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# Jewish Exponent

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RABBIS

# GREGORY MARX, JON CUTLER AND DAVID LEVIN

TRAVEL TO POLAND TO BEAR WITNESS  
TO WAR'S IMPACT

Page 17



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**We are resilient.**

**Through dark times, we have hope.**

**Against all odds, we have each other.**

**This Passover, let us recognize our responsibility for one another and celebrate our community that continues to come together to help here at home, in Israel and around the world.**

**We wish you and your loved ones a meaningful Passover holiday. Chag Pesach Sameach.**



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Philadelphia



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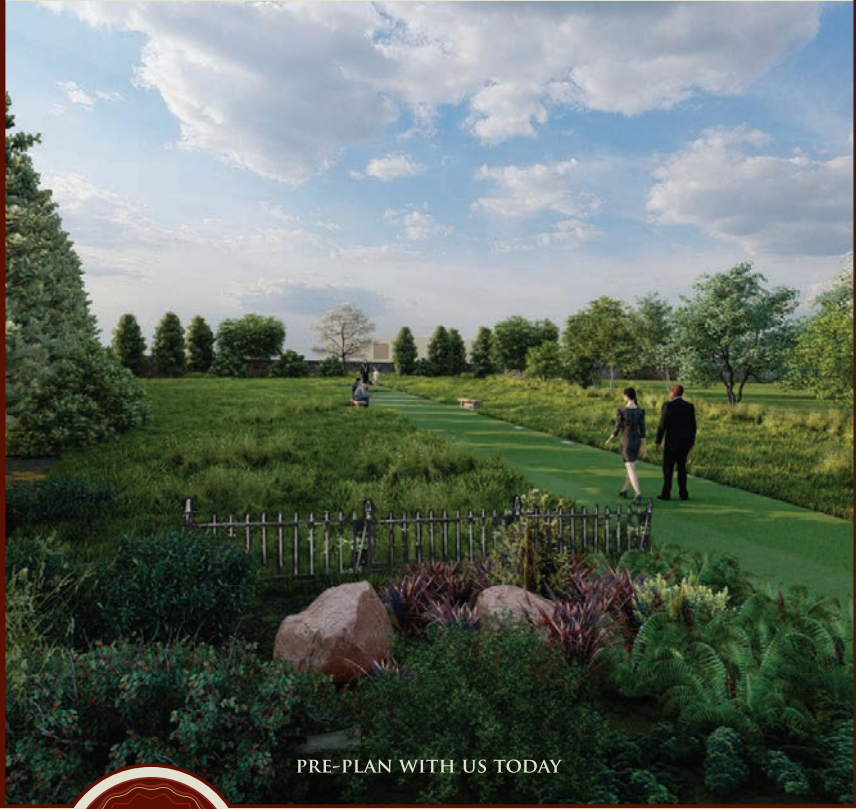
## On the Cover

Rabbis Gregory Marx, Jon Cutler and David Levin traveled to Poland to help Ukrainian refugees.

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**6** COVID cases rise, but the new normal seems here to stay.



**8** A Philadelphia fencer wins international gold.



**28** Gwen Stoltz seeks a political office.





A large group of Jewish celebrities participate in “Recipe for Change: Standing Up to Antisemitism.”

# Idina Menzel, Ilana Glazer, Rachel Bloom and Several Others Participate in Antisemitism Show

It’s fun and exciting when our favorite celebrities regale us with the minutiae of their lives. What color were the balloon arches at Jenny Slate’s bat mitzvah? How does Morgan Spector react to being the object of the internet’s thirst?

But when our favorite celebrities speak out on issues that matter, that’s a special kind of heartening.

In “Recipe for Change: Standing Up to Antisemitism,” a YouTube special released last Thursday produced by The SpringHill Co., a whole cohort of Jewish celebrities are doing just that.

Featuring (seriously, prepare yourself for this star-studded list) Idina Menzel, Ilana Glazer, Rachel Bloom, Skylar Astin, Michael Twitty, Hannah Einbinder, Alex Edelman, Tommy Dorfman, Josh Peck, Hari Nef, Michael Zegen and more, “Recipe for Change” brings together this group to discuss the current global rise of antisemitism.

In the special, the celebs are divided into three Shabbat dinners and are each given a scroll. As they dine on delicious looking Black and Middle Eastern-inspired Jewish food, they open their scrolls to discuss the tough questions they pose like, “Have you ever experienced antisemitism?” and “Could the Holocaust happen again?”

For “Mrs. Maisel” actor Michael Zegen, the latter question prompted memories of intergenerational trauma. “My grandparents on my mother’s side were Holocaust survivors,” he remembered. “My

grandfather essentially lost his whole family. His father was shot on the way to the trains because he had a club foot and couldn’t keep up. So they shot him.”

But the dinner conversations aren’t about only antisemitism. Rather, some of the scrolls focus on Jewish joy, asking, “What makes you proud to be Jewish?” and, “Tell me you’re Jewish without telling me you’re Jewish.” Other scrolls prompt discussions about Jewish identity, like whether Jews of European descent are white.

In a moment of perfectly blended humor and a confession of Jewish assimilation, Idina Menzel revealed, “I have to come clean, so my real spelling of my name is M-E-N-T-Z-E-L. Which everyone would say ‘Ment-zel’ and I had a lot of self-hatred about that for some reason. And then [I] wanted this cool sounding [name], so I took the ‘t’ out, which didn’t help anybody say it right.”

“Recipe for Change” also succeeds in its radical inclusivity. Instead of just focusing on what Jewishness and antisemitism mean to cisgender, straight, Ashkenazi Jewish men, the special very purposefully makes room for the voices of Black Jews, Mizrahi Jews, LGBTQ+ Jews and Jewish women.

What results are conversations that are as thoughtful and poignant as they are full of laughter and Jewish pride.

— Evelyn Frick

## Liev Schreiber Will Play Anne Frank’s Father in New Disney+ Series

Jewish actor Liev Schreiber will play Anne Frank’s father Otto in a new Disney+ limited series, the latest dramatization of the Frank family’s harrowing life in hiding from the Nazis.



Liev Schreiber at the screening of Wes Anderson’s “Isle of Dogs,” on March 20, 2018.

The eight-episode miniseries, “A Small Light,” is being produced by the National Geographic Channel, which is owned by Disney. It will follow Miep Gies, Otto’s non-Jewish Dutch employee, who along with her husband Jan hid the Frank family in her secret annex for two years to evade the Nazi authorities. Following the family’s discovery and deportation to the concentration camps, Gies also discovered and preserved Anne’s diary for Otto, the family’s sole survivor, to publish after the war.

Gies is often referred to as the Frank family’s “protector” — the series title comes from a quote attributed to her late in life.

Bel Powley, who like Schreiber has a Jewish mother, will star as Gies, who died in 2010 at the age of 100. Powley’s breakout role was as the star of a very different “Diary”: “The Diary of a Teenage Girl,” a sexually frank coming-of-age drama from 2015. British actor Joe Cole, who appeared in the Netflix drama series “Peaky Blinders,” will play Jan.

Schreiber, who played a growly Hollywood fixer on the long-running Showtime series “Ray Donovan,” has appeared in Holocaust projects before. He co-starred in the 2008 thriller “Defiance,” about three Jewish brothers who formed a guerrilla group to fight the Nazis, and he had a supporting role as a boxer in the 1999 concentration camp drama “Jakob the Liar.”

“A Small Light” is set to begin shooting this summer in Amsterdam and Prague. It is far from the only Anne Frank project in recent years: “My Best Friend Anne Frank,” a Dutch film about Hannah Goslar, another figure in the Franks’ orbit, premiered on Netflix earlier this year, and a controversial new animated adaptation of Frank’s diary premiered last year at the Cannes Film Festival from Israeli director Ari Folman.

— Andrew Lapin





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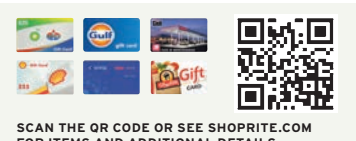
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# COVID Cases On the Rise, But New Normal Here To Stay

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Philadelphia reimplemented its indoor mask mandate on April 18, a preemptive action to mitigate the county's rising COVID cases — up 81% from two weeks ago, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — and subsequent rise in hospitalizations.

The FDA's March 29 approval of a second booster shot for those over age 50 was yet another measure to try to quell the pandemic's impact.

"We believe that things aren't at a crisis level right now, but that if we take action now, we can head off the worst of this wave," Philadelphia Department of Public Health Media Coordinator Matthew Rankin said. "We don't yet know if BA.2 is going to cause a real



surge in Philadelphia or just a brief increase in cases."

Though the large public health bodies have been quick to sound alarm bells, for Jewish Philadelphians, new public health protocols are old hat, an indication that the pandemic is becoming endemic and something with which people are learning to live.

"When it's recommended either by the state or the health department I'll do it, no matter what other people are doing," said Deena Pollock, an East Falls resident, of the mask mandate.

Pollock is planning on receiving her second booster but admitted it won't change much for her. She's already dining at indoor restaurants but would be reluctant to travel in an airplane even after getting the shot.

It's a balance Pollock has found over the past two years of being "sad, but not

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depressed.” She attends Golden Slipper Gems events and volunteers virtually, and while COVID still provides an underlying fear, Pollock has learned to live with it.

According to Dr. Eric Sachinwalla, an infectious disease physician at Einstein Healthcare Network, Pollock’s story is similar to others he’s heard.

Those interested in getting a second shot — who only represent a small fraction of the U.S. population according to PDPH — are already more likely to take precautions against COVID-19, undermining the necessity of the booster.

“There’s a lot of debate about what should be the best approach from a

the vaccine should be to prevent serious illness, which is mediated by memory cells, which really aren’t boost-able.”

These memory cells, or t-cells, will take time to develop, and a booster, especially one with the same formula as the initial three shots, will do little to assist in their development.

The lack of communication in the purpose of the vaccine has set unrealistic benchmarks of what success is defined as during a pandemic. Cases are no longer a good indicator of risk, as so many are mild. Soon, the prevalence and severity of COVID will likely start to mirror the seasonal flu, but Offit predicts that the number of cases

## Philadelphia’s indoor mask mandate was reimplemented on April 18, but many Jewish Philadelphians are either already cautious or amenable to adapting to the mandate.

public health perspective,” Sachinwalla said. “Should we be focusing on getting the people who are at high risk fourth doses, or should we really be focusing on getting the people who are at zero doses started on getting first, second, third doses? And there’s merit to both of those arguments.”

Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, who is Jewish, offers additional skepticism about the second booster, describing it as “low risk, low benefit.”

For those over 70 with pre-existing conditions, the booster provides additional protection for a short time. But for those under 70 who are relatively healthy, it does very little, as a third dose also serves to prevent serious infection and hospitalization.

Though interest in a second booster isn’t necessarily detrimental, it’s also a false solution to ending the pandemic for those trying to avoid infection altogether.

“The biggest problem in all this is that we haven’t defined what the goal of the vaccine is,” Offit said. “The goal of

and hospitalizations will stay relatively low for now.

“We’re going to have to have a fundamental shift in how we think about this virus because right now we are intolerant to mild infection,” Offit said.

Jill Caine, past president of Golden Slipper Gems, offers a glimpse of a possible future. She received her second booster to provide additional protection for herself and the older population she works with but has noticed a trend among her old friends: They have begun to take more risks after their second boosters, going on flights around the country on vacation.

They’re in their twilight years, Caine said, and they aren’t willing to spend any more of their lives waiting around.

“This is something that we’re probably going to have to live with for the rest of our lives,” Caine said. “And you can’t be in your house for the rest of your life. You have to start living again.” JE

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# Philadelphia Fencer Wins International Fencing Championship

**SASHA ROGELBERG** | STAFF WRITER

**M**aia Mei Weintraub hardly has any fencing foibles with her foil.

The 19-year-old from Philadelphia won gold on April 7 in Junior Team Women's Foil at the 2022 World Cadets and Juniors Fencing Championships in Dubai.

A first-year student at Princeton University, Weintraub represented the U.S. along with teammates Rachael Kim, Zander Rhodes and Lauren Scruggs, all of whom competed in the Junior championship for competitors under 20.

The event hosted by the International Fencing Federation featured more than

30 countries, including Israel, Ukraine and Singapore. There were 148 fencers in the individual competition and 32 teams.

The Junior U.S. team faced its greatest challenges against adversaries Italy and Japan, and Weintraub maintained her team's lead throughout the tournament.

