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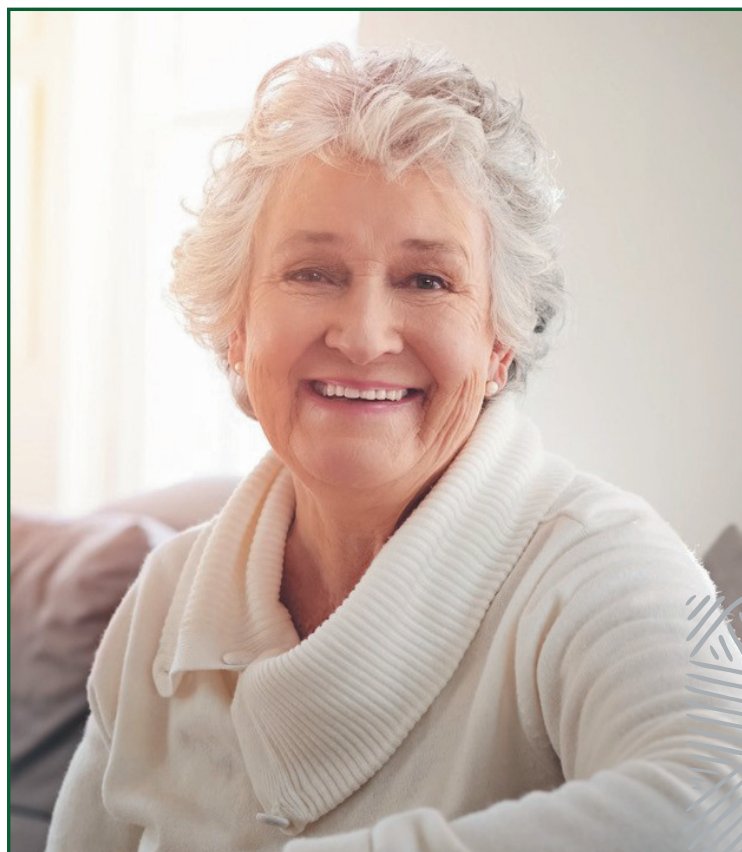


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# THIS WEEK

## Local

- 6 With Three Jewish Potential Candidates, Will Judaism Play a Role in Mayoral Race?
- 8 Doylestown Welcomes Matzah Balls, Its First Jewish Deli
- 10 Barrack, Perelman to Debut Husband and Wife Israeli Educators

## Opinion

- 14 Editorials
- 15 Letters
- 15 Opinions

## Feature Story

- 20 Decades After the Holocaust, Efforts to Return Nazi-Looted Art Are Slow, Steady

## Community

- 25 Obituaries
- 27 Synagogue Spotlight
- 29 Calendar

## In every issue

- 4 Weekly Kibbitz
- 12 Jewish Federation
- 13 You Should Know
- 19 National Briefs
- 22 Food & Dining
- 24 Arts & Culture
- 28 D'var Torah
- 29 Social Announcements
- 31 Last Word
- 32 Classifieds

Cover: Shana Weiner leads Dinah’s efforts to help domestic abuse survivors.



**6** With three Jewish potential candidates, will Judaism play a role in mayoral race?



**8** Doylestown welcomes Matzah Balls, its first Jewish deli.



**20** Decades after the Holocaust, efforts to return Nazi-looted art are slow, steady.

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## Johnny Depp Directing a Film About Jewish Italian Painter Modigliani

Riding a wave of tabloid notoriety after winning his highly publicized defamation lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard, Johnny Depp is planning to direct a biopic about a different troubled figure: the Jewish Italian painter Amedeo Modigliani.

The “Pirates of the Caribbean” star is partnering with Oscar-winning actor Al Pacino to produce the film, which will be adapted from the 1979 play “Modigliani” by Dennis McIntyre. It will chronicle the life of the artist whose portraits and sculptures of Parisian women (often in the nude, with elongated faces and limbs) posthumously made him the toast of the art world in the early 20th century.

“The saga of Mr Modigliani’s life is one that I’m incredibly honored, and truly humbled, to bring to the screen,” Depp said in a statement. “It was a life of great hardship, but eventual triumph — a universally human story all viewers can identify with.”

The production was first reported by the Hollywood Reporter. No casting announcements were made yet, but given that the artist died at 35 from tuberculosis, it’s hard to imagine either Depp, 59, or Pacino, 82, would play him.

Born to a Sephardic Jewish family in Livorno in 1884, “Modi” lived a short life marked by con-



stant illness, drug and alcohol abuse and a large number of lovers (including the painter Jeanne Hébuterne, who, eight months pregnant with his child, committed suicide the day after he died). Though he completed hundreds of paintings and sculptures, Modigliani wouldn’t find recognition until years after his death in 1920.

Modigliani very occasionally explored Jewish themes in his art, including in a famous 1908 painting, “The Jewess,” but he was always conscious of his Jewish identity, according to his biographers. That identity was explored in a 2017 exhibit at New York’s Museum of Jewish Heritage.

— Andrew Lapin

Zak Bennett/AFP via Getty Images; Apic/Getty Images via JTA.org

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# With Three Jewish Potential Candidates, Will Judaism Play a Role in Mayoral Race?

**SASHA ROGELBERG** | STAFF WRITER

**W**ith the 2023 Philadelphia mayoral race on the horizon, three seems to be the magic number, as three Jewish Philadelphians are heavily speculated to be throwing their hats into the ring.

On Aug. 15, former councilman and real estate tycoon Allan Domb resigned from his city council position.

“I resigned from my city council seat, so I could ethically, responsibly consider a mayoral run,” Domb said.

Philadelphia has a run-to-resign policy in its city charter, meaning that an early resignation from a government

employee could hint at a future bid for public office.

According to billypenn.com, Domb, who served as councilman for seven years, will embark on a “listening tour” in various Philadelphia neighborhoods. His focus is on safety.

“The city is in crisis right now, and it’s a public safety crisis,” he said.

Though Domb’s next steps strongly suggest an impending announcement of candidacy, he’s not the only Jewish leader who is speculated to run.

Philadelphia City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart is also considering a run for mayor. Though she ran unopposed for the position in 2021, she continued to fundraise, building up a “campaign

nest egg” according to the Philadelphia Tribune.

Rhynhart explained her desire to run for mayor as an opportunity to address the inefficiencies in city government.

“Government is supposed to work for people, for all people,” she said. “That’s what made me initially run for office for city controller back in 2017 after working for the city for close to nine years, and that’s what is also leading me to consider a run for mayor now.”

