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## New Series to Spotlight Natalie Portman's Role in Bringing Women's Soccer Team to LA

An upcoming HBO documentary series will highlight the role Academy Award-winning Israeli-American actress Natalie Portman played in bringing the Angel City Football Club to Los Angeles.

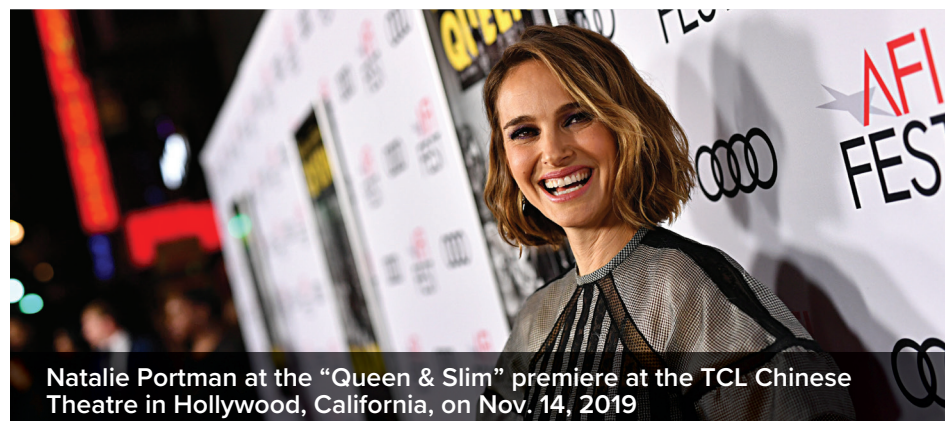
"Angel City," which is set to debut on HBO and stream on HBO Max in May, will tell the story of the team's first season in the National Women's Soccer League. Portman is an executive producer.

Portman, who was born in Jerusalem, is a founder and lead investor in the almost all-female ownership group behind Angel City, which was announced in July 2020 and played its first season in 2022.

The ownership group includes a number of A-list athletes, entrepreneurs and fellow Hollywood stars such as Serena Williams, Jessica Chastain and many others.

Portman, who was also a founding member of Time's Up, the nonprofit that helped advance the Me Too movement by supporting victims of sexual harassment, had the idea a few years ago. Though she did not grow up a sports fan, Portman told The Guardian that she saw the venture as a vehicle to raise awareness for the effort for equal pay in sports.

"Watching my son idolize players like Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan the same way he did Lionel Messi or Karim Benzema, I realized that amplifying female athletes could rapidly shift culture," Portman said.



Portman brought the idea to Kara Nortman, a venture capital executive, who looped in entertainment veteran Julie Uhrman. From there, the plan to bring a women's soccer team to L.A. continued to gain steam — and high-profile investors.

"Our dream is to make women's soccer as valued as male soccer is throughout the world," Portman said.

The three-part HBO series will tell the behind-the-scenes story of how the team got its start.

"Pulling back the curtain on the origin story through the 2022 inaugural season of the female-founded and led team, the series reveals the passion and grit needed to build a franchise from scratch and blaze a bold trail in the world of professional sports," reads a press release from WarnerMedia, HBO's parent company.

In the trailer for the series, Portman calls her experience with Angel City "one of the most extraordinary adventures of my life."

—Jacob Gurvis | JTA

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## SHABBAT GATHERINGS

April 28-29  
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# First-Ever Jewish Legislative Caucus Forms



Rep. Dan Frankel



Rep. Tarik Khan



Sen. Judy Schwank



Rep. Ben Waxman

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

**P**ennsylvania Jewish legislators and their allies are coming together to fight antisemitism and other forms of hate.

State Rep. Dan Frankel and state Sen. Judy Schwank announced on March 21 the creation of the commonwealth's first-ever Jewish Legislative Caucus to address the concerns of Jewish communities. Fourteen of the 22 caucus members, all Democrats, represent Philadelphia's five-county region, including Reps. Jared Solomon and Ben Waxman of Philadelphia.

"There's an added sense of urgency today to do something on an organized basis with my colleagues," said Frankel, who represents Allegheny County.

"We continue as a neighborhood and community to experience incidents of antisemitism, physical attacks on people who you can easily identify as being Jewish, particularly in the Orthodox community," he added.

Frankel represents the Squirrel Hill neighborhood where the Tree of Life synagogue shooting occurred almost five years ago but cited the Anti-Defamation League's Audit on

Antisemitism 2022 as the need for growing vigilance to address anti-Jewish hate. The ADL's audit found 3,697 cases of antisemitism last year, including 114 in Pennsylvania.

To address growing antisemitism, Frankel plans to introduce a series of bills to "modernize laws relating to hate crimes and ethnic intimidation in Pennsylvania," according to a press release. These bills include an expansion of the Ethnic Intimidation Statute; providing law enforcement training on identifying, investigating and addressing ethnic intimidation; and expanding programs for reporting discrimination in schools, among others.

On April 24, the caucus will host a rally and press conference in Harrisburg to introduce the four pieces of legislation.

Intentionally, each bill not only addresses antisemitism but hate crimes and discrimination more broadly.

"We're very concerned about the increase in hate crimes against the Jewish community but as well as other communities in the commonwealth too," Schwank said. "That leads to the work on looking at hate-based violence against all groups, not just against Jewish communities."

The caucus' broad agenda is

reflected in its makeup. A handful of non-Jewish legislators have joined the caucus, including Rep. Tarik Khan, whose Philadelphia district includes Mishkan Shalom, a synagogue he calls "one of the pillars" of the district.

A member of Circle of Friends, the Philadelphia chapter of the Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council, Khan grew up with a Muslim father and Catholic mother in a largely Jewish neighborhood. He has seen firsthand how different faith communities can come together to support each other.

"We have to stand together, and it can't just be when your own group is affected," he said. "You have to stand with your community."

While caucuses provide symbolic shows of solidarity, they are also useful in gaining legislative support. Khan uses an example of a bill he introduced to increase the accessibility of playgrounds. He turned to the commonwealth's Disability Caucus and Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus to find support for the bill. Similarly, if other legislators were pushing legislation to address discrimination, they could know where to find co-sponsors.

The caucus also will educate legislators on Jewish issues, Schwank said.

For the group's first meeting in April, ADL Philadelphia will share information about the Audit on Antisemitism 2022. She identified another goal of the caucus — to educate the general public about what the legislator is doing to address hate, such as the passage and growth of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program; Schwank introduced an earlier draft of it.

Waxman, who represents Center City Philadelphia, sees the caucus as an opportunity to educate other legislators on Jewish culture.

"It's good for people to be exposed to Jewish culture, and it's good to have it coming from legislators," he said.

In addition to pushing legislation, the caucus can host cultural events, such as a Chanukah party, to educate non-Jewish legislators on Jewish issues beyond antisemitism.

"The legislative perspective is really important, the work that outside advocates do, bringing people's faiths and cultures and concerns to the legislature — but there's something incredibly valuable about it happening at a peer-to-peer level, and a caucus allows us to do that," Waxman said. ■

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# Gems to Find New Home at Kaiserman JCC

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

**G**olden Slipper Gems Executive Director Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani calls the organization a “hidden gem” for older adult programming, but she wants Gems to be more than just a diamond in the rough.

To allow Gems to grow a new audience and diversify its programming, the organization is looking for a change.

Gems, now a subsidiary of Golden Slipper Club & Charities, will have a new home at the Kaiserman JCC, the latter’s CEO, Alan Scher, announced in a March 31 newsletter. The partnership, pending regulatory approval from the state, will begin this spring.

“It will bring together two respected brands in and amongst our community that have long served older adults in the Jewish community and beyond,” Scher said. “And brought together, [they] will serve that community in a way that, from my perspective, is a multiplier.”

Gems will continue to offer classes and events on culture, arts and history but will have access to the JCC’s campus and facilities, such as a kitchen and vans. With the partnership, Gems will add the JCC’s older adult fitness and

wellness classes and is hoping to incorporate intergenerational programs with the community center’s Robert J. Wilf Preschool and Kindergarten. Classes at Gems’ Main Line location at Shir Ami will continue through the semester.

“We just want to develop, what I call, a holistic place for older adults in the Jewish community and serve them culturally, intellectually, socially,” SimonHazani said.

The JCC serves about 300 adults over 65, Scher said, and Gems serves a similar number. The older adult population in Philadelphia is growing rapidly, according to Scher, and it’s the job of community centers and organizations to best adapt to them. Strengthening programming for older adults is also part of the JCC board’s strategic plan adopted last fall.

“Particularly here on the Main Line, the amount of services, particularly accessible services, for this population is dragging behind the growing population,” he said. “In other words, we see more and more older adults in need of services to keep them thriving in that proverbial third chapter of their life.”

During the pandemic, attendance for Gems events — which became virtual — dropped off due to older adults not

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being interested in adapting to new technologies, as well as people aging and dying.

But compared to years ago, the aging population is also living longer, SimonHazani said, meaning that programming for older adults has to be diverse. A 65-year-old has different interests and needs than an 85-year-old.

With the JCC’s resources, as well as their recent Bernard and Etta Weinberg Family Funds Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia for care and services for adults over 60, Gems will be able to tailor its programs

to the changing demographic.

Gems provides classes such as “Disney at 100: A Legacy of Magic” with Drexel University Professor David Greenberg and “Special Political Affairs: 75 Years of Independent Government and Politics and Israel” with Bar-Ilan University Professor Zeev Khanin.

Three Golden Slipper Gems board members, including immediate past president and board chair Jill Caine, will join the Kaiserman JCC board. Human Needs and Services, a charity providing funding for essentials and emergencies to older adults, that is now part of Gems, will remain part of Golden Slipper.

Gems began in 1995 as a “traditional senior center” in Wynnefield Heights, according to its website, but later expanded to offer a wider array of services to older adults at eight locations in the Philadelphia area. In 2018, the organization became Golden Slipper Gems.

As the organization turns the page and enters its new chapter, Caine can only see the positives of the partnership.

“There’s no place to go but really improving and expanding,” she said. ■

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Gems members participate in the class “The British Invasion,” taught by Steve Pollack, which focused on the music in the ‘60s and the influence of British music on the United States.



# South Jersey Federation Launches Regional Security Partnership

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

On the upstairs floor of the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, two retired police officers sit facing computer monitors. The township's former police chief, William "Bud" Monaghan, walks in and out from his office down the hall. Above the heads of the officers, empty sockets stand on the wall, waiting for the television screens that will be placed there in the coming weeks.

Soon enough, this small room with no windows will become the headquarters for Jewish security in 11 New Jersey counties and Delaware.

The ex-cops can already type any suspicious person's name into an

intelligence search engine, called Ontic, to find the information they need. Once the TVs are on the wall, they will also be able to look at any synagogue, Jewish community center or other organization in the network.

The program, titled JFed Security, is an agency within the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey. But it also extends beyond the South Jersey federation's territory of Camden, Burlington and Gloucester counties. Federations covering counties as far north as Warren and as far south as Cape May are partners in this effort. The Jewish Federation of Delaware has also opted in. Monaghan is the agency's executive director, with three full-time officers on his team.

JFed was made possible by the

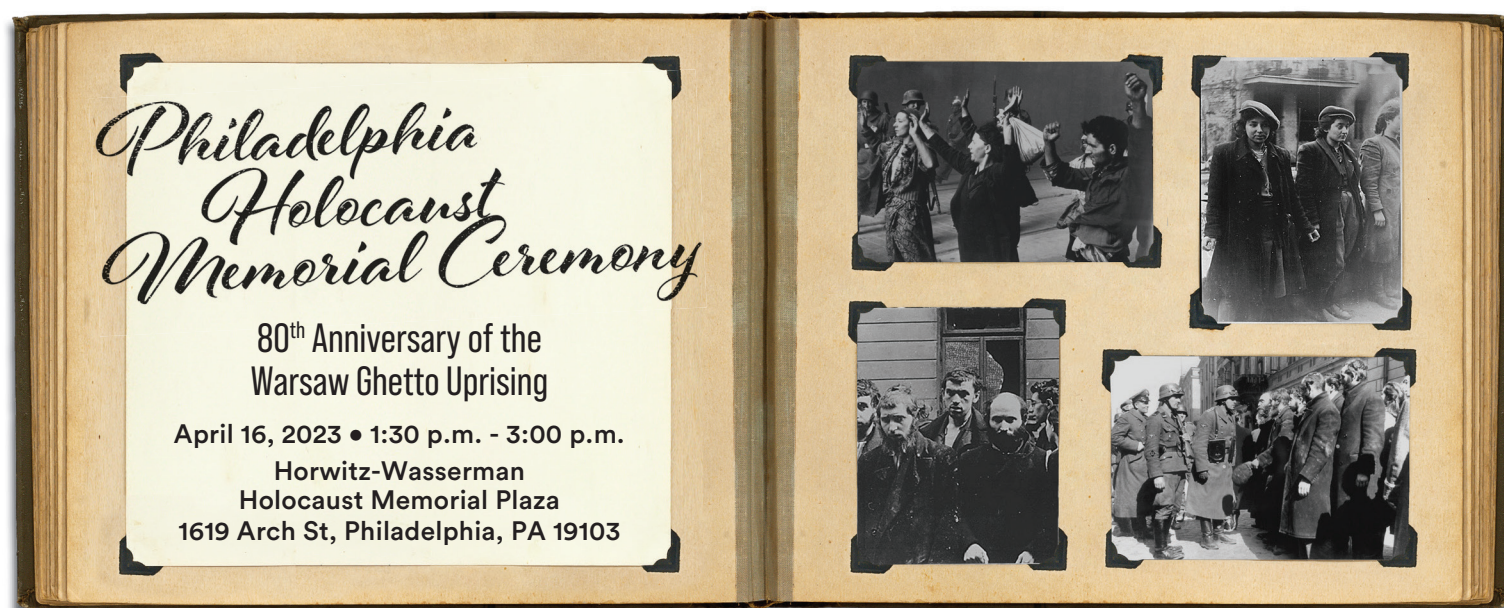
Jewish Federations of North America's \$130 million LiveSecure campaign, announced in 2021 to help secure Jewish communities during an era of rising antisemitism. The South Jersey federation received a grant worth \$250,000. It also had to raise \$500,000 to satisfy the program's two-to-one fundraising requirement. Partner federations will have to match the cost of the program in years two and three, according to Monaghan.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is not a part of this effort. The Philadelphia Federation has contracted its security to the Secure Community Network, which describes itself as "the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America."