Though a team sport, each fencing bout is an individual event, with a fencer from one team going head-to-head with another, trying to score up to five points, or touches, within the three-minute round. Each team tries to score a cumulative total of 45 points, with each fencer picking up where the other left off.

In between scoring touches, Weintraub was concerned with another important tally: her GPA. The fencer continued to

attend classes virtually and complete mid-term exams during the tournament, pursuing her interests in ecology and biology.

"It's not easy being a student-athlete at an Ivy League school," said Weintraub's father Jason Weintraub. "As you can imagine, the majority of her professors don't care that she's traveling around the world representing the U.S. and Princeton. They're more interested in her own academic obligations."

Not even finished with her second decade of life, Weintraub has achieved fencing renown, serving as the first alternate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In March, Weintraub won the NCAA individual weapon championship in her debut, becoming the sixth Princeton student to win an individual championship and the second to win a foil championship. The month before, she won the Ivy League individual championship. She also competed in the 2019 European Maccabi Games.

In addition to competing at the college level, Weintraub is eying a spot on Team USA for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"Fencing is very unique. I feel like it's not one of those sports where you can just pick up a foil or weapon and just start," Weintraub said in a December 2020 Jewish Exponent interview. "You have to dedicate yourself to learning the art of fencing before you can actually do it. And I think that dedicating that time and choosing to do it makes it special."

Weintraub began fencing at 9, taking a beginner's fencing class at the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia with Maître d'Armes (master of arms) Mark Masters.

Weintraub's uncles — who themselves grew up fencing in their hometown of Detroit — fostered Weintraub's interest in the sport. They had trained under the same mentor as Masters and made the initial connection between the two.

Though Masters had trained three world champions in the past, his training was only able to take Weintraub so far, as the Philadelphia fencing scene remained less competitive than its poles on the East and West Coasts in New York and California.

Without strong competition,



Maia Weintraub, 19, is a first-year student at Princeton University.

Weintraub's progress would plateau.

"With fencing, to be able to practice the sport, you need to be with other people, and you need to fence against other people — that's how you get better," she said in 2020.

In high school, her parents made the leap to allow Weintraub to travel by bus to the Manhattan Fencing Center, a haven for up-and-coming fencers. In addition to physical endurance training twice a week, Weintraub sometimes traveled to Manhattan three times a week after school, completing homework on her bus commutes.

In middle school, Weintraub was interested in playing the violin, and her family was involved at Folkshul Philadelphia to provide Weintraub with a cultural Jewish foundation. When fencing became a serious pursuit, her parents pivoted.

"We recognized pretty quickly that she has a real love for the sport. We wanted to fuel her passion in something because that's important to us," Jason Weintraub said.

Masters recognized the passion as well. In the game of "physical chess," a fencer's mind has to be as sharp as their movements. Though Masters treats all his young students the same, he often senses potential in some early on in their ability to handle the pressure of an intense 3-minute bout.

Weintraub was a "money player," according to Masters, someone he could bet on to perform at the highest level.

"The other person who may be doing fine before — suddenly there's more at stake. They get anxious, they get nervous, and they make more mistakes," Masters said. "A money player is somebody who, when the stakes are higher, will perform better. That's an important characteristic, really, of every top-level athlete." **JE**

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# The Kornsgolds: A Family of Rabbis

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

Rose and Morris Kornsgold didn't push their children to become religious leaders.

Yet two of their kids, Jay and Helene, are rabbis. And Jay's son, Noam Kornsgold, is also a rabbi.

For the Philadelphia family, Judaism is deeper than an identity. It's the religion they practice, but it's also the values they live by, according to Rabbi Helene

the United States.

Rose and Morris Kornsgold both survived the Holocaust and made it to Philadelphia in the late 1940s and early '50s. Rose Kornsgold even ended up in a 1949 Jewish Exponent picture showing her first day at a South Philly elementary school.

The photo complemented an article about 200 refugee children starting school in the city. After the Exponent republished the story in 2017 during its 130th anniversary, Kornsgold's granddaughter

an Orthodox congregation, Etz Chaim, and then a traditional one in Adath Zion. The parents sent their kids to Jewish day schools like Solomon Schechter (now Perelman Jewish Day School) and, for high school, the Akiba Hebrew Academy (now the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy).

The kids liked it. Their friends were Jewish. They were always attending synagogue events and youth group events. As they explained, it was just their lives.

"It surrounded us," Helene Kornsgold said.

And as Rose Kornsgold explained, it didn't keep them from living normal lives in other ways.

"They went to ballgames. They did all that stuff," she said. "Just not on Fridays and Saturdays."

Yet for Jay Kornsgold and Helene Kornsgold, rabbinical school was never part of the plan.

Jay Kornsgold wanted to be mayor of Philadelphia. But then one day his

See Kornsgolds, Page 31



The Kornsgold family at Noam Kornsgold's wedding

Photo by Soulmate Wedding Photography

Kornsgold, who serves Temple Israel in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"In any decision-making, that was our basis. Our Jewish values," she said.

Helene Kornsgold is the director of education at Temple Israel. Jay Kornsgold is in his 28th year serving Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor, New Jersey. And Noam Kornsgold is the director of education and programming for Camp Ramah in the Berkshires in Wingdale, New York.

Laura Brandspiegel (married name) is the only child of Rose and Morris Kornsgold to do something else with her life. But as a pediatrician, she's doing OK, especially by Jewish standards.

"We call her the black sheep," Rose Kornsgold joked.

The family's rabbinical lineage is a byproduct of their immigration to

spotted it and called her. That call led to a May 2018 article about the matriarch's journey from Poland to Russia and back to Poland after World War II.

After the war and Kornsgold's father's death, her mother boarded a ship to the United States and never looked back. Since Rose and Morris, who she met in Philadelphia, lost most members of their families, their religion was important to them. They also wanted their children to have a way to connect to their identity.

"They grew up with no grandparents, no family or anything," Rose Kornsgold said. "We wanted them to be with students that were like them."

The first-generation American family kept kosher and observed Shabbat and all the Jewish holidays. They belonged to

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# Mitzvot Make a Difference

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia appreciates our outstanding volunteers and the support they provide for their communities every year. Through their generosity and hours of hard work, they keep the Jewish Federation and its supported organizations moving forward to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future. This National Volunteer Week, April 17-23, and every week, the Jewish Federation applauds our incredible volunteers and their commitment to creating a better and brighter world.

“ I volunteer with the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA), which is supported by the Jewish Federation, because food insecurity is the first and most urgent need that we, as a collective, can do our part to alleviate. Hopefully, whatever small part I play, it brings comfort to others.

Benjamin Shechtman



It was wonderful to do a *mitzvah* and volunteer with the Kehillah of Buxmont, supported by the Jewish Federation, to give out *shalach manot* at the Horsham Center for Jewish Life. It was so meaningful to bring the joy of Purim to the senior residents.

Barbara Rosenau



In partnership with the Jewish Federation, experts and the community, we created the Friends of Jewish Cemeteries initiative for volunteers to develop short- and long-term solutions to repair historic cemeteries and provide opportunities for descendants and the community to connect.

Rich Blumberg



I’m a long time advocate and volunteer for Our Closet, a division of Jewish Family and Children’s Services, supported by the Jewish Federation. We distribute free clothing to vulnerable individuals and families throughout Greater Philadelphia. It’s so important to work together to help those who need it most.

Robyn Carp



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Philadelphia

Find out how you can give back to your community by getting involved with the Jewish Federation and our partner agencies – visit [jewishphilly.org/volunteer](http://jewishphilly.org/volunteer) or contact Senior Director of Leadership Development and Community Engagement Addie Lewis Klein at [alewis@jewishphilly.org](mailto:alewis@jewishphilly.org).



# YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

## Josh Weiss

*“Don’t feel like you have to water down your Judaism for the audience.”*

JOSH WEISS



HEATHER M. ROSS | STAFF WRITER

**A**t 27-years-old, Josh Weiss has done something many people aspire to but never quite manage: He published his first book, “Beat the Devils,” on March 22 via Grand Central Publishing. “Beat the Devils” is a crime thriller set in an alternate historic reality version of the United States in 1958. The book deals with the paranoia during the Red Scare and antisemitic sentiments, which ran high at the time.

Weiss has advice to share with other Jewish authors.

“Don’t feel like you have to water down your Judaism for the audience,” he said.

Weiss was born in Philadelphia but moved to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home and attended Politz Day School. He was bar mitzvahed at Sons of Israel in Cherry Hill. For high school, he attended Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Merion and now attends synagogue at Mekor Habracha in Center City.

Weiss started writing his book during his fourth year at Drexel University, where he studied communications with a focus on public relations.

Weiss has always had a love for reading and writing, but he said he was inspired to write his book by “The Yiddish Policemen’s Union” by Michael Chabon, “The Manchurian Candidate”

by Richard Condon and, most importantly, by stories told to him as a young boy by his father about his grandfather, Elias Weiss, who was a Holocaust survivor.

Elias Weiss, who was born Elias Mendolovich, survived three concentration camps, one being Auschwitz, and a late-war death march. In addition to losing his whole family, save one cousin, Elias Weiss suffered from epilepsy after being hit on the head by the butt of a German guard’s rifle; that affected him for the rest of his life. Due to the resulting seizures, he was discharged from the U.S. Army and had his driver’s license revoked after a severe car accident.

“I can’t speak for his mental health prior to the outbreak of World War II, but there is no doubt that the Holocaust warped him in ways my family and I will never truly understand,” Josh Weiss said.

Weiss wrote “Beat the Devils” in part to try to gain a better understanding of what happened to make his grandfather so detached. The book’s main character, Morris Epharim Baker, is also a Holocaust survivor who suffers from blackouts due to a similar incident and faces resulting challenges.

Weiss also had advice about the publishing process.

“The process was slow, and you get a lot of rejection,” he said. “Don’t give up, don’t shy away from it.”

“Beat the Devils” can be found in Barnes & Noble, Target, other bookstores, online and even as an audiobook.

A sequel to “Beat the Devils” is already written, and Weiss hopes to have it out on store shelves next year. **JE**

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# The Battle Over Title 42

**T**itle 42 is a federal health order that was issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the Trump administration, which relied upon the coronavirus pandemic as a public health reason to stop people from entering the United States.

Under the rule, migrants apprehended at the border can be sent back to their home countries immediately without being given any opportunity to request asylum protections or otherwise to plead special circumstances to justify staying in the U.S. Immigration advocates have criticized the rule as nothing more than an effort to shut down the asylum system. Although President Joe Biden promised that his administration would pursue a more compassionate approach to immigration issues, he kept Title 42 in place.

Now, after two successful federal court challenges to the rule by immigration advocates last month, and mounting pressure from top Democrats in Congress, the Biden

*Title 42 presents a good opportunity for compromise.*

administration announced that it would wind down Title 42 by late May. That prompted predictable reactions, with Republicans and some centrist Democrats expressing concern that a lifting of Title 42 will create chaos at the border, increase the number of migrant asylum seekers and otherwise further burden a border control operation that is ill equipped to deal with the likely migrant surge.

This debate has set the stage for a political clash over immigration policy in the run-up to the upcoming mid-term elections. Eleven senators — six Republicans and five Democrats — have introduced legislation to require the administration to

develop a detailed plan to deal with the anticipated migrant surge before any change can be made to Title 42. They argue that such advance planning is necessary since even with Title 42 in place, there were more than 1.7 million “encounters” between migrants and authorities at the U.S.-Mexico border in FY 2021 — a 400% increase from FY 2020 — and that FY 2022 “encounters” are projected to be even higher.

All of this comes at a time when the administration is seeking to advance a bill for an additional \$10 billion in funding for an expanded U.S. coronavirus response and as we are experiencing an uptick in new

COVID cases, fueled by the spread of BA.2 — a subvariant of the omicron variant.

The COVID uptick has prompted the CDC to extend the federal transportation mask requirement through May 3 — itself a topic of debate — in order to give the agency time to assess the impact of the increase on those at risk and related health care capacity issues. According to advocates of the Title 42 bill, the same concerns that warrant the maintenance of protective measures and require increased funding nationwide should also inform decisions regarding health concerns, capacity and other issues relating to migrants at the border.