Jeff Brown, owner of a dozen Philadelphia ShopRite and Fresh Grocer stores and president and CEO of Brown’s Super Stores, is also speculated to run, as he does not hold a public office to resign from, and he



**City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart is another Jewish politician considering a run for mayor.**

*Courtesy of the Philadelphia Office of the City Controller*

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has made a political mark on the city through his opposition to Mayor Jim Kenney’s soda tax.

All three potential candidates have been outspoken about their Jewish identities: For Passover this year, Brown partnered with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia’s Mitzvah Food Program.

Domb reflected on his Jewish roots as his reason for wanting to give back to the city. He grew up in an 800-square-foot apartment that cost \$100 per month in rent.

“Because my mother complained during Yom Kippur — for almost two weeks we had no hot water ... we got evicted a month later by a landlord in Lower Merion,” Domb said. “He evicted the three Jewish families in the building because my mother complained.”

Rhynhart spoke about how her Jewish values have impacted how she serves as controller: “There are certain Jewish values that are important to me, such as empathy and fairness,





Allan Domb resigned as city councilman on Aug. 15, as he prepares to explore candidacy for mayor. Courtesy of Marisa Nahem

which tie in to how strongly I believe in making our city government work for everyone.”

Though outspoken to a Jewish source about their Jewish backgrounds, these candidates will be less likely to talk about their ethnic and religious backgrounds if they choose to join the campaign trail, political analysts predict.

Though Jews have historically played a significant role in Philadelphia union efforts and are generally associated with commitment to public service, Jews don’t make up enough of the liberal majority in the city for the Jewish candidates to rely on their voting bloc, said Bill Rosenberg, a professor of political science at Drexel University.

“Who was a Jew?” Rosenberg said. “You have seen over time, for different reasons, that there are different definitions of Jews, Jewish households, people that are religiously connected to Judaism and people that are more culturally or socially connected to Judaism.”

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was cautious in bringing up his Jewish heritage in his presidential campaign, Rosenberg explained. He only explicitly talked about being Jewish toward the end, but his wife wasn’t Jewish, and he wasn’t raising his children in a tra-

ditionally observant way.

“Some people may think that maybe he wasn’t Jewish enough,” Rosenberg said.

But more generally, people are strategic in engaging with identity politics on the campaign trail, said Richardson Dilworth, a Drexel professor who heads its Department of Politics.

“They’re politicians,” Dilworth said. “They have to win a majority of the vote.”

To make themselves more appealing to more demographics, the mayoral candidates will talk to various LGBTQ groups, race-based groups and unions to appeal for their vote. Though their Jewish backgrounds and values may lay the foundation of who they are and why they are running, they don’t want to create too specific a narrative that a diverse group of voters can’t relate to them.

Conversely, rather than ignoring their identity altogether, candidates will likely adapt their story, while remaining truthful, to connect with other groups of people. This doesn’t just apply to Jewish candidates.

“Any politician who reaches the level of being a serious mayoral contender is really using their identity simply as a tool to reach out to their constituents,” Dilworth said. **JE**

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Author, *Untangling Alzheimer's: The Guide for Families and Professionals*

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# Doylestown Welcomes Matzah Balls, Its First Jewish Deli

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

**B**efore Matzah Balls was the name of the new Doylestown Jewish deli, it was a website domain name Kevin Aniess, the restaurant's business manager, sat on for 25 years.

In the age before Google, Aniess scooped up the name and paid a hefty (at the time) \$70 for it. He originally had plans to create a website for all things Jewish — a database for synagogues, JCCs and recipes — but instead, the website sat dormant for a quarter of a century. He always had a hunch about it.

"I always wanted to save it for something special," he said.

The domain is now home to the website for Matzah Balls, the Jewish eatery



Matzah Balls chef Franco Federico (center) cuts the ribbon on the deli's opening day on Aug. 19.

Courtesy of Kevin Aniess



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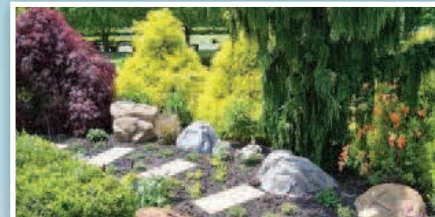
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on 24 N. Main St., which opened on Aug. 19.

But the wait for the website's use pales in comparison for how long Doylestown residents have waited for a Jewish deli; Matzah Balls claims to be the borough's first Jewish eatery in 250 years.

Helmed by Franco Federico, the chef behind 17 area restaurants including Ariana's Ristorante Italiano, Matzah Balls will offer the usual Ashkenazi fare: kasha and bowties, housemade corned beef and pastrami and, of course, its namesake dish. It will source bagels from the nearby Warrington Village Bagel Co. The nonkosher restaurant also will pay homage to Federico's Italian roots, with room on the menu for chicken piccata and osso bucco.

Aniess described the concept as "an authentic Jewish deli restaurant with a kiss of Italian."

*The chef wasn't surprised about his newly discovered roots. With a thick beard and Semitic features, [Franco] Federico felt he looked the part.*

The combination of the two cuisines is more than just a mishmash of dishes Federico will serve to please his loyal following; it's reflective of his own identity.

Federico, originally from Rome, Italy, found out several years ago through a DNA test that he had Jewish roots. In the 1930s, his family fled south to Sicily, changing their names from something like "Feinstein" to the more Christian-sounding Federico.

The chef wasn't surprised about his newly discovered roots. With a thick beard and Semitic features, Federico felt he looked the part. He coincidentally had a customer base of 75-80% Jews, he said.

"I've always known," Federico said of his Judaism.

Federico's cooking history makes his Italian and Jewish dishes feel at home with one another on his expansive menu.

He describes his upbringing as in a "ghetto," a small village where families would be prudent with their food, scraping the prickly choke from the center of an artichoke to use the tender meat of the vegetable. It's a similar mentality to using the brisket of the beef to make corned beef or pastrami. Naturally tough, the boiled and cured preparation of the meat in traditional

Ashkenazi Jewish cooking relies on the same abstemious sensibilities.

"It's comfort food," he said.

Though Federico found harmony between the cuisines, the decision to open up a deli was not as natural. Before Matzah Balls, the space on 24 N. Main St. was La Dolce Vita Da Franco, a fine dining Italian restaurant that Federico also owned.

Because of the restaurant's upscale nature, COVID impacted its business significantly.

"When COVID hit us two or three months after opening, it was not easy because people were not going out to eat for fine dining," Aniess said. "And where other Italian restaurants were able to pivot and do pizzas to-go and sandwiches to-go ... People weren't going to spend \$80 for two chicken parms to-go."

Aniess, who is Jewish, nudged Federico consistently, suggesting that he open up a Jewish deli to fulfill a community need. Doylestown had plenty of Italian restaurants but no delis in sight.

