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## OF NOTE

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Fall semester likely to hew more closely to normal.

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Louis Abramson was active for years in the organization.

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### OPINION

**House Bill on Israel is Flawed**

But Jewish civil war is worse.

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**Volume 134  
Number 3**

Published Weekly Since 1887

## Panel on IHRA Anti-Semitism Definition Rankles

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

AN APRIL 20 ONLINE event hosted by Congregation Rodeph Shalom was meant to educate congregants about the potential for free speech issues surrounding the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism.

In the days before it began, the event drew criticism from some letter-writers and Jewish organizations who characterized it as “strongly biased against Israel and Jews,” as one statement put it, taking issue with both the subject matter and the panelists themselves.

The panelists and organizers vehemently dispute that notion.

The controversy surrounding the event is a miniaturized version of fights that have roiled British and American politics in recent years about how to understand the connection between Israel and anti-Semitism, fights that have often asked thorny questions about free speech, academic freedom and campus politics. In Philadelphia, this most recent controversy has a local flavor, as

See Panel, Page 12



▲ Morris Gandel (far left), Chaim Gandel (seated, center) La zar Gandel (seated, right) and family  
Photos courtesy of Laurie Gandel Samuels

## DNA Testing Reunites Long-Lost Family After 60 Years

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

WHEN LAURIE GANDEL Samuels became a grandmother in 2020, she wanted to put together a family history for the two grandchildren.

“It was supposed to be almost a little craft project, with pictures of their parents or grandparents or great-grandparents

and like a page of information on each person for a child to look at, up until maybe they’re 12 or something,” the Bucks County resident said.

She did not expect her grandchildren’s first birthday present to turn into an in-depth research project that led to many late nights and reunions with family members she had no idea existed.

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Miriam's Advice Well

SON HAVING NON-JEWISH FIANCEE CAUSES AGITA

A woman's son is engaged to a non-Jewish woman, and it seems clear religion isn't of major importance in the relationship. The mother is having difficulty processing that and asks Miriam for advice. Miriam wonders if the reader "can reframe your own concept of radical acceptance to serve all of you better." For details, read Miriam's Advice Well. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to [news@jewishexponent.com](mailto:news@jewishexponent.com) and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line. [jewishexponent.com/2021/04/26/dear-miriam-son-having-non-jewish-fiancee-causes-agita/](http://jewishexponent.com/2021/04/26/dear-miriam-son-having-non-jewish-fiancee-causes-agita/)



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CUPCAKE CRUSTLESS QUICHES

Cupcake-sized quiches Keri White made the other day proved to be a bit of a revelation. For one thing, they're a nice portion size. And they're quite versatile because once the base is in place, different items can be added to each batch. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for food content not normally found in the printed edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. [jewishexponent.com/2021/04/26/cupcake-crustless-quiches/](http://jewishexponent.com/2021/04/26/cupcake-crustless-quiches/)



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## SALES & MARKETING

### DISPLAY

sales@jewishexponent.com

Sharon Schmuckler

Director of Sales

215-832-0753

sschmuckler@jewishexponent.com

Susan Baron

215-832-0757

sbaron@jewishexponent.com

Taylor Orlin

215-832-0732

torlin@jewishexponent.com

Shari Seitz

215-832-0702

sseitz@jewishexponent.com

### CLASSIFIED/ DEATH NOTICES

classified@jewishexponent.com

Nicole McNally, 215-832-0749

## BUSINESS

Laura Frank

Publisher's Representative

215-832-0512

lfrank@jewishphilly.org

Mike Costello

Finance Director

215-832-0727

mcostello@jewishexponent.com

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

subscriptions@jewishexponent.com

215-832-0710

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

215-832-0797

### News & Tips

news@jewishexponent.com

### Letters

letters@jewishexponent.com

### Calendar Events

listings@jewishexponent.com

Gabe Kahn, Editor-in-Chief

215-832-0747

gkahn@jewishexponent.com

Andy Gotlieb, Managing Editor

215-832-0797

agotlieb@jewishexponent.com

Jesse Bernstein, Staff Writer/

Books Editor

215-832-0740

jbernstein@jewishexponent.com

Sophie Panzer, Staff Writer

215-832-0729

spanzer@jewishexponent.com

## PRODUCTION

production@jewishexponent.com

Jeni Mann Tough, Director

Steve Burke, Art Director

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# College Decision Season Brings Cautious Optimism

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**NATIONAL DECISION DAY** for students committing to college is May 1, and many are still uncertain about what the upcoming school year will look like.

Most colleges and universities have promised some form of in-person learning in the fall, but details remain hazy about how closely it will resemble the pre-pandemic college experience.

And Jewish students and the organizations that serve them are also trying to figure out how Jewish life on campus will operate.

When asked about the upcoming year, Jenn Reiss, director of Jewish student life

at West Chester University Hillel, said she tries to be as transparent as possible with prospective and admitted students, since there's nothing worse than building up expectations and having the real experience fall short.

"We don't know what it's going to look like, but we will be finding as many opportunities as we can for students to feel connected to Hillel and other Jewish students on campus," she said.

She said the West Chester administration provided them with a list of students who had accepted their admissions offer and a list of those who had been accepted to the school but had not yet committed. This gave the organization a chance to connect with new students and reach out to those who

were still on the fence.

Many parents who were not comfortable traveling with their children for tours expressed concern that they couldn't see the school in person.

"I know that when I talk to these prospective students and families they're feeling a little lost because if they hadn't already toured these schools pre-COVID, they kind of feel like they're not getting the same experience," she said.

Hannah Rosenberg, engagement director at Hillel at Drexel University, said the lack of in-person tours made it more difficult to connect with prospective students this year. Hillel International stepped in and organized two virtual college fairs to help students learn more about Jewish life



▲ Drexel University students gather for a Hillel bonfire.  
Photo by Hannah Rosenberg

on campus, which attracted thousands of students and resulted in dozens contacting Drexel Hillel specifically. When students ask about

making new friends or having Shabbat dinners, Rosenberg tells them what student life was like both before COVID-19 hit and after. She anticipates that

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programming this semester will incorporate aspects of both, including expanded virtual options and in-person events with appropriate safety precautions.

Rabbi Gabe Greenberg, executive director at Penn Hillel, said most incoming students have approached his staff with typical questions about kosher food, Shabbat observance, Greek life and clubs rather than pandemic-related concerns. The isolation of 2020 and 2021 has weighed heavily on many of them, and they are excited for a year that promises to be better than the last.

"They're typically much more interested in what the Penn students have to say, than what I have to say," Greenberg said. "They're excited to hear about what student life is really like."

He said Penn Hillel is

operating under the assumption that birthright trips, parties and classes will all be happening this fall as part of a new normal, which may involve masks and smaller groups but will still resemble life before COVID-19.

Susan Becker, assistant director of Hillel at Temple University, said she and her staff will continue to focus on the importance of building strong one-on-one relationships with students regardless of what the semester looks like. The upheaval from the pandemic made it clear how meaningful these interactions can be.

"It means more to people than you might realize, just to send them a note asking how they are and letting them know that you care about them," she said.

Sam Salz, a senior at Kohelet Yeshiva High School, said his top factors for choosing a school

were community, tradition, a good academic reputation and strong financial aid. He was accepted at Temple, Drexel, Ursinus College, University of Delaware, West Chester and Texas A&M University and will choose among them.

The pandemic did not impact his application process much, other than delaying his ability to tour schools in person and get a sense of campus life. Lack of in-person learning or on-campus social life did not influence his school choice.

The presence of Jewish life on campus was also important to him since he is Shomer Shabbat. His mother, Marianna Salz, said some schools are not always aware that he will not be able to use electronic cards to access dorms.

Ashton Portnoy, a senior at Upper Dublin High School, started researching schools as



▲ Temple University students garden outdoors.

Photo by Susan Becker

him more willing to consider options that were further away.

He ultimately decided to attend Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. Although the school is Catholic, he was impressed by the students at the Hillel, who told him during a Zoom call he joined to learn about campus clubs that the school is inclusive.

"They made it super inviting to come hang out with them at Hillel and just be with other Jewish kids, and that sounded great," he said.

Although he acknowledges the pandemic has made everything strange, he is looking forward to making friends, attending sports games and participating in normal college life. ●

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**HEADLINES**

**NEWSBRIEFS**

**Germany Won't Prosecute 95-year-old Deported  
Concentration Camp Guard**

**GERMAN PROSECUTORS SAID** they won't prosecute a 95-year-old concentration camp guard deported from the United States in February because they had insufficient evidence against him, JTA reported.

All charges were dropped against Friedrich Karl Berger, who was deported after a U.S. Immigration judge determined that he served at a subcamp of the Neuengamme concentration camp system near Hamburg, Germany.

Berger admitted to "guarding prisoners in a concentration camp which was not used for the systematic killing of the prisoners," the prosecutors said. This "is not sufficient as such to prove the crime."

Berger arrived in the U.S. in 1959 through Canada, living in Tennessee for many years and receiving a military service pension from Germany.

He was deported under the Holtzman Amendment a 1978 law. It prohibits anyone who participated in Nazi-sponsored persecution from entering or living in the U.S.

**Quebec Court Upholds Workplace Ban on Yarmulkes**

The Quebec Superior Court on April 20 mostly upheld a provincial law banning Jews and other religious minorities who work in public from wearing religious symbols such as yarmulkes in the workplace, JTA reported.

The court said that Bill 21 — known as the "secularism" or "laicity" law — doesn't conflict with Canadian human rights charters. The court did say the controversial law doesn't apply to the English-language school board that brought the case to court.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs said in a statement that it was "deeply disappointed."

"[T]he provisions of Bill 21 ... severely restrict religious freedom and the ability of Jewish Quebecers and other faith-based communities to freely pursue careers in the public sector," the Toronto-based center said.

**Virginia GOP to Allow Shabbat Voting Exemption**

The Virginia Republican Party reversed a previous decision, to allow Jews to vote for a gubernatorial nominee before Shabbat starts, JTA reported.

On April 25, the party's State Central Committee unanimously agreed to allow Orthodox Jews to vote during the day on Friday, May 7, the day before the party's May 8 convention.

Several days earlier, a majority of the same committee voted to accommodate Orthodox Jewish voters and who don't vote on Saturday, but the vote didn't meet the 75% passage threshold.

The Republican Jewish Coalition asked the party to reconsider.

**Majority of House Opposes Conditions on Aid to Israel**

More than 75% of House of Representative members signed a letter opposing conditions on aid to Israel, JTA reported.

The letter to Reps. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, and Kay Granger, R-Texas, the committee's ranking member, was signed by 331 members of the House and was split nearly between Republicans and Democrats.

Pro-Israel lobby AIPAC backed the letter.

"This is a very strong bipartisan statement that full security assistance to Israel — without additional conditions — is in the national security interest of the United States," AIPAC spokesman Marshall Wittmann said. ●

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



## HEADLINES

### ISRAEL BRIEFS

#### Netanyahu Pledges for Israel to End Fossil Fuel Use by 2050

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu announced April 23 at President Joe Biden's virtual climate summit that Israel will stop using fossil fuels by 2050, Haaretz reported.

Netanyahu said the country's short-term goals include closing coal-based power plants by 2025 and, by the end of the decade, having about 30% of the nation's power production come from renewable energy sources, largely solar power.