Title 42 presents a good opportunity for compromise. While there can be little argument that a plan for a likely migrant surge is necessary, it is also clear that those legitimately seeking asylum in the U.S. must have an opportunity to do so. We call on leadership to come together in good faith to develop a plan. **JE**

# Interests, Not Friends

**T**he political adage that there are no permanent friends, only interests, rings true in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, once the focus of American hopes, has been frozen out by the Biden administration.

The kingdom’s abysmal human rights record, its deadly and destructive war in Yemen and the murder and decapitation of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by order of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, made friendship with the Gulf nation hard to justify. And things got worse after MBS’s much-publicized snub of President Joe Biden after Russia’s attack on Ukraine, followed by Saudi Arabia’s refusal to honor America’s calls to increase oil production to help stabilize markets and further isolate oil-rich Russia.

When the crown prince first rose to power, there was hope. America was attracted to the shiny object of an outward-looking, modernizing authoritarian leader who seemed to be able

*Like Israel, the Saudis are concerned that U.S. reentry into an Iran deal will not stop Iran’s regional threat.*

to get things done. While MBS has proved to be some of those things, he has also shown himself to be a dishonest, impetuous thug and someone we should hesitate to embrace. So, it was not surprising when last week 31 Democratic members of Congress wrote to Secretary of State Antony Blinken urging that “a recalibration of the U.S.-Saudi partnership is long overdue.” They pointed to the issues mentioned above, and added a long list of others.

Coming to Saudi Arabia’s aid was Israel’s ambassador to Washington, Michael Herzog. Last week, he urged the United States to repair its rela-

tions with Riyadh. Herzog’s words of encouragement came in the context of negotiations for a nuclear deal with Iran, which is Saudi Arabia’s chief adversary in the region. Like Israel, the Saudis are concerned that U.S. reentry into an Iran deal will not stop Iran’s regional threat and are troubled by incentives that are being discussed that would provide Iran access to billions of dollars to bankroll terrorist activities across the Middle East.

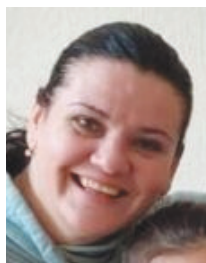
The Saudis were also the hoped-for jewel in the crown of the Abraham Accords, which the Saudis say they support but won’t join until Israel makes peace with the Palestinians.

Some have also pointed out that the Saudis aren’t likely to join the Accords at a time of strained U.S. relations, since they would be looking for some sweetener from the United States, similar to that given every other Arab country that has made peace with Israel.

In a similar vein of “no friendships, only interests,” there is Turkey, whose president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has made another about face regarding Israel. The authoritarian leader is carrying out a charm offensive after a decade of hostility and broken relations with the Jewish state. This month, Erdogan hosted President Isaac Herzog in Ankara, and said he hopes to welcome Prime Minister Naftali Bennett soon. Erdogan seems to hope that, through Israel, Turkey might be able to improve its relationship with the United States.

This is all part of a constantly shifting Middle East where no country feels secure for very long. **JE**





# This Year, I Am a Refugee. Next Year in Kharkiv

BY TANYA BORODINA

**B**ERLIN — I want to share my story: Maybe it will inspire someone, maybe it will upset someone. I have an ordinary family: me, my husband, Andrei Barkovsky and our child, Allochka, now 10 years old.

I was born in Ukraine, in the city of Donetsk, but in 2014 the war in the Donbas began. On July 23 we grabbed a package with documents and our little Alla (then 2) and we fled from the war. We arrived in Kharkiv — a large, beautiful, peaceful city, the original capital of Soviet Ukraine.

We left everything in Donetsk — an apartment, our belongings, toys, photographs — and started our lives from scratch. It was not easy: to find an apartment, to issue documents for immigrants, to find a job, a kindergarten, a school. But we coped, slowly adjusting our lives.

As it turns out later, these were the brightest eight years of our life in Kharkiv. On Feb. 24, our peaceful life there ended.

I still remember how a peaceful city woke up at 4:30 in the morning from explosions and the roar of shells, tanks passing through the streets. I had *deja vu*. My family and I had run away from the war in 2014, but it turned out that the war was chasing us.

This is a terrible word: war. It does not even fit in my head that this is possible in the 21st century. We tried to survive inhuman conditions: without water and heating, without vegetables and fruit. Stores closed, public transport stopped running in the city, and in a panic people bought all the food and medicines in pharmacies.

We decided that the safest place in our house is the hallway, so our whole life was spent there. We slept there, ate there, Alla played there. In order not to completely disrupt our child's psyche, we put headphones over her ears, so she could not hear the explosions outside.

Everyone texted each other: How are you? And we looked forward to an answer, any answer, because this was a guarantee that the recipient was alive.

Many people simply lived in the subway. Many were in cellars. We didn't go outside for a month. You didn't know when the shelling will start. All you could hear from friends is that their house was



blown up, or the school was hit, and most importantly, that people were dying, ordinary, peaceful people who were going to get food or standing in line for humanitarian aid.

It's scary, very scary: trembling in the knees, pain in the stomach and heart. Many people began to leave. Many others stayed, especially old people, sick people, those who could not walk. The other teachers and I organized our own volunteer headquarters, to help our families who remained in Kharkiv.

That is how we lived until March 26, when my husband said: You must leave the war zone; you have 15 minutes to pack. It was the most difficult decision of my life, because it is forbidden for men to leave Ukraine.

Our train from Kharkiv to Lviv, as it turned out later, was the last evacuation train from our city.

My husband, who is 51, just stood there and cried. I always thought that he did not know how to cry at all. The moment when the train started moving and began to pick up speed especially hit us all. He was standing there, and I was on the train with the baby.

It turned out that my whole life could fit in a backpack. It feels like a dream, that now I will wake up, and everything will be fine, as before. After 17 hours on the train, you don't feel your legs and arms any more.

And from outside we hear sirens, sirens. Kyiv is being bombed, Lviv is being bombed. We arrive in Lviv at midnight to learn that all the free buses leave at 9 a.m. There is a curfew. We need to go further. We buy a ticket to Warsaw and wait 12 hours at the border. The phone is constantly ringing: "How are you?" "When are you coming?" "Let us know."

In Warsaw, we were met by wonderful guys from the Masorti community. We were fed, given an overnight stay and tickets to Berlin. We finally felt a complete sense of security when we reached Frankfurt on Oder, at the border with Poland.

On the second day after we arrived, our children went to school — the Masorti Jewish school. It was a real holiday. In Kharkiv the children did not even go out into the street; there was no talk of education.

Here, everyone — absolutely everyone — tried to help us, in word, deed, advice, food, toys.

Because we hadn't taken anything with us. We even forgot our toothbrushes.

What we dream of — probably like everyone else — is that the war ends quickly. I want to see and hug my husband, wipe away his tears and say everything will be fine: We are all alive. **JE**

*Tanya Borodina is a mother and Hebrew teacher from Kharkiv, Ukraine.*

## letters

### The Left Hijacks the Holocaust

In response to Solomon Stevens' op-ed ("The Holocaust Is Not a Metaphor," April 7), what is a glaring omission is his outrage at the left for describing anyone/everyone they disagree with (on the right) as Nazis, fascists and/or white supremacists.

Isn't that also a "deplorable use of the Holocaust" and "an insult to all the Jews slaughtered as well"? As a reference, every Republican candidate for president has been depicted as a Nazi/Hitler going back to 1968 (Nixon). There are pictures to prove it. It's too late: The left hijacked the Holocaust for political purposes a long time ago. **JE**

**Henry Steinberger, Warrington**

Letters should be related to articles that have run in the print or online editions of the JE, and may be edited for space and clarity prior to publication. Please include your first and last name, as well your town/neighborhood of residence. Send letters to [letters@jewishexponent.com](mailto:letters@jewishexponent.com).





# Passover 2022: Are Jews Still People of the Book?

BY SAMUEL J. ABRAMS

**A**pril 15 marked the beginning of Passover. The centerpiece of this festival is the seder: a festive meal designed to tell a narrative of God helping remove an oppressed people from the hand of the oppressors and making them a vibrant nation. The seder meal often takes hours, involves special food and wine, and includes various songs and traditions.

These practices are done with the explicit intention of teaching Jewish children, as well as both the Jewish and secular communities, about the story of the Exodus, the core Jewish values of peace, liberation, self-determination and the Jewish imperative to work to make the world a better place for all. The seder and the holiday of Passover itself are about sharing stories with family and community.

And while Jews have long passed values and traditions down through stories in countless books like the Talmud, the familial and communal storytelling of the seder is sadly no longer a norm today.

Jews in America are undeniably a people of the book in terms of their strong and continued focus on higher education, but the same cannot be said in terms of their reading of religious texts or sharing religious stories with family. Education has been a top priority in the Jewish community for centuries. In contemporary Jewish life, American Jews overwhelmingly report, in numbers notably higher than other faiths and cultures, that it is generally expected that one will attend an institution of higher education.

However, Jews are far less likely to report engaging with religious and philosophical texts or sharing religious stories with family. Data from the Survey Center on American Life's new American National

Family Life Survey reveals that a little more than a quarter (28%) of all Americans say they shared religious stories with their families at least a few times a month while growing up. But just 12% of Jews say they read scripture with their families this regularly while growing up, compared to 41% of Protestants.

With barely one in 10 Jews reporting that they regularly read scripture or religious stories with their families, this is hardly strong evidence that religious books and stories are central to their lives whatsoever. Instead, the Pew Research Center has found that Seders and food are much more central to Jewish life today.

In fact, when members of the Jewish community were presented with a list of various Jewish practices and activities in a large national survey, sizable majorities of Jews note that they have held or attended seder in the last year (62%) or cooked traditional Jewish foods (72%). But rates for other traditional activities, like attending religious services on at least a monthly basis (20%) or observing dietary laws at home (17%), are much lower. Jewish religious services are, incidentally, where books like the Torah are publicly read, scrutinized, analyzed and interpreted, and few Jews in America regularly engage in those domains as well.

These data should be troubling for leaders and thinkers both within the Jewish community and outside the Jewish world. Reading and engaging with texts and stories is far more than just a religious act; it is an act of communal identification and means by which to promote continuity of values and traditions. As sociologist Samuel Heilman observed in "The People of the Book," families and individuals study and learn stories to become part of the Jewish people itself. In turn, these actions provide a "sentimental education" in which Jews gain a deep understanding of the values of their tradition.

The Passover seder — during which communities sit around the table, explicitly ask four questions, and try to make sense of history and philosophy with a special book, the Haggadah — epitomizes how values are transmitted and better understood when they are shared aloud with family and community.

By asking questions such as "Why is this night different from all other nights?" and "On all other nights, we eat chametz (leavened foods) and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?" participants in the seder have the chance to speak to others and struggle to answer questions about life and history. They also study, debate and ponder religious texts aloud, which in turn teach lessons and contextualize the present from lessons in the past.

Sadly, at present, books and texts are not regularly read in family settings nor are they central in the lives of most Jews. The benefits of these practices to Jewish continuity are significant but will be lost if only small numbers of Jews are actually trying to share religious stories in family settings.

The efforts of the Grinspoon Foundation and its PJ Library, which sends more than 220,000 books that transmit varied cultural values and religious ideas to families raising Jewish children each month, could not come at a more important time, but it may not be enough, especially when older Jews have simply stopped the critical process of storytelling and debating in recent times. So, this Passover, perhaps we should ponder why we do not read and discuss scripture, historic texts and religious stories on a more regular basis. **JE**

*Samuel J. Abrams is a professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College and a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This op-ed was first published by the Jewish Journal.*



# Let's Talk About the Freedom to Live in Security

BY JULIE PLATT

**I**t wasn't until Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker heard the click of the gun that he realized something terrible was happening at Temple Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

The seemingly homeless man who claimed he

was seeking shelter in the synagogue that morning was taking the congregation hostage at the moment their backs were turned to face the holy ark in prayer. It took 11 excruciating hours for the rabbi and his congregants, with the aid of law enforcement, to free themselves and avert an even greater disaster.

As we celebrate Passover — a holiday that demands every generation to relive the Jewish exo-

odus from bondage — the experience at Colleyville stands as a sharp reminder of how intricately security and freedom are linked. They are two sides of the same coin: We cannot have security without freedom, and we cannot have freedom without security.

This horrible hostage-taking was just the latest in a growing series of such violent attacks on Jewish facilities, beginning at the Tree of Life Synagogue in



Pittsburgh in October 2018 and continuing through Poway, Monsey, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Boston and more. And this doesn't include the planned attacks that have been thwarted by law enforcement and good security practices.