Federico was unconvinced, only budging when Aniess posted on a popular Doylestown Facebook group, asking group members about their interest in a Jewish deli in the area. The post got more than 1,000 likes and comments in two days.

That was a few months ago. The transformation of the space began in earnest only three weeks ago, when La Dolce's Italian decor was stripped and replaced with deli cases, a pickle bar and a new logo of a steaming bowl of matzah ball soup displayed on the windows.

The main dining room of the restaurant will seat 40, with 15 seats by the deli and another 35 outside.

For Federico, the fresh start for the deli is buoyed by a fanbase who enjoyed his previous restaurants and a cuisine he loves to cook and eat.

"Never once [have] I disappointed a customer," Federico said. "That's been my life, my name, everything I do." **JE**

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# Barrack, Perelman to Debut Husband and Wife Israeli Educators

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

**B**enaya and Ayala Yehuda are coming to the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy and the Perelman Jewish Day School, respectively, to teach students about Israel, to foster in them a stronger connection to the Jewish homeland and to continue building that bridge that helps solidify the Jewish Diaspora.

But while they will proselytize about the Jewish state, the Israelis may be even more excited to become Americans for a couple of years. They are hoping that, as they teach kids about Israel, those same students, as well as their neighbors

and co-workers, will teach them about the Jews' adopted home in the religious melting pot of the United States.

After all, the Yehudas are not just making a reverse aliyah to the land of opportunity to take one in the classrooms of local day schools. The husband and wife are bringing their five children, all between the ages of seven months and 12 years, with them as well.

Benaya Yehuda, 37, who spent 13 years in the education field in Israel, will be the upper school Jewish life coordinator at Barrack, teaching Hebrew and Jewish studies. Ayala Yehuda, 36, who also worked in the education field in Israel for about a decade, will serve as a

classroom teacher in Perelman's Ganon program, a Hebrew immersion setting for kindergarten-age students, meaning she will speak to them in Hebrew throughout the day.

The Israelis will teach at the Philadelphia-area schools, both in Montgomery County, for two years. Among their school-age children, two will attend Perelman and the other two will go to Barrack.

"We came for two years, and there's a possibility of a little bit more," Benaya Yehuda said. "It depends on how our children adjust. If all is good, we'll be happy maybe to stay."

An educator coming from Israel to the United States, or anywhere else in

the Diaspora, to teach about Israel is called a *shaliach* in Hebrew, according to Barrack and Perelman officials. The schools are bringing the educators over through a World Zionist Organization program that aims to build stronger connections in the Diaspora. The organization is a non-governmental organization founded in 1897 at Theodor Herzl's First Zionist Congress in Switzerland.

Both Barrack, which serves students in grades 6-12, and Perelman, which educates pre-K-5 students, already have extensive Israel study programs in history, culture and even the Hebrew language. So, their goal with a *shaliach* is not to add a program



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Ayala and Benaya Yehuda

Photos by Jordan Cassway



The Yehuda family

of study. It's to deepen it.

As Rabbi Marshall Lesack, Barrack's head of school, explained, his institution focuses on three core areas in Israel education: formal education in the classroom, experiential learning through eighth- and 11th-grade trips to Israel and relational education through exposure to a *shaliach*. Lesack believes that American educators simply can't replicate the perspective of people who have lived in Israel.

"You get tied to a place and country through the relationships you develop with people from that place," he said.

"That's why a *shaliach* is important."

Rabbi Chaim Galfand, the school rabbi at Perelman, and Emily Cook, the principal of Perelman's Stern Center in Wynnewood, echoed Lesack's point about relational education. Galfand called a *shaliach* "an ambassadorial role."

"It also just adds to the richness," Cook said. "And then our students pass that on to their families, and it just builds on that love for Israel."

Benaya Yehuda first became intrigued about this connection between Israel and the United States when he served

in the Israeli Army with Michael Levin, the Philadelphia native who made aliyah in 2002, joined the army and died in combat in 2006. As Yehuda recalled, his relationship with Levin was the first time he understood the perspective of an American Jew who loved Israel.

But there was still so much more he wanted to learn.

"It was a mystery. How is that connection made? Half of the Jews in the world don't live in Israel," he said. "For me, it's important to teach my family about Jews in America."

Benaya Yehuda was perhaps interested in this connection because his parents had made aliyah from the U.S. And it was on a visit four years ago to

his grandmother in Brooklyn that his wife, Ayala, became intrigued as well.

In more than 10 years of marriage, she had never met her husband's American family. And, by the end of that trip, their eight-year-old daughter started speaking English.

"I was amazed to see that," Ayala Yehuda said.

About two years after that trip, the pandemic showed the Yehudas that, if they wanted to see America, they couldn't wait.

"So we started to live and do what we want. Not only dream," Ayala Yehuda said. **JE**

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# SUPPORTING JEWISH COMMUNITIES GLOBALLY

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## Meet Rashit

Rashit is a high school student living in the desert town of Yeruham, Israel. Through Atidim's Lehavim Drone Program, funded by the Jewish Federation, she is gaining the technical skills to become a drone operator, with the potential of recruitment into an elite army unit of the IDF.

*Photo courtesy: Getty Images*

“This program is giving me so much experience and knowledge. I think that anyone that participates receives a tremendous head start in their career and acquires such important skills for succeeding in the modern workforce.”

– Rashit, student in Atidim Lehavim Drone Program



## Meet Tatiana

Tatiana is a 70-year-old Ukrainian woman who neither had a passport nor left the country. Through efforts supported by Jewish Federation dollars, she made a life-changing decision to leave the war-torn country and board a bus with other refugees seeking safety in Budapest.

*Photo courtesy: Guy Yechiely, The Jewish Agency for Israel*

“Volunteers provided us with hot meals, shelter and warm clothes to protect us from the bitter cold. To see a volunteer, wearing a *kippah* and greeting me at the Budapest station, is a moment I won't soon forget. I held his hand tightly and begged for him not to leave me - he told me I was safe now.”

– Tatiana, Ukrainian refugee



## Meet Elisheva

Elisheva, a married mother of four, had to close the medicine clinic she owned when the Ministry of Health announced a lockdown during the pandemic. An active community member and donor to many non-profit organizations, she suddenly found herself a recipient of the services she previously supported. Latet, funded by the Jewish Federation, provided a lifeline during Elisheva's time of need.

*Photo courtesy: Getty Images*

“I was so surprised the first time I got a food box from Latet. All of a sudden, I realized that I had at least a week where I could breathe a little easier.”