Activists and environmental groups questioned Netanyahu's sincerity, saying prior pledges were never fulfilled.

Professor Ofira Ayalon of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management said the speech didn't "present a courageous vision capable of propelling not only the Israeli economy but also humanity towards a carbon-free future by exporting innovative technologies in the field of green and clean tech."

Leaders from about 40 countries participated in the two-day summit that began on April 22. The summit is likely to set the ground for the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, slated for November.

#### Israel Buys More Vaccines

Israel made new deals to buy more Pfizer vaccines and added Moderna doses to its arsenal on April 19, just two weeks after Pfizer cut off its vaccine supply over a failure to pay, JTA reported.

Israel, which counts about 9 million residents, bought 18 million more doses from Pfizer and Moderna, The Times of Israel reported.

Although Israel has the world's highest vaccination rate at more than half of all civilians, it needs to make a final push to reach the herd immunity threshold. Experts believe that comes at a vaccination rate of about 70%.

Pfizer previously stopped a shipment of nearly a million doses expected to arrive on April 4. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted that political infighting resulted in delayed payments.

#### Unemployment Drops Sharply in Israel

Israel's unemployment rate fell to 8.9% in the second half of March, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics reports, down markedly from the 9.8% rate in the month's first half, Globes reported.

The reduced unemployed is attributed to the country's economy opening up after vaccine rollouts.

There were 361,000 people unemployed in the second half of March. Those include those temporarily unemployed — such as in the tourism industry — because of the pandemic's lingering effects.

The Bank of Israel recently forecast that the nation's unemployment rate would drop to 7.5% by year's end.

#### Israeli Wrestler Earns Bronze at European Championships

Israeli Mitch Finesilver won a bronze medal on April 21 at the European Wrestling Championships in the 74 kilogram weight class, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The United States-born Finesilver attended Duke University, earning All-American honors, placing fourth at the 2019 NCAA Wrestling Championships and compiling a career record of 95-30. He has a fraternal twin brother, Zach, who wrestled for Duke, too, finishing his career there at 70-49.

In January, Finesilver also won bronze at 74 kilograms at a tournament in Nice, France.

"I have a lot of pride being able to represent Israel on the world's stage," he said after that tournament. "It's amazing to be able to represent my culture and heritage." •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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# Longtime JWV Leader Louis Abramson Dies at 90

OBITUARY

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**LOUIS ABRAMSON**, who served as national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and was active in the organization throughout his life, died at the Horsham Center for Jewish Life in Montgomery County on April 19. He was 90.

M.B. Kanis, commander of Drizin-Weiss Jewish War Veteran Post 215 and Abramson's colleague, said Abramson rose through the ranks of JWV after serving as a sergeant during the Korean War. He became a member of the organization's Department of Pennsylvania, an officer, a post commander, a commander of the Department

of Pennsylvania and eventually the national commander. He was also a post commander after he served his national commander term.

Kanis said Abramson was a peacekeeper among members of JWV, always had a warm smile and was willing to offer guidance and leadership when needed. Members of his post considered him a true friend.

"At any time that I ever spoke to him, he was a mentor," Kanis said.

Abramson grew up in South Philadelphia and attended Benjamin Franklin High School. His wife, Gloria Abramson, said he was inspired to join the armed forces and support veterans as a boy when his friends and family members returned from World War II with tales of serving

their country.

"He was just taken with wanting to do what he could to help the veteran coming back from the service," Gloria Abramson said. "He had this empathy, the support and devotion to the service people that gave us this freedom."

When he graduated high school he joined the National Guard and served in Korea. After he was honorably discharged, he remained part of the National Guard and owned a gas station in addition to his career at JWV.

He was married for 70 years and had three daughters. He and his wife were childhood sweethearts and grew up in South Philadelphia together before living in Mt. Airy for 25



Lou Abramson  
Courtesy of Sandi Foster

See Abramson, Page 19



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# Activist, Former Actor to Run for State House

## LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**JONATHAN D. LOVITZ**, a Democrat and a political activist for LGBTQ causes, announced his candidacy for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on April 19.

Lovitz seeks to represent the 182nd PA House district, an area that encompasses a sizable chunk of Center City. He said that the “constant state of growth” in the area could “teach a lot of lessons” to lawmakers and business communities across Pennsylvania.

“This is personal to me. I’ve got skin in this game because I live here,” Lovitz said. “I pay taxes here, and I want to see this part of the city succeed, because this is such a beacon and role model to the rest of the commonwealth about how communities and business can coexist side by side and grow together.”

Democrat Brian Sims has represented the 182nd district since 2013, but he announced in February that he would leave the office to run for lieutenant governor. Sims was the first openly gay legislator at the state level in the history of Pennsylvania.

The race to replace him offers a “historic opportunity,” Lovitz told the Washington Blade.

Lovitz, 36, grew up in the Atlantic City area, and spent his childhood between the Jersey shore and South Florida. Lovitz graduated from the University of Florida in 2006 with a bachelor’s in fine arts in performance, and spent most of the next 10 years in New York City, acting, performing and hosting. He was part of national touring productions of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and “Jesus Christ Superstar,” performed in several MTV productions and did work for



▲ Jonathan D. Lovitz

Photo by Joe Mac Creative

various media and communications companies.

Though it was not yet the basis of his career, political advocacy was already a part of Lovitz’s life.

At Florida, he started organizing on behalf of the John Kerry campaign, and learned more about forming political relationships through his campus Hillel.

In 2010, Lovitz began to work as a vocal, visible advocate on behalf of the LGBTQ community. He addressed crowds and led workshops related to LGBTQ community issues for major national organizations like The Trevor Project and GLAAD and, within a few years, Lovitz was leading StartOut, a nonprofit that sought to provide opportunity to LGBT entrepreneurs. Lovitz’s skills as a communicator did not go unnoticed, and he was soon on board with both the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce New York and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

“I learned what I stand for early, and I love that this journey I’m on keeps adding more color to that experience,” Lovitz said. That journey brought Lovitz

lived for the last five years.

“I love the intersection of diversity and scrappiness that is part of every office here,” Lovitz said.

So what does he stand for?

With the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Lovitz worked to expand protections from discrimination and economic opportunity for LGBTQ people across the country, and his vision for the future of Center City takes that sensibility — “pro-economy, pro-equity, pro-solutions,” his campaign announcement read — and aims to move the ball forward.

Lovitz promises to promote funding for the arts in Harrisburg, and to continue to support gun violence prevention through legislation. He cites Ed Rendell, Attorney

General Josh Shapiro and Gov. Tom Wolf as models for him politically and temperamentally, citing their skills as coalition builders as being of special interest to him.

Lovitz said he is committed to the preservation of racially inclusive, strong, democratic institutions; prior to last fall’s elections, he founded PhillyVoting.org, a voter registration and information initiative that registered new voters during that cycle. Bringing more people into the democratic process, especially younger people, will be a key initiative.

“They’re about people and service and engagement,” Lovitz said of his past projects. “I love that.” ●

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# A Visit to Everglades National Park

## TRAVEL

JEFF AND GINNY ORENSTEIN |  
JE FEATURE

*Note: Everglades National Park is open with "modifications in place for COVID-19." Some concession-operated tours and services have modifications in place for public health. Check [nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm](https://nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm) for the latest updates.*



▲ A pelican sits on a piling while a kayak glides by near the visitor center at the Gulf Coast entrance to the park off U.S. 41 at Everglades City.

Photos by Jeff Orenstein

**FLORIDA'S EVERGLADES**, often referred to as the glades or the river of grass, runs about 400 miles, from the Orlando area to Florida Bay, on the state's southern tip. It is a unique ecosystem combining huge wetlands, sawgrass marshes, freshwater sloughs, mangrove swamps, pine rocklands and hardwood hammocks (forests).

Once covering a huge swath of the state, the glades averaged about a depth of 4 to 5 feet of slowly moving water, although there were/are many dry areas naturally occurring within it. Today, vast swaths of it have been drained, dammed and replaced by massive commercial agriculture (mostly sugar) and residential development.

Fortunately, more than a million-and-a-half acres are preserved in Everglades National

Park and even more are preserved at adjacent state and national preserves such as the Big Cypress National Preserve or Florida's Fakahatchee Strand Preserve.

Started in 1934, Everglades National Park is the 10th-largest U.S. national park. Unlike most of them, its three entrances are not connected and are located in different areas of southern Florida. Since no public transportation links them, access by car is the only practical way to see it all.

On the east coast, the main entrance is found at Homestead, between Miami and the Florida Keys, near Florida City along U.S. 1. The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center is located at this entrance, as well as the Royal Palm and

Flamingo areas.

The Flamingo Visitor Center is the southernmost visitor center in Everglades National Park, located about an hour's drive from the park entrance in Homestead.

Closer to greater Miami is the Shark Valley Visitor Center off U.S. 41, the Tamiami Trail that runs down the west coast of the state from Tampa and across to Miami. It is about 25 miles west of Miami and 70 miles east of Naples.

From Florida's west coast, the Gulf Coast Visitor Center at Everglades City is 36 miles east of Naples.

Once you enter a park entrance, your first stop should be at the visitor center for an



▲ Wood storks feed in a pond along a nature trail in the park. Tropical and sub-tropical birds are found in great numbers in the everglades.

opportunity to talk to a ranger, get a map and absorb some idea of what lies around you.

Each center offers a variety of activities and ample opportunities to camp or just observe some interesting plants and wildlife or hike, canoe, kayak, ride on a tour boat and take in the ambiance of this tropical wilderness.

Yes, you should see alligators and/or crocodiles, turtles, exotic birds and other wildlife. Your chances of seeing a Florida black bear, an invasive species like a python or a reclusive panther are remote but not impossible.

## Before You Go:

Be sure to bring sunscreen (at least SPF-30) and insect repellent.

Understand that you are visiting a wilderness environment that is hot, sticky, filled with insects and home to many wild and potentially dangerous critters. If you use common sense, stick to designated areas and obey posted warnings you should be fine.

## Getting There:

The vicinity of the Everglades can be easily reached by highway, air or train. From there, you need to be on an escorted tour or rent a car.

- The closest two major airports are Miami International Airport (MIA) on the east coast and Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW)

## Everglades: Wilderness Surrounded by Jewish Communities

**THE FIRST KNOWN** Jews moved to Pensacola, almost as far away as you can get from the Everglades in Florida, in 1763, though some converted Jews may have been in St. Augustine with Ponce de Leon two centuries earlier.

A few more Jews followed to the northern part of the state over the next few decades, numbering only about a dozen. By 1821, 30-40 Jews lived in north Florida. By 1960, the Jewish population grew to about 175,000, mostly in southeast

Florida and St. Petersburg.

The Florida Everglades and Everglades National Park are not any religion, but since the park is predominantly in south Florida, it is surrounded by Jewish communities on both coasts.

On the west coast, the Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island metropolitan area is about 0.75% Jewish, though the concentration in Naples and environs is somewhat higher. Greater Naples has five Jewish places of worship, including one on Marco Island.

On the east coast, there is a huge Jewish community with a total Jewish population of well over half a million, about 13% of the population, one of the single largest concentration of Jews outside of Israel.

Miami Dade County, adjacent to the national park, has about 113,000 Jews. Broward and Palm Beach counties, respectively, adjacent counties to the north, have even larger Jewish communities, including a large group of retired Jews who have relocated

from the U.S. and Canada.