"It's about having the connections within the community to leverage those relationships for information sharing," said Monaghan of the New Jersey and Delaware partnership.

Antisemitic incidents have risen in the United States since 2015, according to the Anti-Defamation League. In 2022, the ADL counted 3,697 antisemitic incidents, a 36% increase from 2021. In South Jersey less than two years ago, swastika stickers and drawings appeared at a synagogue and a school, respectively.

A regional partnership will take a proactive approach to fighting antisemitism, according to Monaghan. It will be similar to how local police departments operate. They share resources, information and manpower. If an



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Deputy Director John Moyer examines information on his computer.

incident happens in Warren County, a shul leader in Cape May County can learn about it.

"The threat level doesn't stop at territorial boundaries," Monaghan said. "It's critical that we have a consistent umbrella for communities."

Rabbi Aaron Krauss, who leads Beth El Synagogue in Margate, said that, "We haven't had any serious problems in this immediate area." But he added that shul leaders and congregants are concerned about "what happens elsewhere."

"We'd rather be safe than sorry," he concluded.

Rabbi Nathan Weiner, who guides Congregation Beth Tikvah in Marlton, said that, last week, the synagogue received proselytization materials in the mail about converting Jews to Christianity. He took photos of the materials and sent them to the officers at the Katz JCC. They confirmed receipt, but have not reached out to Weiner since. The rabbi is fine with that.

"I trust that they're doing what needs to be done," he said. "That nothing is something."

When JFed receives information, it can enter names, phone numbers

and email addresses into Ontic. During a demonstration for the Jewish Exponent, Deputy Director John Moyer typed in the name of an upcoming speaker at a nearby synagogue. Social media posts, articles and other publicly available information populated on the screen. The speaker is not a suspicious character. Moyer was able to figure that out in seconds.

But if there ever is one attacking a synagogue, community leaders should call the police, according to Monaghan. JFed is not a law enforcement unit. It is another layer of security for the Jewish community. But Jewish leaders should still contact JFed about emergencies. There is an incident report form on [jewishsouthjersey.org](http://jewishsouthjersey.org). There are also two phone lines: JFed Security at 856-673-2500 and the Duty Desk at 844-SCN-DESK.

The ex-cops in the small room with no windows are ready for your call. They are not Jewish. But they have still sworn "to protect and serve," said Sean Redmond, another deputy director.

"Being brought onto this is helping people and that's what I like to do," Moyer said. ■

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# Ensuring We Never Forget

As antisemitism plagues our communities, we are reminded of the Holocaust and what happens when hate is allowed to spread. The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia keeps our promise to never forget by caring for Holocaust survivors and educating the next generation to ensure that history does not repeat itself.

## Caring for Holocaust Survivors

**45,497** Holocaust survivors worldwide served through organizations and programs supported by the Jewish Federation

**14,602** Holocaust survivors received food deliveries and assistance through programs supported by the Jewish Federation

## Meet Sultana

Sultana is a Holocaust survivor who lives in a small house in Kiryat Gat, Israel. She suffers from osteoporosis, heart disease and mobility issues. Due to increased falls, Sultana was unable to use the stairs to access her backyard. **Latet - Aid for Life**, supported by the Jewish Federation, recently created a ramp for Sultana to use, so she can once again enjoy her yard.

***Latet - Aid for Life** provides Holocaust survivors with low socio-economic backgrounds the means to live out their lives with dignity. Clients receive a monthly food box and hygiene products as well as access to an emergency fund for unforeseen and urgent needs, like medical services. Additional services include in-home social support and home repairs and renovations.*

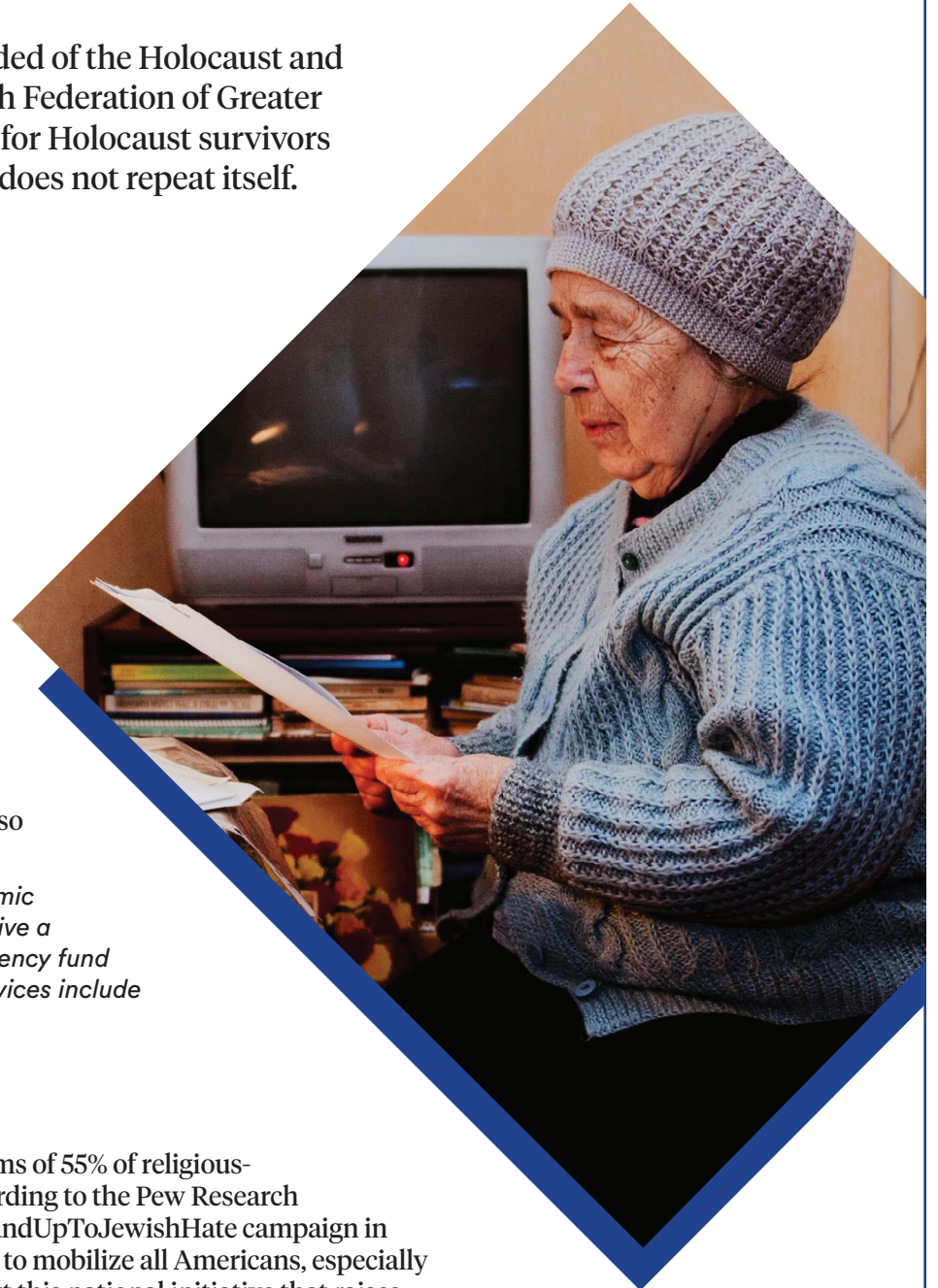
## #StandUpToJewishHate

Jews only make up 2.4% of the American population yet are the victims of 55% of religious-based hate crimes, recorded by the FBI Hate Crime Reports and according to the Pew Research Center. This is why the Jewish Federation is proud to launch the #StandUpToJewishHate campaign in partnership with the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism. Designed to mobilize all Americans, especially non-Jews, to combat antisemitism, community members can support this national initiative that raises awareness of current day Jewish hate by sharing the #■ across social media.

**Learn how the Jewish Federation is helping Holocaust survivors and those in need at [jewishphilly.org/impact](https://jewishphilly.org/impact).**



**Jewish Federation**  
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**Join us at the Jewish Federation's Philadelphia Holocaust Memorial Ceremony on April 16, 2023 to commemorate the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to honor the Survivors in our communities, featuring candle lighting, music, readings, prayers and special guests. For more information and to register, visit [jewishphilly.org/yom-hashoa-2023](https://jewishphilly.org/yom-hashoa-2023).**



# YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

## Carly Zimmerman



Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

In October, Carly Zimmerman won the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Blanche Wolfe Kohn Award for young leadership. The 35-year-old Center City resident is a Federation board member, a vice chair of its women's philanthropy division and the chair of Women of Vision, which gives grants to organizations that help women and girls.

At the time, Zimmerman told the Jewish Exponent that she did this work for her young daughter, Norah.

"If I can leave the world better for her, that will make it all worth it," she said.

Zimmerman's daughter is already noticing her effort. The young girl is experiencing it, talking about it and even doing a school project on it.

"I think she does see it," Zimmerman said. "My husband Michael (Zimmerman) and I try really hard to talk about the work that we do in our community with her."

At the end of the summer last year, the family helped the Jewish Relief Agency deliver meals to city residents in need. The Zimmermans wanted to bring their daughter along. Norah was nervous before the event.

"I told her we'd be going to people's doors, maybe meeting them, saying hi," Carly Zimmerman said.

But as they knocked on door after door, people were happy to see a 6-year-old delivering food. About two weeks later, Norah had to draw a picture for a Rosh Hashanah project at an after-school program. She sketched a family giving away boxes of food to people at their doors.

"That was one of my most powerful moments of realizing that she got it," Zimmerman said. "It was very different from her day-to-day and a very positive experience."

But it was not the first time that Norah noticed. When the mother and daughter attend Jewish events together, Norah sees her mother talking at length with person after person. When the daughter walks in during her mother's Zoom calls for Women of Vision, she talks to her mom about what she is doing: helping women and girls.

During the 2021-'22 school year, Norah had to leave a pre-K program that kept closing due to COVID. Zimmerman reached out to friends at Society Hill Synagogue on Spruce Street, and they got her daughter into a pre-K program there in the middle of the school year.

Norah loved it.

"Being part of the Jewish community is why it happened," Zimmerman said. "It was an immediate fit."

Norah is still only 6. But she can recognize her mother's capabilities and connections. The daughter often tells her mother, and other people, that "Mommy knows everybody."

"What I think she means is Mommy has a lot of friends. As a 6-year-old, her biggest day-to-day is who are her friends? Who are her best friends?" Zimmerman said.

The Zimmermans are not synagogue

members, but they do reinforce the importance of their faith and community at home, too. On Rosh Hashanah this past year, Zimmerman hosted family members. The trio tries to spend most Jewish holidays with its extended family.

Carly grew up in a Reconstructionist, interfaith household in Harrisburg. She went to Hebrew school, had a bat mitzvah and then did not rediscover her religion until her college days at the University of Pittsburgh, where she joined Hillel and became one of its leaders. Judaism remained important to her as she graduated and started her adult life. For six years, Zimmerman was the CEO of Challah for Hunger, an organization that worked to decrease food insecurity on college campuses.

"I think it's walking the walk in a sense," Zimmerman said. "We're trying to show her volunteering and giving back and, when the holidays come, making sure they are observed right."

Zimmerman also wants to show her daughter what her mother showed her: That women can do it all. Zimmerman's mother, Margie Adelman, worked for Goodwill, the National MS Society and the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg. Today, Zimmerman is the vice president of business development at her father's company, Larson Lightning Protection, which installs materials on roofs to protect buildings against lightning strikes.

And at home, Carly Zimmerman and Michael Zimmerman split duties. If Carly Zimmerman walks Norah to school, her father picks her up. If Carly Zimmerman did the last load of laundry, Michael Zimmerman does the next one. Both parents have nights when they are home alone because the other is out working.

"I went back to work three months after having her, and actually Michael took off three months then. So we even split parental leave. I think when she sees us both working, she doesn't think any differently of it," Carly Zimmerman said of her daughter. ■

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



# Incremental Change: A Lesson from MLB

The game of baseball is popularly referred to as “America’s national pastime.” In North America, the professional baseball organization known as Major League Baseball sets the rules for the game and runs the show. It has done so since 1876.

Over the past decades, MLB saw a decline in fan engagement that seemed to be tied to how the game was being played. Things like teams strategically placing fielders out of position against batters who tend to pull the ball (called “the shift”), which made it harder for those hitters to get on base and contributed to a reduction in overall major league batting averages. Or nine-inning games that were taking too long because of pitchers’ lengthy delays between pitches and batters who went through lengthy adjustment rituals before getting “set” to hit several times during each turn at bat. Or limitless pick-off efforts by pitchers who want to prevent base stealing, thereby slowing down action on the base paths. Games dragged on for hours, and fans were losing interest. Baseball needed a faster pace and more action.

So, MLB changed the rules. But it did so incrementally. And it made the changes based on recommendations from a competition committee of stakeholders, composed of four active players, six members appointed by MLB and one umpire.