– Elisheva, recipient of Latet's Nutritional Security for Israelis in Need



## Meet Techelo

The Jewish Federation-funded Operation Zur Israel made it possible for Techelo, his wife and children to reunite with his father and brothers in Israel after having waited 25 years to make aliyah.

*Photo courtesy: JDC*

“We, the Jewish people, always have hope. I always prayed that when G-d saw the time was right, he would bring me home to my family.”

– Techelo, Ethiopian *Oleh* (immigrant)

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**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Philadelphia



# YOU SHOULD KNOW ... Shana Weiner



**SASHA ROGELBERG** | STAFF WRITER

**T**here's a reason why slips of paper with domestic abuse hotlines and support are hidden on the inside of bathroom stalls at JCCs and synagogues.

Domestic violence is a stigmatized topic within the Jewish community and beyond, Shana Weiner believes.

"There's sort of two approaches that people will respond," Weiner said. "One is: It's not a problem here. Just flat out, this isn't something that Jews do. The other is: It's not our type of Judaism; it's the other group."

As the founder and executive director of Dinah, a Philadelphia-based domestic abuse nonprofit and legal services center, Weiner, 34, is concerned with addressing and dismantling that stigma.

Since its founding in 2015, Dinah has provided legal counsel to domestic abuse survivors, as well as trauma-informed education workshops to clergy, schools and community leaders. In 2020, Weiner was honored on Drexel University's 40 Under 40 list.

Weiner, a South Philadelphia resident and Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel member, knew she wanted to become involved in advocating for domestic abuse survivors from a young age.

Growing up in Annapolis, Maryland, Weiner was an avid student of taekwondo, earning her black belt at age 10.

"I started when I was 6. I was in this world of very structured, very controlled, but still, violence," she said.

As she started climbing the ranks, Weiner enrolled in various courses, including street fighting and women's self-defense. By 9, she had an understanding, albeit basic, about violence toward women.

Weiner's mother is a Holocaust survivor born in a refugee camp in Austria; her father's family fled from pogroms in Russia to the U.S. Her consciousness of the Holocaust and antisemitism in Europe as a child further fueled her desire to address violence.

"I was always very aware that there was a dark, dangerous world out there," Weiner said. "There were people who needed people to fight for them. And that was it."

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 2010 and receiving her law degree from Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law in 2013, Weiner knew she wanted to advocate for abuse survivors, but upon searching for Jewish organizations doing that area of work, she found nothing.

Some friends recommended that she apply to become a Tribe 12 fellow and pitch a domestic violence organization with Jewish values and clients in mind. After a six-month program, Weiner launched Dinah at the now-Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in spring 2015.

Though Dinah was the first organi-

zation of its kind in the Philadelphia area, it was slow to gain traction. The #MeToo movement, though originally founded in 2006, had not yet become popular. When the movement took off in 2017, Dinah began to find a place in the Philadelphia Jewish community.

"I noticed a very clear difference from 2015 and '16, when I was shopping this around and pitching this program, and trying to recruit volunteers and board members that do publicity ...," Weiner said. "But back then, I was getting a lot of, 'Is this really a problem?' and framed not as a rhetorical question."

To effectively serve a majority Jewish clientele, Dinah — named for the biblical figure Dinah, who was abducted and raped — is built on Jewish principles and addresses the specific forms abuse may take in the Jewish community.

For example, a *gett*, or the document that allows for divorce in Jewish law, is brought to a woman by her husband. Because of the power the man holds in this situation, *gett* refusal can be a manipulation or abuse tactic.

"We would like to get the community or the court of public opinion, as well as our civil court systems, to start to recognize that refusing or withholding or negotiating a *gett* with someone ... is abuse," Weiner said.

Weiner also outlined the values that are "baked into Jewish DNA" that may prevent people from speaking out about their abusive partner. Survivors may be concerned about *lashon hara*, harmful speech; or *shalom bayit*, keeping a peaceful home. By speaking ill of their partner or confronting them in a verbally or physically violent situation, a survivor could risk violating their Jewish principles.

To reach clients, Weiner and her colleagues reinterpret those same concepts: What if keeping a *shalom bayit* means finding inner peace? What if it means making sure your children don't have to witness one parent abusing the other?

"We put an emphasis on these concepts as a foundation in ways that a lot of other organizations don't because, to an extent, they don't have to," Weiner said. **JE**

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# The Trump Effect

Even as an increasingly thick cloud of investigations swirls around him, Donald Trump continues to exert a remarkably strong influence on the Republican Party.

His reach is national and his impact is being felt at almost every level of government. Most of the candidates he has endorsed have won their Republican primary contests. According to NBC news, of the 204 candidates Trump has backed since his own election defeat in 2020, a whopping 188 have won, 14 have lost and two dropped out or were disqualified before Election Day. That's an impressive win rate of more than 92%.

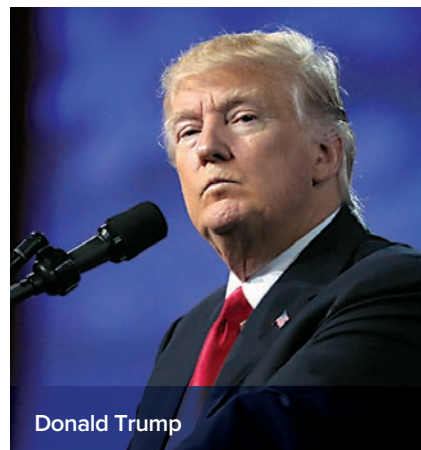
Many of the Trump-backed victors in Republican primaries are part of the chorus who claim Trump was robbed of victory in the 2020 presidential election because of fraud. That includes Republican gubernatorial nominees Dan Cox in Maryland and Doug Mastriano in Pennsylvania. And in Arizona, 12 Trump-endorsed candidates made a clean sweep in the primary, including gubernatorial candidate and prominent election-denier Kari Lake.

But Trump's most decisive primary win was in Wyoming, where Republicans overwhelmingly repudiated Rep. Liz Cheney, who received less than 30% of the Republican vote — an unheard of in-party rejection of an incumbent office holder.

Cheney, who voted for Trump's impeachment after the Jan. 6 insurrection, and who serves as vice chair of the House investigation into the insurrection, has been the face of Republican rejection of Trump. And though her actions were resoundingly rejected, she remains unbowed, as she promises to “do whatever it takes to ensure that Donald Trump is never again anywhere near the Oval Office, and I mean it.”

Trump exerts his influence in the same manner as he defends against mounting accusations of impropriety — openly, aggressively, provocatively and pointedly. He continues a now-familiar shredding of the conventional playbook with what appears — to his detractors, at least — to be a total lack of self-awareness, humility or introspection.