About 514,000 Jews live in southeast Florida in all. The population of Palm Beach County is 15.8% Jewish. Boca Raton, with a population of about 95,000, has 16 synagogues. A dense network of Jewish houses of worship and community institutions, museums and centers accompanies this dense population.

In addition to a large contingent of retirees who have resettled in South Florida from the northern U.S. and

Canada, the South Florida population is fairly diverse. Miami-Dade has about 9,000 Jewish emigres from Central and South America, and there are significant communities of Holocaust survivors and their offspring and Jews can be found living there from many places worldwide.

For information on the Florida Jewish Heritage Trail, check out [archive.org/details/fljewish00flor/mode/2up?view=theater](https://archive.org/details/fljewish00flor/mode/2up?view=theater). •

— Jeff and Ginny Orenstein



## HEADLINES

at Fort Myers on the west coast. Both offer frequent connections and rental cars.

- By train, Miami is the nearest Amtrak station. It has daily service from New York and points south. Commuter train service is also available from West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.
- By car, Interstate 75 crosses the state north of the park and U.S. 41 runs along its northern border.

### When You Are There for a Short Trip:

- Check out the resources at one of the major visitor centers and explore the surrounding region on foot or tour boat, following the advice of the ranger on duty.
- Take one of the many marked and relatively tame nature walks in the national park or in adjacent state parks.

### If You Only Have Two or Three Days:

#### Must-sees for a short stay:

- Take an airboat or tour boat excursion.
- Hike as many trails as practical at different times of day to see as much wildlife as possible.
- If kayaking or canoeing interests you, explore some of the marked waterways near the visitor centers.

### If You Have Several Days, Enjoy:

- A trip to the Dry Tortugas, near Key West, where you can bird watch, camp on the beach and snorkel the surrounding waters filled with sea life and pristine coral reefs. Key West, the southernmost point in the U.S., lies at the end of U.S. 1.
- Some beach time on the east or west coast or the Keys. Shopping and nightlife in Miami or Naples.
- The resort ambiance of Marco Island or Captiva/Sanibel islands.
- A deep-sea or near shore fishing charter.



▲ The sign along a trail at the Fakahatchee Strand State Park adjacent to the national park sums up the amphibious critter danger well.

### Ginny O's Tips for Dressing the Simply Smart Travel Way.

Dress for the subtropical wilderness environment and the season. Wear sturdy closed-toe hiking shoes and lightweight long sleeves and long pants to help protect you from biting insects. Leave the shorts and flimsy tops back at the resort. When visiting cities, dress varies from ultrachic at Miami Beach's South Beach to resort casual at most places.

### This Destination at a Glance:

**Mobility level:** Moderate. Walking is necessary to see many of the attractions, although some can be seen by tour boat.

**When to Go:** Winter is best since the weather is milder. Summers in the tropics are hot and sticky. Dry season lasts from November to March, and wet season lasts from April to November.

**Where to Stay:** On the west coast, Naples or Fort Myers offer a wide variety of lodging, ranging from primitive camping to ultra luxurious hotel palaces. On the east coast, the greater Miami area has a vast range of amenities.

**Senior Advantage:** Exploration at your own pace with amenities close by.

**Special Travel Interests:** Subtropical flora and fauna, photography. ●

Jeffrey and Virginia Orenstein are travel writers from Sarasota, Florida.

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## Panel

Continued from Page 1

critics of the event charged its panelists and organizers with disrespecting the memory of Murray Friedman, a local Jewish scholar of national repute. The panelists and organizers deny that charge, too.

The event, “The Weaponization of Discourse: Israel/Palestine, Antisemitism, and Free Speech on Campus,” was co-hosted with Temple University’s Feinstein Center for American Jewish History and the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program at Stockton University.

Panelists Joyce Ajlouny, general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, and Kenneth S. Stern, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate at Bard College, discussed the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism for about an hour.

Stern was one of the original drafters of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. In 2004, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, the European Union’s racism and xenophobia monitor, sought guidance from Jewish academics and NGOs in providing an update to the definition of anti-Semitism. Stern and his



▲ Lila Corwin Berman, Kenneth S. Stern and Joyce Ajlouny discuss the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Screenshot by Jesse Bernstein

co-drafters produced this 38-word statement:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Alongside that statement, Stern and the co-drafters provided 11 illustrative examples of anti-Semitic statements. Seven of the 11 mention bias relating to Israel as potentially anti-Semitic in nature.

The IHRA definition, as Stern said again during the April 20 event, was not meant to be given the force of law, but simply to serve as a guide for monitoring purposes.

But since its publication in 2004, governments worldwide have formally adopted the IHRA definition, concerning a wide range of academics and activists, from pro-Palestinian activists to libertarians.

In the U.S. and abroad, Stern said, the worry is that providing the IHRA definition with legal force could, in effect, create a new category of legally prohibited speech, thereby stifling freedom of speech and academic freedom. Stern contends that groups who would find it in their interest to silence speech that criticized Israel could use the newly empowered definition, adopted by the U.S. government via a 2019 executive order, to threaten pro-Palestinian speakers with legal action.

Even as a Zionist who still finds the original definition

useful for understanding anti-Semitism, Stern wrote in a 2019 op-ed for The Guardian, he finds the prospect that it would be used to suppress the speech of anti-Zionists to be fundamentally wrong.

“To establish that as a principle of law is, to me, abhorrent,” Stern said during the panel.

Stern was joined by Ajlouny, born in Ramallah, who has led the AFSC since 2017. The Quaker organization has long championed the cause of the Palestinians, and Ajlouny was director of Ramallah Friends School.

While director, Ajlouny started “Go Palestine,” a summer camp for Palestinian students. The camp, partially funded by USAID, became a target for criticism from U.S. government officials when the programming content was revealed in a 2017 JNS article. Speakers had advocated for the boycott, divestment, sanctions movement, and one speaker, Nassar Ibrahim, was affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Department of State-designated terrorist group.

During the panel, Ajlouny said that she, like Stern, believed that legally codifying the IHRA definition had unfairly privileged a single point of view. But unlike Stern, Ajlouny is a declared anti-Zionist, and said that “constant accusations” of anti-Semitism against Palestinians and their supporters brought to mind “the boy who cried wolf.” Throughout the panel, Ajlouny shared her personal experience of life in Ramallah living “in an apartheid system,” she said. “If I talk about my personal story, I am accused of being an anti-Semite,” Ajlouny said.

Criticism of the event rolled in well in advance.

Moshe Phillips, national director of Herut North America’s U.S. division, wrote in the Jewish Journal that he’d “expect Arab propagandists to spread such lies,” referring to a line in the event description

that mentioned “state violence against Palestinians.”

In another op-ed after the event, Phillips accused Ajlouny of displaying “Phony Martyr Syndrome,” and characterized the event as “90 minutes of Israel-bashing disguised as an academic discussion.”

In addition, Zionist Organization of America National President Morton A. Klein and Center for Law and Justice Director Susan B. Tuchman wrote in an open letter that “there is no doubt that the program will be one-sided and hostile to Israel — and potentially harmful to American Jews.” ZOA Philadelphia Executive Director Steve Feldman said the only room for discussion on the IHRA definition should be “in order to strengthen it, and expand local government, state governments and universities embracing it and adopting it.”

The American Jewish Committee described the event as “strongly biased against Israel and Jews” and took particular issue with the involvement of the Feinstein Center. The center was founded by Murray Friedman, a scholar who led AJC Philadelphia for 43 years.

“Hosting a program that is a blatant attack on Israel and questions the most widely accepted definition of antisemitism is an assault on Murray Friedman’s legacy, and all in our community who have been involved with the Feinstein Center for years,” AJC Philadelphia Director Marcia Bronstein said in a statement. She said that she had requested that another speaker be added to the program, but was rebuffed.

Congregation Rodeph Shalom Senior Rabbi Jill Maderer said that the synagogue received many emails using the same language, describing the Stern and the organizers as self-hating Jews, among other charges.

Stern, Ajlouny, Maderer and Feinstein Center Director Lila Corwin Berman each reported

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their dismay with the criticism.

Stern was particularly dismayed by the AJC's criticism; Stern was the national AJC's expert on anti-Semitism for 25 years. He stressed that there were real points of disagreement between him and Ajlouny on the content of the definition and on other matters relating to Israel, and that the charge that the event would have been objectionable to Murray Friedman was false.

The rancor over this particular event, Stern believes, "is a reflection of exactly the danger" of giving the IHRA definition the force of law, "the idea that you can't even have a discussion about whether a particular definition has a positive or negative impact on combating anti-Semitism."

Ajlouny said she wasn't particularly surprised by the backlash.

"It affirms that the attempt to silence narratives is alive and well," she said.

Academic freedom was also on Berman's mind.

"Academic institutions generally do not respond to external pressure to change the contents of classes or the contents of programs," said Berman, who also holds the Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History.

Rodeph Shalom hosts many educational events related to Israel that represent a wide variety of perspectives, Maderer said; recent speakers have included Asaf Romirowsky, a fellow at the Middle East Forum, and Israel Defense Forces veterans who are a part of Breaking the Silence. Such speakers always attract controversy, she said.

"If the only ideas I brought in about Israel excluded any tough truths about the territories, let's say, then I would be missing out on the next generation of the Jewish community," Maderer said. •

jbernstein@jewishexponent.com;  
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## Reunite

Continued from Page 1

"I just got so interested in it that, as my kids said, I went down the rabbit hole," she said.

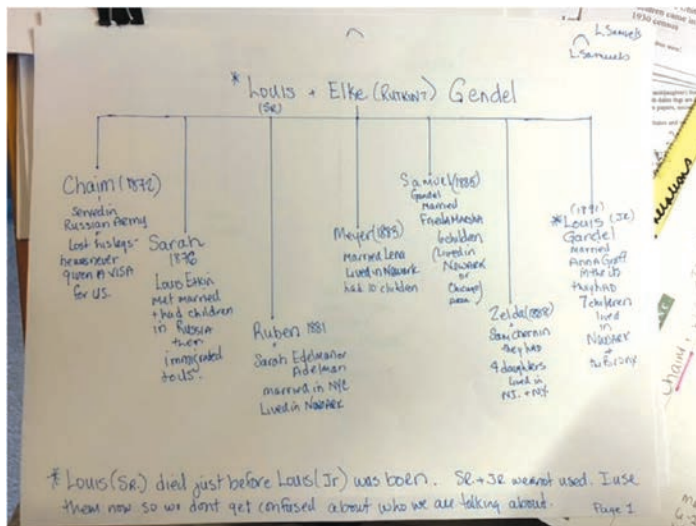
She knew her mother came from a large immigrant family whose members lived nearby, but her father's side was more mysterious. He never spoke much about his family, and his parents died before she was born. In January, she transferred the results of a 23andMe DNA test she had taken years ago to MyHeritage, another genealogy site for people looking to build their family trees, to learn more.

She saw she had a strong match with a German woman named Larissa Grinblat and her son, Leo Speiser. They shared about as much DNA as Samuels did with her known first cousins.

Intrigued, she reached out to them. Speiser spoke English and connected her with Grinblat. The latter was on the site looking for information about Morris Gandel, a name Samuels didn't recognize. Grinblat sent her an old family photograph showing a man with two leg amputations, his wife and their five children, one of whom was the man she was tracing. They had lived in Mogilev, Belarus.

