship. They joked, though serious, about why humanity could not be more humane. They questioned why people no longer practiced the Golden Rule: to treat others the way you want to be treated. What happened to our moral compass?

They continued to explore what mattered most to them: the value of chesed - the kindness and love of their friendship. Chesed is not solely an emotional response; it's the commitment and actions of being a true friend. It's about being faithful to the kindness that comes from within your conscience.

At the age of 90, my father contemplated a move to Dallas so we could make memories together. And we did — eight meaningful years I will forever cherish. Upon hearing of Dad's plan to move, his friend gifted him a beautiful cane, gently admonishing him to never walk without it. He explained that he would no longer be there to help, so my father needed to be extra careful. Dad used the cane religiously every day until he graduated to needing a walker for better balance.

As an aside, I had given Dad a walking stick months earlier in anticipation of the move. There it stood in the corner of his apartment, gathering dust. On the other hand, the cane from his friend became his constant companion. I think it made Dad feel as though his friend was still by his side. How powerful was the gift of their friendship!

Judy Glazer is a longtime employee of Ann & Nate Levine Academy and the school's ambassador.

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LEWIN continued from p.16

nations who oppressed us, and four corresponding "cups of comfort" to be poured for the Jewish people after their brutal journey through exile.

At Seudat Moshiach, the lens shifts. It's a celebration of redemption, but unlike other festivals, we're not commemorating a past event we're looking to the future. We draw strength from ancient wellsprings, rekindle our faith, and carry the spirit of redemption into the rest of the year. And in that gathering, with song and inspiring words, we confront a deeper question: How do we relate to this vision in a world so easily distracted and disillusioned?

FRIED

about Creation. Although the Torah

clearly spells out that G-d is the

Creator of the universe, the belief

that this is true is predicated upon

the knowledge of G-d's power to do

so by what He performed in Egypt.

Hence, G-d's introduction is as the

doer of that one isolated event, the

deliverance from Egypt. From that

Will There Be Miracles?

One major obstacle to transcendent vision and pure imagination is the way many once-meaningful terms have been co-opted, trivialized or distorted to serve modern ideological frameworks. Even in religious settings, we see the same trend. Concepts like the devil, prophecy or Moshiach are often sensationalized or laced with foreign imagery far removed from the Torah's authentic view. As a result, when the real Redeemer arrives, the world may already be numb to the message. Fantastical portrayals of utopia can further cloud the teachings of our

flows everything else we know about

This explains what seems to be a was there to watch the Almighty create the universe. Although we believe He created the universe, that is an issue of belief, not of knowledge. The Jews of that time knew about the miracles of Egypt because they had seen them with their own eyes. That is why G-d introduces Himself as the One who performed those miracles, which they had recently experienced personally and from which they could extrapolate further and draw their own conclusions

Interestingly, one of the earliest Jewish philosophers, Rabbi Yehuda Helevi, author of the Kuzari, built the foundation of his philosophy on this very question. In a nutshell, it goes as follows: You cannot compare what you believe to what you have seen. Although we believe that G-d created

the laws of nature be overturned? On one hand, the Rambam (Maimonides) writes:

age is: Will there be miracles? Will

"Do not presume that in the Messianic age any facet of the world's nature will change, or that there will be innovations in the work of creation. Rather, the world will continue according to its natural order. Although Isaiah 11:6 states, 'The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,' these words are metaphorical... and similar prophecies are likewise allegorical."

Yet other sources appear to suggest the opposite. The Midrash Torat Kohanim, for example, teaches that even barren trees (ilanot serak) will bear fruit. Similarly, the final lines of

.

Tractate Ketubot describe vivid, tangible changes to nature.

In a masterful treatment of this apparent contradiction, the Lubavitcher Rebbe brings together these classical sources, analyzes their implications and reaches a compelling conclusion: the future era -*Yemot HaMoshiach* — will unfold in two distinct stages.

And that takes us full circle back to the themes of this month.

One of the core transformations of the final era is hinted at in Zechariah 14:9: "On that day, G-d will be One and His Name will be One." In the esoteric works, this means the veil of nature (associated with the Divine Name Elokim) will be permanently lifted, and the human eye will perceive the miraculous divine energy (Havayah) that animates all existence.