Neither the recurring criticisms nor



Donald Trump



Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyoming)

the mounting investigations seem to affect Trump's influence. Indeed, Trump's base is more riled up than ever, and the Republican Party has obediently followed. How else does one explain Trump's success in turning Liz Cheney, an ultraconservative who voted with Trump 93% of the time during his presidency, into a folk hero for liberals?

And now Cheney is exploring a presidential run in 2024. She says her goal is to keep Trump out of the White House. But where does an accomplished and conserva-

tive, pro-gun, pro-small government, pro-defense spending and anti-abortion politician call home if she is rejected by Donald Trump's Republican Party?

There is a lot at stake in the coming November elections. And a lot will happen between now and then. But if Trump and his provocative narrative continue to dominate press coverage and political discussion around the country, there is no telling just how much of an impact this one man may have on our electoral process. **JE**

Trump and Cheney photos: Commons.Wikimedia.org

# The Threat of Itamar Ben-Gvir

As Israel heads toward elections in November, it is hard to ignore a new reality: The country's domestic political agenda has practically disappeared.

Very little of the public debate in today's Israel revolves around traditional domestic issues which helped define the differences between the country's political parties. Instead, current news out of Israel highlights the continuing expansion of the country's international relations, and the increasing focus on the building of governing coalitions either supportive of or opposed to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following the next election.

In some respects, this new reality is not surprising. The government of Prime Minister Yair Lapid is a temporary, caretaker government. It does not have sufficient Knesset support to direct policy or promote an agenda. As a result, there is little point in Knesset members

or their parties advancing proposals that seek to address social, economic or other domestic concerns that have little or no chance of passage.

Instead, party survival and party prominence is the focus, with each political announcement of affiliation, partnering or merger being weighed by how it might impact the pro- or anti-Netanyahu numbers.

So it was with particular interest that we watched the rise, and then the fall, and now the uncertainty of the possible merger of Itamar Ben-Gvir and his hard-right, ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit Party with Bezalel Smotrich and his traditionally more moderate, but still right-wing, Religious Zionist Party.

According to reports, negotiations fell apart over Smotrich's demand for six of the eight projected seats that the unification would achieve and Smotrich's reluctance to expand

opportunity to politically like-minded candidates who are not traditionally religious. And there was also Ben-Gvir's claim that Otzma Yehudit is more popular than the Religious Zionist Party, and his conviction that Otzma Yehudit will receive more votes in the coming election than the Religious Zionists.

The right-wing politics and declarations of Smotrich present a number of challenges. But the politics and positions of Ben-Gvir are downright frightening. The prospect of that toxic mix in a prominent position in the next Israeli government is cause for concern.

Ben-Gvir is an unapologetic follower of the outlawed, racist Kach Party and its founder, Rabbi Meir Kahane. But whereas Kahane was shunned in the Knesset, Ben-Gvir is treated like a rock star. He is photogenic and engaging, and his popularity continues to grow,

particularly among younger voters. And at least among some of his supporters, Ben-Gvir's ultranationalism overshadows his racism.

Thus, his followers tolerate his promotion of a Deportation Law that will require the deportation of anyone who acts against the state of Israel, including those who throw stones at soldiers. No one seems to have asked where he comes out with regard to haredim who throw stones at police or soldiers who violate the Shabbat, but he does say that Jews who throw stones at Arabs should be jailed but not deported.

In a political environment where issues and policies are no longer debated or vetted, and where the only real focus is on building a majority governing coalition, the likes of Ben-Gvir and Otzma Yehudit bring strong political value. But that's not the Israel we want to see. **JE**





# AIPAC Needs to Rethink Its Strategy Before It Does Any More Damage

BY RABBI SEYMOUR ROSENBLUM

At this moment in American history, our democracy faces an unprecedented threat from within. Conspiracy theorists and extremists willing to overturn our election results have made their way not only into the national debate but into Congress and even the White House during the last administration.

It is incumbent on all of those who work in politics and support the nation's core democratic ideals to think carefully about their actions, their impact and the future of our country.

That's why it was so shocking to hear the CEO of AIPAC — one of the largest lobbying groups in Washington — tell The Washington Post in an interview last week that the idea of there being a red line for the type of politician the group would fundraise for was something he'd have to "think about."

Howard Kohr's response was alarming — and a deflection at best. Ever since it announced its slate of 2022 endorsements, AIPAC has been under sustained criticism, even from many of its top supporters, regarding its decision to endorse and fundraise for 109 Republicans who voted to overturn the 2020 election results following the insurrection on Jan. 6.

Very few seem to buy the explanation that AIPAC is a "single issue organization" as an excuse for endorsing and fundraising for political candidates who threaten our democratic values (values which, by the way, AIPAC frequently cites as cornerstones of the shared foundations of the US-Israel relationship and the rationale for American aid to Israel.)

For the overwhelming majority of Democratic voters and Jewish Americans like myself — whose shared history bears the scars of what happens when a democracy is overthrown — there can be no excuse for supporting candidates who openly threaten democratic rights and freedoms.

There can be no excuse for fundraising for the likes of U.S. Rep. Scott Perry, who sought a pardon from Donald Trump after plotting to reject the results of the 2020 election. No excuse for fundraising for U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, who promotes the deadly, racist and antisemitic "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory — putting her in the company of leading white nationalists.

How does this tactic serve AIPAC's stated mission of strengthening bipartisan support for Israel? Former head of the Anti-Defamation League Abe Foxman called the group's approach a "sad mistake," adding that "those who undermine America's democracy undermine America,

*It's long overdue for AIPAC's CEO to "think about" the impact of the group's actions.*

and a weak America will not be able to stand and support its ally Israel."

As AIPAC's pro-Israel, pro-peace alternative, J Street, has said repeatedly: You cannot claim to support a strong US-Israel relationship while attacking the shared democratic foundations of that relationship.

This tactic is also driving a wedge between AIPAC, Israel and the American Jewish community — especially younger American Jews. It's a community that is overwhelmingly repelled by former President Trump, that understands the nature of the threat to our democracy, and that actually holds quite nuanced, principled views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

That division is further exacerbated by AIPAC's decision to form a super PAC — the cynically titled United Democracy Project — in order to defeat a number of mainstream progressives who don't share the group's hawkish view on Israel and have been openly critical of settlements and indefinite occupation. The super PAC has spent over \$20 million in Democratic primaries — including millions donated by Republican billionaires — to defeat candidates like Michigan Rep. Andy Levin.

Levin, a proud Jew and a self-described Zionist, committed the apparent "sin" of opposing settlements and supporting a two-state solution with too much conviction. It was enough to earn him \$4 million in AIPAC super PAC spending aimed at defeating him, spending which was successful when he lost his race earlier this month.