These episodes all stem from a campaign of vilification of the Jewish people and of the Jewish state that has gained steam in recent years. Antisemitism is a virulent, mutating virus that isn't going away.

That is why the Jewish Federations of North America have taken unprecedented action, launching an ambitious, far-reaching plan to shield the entire North American Jewish community from terrorist attacks and hate crimes — a vision we call LiveSecure.

In 50 of 146 Jewish Federations across the country, there are comprehensive, professionally directed security initiatives to aid the entire community. An experienced community security director works with every Jewish organization in the community on a coordinated plan, providing training and critical security information in concert with the Secure Community Network, our national security partner established by the Jewish Federation system in 2004.

The security director also helps local institutions apply for government security grants, which we have just successfully lobbied Congress to increase from \$180 million to \$250 million per year — and we are still advocating for greater funding. LiveSecure will help expand these community security initiatives to every Jewish community in the United States and Canada, and strengthen the ones that are already in place.

At the end of March, Jewish Federations announced the completion of Phase I of LiveSecure, raising a total of \$62 million and exceeding a goal of \$54 million, which will enable each and every community to launch or enhance their local programs and enable SCN to serve as a resource to each of these communities. Each community will match the system-wide grant on a 2:1 basis. Together, we will direct approximately \$150 million in private philanthropy to this challenge, in addition to the growing public funding.

Jewish Federations work every day to help build and sustain flourishing Jewish communities — ones that are healthy, safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive, educated and engaged, involved in broader society and deeply connected to Israel and the global Jewish people.

But we cannot encourage full participation in Jewish life unless we are safe and secure. And true security requires more than cameras and guards. What ultimately saved the day for Cytron-Walker and his congregants was the training they received from the FBI, local law enforcement and SCN. It was the same training that the rabbi and members of the Tree of Life credited with preventing the worst antisemitic attack on American soil from being even deadlier. These activities must be coordinated and repeated, year in and year out, together with constant updating of physical security measures and information sharing.

In every generation, as the Passover Haggadah says, evil-doers rise up against us. We now have 21st-century ways to defeat them. We won't stop until every Jewish community on the continent is safe and secure, and thus truly free. **JE**

*Julie Platt is the national campaign chair of Jewish Federations of North America.*

# Passover Themes, History's Bonds, Tie Our Struggles to Those of Ukrainian Jews

**BY SHULY RUBIN SCHWARTZ**

**E**xactly 100 years ago, in April 1922, my great-grandparents emigrated to the United States with their four children, fearing for their lives in Kremenets, a Russian city in present-day western Ukraine.

My great-grandfather, Aaron Shimon Shpall, an educator and journalist, recorded his thoughts about leaving "the city that we were born in and that we spent years of our lives in," acknowledging how hard it would be "to separate from our native land, and our birthplace and our father's house."

But he was clear that the Russia he knew had "embittered our lives and saddened our souls. If not for the 3 million of our brothers who live there, it could be overturned along with Sodom and Gomorrah and the world would have lost nothing."

Finally, after months of grueling uncertainty, including one arrest and another pending, my great-grandfather was reunited with his family in Colorado before he and his family ultimately settled in New Orleans, where he served as teacher and then as assistant principal of the communal Hebrew school.

The anguish of my family's departure and, I can only imagine, the feelings of refugees all over the world in every era, is captured in my great-grandfather's diary: "Nobody desired to go, but everybody had to go. We all run, or, to speak more correctly, we flee. And when somebody flees, there is no question: 'Where to?' Where your feet carry you! Where you have the possibility!"

The Passover seder — the Jewish ritual observed more than any other — serves as a symbolic reenactment of the journey of the Israelites from slavery to freedom. The Haggadah commands us to experience this journey annually as a way of developing historical empathy for all who are oppressed, enslaved and displaced, and who hope for liberation. As Jews, we have ritualized the recounting of our people's enslavement and deliverance in part to cultivate a sense of moral responsibility toward those suffering in our own day.

This year, as we approach Passover, our focus includes Ukrainians fighting valiantly

to defend themselves against Russian invasion. Outraged by the violence, heartbroken by the loss of life and appalled by the destruction, we feel an obligation to help the Ukrainian people by offering monetary support and help with resettlement.

We are especially attuned to helping the tens of thousands of Jews among them. The bonds of history that tie our struggles to those of Ukrainian Jews and their proud Jewish president today are deep and, in many cases, including mine, quite personal.

American Jewry has flourished thanks to ancestors like mine who realized their determination to seek freedom and escape oppression. Thanks to their courage and resolve, we are privileged to recount the Exodus from Egypt each year as citizens of a democratic state and to develop the empathy needed at moments like this to help others who fear for their lives.

For some, historical empathy for the plight of the Ukrainian people might be complicated by ancestors who suffered from brutal antisemitism at the hands of Ukrainian neighbors or whose ancestors' murder at the hand of the Nazis was abetted by local Ukrainians.

How can we square these complicated emotions? In part, because we also know that countless other Ukrainians fought in the Russian army to defeat the Nazis, and that Ukraine has changed greatly over time. The Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, on the site of the largest massacre of Ukrainian Jews by the Nazis, is in the process of opening and today, Ukraine is led by a Jewish president.

Most important, we quell our doubts because the Haggadah reminds us not to take our freedom for granted, pointing us instead to activate our sense of moral responsibility to help others who are fighting to secure their own.

Our Haggadah prods us to recall our history so that it will conjure up our best selves, so that we will do what we can to ensure that the future brings freedom, safety and security to all.

It's a sentiment I believe my great-grandfather would have shared. **JE**

*Shuly Rubin Schwartz is chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America.*



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### French Prosecutors Indict Two Men for Assaulting a Jew Who Died While Fleeing

French prosecutors indicted two men for assaulting a Jewish man seconds before he ran under the wheels of a tram and was fatally wounded, JTA reported.

One of the suspects, 27, is accused of "intentional violence in public." The other, 23, is being charged with "intentional violence which led to involuntary manslaughter," according to a statement issued April 15 by the prosecutor's office of Bobigny, a Paris suburb where the incident occurred.

The indictment does not mention any antisemitic motive, according to the CNews television channel. The family of Jérémie Cohen, 31, has said it does not know whether he had been targeted because he was Jewish. Cohen's father, Gerald, has said that his son often wore a kippah on the street though the family does not know whether he was wearing one when he was assaulted on Feb. 16.

The media initially reported the incident as a straightforward vehicular accident until the victim's family found footage of the assault following a two-week investigation they conducted on their own.

### Jewish Approval of Biden Drops to 63% from 80% Last Year

The good news for President Joe Biden is that a majority of U.S. Jews approve of the job he is doing, JTA reported. The bad news is that the number in a new poll, 63%, is a sharp drop from a year ago.

A poll released April 13 by the Jewish Electorate Institute, a group led by prominent Jewish Democrats, showed Biden's approval rating down from 80%.

The institute put a positive spin on the numbers.

"Jewish Americans continue to support President Biden and the Democratic Party at levels higher than the general American voting population, a trend that appears on track to continue in this year's midterm elections and in the future," said the group's chairman, Martin Frost, a former Jewish Democratic congressman from Texas.

Biden's approval numbers generally have dropped in the last year, a result of a botched exit from Afghanistan, a persistent pandemic and inflation that his government can't stem, JTA said.

### German-Israeli Singer Charged With Lying About Alleged Antisemitic Incident

A public prosecutor's office charged the German-Israeli singer who said he was denied service at a hotel in Leipzig for wearing a Star of David pendant with false accusation and slander, JTA said.

Ofarim, 39, was indicted on March 31 by the Leipzig public prosecutor's office. It is now up to the Leipzig Regional Court to decide whether to proceed with a trial.

At issue are Ofarim's claims that an employee of Leipzig's Westin Hotel insulted him on Oct. 4, 2021, refusing to give him a room because he was wearing a visibly Jewish symbol. Ofarim posted video footage to social media purporting to show the incident.

The accusation went viral, and Jews and others protested outside the hotel on his behalf. The employee was temporarily suspended.

It wasn't long before doubts were raised about Ofarim's account. The hotel shared its security camera footage with German news media: In it, there was no Star of David pendant to be seen around Ofarim's neck.

### Israeli Universities to Offer Returning Academics Up to \$186K

Israel will enable its universities to offer lecturers in high-demand disciplines benefits worth up to the equivalent of \$186,272 to return to the country to teach after completing post-doctoral work overseas, Globes reported.

Israeli academic institutions suffer from a shortage of hundreds of senior faculty members in computer sciences, engineering, mathematics and physics. While there are enough Israeli professors and Ph.D. holders to fill those positions, about 1,600 of the best Israeli lecturers work at universities in the United States, Globes reported.

Globes noted that an Israeli lecturer at a top academic institution overseas can earn as much as four times more than what they would earn in Israel and command larger research budgets — making returning to Israel an unattractive prospect. **JE**

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



# THREE RABBIS HELP UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

**T**hree Philadelphia-area rabbis, Gregory Marx, David Levin and Jon Cutler, traveled to Poland from April 10-14 to help refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Marx, of Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, and Levin, who runs the Jewish Relationships Initiative, a nonprofit organization in Wynnewood, said they went to offer practical support and “to bear witness.”

That first reason included bringing bags of supplies, like clothes and toiletries, and more than \$500,000 from their congregations. Such practical support was important for Ukrainians, both Jews and non-Jews, who were forced to leave their homes.

But it was the second reason that drove the rabbis to leave the relative safety of their own homes.

“Bearing witness is key,” Levin said.

It’s key because it’s their responsibility as faith leaders, according to Marx and Levin. Rabbis need to see the tragedy of war up close, bring the reality home to congregants and help them make sense of it.

Marx and Cutler are also co-presidents of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, while Levin is on the executive committee. (Cutler leads Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County.) So they all felt that they had a wider obligation to bear witness for all area Jews and rabbis, too.

“We take our teaching seriously,” Marx said. “We had to do something.”

The trip came together after an invitation from the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow, which is organizing relief efforts there. The JCC reached out to Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Temple Solel in Hollywood, Florida, who spread the word to other American rabbis.

Marx, Cutler and Levin each decided to go on their own. But when they realized they all wanted to make the journey, they said let’s take it together.





**Volunteers help the JCC of Krakow organize supplies for refugees from the war in Ukraine.**

Photos courtesy of Rabbi Gregory Marx



**People enter a JCC of Krakow building to help coordinate aid for refugees.**



**Philadelphia-area rabbis Gregory Marx, David Levin and Jon Cutler helped unload bags containing crucial materials for refugees.**

Within two weeks, they were flying over the Atlantic Ocean, according to Marx.

Upon arrival, the men expected to see a city in disarray.

"People living on streets or in tents," Marx said.

But Krakow wasn't like that. Instead, despite the massive influx of people, it was orderly.

Ukrainian refugees were living with city residents or in quarters put up by nongovernmental organizations. They were using convention centers and shopping malls, among other locations.

"The people of Krakow are remarkably industrious and inventive in helping the refugees," Marx said. "Most of the people will be taken into Polish homes until they're able to get back on their feet."

That part, though, may take a while.

While the scene in Krakow was more orderly than expected, the refugees' lives were not. As Marx put it, in many cases, they come across the border with nothing but a trash bag of clothing and fear in their eyes.

Their houses have been destroyed and their families separated. In many cases, women and children are crossing to Poland while men are staying back, either to fight or to protect their homes.

The rabbis were trying to offer assistance to "people who otherwise have nothing," Marx said.

One woman told Levin she's teaching her child never to speak Russian again.

"She said, 'I don't hate Putin. I hate the Russians,'" Levin recalled. "It's the Russians who are tying people up and shooting civilians."

Another woman told Marx about the harsh nature

of her journey. Marx asked if she considered herself a refugee. She said no.

"I lost my home, but I'm going to find a new home," she continued, according to Marx.

"She's going to stay here in Poland," he added. "I don't think she's going to go back."

The rabbis spent much of their time in Krakow doing behind-the-scenes work, as a language barrier prevented them from talking directly with many of the refugees. On April 13, for example, they took 60 suitcases, opened them and made piles of medicine, toiletries and blankets, among other items.

But though most of their work was practical, as the rabbis prepared to fly home on April 14, they still felt like they bore witness.

JCC of Krakow Executive Director Jonathan Ornstein, who is originally from New York, told the rabbis at one point that, "What the people of Poland are doing today for the Ukrainians is what they did not do for the Jewish community in World War II."