But in a deeper sense, there's also something uniquely precious about our current state. The tension between light and dark, good and evil, concealment and revelation - that's what makes free choice possible. That difficulty, that inner struggle, will one day fade. The world will no longer teeter between the two forces but will progress only from good to greater. And so, while we long for that final era of peace and increased revelation, we can also cherish the merit of living now - when choosing the good path takes strength.

Rabbi Dan Lewin is director of the nonprofit Maavan Chai Foundation. For information, visitwww.maavan-chai.org.

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G-d. continued from p.16

very strange passage in the Kiddush we recite over the wine every Friday night. In the Kiddush we say, "Gave us His holy Sabbath as a heritage, a remembrance of Creation ...a memorial of the exodus from Egypt." The question is obvious: How could Shabbos (which commemorates Creation) be a memorial for the Exodus - which was long after the Creation?! The answer is implicit in our comments above; our belief in that Creation stems from our historically verified knowledge of the exodus from Egypt!

the universe, there was no innocent bystander at the time to observe that Creation. The entire Jewish nation, however, were living witnesses to all that had transpired over the past few years: the ten plagues, the splitting of the sea the falling of food - the manna - from the sky, and finally, the greatest revelation of all, G-d Almighty speaking directly to the entire Jewish nation at Sinai. This thought is emphasized by G-d in the verse in which He proclaims, "You have seen that from Heaven I have spoken to you!"

This is a major departure from any and all other religions which claim divine revelation; all others claim that the revelation was to an individual or small group. Only the Torah claims that this happened to an entire nation. (This claim is actually accepted by Christianity and Islam, they both believe in the Divine Revelation of Torah at Sinai; they only claim that G-d later

changed His mind!). That is why G-d introduced Himself as the One who brought the Jews out of Egypt; this is the foundation of our belief system. It is not simply a "faith," but a belief based upon historical verification.

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The Jews are commanded to recite the Shema, the acceptance of the Oneness of G-d, twice a day, morning and night. This recitation ends with the acceptance that G-d took us out of Egypt, an ending that seems out of place. The early commentators explain that our acceptance of the Oneness of G-d is not complete unless one truly believes in the historical story of the leaving of Egypt, as that is the foundation of our belief. Nachmanides, in his classical commentary to the Torah, explains further that out of our belief in the open miracles of Egypt and those which followed, we arrive at our well-known Jewish "weltenschaung," that all which transpires in our day-to-day lives is through direct

intervention by the "Hand of G-d." If G-d can control the world in the way of open miracles, He certainly has the power to also perform "hidden miracles" which are the stuff of our very lives.

This, I suggest, is a more profound reason why Pesach is so deeply rooted in the Jewish consciousness and observance. It is the foundation of our entire belief system and informs us who we are and what our mission is in the world. For the seven days that we eat matzoh, and refrain from bread and leavened products, we are proclaiming that there is a G-d, He is present in our lives, and this is our message to ourselves and all those around us.

A wonderful Pesach to you and all the readers!

Sincerely, Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried

Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried is dean of DATA-Dallas Area Torah Association.

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sages.

One of the most common questions people ask about the Messianic

Dr. Phil rallies Dallas crowd in solidarity with Israel

By Sharon Wisch-Ray

DALLAS - A capacity crowd gathered at Congregation Shearith Israel on April 1 for an emotionally charged evening in support of Israel, hosted by Jewish National Fund-USA (JNF-USA) and headlined by renowned psychologist and TV personality Dr. Phil McGraw.

The event, held nearly 18 months after the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel, was a passionate call to action and a tribute to Israeli resilience and global Jewish unity.

Ellie Adelman, a former lone soldier and director of major gifts for JNF-USA, Dallas, opened the program with a stirring acknowledgment of the toll the war has taken and the strength it has revealed.

"It has now been 542 days since our brothers and sisters were taken from their homes and from the Nova Music Festival on that fateful morning," she said. "I hoped to stand here tonight with the war behind us, but the reality is it continues."

Adelman praised the community's outpouring of support, noting, "Tens of thousands of first-



Photos: Courtesy Jewish National Fund-USA Mike Cohen, event chair; Dr. Phil McGraw; Doug Stayman, Jewish National Fund-**USA Dallas Board President**

time donors joined JNF-USA, raising more than \$200 million last year. Thousands traveled to Israel, stepping into a war zone to help rebuild homes, harvest crops, and bring hope."