Is this what we want for the future of pro-Israel politics? To align support for Israel with the darkest actors in U.S. politics and deceptive campaigns that totally lack transparency?

As many American Jews and Democrats have pointed out, surely a group that is supporting 109 pro-insurrectionist Republicans has no place telling Democrats whom to vote for, especially when they're using money donated by Republican

mega-donors to do it.

It's long overdue for AIPAC's CEO to "think about" the impact of the group's actions. About whether it's really in the interest of Israel's future to be opposing mainstream pro-Israel, pro-peace Democrats while supporting far-right, anti-democratic Republicans. About the health of a bipartisan US-Israel relationship if anti-democratic, pro-settlement extremists are victorious in Israel, and anti-democratic, pro-conspiracy theorist extremists are victorious here.

In the meantime, perhaps the rest of us in the Jewish community and in the Democratic Party should think about whether AIPAC can be a welcome political actor among us if they continue to ignore the clear majority in our community who know there can be no excuse for supporting those who threaten our future. **JE**

*Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom is the former rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park. He is a member of J Street's Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet and the co-chair of the Public Affairs Committee for J Street's Philadelphia chapter.*

## letters /

### Blank Space Preferred?

Parents of preteens sometimes counsel them to say nothing when they have nothing nice to say. With regard to your editorial "The Trump Wars," that advice may not be exactly apt, since the editorial said nothing that was either nice or not nice, nor did it say much of anything, if anything, at all. In short, said editorial was 100% vacuous.

So, my advice to you is out of consideration for those to whom you address yourself, when you have nothing of any interest or value to say, say nothing. If you want to advertise that you have nothing worth saying to say, you can make that clear by running a large blank space where a thoughtful editorial might have gone.

Trump's conduct warrants prison. **JE**

**M. Louis Offen, Philadelphia**

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



# Could a Muslim Senator Be an Ardent Supporter of Israel?

BY JONATHAN S. TOBIN

In the last decade, seemingly every formerly unbreakable rule of American political life has been broken by former President Donald Trump or his opponents. But perhaps nothing that has occurred would be quite as remarkable as what would happen if the Republican Jewish Coalition gets its way in a race that is the group's top priority in the 2022 midterms.

In a packed Philadelphia hotel ballroom with local and national media present, the RJC rolled out its campaign last week to help elect Dr. Mehmet Oz, a Muslim and Turkish American to an open Pennsylvania Senate seat. In doing so, they hope to play a part in making history for American Muslims since if he wins, Oz would be the first member of his faith to serve in the U.S. Senate. It would also boost their party's chances of winning back the Senate. At the same time, they will also be assuring that the seat will be held by an ardent supporter of Israel.

RJC head Matthew Brooks and David Friedman, who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel in the Trump administration and was an interlocutor at the event for Oz, sought to frame their support for the candidate in the context of the expanding circle of peace between Jews and Muslims that rests at the core of the Abraham Accords.

It didn't hurt that the event came on the same day that it was announced that Turkey and Israel will resume full diplomatic relations after rising tensions between the two countries due to the support that the Islamist government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has given to the Hamas terrorist movement.

Oz, who narrowly won a GOP primary largely due to an endorsement from Trump, is a citizen of both the United States and Turkey, and trails his Democratic opponent, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, in the polls. Republicans have to hold this seat to have a chance to tip the balance in a 50-50 Senate that is controlled by the Democrats due to Vice President Kamala Harris' tie-breaking vote.

Though he was born in Delaware to immigrants from Turkey, he went back to his parents' homeland and served in the Turkish Army in his 20s to preserve his dual citizenship. He then returned to the United States, where he earned degrees from Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania before going on to a career as a professor at Columbia University and as a widely respected heart surgeon.

But he is best known as the host of the "Dr. Oz Show," a daily daytime talk program devoted to medicine and health topics that was launched by the production company owned by TV superstar



Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and Pennsylvania Senate candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz at a campaign event in Philadelphia on Aug. 17, 2022.

*If the Abraham Accords truly represent the future, we are going to need a lot more moderate Muslims like Oz.*

Oprah Winfrey, on whose own show he had been a frequent guest.

As a TV host, Oz was no stranger to controversy as his endorsement of various weight loss and anti-aging products of dubious efficacy was denounced by many doctors. He was also bitterly criticized for giving opponents of vaccinations a hearing on his show. During the coronavirus pandemic, he was similarly condemned by the medical establishment for saying that keeping the schools closed as part of lockdowns was doing more harm than good, though in retrospect, that seems reasonable given the educational and mental-health damage done to children who were at low risk from the virus.

Democrats think the association with Trump and having an extremist at the head of the GOP ticket in the form of Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano will doom Oz. But he's hoping that appealing to pro-Israel sentiment will win him votes.

It is customary for candidates to try to curry favor with American Jews by speaking of their support for the Jewish state. But those who turned out for the RJC event were not given the usual pro-Israel boilerplate. There were elements of the familiar in Oz's attempts to link his family's past to Jewish history and his talk about how a trip to Israel left him deeply moved.

Yet he minced no words about the U.S.-Israel relationship and whether or not Washington should, as Muslim and liberal Jewish groups often urge, pressure the Jewish state to make concessions to the Palestinians. To the contrary, he staked out a position that is actually closer to that of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than Trump. Instead of endorsing a two-state solution, as far as Oz is concerned, Israeli territorial concessions are a bad idea.

"I don't believe that Israel should give up any territory," he declared to the cheers of those in attendance, who were handed out signs saying "Pro-Israel, Pro-Oz," "Jews for Oz" and the doctor's name printed in Hebrew and English, as well as some declaring that Fetterman was aligned with the far-left, anti-Israel congressional "Squad."

Bashing Fetterman for being endorsed by the left-wing J Street lobby — even though the Democratic candidate backed Israel's right to self-defense, as reported by JNS — Oz said the criticism of Israel that has become commonplace among left-wing Democrats was due to intersectional beliefs that lead them to oppose anyone with "power." He said he admired Israel's power, without which he correctly pointed out "there would be no Israel." He opposes any limitations



on aid to Israel and denounced the Biden administration's efforts to appease Iran.

These are the sorts of things we're used to hearing from evangelical Christians who are, if anything, more vocal in their hardline support of Israel than most liberal Jews, who are often uncomfortable with the Jewish state's positions. But it is heady stuff coming from a self-described "secular Muslim" whose skills as a speaker were on display at the RJC event.