And that's the message that the local Jewish leaders will bring home, they said. Levin was impressed that the JCC was aiding both Jews and non-Jews. Ornstein estimated that 90% of the people his organization is helping are not Jewish.

Marx promised that he would speak about his experience during High Holiday services this fall. What he saw and what he did, as well as the "atrocities committed by the Russians," as he put it.

"The sin of World War II was the sin of silence," Marx said. "We have to be here to be accurate reporters."

Despite their situation, the refugees recognized

that they were not alone, according to Levin.

"People are deeply grateful that we are here," he said. "That people are here on this side to welcome them, to treat them with kindness."

Ornstein was grateful for the assistance.

His JCC is not a humanitarian organization, he explained. But it needs to become one during the war.

It would not be possible without the financial support from the Jewish community, he added. Ornstein is seeing that "the Jewish world stands with us."

"When we were persecuted, the world stood mostly silent," Ornstein said. "We cannot be silent when others are being harmed."

On the night of April 12, the rabbis and other volunteers held a Passover seder. Its attendees were Polish, Jewish and Christian. Marx said they were all celebrating "the festival of freedom."

"To share the story of what does freedom mean?" Levin added. "The values of Passover are playing out in the world as we speak."

On April 14, the rabbis departed from Krakow, flew back over the Atlantic and arrived home a day before Passover started. They said they had to get back for the important holiday. But they returned home with a message.

"We did not go to Ukraine, but we saw the results of that violence," Marx said.

"It's very hard to look into the eyes of someone who left home and who with her child has left her husband behind to defend his country," Levin added.

"You cannot turn away," Marx concluded. **JE**

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# ‘Let There Be Light’ Finds Meaning Between the Lines

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

**L**iana Finck’s “Let There Be Light: The Real Story of Her Creation” is hardly the first time a mere mortal reinterpreted the story of creation.

In 2009, underground cartoonist Robert Crumb published “The Book of Genesis,” a tome depicting the 50 chapters of Genesis in explicit detail. Crumb, with exhaustive line work, illustrated the men of the Bible as beefy and wooly cavemen, the women as indecent and full-bodied, their rudimentary clothing torn to reveal ample flesh underneath.

On the cover alongside Adam and Eve is another provocative image: An old, white man clothed in a billowing white robe, with a white beard dangling near the ground over which he is hovering.

The graphic novel adaptation of the first book of the Torah was meant to be a very literal — and very Christian — interpretation, but the depiction of God as light-skinned and masculine persists in popular culture.

In “Let There Be Light,” published April 12 by Random House, that isn’t the case.

A cartoonist duly employed by The New Yorker and a Fulbright Fellow, Finck opts out of meticulous drawings of a burly man and an aged God to present her own one-and-only God: a stick-figure woman in a triangular dress, a single swooping blob delineating a plain haircut, a diminutive crown donning her head. Behold, the omniscient God of our ancestors.

But really, the simple-looking girl Finck conceived God as is just that: Finck’s conception.

“Let There Be Light” is far from a feminist polemic about what would happen if God was depicted in Biblical texts as a woman. Instead, Finck asserts that just as humans are made in God’s image in the story of creation, God can be made in the image of an unassuming cartoonist whose squiggly-line text bubbles and uneven shading make it clear she is far from perfect.

God sits on her puffy, minimalist cloud and peeks down at her creations, from a wobbly Adam, Eve and Lilith the snake to Joseph, whose prophetic dreams

are, according to Finck, so boring, that she refuses to illustrate them.

In the telling of the book of Genesis, Finck takes some major liberties. Ditching the desert, she draws Abram as an art school student, assigned by God to create a great masterpiece. He wears a sloppy, curly pompadour and thin, wiry glasses instead of the usual robe and becomes more of an image of a 2014 hipster nightmare than the Jewish forefather.

Finck, in her author’s note, writes that she isn’t particularly religiously minded. Her skepticism of the biblical telling of creation are clear, as are her grievances with the way women, enslaved and victims of sexual abuses are often swept under the storytelling rug.

Yet clearly she believes the stories of the Torah have merit. Even if, in her mind, they aren’t factual, they at least

contain truth.

In her sometimes simplified and abridged telling of Genesis, Finck interweaves midrashim: In the telling of the story of Isaac, Finck describes him as a laughing child until Abraham, asked by God, intends to sacrifice him. Knife brandished toward him, Isaac stops laughing. Finck writes next to an understated asterisk at the bottom of a page that Isaac would become a totally different person after the intended sacrifice. Trauma changes people.

Published three days before Passover, “Let There Be Light” is, almost painfully, an apt telling of the events of so long ago, but also a telling of the times today.

Though Biblical texts have long been upsetting and alienating to some, the minimalism and restraint of Finck’s panels are a balm. When the minutiae of Biblical time and space are gone, what



remains is the mind and soul of the reader, who is gently invited to see themselves in the archetypes of characters in a world once absurd and far away, but now held closely in a page between their fingertips. **JE**

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# Something Old, Something New

KERI WHITE | SPECIAL TO THE JE

**W**hen I was rambling through the produce section of my local grocery store, eggplant called my name.

Given the topsy-turvy weather of late, I wasn't sure whether I would be grilling it summer-style or doing something warming and hearty in the oven, but I knew I had to have it. As it happened, the recent cold snap suggested eggplant Parmesan, a retro but oh-so-tasty main. I went old school, making my own marinara sauce for the layers, but there are plenty of good-quality jarred options on the market if time or inclination dictates a need for convenience.

On the other end of the continuum, i.e. "the new," I have discovered a delightful vegetable: kale rapini. This seasonal spring treat results when kale plants flower or sprout, delivering a blossom that resembles broccoli rabe or broccolini in appearance, taste and texture.

I have referenced my husband's aversion to kale before, and this is one type that he truly likes. Full disclosure: When I served it I didn't use the "k word," preferring to let him draw his own vegetal conclusions. When I finally came clean, he was quite shocked. In

his defense, he has admitted to enjoying this new (to us) vegetable, which is mainly available at farmers markets these days, and he is happy to see it on the table when I can find it.

### Eggplant Parmesan

Serves 4

The amounts below are approximate — you may need additional eggs and breadcrumbs to coat all the slices — and don't scrimp here. I got lazy at the end of my batch, not wanting to crack another egg for four measly slices of eggplant and, as a result, the top layer did not cook properly. Let my error be a lesson to you!

This can be made ahead and left in the refrigerator for a day or two before baking or frozen for several months.

- 1 large eggplant
- Salt for draining
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup Italian-style seasoned bread crumbs
- Oil for frying (approximately ½ cup total)
- ¾ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup ground Parmesan cheese
- 1¾ cups (approximately) marinara sauce (recipe follows, or a good-



Photo by Keri White



quality jarred version)

Fresh basil or parsley, chopped, for garnish, if desired

Slice the eggplant into thin discs and place it in a colander in your sink (peeling is optional; I did not). Toss it generously with salt, and let it sit for 30 minutes until the slices begin to "sweat."

While the eggplant sits, make the marinara sauce (see below).

Rinse and drain the eggplant, and dry it with paper towels.

Set up two shallow bowls side by side. Crack the eggs in one and place the breadcrumbs in the other.

Heat a large skillet with a bit of oil in the pan to fry the eggplant slices.

Whisk the eggs lightly with a fork, and dredge each eggplant slice in the egg and breadcrumbs. Place them in the skillet, and brown each slice for about 2 minutes per side.

In a square baking dish (approximately 2 quarts) place a thin layer of marinara sauce. Place the sautéed eggplant in a single layer on the sauce, and sprinkle with the mozzarella, Parmesan and another layer of

sauce. Continue this process, adding oil to the pan as needed, until all the eggplant is used. Top it with a final layer of sauce and cheeses.

Bake it at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes until the top is lightly brown, the dish is heated through and, when pierced with a knife, the eggplant feels very soft. Top it with fresh chopped basil and/or parsley before serving, if desired.

### Marinara Sauce

Makes about 1¾ cups

This does not need much cooking time — just about 10 minutes to get the flavors melded.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Pinch of salt
- 1 13-ounce box of diced tomatoes (no salt or seasonings added)
- ¼ cup red wine
- Scant handful fresh basil and/or parsley (optional)

In a medium-sized saucepan, heat

the oil, and sauté the garlic until fragrant. Add the salt and pepper until blended, and add tomatoes, then wine. Bring it to a simmer, and cook it for about 10 minutes. Add the fresh herbs, if using, stir and serve.

### Kale Rapini

Serves 4

- 1 bunch kale rapini, rinsed
- 1 tablespoon oil

- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes (to taste, omit if no spice is preferred)

In a large skillet, heat the oil with the salt, garlic and red pepper flakes until fragrant. Add kale rapini and, using tongs, turn it over and sauté it until bright green and just tender, about 6 minutes. **JE**

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# School Board President, ADL Chair Herman Mattleman Dies at 96

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Longtime School District of Philadelphia board president, former Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia board chair and health care lawyer Herman Mattleman died at his Center City home on April 2. He was 96.

Mattleman served on the Philadelphia school board from 1981 to 1990, acting as president from 1983 to 1990, serving 200,000 students and 25,000 employees spread across 400 buildings, a Nov. 30, 1990 Jewish Exponent article said. In 1990, he received the Philadelphia Award, the city's highest honor.

"My dad really proved that nice guys know how to get things done," son Jon Mattleman said. "He knew the names of people who were custodians; he knew everyone."

Mattleman inherited a school board that had "lost its credibility with the city," due to poor money management, according to the Exponent article.

To add professionalism and stability to the school district's leadership, Mattleman's board chose Superintendent Constance Clayton to preside over the large student body. Mattleman advocated for increased funding to expand student programs and social services, but remained humble in the face of his



Herman Mattleman served as the School District of Philadelphia board president from 1983-1990. Photo by Cliff Hence

accomplishments.

"No matter when you leave a profession like this, you're like Moses in the desert — you can't go into the land of Canaan," Mattleman said of his retirement in the Exponent interview. "So you look down the mountainside and say there are some things you have accomplished and some you haven't."

Mattleman's time at the Philadelphia school district was bookended by his health care law career at Mattleman, Greenberg, Shmerelson & Weinroth.

He served as board chair of ADL Philadelphia after he left the school board in the 1990s, eventually acting as a commissioner for the national organization.

"He believed in treating all people with dignity and respect," former ADL Philadelphia Regional Director Nancy Baron-Baer said.

Mattleman was the only child of Mary and Emmanuel Mattleman, who owned a kosher butcher shop on West Cumberland Street in Strawberry Mansion. The family lived in the apartment behind the shop and seldom sat down for meals together, as they were frequently interrupted by customers.

Mattleman had a deep interest in World War II books, filling his bookshelves with hundreds of them.

"He never got tired of talking about the Holocaust," daughter Ellen Mattleman Kaplan said. "He had family members who hid underneath floorboards in Romania. His favorite cousin died in World War II."

Mattleman attended Gratz High School — and later the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate and law school — and Camp Tel-Hei in Bucks County, where, as a counselor, he met his wife Marciene Mattleman.

"She called her parents and said, 'Come pick me up,' but she said, 'But pick me up tomorrow because I have a date tonight,'" daughter Barbara Mattleman said.

The couple was married for 68 years until 2019, when Marciene Mattleman, a public school teacher, Temple University professor and founder of After School Activities Partnerships, died from Parkinson's disease complications.

The couple's three children, along with their parents, dubbed themselves "the originals," and were fiercely close with one another.

"The originals" were later joined by "the outlaws" (in-laws), six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of whom survive Mattleman.

"He was wildly devoted to his grandchildren. He and mom took trips with them, and they just played such a critical part of their lives growing up," Kaplan said.

Mattleman found humor in everyday-life and had a love for Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds, as well as a few Ashkenazi favorites.