Beginning March 30, with the season’s opening day, MLB banned the shift, shortened the time pitchers had to prepare between pitches, imposed strict time limits on batters getting “set” and mandated larger bases with limited pick-off opportunities for pitchers. The new rules didn’t change the game. They refined it. And the changes seem to be working.

We know that running a country is far more complex and consequential than administering a national sports empire. And the demands of government and democracy are more intricate than efforts to enhance an entertainment program. But the pursuit of incremental

change rather than a comprehensive overhaul of an historic enterprise — as pursued by MLB — has applicability to any effort to change a system of operation.

That seems to be the approach of Israeli President Isaac Herzog as he seeks to orchestrate discussion, debate and compromise regarding the controversial judicial overhaul legislation and related changes in governance that are confounding the people of Israel. During the pause in the legislative process over the Passover holiday and recess announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Herzog is trying to reach consensus on the definition of the problems and to work toward compromise on the means to address them. There is wisdom

in that approach.

In any compromise, neither side gets everything it wants. But both sides can gain from the effort. In order to achieve that result, however, both sides need to engage meaningfully, with an eye toward agreement rather than winning. Unfortunately, from what we have seen thus far, there is question whether such serious commitment to the effort is being pursued by both sides.

The Passover Pause is an opportunity for meaningful engagement and to begin the healing process for what has become a fractured Israel. As fans of Israel, we urge both sides to embrace it. ■

unsplash / Tyler Hilton

## Three Promising Pre-Passover Developments

For the past several months, much of our focus has been on the political and social unrest in Israel arising from the judicial reform and settlement-related legislation in the Knesset and mounting unrest in Palestinian territories. We have been worried about the spill-over impact on the Israel-Diaspora relationship. We watched as both historic critics and several longstanding political friends of Israel expressed concern. And we paid close attention as the Biden administration moved from quiet, diplomatic comments to a series of very public pronouncements of U.S. government views on the proposals being advanced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing governing coalition.

There was speculation that the U.S. would use Israel’s pending application for acceptance into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program as leverage to encourage more flexibility on some of the issues. And that still may be the case. But, at least for now, it’s not. U.S. Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides announced last week that approval of Israel’s application could come as soon as this summer. He made that comment just after the

Knesset passed a data-sharing bill that is a prerequisite to enter the program.

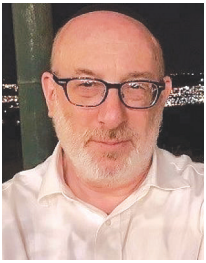
The Visa Waiver Program would offer 90-day visa-free tourist and business visits to Israelis who now must wait at least six months for an initial visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. Israel wants to join some 40 other countries that skip the short-term visa step. We look forward to the formal acceptance announcement, and hope it doesn’t get sidetracked by political maneuverings.

There was another positive development last week, this one relating to the aging, dwindling yet remarkably resilient Holocaust survivor community. A bipartisan group of 111 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to leaders of the House Appropriations Committee’s Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee calling for a \$1.5 million increase (from \$8.5 million in 2023 to \$10 million in 2024) in government funding for the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program. The letter, organized by Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) and Troy Balderson (R-Ohio), seeks to expand support

for a Holocaust survivor program, run in cooperation with the Jewish Federations of North America, to help assure that aging and increasingly dependent Holocaust survivors in the U.S. have the resources and support they need to live in peace and comfort. We encourage strong support for the effort.

Finally, we are intrigued by the announcement by Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and founder of the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, of the launch of a \$25 million campaign to “#StandUpToJewishHate,” aimed at stopping hateful acts against Jews. The campaign highlights the blue square emoji — which is already on all smartphones — as a “simple, but powerful symbol of solidarity and support for the Jewish community.” Kraft’s plan is to place the emoji on up to 2.4% of TV and digital screens, billboards and social media feeds in recognition that Jews make up 2.4% of the U.S. population but are the targets of 55% of religious-based hate crimes. While we wonder how this approach will affect the trajectory of Jew hate, we welcome the effort. We desperately need new ways to fight antisemitism. ■





Jerome M. Marcus

# What's Really Happening in Israel

**W**hen Israeli judicial reform was proposed in January, the left protested, demanding that the legislative process stop so negotiations could take place. It was illegitimate, said the protesters, for the parties who won a majority of the Knesset to use their control to pass a law that didn't have broad support.

Now the legislative process has been stopped at the direction of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Just as the protesters demanded, teams have been appointed and talks scheduled at the president's residence over the coming weeks.

But the protests have not stopped. What they have done, however, is reveal what they're really about:

not judicial reform, but undoing the last election.

In Israel, there have been no claims that the last election was tainted by fraud or manipulated by the Russians. The left claims that the people who won the election are bad and should not have won.

Why? Listen to their own words.

In Ashdod, one of the protest leaders — Eliad Shrager, chairman of the innocently named Movement for Quality Government — explained: "We are the light, and Netanyahu and his partners are the darkness. We are democracy, and they are dictatorship. We are love, and they are hate!"

"Netanyahu, like a man who runs from the truth, knows deep inside that he is not fit to be the prime minister. He knows he doesn't reach the minimum ethical bar to be prime minister. He knows he's corrupt, he knows he's ethically rotten and he knows

he doesn't lead by example," Shrager proclaimed.

The reason for the protests, Shrager honestly stated, is that the officeholders chosen by "the people" are, in the opinion of the protesters, bad. The protests are being held to throw those elected officials out of office by making it impossible for them to govern the country.

The protesters have never been opposed to any specific legislative proposal. Yair Lapid and Gideon Sa'ar, like many other members of the current opposition, are on record supporting judicial reform. What they are opposed to is the results of the last election. They are convinced that the people who won should not have won, and that the voters who chose these people have no right to do so. Because democracy.

See Marcus, page 14

## letters

### Israeli Situation Not That Different From One in US

Reading Jonathan Tobin's op-ed ("A 'Resistance' Coup Just Defeated Israeli Democracy," March 29), I couldn't help but think how remarkably similar Israel's situation is to our own under Donald Trump. Tobin's right-wing defense of Netanyahu and his strident criticism of Israel's left sounds eerily familiar to Trump and his friends' savaging of the American liberals.

Tobin opines that Israel is a "juristocracy," with too much power to interpret the law. How does that differ from the American Supreme Court in which one man (Trump) can pack the court with enough conservatives to thwart the will of the people? Polls have shown that the majority of Americans supported abortion, hated Citizens' United and want sane gun control laws, but the court ignored the "will of the people." If that's not a juristocracy, I don't know what is.

I would submit that the protesters in Israel are protecting democracy against the threat of an autocracy.

They know that without a system of checks and balances, it leads down a slippery slope. If the prime minister and the Knesset can arbitrarily decide which dictates of the courts to follow, which to ignore and which to rewrite, can the loss of democracy be far behind?

The "will of the people" is not a coalition of disparate views that come together for a political purpose. It represents what the majority of the country thinks and wants. Before the Israeli government takes any action, hold a national referendum on this issue. If the majority consents

to this proposed right-wing coup, then they get what they deserve and have no one to blame but themselves.

Jeff Ettinger, Huntingdon Valley

### History's Lessons

Jonathan Tobin's perceptive and sagacious opinion piece ("A 'Resistance' Coup Just Defeated Israeli Democracy," March 29) brought to mind warnings from the past outlined in Jehuda Avner's celebrated book, "The Prime Ministers," specifically the chapters devoted to the tenure of Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Avner recounts Begin's description of the events surrounding the Roman attack upon Jerusalem in 70 C.E., during which Jews were fighting amongst themselves, even burning food stores, and thus weakening the overall defense of the city. Sigmund Freud once observed that "history repeats itself because man repeats the same patterns of behavior."

Of course, currently, the enemies of Israel are not at the gates. And the country is not burning in a literal sense. But is Israel on fire in a rhetorical sense to weaken, if not destroy, the fabric of society?

Woe to those who fail to exercise judgment for the benefit of Israel, rather than seeking only personal aggrandizement!

Arthur Solomon Safir, Warwick

### Consider Core Values

Jonathan Tobin's recent op-ed ("A 'Resistance' Coup Just Defeated Israeli Democracy," March 29) wrong-

headedly bemoans as an anti-democratic "coup" the success of both internal and external protesters in apparently derailing (at least for the present) the Netanyahu government's intentions of undermining the judicial branch of the Israeli government.

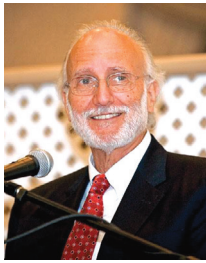
Tobin's argument conveniently ignores a fundamental requirement for any healthy democracy — namely, an independent judiciary with the authority to uphold the rule of law and enforce the core values of society. In the U.S., those core values are outlined in our Constitution — which necessarily includes protections from the tyranny of the majority by providing for courts with the final say in interpreting and applying laws governing fundamental rights and institutions.

While even core values can and do evolve, and changes rightly have been made over time through amendments to our basic social contract, that process was wisely made arduous by our founders, requiring supermajorities. With a judiciary that can be overridden by a simple majority vote of the current legislature, Tobin's desired democracy in Israel would likely devolve into autocracy or dictatorship, such as we see in pseudo-democracies like Turkey, Russia and China. Surely, that is not what he wishes for Israel.

Majority rule, as provided for in a democracy, is not without necessary and appropriate limits, checks and balances. It would behoove Tobin to consider such necessities before denigrating those who truly respect Israel's democracy and seek to preserve it. ■

Lawrence Serlin, Havertown





Alan P. Gross

# Proud of Israel, Proud to be Israeli

**M**y wife, Judy, and I made aliyah in May 2017. Our time is divided between Tel Aviv and the U.S., although more of my time is spent in Israel. During this time Israel has held five national elections.

From December 2009 until the first day of Chanukah in 2014, I was held hostage as a political prisoner of the Cuban government. I know from first-hand experience what it is like to lose one's freedom to a government that has no boundaries, no checks and balances on its power and authority and is unresponsive to the majority of its citizens.

Throughout modern Israel's 75-year history, its government in no way resembled Cuba's — that is, not until the beginning of 2023. Overhauls to Israel's judiciary and basic structures impacting governmental balances of power were proposed in January by the leadership of the now-ruling coalition government. These reforms would restrain the judiciary's legal oversight over public policy and lawmaking.

If adopted, such reforms would grant the Knesset (parliament) the power to override Supreme Court rulings that deem legislation passed by the Knesset in violation of Israel's Basic Laws by reintroducing the legislation and approving it by a majority of Knesset members.

This would diminish the ability of courts to conduct judicial review of the Basic Laws that serve as a pro forma constitution, but not an actual constitution. Proposed reforms would also change the composition of the Judicial Selection Committee and the appointment of judges would effectively be given to

the ruling coalition in the Knesset.

Other proposed reforms would diminish even further the relevance of civil courts in favor of rabbinic courts regarding civil, commercial and other matters. In other words, the foundation of Israel as a democracy is now at real risk.

The response from Israelis has been swift and unambiguously strong.

Each week for more than the last three months, since the introduction of these and additional such "reforms," a broad cross-section of Israelis throughout the country have peacefully demonstrated against the government's efforts to push these reforms through.

defense minister (for doing his job), Israelis came out en masse to protest. A growing number of military reservists refused to show up for training, Israel's largest labor union called a general strike, travelers at Ben Gurion Airport could not leave on their flights because no flights were taking off, schools and universities closed, and even McDonald's closed.

The actions of the ruling coalition are deplorable. Its leadership seems to be focused on avoiding conviction in the same courts that are the key targets of the proposed reforms. At least three coalition ministers have been indicted — two have been convicted — multiple times.

*I am troubled by what the current government is trying to get away with, but I am also gratified to see a very large cross section of Israelis coalesce to stand up and speak with one voice.*

Literally hundreds of thousands of young people, old people, religious and secular, LGBTQI, Arab, Christian and everything in-between Israelis are demonstrating in every city throughout Israel.

All of this reminded me of mass demonstrations in Washington, D.C., in the late 1960s and early 1970s. All of this revealed a *ruach* (spirit) I have not witnessed since. It's not that I am nostalgic for those days — but to see that unity of purpose and commitment to cause was no less than enlightening. And, of course, Judy and I are participating.

When the prime minister summarily fired the

As an *oleh* (immigrant), I am feeling almost euphoric concerning the response of Israelis to all of this — including those demonstrators out there in support of the government, although their numbers are eclipsed by anti-government demonstrators.

I am troubled by what the current government is trying to get away with, but I am also gratified to see a very large cross section of Israelis coalesce to stand up and speak with one voice. ■

*Alan P. Gross serves on the board of the Jewish Electorate Institute.*

## Marcus

Continued from page 13

In this, they have an unqualified ally in the Supreme Court, which disqualified Aryeh Deri from serving as a government minister. Deri was put in power because his party won 400,000 votes. The court disqualified him on the simple and honestly stated grounds that those votes had been cast unreasonably. It was unreasonable, the court said, for Deri to be a government minister. So, they ordered his removal from the cabinet.

The protests have even tainted the IDF, encouraging refusals to serve that are explicitly based on the refusers' belief that the people elected simply should

not have won. The soldiers are being encouraged to think they can refuse to serve until that bad choice has been undone. Ehud Barak said exactly this at a Chatham House talk last week. It doesn't take a Henry Kissinger to figure out that this is a recipe for self-destruction in very short order.

Over the last 2,000 years, the Jewish people don't have much experience in governing themselves, and it shows. The people driving events are unembarrassed about saying out loud what they really think. Though they cry "democracy," their protests are

intended to disenfranchise those pesky ignoramuses who vote unreasonably. People who genuinely believe, and are arrogant enough to say, "We are the light" are simply refusing to allow a government to operate if it's chosen by anybody else.