While corresponding with Grinblat and Speiser, Samuels used her test results and interviews with known family members to track down other paternal family members she had never met. She created a Facebook group for them to communicate and added Grinblat, even though they weren't sure how they were related.

As the members compared notes and family stories, Samuels and Grinblat learned that the man in the photo with leg amputations was Samuels' grandfather's eldest brother, Chaim Gandel. A family member said he was a soldier who served in the



▲ A Gandel family tree

Russo-Japanese War near the turn of the 20th century, and sustained his injuries during his service.

All of Chaim Gandel's siblings, including Samuels' grandfather Louis Gandel, immigrated to the United States, but he was unable to secure a visa. Of his five children, four immigrated to the U.S. Only the youngest, Lazar Gandel, stayed behind. He was Grinblat's grandfather.

The two women finally understood how they were related — Samuels' grandfather Louis Gandel and Grinblat's great-grandfather Chaim Gandel were brothers.

Grinblat was still searching for answers about her great-uncle Morris Gandel. Her grandfather had told her stories about his older brother sending letters, photographs, money and packages of items from the U.S. that the family sold for food.

In an email, Grinblat said the correspondence continued even through the horrors of World War II, when the Russian government moved the family to a safer location because of Chaim Gandel's service as a veteran. Later, Mogilev would be occupied by the Nazis and Jews would be crowded into ghettos and killed in mass executions.

Grinblat said Lazar Gandel also fought at Stalingrad, where he was seriously wounded, and

left her grandmother to care for the family. The clothing and money from Morris Gandel were a lifeline.

"My mother told me that during the war there was hunger and cold," she wrote. "It was so cold in the apartment

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# An Election on a Jewish Holiday: A Challenge to Overcome



BY ARIELLE FRANKSTON-MORRIS

**WHEN I LEARNED** that the Pennsylvania Primary Election would be held on May 18, I was frustrated.

A quick glance at a calendar won't sound alarms for the vast majority of Pennsylvanians. That's because many calendars miss the Jewish holiday of Shavuot.

For Orthodox and traditionally Sabbath observant Jews like myself, May 18, the second day of Shavuot, means

no writing, no driving or taking buses, no working. And that means no travel to the polls. No careful darkening of ovals with blue or black ink. Instead, thousands of Pennsylvanians will be swaying in holiday prayer, enjoying festive meals with family and celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

The calendar clash was actually brought to my attention by a synagogue rabbi many months back. With a most admirable commitment to voting and civic engagement, he was distressed. I have worked with this rabbi on fruitful advocacy activities and get out the vote campaigns and he was entitled to his disappointment and subsequent musings: How do we feel about the selection of this date? And the operative question, what do we do?

My years working as the executive director of Teach PA prepared me for this. Teach PA organizes Jewish day schools and their communities, advocating for resources and programs so these schools can be safe, affordable and good quality.

Preserving Jewish communities and Jewish heritage through education underlies our mission. We work to strengthen our voice and then exercise it, by voting and engaging our legislators.

As a nonpartisan organization, we educate our constituent communities across the commonwealth about registering with whatever party they'd like and voting however they'd like ... but to *register and vote*. Stop kvetching, start voting, we scream from carpool lines and on robocalls!

But what happens when

barriers exist, making exercising your voice harder?

We educate.

We are lucky in Pennsylvania to have a safe and efficient way to make your voice heard when you can't get to the polls. All Pennsylvanians can vote by mail and your vote will count.

So, is an election on a Jewish holiday, when many cannot go to the polls, frustrating?

Yes, it is. But we're up for this challenge: The challenge to get our friends and family and school and synagogue communities to take these extra steps: Go online, request a mail-in ballot and when you receive it, vote safely and efficiently from your own home.

Or if you savor the in-person voting experience, go to your county elections office before Election Day, request your mail-in ballot in person, and fill in those ovals with blue or black ink right there on

the spot.

We'll work in the future to reduce conflict between religious practice and voting in-person. A safe polling place voting experience is treasured by so many individuals and families and is an incredible way to model voter responsibility and excitement.

With strong voter engagement, more Pennsylvanians have a voice. We must take this opportunity to show, that despite challenge, we are up to the task. A calendar might miss our holiday, but there's too much at stake to miss this election.

Request your mail-in ballot at [pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin](http://pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin) •

Arielle Frankston-Morris is the executive director of Teach PA. For more information, visit [teachcoalition.org/pa](http://teachcoalition.org/pa).

# House Bill on Israel Is Flawed, But Our Jewish Civil War Is Worse



BY YEHUDA KURTZER

**IN THE PARTISAN** change-over that resulted from the 2020 U.S. elections, there were bound to be some tests and challenges for those of us who identify within the broad spectrum of "pro-Israel." The first is now upon us: a proposed bill emerging in the House of Representatives that places a

set of limitations on how U.S. aid to Israel is used.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), and endorsed by a growing number of progressives, would prohibit American dollars from being used for actions by Israel that involve the detaining of Palestinian children, the appropriation or destruction of Palestinian property, the forcible removal of Palestinians or toward unilateral annexation. The measure would put in place a new level of oversight.

There is reason for the pro-Israel world to be concerned about this legislation. The bill's principal authors and its first sponsors are lawmakers with a track record of outspoken criticism of the state of Israel

that at times has trafficked in anti-Semitism. Some of us who identify as progressive Zionists would support a good-faith attempt to criticize Israeli policy while genuinely supporting its security. This bill does not strike that balance.

Moreover, the bill takes some of the most extreme and egregious moral failures of the occupation — the detention of minors, for instance — and makes them emblematic of Israeli policy rather than exceptional.

In this context, some Israel advocates fear that even a bill with limited scope and no chance of passing represents a slippery slope — namely toward conditioning U.S. aid to Israel, as some lawmakers are proposing, or even eventually cutting the

aid entirely. Israeli government policy has been shifting rightward, and American political attitudes are changing. The consensus bipartisan support that Israel enjoyed for two generations is eroding. If Congress is willing to question the historically sacrosanct commitment to Israeli military aid based on the question of home demolitions, will this pave the way toward more grievous sanctioning?

Meantime, on the other side of the aisle, some progressives view these legislative efforts as the only available lever. Frustrated with Israeli policy, and believing that the status quo entrenches unsustainable injustices, they are grasping at an obvious tool — even if this change in policy challenges a

deeply held orthodoxy.

Now some of this divide — AIPAC opposes, J Street supports — is just reflective of partisan instincts. Some of it is just good old politics, using legislation that is not likely to pass in order to plant a flag. Besides, the Jewish community likes a good public fight, especially as it relates to Israel. Our controversies are witnesses to our values.

But beyond the political theater, two separate issues about the future of support for Israel are being conflated. The first is the importance of this particular legislation and the "red line" it appears to cross, and the second is whether or not we can brook legitimate dissent on Israeli policy within the framework of our community. Unfortunately

See Kurtzer, Page 22



# For LGBTQ+, Don't Let Politics, Religion Mix



BY AVITAL KESSLER-GODIN

**CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM** has always been a big part of my life. I grew up in an observant, tight-knit and active Conservative Jewish community that has, for as long as I can remember, been committed to social justice and the belief that everyone is equal.

Studies have shown that of the different religious groups in the United States, Jews have some of the highest levels of support for non-discrimination laws for LGBTQ+ people, and that we must continue to modernize our laws. We have found a way to adapt and create change for the betterment of society and for the sake of each individual.

In 2006, the Conservative movement produced two contradictory opinions on LGBTQ+ relationships and roles in Jewish practices; one that would allow rabbis and cantor who are gay and lesbian to be ordained and accept commitment ceremonies, and one that rejected gay relationships. Ultimately, the movement left it to individual Conservative rabbis to choose which opinion to adopt. Now, gay marriage is widely accepted in Conservative communities.

No one likes excuses, especially when they come from elected officials who have an obligation to ensure that everyone is treated equally

under the law.

There is no more time to waste. Years ago was the time to pass a bill such as the Equality Act, which ensures equal protection under the law for all LGBTQ+ people in all 50 states. Yet, in 2021, the fate of the bill is in the hands of an evenly split Senate between Democrats and Republicans. The Equality Act would bar discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in issues regarding housing, loans, access to public accommodations and more at the federal level. With majority support in every state, senators have an obligation to their constituents to fairly represent them and advocate for their needs — including Sen. Pat Toomey.

Seventy-one percent of white Catholics are in favor of LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination protections, according to a study done by the Public Religion Research Institute, which aligns with the overall increase in support for LGBTQ+ rights. Over the years there has been an increasing amount of support for LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections, with at least 68% of the Pennsylvania population in support as well, but not enough concrete change to reflect that.

This Congress has the power to change that. After the House voted in late February to pass the legislation with bipartisan support, 224 to 206, all eyes are on the Senate to pass this necessary legislation that will ensure equality and a better future for all. While the legislative responsibilities fall onto the Senate, the Jewish people must continue to actively advocate for and support nondiscrimination protections for all LGBTQ+ people. To be a proponent of the Equality Act and other nondiscrimination

legislation is at the root of Jewish values.

When it feels as if I have little to no control over the outcome of legislative pieces, I think back to the months leading up to the 2020 presidential election, and the Senate special election in Georgia, and all of the phone calls that people made to get people registered to vote, to get people to take action. Call your senators. Urge them to end the filibuster so that the Equality Act can be passed. If enough people called Toomey to express their support for this crucial piece of legislation, and implore him to join them, his vote could be influenced.

The LGBTQ+ community and its allies are counting on Toomey to be an advocate for all of the people of Pennsylvania. This is his chance to make a lasting difference in our society, one that will benefit millions of people across the country for years to come.

This change will not happen if we continue to let our religious differences come between us and a more just future. I am not asking you to completely change your religious beliefs; I am asking that you take the time to think about your values guided by your religion, to think about how old those laws or commandments are and if they can be adapted to our modern society, and to think about the differences between religion, politics and equal rights. Those are three separate things and should not be confused for each other.

Supporting the Equality Act aligns with my religious beliefs and values that my family and community fostered in me. I hope it does for you, too. •

Avital Kessler-Godin is a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey.

## KVETCH 'N' KVELL

### Arkoosh Should Not Have Been Featured

**REGARDING JESSE BERNSTEIN'S** April 22 article, "Val Arkoosh Joins Crowded Race for Senate Seat," I am baffled as to why the (well-written) article appeared in the Jewish Exponent.

Although I know and like Val, there is nothing in the article, or even about Val herself (she is not Jewish), that makes the article appropriate for the Jewish Exponent, a newspaper directed to and about Jews, matters Jewish and the Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey Jewish community in particular.

If I want news believed to be generally of interest to residents of Philadelphia and its suburban communities, I can read the Inquirer or my local paper.

William R. Wanger | Gwynedd Valley

*Editor's Note: Mr. Wanger's criticism is correct. It came to our attention recently that Dr. Arkoosh is not Jewish. We regret the error.*

### Candidates Must Stand Up to GOP

Since he defeated Arlen Specter in 2004, Sen. Pat Toomey has misrepresented Pennsylvania and the Jewish community. While Everett Stern ("Whistleblower Prepares for GOP Senate Run," April 1) benefits from the fact that the troglodytes in Harrisburg reject him, his sympathy with the Republican Party should preclude against our endorsement, despite his personal rejection of Donald Trump.