"The corned beef industry is going to go under with dad's death," Kaplan said. "No one loved a good corned beef sandwich with pickles and coleslaw like Dad." JE

srogelberg@midatlanticmedia.com

## MEMORIAL

### KLEVAN

FLORA LEE KLEVAN, December 16, 1933-March 31, 1982 40th Yahrzeit Although nothing can replace the gaping hole your death has left in my life, I want to thank you for all the ways in which you blessed my life. Because mixed together with all of my sadness, there is a great joy knowing you were my mom. I will remember your smile, your touch, your laughter, your kindness, your love. Thank you for the time we shared, for the love you gave, for the wisdom you spread. I will always treasure the lessons you taught me. I will carry them with me for the rest of my life. I am so proud to be your child. I love you. Your loving daughter

LISA (KLEVAN) SOFFER  
Always remembered by Lisa,  
Howard, Nolan and Ilana Soffer



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## BRODY

EDMUND A. BRODY; On Tuesday, April 12, 2022; Beloved Husband of the late Lucille Levin Brody; Beloved Father of Lee H. (Melissa) Brody of Pittsburgh, and the late Scott Brody; Brother of the late Harvey (late Rita) Brody; and Brother in law of Barbara (late Dr. Stephen) Levin; Loving Grandfather to Benjamin S. Brody, and Joshua A. Brody of Pittsburgh; also survived by nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues. Ed's passion for life and family burned brighter than the many cigars he enjoyed throughout his life. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Pennsbury Education Foundation c/o Pennsbury School District; 134 Yardley Avenue, PO Box 338, Fallsington, PA, 19058.

RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL  
www.schugar.com



## BRUMBERG

ELAINE (nee Gorman) on April 17, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Norman; Loving mother of Amy Seiden (Mark), Scott Dimetrosky (Karen Cravitz), Harriet Brumberg (Robert Kramer), and Bruce Brumberg (Karen Axelrod); Dear sister of Gene Gorman; Loving companion of David Singer and puppy Cooper; best-selling author of three books; and proud owner of Thunderbird Lanes in Warminster, PA. Also survived by 9 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and Rachel Hahn (Michael) daughter of David and her two children. Contributions in her memory may be made to Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) <https://www.bvl.org> or to Chabad At The Shore, [www.chabadac.com](http://www.chabadac.com)

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## FELDMAN

Harriet Camlot Feldman on April 6, 2022. Wife of the late Robert Feldman. Mother of Chuck Feldman (Paula Weiss, Esq). Grandmother of Stephanie Feldman (Jonathan Treitel), Michelle Feldman and Benjamin Feldman. Great grandmother of Ramona and Danica. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, Pa. 19027.

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## FELDMAN

Leonard Feldman, a veteran of WWII, on April 10, 2022. Beloved husband

of the late Thelma (nee Weisman); Loving father of Nancy (Sheldon) Leiman and Gary (Ruth) Feldman; Adored Grandfather of Dani (William) Snook, Ross (Erin) Leiman, Heather (Brian) Freinberg, Corey Feldman, Rachel (Chad) Mangum and the late Jayme Feldman; Loving Great Grandfather of Jacob, Jake, Jordan, Lilah and the late Livia. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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## FRIEDRICH

Lillian Friedrich (nee Segal), age 102, on April 13, 2022. Wife of the late William. Mother of Harvey (Susan) Friedrich, Paul (Richelle) Friedrich and Barbara (late Russell) Wenitsky. Grandmother of Jennifer (Lonny) Weiner, Sean Friedrich, Tara Stires, Rachel Wenitsky (David Sidorov), Ariel Wenitsky, Randi Kopelow (Norm Vanbeelin), Samantha Kopelow and Ryan (Lauren) Kopelow. Great grandmother of Jacob, Noah and Samuel Weiner and Sarai Stires. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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## GLAZIER

HELENE (nee Toub) on April 10, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Samuel; Loving mother of Faith Glazier (Robert Weisstuch), Charles Glazier (Melanie), and Kelly Glazier (Charles Cutler); Dear sister of Mary Ann Rich; Devoted Fiancé of Ernie Riesenfeld; Adoring grandmother of Caroline, Hayley, Sydney, Samuel, Sonel, Talia, and Megan. Contributions in her memory may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org).

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## LAUCIUS

DR. JOSEPH FREDERICK "FRED" Passed away on April 10, 2022. Husband of Gail Laucius (nee Stiffel). Father of Eric (Tara) Laucius, Andrew Laucius and Sara (Christina) Laucius. Brother of David (Beth) Laucius, Elizabeth Rafal and the late Richard Laucius (Sally). Grandfather of Jacoby, Charles, Oliver, Hannah, Jax and Sawyer. He was an associate professor of medicine/medical oncology at his alma mater, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He served in the US Army as a Captain in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam where he earned the Silver Star for Valor and a Purple Heart. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S  
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## LICHTMAN

JOYCE LICHTMAN (nee Weil) died on April 13, 2022. Wife of the late Albert "Alble"; mother of Ava (late Warren) Geller, Matthew (Linda) Trachton, and Manny (Nancy) Trachton; stepmother of Dr. Craig Lichtman and David Lichtman; grandmother of Eli and the late Ravi Geller, Daniel and Melissa, Trachton, and Ben Lichtman; and great-grandmother of Danny Jo and Danielle. Joyce was a loving, devoted and happy individual. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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## LEVY

Walter Allan Levy died on April 11th, 2022. He was the loving husband of Deborah Wolff, father of Elliott (Nina Belfor), Andrew (Siobhan McEvoy), and Joseph; stepfather of Michelle Wolff and Leslie Wolff (Anthony Gore); and grandfather of Tom Levy, Cyrus Levy, Aedan Levy, and Abigail Wolff Gore. Walter was born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 31st 1930. His father, Joseph Levy, was a gifted engineer who, with his brother Saul (a leading civic figure in mid-century New York), founded Century Lighting. Their firm developed and commercialized the modern spotlight, which transformed the theater and movie industries. Walter's mother, Sally, was born in Ukraine and raised in Montreal Canada before entering the United States in 1928. Walter had two sisters, Barbara Murra and Linda Chasis (Joel). Mr. Levy was trained as an electrical engineer. He was educated at the Open Air School from kindergarten through 4th grade, The Community School from 4th through 8th grade, and Brooklyn Tech for high school. He attended Union College and graduated from New York University with Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering. He was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Eta Kappa Nu Engineering Honor Society, and the Kappa Nu fraternity. After serving in the US Army Signal Corps, Walter began his career at Century Lighting. He moved to RCA at the beginning of the computer era, and continued his career at Pennsylvania Research Associates, Informatics Inc., and Coopers and Lybrand.

He then worked as a consultant in telecommunications until his retirement in 2000. He was highly respected professionally for his fierce intelligence, independence, honesty, and integrity. Walter was an enthusiastic amateur musician with an encyclopedic knowledge of the modern American Songbook. He loved to play the piano and performed frequently with his band at senior citizen residences. Walter also loved playing bridge and was the secretary of the Hamilton Bridge Club (the oldest continuously operating bridge club in the United States). Contributions in his honor may be made to Har Zion Temple.

## LEWIS

Erwin Lewis, of Hamilton, NJ passed away on Sunday, April 10, 2022. He was 98. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he attended the City University of New York. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army as a communication wire technician. Erwin was a sales representative in the toy business for 40 years, working with Pioneer Balloons and children's books. He was active at the Plainview Jewish Center in Long Island, NY where he served as president. He was a member of B'nai Tikvah Congregation in North Brunswick, NJ. Erwin lived a very active life, playing tennis, bridge and skiing into his 80's. A consummate salesman, he could talk to anyone and was well-loved as the life of the party. He practically invented the 30-second elevator conversation. He loved travel and visiting New York City, China, all over the US and Europe, anywhere. He also loved a good meal and visiting family. Husband of the late Sylvia Aronsky, he is survived by a daughter Faith (Bruce) Bowers, a daughter Meryl Reis (William Spitz), a son Monte (Kathleen) Lewis, and five grandchildren: Emma, Drew, Daniel, Ethan and Rebecca. He lived his last years with his loving companion Natasha Rosenbaum. Memorial contributions may be made to Shir Ami ([shirami.org](http://shirami.org)) or Hadassah ([Hadassah.org](http://Hadassah.org)).

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## LOVE

Libby (nee Abrams). April 13, 2022 of Haverford, Pa. Wife of the late Alvin Love. Mother of Jeffrey Love (Maria) and Terri Love Jackson (Ed). Grandmother of Bizette, Joshua (April) and Rachael (David) and Great grandmother of Jacob, Stella, Ari, Everly and Aura. The family will return to the late residence and request that contributions in her memory be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

JOSEPH LEVINE AND SONS  
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## PERLOE

With deep sorrow we inform you that Sidney I. Perloe, succumbed to cancer on March 20. Sid was the beloved: husband of Paulette J., father of Jonathan, Deborah, Alexandra and Gabriel; grandpa of Justine, Julia & Abigail and as a brother-in-law, uncle and father-in-law. Sid was also strongly respected for his trustworthiness, integrity, thoughtfulness, intelligence, plus knowledge, enthusiasm and effectiveness as an educator, as well as gardener, and much more — by his entire family, and by all who knew and/or sang with him at Congregation Beth Am Israel, at the Workers' Circle Yiddishland program and by faculty, alumni and staff of Haverford College. Professor Perloe taught classes on social psychology, primate social behavior and evolutionary human psychology at Haverford College for 51 years. He also co-founded the College's community day camp and assisted in organizing programs for the College's Yiddish Cultural Festival. Sid Perloe will be sorely missed and forever remembered with love and admiration. z'l

## SCHWARTZ

SCHWARTZ (nee Breslow), SELMA, 94, on March 4, 2022 of Media, PA and formerly of Springfield, PA and Wellington, FL. Wife of the late Irvin, and survived by sons, Marc and Michael, sisters-in law, Claire and Pearl Breslow, and nieces and nephews. She was a mathematics teacher and department head at Ridley Senior High School. In lieu of flowers and contributions, please do an act of kindness for a person in need and remember Selma when doing it.

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## SIMMONS

Helen Marie Simmons (nee Baskin) died on April 15, 2022. Helen was born in Conway, AR on March 1, 1925 to William Ernest Baskin, a carpenter, and Mary Pauline (Milam) Baskin, a homemaker and salesperson. During WWII she met Leonard B. Simmons of Phila. who was stationed in Conway for training. They married in 1944 and were together until his death in 2010. Leonard, together with his father, practiced at the Simmons Animal Hospital

See Obituaries, Page 24





# Passover: Renewed and New Meanings

BY RABBI BARRY DOV LERNER

## Passover

**W**hat do you remember most vividly about your earliest seder experience?

Many of us have memories of our respective Passover experiences with the input of family and friends, and most are pleasant if not inspiring. And now, this year, we have the most recent memories, supplemented perhaps with pictures, melodies and memories of sedarim from the past.

But are we ready to say “Dayenu” enough? Passover may now be ending this year. However, I’m already planning for next year. First, why?

The famed Reform preacher Rabbi Stephen S. Wise often taught that for each Shabbat he composed three sermons: one, was the first one he wrote; second was the d’var Torah that he actually preached; and last was on the way home, the one he

should have shared.

Passover has similar parallels.

There is the seder we plan; the seder we celebrated; and then the seder we should have planned. But there is next year for what we will perform.

The recipes for each meal are reviewed and chosen — for which they shopped and which they presented.

Haggadot have been examined, potential seder discussion topics and new Biblical and archaeological discoveries that can’t be overlooked are marked with Post-its, ready for an appearance.

However, I must also think ahead.

For next year, there are an increasing number of seder plate symbols, so much so that the table itself must become the seder “plate” [*k’arah*] to contain them all.

Let’s plan to continue sharing a list of all the new and innovative seder plate symbols that has evolved to address the issue of inclusivity and bringing in those who still feel marginalized.

Some “new” additions have become “semi-traditional” and are well-known, such as the orange on the seder plate. I found in my files one I had forgotten — an alternative symbol for LGBTQ inclusivity.

Here is the backstory: Invited to a seder, a guest asked the host if she could add cinnamon sticks. When asked why, she explained: “Judaism has made huge strides towards inclusiveness for the LGBTQ community. I chose to add cinnamon sticks to my seder plate because it can be bitter by itself or be used to sweeten a greater whole; we do use it in charoset. Many traditions use it to symbolize spirituality, healing and love — and when you combine them you get acceptance. I finally feel the LGBTQ community is fully accepted by Judaism and use the cinnamon stick to symbolize it.”

The host, a “Conservadox rabbi” said, “You can never take anything away from the seder, but you can always add. I like the symbolism. When you come over,

make sure you bring a sealed glass bottle of cinnamon sticks so we can add one to the seder plate.” I was so overjoyed that my eyes began to tear. I am truly blessed to be a part of such an amazing community.