This is what's happening in Israel and why it's happening. *Zman lakum*, Jewish people. Time to wake up. ■

*Jerome M. Marcus is a lawyer in private practice and a fellow at the Kohelet Policy Forum in Jerusalem.*





Ralph Grunewald

# Israel: The Jewish State and the State of the Jews

**W**e are living in unprecedented times here in Israel, and we are witnessing history being made. Before moving to Israel, I devoted decades of my life as a professional in the American Jewish community, served on the boards of local and national Jewish organizations, and was an activist in my community. My wife and I moved to Israel in 2021 and chose to realize the historic dream of our ancestors to live as citizens in the Jewish homeland.

Israel is the Jewish state, but it is also the state of the Jews — a nation for which untold generations of Jews have yearned. We conclude our Passover seders with the affirmation: “Next year in Jerusalem,” and we face toward our ancient capital city when we pray. Our prayer books are infused with references to Zion, to Jerusalem and to the land of Israel.

Israelis have much to celebrate as we are about to mark 75 years of independence. We are the start-up nation, we have a thriving economy, we have made peace with many former enemies, we have a strong military and intelligence community that keeps us safe, and we provide aid and relief to victims of natural disasters in far-off lands. As was the dream of Israel’s founders, Israel has gathered Jews from across the globe, both as a haven for those seeking refuge, or like me, as a place to live out my commitment to Zionism. We have realized the dream embodied in our national anthem, Hatikvah: “*l’hiyot am chofshi b’artzaynu* — to live as a free people in our own land.”

Yet we Israelis also face enormous challenges. We are a nation divided along racial, religious, ideological, ethnic, economic, political and cultural lines. We are a nation that has yearned for peace with our Palestinian neighbors, but we have tragically not yet found the means or willpower to live together peacefully, side by side, with them, nor have we ensured their human dignity and national aspirations. We have leaders who are self-serving and corrupt, and who care more about their political careers than what is best for the nation. Americans can surely relate to many of our challenges.

While we are blessed with a thriving civil society, we recently stood on the edge of a precipice of a constitutional crisis, not unlike what could have happened in the USA on Jan. 6, had the insurrectionists prevailed. Unfortunately, the current pause in the fierce protests that have erupted in response to the Netanyahu coalition’s plans for



David Ben-Gurion signs Israel's Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948.

judicial reform is just that: a few weeks of calm as we celebrate Passover, our day of remembrance for the fallen soldiers who gave their lives to protect us, and to celebrate 75 years of independence.

In 1948, David Ben-Gurion and the other co-signers of the Declaration of Independence proclaimed a remarkable document permeating with Jewish values. In part it reads: “... [Israel] will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.”

Those words are inextricably rooted in our Jewish values and teachings. “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof* — justice, justice shall you pursue” is but one of countless Jewish teachings that guide us as a people. There was never any doubt in the minds of Israel’s founders that this nation would flourish as a democracy, a hallmark of which is a system of immutable checks and balances.

I am immensely proud of the enormous array of Israelis — young and old, rich and poor, secular and religious, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi, native-born

Israelis and immigrants, high-tech and low-tech workers — who protested this government’s actions over many weeks and months, even on Saturday nights, before the start of the work week. It is deeply heartening and reaffirming to witness this remarkable expression of Israelis who love their nation and who understand that democracy requires an independent judiciary, a system of meaningful checks and balances, and the reigning-in of those who seek to subvert these values.

As the state of the Jews — which represents our Jewish values — Jews from around the world have a right and a duty to raise their voices in protest. The crossing of these red lines must empower Jews worldwide when any Israeli government seeks to erode our fundamental Jewish values and darken the vision of Israel as a light unto the nations rooted in democracy, justice and freedom for all its inhabitants. ■

*Ralph Grunewald served in senior professional positions with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the American Jewish Committee, Hillel International, The Israel Project and the Jewish Federation of Howard County, and is founding chair of the Jewish Electorate Institute.*





David Zvi Kalman

# An 1859 Fight Over How to Make Matzah Has Lessons About the Threat of AI Today

In the last few months, the world has been dazzled by an astonishing sequence of AI systems capable of performing all kinds of difficult tasks — writing code, composing poetry, generating artwork, passing exams — with a level of competence that rivals or exceeds what humans can do.

The existence of these AIs has prompted all manner of soul-searching about the nature of humanity. It has also made many people wonder which human tasks are about to be taken over by machines.

The capabilities of these AIs are new and revolutionary, but the story of machines taking over human jobs is not. In Jewish history, the most important story of that transition has to do with matzah, and it's a story that carries important lessons for the present day.

Starting 164 years ago, dozens of European rabbis engaged in a furious debate that would not be fully resolved until the beginning of the 20th century. Matzah, which for millennia had been made by human hands per the narrow constraints of Jewish law, could now be processed with a series of machines that promised huge savings of time and money. As town after town adopted these machines, opposition began to rise, until it exploded in 1859 with the publication of “An Alert for Israel,” a collection of letters from prestigious rabbis who adamantly argued that for anyone interested in following the laws of Passover a matzah made with a machine was no better than a loaf of bread.

The arguments for this position were many, but all will sound familiar to anyone following the AI conversation. Like today, some objected to the machines just because they were new and different, but most had more specific concerns. First, there was the matter of lost jobs. In many parts of Europe, matzah was made by the poorest members of society, who were given the job to help them raise money before one of the most cost-intensive holidays of the year. Ceding this job to machines would take work from those who could least afford it.

Beyond economics, there was concern that the machines just weren't as reliable as people, especially given the rules around matzah-making outlined in Jewish law. What if bits of dough got trapped in the gears, quietly leavening for hours and unknowingly ruining whole batches of matzah in the process? What if the trays warmed the dough too fast? Without proper oversight, how could you trust your own food?

Finally, some objected to the loss of a literal human touch. Jewish law stated that matzah was supposed



to be made by people who knew they were baking matzah. A machine, no matter how sophisticated, didn't “know” anything. How could you eat matzah on Passover knowing that this most important food was made by a mindless machine?

The responses didn't take long to arrive. “A Cancellation of the Alert,” a collection published the very same year, forcefully argued that machine matzah was perfectly fine — and possibly even better than the human product. No, inventions aren't inherently bad. No, the machines wouldn't harm the poor, because the machines made matzah less expensive for everyone. No, the machines weren't prone to error — and they certainly weren't more error-prone than lazy, careless humans. No, the machines didn't know what they were doing, but the people who built them did, and wasn't that enough?

The machines eventually won, but then something happened that I don't think either side anticipated. With Manischewitz's machine matzahs claiming most of the American market by the early 20th century, it was now the handmade matzah makers who were on the back foot; it was they and not the machines who needed to demonstrate that they were up to the difficult task of preparing this food with the efficiency and reliability of the machines.

The result is more than a little tragic. Matzah is the Jewish food with the deepest origins of all — deeper than brisket, deeper than latkes, deeper even than challah — and yet it is the ritual food most likely to be picked up at the supermarket and least likely to be made at home. While there are still communities today that exclusively eat handmade matzah, even this job is now largely outsourced to just a few companies that resemble their machine-driven counterparts in scale. While teachers will sometimes demonstrate how to make matzah for educational purposes, across the religious spectrum the era of locally made matzah is over.

Even though it's hard to imagine a simpler baked good — matzah is just flour and water, and it's literally illegal to spend more than 18 minutes making it — its production is treated as though it is only slightly less complicated than constructing a jet engine, and people are worried about shortages as though matzah were a natural resource or an advanced microchip. The transition has been so complete that we barely remember there was a transition at all.

Did the rabbis pushing for machine matzah know this was going to happen? Almost certainly not. The economic impact of machine labor is relatively easy to predict, but the psychological and cultural effects are a lot harder. There was probably no way of knowing how machines would change the way we thought about matzah in the long run, but today it's clear that automating this ancient task has changed our relationship to Passover's central food — and because the change has resulted in a lot of alienation from matzah production, I'm not so sure it was a change for the better.

Making matzah locally could have been a way to feel connected to the ancient Israelites, who left Egypt so fast that they didn't have time to make anything else. Instead of emulating this ad-hoc food, we optimized it for cost and efficiency, in the process turning matzah into just another specialty cracker on the grocery store shelf. Was it really worth it?

It's probably a bit much to say that OpenAI is just a modern Manischewitz, but the parallels between the debate about machine-generated matzah and the present debate about machine-generated everything are useful for considering how short-term policy choices around AI won't necessarily capture all of the technology's long-term effects on how human beings want to spend their time. When we relinquish an activity to an AI for economic reasons, we may eventually come to believe that humans are no longer qualified to do the task at all.

Then, as now, we must balance our economic needs against our ideas about what kinds of activities make for a good and fulfilling life. ■

*David Zvi Kalman is the scholar-in-residence and director of new media at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.*

## SEND US LETTERS

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



Wikimedia Commons via JNS.org



A view of the proceedings at the Nuremberg Trials held in Germany between 1945 and 1949

### Stanford Digitizes Thousands of Pages of Nuremberg Trial Documents, Available to Public

Stanford University digitized thousands of pages and documents from the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, which followed the defeat of the Nazis and the end of World War II in 1945, JNS.org reported.

The archive is a collaboration with the library of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. It relied on funding from Taube Philanthropies and cataloging assistance from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“The idea is to present to the public, without any cost, information that is directly derived from these trials, directly derived from the prosecution of people who have committed crimes against humanity,” Michael Keller, a librarian at Stanford, told NBC’s Bay Area affiliate.

The Taube Archive of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, 1945-’46, includes a digital version of Nuremberg courtroom proceedings, films, audio recordings of the proceedings and about 250,000 pages of digitized English, French, German and Russian documents, according to its website.

The more than 9,900 items — searchable and viewable in digital form — include “evidence exhibits filed by the prosecution and the defense” and “documents of the Committee for the Investigation and Prosecution of Major War Criminals,” as well as the judgment.

### Greece Arrests 2 Men Suspected of Planning Attacks on Jewish Sites in Athens

Greek authorities arrested two men on March 28 who were planning mass terrorist attacks on Jewish sites in Athens, including a Chabad outpost and a Jewish restaurant, JTA.org reported.

The Mossad, Israel’s spy agency which contributed to the investigation, told the Associated Press that the men, who are Pakistani nationals, are also part of an Iranian terror network. A third man is wanted for questioning. The group reportedly entered Greece from Turkey illegally four months ago.

“After the investigation of the suspects began in Greece, Mossad assisted in unraveling intelligence of the infrastructure, the methods of operation, and the connection to Iran,” the Israeli agency said in a statement.

In Greece, home to between 2,000 and 3,000 Jews, the attacks were believed to be imminent, officials said, noting that the suspects “had received final instructions” to carry them out. Police searched for the suspects in Athens, southern Greece and the island of Zakynthos.

### Greg Weiner Becomes First Jewish President of a US Catholic University

When he was inaugurated as Assumption University’s 17th president on March 23, Greg Weiner reportedly became the first Jewish person to run a Catholic university in the United States, JNS.org reported.

After serving in the role on an interim basis the prior year at the educational institution in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was eventually nominated for the position.

Weiner, who earned a doctorate at Georgetown University, a Jesuit school, came to Assumption in 2011 as a professor in the political science department. In 2019, he became provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Weiner has authored four books on U.S. politics and history. He has also served as a non-resident senior fellow at American Enterprise Institute. He also worked on the Hill in Washington, including as communications director and press secretary to senators.

Raised Orthodox, he is an active member of a Conservative synagogue. His grandparents founded an Orthodox synagogue in Florida. ■

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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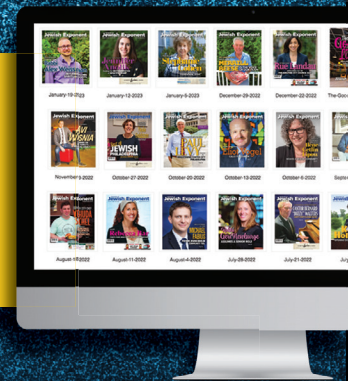


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# Meet the Jewish Teens Whose Social Media Experience Is Better Than You Think

Micole Friedman | JTA.org

**A**t the SAR High School, an Orthodox Jewish day school in Riverdale, New York, teens participate in anti-harassment training every fall.

Students listen carefully as faculty list the dangers of TikTok, the potential social isolation resulting from excessive social media use and the negative implicit messaging — both Jewish and otherwise — that often pervades these platforms.

Yet for many Jewish teens and young adults, social media provides the opposite effect by furnishing them with a voice, community and alternate avenues for exploring identity.

Olivia Fertig, a student at the Orthodox Ramaz High School in Manhattan, acknowledges that social media might tempt her to one-up someone with a better post or photo, but she also feels connected to the people whose posts she comments on or likes. “Social media allows me to interact with other Jews and come across Jewish content which teaches me more about how other Jews live,” she said.

Despite the risks involved, 35% of teens use YouTube, Tiktok, Instagram,





Snapchat and Facebook “almost constantly.” Movies and podcasts from Jewish community leaders warn of the dangers of social media “overuse” and its ravaging effects on teen mental health and cognition. “Teen mental health is plummeting, and social media is a major contributing cause,” the social psychologist Jonathan Haidt told Congress in 2022, citing adolescent mood disorders, self-harm and suicide rates.

But for some observant Jewish teens, social media provides the connection for them to be their authentic selves and learn from others.

Ilana Gadish, a member of the Judaic faculty at SAR High School, highlights the benefits of social media. “When teens, especially Jewish teens, are struggling with personal issues — whether it’s Jewish identity, sexuality, gender identity, relationships or complicated relationships that might be possibly dangerous — social media has so many accounts out there that help teens and adults navigate spaces where people can feel connected to others that aren’t in their life going through the same thing as them,” she said, while acknowledging that social media shouldn’t be the only way young people connect.