Indeed, Friedman saw Oz's support for Israel as in keeping with his own experiences helping to broker normalization agreements with Arab and Muslim countries. If, as he said he recently told Trump, "It is easier to get a kosher sandwich in Dubai than in Washington," it stands to reason that an American Muslim could be just as comfortable in supporting that expanding circle of peace for a secure Israel as anyone else.

That is not the message that groups like the Council of American Islamic Relations, which was founded as a front for Hamas in the United States but now claims to be a civil-rights organization, support. CAIR is virulently antisemitic, yet it is widely assumed by the mainstream media to speak for most Muslims. Their opinions are echoed by others on the left who have denounced Oz as not fit to be the first Muslim U.S. senator because he is supported by Trump.

Like most other non-Jewish politicians who may think backing Israel is a path to Jewish support, he's about to learn that this is a myth. The overwhelming majority of Jews in Pennsylvania are, like elsewhere, liberals and loyal Democrats who don't prioritize Israel as conservative and Republican Jews do.

If Oz faces an uphill struggle to win in November, it is due to concerns about his retaining his Turkish citizenship (which he says he will renounce if he wins); the fact that he spent most of his life living outside Pennsylvania, as well as the notoriety he earned as a television personality who backed products most doctors shunned; and some gaffes that make him look out-of-touch with voters, not his foreign-policy positions.

Still, win or lose, the fact that the first Muslim-American to have a reasonable shot at winning a Senate seat is someone who has placed unquestioned support for Israel among his priorities ought to be viewed as an encouraging sign by all those who care about the Jewish state.

In much of the Muslim world, there is still strong resistance to normalization with Israel that is rooted in pervasive antisemitism. That's why even Democrats who won't vote for Oz should be cheering the idea that a Muslim candidate is willing to speak up for the Jewish state.

If the Abraham Accords truly represent the future, we are going to need a lot more moderate Muslims like Oz who, whatever their political affiliations, are willing to stand with the Jewish community in support of Israel. **JE**

*Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS.*



# A Wrongful Salute to Nazi Symbols

BY PHYLLIS HEIDEMAN

**A** wristwatch belonging to Adolf Hitler was recently sold by an auction house in the United States for over a million dollars.

Other items in the auction of "historical militaria" included a sketch by Hitler of his proposal for the Munich Opera House, described in the auction catalog as "a superlative Hitler piece." The Nazi leader, said the catalog, was a "dedicated opera devotee." The catalog also included a signed birthday greeting to Heinrich Himmler, one of the architects of the Final Solution, and a cap worn by a concentration camp guard.

While some of the items on auction may have been valuable for a museum that would place them in historical context, one can only wonder who the buyer might be for a "superlative" Hitler sketch.

An auction of Nazi memorabilia under the feeble excuse, "If you destroy history, there is no proof that it happened" contributes nothing to historical memory or teaching the lessons of the Holocaust. In fact, it hands a victory to Nazi sympathizers by cheapening the memory of the genocide, eroding the stigma associated with Nazi symbols and creating indifference to their display. To paraphrase Elie Wiesel, "Indifference is the greatest enemy in combating hate."

Sadly, the auction was only one in a long list of examples of the trivialization and mainstreaming of Nazi iconography. For example, we have seen anti-vaccine activists using a yellow star to protest mandatory health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the use of Nazi "aesthetics" in fashion, with well-known clothing brands incorporating Nazi symbols as though they were just another graphic element.

The Nazi swastika has been banned in many countries — most recently in Australia, where public displays of the symbol have been prohibited and criminalized by the State of Victoria. In other countries, most notably the United Kingdom and the United States, the swastika and other Nazi symbols are being displayed with impunity on the pretext of freedom of speech and expression.

At a time when antisemitic incidents are on the increase throughout the world, we cannot allow extremists a free hand to glorify Nazi symbols and exploit them to deliver their heinous political messages. Freedom of speech is one thing, freedom to glorify systematic genocide is quite another.

Antisemitism must be fought wherever it raises its ugly head. Countries around the world should follow Victoria's example and adopt strict laws that ban all insignias, emblems and symbols asso-

ciated with the Nazi Party — such as already exist in Austria and Germany. However, legislation in and of itself is not enough. These laws must be diligently enforced.

Moreover, tech giants are not doing enough to combat online hate, particularly on social media. On the Dark Web, overt and shameless antisemitism remains rife.

Society needs robust political leadership that will speak out against all forms of antisemitism whenever and wherever it raises its hateful voice.

We must tackle the root causes of antisemitism, and the only way to do so is through education. Teaching the history of the Holocaust and the nature of antisemitism should be mandatory in all schools.

***We cannot allow extremists a free hand to glorify Nazi symbols and exploit them to deliver their heinous political messages.***

As French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, recently said at a ceremony commemorating the Nazi slaughter of French Jewry, "Do not forget, never forget, the duty of remembrance is a duty for the future. ... We will teach again and again the reality of the genocide and its dark years. ... There is not a classroom ... where the memory of the Holocaust should not be taught, not a school where it can be challenged."

For over three decades, the International March of the Living has delivered in-depth education to hundreds of thousands of students and adults as preparation for their participation in the march. We strive to inspire our participants to fight racism and injustice.

Listening to the stories of survivors and visiting the sites where the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust took place create indelible impressions and provide information essential to understanding the past and committing to help ensure a better future for all. **JE**

*Phyllis Greenberg Heideman is president of the International March of the Living.*



# A Mother's Pride and Joy, and Worry and Fear

BY JENNIFER SCHRUTT

**T**oday is Enlistment Day. We have spoken about this day forever, and now it is here, and I must “walk the walk” that Israeli mothers have walked for almost 75 years.

My oldest child and only son will put on a green uniform with a Star of David emblem to join the Israel Defense Forces. His protection, welfare and fate will no longer be in my hands.

How do you spend 19 years caring for every injury, kissing away tears, ensuring safety from proper car-seat installations to endless coats of sunscreen to obsessing over nutrition decisions, racing to every hockey game, searching desperately for Hebrew tutors, driving teachers, bagrut exams, graduation ... and now just let go? This was not in the Nefesh B’Nefesh brochure when they generously assisted us with our aliyah seven years ago.

It’s astounding to me that this carefree, laid-back child of mine, who made me a mother, now becomes the target of so much hate simply because he puts on this uniform and fulfills his duty as an Israeli citizen to protect the Jewish people.

And it’s a duty that my son at the tender age of 18 years old fully understands. Earlier this year, he participated in a school trip to Poland, along with two other schools, and allowed me the privilege of accompanying his grade. In total, there were more than 120 boys.

I think back to my senior year of high school growing up in South Florida, and the contrast in maturity and outlook could not be greater. Toward the end of the trip, the boys talked about how they had always known that they had to serve in the Israeli army after graduation. What they didn’t know until then was why it was so crucial to serve. I was blown away by their insight. It was in Poland that these teenage boys internalized and understood that the survival of the Jewish people depends on the strength of the Israeli army to protect it.