She closed her remarks with a quote from Donna Silverman, whose sister and nephews were murdered and returned from Gaza in February: "They will not defeat us. They will



Debbi Levy and Barry RothschildMcGraw.

not break us. On the contrary, their mission failed-because we united. because we grew stronger, because we became invincible."

For Ariana Rosie Bourgoin, a 20-year-old Christian Zionist and student at Texas Wesleyan University, JNF-USA's Caravan for Democracy was a life-changing experience.

"I went expecting to see a country with deep roots, but I came back carrying Israel's story in my heart," she said.

Bourgoin recalled a powerful encounter with an IDF soldier named Noa, who, when asked about her future plans, responded, "We don't think that far. We're just hoping to see the end of the war."

Moved by the devastation at Kibbutz Kfar Aza and the stories of survivors, Bourgoin now wears a yellow ribbon on her backpack daily.

"This is not just a piece of string," she explained. "It's a promise that I won't stop spreading awareness of these hostages until they are all home."

She urged the audience to give generously to help rebuild communities in Israel's north and south.



Caravan for Democracy alumna Ariana Rosie Bourgoin

"You may not realize it," she said,

"but your support, your donations

and your unwavering love for Israel

creates a ripple far beyond the Jewish

Dr. Phil took the stage to sustained

"There are some things that are

applause, delivering an unsparing

condemnation of the Oct. 7 attacks

just fundamental human decency,"

he said. "When someone comes

over a fence and burns an infant in

its crib, I don't give a damn why they

antisemitism on American college

campuses and the erosion of critical

thinking among students. "I saw a

big sign that said, 'Gays for Gaza,'"

he said. "Really? Go try living openly

in Gaza and see what kind of life

Drawing on his decades as a

psychologist, McGraw emphasized

the Israeli people's unmatched

resilience. "They wake up every day

knowing there are 5 million people

over a fence who want them dead —

and yet they live, they nurture, they

love, they teach their children hope.

He shared the story of a reservist

That is extraordinary."

McGraw criticized the rise of

and the global response since.

community."

did it. It's wrong."

landing you get."



Event chairs Lori and Mike Cohen with Robin and Dr. Phil McGraw.

who was the first to arrive at the Nova Music Festival site, describing the horror the soldier encountered and the trauma he carried. "I realized this man was telling me the last story he was ever going to tell," Dr. Phil said, his voice thick with emotion. "And it was the most powerful conversation I've ever had."

The evening also featured remarks by Mike and Lori Cohen, event chairs, and Doug Stayman, Jewish National Fund-USA's Dallas board president, who presented Dr. Phil with a framed verse from Exodus in honor of his steadfast support for Israel.

The program concluded with an invitation to join JNF-USA's Global Conference for Israel this October in Florida.

As the audience rose in a standing ovation, Dr. Phil left them with a final charge: "America needs to stand strong with Israel every hour of every day. And I will never stop beating that drum until we get back where we need to be."

For more information about Iewish National Fund-USA, contact Ellie Adelman at the Dallas office at eadelman@jnf.org or 214-433-6600, ext. 945.

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Eric Strull

Eric Todd Strull, 64, passed away April 1, 2025, after a valiant three-year battle with glioblastoma brain cancer.

Eric was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 21, 1961, to

Adrienne and Philip Strull, their beloved second son. Growing up, Eric always wanted

to please his parents, teachers and coaches. He was a straight-A student, and his teachers loved him; he never gave them any problems. He was a Little League all-star, always willing to do whatever his coaches asked. His athleticism and grades were the envy of his friends.

In 1973, the family moved to Dallas. During his middle school and high school years, Eric was actively involved in the Dallas AZA and BBYO chapters. He attended Richardson High School, where he was the Eagles' starting second baseman and earned alldistrict honors in 1977, 1978 and 1979. In 1978 and 1979, he was named to the DFW all-Metroplex team. Also in 1978, he was a member of the RHS District 13-4AAA championship team.