For teen content creators like Tali, who asked that only her first name be used to protect her safety and her family from antisemitism, TikTok helps her explore Jewish identity without the constraints of her real-world Orthodox community. As a self-described “practicing, religious” teen, she creates mainly Jewish content with an overarching aim of exploring sensitive Jewish issues that might otherwise remain unspoken. Specifically, she focuses on the place of women in Orthodox Judaism and seeks to raise awareness of sexual assault in Orthodox Jewish communities.

In one video, she highlighted the case of a student who had been the victim of sexual abuse, whose identity was kept anonymous. The video provided explicit support for the victim and showed “her that she wasn’t alone.” The video, which has 30,000 views on TikTok, led to a partnership between Tali and Za’akah, an organization that fights child sex abuse in the Orthodox community.

“Learning about Judaism online gives you everyone’s perspective on it, not just your school’s or your community’s,” Tali said. TikTok introduced her to “topics that are considered taboo and generally not taught in school, like the laws of sex in Judaism, etc.”

This openness may be perceived as dangerous by various community leaders but also as liberating by young social media users. “Social media gives me the freedom to express it [Judaism] however I want without restrictions from community or school etc.,” Tali said. “In certain circles, you will be ostracized for voicing certain opinions.” On TikTok, she can find a peer group that is accepting of her views.

TikTok also allows her to learn about a diverse range of Jews, including Rabbi Seth Goldstein, a Reform rabbi whose popular TikTok videos explain Judaism through pop culture. His beliefs differ from her Modern Orthodox upbringing and allow her to gain a better understanding of his liberal



**Rachel SJ has found a unique outlet on social media to express themselves and find community.**

denomination.

Some haredi Orthodox communities, including some Chasidic movements, have called for their members to disconnect from social media entirely. In the summer of 2022, two rallies organized by Orthodox rabbis specifically urged Jewish women and teens to rid themselves of these platforms, saying they encourage impure thoughts and gossip.

And some teens, even among the less insular Modern Orthodox, share this pessimistic view of social media. Jacob Prager, a sophomore at SAR High School, does not have a smartphone and does not use social media. “For the people who say that social media brings them happiness that can actually be dangerous because that’s the only way that you seek to find confirmation and love,” he said. He used to have an Instagram account for school but gave it up when he started getting addicted and didn’t have time to do things he enjoys, like crossword puzzles. “Now that I don’t use it as much I think my mental health is so much better and I’m able to do stuff that I really love,” he said.

Yet other teens say the good of social media outweighs the negative effects.

A recent study found that a majority of teens, like Tali, credit social media for “deepening connections” rather than fracturing them. Rachel SJ, an LGBTQ actor and content creator who asked to be referred to by their professional name, uses social media to make purposeful bonds with other Jewish creators on these platforms. “There’s something really wonderful about having a wider trans Jewish

community, we’re able to share resources, get each other’s more niche jokes, and learn from each other,” they said.

Rather than suppressing Jewish and other identities, social media provides a unique set of tools for self-expression and authenticity for Rachel and other members of Jewish TikTok.

As a nonbinary practicing Jew, Rachel also uses their account to make connections and interact with a much wider audience than would be possible on a local level. “I have made so many incredible connections through Jewish TikTok, it almost feels undervaluing to call them just ‘connections,’” Rachel said. “Many of them have become friends, confidants, and support.”

Rachel met @amaditalks, another Jewish creator who uses ze as a pronoun, through TikTok. “I really appreciate the compassion and humor ze brings to our conversations beyond content, but also about what’s going on in the world and our lives,” they said.

Rachel says these connections would not have been possible in any single community or real-world location. “Sure shared experiences/culture/belief/values etc. brought us together but we don’t live in the same place, we very likely wouldn’t have ever met,” they said. “These community members are able to look to each other to talk through it, get input, respond, and stand up together.” ■

*This article was produced as part of JTA’s Teen Journalism Fellowship, a program that works with Jewish teens around the world to report on issues that affect their lives.*



# It's a Date: Netflix's 'Jewish Matchmaking' Debuts May 3

Jackie Hajdenberg | JTA.org

A matchmaker who says she has successfully paired 200 Jewish couples is the star of “Jewish Matchmaking,” a Netflix series that is set to start streaming on May 3.

Netflix announced the series, a spinoff of its wildly successful “Indian Matchmaking” show, nearly a year ago. Now, new details that the streaming giant released on Thursday reveal that it will take place in both the United States and Israel, and will feature people from a variety of Jewish backgrounds.

Their guide will be Aleeza Ben Shalom, an Orthodox Jewish dating coach with a decade of experience who was based in the Philadelphia area and moved to Israel two years ago.

“Finding your person is the hardest thing to do in the entire world,” Ben Shalom says in the show’s trailer, which dropped on March 30. “And that’s where I come in.”

Netflix is keeping most details about the show secret until closer to the launch date, but the trailer shows one man who is part of the process — “I don’t want to have to explain to her why ‘Curb Your Enthusiasm’ is funny,” he explains, after being asked why he is looking for a matchmaker — and

several women. Multiple cast members posted about their involvement on social media on March 30, including comedian and disability activist Pamela Rae Schuller and Miami-based marketing executive Dani Bergman.

Formal matchmaking is common in the haredi Orthodox world, where many couples pair off through a formal and speedy process that has been depicted in shows such as “Shtisel,” which also streams on Netflix. Other Jews date and marry on their own, and a slew of dating services and apps have catered to matching Jews with each other.

“In today’s world of modern love, we are used to turning to technology to find love,” Ben Shalom told E! News. “We download apps and we upload profiles. We swipe left or swipe right. And yet, somehow finding ‘the one’ has never been harder.”

“Jewish Matchmaking” will run for eight 30-minute episodes, featuring a diverse set of couplings, from Orthodox singles who observe the rules of negiah — the prohibition on touching before marriage — to Reform and secular U.S. Jews who, data show, are statistically likely to marry people who are not Jewish.

The show — whose title is translated into Hebrew as “Modern Matchmaking” — is modeled on “Indian Matchmaking,” now entering its third season, which



“Jewish Matchmaking” follows Aleeza Ben Shalom, a top Jewish matchmaker, as she helps her clients meet their bashert, or soulmate.



The singles in “Jewish Matchmaking” come from a variety of religious backgrounds.

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also focuses on a professional matchmaker and people looking for love. While the show has been popular with audiences, it has also drawn criticism for reinforcing religious and caste segregation; no couples from its first season remain together.

Ben Shalom, who says she grew up secular and later became more traditionally observant, works exclusively with Jewish singles. This week, she launched a podcast called “The Yentas” with two other Jewish

matchmakers affiliated with Tribe12, a Philadelphia organization serving Jewish young adults that includes a matchmaking service.

“We know it can carry a negative gossipy connotation,” they say in the first episode about the name of their show. “Maybe you saw ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ where the word is associated with being a busybody, somebody who wants to make matches but doesn’t have your best interest at heart. We are not that. We are love professionals.” ■





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# Matzah Balls, Four Questions and a Postwar Celebration

## Seniors Recall the Passover Seders of Their Childhoods

Ellen Braunstein

The matzah ball debate was along the topics at Fred Strober's childhood seders, which offer plenty of memories to this day.

Strober, 74, of Elkins Park, remembers how large the seders were. His mother and her sister were married to his father and his brother.

"Thirty to 40 people would gather at Aunt Betty's house for Pesach. The two families, the Strobers and the Rivlins, were very close," Strober said.

Strober, a soon-to-be retiring lawyer who belongs to Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia, recalled that

he was the youngest boy, so he asked the Four Questions. His mother made him take an afternoon nap because he would be up so late.

"That was the highlight of my year," said Strober, who grew up attending an Orthodox Hebrew school five days a week at Congregation Shaaray Tefila in Far Rockaway, New York. "I would practice and practice as if it were my bar mitzvah to make sure that I did it well in front of my family. I was very nervous, but they were very adoring, and I looked forward to the adoration and being the center of things during their seder."

The proper consistency of matzah balls was a lighthearted point of



Fred Strober



Bill Fox

Courtesy of Fred Strober

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contention between the Rivlins and the Strobers. The Strobers' hard matzah balls were young Fred Strober's favorite.

"My family members were of all political persuasions that by the end of the seder I thought we'd be throwing the balls at each other," he quipped. "But I say that somewhat in jest."

The food his mother prepared "was absolutely unbelievable. Everybody looked forward to the meals. Her fried matzah for breakfast sticks in my mind."

Meantime, at Bill Fox's house, the matzah balls were either called

feathers — the light, fluffy kind — or bombs — the chewy, heavy kind. Fox's mother, Anne, would make both, to accommodate everyone's personal preference.

"We had great discussions every holiday about whether the bombs were chewy and heavy enough and whether the feathers were light and fluffy enough," said Fox, 80, of Pikesville, Maryland.

Family bonding, rituals and songs — for many Jews, some of their fondest childhood memories are of the Passover seder.

"Passover was the best holiday for me as a child, and it is today," said Fox, an auctioneer, lawyer and former securities firm executive. "We were surrounded not just by our immediate family, but by our uncles, aunts, cousins, etc."

Fox's father always led the service and loved to sing, said Fox, who is a past vice chairman of Beth Tfiloh Congregation in Pikesville and active in pro-Israel organizations.

"There was a favorite cantor who was world-renowned at the time, Moishe Oysher. My dad had an LP, and at

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Passover time, he played the various Passover songs like ‘Chad Gadya,’” Fox recalled. “The LP was passed down to me, and all my kids grew up with that as well.”

Fred Shapiro, 90, a retired management consultant, is active in the Jewish community of Leisure World. He said he started learning Hebrew when he was a 3-year-old boy in Brooklyn. The first time he asked the Four Questions was at age 4 at his house.

His father was a neighborhood grocer, and when Passover rolled around, he changed over the store to accommodate kosher-for-Passover foods. “I delivered the foods, the matzah, with a wagon, walking around a three- or four-block neighborhood in East New York, Brooklyn,” Shapiro recalled.

Sheldon Goldberg, 84, of Silver Spring, Maryland, is a Vietnam War veteran. He is also retired from the Air Force and from the CIA. Today, he is active in Jewish War Veterans. A native



Fred Shapiro and his wife Madeline

of South Carolina, Goldberg remembers Passovers at his grandmother’s house, mostly for the mystery of the hidden afikomen. “No matter what I did or my cousins did, we could never find the afikomen,” he said. “Year after year after year, as long as we were there, we would see my grandfather break it and used to watch him like a hawk. We could never find it.”

One memorable Passover for Goldberg occurred in 1969 when Goldberg was stationed at a Georgia Air Force base. “We had a group of Israeli pilots, and the base did everything possible to have a Passover seder. But what happened apparently is they could not find a kosher ladle to dish out the soup. The Israelis got impatient, and pretty soon they were banging on the tables and were singing and yelling. Finally, everything got settled and the ladle came.”

Felicia Graber, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor, wasn’t aware she was Jewish until she was 7 years old.



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Sheldon Goldberg

Photo by Justin

Her parents pretended to be Catholic to escape the Nazis and communist Poles, before fleeing to Western Europe after the war.

Graber, 83, now lives in Park Heights in Baltimore. She is a book author and retired high school teacher, and she belongs to Agudath Israel of Baltimore and Congregation Tiferes Yisroel. She vividly remembers one seder in Germany after the war.

“We had this beautiful apartment where all our friends, who were all Holocaust survivors, were seated at an extended table, and my mother would be going back and forth to the table set up by beautiful dishes — the best linen, china and crystal,” she recalled. “My father sat at the head of the table and had a Haggadah in front of him. He knew the whole book by heart. Other survivors recited from the Haggadah.

“My father sang the traditional tunes and interspersed it all with stories from the ‘old days’ from the days before 1939.

“It was a joyous experience, feeling part of a group, some of it a little bit new to me, but it felt good,” Graber said. “It’s almost like I came back to my roots, getting back to my Jewishness.” ■

*Ellen Braunstein is a freelance writer.*



Felicia Graber

Photo by David Stuck

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The leadership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia was greatly disturbed to see in last week's Jewish Exponent a shameful attack on an individual community member by an advertiser. We recognize that the love for Israel fuels tremendous passion. In recent weeks we have seen a variety of interpretations of what a Jewish and Democratic Israel should look like. The story that is unfolding is indeed challenging and also an extraordinary exhibit of love of country, of devotion to Zionism, and to our collective Jewish homeland.

No matter if you are for the reforms or in opposition, we are witnessing an incredible story unfold that demands responsible dialogue and not personal attacks. Jewish Exponent – we expect more from you and we need more from you in building the Jewish community.



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# What's for Dinner (After Passover Ends)?

## Cracker Crumb Cod!

**Keri White**

I was inspired to create this dish after a visit to my sister in North Jersey. We dined out at her country club, and my expectations were low.

The term “country-club food” is thrown around derisively in culinary circles, so I was a bit skeptical. But she assured me that, like many private clubs forced to compete with the explosion of restaurants and general



“foodiness,” the place had upped its dining game. She spoke the truth, and we did have a really good meal.

I ordered this old-school cod on the theory that keeping it simple and staying in the lane where country club food normally drove was the right move, and it was terrific. I should also divulge that the other diners at my table ordered more adventurous meals and thoroughly enjoyed them, so maybe we need to revisit the whole “throwing shade on country club food” position. But I digress.

The cod was so terrific that I was inspired to recreate it in my kitchen. Any flaky white fish can be substituted for the cod — halibut, flounder, fluke, bass, grouper, etc. — just be sure to alter the cooking time per the thickness of the fish.