We need to know if Stern would continue the phony reform precedents that Toomey has set, and to know that there will be policy differences between Toomey and a Sen. Stern. Toomey fooled thousands with his nominal endorsement of "gun control" — while reducing funds for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' national criminal and violent threat database, which would make instant screening for gun purchases possible. Toomey has also refused to endorse reintroduction of an assault weapons ban.

Where would Stern stand? Would he support President Joe Biden's infrastructure reality check, or would he continue his Republican colleagues' support for potholes on Roosevelt Boulevard? Will he continue Toomey's support for district gerrymandering throughout the commonwealth, and continue to support Republican voter suppression programs nationwide in the name of fraud protection, for whose evidence has never been found?

Are there no Democrats running for Senate whom the Exponent can find worth mentioning? •

Ben Burrows | Elkins Park

### STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

We are a diverse community. The views expressed in the signed opinion columns and letters to the editor published in the Jewish Exponent are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers and boards of the Jewish Publishing Group, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia or the Jewish Exponent. Send letters to [letters@jewishexponent.com](mailto:letters@jewishexponent.com) or fax to 215-569-3389. Letters should be a maximum of 200 words and may be edited for clarity and brevity. **Unsigned letters will not be published.**



# The Sides Have It

## FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

I HAVE PLAYED around with vegetables of late. And as spring finds its stride and we turn to lighter fare and simply grilled proteins, jazzed-up veggies can take center stage.

I also find that a couple of these can be presented as a full meal without the protein, especially as a grain bowl concept: Offer a plate of your favorite grain — farro, barley, brown rice, couscous, etc. — and use these veggies to top them for a delicious, flavorful and healthy meal.

### CURRY-ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

Serves 4

My friend served these at a

recent dinner to rave reviews; there was not a morsel left in the bowl when the meal ended. She swears by Patak's brand curry paste for authentic Indian cooking. It is available in many area grocery stores in the Asian food section.

- 1 large head cauliflower, cut in uniform florets
- ¼ cup plain yogurt
- 1 heaping teaspoon tikka masala curry paste
- 2 teaspoons minced ginger
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Red pepper flakes to taste

Heat your oven to 350 degrees F. In a large zipseal bag, place all the ingredients except the cauliflower, and squish it around to blend. Add the cauliflower and shake the



▲ Slaw with green olives and capers

Photo by Keri White

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bag to thoroughly coat it. Leave it to marinate for a few minutes or a few hours. The result will be good no matter how long.

Dump the florets onto a parchment- or foil-lined baking sheet, and roast them in the upper rack of the oven for an hour. Remove them from the oven and serve hot or at room temperature.

### SLAW WITH GREEN OLIVES AND CAPERS

Serves 6

This recipe was inspired by a dish I had on a visit to Charleston, South Carolina. We had the good fortune to dine at a restaurant called Melfi's, and the grilled branzino was accompanied by a fennel-green olive slaw. I am normally not a huge fan of fennel, but the green olives delivered sufficient counter-flavor and I really enjoyed the salad.

Upon returning home, I was greeted by some green and red cabbage that I had left in the fridge, and thought, "Hmmm, this could work!" It did.

A few notes: The different colored cabbage made for an attractive dish, but if you don't have both, one is fine. When I first served this, I did not add the mayo (or sour cream/yogurt substitute option), and it was pretty good, so if you are cutting fats or dairy, you can omit these.

But the next night, when I pulled this out of the fridge for an additional side, it seemed to want a little more body so I added mayo. It rounded out the flavor and balanced the acidity well, but it was also fine without. Cook's choice.

- 1 medium-sized head of cabbage (or ½ half green and ½ red cabbage), shredded

- 1 small onion minced finely
- 1 carrot, grated
- ¾ cup pitted green olives, coarsely chopped, with about 2 tablespoons juice
- ¼ cup capers, coarsely chopped, with about 2 teaspoons juice
- 2-3 tablespoons white vinegar
- ¼ cup mayonnaise, sour cream or plain yogurt
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl and toss well. Allow it to rest for a few minutes or a few days. The flavors will deepen and the cabbage will soften the longer you give the dish to sit.

### PAPRIKA-ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH

Serves 4

The smoky flavor of pimenton





▲ Curry-roasted cauliflower

Photo by Keri White



▲ Roasted butternut squash

bhofack2 / iStock / Getty Images Plus

(Spanish smoked paprika) adds a wonderful depth and complexity to vegetables. It is often associated with meats, but I heartily recommend giving it a whirl with squash or, really, any roasted vegetable. This is wonderful leftover and tossed in a salad the next day.

1 large butternut squash,

peeled, seeded and cut into bite-sized pieces.

2 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil

1 teaspoon salt

1-2 teaspoons pimento

Place all the ingredients in a large bowl or zipseal bag and toss to coat thoroughly. Allow it to sit for a few minutes or a

few hours.

One hour before serving, heat your oven to 350 degrees F and dump the squash onto a parchment-lined baking tray. Bake for one hour, until the squash is softened and cooked through and lightly brown at the edges. Serve warm or at room temperature. ●

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**JEWISH  
EXPONENT**



# Jews of Philly Fashion: Kimby Kimmel and Amy Fink

## PHILLY FASHION

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

*It's the newest edition of Jews of Philly Fashion, introducing you to the Chosen few who dress our city. They might mix wool and linen, but they've got some strong opinions on mixing stripes with florals. In this space, we'll talk to designers, sellers, buyers, influencers, models and more. This week, we spoke to Kimby Kimmel and Amy Fink.*

**AMY FINK AND** Kimby Kimmel share quite a bit. They both graduated from the former Akiba Hebrew Academy in 1988, both send their children to the now-Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy today and both found themselves looking for something new during the pandemic.

When it seemed like nothing would ever be the same, the longtime friends looked to each other for support and inspiration.

What came out was Ilyan Jewelry, Kimmel and Fink's private jewelry company (the name is pronounced "a-lion"). As they don't have

a storefront, customers can view the jewelry by appointment only, and they participate in trunk shows and private charity events. Fink studied gemology at the Gemological Institute of America; Kimmel learned about custom jewelry design from her mother, Nancy Hankin Schwartzman, and co-owned a stationery and invitations business for 20 years.

Fink and Kimmel, friends since they were 14, spoke about inspiration, their favorite pieces of their own and TikTok.

### What's the last book you read?

KK: "To Kill a Mocking Girl: A Bookbinding Mystery" by Harper Kincaid. The author is a good friend and roommate of mine from the University of Miami.

AF: The last book I read was "Mrs. Everything" by Jenifer Weiner. I love all her books.

### What clothing trend would you like to see make a comeback?

KK: I would love to see scarves make a comeback. There's nothing like a colorful Hermès scarf worn with a



▲ From left: Kimby Kimmel and Amy Fink

Courtesy of Kimby Kimmel and Amy Fink

blazer or thrown over a white T-shirt and jeans.

### Best piece of jewelry you own?

KK: It's not necessarily the best piece that I own, but definitely a favorite and meaningful piece: my emerald-cut blue topaz and gold ring that my mother made for me for my bat mitzvah.

AF: The best piece of jewelry I own are my Cartier tri-color trinity rolling bangles. My aunt gave them to me at my big birthday. They were given to her by my uncle on

her big birthday many years ago and I have always loved them. They go with everything.

### What's the best quality in a friend?

KK: The best quality in a friend is someone that is honest and there for you through the good and the bad. Amy and I have been friends since ninth grade at Akiba Hebrew Academy and I can definitely say that she is that kind of friend. There's a lot of history there and so much more to be made.

### What would you be doing if you weren't in the jewelry business?

KK: If I weren't in the jewelry business I would just continue to live my best life surrounded by people I love.

### What item of clothing should more people be wearing?

KK: Loafers. They're the perfect shoe to dress an outfit up or down.

### What person's style do you admire?

AF: I love Sarah Jessica Parker. She is so talented and creative in her style. She is extremely fashion forward, but always has a classic and elegant flair.

### What talent would you most like to have?

KK: I would love to be able to paint or learn how to do graffiti art.

AF: Anyone who knows me knows that I am a terrible dancer. I have no coordination and wish I did. My daughter is obsessed with TikTok and always asks me to make them with her, but I feel too self-conscious. •

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# L'Chaim: A Reminder to Live, Celebrate

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BY RABBI GLENN ETTMAN

## Parshat Emor

**PSALM 90 CONCLUDES** by saying: “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” It is to this text that we begin to consider a deeper meaning of this week’s Torah portion, Emor.

The end of Psalm 90 is reminding us that time management is not simply a productivity tool. It is, in fact, a spiritual exercise. Shabbat is our weekly reminder to take a moment to pause, reflect and set our sights on the bigger aspirations we have in life. Shabbat inspires us to consider the deeper implications of what life itself can be. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel encourages us to make Shabbat a palace in time by making our moments holy, special, distinct and sacred.

Each week, when I reflect on Shabbat, I encourage my community to look at the

hopefulness that we can feel and see in our lives. Each week, certainly for the past year, I encourage everyone to not despair and to find the courage to move forward even when we feel blue or stuck or out-of-sorts. This week is no different.

But this week I want to challenge us to take our spiritual exercise further. Shabbat not only inspires us to come together in whatever way we can, but Shabbat obligates us to attune our hearts and souls toward the peace and solace we seek.

In the Torah, this week, we read from Parshat Emor. Within this section, we find descriptions of holidays and how to celebrate them. I find that one of the most significant teachings from this portion is how we make the time special and sacred.

We are taught that certain holidays are supposed to be *zman simchateinu* — seasons of our joy. No matter what or

how we feel or what place we are in mentally or spiritually, we must find ways to celebrate time and time together.

In an interview in 1972, which turned out to be his last public statement, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was asked a question that yielded an answer that can help us prepare for Shabbat. At the twilight of his life, reflecting on the impact he had on the world through his campaigns of social justice as well as Jewish philosophy, he was asked: “What would you tell young people?”

This was his answer: “Remember that there is meaning beyond absurdity, that every little deed counts, that every word has power and that we can, everyone, do our share to redeem the world despite all the absurdities, frustrations and disappointments. Remember that life is a celebration.”

Even as we look at the landscape of the world and

our lives and find challenges in front of us, we must always remember that every little deed counts, and every moment is one when we can try to make a *zman simchateinu*. We must remember that every word not only has power, as Heschel teaches, but is significant because it helps us learn, grown, communicate, create community and ultimately come together in some way.

One of Judaism’s greatest gifts to the world is the sense of optimism no matter what. There is no question in my mind that the reason why when we raise a glass to make a toast we say the words *l’chaim* — to life — is because it is through life and living that lives are touched.

And it is through life and living that worlds are created and peace is pursued. We must remember that life is a celebration — of all the messy, beautiful, heart-filled and hopeful things we can find.

And so my prayer for each of us is this: May we find a heart of wisdom. May we be inspired by the words and deeds around us to do more and to fight, strive, and work to make the world a safer and better place for our children. And may we be inspired to find our life celebrations — even if it is just raising a glass and toasting *l’chaim*. When we remind ourselves to live, we will. •

Rabbi Glenn Ettman is the rabbi at Congregation Or Ami in Lafayette Hill and also serves as the chaplain of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department. 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.



