Israel Action Committee

בס"ד

ג' סיון 5785

May 30, 2025

"THE IAC OF CONGREGATION AHAVAT ACHIM IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE WHILE PROVIDING OUR MEMBERSHIP WITH CHARITABLE, COMMUNAL, AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS INFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR BOND WITH THE JEWISH HOMELAND."

Sivan's Tzadakah Highlight



is the original and largest organization in Israel dedicated to supporting and guiding soldiers from the moment they receive their conscription orders until five years after their release from the IDF.

Over the past 15 years, they have supported more than 15,000 Olim and Israeli soldiers, both in active and post army service. Every day, they provide them with a warm home and a sense of community, honoring the dream of the late Michael Levin, who was tragically killed by sniper fire in the village of Eita al-Sha'ab at just 22 years old.

The Center offers support through two parallel programs: one for lone immigrant soldiers and another for lone Israeli soldiers without family support. This includes personalized and professional guidance provided by social workers and coordinators. The support spans the entire journey, from pre-enlistment to military service and up to five years post-discharge. The Center operates with a clear benchmark for effectiveness.

To learn more about this important organization click here!

ADDITIONAL TZADAKAH RESOURCES

AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

Suggestion Box



אורי ז"ל בן אשר וחיה

Sergeant First Class, Ori Yaish Hy"d, 27



The OU created an initiative due to the difficulty of honoring all those who have been killed throughout the last 17 months of war and terror in Eretz Israel. It is simply too large a number for most of us to wrap our heads around. Additionally, from the bereaved family's perspective, there are countless families that could use more support when many only focus on the more famous ones or on the total loss. As a result, many families feel forgotten during their most difficult time of bereavement.

Congregation Ahavat Achim has been given the honor of supporting Ori Yaish's bereaved family. Sgt. 1st Class (res.) Ori Yaish, who was the embodiment of goodness, was a 27-year-old from Modi'in who served in the 8119th Battalion of the Jerusalem Brigade. Off duty and heading home, Ori was murdered in the terrorist attack at the Reem Junction on February 15, 2024, when an armed terrorist arrived in a stolen car at the bus stop and opened fire toward civilians standing at the station.

Ori served on the Gaza border in the wake of October 7th, was discharged during Hanukkah, and had returned to reserve duty in the Gush Etzion region when his life was tragically cut short. A sensitive man, Ori always looked for the best in people and regarded others without judgment. His family knew him as a true warrior for justice, someone who spread love, and valued his friends and family above all else.

The Israel Action Committee had an opportunity to meet Ori's parents, siblings and friends. We were able to hear first hand about their beloved memories of their son, brother, and friends. We could feel their happiness and joy in sharing everything that encompassed Ori as a musician, soldier and loving and compassionate soul. Ori was described as a person that quickly became friends with anyone in the room, and he utilized his positiveness and friendliness to connect Olim in Modi'n together with the local community.

We quickly learned that Ori's passion in life was music. He wrote and recorded songs, alone and together with his friends. During our call, the family proudly played some of his songs. We could see how much they yearned for Ori as we watched how his singing and his presence on the video brought them back to that beautiful time period. They swayed to his music on the couch with their eyes gleaming in pride. We could all feel not only their loss, but the beauty of who Ori was through his art. His first cousin is the famous Israeli singer Noa Kirel.

As we move forward to help the Yaish Family, Tzachi shared an important message from Ori's mother, Cha father was a simple Sephardi Moroccan Jew. He went to shul in the morning, went to work, went back to shul in the evenin Never politics, never fights with anyone, just went to shul, work and back home. And he told me when I was young that don't understand the world, and that I don't even know what 'good' is - but I have to know that everything Hashem does in the world is for good-הכל לטובה. And now too - when my son has died - it is לטובה.

Our shul is now completing the last week of commeration for Ori during seudat shlishit.

Following in Ori's role in writing to soldiers, letters were written and sent from the community to Josh Brooks's (Adam's brother's) unit along with the much needed vests.

On Friday, May 30th at 10:00 am, the Modi'in City Council invited the public to a memorial ceremony and the dedication of the Ma'aleh (memorial ascent) in memory of Master-Sergent (Res.) Ori Yaish YID. The city is dedicating a pathway in his memory.

Recently Tzacki Cohen traveled to Israel and had the honor of meeting directly with the family. They were comforted by a visit from someone from our shul.

The family is deeply moved by our shul's support and would welcome anyone traveling to Israel to visit them in Modi'in.