I used a 4-inch sleeve of Ritz crackers, which brought a buttery richness to the dish, but almost any cracker can be used. Pay attention to the flavor profile of the crackers; if they are infused with garlic or pepper this will change the taste. Of course, this meal won't work during Passover, but it will taste really good afterward.

The cracker crumb brings a crunchy richness to the fish, so I opted to balance the meal with simpler sides: steamed carrots tossed with chopped parsley and Dijon vinaigrette cabbage salad (see below).

The simple cabbage salad is versatile; it is intended to mimic but elevate the classic “breaded fish and slaw” combo often seen at seafood shacks at the shore. The salad complements the fish well, but it can do double duty tomorrow on a sandwich or as a bed for tuna or chicken salad.

For dessert, like the sides, keep it simple — consider a sorbet, fresh fruit or some dark chocolate. I would steer clear of buttery cakes and creamy

puddings as they might compete with the cracker crumb-coated cod.

### Cracker Crumb Cod | Dairy (can be pareve with non-dairy butter substitute)

Serves 2

**2 cod fillets (or other flaky white fish)**

**Salt and pepper**

**¾ cup cracker crumbs**

**Juice 1 lemon**

**Zest of ½ lemon**

**1 clove garlic, crushed**

**2 tablespoons butter**

**Chopped parsley for garnish**

Line a baking dish or pie plate with parchment, and heat your oven to 300 degrees F.

Place the fillets on parchment, and sprinkle them generously with salt and pepper; spritz them with a bit of lemon (most of the lemon goes in the crumb mixture).

In a small bowl, melt the butter in the microwave. Add the garlic, lemon juice, lemon zest and a bit more salt and pepper. Stir to blend. Press the mixture gently onto the fish, covering the top and sides.

Bake it in the oven for 25 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish. Check for doneness; the fish should flake easily and be opaque throughout. Toss chopped parsley over the fish, and serve it with lemon wedges.

### Cabbage with Dijon Vinaigrette

Serves 4

White, red, napa or a combo of cabbages can be used here. If desired, shredded carrots, onions or kale can also be added.

**2 tablespoons white wine vinegar**

**3 tablespoons olive oil**

**2 teaspoons Dijon mustard**

**2 teaspoon sugar**

**Salt and pepper to taste**

**6 cups shredded cabbage**

Mix the dressing ingredients in the bottom of a large bowl. Add the cabbage, and toss it well. Let it sit for at least 20 minutes or refrigerate it overnight. This keeps for several days if sealed in the fridge. ■

*Keri White is a Philadelphia-based freelance food writer.*

Photo by Keri White

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## BROOKS

ALLAN was born on November 21st, 1930. Son of the late Minerva and William Brooks. He was the beloved husband of Edith Hopen Brooks and father of Dr. Beth Brooks (Robert Waterston), Eric Brooks (Heidi), and Hal Brooks (Rachel Botchan). He was an adoring Poppop to Sienna, Xander, Dashiell, and Benjamin. A lifelong Philadelphian, he was a graduate of Central High School Class 190, University of Pennsylvania, and Hahnemann Medical College. Allan was a respected psychoanalyst and child psychiatrist. He was an avid runner back in the 60s and 70s, and he loved tennis, swimming, and biking. For over forty years, Allan and Eadie shared their love of the Philadelphia Orchestra, opera, theater, and cinema as a couple and with their long-time friends. In recent years he was part of an opera class through Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Allan loved spending time with his family and friends, and was known for making everyone smile, laugh, and feel loved. He made every person feel special. His hearty laugh will live on in our hearts. Contributions to his memory can be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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## BROWN

BEVERLY H., March 21, 2023, of Cherry Hill, NJ. Wife of the late Dr. Gary Brown. Mother of Amy (the late Robert) Darefsky and Jodi (Andrew Deitch) Brown. Grandmother of Jordan Darefsky, Carlie Darefsky, Adam Deitch and Zachary Deitch. Contributions in her memory can be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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## FORBES

ROBERT J. "Bob", March 16, 2023, of East Norriton, PA, formerly of Cherry Hill and Marlton, NJ. Beloved husband of the late Marilyn Forbes. Loving father of Ellen Forebes, Michael Forbes and Eric (Isa Stead) Forbes. Adoring grandfather of Violet Forbes. Dear brother of Irwin (Harriet) Forbes and the late Audrey (late Morton) Wolfman

and son of the late Paul and Esther Forbes. He is also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Bob graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and had careers in Engineering and Computer Programming and was formerly an employee of the State of New Jersey. Bob was a Hebrew school teacher, Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor and choir singer for many years at Adath Emanu-El in Mt. Laurel, NJ. He also spent many enjoyable years coaching youth soccer. Burial was private. Contributions can be made to The Jewish National Fund: <https://shop.jnf.org/collections/plant-trees>

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## GASES

CARLYN R. "Sissy" (nee Katz) on March 26, 2023, wife of the late Bernard, mother of Murray (Judi) Gases and Howard (Ilana) Gases, sister of Simon (Selma) Katz, grandmother of Evan Gases, Eric (Kristi) Gases, Aliza (Saul) Maslansky, and Matthew (Laura) Gases, great grandmother of Rebecca and Gabriel Maslansky, and Grace Gases. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Friends of Israel Defense Forces, [www.fidf.org](http://www.fidf.org)

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## KESSLER

RACHEL LYNNE, of Philadelphia, Pa. Beloved daughter of Madeleine Goldenberg and Steven Jay Kessler. Cherished sister of Daniel G. Kessler and sister-in-law of Theresa Ann Noone. Proud aunt of Jonah and Maeve Kessler. Loving doggy mom to Dakota, Lucy, Barkley, and Ella. Loved by many other friends and family. Rachel redefined toughness, demonstrated stoic bravery, and has now found peace. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Abramson Cancer Center.

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## LIPKIN

CELENE SANDRA (nee Fairman) passed away March 25, 2023. Loving wife of Jerry Lipkin. Beloved mother of Stacey and Aaron Marks. Devoted grandmother of Arielle and Ilana. Cherished sister of Gail Fairman and sister-in-law of Betty and Stephen Lipkin. Adoring Aunt of Alyssa, Karen, John and David. Daughter of the late Ida and Albert Fairman. Celene was a dedicated elementary and kindergarten teacher for the School District of Philadelphia for many years. Once retired she was an active member of the Heritage Creek Community. She is very much loved and will be missed by her family tremendously. Contributions in her memory may be made to Melanoma Research Foundation [www.melanoma.org](http://www.melanoma.org) or to the Jewish National Fund [www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)

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## ROSEN

HAROLD March 17, 2023. Harold was a well known builder, developer and friend. Husband of Helene (nee: Gerstenfeld), father of Wayne (Joan) Rosen and Lynn (Anthony Bernichio) Rosen. Also survived by his 4 beloved grandchildren. Contributions may be made to Girard College. Condolences and contribution information at [BerschlerAndShenberg.com](http://BerschlerAndShenberg.com)

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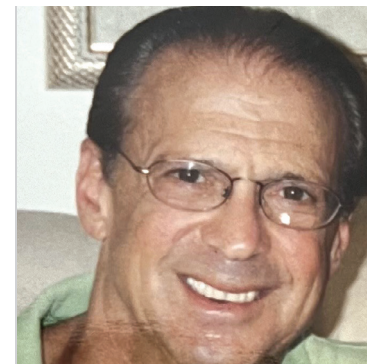
ISAIAH ANATOLE - June 16, 1926, - March 27, 2023. Son of the late Benjamin and Tonnia, brother of Essie Neff, husband of the late Joan, father of David (Peggy), Adam (Beth), Judy Bay (the late Steve), grandfather of Benjamin, Justin, Philip, and Wesley Share, and Max and Olivia Bay. A retired psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, Dr. Share was a native Chicagoan and proud graduate of Marshall High School, the University of Illinois, and the University of Illinois College of Medicine class of 1947. Dr. Share was active in the Philadelphia medical community for over 70 years. In his memory family would appreciate donations to his beloved Philadelphia Orchestra or a charity of the donor's choice. Memorial service at a date to be determined.

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## SHRIER

RUTH (nee Belinsky) age 88, passed away March 25, 2023. Beloved wife of the late Allen Shrier. Dear sister of the late Bernice Meyers. Loving cousin of Betty (the late Sam) Korth, Sam (Stella Ann) Borenstein, Steve (Allison) Borenstein, Bill (Shawn) Borenstein, Linda (Rabbi Ira) Schiffer, Larry (Susan) Shrier, and Carol Reed. Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel [www.bzbi.org](http://www.bzbi.org)

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## WEISBROT

RAYMOND JAY, son of Helen and Zack Weisbrot of Philadelphia, was born on March 16, 1942. He passed away on March 24, 2023 at 81 years of age after a long illness with cancer and a lifelong, courageous battle with major depressive disorder. Ray lived a full and active life, enjoying success for many years as a Manufacturer's Representative for Artex Corporation. He was an avid runner, loved his dogs and enjoyed time in Cape May Point with his family. Later in life he relocated to Sarasota, Fla where he enjoyed visits to Starbucks, rescuing turtles and other wildlife and catching geckos with his grandkids when they visited. He leaves behind his partner of 23 years, Diedre Figliola, brothers Dennis and Gary Weisbrot as well as his daughters Shari Kantor (partner Eric Semmel) and Sally Bacharz (husband Michael Bacharz) and granddaughters Samantha, Laila and Eden. His family has comfort knowing that he is out of pain and reunited with his beloved dogs and so many family and friends that we know have welcomed him with open arms!

## MEMORIAL

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Be For a Blessing

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# P'nai Or Members Lose Themselves in Prayer

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

**F**rank Kohn, 64, is a Mount Airy resident who walks to Shabbat services at P'nai Or. Batya Segura, 66, lives in Florida but attends via Zoom (though she is in the process of moving to Philadelphia). And Sharon Pearl, 70, resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, but travels into the city each week for Shabbat.

They come from different places and attend services in different ways. But for all three members, and more than 40 others, it's important to be at Summit Presbyterian Church, P'nai Or's rented sanctuary, every Friday night.

That's because, as Kohn, Segura and Pearl explain, the congregation's prayer sessions are not about going through the motions. Rabbi Marcia Prager directs the service by explaining the prayers and why congregants are saying them. Nobody moves too fast, which enables everybody to understand the words and their meanings, to feel their connections with God and to immerse themselves in the moment.

"It's spiritually alive," Pearl said.

On Google, P'nai Or describes itself as Philadelphia's Jewish Renewal Community. On Facebook, it refers to itself as P'nai Or Jewish Renewal Congregation of Philadelphia. Its goal is to help Jewish adults deepen their spirituality, regardless of where they may be on their Jewish journeys. As Kohn put it, the congregation of 80 or so members has "people who are shomer Shabbos and people who light candles." It doesn't matter. There's no judgment. There is only a space, now both virtual and physical, in which people pray.

The multidimensional nature of that space developed, as it did at so many synagogues, during COVID. In 2020, after the pandemic broke out, Prager transitioned the services and



P'nai Or members read Torah together.

the community to Zoom. But even as COVID faded in 2022 and '23, a large portion of the congregation stayed online. The rabbi breaks her members down into two categories now: "Zoomers and roomers," she said, meaning those who pray online and those who come to the sanctuary. There are about 30 Zoomers and 20 roomers each week.

The Zoomers live in Arizona, New Mexico, New England, Colorado and other places. Many heard about P'nai Or through word of mouth. Some were past congregants who moved away. The roomers live in Mount Airy, Center City, Cherry Hill, Bucks County and other areas. Prager estimates that membership has grown "a smidge" during COVID. But at a synagogue with no property and no school, growth is not Prager's goal.

"Our members tend to be empty nesters or folks whose kids already

graduated from Hebrew school and are looking for personal, meaningful Jewish experiences for themselves," the rabbi said.

Tobie Hoffman, 69, is a Mount Airy resident who walks to services. A P'nai Or member for 30 years, she said that congregants do not pray. They learn to "be in prayer."

"Emotionally, spiritually, physically being in prayer," Hoffman added. "That's really what I get out of it, and why I keep going."

Kohn, a member since 1998, explained that there are times when services are "ecstatically joyful" and times when "it's very deep and quiet." Segura, who is moving to Philadelphia to be near her daughter, said that, even over Zoom, she feels like Jewish songs at the synagogue transport her "to a place other than the physical plane." Pearl, a congregant since 1997, believes that intentionality and deep

feeling lead to true belief.

"It's having a deep knowing. It's not just, 'Oh, that's nice. Oh yeah, God expects this from us.' It encourages a deep connection with whatever your concept of God is," she explained. "We experience God. We don't just pray to God."

But this process is not just internal. Zoomers and roomers do it together. Hoffman is single. Her family members live in other cities, so she depends on her fellow synagogue members.

During Yom Kippur, P'nai Or was in person for the first time since 2019. Hoffman attended and, at one point, she looked around the room and realized that she knew everyone — and that they all knew her.

"I feel like I'm at home. There's a sense of closeness," she said. "I know I have people to count on. I do rely on people here a lot." ■

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





Rabbi Geri Newburge

*Pesach*

There is a story about Rabbi Akiva at the Passover seder in the Talmud. He would distribute roasted grains and nuts to the children so they would stay awake and they would ask questions.

Later on in the same passage, Rabbi Eliezer teaches: One grabs the matzot on the nights of Passover and should eat them very quickly on account of the children, so that due to the hasty consumption of the meal, they will not sleep and they will inquire about the meaning of this unusual practice. (Pesachim 108b-109a)

elements my ancestors developed for this holiday meal, but there are several inspiring and engaging Sephardic traditions worth considering for your seder this year as we seek to keep our children (of all ages) engaged with the ritual.