## Abramson

Continued from Page 8

years and then in Warminster for 42 years. They celebrated the 75th anniversary of their first date in early April.

Gloria Abramson said much of her husband’s work involved advocating for the families of service members. Later in his life, most of his projects centered around helping families of deceased veterans understand the benefits to which they were entitled.

During his time as national commander, he traveled across the country and to Europe to advocate for veterans with his wife and brother, Allan Abramson, who was his chief of staff. He laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with President George

W. Bush, and was invited to attend the president’s inauguration and inaugural ball.

“I remember him calling me and saying, ‘We’re going Tuesday morning to have

to him. He was president of Congregation Tiferes B’nai Israel, where he received the Man of the Year award. He was active in his posts’ Holocaust education programs and

a grandfather of 14, counting spouses of grandchildren, and a great-grandfather of 10. He was preceded in death by his eldest daughter, Brenda Fineberg, and son-in-law Rick Ryan.

by my side, and he never went home. He just slept on a chair in the room where I was,” she said.

At the end of his life, Louis Abramson lived at Horsham Center for Jewish Life in a room close to his wife. Even during the pandemic, they were able to watch TV and eat meals together. She said he died peacefully in his sleep after contracting pneumonia and experiencing organ failure.

His funeral, which was held at King David Memorial Park in Bensalem on April 22, drew more than 250 mourners on Zoom.

“They kept referring to him as a *mensch*,” Gloria Abramson said. •

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“I remember him calling me and saying, ‘We’re going Tuesday morning to have breakfast with the president.’”

GLORIA ABRAMSON

breakfast with the president,” Gloria Abramson said.

In addition to his positions at JWV, Lou Abramson was a member of the American Legion Post 166 and AMVETS Post 77.

Religion and the Jewish community were important

regularly visited churches and community centers to speak about the topic alongside concentration camp liberators and survivors.

His relatives remember him as a dedicated family patriarch. Gloria Abramson said he was

Gloria Abramson said her husband was by her side when she had an amputation in 2015. Although she recovered from the procedure, it took a toll on both of them.

“There was a time when it was not good, and he was there





The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mobilizes financial and volunteer resources to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, in Israel and around the world.

# Latet Aid for Life Program Supports Impoverished Holocaust Survivors in Israel

**"SOMEBODY HAS TO HELP** the Holocaust survivors in their last days," said Dov Yakubovitch z"l, a survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp. "If there are people who care about them, the smallest gesture can help. It warms my heart to know someone cares."

Sadly, Yakubovitch passed away earlier this year. He is one of approximately 40 Holocaust survivors to die every day in Israel. Despite living in poverty, losing his wife and going blind, Yakubovitch did know the care that he wished for other survivors. As a client of Latet's Aid For Life program, Yakubovitch received support, community and essential items.

Funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Latet is the largest nongovernmental organization combating poverty and food insecurity in Israel. Acting as an umbrella organization for 180 local associations, Latet operates the leading national food bank and runs holistic aid programs for thousands of people in need.

In 2007, Latet introduced the Aid for Life program to specifically address the needs of Holocaust survivors. The initiative provides a wide array of services, including food, dental, eyeglasses, hearing aids, diapers, home repairs and volunteer companionship.

For Gabrielle Pittiglio, Latet's international resource development director, Aid for Life is meant to be a "family" for survivors who are in desperate need of help.

After the Holocaust, droves of survivors came to the Holy Land to find refuge as Jews. Now, many are living out their old age alone and in poverty. According to the Knesset, around 170,000 to 180,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel. Of that number, approximately 45,000 survivors lack the means to live with dignity.

In all, the local Jewish Federation serves about 15,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel through its various supported programs, such as Latet's Aid for Life.

Pittiglio calls the high poverty rate among Holocaust survivors a "scandal."

"They're elderly people, and we have a moral duty towards them," explained Pittiglio, whose own grandmother survived the Holocaust in France. "They went through the Shoah, they built the country with their bare hands and, today, one-quarter of them live in poverty."

David Wagner, 94, is one of many survivors who built the "country with their bare hands," but is now impoverished and relies on Aid for Life.

After surviving the death marches in Ukraine, Wagner moved to Israel and fought with the First Artillery Corps of the Israel Defense Forces, fighting in three wars: the War of Independence, the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. As a commander of his unit, Wagner saved 18 of his soldiers' lives during the Yom Kippur War. Following the army, Wagner "worked hard and earned [his] money honestly."

"There is not one job I didn't do in Israel. Agriculture, carpentry, fishing," Wagner said.

But it wasn't enough. Wagner struggles financially, living off his social security stipend and the little he receives as a Holocaust survivor.

"I fought for this country and didn't receive anything in return," Wagner said.

More important than the tangible assistance Wagner receives from Aid for Life, he appreciates how the program makes him feel less alone.

"Latet doesn't give me just a box of food. The girl who's bringing the box isn't leaving right away," Wagner said. "She sits with me, we talk, we're friends."

Each Holocaust survivor is paired with a dedicated volunteer who visits them on a regular basis. Volunteers are screened and selected on their level of commitment, reliability and aptitude to connect with older populations, particularly those who have faced insurmountable trauma.



▲ A volunteer brings food and companionship to a Holocaust survivor through Latet's Aid for Life program. Courtesy of Latet

"Everywhere in the world, the No. 1 problem with elderly people is loneliness. It has an effect on psychological health and even on their physical health," said Pittiglio of Latet, which means "to give" in English. "A lot of them are living alone in their houses and they have no contact with the outside world, so it's important for us to alleviate their loneliness."

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated isolation among aging populations. In addressing this need while maintaining safety practices, Aid for Life volunteers increased their contact efforts through phone calls. Some have even had conversations through closed doors as a safe alternative to speak with survivors.

Typically, Aid for Life serves around 1,000 Holocaust survivors. Within the first three months of the pandemic, that number rose to 3,300. This is in addition to the 15,000 elderly people who are not Holocaust survivors that Latet serves.

On top of annual funding, the Jewish Federation proudly gave Latet multiple rounds of emergency funds to meet the growing needs of its clients during the pandemic. The Jewish Federation also allowed Latet to allocate its overall funds to areas that needed the most support — such as the Aid For Life program.

"It was incredible to have that trust and to be able to use the funds where they were needed most," said Pittiglio, noting that the Jewish Federation is one of Latet's main and oldest relationships. "That trust is the best you can ask for from a partner."



## ENGAGEMENT

### ► GRANT-SCHLESINGER

Deborah and Lawrence Grant of Newtown and Ellen Murphy of New City, New York, and Howard Schlesinger of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, announce the engagement of their children, Rachel Shelbi Grant and Jeffrey Louis Schlesinger.

Rachel is a graduate of George Washington University and The Wharton School of Business. She works as a human resources director at Comcast. Jeffrey is a graduate of Ithaca College and works as a commercial project manager at PCI Pharma Services.

Rachel is the granddaughter of Phyllis Grant, the late Seymour Grant and the late Ruth and Harold Gittlen. Jeffrey is the grandson of David Berman, the late Barbara Berman, the late Rhoda Berman, Edythe Schlesinger and the late Marvin Schlesinger.



Photo by The More We See



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### **Jewish Groups Condemn State Sen. Cris Dush For Second Time in a Year**

Several Jewish organizations across Pennsylvania condemned state Sen. Cris Dush on April 23 for using Holocaust analogies when he questioned whether nursing homes were used as “death camps” to reduce the costs of caring for COVID-19 patients.

“Senator Dush clearly has learned nothing,” the statement reads. “His rhetoric has no place in political discourse or debate; these comparisons are offensive and wrong. Repeated misconduct of this nature cannot be righted by after-the-fact apologies and non-apologies.”

“We call on the leadership of the Pennsylvania Senate to take meaningful action to clearly and loudly demonstrate that they reject Senator Dush’s outrageous rhetoric.”

The statement was signed by the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition and eight Jewish Federations from around Pennsylvania.

Dush (R-Jefferson) was criticized a year earlier when he compared Gov. Wolf and his administration to Nazis for a lack of transparency in releasing information on the state’s business waiver process.

State Rep. Jared Solomon met with Dush, who did issue an apology on the House floor several hours later, the next day to convey the impact the analogy had on Jewish Pennsylvanians.

Dush tried to explain to Solomon that it had not

been his intent to evoke Holocaust imagery. He’d only meant to analogize the present transparency concerns to the Nazis’ notorious suppression of information.

### **Challah for Hunger Names New Board Chair, Five Board Members**

Challah for Hunger elected Wendy Rhein as its board chair, along with five other board members.

Rhein comes to Challah for Hunger with more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and fundraising and is chief of staff of World Food Programme USA. There she leads the strategic plan and its implementation and oversees organizational culture, a multi-year growth plan and management of the president’s office.

She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and has spent much of her career in development with large and small organizations. Rhein serves on the boards of the Freedom Network USA and the Alliance to End Hunger, and chairs the Youth Committee and co-chairs the Racial Equity Action Group at Temple Emanuel in Kensington, Maryland.

Challah for Hunger is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit leadership development organization based in Philadelphia. Its mission is to build communities of leaders to take action against hunger, particularly college hunger. It has 90 campus and community chapters across the country.

“By drawing attention to the crisis of food

insecurity with young adults while also training young adults to be the next generation of anti-hunger advocates, Challah is not only addressing immediate needs but also creating the next generation of Jewish leaders,” Rhein said.

The new board members are Amy Zitelman, Janu Mendel, Eden Gobuty, Maurice Baynard and Nathan Shapiro, and the student board representatives are Erica Friedman and Isaac Kravatz.

### **Lisa Scottoline to Speak at FamilyMatters’ ‘Spring Into Summer’ Event**

Bestselling author Lisa Scottoline is slated to speak at the “Spring into Summer” virtual luncheon by FamilyMatters, a JAFCO Support Network, at 10 a.m. on May 26.

In addition, the event will honor Andrew S. Margolis of A Margolis Realty Co.

The event also will feature raffles, a silent auction, shopping opportunities and an update highlighting FamilyMatters’ services in the community.

FamilyMatters provides intensive support to families in times of crisis, and those facing the impact of trauma or challenging life transitions, such as mental health and substance abuse issues, divorce and custody issues, single parenthood, grandparent, or other relative caregivers, and raising children with special needs.

Register for the event at [FamilyMattersNetwork.org/events](http://FamilyMattersNetwork.org/events). •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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# Kurtzer

Continued from Page 14

we give all our attention to the first, even as the second is more important for the future of our relationship with Israel.

Effective Jewish support for Israel depends on some notion of Jewish community. Without it, we are vulnerable on both sides of the political spectrum: The narrower your subcommunity, the less effective it will be in the long run at mobilizing wider support for its position, and the more dependent it becomes on building unwieldy coalitions. If the American-Jewish community is going to remain broadly supportive of Israel, it must maintain within its big tent a wider range of policy positions than are currently tolerated under the banner of “pro-Israel.” This means, in turn, that the organized Jewish community has to open a wider lane than what now exists for political progressives to stay engaged with Israeli policy and for them to express their values.

Many of us who identify as Zionist or pro-Israel believe in the fundamental legitimacy of Palestinian self-determination

and advocating for Palestinian human rights as part and parcel of our commitment to the state of Israel. These dual commitments should find their home in our political discourse. To argue that any gesture toward Palestinian human rights and dignity constitutes a prima facie security risk to Israel — as many in the organized Jewish community do — is horrifying, inaccurate and self-defeating to the objective of building as big and broad a coalition as possible that supports the state of Israel.