This Week in Worldwide Jewish News



May 20

- David Lammy, the UK Foreign Secretary gave a speech railing against Israel's actions in Gaza and calling for the suspension of trade negotiations with Israel as well as the summoning of the Israeli ambassador. On the same day several Jewish homes in the Golders Green section of London were vandalized by having their mezuzahs removed.

- Staff Sgt. Danilo Mocanu, age 20 from Holon died when a building collapsed following the detonation of an explosive device in Khan Yunis in Gaza. Another soldier was lightly wounded in the incident.

- At the Skverer Rebbe's request Benny Gantz, MK of the Israel National Unity Party held a secret forty minute meeting with the Rebbe at his New York residence.

May 21

- In response to the Washington Post's article that Trump threatened to ditch Israel, US Special Envoy Adam Boehler said that the President's support for Israel remains "ironclad." Netanyahu in a statement said, "Trump told me about 10 days ago, "Bibi I want you to know-I have an absolute commitment to you and the State of Israel." Nonetheless Potus is restraining Netanyahu from taking action against Iran that would disrupt Trump's attempts at negotiating a nuclear deal.

- In contrast Democratic Senator John Fetterman said there is no point in negotiating with Iran because it is "impossible to verify or trust this regime. We must fully support Israel's rightful decision to hit Iran's nuclear facilities."

- The IDF eliminated Mohammad Shahin, a Nukhba terrorist from Hamas' East Jabaliya Battalion who participated in the October 7 massacre. Hussein Nazih Barji, a Hezbollah operative responsible for establishing infrastructure for missile production was killed in Ain Baal Lebanon by an Israeli drone strike.

- The IDF confirmed that Naael Samarah, a Hamas terrorist killed in Bruqin was responsible for the May 14 attack that killed Tzeela Gez and wounded her husband. Several other suspects tied to his terror cell were arrested.

- The High Court in Israel has ruled that Netanyahu should have consulted with the AG before firing Ronen Bar, the Chief of Shin Bet.

- A 2,300-year-old gold ring with a red gemstone was unearthed during excavations in the City of David, Jerusalem Walls National Park.

- El Al will cease flights to Israel from Ft. Lauderdale by April 2026 and instead shift full operations to Miami.

- In a meeting between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun it was agreed that Palestinian factions would not use Lebanon as a launchpad to attack Israel.

- Israel and Turkey have reached an agreement on several key principles to avoid military conflict between their forces in Syria. Israel insists on maintaining a demilitarized zone in southern Syria.

- The NYPD continued to arrest anti-Israel protestors outside Columbia University who were attempting to disrupt the graduation ceremony.





- **Dr. Phil McGraw dedicated an episode of the *REAL* Story to showcasing the moral and humanitarian values that underpin the Israeli rescue organization ZAKA. The episode explores the deeply rooted Jewish principles of compassion, dignity and respect for life and death.**

- **Eva Wyner was appointed Director of Jewish Affairs for New York for Governor Hochul.**

- **Adobe has formally approved a *Jewish Employee Resource Group* recognizing Jewish identity as both religious and ethnic.**

- **Two young Israeli embassy staffers soon to be engaged were murdered in cold blood outside the Jewish Museum in Washington DC. They were exiting an IsraAID event (which is an NGO focused on bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza) when a man in a keffiyeh identified as Elias Rodriguez of Chicago shot them. When arrested he was heard yelling "Free Free Palestine."**

May 22

- **Trump denounced the murder of the Israeli embassy employees, Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim and the antisemitism which was the obvious motivation for the killings. He reiterated that hatred and radicalism have no place in America. Mike Huckabee also noted the horror of the attack.**

- **In response to the killings Netanyahu ordered enhanced security at all Israeli diplomatic missions and increased protection for all Israeli representatives abroad. The NYPD also increased its presence at all religious sites and cultural institutions. Miami has taken similar actions.**

- **Shabbos Kestenbaum, the 26-year-old Jewish activist donated a kidney to save a life.**

- **The ICC refused to rescind the arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister Yoav Gallant despite the request.**

- **Iran's top diplomat claimed they would take "special measures" to defend their nuclear materials and facilities if Israel continues to threaten them.**

- **The IDF demolished the home of the Palestinian terrorist Sultan al-Jani who killed Gidon Peri, a 38-year-old last August.**

- **Israeli security forces in Judea and Samaria arrested 20 wanted terrorists and confiscated dozens of explosives and weapons. An Israeli airstrike was made on a Hezbollah site in the southern Lebanese city of Toul.**

- **The Houthis continued to launch ballistic missiles at Ben Gurion Airport.**

- **PM Netanyahu has appointed Major General David Zini as the next Chief of the Shin Bet.**