For next year, we should encourage the use of additional edible and even inedible symbols to promote asking questions. Encourage everyone to seize this opportunity to new meaning for a new symbol for freedom, justice and blessing in a place where there is still none. **JE**

*Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner is the president of Traditional Kosher Supervision, Inc. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.*



## Obituaries

Continued from Page 23

while Helen supervised the office and maintained the family home in Merion. It was a home filled with four children, extended family, many pets and many friends, who came to enjoy Helen’s legendary cooking. Helen enjoyed travel, theater, the Culinary Arts, and most of all, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She died peacefully surrounded by family. She was the wife of the late Leonard B. Simmons, VMD (z’l); mother of Robert J. Simmons (Doreen Davis) (z’l), David A. Simmons (Jill Inverso), Rachel Kull (Stanley), and Dean S. Simmons (Silvia); grandmother of Emma Magnus (Courcy), Sarah Kull (Tyler Alfermann), Lily Kull (Jonathan Shamberg), and Samatha Simmons (Jason Besecker) and great-grandmother of Liv Marie Magnus, Beatrix Alfermann and Bronson Magnus. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice.

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### WOLF

ADELE S. (NEE SOLOMON)-On April 7, 2022, wife of the late J. Jay Wolf, mother of Judith (Barry) Lutsky, and the late Aron Wolf, mother-in-law of Michelle Wolf, sister of Rachel Kruskal, grandmother of Rachel and Daniel Wolf. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Pancreatic Action Network (PanCan). Shiva will be observed Sunday only, at the late residence.

JOSEPH LEVINE AND SONS  
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### WOLF

NORMA WOLF (nee Rudnick), April 10, 2022. Wife of the late Irving Wolf and Herbert Berstein. Mother of Michael (Jeanette) Berstein and the late Karen (Brad) Ernest. Grandmother of Hannah (Dale) Stevens, Aaron Berstein, Hana (Andrew) Hudson and Rachel Ernest. Great grandmother of Kameron. Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1818

Market Street, Suite 2820, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, www.cancer.org or to a charity of the donor’s choice.

GOLDSTEINS’ ROSENBERG’S  
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### YANKS

Karen Yanks passed away on April 11, 2022. She is survived by her devoted husband of 58 years, Harvey Yanks, and her three children, Barrie, Lauren, and James, and her three grandchildren, Hannah, Sophia, and Jacob Dylan (JD). Karen was very loved and deeply missed by all. Karen was a life master bridge player and she loved going to the movies, finishing the Sunday crossword, lying in the Florida sun, spending time with her grandchildren, and most of all, she cherished and was cherished by her friends and family. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Blue Butterfly Foundation, PO Box 387, Tillson, NY 12486, or at www.bluebutterflyfoundation.org.

GOLDSTEINS’ ROSENBERG’S  
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### ZOLOT

Bernard “Bernie”, April 9, 2022 of Narberth, PA. Born in 1927 and raised in a musical family, took to percussion instruments and was a talented drummer and bongo player. After graduating from West Philadelphia High School, he enrolled at Penn State and interrupted college to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War II. His ship, the U.S.S. Whittier, supplied cargo and munitions to ports in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. After the War, he joined the Bilt-Well Furniture Company, a family business begun by his father Charles. He and his brother Mickey developed the business into two companies, adding Tri-Mark Designs. At Tri-Mark, Bernie was a visionary who embraced the modernist furniture movement of the time. His innovative styles in metal, glass and upholstery are now recognized as classics of the “Mid-Century Modern” design period. In the 1970’s, a friend and fellow businessman showed him a sample of “Ultrasuede” fabric, a synthetic suede struggling to find relevance in clothing manufacturing. Bernie foresaw Ultrasuede’s greater

appeal as an upholstery fabric so he developed a line of furniture styles to showcase it. The line’s immediate success inspired Bernie to pioneer the distribution of Ultrasuede, now ubiquitous, to the greater U.S. Home Furnishings industry. In his leisure time, Bernie was an accomplished golfer and was a student of the game. He was a natural golf teacher who offered informal tips and lessons that were valued and enjoyed among his many playing partners. Bernie is survived by loving and devoted family members, Joan (Levy), his wife of 65 years, sons Craig (Ann), George (Rafi) and Roy, grandsons Michael, Dan and Brian, and an extended family of relatives and friends. Bernie maintained lifetime friendships with childhood buddies from West Philadelphia, many of whom he survived and deeply missed. Please direct contributions to a charity of donor’s choice.

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What's happening at ... Or Zarua

# Or Zarua a Spiritual Home for Boomers

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

For baby boomers whose kids are older now, synagogue is less of a necessity. They do not need a preschool, a religious school and a path to a bar or bat mitzvah.

Instead, synagogue is now more of a choice, and it's a choice that comes down to a simple question: How important is it for you to reinforce and deepen your Jewish values on a daily basis?

For the 80 or so families at Or Zarua, a Reconstructionist community on the Main Line, the answer is very.

Most of the members are both boomers and empty-nesters, according to Or Zarua Rabbi Shelly Barnathan. They are only a part of the community because they want to practice Judaism.

The synagogue doesn't even have a building. Barnathan and the congregation hold services and events in people's living rooms and at the Old Haverford Friends Meetinghouse, the home of a local Quaker community.

Member Ethan Fogel calls Or Zarua a "co-constructed community."

What brings Or Zarua members together is a shared set of values. The Main Line residents are committed to tikkun olam, or healing the world, and a progressive, adaptive approach to Judaism for the modern world. They also want to have a say in the synagogue's operations, as many felt marginalized in their previous temples, which were more hierarchical.

But perhaps more than anything, the congregants believe in appreciating each other, they say.

Or Zarua means "light is sown."

"We're all coming from our own authentic place, where our light is," Barnathan said. "What piece of the divine is true in us in an authentic way that we want to share?"

According to congregant Michael Grossman, Barnathan is often asking people the question, "What's your superpower?" It sounds like an idealistic question designed to inspire, but really it's more practical.

The rabbi, explained Grossman, is looking for people to lead synagogue programs.

A congregant who was the poet laureate of Montgomery County conducts a poetry program once a month. Grossman himself loves cooking, so he coordinates Or Zarua's community outreach efforts that involve food.

Barnathan does not even run her own synagogue's Torah study class. She lets a congregant, who happens to be an expert on the subject, lead that. The rabbi is, however, one of his most passionate students.

"I just love that I get to be a participant," Barnathan said.

The rabbi started playing that role five years ago when she went on more than 100 coffee dates with the people who would become her congregants.

Barnathan had just completed rabbinical school after leaving a 32-year career as a language arts teacher. She wanted to realize a childhood dream that wasn't accessible to her in her Orthodox community. But she also wanted to connect more deeply with her Jewish spirituality, a desire she recognized in her boomer friends, too.

"I realized that people in our baby boomer, empty nester cohort had particular needs," she said.

But their incumbent synagogues were not meeting them.

Some felt marginalized even though they were paying the dues that kept the temple operating. Others were disillusioned at the unwillingness of Conservative leaders to embrace modern practices like intermarriage. All of them desired a place where they could practice Judaism according to their values.

Barnathan, a Reconstructionist rabbi, applied for and received a grant of \$2,000 from Reconstructing Judaism, "the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement," according to its website. Then she got another grant, this one worth \$20,000, which stabilized the community in its early days.

Over the next five years, Or Zarua grew from about 45 families to 80. Even during the pandemic, when it went fully remote, it gained 10 new member families, Barnathan said.

Today, the synagogue uses a formal structure for paying annual dues. But



Or Zarua congregants gather in a member's home pre-pandemic.



Or Zarua members get together for an outdoor event.

Photos by Elliot Barnathan

besides that and Barnathan's status as senior rabbi, nothing else about Or Zarua is that hierarchical.

The rabbi tries her best to poll the entire congregation on big decisions. She also makes a concerted effort to reach out to all members regularly. That way, when a synagogue issue arises in a specific area, she may just call someone likely to understand it.

"I put a lot of energy into reaching out to people," she said.

About 20-30 people attend Or Zarua's

Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More than 60 people typically come to bigger events. But all are still on Zoom due to COVID.

The next step, according to members, is to figure out how and when to return to in-person community life.

"It's limited when we're just on Zoom," said congregant Sari Fogel, Ethan's wife. "It's much richer when we're in the space together." **JE**

[jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com](mailto:jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com)



## SUNDAY, APRIL 24

### SPRING FLING

It's spring ... the perfect time to refresh your summer wardrobe, update your home decor, try some new gourmet recipes and shop. Visit Beth Or's Spring Fling from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the synagogue's parking lot. To become a vendor, **contact Sherry Spector at [sspector1949@gmail.com](mailto:sspector1949@gmail.com) or Faye Benshetler at [febxb@comcast.net](mailto:febxb@comcast.net). 239 Welsh Road, Ambler.**

### ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel Community Music Arts Committee announces the Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Concert with the Main Line Symphony Orchestra at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15; students with valid student ID free through age 23. **For more information, call 215-887-8700. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.**

### ISRAELI MUSIC

At 7:30 p.m., enter the inspiring world of Cantor Rhoda J. Harrison for an engaging musical evening filled with a program of Israeli music that spans the country's rich history. This musical event is being offered by the Adult Education Committee of Congregation M'kor Shalom as its fundraiser for the programming year. Tickets are \$18 in person and for remote attendees. **Contact [adulted-ucation@mkorshalom.org](mailto:adulted-ucation@mkorshalom.org) or 856-424-4220 for more information.**

## TUESDAY, APRIL 26

### 'BRILLIANT' MUSICAL

In honor of Autism Awareness Month at Jewish Learning Venture, playwright and composer Dani Tapper shares her experience creating the new musical "Brilliant." **For more information, contact Suzanne Gold, Jewish Learning Venture, at 215-320-0376 or [sgold@jewishlearningventure.org](mailto:sgold@jewishlearningventure.org).**

# APRIL 22-APRIL 28

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

### HOARDING SUPPORT

Join Jewish Family and Children's Service and like-minded individuals from April 13-July 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in a supportive community where you will learn tools to address compulsive acquiring and saving. **To register or for more information on sliding-scale options, contact Rivka Goldman at 267-256-2250 or [rgoldman@jfcshilly.org](mailto:rgoldman@jfcshilly.org).**

### YOM HASHOAH CANDLE LIGHTING

The Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, Friends Select School, Congregation Rodeph Shalom and the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights are participating in the international Yellow Candle Project, a campaign to remember victims of the Holocaust, at 6:30 p.m. **We will join together via Zoom to light our candles (available here: [bit.ly/3uIJuKp](https://bit.ly/3uIJuKp)).**

## THURSDAY, APRIL 28

### ADL GOOD FIGHT AWARD

At this year's The Good Fight at 5:30 p.m., Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia will present the Americanism Award to Richard J. Green, chairman and CEO of Firsttrust Bank and trustee of The Green Family Foundation, for his commitment to fighting hate. **[adl.org/TheGoodFight](http://adl.org/TheGoodFight). 100 E. Penn Square, Ninth Floor, Philadelphia.**

### YOM HASHOAH LECTURE

Gratz College invites you to commemorate Yom HaShoah and honor those whose leadership, advocacy and scholarship have significantly advanced Holocaust education and human rights in the world. **For more information and how to support the Center for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights at Gratz College, contact [mcohen@gratz.edu](mailto:mcohen@gratz.edu) or [nhousman@gratz.edu](mailto:nhousman@gratz.edu). JE**



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TALK 860**



# Out & About



① Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Lower Merion hosted KoHack 2022, the first North American yeshiva high school coding hackathon, on April 3 and 4. ② Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley held a multifaith gathering for people to learn about Passover, Easter and Ramadan on March 29. ③ The Jewish nonprofit Tikvah celebrated a return to in-person programming with a model seder attended by almost 50 people on April 10. ④ On April 10, 400 volunteers helped with Project H.O.P.E.'s effort to deliver kosher-for-Passover food to 650 recipients. ⑤ Members of the South Philadelphia Ladies Auxiliary of Jewish War Veterans Post 98 organized a seder for veterans at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home on April 11. ⑥ Jason Goldstein, owner of J.S. Goldstein Funeral Home in Mays Landing, New Jersey, his wife Jessica and their sons Sam and Luke, collected food from family and friends to distribute six Passover meals to those in need through the Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties.

Courtesy of Kohelet Yeshiva High School

Courtesy of Samuel Donsky

Courtesy of the Jewish Family Service of Atlantic &amp; Cape May Counties

Courtesy of Har Zion Temple

Photo by Yossi Stern

Courtesy of the South Philadelphia Ladies Auxiliary #98



## A PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE SEAT IS SOUGHT BY Gwen Stoltz

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

**G**wen Stoltz, 47, is a married mother of three children: a 14-year-old son and two daughters, 12 and eight. The Plumstead Township resident is also a contract medical writer for physicians and educational organizations.