When it shuts out progressive values — including, most importantly, a concern for Palestinian human rights — the pro-Israel camp may win the political fights in this generation and lose the entire next generation. More important, we also will be complicit in turning human rights for Palestinians into the inverse of political rights for Jews.

Every time you close down one pathway for dissent on a communal orthodoxy, you need to open another. Dissent over Israeli policy is a legitimate expression of Jewish participation and engagement with Israel. Pro-Israel voices sometimes acknowledge this with platitudes, but more often than

not dismiss political strategies associated with dissent as disloyalty. This is untenable. Not every issue that puts AIPAC on one side and J Street on the other demands a knockdown fight.

Outspoken criticism of Israeli policy will remain a feature of the Jewish and American political conversation. Much of this criticism is becoming more shrill, and the days of bipartisan support are behind us. We are going to be tested with new “slippery slopes.” But when you are on a slippery slope, sometimes the best thing is not to try to reach the top of the mountain, but simply to gain secure footing.

I doubt this legislation will pass, and it should not. American military aid to Israel is vital for the long-term security interests of both countries. But not every disagreement calls for internal war. We need to notice how much we lose when we follow the belligerent instinct indiscriminately. All the wins, over time, may bring about a bigger loss. ●

Yehudah Kurtzer is the president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, editor of the recently-published “The New Jewish Canon” and host of the Identity/Crisis podcast.

## COMMUNITY / deaths

### DEATH NOTICES

#### BECKER

Sona Becker, age 83 passed away on April 21, 2021 in the arms of her loving husband Warren after a year long battle with complications of lung cancer. She was a two decade survivor of CLL. She and Warren had a love story that spanned over 60 years. They fell in love in their home town of Philadelphia where they raised their children. They then moved first to California and then spent their last 25 years living in the state of Nevada. Sona loved arts and crafts, playing the piano, weekly gym workouts, attending the theater and classic music concerts. She and Warren enjoyed a lifetime of traveling the world, visiting exotic locations and learning about the people and their cultural customs and traditions. She especially enjoyed dancing the rumba and many other ballroom and Latin dances she and Warren practiced together. Sona is survived by her husband Warren, her brother Alvin, her three children Cheryl, Brad and Craig and five grandchildren Geoffrey, Zachary, Emily, Amanda and Ethan. Services were held on April 25, 2021 at Mt Sinai at El Camino Memorial Park, San Diego. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to her favorite charity St Jude Children's Research Hospital.



#### BRAUFMAN

Mervin Braufman, age 98, passed away peacefully on April 19, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. Merv was a WWII veteran of the Army Air Corps and started a career selling business forms shortly after the war. He rose to sales manager before starting his own successful business, Key Forms, in 1972. Merv loved work, never found fault in others, and was loved by all. He finally retired at age 90. Merv is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Estelle (nee Shertz), sons Gary, Adam (Sue), and Kirk (Lisa) Braufman, and adoring grandchildren Dustin, Mia, and Sam. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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#### FELDMAN

(\*Corrected\*)

Marc Feldman, of Philadelphia, PA, passed away quietly in his sleep on March 26, 2021 at the age of 69. He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara (née Horwitz) of 49 years. He is also survived by his loving mother, Norma (the late Ralph) Feldman. He was a loving father to Stephanie and Scott and his wife, Linda, and a dear brother to Lisa Krader and her husband Ron and Rand Feldman. At Marc's request a private service was held on March 30, 2021. Contributions in Marc's memory may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation of Philadelphia.

### DEATH NOTICES

#### GREENBAUM

Charles H. Greenbaum, MD, retired Professor of Dermatology, died on April 16, 2021. Although his chief interest was in patient care, Dr. Greenbaum was deeply involved in teaching and organized medicine. He rose to the rank of Clinical Professor of Dermatology at Jefferson Medical College, where he taught for 37 years. At the same time, he was active in the Phila. Dermatological Society, where he served as its President in 1976, and as President of the PA. Academy of Dermatology in 1977, of which he was the founding secretary. He also served on the Bd. of Directors of the Phila. County Medical Society. Continuing medical education was a special interest, and Dr. Greenbaum helped devise and establish the evaluation system of the American Academy of Dermatology, as well serving as the Chairman of the Evaluation Committee. He served as chair of the Advisory Board Council and on other committees of the AAD and was particularly proud of having secured certification for Continuing Medical Education of both his state and city dermatological societies. Born in Phila. on Feb. 22, 1925, to Dr. Sigmund S. Greenbaum and Rae Refowich Greenbaum, he was graduated from Central High School in Jan., 1943, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Trained as a Radar technician, he served in the south Pacific, earning the Good Conduct medal, American and Pacific Theatre ribbons, and the Victory ribbon. After receiving an honorable discharge in May 1946, he attended the University of PA, graduating with a B.A. (Chemistry). He entered Jefferson Medical College, and was graduated in 1954. He interned at Phila. General Hospital, and completed his dermatologic training at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of PA, Graduate Hospital, and the University of PA Hospital. He married Julia Heimowitz in 1955, following his internship and her graduation from Bryn Mawr College. He entered private practice in 1958 and was certified in Dermatology in 1960. Dr. Greenbaum was a Senior Attending Dermatologist at Thomas Jefferson University Hosp., Jeanes Hosp., and Holy Redeemer Hosp. He chaired many committees at Holy Redeemer Hosp., and served on the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee of Holy Redeemer Hospital. Dr. Greenbaum was a Fellow of the Phila. College of Physicians and the American College of Physicians, as well as the American Academy of Dermatology. He was a member of the American Dermatological Association, the Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Medical Association, the PA Medical Society, and the Phila. County Medical Society, as well as the Dermatology Foundation, The Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology, and the Phila. Dermatological Society. He retired in 1994 from practice and teaching, but found deep satisfaction in sharing the worlds of Art, Music, Gardening and Travel with his wife, Julia, until her death in 2007. Dr. Greenbaum is survived by his children, Dr. Steven S. Greenbaum (Bettie W.), Lynne (Dr. Ira Rubinfeld), and Robert D. Greenbaum, Esq. (Sharona C.), his grandchildren, Gillian, Jeremy (Nikko) and Joshua (Julie), and by his beloved companion Connie Gottlieb, his sister, Janet Grossman, and many nieces and nephews and their families. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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DEATH NOTICES



LANDES

Sondra Landes (nee Rossman), April 21, 2021 of Philadelphia, PA. Age 83 after a long illness. Beloved wife of the late Martin Landes, Jr.; sister of Donald (Patricia) Rossman; cherished aunt of Marla (Rich) Milgram, Lisa Adoni, and Adam (Marcelle) Rossman; treasured great-aunt of Lauren, Caroline, Stacie, Alex, Benjamin, and Maxwell. Due to COVID, graveside services were held privately, and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Philadelphia Orchestra ([philorch.org](http://philorch.org)) or the Curtis Institute of Music ([curtis.edu](http://curtis.edu)).  
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JACOBSON

Phyllis Jacobson (nee Stamps), April 19, 2021 of Penn Valley, PA. Beloved wife of the late Joseph Dillinger and the late Leonard Jacobson; loving mother of Deidre (Michael) Sacks and Robin (Alan) Schulman; adoring grandmother of six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Adath Israel ([adathisrael.org](http://adathisrael.org)) or a charity of the donor's choice.  
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LUDWIG

Geraldine Ludwig (Gerry) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 18, 1928 and passed on April 5, 2021. Gerry graduated from Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania in 1946 and attended Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1946, she met the love of her life and best friend, Dr. Lawrence Robert Ludwig (Larry). Gerry and Larry married on December 21, 1947 and had their first daughter, Margaret (Peggy) in 1950 and their second daughter, Helen, in 1954. In 1960, Gerry and family moved from Havertown, Pennsylvania to Blackwood, New Jersey, where her husband opened his own family medical practice. Shortly after, they moved to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and then Haddonfield, New Jersey where Gerry was a real estate agent from 1981 to 1993. Gerry and Larry then fell in love with Sarasota, Florida and retired there in 1993. Gerry enjoyed collecting antiques and spending time with good friends and her loving family. She is survived by her daughters Peggy Ludwig (and husband Michael) and Helen Ludwig, grandchildren Alexandra, Anne, and Adam, nephews Gordon, Skipper, Joseph, and Craig, nieces Margie and Jane, and grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her adored husband of 73 years, Larry, her loving parents Celia Cohen and Herman Fischer, and her beloved siblings Evelyn Lief and Martin Fischer. Her family will always remember her for being outgoing and sincere, and for her fantastic taste in art and fashion. Contributions in memory of Gerry may be sent to the International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation located in Sarasota, Florida.

SERNOFF

Louise Sernoff (nee Lowenthal) on April 21, 2021. Wife of the late Harold Rubinson and the late Nathan Sernoff, mother of Richard (Deborah Holtzman) Rubinson and the late Jill Rubinson; also survived by 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.  
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STEIN

Arlyn Ruth Stein (Fleisher), passed away on April 16, 2021. Wife of Irwin Stein. Mother of Tobey H. (Valeriya) Stein, Matthew M. Stein and David F. (Terri) Stein. Sister of Fred (Elaine) Fleisher. Grandmother of Harry and Eddie Stein. Funeral services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Moore College of Art and Design, [www.moore.edu](http://www.moore.edu)  
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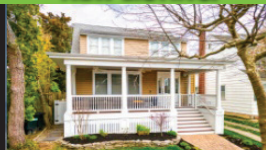
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**Call 215-832-0749**

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LEGAL NOTICES

Nerd Street Gamers, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware, has applied for registration in Pennsylvania under the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Associations Code. The address of its principal office under the laws of the jurisdiction of formation is 614 N. Dupont Hwy, Ste. 210, Dover, DE 19901 and the address of its proposed registered office in this Commonwealth is 908 N. Third St., Philadelphia, PA 12123.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ANNE BEEBIE a/k/a ANNE E. BEEBIE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay to ANDREW BEEBIE and MEGAN BEEBIE, EXECUTORS, c/o Deborah B. Miller, Esq., 650 Sentry Parkway, Ste. One, Blue Bell, PA 19422, Or to their Attorney: DEBORAH B. MILLER STRONG STEVENS MILLER & WYANT PC 650 Sentry Parkway, Ste. One Blue Bell, PA 19422

ESTATE of BLANCHE E. RICE; RICE, BLANCHE E., Deceased Late of Philadelphia, 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 payment without delay, to: Vicki Nelson, c/o Thomas J. Hornak, Esq., Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC, 7716 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19152. Administratrix. Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC 7716 Castor Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19152

ESTATE OF BRENDA J. DERRICKSON, 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 payment without delay to WANDA A. RAGINS and REGINALD DERRICKSON, ADMINISTRATORS, c/o Charles A. Jones, Jr., Esq., P.O. Box 922, Glenside, PA 19038, Or to their Attorney: CHARLES A. JONES, JR. P.O. Box 922 Glenside, PA 19038

ESTATE of Evelyn E. Solomon aka Evelyn Solomon; Solomon, Evelyn E. aka Solomon, Evelyn, Deceased Late of Philadelphia, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay, to: William J. Solomon, c/o David W. Crosson, Esq., Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC, 609 W. Hamilton St., Suite 210, Allentown, PA 18101, Executor. Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC 609 W. Hamilton St. Suite 210 Allentown, PA 18101