- **Rabbi Hershel Weber, the founder of the original Hatzalah emergency response organization in the US visited the United Hatzalah's Jerusalem headquarters with his sons. Governor DeSantis signed HB 1487 into law officially recognizing Hatzalah as essential services in Florida and allowing them to operate in 15 counties across the state.**





- **Secretary of State Marco Rubio has revoked thousands of student visas from campuses where pro-Palestinian pro-Hamas terrorists were active. When addressing the Israel MFA Conference on Combating Antisemitism Rubio said, “There can be no compromise with antisemitism: there can be no nuanced separation of hatred of Israel and hatred of the Jewish people.”**

- **Microsoft fired Joe Lopez, an employee who interrupted the CEO’s speech at a major conference to protest the company’s involvement with the Israeli military.**

May 23

- **A massive explosion of one of the Houthi’s main weapon depots took place northeast of the capital city of Sana’a. In a separate incident a failed missile launch near the airport exploded on the operatives.**

- **The IDF struck over 75 targets in Gaza eliminating terrorists, destroying rocket launchers, weapons, tunnels, and sniper positions. Israeli forces also struck 15 Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and in the Beqaa Valley.’**

- **In a tragic auto accident in Lakewood NJ three bochurim died when a deer hit their car, and the car then veered into a tree and burst into flames.**

- **Michail Chkhikvishvilli, the 21-year-old neo-Nazi leader known as the ‘Commander Butcher’ was extradited to the US from Moldova for allegedly plotting to poison Jewish children in Brooklyn.**

May 24

- **Former hostage, Agam Berger told the French Foreign Minister that Israel faces an existential fight for survival. She said, “It’s either us or them.” Agam went on to explain that as much as a diplomatic solution is favorable over war the other side is not interested in cooperation.**

- **A man got arrested for chanting “Am Yisrael Chai” at a pro-Palestinian protest in London.**

May 25

- **Leo Terrell was appointed to head the DOJ Task Force to combat antisemitism.**

- **Harvard Chabad condemned the University’s student yearbook for omitting the Oct 7 Hamas massacre in Israel instead referencing the date as when, “war breaks out in Gaza.” Trump threatened to withhold 3 billion dollars of grants to what he called, “a very antisemitic Harvard.”**

- **Ahmad Osama Hassan Al-Lahouni who served in the Hamas naval unit that participated in the October 7 massacre was killed by an IDF strike.**

- **Undercover border police arrested a wanted terrorist in Nablus who was affiliated with the ‘Lions’ Den’ terror organization.**





- **Ambassador Huckabee visited the Western Wall to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim. He welcomed Homeland Security Secretary Noem who was the first Cabinet Secretary to participate in Jerusalem Day. Together with Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz Kristi Noem read a chapter of Tehillim and a special prayer in memory of the murdered diplomats. Noem then left a note in the Western Wall and in the visitors book she wrote: "Israel is the chosen people, and the United States stands by you." She later met with Netanyahu and expressed appreciation for his conduct of the war.**

May 26

- ***Drone strikes called in by Givati troops in Northern Gaza eliminated Hamas operatives. An additional 200 terror infrastructure targets were struck as part of Operation Gideon's Chariots.***
- **The Israeli government approved a resolution to authorize the recruitment of up to 450,000 reserve soldiers.**
- **The IDF issued an evacuation notice to residents of many areas in southern Gaza.**
- **Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and Secretary Noem held a memorial service for Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim killed in the DC attack. Noem lit a candle in their memory.**
- **Speaking on Fox news Secretary Noem reiterated that," President Trump will never accept a nuclear capable Iran."**
- **National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Temple Mount in honor of Jerusalem Day and to pray for victory in the war and the return of all the hostages.**
- **A major celebration was held at Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav in Jerusalem to mark 58 years since the city's liberation and reunification. Many dignitaries attended including the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Jerusalem.**
- **Large fires erupted south of Jerusalem near Gush Etzion.**
- **Netanyahu met with a bipartisan Congressional delegation from the US led by Mike Lawler from NY.**
- **Despite Israel's National Security Council raising the travel warning for Canadian Jews 56,000 people marched through Toronto in support of Israel which was organized by the city's UJA.**
- **The World Health Assembly in Geneva voted to allow the Palestinian flag to be flown at the World Health Organization. The US which is currently withdrawing from the WHO abstained.**
- **Chancellor Friedrich Merz, a leader of the center-right Christian Democratic Union in Germany criticized Israel's actions in Gaza. Speaking during the WDR European conference in Berlin he said he, "no longer understands Israel's goals in the Strip."**



- **A Brooklyn bus driver was suspended after pulling over and lecturing the schoolchildren that Jews killed Jesus.**