Eric was an accomplished student and earned recommendation to the United States Air Force Academy, where he played second base and studied international public affairs. He was a proud Air Force veteran.

After returning to Dallas, Eric met Margo Wolfson, the love of his life, and they married June 26, 1987.

Eric often said his greatest accomplishment was being a father. Nothing gave him more joy and pride than his children, Alec and Courtney. He was a devoted



Eric Strull

of his grandson, Brooks Bowen Strull, whom he adored. was a member of Eric

Congregation Shearith Israel and Tiferet Israel for almost 40 years. In 2022, he and Margo visited Israel with members of Shearith Israel. For Eric, it was the trip of a lifetime, helping to bookend a life dedicated to his faith and Judaism.

their lives. He was also a

joyful and caring dad to

In 2024, he became a

grandfather with the birth

the family's many dogs.

Eric was a loyal fan of every Dallas sports team and enjoyed attending Mavericks, Stars, Cowboys and Rangers games with his family. Baseball was always an integral part of his life and the extended Strull family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Philip Strull; aunts Maxine Henkin, Joyce Chernoff and Joan Shea; uncle Martin Strull; and cousin David Goldstein.

Survivors include his devoted wife of almost 37 years, Margo; son, Alec, and daughter-inlaw, Montana Strull; daughter, Courtney Strull, and her partner, Andrew Mihalick; grandson, Brooks Strull; mother, Adrienne Strull; brother, Brian Strull, and his wife, Susy; sister, Valerie Newberg, and her husband, Jeff; sister-in-law, Keo Strull; parents-in-law, Rosalyn and Maury Wolfson; brother-inlaw, Barry Wolfson; and dozens of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Eric was a truly good and kind human. His superpower was his kindness, which was felt by every soul he touched. He was the very definition of a mensch.

He fought glioblastoma like a warrior, with courage and an iron OBITUARIES

and loving dad throughout will to live. His loss is immense for all who knew and loved him.

> Eric, Dad, Papa E — you were the best. We will love and miss you forever. May your memory always be a blessing.

> Services were held Thursday, April 3, 2025, and led by Rabbi Shira Wallach of Congregation Shearith Israel.

> To honor his memory, donations may be made to Congregation Shearith Israel or Operation Kindness.

> The family thanks Eric's caregivers over the past three years, along with Drs. Youseff and Patel, Jolene and Rachel, and the entire team at UT Southwestern Medical Center. The family also thanks Eric's longtime doctors Zik, Vas, Vasquez and Siddiqui, and longtime caretakers Angela, Isi and Liza. A special thank you to the Drs. Mitchell for their love and guidance throughout this journey.

Helaine Trachtenberg

Helaine Sue Crohn Berger Trachtenberg, 92, passed away peacefully at home on April 8, 2025

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, on Aug. 11, 1932, she graduated from Highland Park High School and later earned an associate degree in interior design. At Lake Texoma, one of her favorite places to fish and have fun, she brought style to boats through her business, Helaine Designs.

Helaine loved to cook and shared her passion through her culinary treats. One of her other passions was art - she loved to paint and gifted her artwork to family and friends. She was beloved by a broad group of lifelong friends, including 'The Vodka Girls," with whom she shared years of laughter, love and friendship.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Mary Crohn, and her dear brother and sister-in-law, Buddy and Ellyn Crohn.

She is lovingly by her remembered children, Barbara Einsohn (Philip), Mindy

Berger (Terri) and Steven Berger (Elizabeth); and remembered as Nonnie by her beloved grandchildren, Gabriel, Emily, Max (Shannyn), Blake, Kyle, Jacque (Ian), and Jessica (Jacob), and by her adored great-grandchildren,



Helaine

Trachtenberg

Nicholas, Bishop, Collin, Jackson, Noelle and Collette, as well as her nieces and nephews.

Osiav, Zayla, Cosmo,

April 17, 2025 | **19**

The family thanks Tammy, Sherrea and all who cared for Helaine with kindness and dignity.

A memorial service was held Thursday, April 10, at Temple Emanu-El. Please consider a donation to the Temple Emanu-El Rose Marion and Lee H. Berg Building Fund or your favorite charity.



The TJP publishes obituaries of 300 words or fewer free of charge for

the community. Obituaries of more than 300 words incur a nominal fee. Obituaries must be submitted by a family member or funeral home. To submit an obituary, email the information to sharon@tjpnews.