The first *minhag* (custom) that quite literally helps tell the story is a “reenactment” of the Exodus from Egypt. After either the step of Yachatz (breaking of the middle matzah) or during the Maggid, many Sephardim wrap the afikoman in a large napkin, tie it with a string and give it to one of the children at the seder. Then the child slings the napkin over his or her shoulder while the leader of the seder asks a series of questions to the child:

Jewish people’s persecution under the Babylonians and Romans, countless inquisitions, expulsions and pogroms under the tyranny of too many oppressors. Maror includes the bitterness of concentration camps, and it even allows for reflection on the contemporary resurgence of antisemitism.

Last (for this column but there are many other practices worth exploring), is a Moroccan tradition that transitions into the Maggid section of the Haggadah. Everyone chants the Hebrew: *Bibhilu yatzaanu mimitzraim ha lachma anya benai chorin* (“It is with haste that we came out of Egypt, and this is the bread of affliction we ate.”)

While these words are chanted, the head of the family holds the seder plate above the head of each attendee, circling three times and often reciting a blessing for each participant.

We can never receive too many blessings, and I hope these rituals bring a renewed sense of wonder and inspiration to you and your loved ones for a meaningful seder. Wishing you a *zissen Pesach!* ■

*Rabbi Geri Newburge is the senior rabbi at Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood. 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 necessarily reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.*



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*We can never receive too many blessings.*

But the idea of engaging the children predates these thoughtful rabbis. In the Torah portion for the first day of Pesach we read, “You shall observe this as an institution for all time, for you and your descendants, and when you enter the land God will give you, as promised, you shall observe this rite. When your children ask you, ‘What do you mean by this rite?’ you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to God, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when smiting the Egyptians, but saved our houses.’” (Ex 12:24-27)

Even when our ancestors were still in Egypt, they focused on the primacy of telling the next generations about what they experienced. Of course, how we tell the story is open to interpretation and creativity, and the Haggadah is a testament to the various ways we share the narrative, from the asking of the Four Questions to the Four Children to the manner of counting the Ten Plagues.

As with other holiday traditions, the seder practices evolved differently in different locales. I’m an Ashkenazi Jew and am familiar with many of the

1. “From where have you come?” The child answers: “I have come from Egypt.”
2. The Passover seder leader then asks: “Where are you going?” The child answers: “I am going to Jerusalem.”
3. Finally, the Passover seder leader asks: “What are you taking with you?” The child then points to the sack or napkin full of matzah.

Some communities extend this reenactment beyond the children and include all seder participants!

A second *minhag* found in the Sephardic tradition is to place maror — the bitter herbs — at the very center of the seder plate. This follows the understanding of Rabbi Isaac Luria, the 16th-century mystic from Tzfat.

This practice has contemporary implications. By placing maror in the middle, we expand our understanding of the Haggadah to include our people’s bitter experiences beyond ancient Egypt. We remember the

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## APRIL 7–13

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7

**PARSHA FOR LIFE**

Join Rabbi Alexander Coleman, a 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](https://ijethics.org/weekly-torah-portion.html) to receive the Zoom link and password.**

**MUSICAL KABBALAT SHABBAT**

Join Beth Sholom Congregation's Rabbi David Glanzberg-Krainin, Cantor Jacob Agar and the band at 6 p.m. for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat. The community is welcome to attend. **Call 215-887-1342 for information. 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park.**

**KOL ZIMRAH**

"Kol Zimrah" means "the sound of singing." This musical service, offered online at 6 p.m., is led by Germantown Jewish Centre Rabbi Adam Zeff and Executive Director Nina Peskin and features original melodies and *kavanot* (short spiritual reflections). **venue. [streamspot.com/a79c0def](https://streamspot.com/a79c0def).**

## MONDAY, APRIL 10

**MAHJONG GAME**

Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El Sisterhood invites the community to join our weekly mahjong game at 7 p.m. Cost is \$36 per year or free with MBIEE Sisterhood membership. **For more information, call 215-635-1505 or email [office@mbiee.org](mailto:office@mbiee.org). 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.**

**PASSOVER BBQ**

The Congregations of Shaare Shamayim is holding its annual Passover BBQ at 6 p.m. Cost for adults is \$25 per person. Our menu is chicken, hot dogs, chips, salad, gefilte fish, fruit, cake and more. **Call the CSS office at 215-677-1600 for further details or to make reservations. 9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia.**

## THURSDAY, APRIL 13

**CANASTA GAME**

Ohev Shalom of Bucks County Sisterhood invites the community to a weekly canasta game from 1-3 p.m. Open play is \$4. **Call 215-968-6755 for more information. 944 Second Street Pike, Richboro. ■**

## SUNDAY, APRIL 9

J.Proud LGBTQ+  
Passover Seder

Sunday, April 9th  
4:00pm

Germantown Jewish Center  
potluck dinner, prayer, and song!

**LGBTQ COMMUNITY SEDER**

Join J.Proud and Germantown Jewish Centre for our annual LGBTQ Passover seder, in person under an outdoor tent. We'll join together for a traditional Passover meal and service, while exploring themes like queerness, trans identities, activism, liberation and freedom. **For more information, contact Galia Godel at [ggodel@jfcsp Philly.org](mailto:ggodel@jfcsp Philly.org) or 267-273-6006. 400 W. Ellet St., Philadelphia.**

## Attention All Community Organizations

If you would like to update your listing in the

### 2023-2024 GUIDE TO JEWISH LIFE

please contact  
Jewish Exponent Editor  
Andy Gotlieb at  
[jewishexponentguide@gmail.com](mailto:jewishexponentguide@gmail.com)



## social announcements/

**BIRTHDAY****DOROTHY SWARTZ**

Dorothy (Dot) Swartz celebrated her 105th birthday on March 3.

A party was held in her honor given by her daughter Joan Markizon, along with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. Coincidentally, Ron Jaworski, U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew and New Jersey state Sen. Mike Testa were at the venue that night, and all stopped by with their birthday wishes.

Courtesy of the Swartz family





Courtesy of Stu Coren



Courtesy of the Abrams Hebrew Academy



Courtesy of Joseph Krebs



Photo by Amichai Shdaimah



Photo by Steve Goldblatt



Courtesy of Ike Richman



1 KleinLife held a Purim celebration at its facility in Northeast Philadelphia. 2 Rabbi Isaac Leizerowski treated Abrams Hebrew Academy students to a mezuzah workshop. 3 Israeli Olympic judo medalist Ori Sasson visited Drexel University's Hillel as part of Jewish National Fund-USA's Positively Israel campaign on college campuses. 4 Members of the Israeli and Jewish American community protested the judicial overhaul proposal put forth by Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, since suspended. 5 Meredith Jacobs, the CEO of Jewish Women International, was the presenter at the Sid Tessler Forum of the Jewish Interest Group at Shannondell at Valley Forge on March 15. 6 Philadelphia Flyers executive Valerie Camillo met 91-year-old Abramson Center resident Harvey Ballen in person after they struck up a friendship during the pandemic.



# HISTORY PROFESSOR Melissa Klapper

## SCHOOLS AS THREE-DAY ‘JEOPARDY!’ CHAMP

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

In just a matter of days, Melissa Klapper went from using “Jeopardy!” clues to teach her Women in Modern American History class to competing on the Alex Trebek Stage.

The Jewish Rowan University professor ended a four-day “Jeopardy!” run on March 23, racking up \$60,100 in winnings and gaining status as a three-day champion.

“This is probably the first time ever in my career that any student probably thought that I was cool,” she said.

During her time on “Jeopardy!”, the 49-year-old Merion Station resident fielded categories about the Lincoln Highway, American novelists and four-letter verbs starting with “V” — not letting getting beat to the buzzer on a clue about Yom Kippur get to her head.

Klapper, who teaches American history at Rowan and is the coordinator of women’s and gender studies, prepped for her “Jeopardy!” stint, filmed in January, for two weeks. The Sha’arei Orah Congregation and Lechu Neranena partnership minyan member read children’s books on geography and science to learn quick facts. She clicked a ballpoint pen to prepare her buzzer reflexes, though admits to a lack of hand-eye coordination handicapping her time on the show.

Her career in academics, however, gave her an advantage, Klapper said.

“I’m a teacher; I do a lot of public speaking,” she said. “I don’t have a problem with being up in front of people, and that is an issue for some contestants, that they just don’t do that ever in their real life, and so they get up on stage and freeze.”

With 22 years of teaching at Rowan,



Melissa Klapper with “Jeopardy!” host Ken Jennings on the set of the show

Klapper is well-versed in her field. She’s published four books, including “Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women’s Activism, 1890-1940,” which won the National Jewish Book Award in 2013, and, most recently, “Ballet Class: An American History.”

But Klapper’s “Jeopardy!” journey started in her childhood homes in Dallas and Baltimore where she and her family would play the “Jeopardy!” board game. Klapper developed a love of trivia, auditioning for the teen tournament in high school, and later joining the contestant pool for the adult tournament after taking the online test. It would take a second online test 18 months after her

first effort to be invited to Los Angeles to compete on the show.

Klapper’s Jewish family had a love of learning, and her teacher mother instilled in her and her sister a love for reading.

“Sometimes after Shabbat dinner on Friday night ... there would be just the four of us sitting around in dead silence, only pages turning,” she said.

As an adult, Klapper’s reading list topics range from the history of the Academy Awards to ballet memoirs to young adult fantasy.

“It’s important to be curious about the world and to understand that most people have different experiences from

each other,” Klapper said. “And so learning about that adds to a person’s sense of empathy and the ability to imagine lives other than the ones that they’re living.”

While her breadth of knowledge gave Klapper the edge on “Jeopardy!”, the depth of her scholarship gave her recognition from the American Jewish Archives and the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, among others. Klapper focuses on the stories not told in many history books, with a focus on American Jewish women.

“I noticed, from two directions, that Jewish history often did not talk much about women,” she said. “And that general American women’s history narratives — not just American, but general women’s history narratives — didn’t have much to say about Jewish people.”

There’s a balance that Klapper has to keep in her scholarship. As an American Jewish woman, she feels a closeness to the histories she tells and understands firsthand the stakes in those stories. As an academic, she knows not to let those personal feelings bias her research.

“That’s just part of the job is being able to maintain that critical distance while also maintaining a sense of empathy that comes from some level, at least, of identification,” she said.

In an interview with JTA.org, Klapper explained that, after dealing with the taxes from her “Jeopardy!” earnings, she hopes to donate a chunk of her \$60,000 to the various charities in which she’s involved, as well as upgrade a previously planned trip to England this May.

But Klapper hasn’t let her “Jeopardy!” winnings distract her from her scholarship. She’s working on a fifth book about American Jewish women who traveled between the Civil War and World War II. ■

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### ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL PARK

Selling 2 Mausoleum Crypts:  
Phase 1  
Rows 75 and 76 C  
Contact Cristy  
(484)686-9595  
[cristyhollin@gmail.com](mailto:cristyhollin@gmail.com)

### SHALOM MEMORIAL PARK FOR SALE GREAT LOCATION IN GABRIEL SECTION TWO LOTS

ALL SERVICES AND FEES  
INCLUDING TRANSFER FEE  
BRONZE PLACQUE WITH  
ENGRAVING  
GRANITE BASE  
OVER TIME FOR WEEKEND  
PERPETUAL CARE  
CALL 480-622-0596  
OR EMAIL [SIDBE@AOL.COM](mailto:SIDBE@AOL.COM)

Temple Judea of Doylestown has consecrated cemetery lots for Jewish burial at Whitmarsh Cemetery in Blue Bell for sale. \$1500 ea. 2 for \$2500. OBO Call Temple Judea 215-348-5022 ext 3 for details.

## BURIAL PLOTS

**HAYM SOLOMON MEMORIAL PARK**  
FOR SALE  
UP TO 3 ADJACENT PLOTS  
INCLUDES PERPETUAL CARE  
MAY BE PURCHASED INDIVIDUALLY  
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**Caring & Reliable  
Experienced & Trained  
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20 Years Experience  
Very Affordable  
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Margate Beach Block  
Full Season only  
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**DOWNSIZING  
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1 man's trash/another  
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Call Joel 215-947-2817  
CASH IN YOUR CLOSET INC.  
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**ESTATE SALES**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Miscellaneous:

Are you a pet owner? Do you want to get up to 100% back on Vet Bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call 1-888-616-1622 to get a free quote or visit [insurebarkmeow.com/pasn](http://insurebarkmeow.com/pasn)

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### Miscellaneous:

Dish Network: Only from Dish- 3 year TV Price Guarantee! 99% Signal Reliability, backed by guarantee. Includes Multi-Sport with NFL Redzone. Switch and Get a FREE \$100 Gift Card. Call today! 1-855-335-6094

### Miscellaneous:

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-569-3087

### Miscellaneous:

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote – Call now before the next power outage: 1-888-605-4028

### Miscellaneous:

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-290-9042

### Miscellaneous:

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-437-1428

### Miscellaneous:

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind

or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-672-8674

## LEGALS

### Fictitious Name Registration

Notice is hereby given that a Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for **PRIMARY CARE OF EAST NORRITON** with a principal place of business located at 2705 Dekalb Pike, Suite 101, East Norriton, PA 19401-1852 in Montgomery County. The organization interested in this business is Suburban Medical Group, LLC in c/o Cogency Global, Inc. in Dauphin County. This is filed in compliance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

### LIBERTY PERFORMANCE AND REHAB CORP

has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on 3/27/2023 with respect to a proposed nonprofit corporation, **Philadelphia for All**, which has been incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.