- **Three Jewish boys were threatened with a knife by six males in the Hampstead subway station in London. The assault and robbery were racially motivated and one of the victims had to be hospitalized.**

- **A Jewish cyclist was assaulted and robbed by a group of teens in Prospect Park. Crown Heights Shmira and the NYPD are investigating.**

May 27

- **In recent weeks Israel and Syria have held direct talks aimed at calming tensions between the two countries and preventing further conflict.**

- **The IDF announced that two of the four recently established aid distribution sites in Gaza began operations delivering food packages to the Palestinians.**

- **The DM of Israel announced that since the beginning of the war the US has supplied Israel with 90,000 tons of armaments and military equipment via 800 transport planes and 140 ships.**

- **The Israeli Navy has for the first time deployed unmanned vessels also known as drone boats. Israel also is the first country to deploy a large-scale operational laser defense system.**

- **Hungarian PM Viktor Orban named his minister of European Union affairs, Janos Boka as the country's envoy for combating antisemitism.**

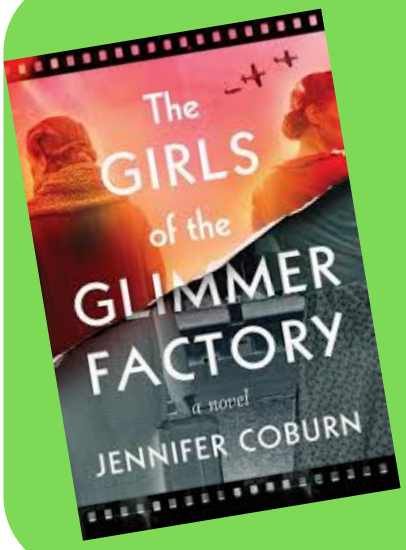
- ***Kiss* frontman Gene Simmons who was born Chaim Witz in Haifa Israel attended the Memorial Day parade in Washington. There he met 100-year-old WWII veteran Harold Urban who helped liberate Mauthausen concentration camp in May 1945 where Simmon's Hungarian born Mother, Flora Klein was imprisoned at age 14. Simmons told him, "If it weren't for brave people like you, I wouldn't be here-and neither would my mother."**

- **A 62-year-old Orthodox Rabbi in North Baltimore pulled a handgun to scare off two masked assailants who ambushed him late Saturday night in his condo parking lot. They punched Rabbi Emanuel Goldfeiz and tried to steal his car but when he drew his legal firearm they fled.**

- **US Vice President Vance visited the Israeli embassy in Washington to pay his respects after the staffer's killings.**

Many of the massacred Kibbutzniks on the Gaza border were peaceniks who had welcomed Palestinians as workers. Yet in the midst of the October 7 invasion a Hamas terrorist called his Mom in Gaza to gloat that he had just murdered 10 Jews. His Mother praised his actions.
Sarah Milgram and Yaron Lischinsky were gun downed as they were exiting an event to promote collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians. At the time they were being murdered a young Jewish activist was donating his kidney to save a life.
As the hostage Agam Berger put it, "diplomatic solutions are futile" since there is no partner in cooperation. The Jews are a culture that celebrates life whereas the Arab world with its exportation of violent global intifada represents a culture of death. As long as that dichotomy exists peace in the region cannot be achieved.

Jewish Community Events and Israel



A HISTORICAL FICTION TALE ABOUT RESISTENCE, FRIENDSHIP, AND THE DANGERS OF PROPAGANDA, BASED ON THE REAL STORY OF THERESIENSTADT.



Jewish Film Festival

Sponsored by longtime Fort Lee Residents and Founding BFC Board Members Edwin and Doris Cohen

June 4	Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire *Featuring live Q+A with director Oren Rudavsky*	7:30 pm
June 5	Bad Shabbos	7:30 pm
June 8	Uncle Moses	2:00 pm
June 8	Brighton Beach *Featuring live Q+A with director Susan Wittenberg*	4:30 pm
June 8	Midas Man *Featuring video interview with screenwriter Brigit Grant*	7:00 pm
June 9	Come Closer *Featuring video interview with writer/director Tom Nesher*	7:30 pm
June 10	Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round *Featuring live Q+A with director Ilana Trachtman*	7:30 pm
June 11	Yentl	4:30 pm

Presented by the Barrymore Film Center

For more information click here

Congregation Beth Sholom presents:



Thursday
June 12
8:15 PM

Tickets:
$25 CBS Members & Supporters
$36 General Public
Purchase at cbsteaneck.org

Supported by: Ron Prywes in memory of Ilana Sasson

Concert featuring
Rabbi Yosef Goldman & Yoni Avi Battat

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