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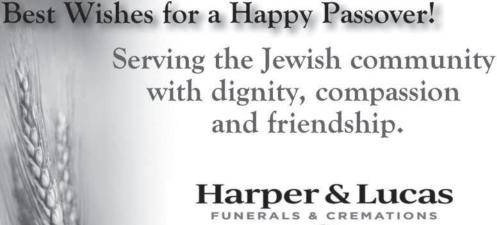
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DHHRM continued from p.5

CEO Mary Pat Higgins said. "They have slightly different opinions, but they all deeply understand the roots and origins of antisemitism."

"We felt it was really important to have a new series," Higgins continued. "The number of antisemitic incidents has more than doubled since Oct. 7, and it's increasing around the world. The second session will focus on college antisemitism because that's where it's really manifesting itself in the United States right now."

The emphasis on college campuses came up significantly during the first session.

Small, the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP), said anti-Israel propaganda, demonstrations and even curricula on college campuses are largely funded by the Qatari government in an effort to "weaken and isolate" Israel.

"We have to define ourselves based on Jewish values and not allow those who hate us to define us," Small said. "Social media has become a super-spreader of the antisemitism virus. Antisemitism is an attack on human decency."

ISGAP has an investigative team of forensic accountants that follows the finances of efforts to spread antisemitism affecting academia, media and politics. Small specifically referred to radical left-wing university professors as "intellectual clowns."

He added that Israel is proof of the Jewish people's miraculous return to its homeland.

"Zionism, to me and to the Jewish people, is the greatest movement of the emancipation and the reclaiming of the indigenous people on their land," Small said. "It's astounding. Despite all of the empires, we have been able — in our lifetime, which is an incredible miracle — to have a free, sovereign homeland for the Jewish people, where we speak our language and connect to our land."

'We are so much removed from our wisdom and teachings. For a Jew to be free, you have to be rooted in the Land of Israel and connected to something higher. This is our teaching. Israel continues to be an inspiration for the entire world - maybe not for the Ivy League universities, but for the rest of the world, it's resonating."

Small opened the program by stating that antisemitism can be understood in three different phases. "Antisemitism is inherently genocidal, which makes it different

than other forms of hate," he said.

The first phase, dating back to ancient times, was religious in nature, with Christians believing the Jewish people were delaying Christ's return. This led to forced conversions, exile and violence.

The second phase was racial antisemitism, where Jews were targeted as a separate racial group, regardless of their religious beliefs. The hateful rationale of "purifying the white race" culminated in the atrocities of the Holocaust.

The third and current phase of antisemitism is the attack on Jewish peoplehood and self-determination in efforts to demonize and dehumanize Israel by falsely characterizing its citizens and supporters as "white expansionists" - just two generations after 6 million Jews were murdered because they were not considered "white."

Patterson, the Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, spoke about the evil effects of the 1903 Russian fabricated book The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

The book contributed to stereotypes that fueled hatred leading up to the Holocaust. It has since been printed around the world, including the Middle East, and



Photo: Courtesy DHHRM

From left: Dr. Sara Abosch-Jacobson, Barbara Rabin Chief Education Officer at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum; Dr. Charles Asher Small; and Dr. David Patterson at the opening installment of "Challenging Antisemitism," April 7, 2025, at the DHHRM.

continues to contribute to today's variant of antisemitism.

In addition to a 122-year-old canard such as The Protocols, there's also the negative side of the 21st-century development of social media, where hatred largely goes unchecked.

"Humanity lies in our responsibility, and social media is a great place to hide, as there's no reckoning," Patterson said. "When human beings are absent, hatred flourishes."

Patterson said antisemitism obviously existed prior to Oct. 7, but it's now "more orchestrated and

"Antisemitism is about a radical disconnection. Jewish teaching is about a radical connection,' Patterson said.

The program, which included a pre-event reception, was supported byRonitandHavavIlan.Community partners included ADL Texoma, Congregation Anshai Torah, Dallas Afterschool, Greenhill School, the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, Southwest Jewish Congress, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Shalom and the Texas Holocaust, Genocide Antisemitism and Advisorv Commission.

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