She likes her life and could easily just live it.

Instead, she wants to do more.

The daughter of a Jewish single mother is running for the seat representing District 143 in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

With support from the Bucks County Democratic Committee, Stoltz is the presumptive candidate for the November general election. Her likely task? Beating the incumbent representative from 143, Republican Shelby Labs.

PA 143 includes the townships of Plumstead, Bedminster, Hilltown, New Britain and Tinicum, as well as the boroughs of Dublin, Perkasie, Sellersville and Silverdale. The territory of more than 65,000 residents can go either way, according to Bill Ritter, the Democratic Party chair for the area.

Stoltz wants to flip the seat because she claims that Labs is not responsive to constituents.

"I have heard from people who say they feel let down by her constituent services," Stoltz said. "That's a huge part of being a state rep."

Pennsylvania is one of 10 U.S. states with a full-time legislature. If Stoltz wins, she will take on a job that pays more than \$90,000 a year but requires her to be in Harrisburg, the state capital, for extended periods.

Stoltz is putting a requirement on herself to be available to constituents. The office of her home region's state senator, Steve Santarsiero, upholds a promise to get back to callers within 24 hours.

Stoltz may stretch that to 48 hours, but she will require her office to maintain a similar standard. She plans to



hire people who get back to people, she said.

All of that will be a lot of work. But Stoltz said she is ready for it.

"The people in the district are feeling let down," she said. "That's why I'm running."

Stoltz's family is used to balancing work and home lives, too, the mom explains.

Her husband, Frank Stoltz, is an estimator in the construction industry, so they understand what it takes to manage a two-income family with three kids. He's also supportive and willing to pick up the slack when Gwen is away.

Earlier in her career, Stoltz worked on a contract for the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The agreement covered land in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia. Stoltz could not span that many states without taking on some distant overnights.

Politics will be similar, she said.

"We'll balance it like any other job," she added, saying it's worth the balancing act.

Ritter believes the seat is winnable. After the 2020 U.S. Census, Pennsylvania redistricted, and 143 is no longer a Republican district, he explained.

If you combine Democrats and independents in those Bucks County towns, they outnumber Republicans, he said. To win, Stoltz needs to turn out the base and convince enough nonpartisans to support her.

As of mid-April, the candidate seems capable of doing that, Ritter said. He called her "indefatigable" in the way she campaigns.

"She's been out there at the doors nonstop, talking to voters," he said. "The best way to convince somebody to come out to vote for your candidate is to do it in person."

Once voters answer their doors, too, they meet a woman who understands their concerns, according to Ritter. Stoltz grew up in Bucks County and is raising her children there. The issues she cares about, like supporting small businesses, working moms and the environment, are issues she sees from a resident's perspective.

As Det Ansinn, Stoltz's brother-in-law and the chair of her campaign, explained it, she didn't have to talk to a bunch of consultants to formulate her positions.

"When my wife and I knocked on doors to get petition signatures, we were startled by how many people knew her already," Ansinn said. "She's a part of the community."

Stoltz, a longtime party activist, decided to run last summer after calling fellow voters and asking what they thought. Her neighbors were excited, and they remain excited.

The candidate needed 300 signatures to get on the ballot; she collected more than 1,000. She also had to raise money since she wasn't self-funding her campaign; she raised more than \$70,000.

And while the candidate didn't grow up religious, her Jewish grandmother made sure she never forgot her identity. It's a lesson Stoltz carries with her on the trail.

"I get excited about trying to address problems," she said. **JE**

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c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz  
Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150,  
Or to her Attorney:  
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c/o Wendy Fein Cooper, Esq., 50 S.  
16th St., Ste. 3530, Philadelphia, PA  
19102,  
Or to her Attorney:  
WENDY FEIN COOPER  
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demands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same,  
and all persons indebted to the de-  
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to Samantha Jouin and Victoria

Dougherty, Administratrices, c/o  
Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum  
DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC,  
One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market  
St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103  
or to their attorneys,  
Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq.,  
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Bailey, Bennie M. late of  
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Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC,  
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Simon, Executors, c/o Gary A.  
Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito  
Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC, One  
Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St.,  
16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or  
to their attorneys,  
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V. Bogdan, Administrator, 2725 West  
Chester Pike, Broomall, PA 19008,  
Or to his Attorney:  
David V. Bogdan  
2725 West Chester Pike  
Broomall, PA 19008

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persons having claims or demands  
against the estate of the decedent  
to make known the same and all  
persons indebted to the decedent  
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RUTH S. FISCHER, EXECUTRIX,  
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or demands against the estate of  
the decedent to make known the  
same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment  
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ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Daniella A.  
Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Or to his Attorney:  
DANIELLA A. HORN  
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to the undersigned, who request  
all persons having claims or de-  
mands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to JAMEY ROD, 2900  
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and VICKI GODOWN, 1692 SE 10th  
Ave., Deerfield Beach, FL 33441,  
EXECUTORS,  
Or to their Attorney:  
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ESTATE OF SALVATORE  
D'AMBRA,  
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to make known the same and all

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or to their attorney:  
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Feuda, Sandra D. late  
of Philadelphia, PA. William F. Feuda,  
30 E. Oleander Dr., Mt. Laurel, NJ  
08054, Executor.  
Mark Feinman, Esquire  
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ESTATE OF STARLYNN JONES  
AKA STARLYNN E. JONES  
Jones, Starlynn aka Jones,  
Starlynn E. late of Philadelphia,  
PA. Kein Averi Jones, 1628  
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Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF THEODORE  
ZAWATWICZ  
Zawatwicz, Theodore late of  
Philadelphia, PA. Kimberly Jo Galdi,  
c/o Ned Hark, Esq., Goldsmith Hark  
& Hornak, PC, 7716 Castor Ave.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19152, Executrix.  
Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC  
7716 Castor Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19152

ESTATE OF THOMAS JOHN  
CICCONI, JR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION  
on the above Estate have been  
granted to the undersigned, who  
request all persons having claims  
or demands against the estate of  
the decedent to make known the  
same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-

out delay to RONALD P. CICCONI,  
ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Daniella A.  
Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Or to his Attorney:  
DANIELLA A. HORN  
KLENK LAW, LLC  
2202 Delancey Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH  
BOEHMKE, JR., DECEASED.  
Late of Bensalem Township, Bucks  
County, PA  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION  
on the above Estate have been  
granted to the undersigned, who  
request all persons having claims or  
demands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment without  
delay to THOMAS J. BOEHMKE, III,  
ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Stephanie A.  
Henrick, Esq., 1001 Conshohocken  
State Rd., Ste. 1-625, West  
Conshohocken, PA 19428,  
Or to his Attorney:  
STEPHANIE A. HENRICK  
OBERMAYER REBMANN  
MAXWELL & HIPPEL LLP  
1001 Conshohocken State Rd., Ste.  
1-625  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

ESTATE OF WILLIE BERNARD  
JENKINS AKA WILLIE B. JENKINS  
Jenkins, Willie Bernard aka Jenkins,  
Willie B. late of Philadelphia, PA.  
Joseph Avril, Jr., c/o Hope Bosniak,  
Esq., Dessen Moses & Rossitto,  
600 Easton Rd., Willow Grove, PA  
19090, Executor.  
Dessen, Moses & Rossitto  
600 Easton Rd.  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

ESTATE OF SIDNEY Z SEBST,  
DECEASED  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION  
on the above Estate have been

granted to the undersigned, who  
request all persons having claims or  
demands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment without  
delay to STEVEN M SELBST,  
EXECUTOR  
1820 Rittenhouse Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**HM REAL ESTATE, INC.** has been  
incorporated under the provisions  
of the Pennsylvania Business  
Corporation Law of 1988. Mark  
Feinman, Esquire, 8171 Castor  
Avenue ,Philadelphia, PA 19152

**IN THE MATTER OF PETITION  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
March TERM 2022  
Rabin Budhathoki  
**NO. 873**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that  
on the 28th day March, 2022, the  
Petition for Change of Name, filed  
by Petitioner, Rabin Budhathoki,  
was filed in the above named Court,  
praying for a decree to change his/  
her name to Ary Kumar. The Court  
has fixed 28th day of April, 2022,  
at 10:00 o'clock a.m, in Courtroom  
691,City Hall, Philadelphia, PA., as  
the time and place for the hearing  
of said Petition, when iand where  
all persons interested may appear  
and show cause, if any they have,  
why the prayer of the said petition  
should not be granted.  
Date of First Publication:  
April 21, 2022  
22567-1T-04-21-2022

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant  
to the provisions of Section 4129 of  
the Business Corporation Law of  
1988, Prudential Equity Group, Inc.,  
a corporation incorporated under  
the laws of the State of Delaware  
with principal office at 751 Broad  
Street, Newark, Essex, 07102, New  
Jersey and having a Commercial

Registered officer provider and  
county of venue as follows: **CT  
Corporation System**, 1515 Market  
Street, Suite 1210, Philadelphia,  
19102, Pennsylvania which on  
3/19/81 was registered to transact  
business in the Commonwealth,  
intends to file a Statement of  
Withdrawal with the Department of  
State.

**Perkiomen Townhomes  
Association** has been incorporat-  
ed under the provisions of the PA  
Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.  
Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC 450 N.  
Narberth Ave. Suite 200, Narberth,  
PA 19072

**Philcom LTD** has been incorpo-  
rated under the provisions of the  
Pennsylvania Business Corporation  
Law of 1988.

Sumac Court Owners Association  
has been incorporated under the  
provisions of the Pennsylvania  
Business Corporations Law of 1988.

TRUST NOTICE - Lee Family Trust  
Dated December 31, 2011. Kuo  
Cheung Lee and Lai Ping Lee,  
Deceased. Late of Phila. County,  
PA. This Trust is in existence and  
all persons having claims or de-  
mands against said Trust or dece-  
dent are requested to make known  
the same and all persons indebted  
to the decedent to make payment  
without delay to Eleanor Chin-Lee  
and Aristotle Lee, Trustees, c/o  
Wendy Fein Cooper, Esq., 50 S.  
16th St., Ste. 3530, Philadelphia, PA  
19102. Or to their Atty.: Wendy Fein  
Cooper, Atty., Dolchin, Slotkin &  
Todd, P.C., 50 S. 16th St., Ste. 3530,  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

# Kornsgolds

Continued from **Page 9**

father asked him what he would do  
when he wasn’t holding a political  
office.

After deferring law school for a year  
and then another year, he realized that  
the issues he cared about were Jewish  
education, Jewish observance and  
intermarriage. He wanted to help other  
Jews in those areas.

All of a sudden, “the idea of serving  
as a religious leader was intriguing to  
me,” Jay Kornsgold said.

Helene Kornsgold went to college  
to become an investment banker. But  
then she got a job in investment bank-  
ing and hated it.

She was looking for something  
with more meaning. While working  
with young associates at the JCC in  
Manhattan, she found it.

“I decided I wanted to not just work  
with them, but pass something on to  
them,” Helene Kornsgold said.

Helene Kornsgold does not have kids,  
but Jay Kornsgold and Brandspiegel  
each have three. Helene Kornsgold  
said they imbue the next generation  
with the same sense of identity and



The Kornsgold family at a wedding

Photo by Mantas Kubilinskas Photography

values: observing Shabbat, joining  
synagogues, attending day schools.

Noam Kornsgold discovered that he  
wanted to be a rabbi as a student at the  
Abrams Hebrew Academy in Yardley.  
The rabbis at the school began pulling  
him out of lunch to come study and

discuss Talmud.

He still doesn’t know why they did it;  
he just knows he was hooked.

“I learned I was pretty good at it. I  
liked what I was learning,” he said.

Noam Kornsgold is only 26, but he  
already has a 10-month-old son. Jay

Kornsgold joked that his grandson  
must become a rabbi.

“We are passing on that tradition  
to our kids and hopefully to our  
children’s kids,” he said. **JE**

*jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com*



*From Our Family  
to Your Family*

# *We Wish You "A Zissen Pesach!"*

**As the generations of your family gathers around the Seder table to celebrate Pesach and to ask the four questions, we have 4 other questions to ask you.**

- Why leave important decisions to others when you are able to choose together?
- Why leave the financial burden to the next generation?
- Why not encourage the next generation to stay together?
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