### PALOMO'S CARPET & FLOORING, INC.

has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

### ANN THE WARDEN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. Brownstein, Pearlman, Wiezer & Newman, P.C. 3 North Second Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - PHILA. COUNTY - March Term '23/NO. 230300641 - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Petition of AMOS ALFRED PARKER was filed in the above-named Court praying for a Decree to change his name to AMOS ALFRED EASTON. A hearing is fixed for 4/17/23 at 11:30 A.M., #285, City Hall, Phila. as the time and place for the hearing on the petition, when and where all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted. Nicole ElMurr, Atty. for Petitioner, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP, 3000 Two Logan Sq., Phila., PA 19103, 215.981.4256

### ESTATE OF ADELE S. EHMANN, DECEASED.

Late of Bensalem Township, Bucks 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 WILLIAM J. EHMANN, III, 2835 Century Ln., Apt. B108, Bensalem, PA 19020 and EDWARD J. EHMANN (a/k/a EDWARD JOHN EHMANN), 1400 Leedom Rd., Havertown, PA 19083, EXECUTORS, Or to their Attorney: JOHN SLOWINSKI JOHN SLOWINSKI, P.C. 3143 Knights Rd. Bensalem, PA 19020

### ESTATE OF ALBERT JACKSON, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Keith Reginald Jackson, Executor, c/o

Hope Bosniak, Esq., Dessen, Moses & Rossitto, 600 Easton Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090.

### ESTATE OF ALLAN R. CRABBE, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia County LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to HOWARD M. SOLOMAN, ADMINISTRATOR, 1760 Market St., Ste. 404, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: Howard M. Soloman 1760 Market St., Ste. 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103

### ESTATE OF ANA E. VELASQUEZ PONCE, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia County LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ANGELEE RIVERA, ADMINISTRATRIX, 15225 Wayside Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19116, Or to her Attorney: DAVID SCHACHTER 1528 Walnut St., Ste. 1507 Philadelphia, PA 19102

### ESTATE OF ANDREW A. ROLL, JR., DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia County LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CAROL ROSE RAFFERTY, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: DANIELLA A. HORN KLENK LAW, LLC 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

### ESTATE OF BETTE MARION CORBIN aka BETTY CORBIN, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Rodney Corbin, Executor, c/o John W. Richey, Esq., The Tannenbaum Law Group, 600 West Germantown Pike, Suite 400, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

### ESTATE OF CESAR D. MANGUBA a/k/a CESAR MANGUBA, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia County 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 JANE LEPORE, EXECUTRIX, 1322 Katie Ln., North Wales, PA 19454, Or to her Attorney: LISA H. LANPHEAR LAW OFFICE OF LISA H. LANPHEAR 326 Sleepy Hollow Court Maple Glen, PA 19002

### ESTATE OF CHARLES B. FORD, JR. a/k/a CHARLES BRADFORD FORD, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia County 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 CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110,



Or to his Attorney:  
CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III  
THE LAND TITLE BLDG.  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF CLIFFORD R.  
TUMBAUER, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters  
Testamentary on the above estate have  
been granted to the undersigned. All  
persons having claims against or in-  
debted to the estate should make claims  
known or forward payment to Jennifer  
Trumbauer, Executrix, 1932 E. Ontario  
St., Philadelphia, PA 19134 or to their  
attorney Mark Feinman, Esquire, 8171  
Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19152.

ESTATE OF DARLENE FINN a/k/a  
DARLENE BONNIE FINN, DECEASED.  
Late of Pennsylvania  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the  
above estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who bequest 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 Nancy J. Morgan, Adminitrix  
c/o their attorney Debra G. Speyer,  
Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd,  
PA 19004.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY PEGRAM,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Pennsylvania  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the  
above estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who bequest 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 Lisa Bell, Adminitrix c/o their  
attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza,  
Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF EDWARD D. HUGHES  
a/k/a EDWARD DANIEL HUGHES,  
SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 EDWARD D. HUGHES, JR.,  
EXECUTOR, c/o Renata T. Pabisz, Esq.,  
116 E. Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901,  
Or to his Attorney:  
RENATA T. PABISZ  
HIGH SWARTZ LLP  
116 E. Court St.  
Doylestown, PA 18901

ESTATE OF EDWARD G. OLDEN,  
DECEASED  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS on the above Estate have  
been granted to the undersigned, who  
request all persons having claims or de-  
mands against the Estate of the deced-  
ent to make known the same, and all  
persons indebted to the decedents to  
make payment without delay, to  
Administrator  
Joy Bauerle  
c/o  
Or to Attorney  
Ellen S. Fischer, Esquire  
Bloom Peters, LLC  
955 Horsham Road, Suite 307,  
Horsham, PA 19044

ESTATE OF ENEIDA LUZ CANCEL,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to KRISTEN BEHRENS,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, 1500 Market St.,  
Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102,  
Or to her Attorney:  
KRISTEN L. BEHRENS  
DILWORTH PAXSON LLP  
1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF ERSELLE F. ANDERSON,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 KEITH A. ANDERSON, EXECUTOR,  
c/o Charles A. J. Halpin, III, Esq., The  
Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste.  
1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110,  
Or to his Attorney:  
CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III  
The Land Title Bldg.  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF FLORENCE CHRISTINE  
PARKER, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 per-  
sons indebted to the decedent to make  
payment without delay to RENEE E.  
GREEN, EXECUTRIX, 6419 Boyer St.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

ESTATE OF FRANK ALEXANDER  
FARROW, III a/k/a FRANK FARROW,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment without  
delay to HOPE TAYLOR,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz,  
Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia,  
PA 19150,  
Or to her Attorney:  
JAY E. KIVITZ  
KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C.  
7901 Ogontz Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF GERALDINE COTTMAN,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County, PA  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to ONIKA D. COTTMAN,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Daniella A.  
Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Or to her Attorney:  
DANIELLA A. HORN  
KLENK LAW, LLC  
2202 Delancey Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF HASS SHAFIA,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters  
Testamentary on the above estate  
have been granted to the undersigned.  
All persons having claims against or  
indebted to the estate should make  
claims known or forward payment  
to Georgia Shafia, Executrix, 3401  
Schoolhouse Lane, Philadelphia, PA  
19129 or to their attorney Edgar R.  
Einhorn, Esq., 7 N. Columbus Blvd.,  
Unit #243, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

ESTATE OF HENRY COURTNEY  
THOMPSON, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 RaSHANNA C. THOMPSON  
and DANIELLE RASHEEDA CARMEN  
THOMPSON, EXECUTRICES, c/o  
Marc H. Jaffe, Esq., 795 E. Lancaster  
Ave., Ste. 260, Villanova, PA 19085,  
Or to their Attorney:  
MARC H. JAFFE  
FROMHOLD JAFFE ADAMS & JUN

795 E. Lancaster Ave., Ste. 260  
Villanova, PA 19085

ESTATE OF HENRY SCHLEY, JR.  
a/k/a HENRY SCHLEY, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 GLORIA I. SCHLEY,  
EXECUTRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq.,  
7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA  
19150,  
Or to her Attorney:  
JAY E. KIVITZ  
KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C.  
7901 Ogontz Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF JANE R. SPANGLER-  
WEISS, DECEASED.  
Late of Lower Merion Township,  
Montgomery 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 NEIL E. WEISS, EXECUTOR,  
c/o Rebecca Rosenberger Smolen,  
Esq., One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623, Bala  
Cynwyd, PA 19004,  
Or to his Attorney:  
REBECCA ROSENBERGER SMOLEN  
BALA LAW GROUP, LLC  
One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

ESTATE OF JENNIFER HARE,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment without  
delay to STEVEN J. HARE,  
ADMINISTRATOR, 2313 E. Firth St.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19125

ESTATE OF JEROME R.  
DIGIOVANNI, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to DEAN G. DIGIOVANNI,  
EXECUTOR, c/o John F. Walsh, Esq.,  
653 Skippack Pike, Ste. 317, P.O., Box  
445, Blue Bell, PA 19422-0702,  
Or to his Attorney:  
JOHN F. WALSH  
653 Skippack Pike, Ste. 317  
P.O., Box 445  
Blue Bell, PA 19422-0702

ESTATE OF JOHN V. HENRY,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS OF ADMINSTATION 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 Joanne O'Neill, Administrix,  
c/o John F. Walsh, Esq., 653 Skippack  
Pike, Ste. 317, P.O., Box 445, Blue Bell,  
PA 19422-0702  
Or to her Attorney:  
JOHN F. WALSH  
653 Skippack Pike, Ste. 317  
P.O., Box 445  
Blue Bell, PA 19422-0702

ESTATE OF JOSEPH A. LYDON,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County, PA  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted

to the decedent to make payment  
without delay to MICHAEL LYDON,  
ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Charles A.  
J. Halpin, III, Esq., The Land Title  
Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830,  
Philadelphia, PA 19110,  
Or to his Attorney:  
CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III  
The Land Title Bldg.  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF KAREN J. KINARD,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to CARLEEN MOSSETT,  
EXECUTRIX, c/o Robert J. Dixon, Esq.,  
7715 Crittenden St., #203, Philadelphia,  
PA 19118,  
Or to her Attorney:  
ROBERT J. DIXON  
7715 Crittenden St., #203  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

ESTATE OF LOUISE FARROW  
CRUEL, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to HOPE TAYLOR,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz,  
Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia,  
PA 19150,  
Or to her Attorney:  
JAY E. KIVITZ  
KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C.  
7901 Ogontz Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF LYNN LISS, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 SHELDON LISS, EXECUTOR,  
c/o Jonathan H. Ellis, Esq., One  
Tower Bridge, 100 Front St., Ste. 100,  
Conshohocken, PA 19428,  
Or to his Attorney:  
JONATHAN H. ELLIS  
FLASTER GREENBERG PC  
One Tower Bridge  
100 Front St., Ste. 100  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

ESTATE OF MARLENE C. KELLY,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 VALERIE KELLY, EXECUTRIX,  
2844 Maxwell St., Philadelphia, PA 19136,  
Or to her Attorney:  
NATHAN SNYDER  
LAW OFFICE OF NATHAN SNYDER  
3070 Bristol Pike, Building Two, Ste. 204  
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MARY JANE CONROY  
a/k/a MARY CONROY, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County, PA  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to JILLIAN C. CONROY,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Harry Metka,  
Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9,  
Bensalem, PA 19020,  
Or to her Attorney:  
HARRY METKA  
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9  
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MATTHEW E. MAZZA,  
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 LEE ANNE MAZZA,  
EXECUTRIX, 21 Almond Ct., Lafayette  
Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF NORMA J. HOLZWARTH,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to JOHN A. SERFASS,  
EXECUTOR, 3768 Morrell Ave.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19114,  
Or to his Attorney:  
MARYBETH O. LAURIA  
LAURIA LAW LLC  
3031 Walton Rd., Ste. C310  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

ESTATE OF REGINA A. GORMLEY,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to ROBERT J. GORMLEY,  
ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Martin J.  
Pezzner, Esq., 100 W. 6th St., Ste. 204,  
Media, PA 19063,  
Or to his Attorney:  
MARTIN J. PEZZNER  
GIBSON & PERKINS, P.C.  
100 W. 6th St., Ste. 204  
Media, PA 19063

ESTATE OF RENEE PEDRO,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to RONALD S. BODINE,  
EXECUTOR, c/o Daniel R. Ross, Esq.,  
One Summit St., Philadelphia, PA  
19118,  
Or to his Attorney:  
DANIEL R. ROSS  
ROSS & McCREA LLP  
One Summit St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

ESTATE OF RONALD ANTHONY  
MANSON, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the  
above Estate have been granted to the  
undersigned, who request all persons  
having claims or demands against the  
estate of the decedent to make known  
the same and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to AMY F. STEERMAN,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, 1900 Spruce St.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Or to her Attorney:  
AMY F. STEERMAN  
AMY F. STEERMAN, LLC  
1900 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ROSEMARY CAPPELLO,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to MARY C. CAPPELLO,  
EXECUTRIX, c/o Roderick L. Foxworth,  
Esq., 7715 Crittenden St., #382,  
Philadelphia, PA 19118,  
Or to her Attorney:

RODERICK L. FOXWORTH  
THE FOXWORTH LAW FIRM  
7715 Crittenden St., #382  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

ESTATE OF RUTH LOUISE RUSSELL  
a/k/a RUTH L. RUSSELL, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 BARBARA GEIGER, EXECUTRIX,  
c/o Marc Vogin, Esq., 1608  
Walnut St., Ste. 1703, Philadelphia, PA  
19103,  
Or to her Attorney:  
MARC VOGIN  
KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD  
1608 Walnut St., Ste. 1703  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF SARA ELLEN HALPERN,  
also known as SARA HALPERN,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Haverford Township,  
Delaware 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 WARREN JAY KAUFFMAN  
(NAMED IN WILL AS WARREN J.  
KAUFFMAN), EXECUTOR, 1650  
Market Street, Ste. 1800, Philadelphia,  
PA 19103,  
Or to his Attorney:  
WARREN JAY KAUFFMAN  
WHITE and WILLIAMS LLP  
1650 Market Street, Ste. 1800  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF THOMAS P. SHERIDAN,  
JR. a/k/a THOMAS P. SHERIDAN,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 with-  
out delay to JAMES SHERIDAN,  
EXECUTOR, c/o Bradley Newman,  
Esq., 123 S. Broad Street, Ste. 1030,  
Phila., PA 19109,  
Or to his Attorney:  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
ESTATE & ELDER LAW OFFICE OF  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
123 S. Broad Street, Ste. 1030  
Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF YVONNE O. KEITT,  
DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County  
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 LONAY DEANNA BOSTIC,  
EXECUTRIX, 13341 SW 52nd Court,  
Miramar, FL 33027



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- Why not encourage the next generation to stay together?
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LEAH FELDMAN  
GENERAL MANAGER

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