ESTATE OF JANINA GABRYSEWSKA, DECEASED Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay to Halina Glowacki, Executrix 3355 E. Thompson Street Philadelphia, PA 19134.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF JAMES HARLON MARTIN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 JORDAN R. SHAPIRO, ADMINISTRATOR, 121 S. Broad St., 20<sup>th</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107, Or to his Attorney: JORDAN R. SHAPIRO SHUBERT GALLAGHER TYLER & MULCAHEY 121 S. Broad St., 20<sup>th</sup> Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE L. GALLO; GALLO, JOSEPHINE L., Deceased Late of Philadelphia, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay, to: Elissa E. Gallo, Executrix, c/o Gail Marcus, Esq., 2 Penn Center Plaza, Suite 1020, 1500 JFK Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Gail Marcus, Esq. 2 Penn Center Plaza Suite 1020 1500 JFK Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF LEEANNA COX PURNELL, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay to ROBERT BERNARD COX, JR., EXECUTOR, c/o Angela D. Giampolo, Esq., 1221 Locust Street, Ste. 202, Philadelphia, PA 19107, Or to his Attorney: ANGELA D. GIAMPOLO GIAMPOLO LAW GROUP, LLC 1221 Locust Street, Ste. 202 Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF LESLIE ANN SHINN, 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 payment without delay to HART WILLIAM JOHNSON, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Roy Yaffe, Esq., One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., 16<sup>th</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042, Or to his Attorney: ROY YAFFE GOULD YAFFE and GOLDEN One Commerce Square 2005 Market St., 16<sup>th</sup> Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042

ESTATE OF MICHAEL DAN GOTTLIEB, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 Kathleen Reilly, Executrix, c/o Mark J. Davis, Esq., 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444; Mark J. Davis, Atty. Connor Elder Law 644 Germantown Pike Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE of Raymond C. Tennyson, Deceased Late of Cheltenham Township, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 payment without delay to Allison Tennyson Ibrahim, Executrix, c/o her attorney: David Neal Rubin, Esq. 1500 JFK Blvd. Ste 1030 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF LILY SHARP a/k/a LILLY SHARP, LILLIAN L. SHARP, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 HOWARD M. SOLOMAN, ADMINISTRATOR, 1760 Market St., Ste. 404, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: Howard M. Solomon 1760 Market St., Ste. 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of Marilyn A. Cheskis Lear, Deceased Late of Bucks County, PA LETTERS TESTIMENTARY 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 decedents to make payment without delay, to: Joel H. Cheskis, Executor 3405 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1410 Or to Attorney: Ronald Jay Smolow, Esq 3 Three Ponds Lane Newtown, PA 18940 (215) 579-1111 Email: Ron@Smolow.com

ESTATE OF RICHARD COPPOLA, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS 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 DOMINICK COPPOLA, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Marybeth O. Lauria, Esq., 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, Or to his Attorney: MARYBETH O. LAURIA THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL S. CONNOR, LLC 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF RODNEY CRAWFORD, 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 payment without delay to EVETTE BRADLEY, ADMINISTRATRIX, 6716 Limekiln Pike, Philadelphia, PA 19138, Or to her Attorney: DAVID V. BOGDAN 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520 Philadelphia, PA 19110

Estate of Suzanne Faith Kovler, Deceased-10/9/2020 Late of Philadelphia.

Take notice that Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to Edward Kovler 11 Monica Drive Holland, PA 18966, who requests 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 Edward Kovler, Administrator, C/O Charles Kovler, Esquire 11 Monica Drive Holland PA 18966.

Charles Kovler, Esquire 11 Monica Drive Holland PA 18966 215-264-4101



ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ROBERT A. KELLY, a/k/a ROBERT KELLY, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 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 WILLIAM J. KELLY, EXECUTOR, 1718 Hampton Dr., Jamison, PA 18929, Or to his Attorney: BARRY F. PENN LAW OFFICES OF BARRY F. PENN, P.C. 30 S. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 810 Duane Morris Plaza Philadelphia, PA 19103

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 10, 2021 for **Garvey painting** at 310 warren rd. Hatboro, PA 19040. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Michael j. Garvey at 310 warren rd. Hatboro, PA 19040. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.



FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 09, 2021 for **Angle Bucy Specialties** at 2133 Deep Creek Rd. Perkiomenville, PA 18074. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Angela Bucy at 2133 Deep Creek Rd. Perkiomenville, PA 18074. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 11, 2021 for **Glambar** at 1337 E Vernon Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19150. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Malika Hemmings at 1337 E Vernon Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19150. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 24, 2021 for **Shirley son** at 1805 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19121. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is James Alexander Payne at 1805 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19121. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

SELL IT IN THE JEWISH EXPONENT 215-832-0749

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 09, 2021 for **K&K Herbal Teas** at 645 Caroline Dr. Norristown, PA 19401. The names and addresses of each individual interested in the business are Kyle C. Phillips located at 645 Caroline Dr. Norristown, PA 19401 and Kelsie Star Akers located at 6455 Hil-Mar Dr. District Heights, MD 20747. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that a Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for **Snapbox Self Storage** with a principal place of business located at 2929 Walnut St., Ste. 1520, Philadelphia PA 19104 in Philadelphia County. The entity interested in this business is Liberty Plaza Self Storage LLC located at 2929 Walnut St. Ste. 1520, Philadelphia PA 19104. This is filed in compliance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 23, 2021 for **Spinning Up Inspiration** at 415 Seminary St. Pennsburg, PA 18073. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Tamara L. Dunn at 415 Seminary St. Pennsburg, PA 18073. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

STATEWIDE ADS

**Miscellaneous:** DISH Network. \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-335-6094  
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**Miscellaneous:** HEARING AIDS!! Buy one/get one FREE! Nearly invisible, fully rechargeable IN-EAR NANO hearing aids priced thousands less than competitors! 45-day trial! Call: 1-877-781-0730  
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# Reunite

Continued from Page 13

that the water in the glass turned to ice. These parcels helped them to survive.”

Grinblat told Samuels that the Gandels in the Soviet Union burned many of the brother’s letters in the late 1930s out of fear that materials from the United States would cause the government to think they were spies.

In 1961, during the Cold War, the letters from Morris Gandel stopped. Hostility between the Soviet Union and the United States intensified, and mail could not travel between the two countries. By the time correspondence resumed, Morris Gandel had moved and the family lost track of his address. They sent letters trying to reach him again, but they were returned unopened.

The connection between the European and American branches of the family was severed until Samuels began researching her DNA test results in 2021.

Speiser tracked down a wedding announcement for Sandra Kahn, a woman he and his mother believed to be Morris Gandel’s daughter, in a newspaper from Newark, New Jersey. They located her on Facebook and reached out, but she had not responded, and they felt they had hit a dead end.

Samuels looked up Kahn and also identified her relatives. She began sending them messages and friend requests to see if she could get a response.

Finally, Kahn’s niece replied. Samuels showed her the photo of Morris Gandel that Grinblat had sent, and she confirmed that he was her grandfather. She also recognized the return address from the letters that Grinblat saved as the house in Newark where her grandparents had lived for many years. She put Samuels in touch with Kahn, who was now 90, and they spoke on the phone.

Samuels and Grinblat had found the missing branch of their family.

“This story ... it’s the miracle of a family that survived over all this time, and they survived because this brother was so loyal,” Samuels said.

Her Facebook group of reconnected family members now has 14 people. She is still using her results to track down relatives who may be descended from her grandfather’s siblings, including Grinblat’s great-aunts and great-uncles. ●

spanzer@jewishexponent.com; 215-732-0829



COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Parsha for Life

Join Rabbi Alexander Coleman, Jewish educator and psychotherapist at the **Institute for Jewish Ethics**, at 9 a.m. for a journey through the Torah portion of the week with eternal lessons on personal growth and spirituality. Go to [ijethics.org/weekly-torah-portion.html](http://ijethics.org/weekly-torah-portion.html) to receive the Zoom link and password.

Folkshul Speaker Series

For the final presentation in Folkshul's 2020-2021 Speaker Series, **Folkshul** will host a virtual panel discussion, "Insider Observations: Race and our Criminal Justice System" at 7 p.m. Call 215-620-2626 for more information.

▼ SUNDAY, MAY 2

Annual SPEC Event

**Congregation Adath Jeshurun's** annual SPEC fundraiser will take place online at 6:45 p.m. and feature musician, actor, writer and radio host Seth Rudetsky. He is the host of "Seth's Big Fat Broadway" and "Seth Speaks" on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio's "On Broadway." Register at [adathjeshurun.info/form/SPEC-2021](http://adathjeshurun.info/form/SPEC-2021).

▼ TUESDAY, MAY 4

Memorial Blood Drive

The 10th annual **Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive** will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Radnor Activity Center in Wayne. Appointments are required and can be scheduled at [chablooddrive.org](http://chablooddrive.org) or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. All presenting donors will receive a special gift.

Distinguished Scholar Lecture

For **Gratz College's** Shusterman Distinguished Scholar Lecture, Professor Wayne Dawkins will present his new biography of Emanuel Celler, whose 1957 and 1960 bills set up the 1964 Civil Rights Act, at 7:30 p.m. Preregistration required to receive the Zoom link. For more information, email [mcohen@gratz.edu](mailto:mcohen@gratz.edu) or 215-635-7300, ext. 155.

▼ WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Support Group

This **Jewish Family and Children's Service** support group is for relatives of an LGBTQ individual looking for a safe place to ask questions, express emotions and learn from other folks. RSVP for the 6:30 p.m. event at [jfcsp Philly.org/supportgroups](http://jfcsp Philly.org/supportgroups). For more information, contact Galia Godel at [ggodel@jfcsp Philly.org](mailto:ggodel@jfcsp Philly.org) or call 267-273-6006. ●

NEWSMAKERS

The Farmers' Market at KleinLife opened for the season on April 23. An array of fresh fruits and produce will be sold to the public on Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m. until late November. Much of the food is being grown on the KleinLife campus, with the proceeds supporting the KleinLife Home Delivered Meals Program.

► From left: John Eskate, Marsha Lewis, Inna Gulko and Ben Toledano Photo by Stu Coren



On April 15, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy students celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 73rd birthday.



Photos by Jordan Cassway

Tabby Davoodi-Rafael, a Los Angeles-based columnist and community activist, spoke to attendees at a Young Jewish Leadership Concepts event on April 15 about leadership for young adults.



▲ Tabby Davoodi-Rafael (center square) addresses YJLC participants

Photo by Lou Balcher

# WHAT'S GOING ON in Jewish Philadelphia?

Submit an event or browse our online calendar to find out what's happening at local synagogues, community organizations and venues!

Submit: [listings@jewishexponent.com](mailto:listings@jewishexponent.com)  
Online: [jewishexponent.com/events/](http://jewishexponent.com/events/)

## JEWISH EXPONENT

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# Now more than ever **CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATE**

The Jewish Exponent's graduation issue  
will publish on Thursday, June 10<sup>TH</sup>  
**DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>**

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next year,  
we wish you  
the best!

*Mom & Dad*



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## Congratulations *Emma!*

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us so proud



*Your loving family*

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