When we decided as a family to return to the Jewish homeland, it was just after “Operation Protective Edge” in 2014. Like so many other wars in Israel before it, that military effort, which came on the heels of the tragic kidnapping and murder of three innocent Israeli yeshivah boys, shone a light on the totally opposing attitudes Israel and Hamas have toward the value of human life.

Respect for life is a cornerstone of Jewish values and Israel’s national character, while Hamas and other terrorist organizations glorify death and



martyrdom, as evidenced by decades of suicide attacks, and using innocent civilians and children as human shields. How can you make peace with a people that names streets and public squares after terrorists who slaughter innocent women, children and the elderly in cold blood? As if the brutality of violence weren’t enough, Israel — the one and only bastion of democracy in the Middle East — is held to an unattainable and totally unfair double standard that is inevitable in the aftermath of any casualties.

The words of Nitza Shmueli, the mother of 21-year-old Border Police officer Barel Hadaria Shmueli (of blessed memory), reverberate through my head at 2 a.m.: “My son is fighting for his life, his blood, his breath, for nothing,” as her son fought until his heartbreaking last breath last August during massive riots along the Gaza border. In this case, our troops were “unprepared” for the massive rush toward the security fence that separates the Gaza Strip and southern Israel. The IDF soldiers did not open fire at the crowds that suddenly attacked the fence out of concern that they might hit civilians also in the area. What about concern for Israeli soldiers first? As the Torah states, “If someone comes to kill you, rise up and kill him.”

Jews value life over death. This is what differentiates us from our enemies. In this case, a juvenile terrorist who was following orders of his people shoots our innocent soldier point blank in the head in cold blood. Yet our soldiers hesitated to respond preemptively as thousands mobbed the border and left our soldiers vulnerable. Why not? The court of public opinion has chosen sides

and made up its mind about the Jewish state long ago. Jewish blood is cheap. Still, why should we care anymore what the world thinks when we are the most moral army in the world? What would America, Germany, Canada or Britain do if mobs of Molotov cocktail-throwing violent terrorists attacked their border to infiltrate and kidnap or kill their citizens?

We should learn from history, using the brilliant words of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who taught us: “We maintain the peace through our strength; weakness only invites aggression.”

“Why did they send my son? Why? I want an answer.” It was a legitimate question from bereaved mother Nitza that anyone with a heart can understand. Unfortunately, the answer was given when Barel first switched his soccer clothes for the green uniform on Enlistment Day when she handed her son over to the IDF. I beg God that Barel’s death was not in vain and that the IDF has learned from this tragedy so that others may be spared. Israel needs to untie the hands of our protectors, prioritize the safety and well-being of our sons and daughters, and allow force to be a deterrent to terrorism.

To quote the first female Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir: “Peace will come when the Arabs love their children more than they hate us.” Until that day, may the IDF find the courage and the strength to use whatever means possible to protect our nation’s most precious gift: our children. They selflessly and courageously protect Israel to allow every Jew around the world to have a safe refuge so “never again” does not just become an empty slogan.

While my son’s American Jewish counterparts begin their university adventures, I have changed the trajectory of my firstborn’s path, and now he must spend the next two years and eight months defending the only Jewish state on the planet as part of an army that has been reborn after 2,000 years of exile. He is living my dream — the dream of our ancestors, the dream of the 6 million who perished in the Shoah — and I alone will have to live with that decision, whatever his fate may be.

Meanwhile, I will have his favorite foods ready for his return, our dog will keep his bed warm, and I will anxiously wait for his nightly text to reassure me that he is safe and well-fed. After all, although the Israeli army is one of the mightiest in the world, its commanders still instruct their soldiers to “call their moms first.” God bless the IDF. **JE**

*Jennifer Schrutt is the director of development at JNS.org.*



### Turkey, Israel to Restore Full Diplomatic Relations

Turkey and Israel will return ambassadors to their countries, ending a four-year rupture, as each country seeks to expand ties and influence in the Middle East, JTA reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announced the news on Aug. 16 after Lapid spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The agreement follows a visit to Ankara in March by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who met with Erdogan.

It was Erdogan who initiated a suspension of ties after violence flared on the Israel-Gaza border following the Trump administration's decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem in 2018.

Ties were previously strained in 2010 after Israel's deadly raid on a Turkish ship, the Mavi Marmara, which sought to breach Israel's blockade of Gaza, but Israel and Turkey reconciled in 2016.

Israel seeks to build on the 2020 Abraham Accords, which normalized relations with four Arab countries.

### Illustrated Version of Anne Frank's Diary Removed from Texas Shelves

A school district in suburban Fort Worth, Texas, ordered its librarians to remove an illustrated adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank" from their shelves and digital libraries, along with the Bible and dozens of other books challenged by parents last year, JTA reported.

The book purge at the Keller Independent School District in Keller, Texas, was requested on Aug. 16 by a district executive in an email.

It was the latest in a string of book removals being implemented at schools at the behest of conservative activist parents and school board members who are challenging a slew of texts on grounds ranging from their LGBT-friendly content to their supposed connections to "critical race theory."

"Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation," by Israeli filmmaker Ari Folman and illustrator David Polonsky, is a 2019 illustrated adaptation of the bestselling diary by the teenage Holocaust victim.

Later in the week, Superintendent Rick Westfall said the illustrated adaptation and other removed books would be back on shelves "very soon."

### Fire Destroys Building at Grossinger's, 'Dirty Dancing' Inspiration

An abandoned building on the site of the late Grossinger's Catskill Resort Hotel was consumed by fire on Aug. 16, New York Jewish Week reported, citing the Liberty, N.Y. Fire Department.

The resort, which closed in 1986 after 70 years of operation, was demolished in 2018. It was one of the largest and best-known destinations in the "Borscht Belt," the Catskill Mountains region that served as a popular Jewish vacation destination well into the 1960s.

It was not immediately clear what the building was used for, the Associated Press reported, although comments on the Facebook post suggested it was the former house of Elaine Grossinger-Etess, the daughter of the resort's celebrated hostess.

The resort is often cited as the inspiration for Kellerman's Mountain House resort in "Dirty Dancing," the 1987 period rom-com starring Jennifer Grey.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, though police received reports of a teenager running into nearby woods, the Mid Hudson News reported.

### Sierra Club Reschedules Israel Trips Canceled Under Pressure

Five months after canceling its planned trips to Israel, and then — following outrage from Jewish organizations — apologizing days later and saying the trips would be reinstated, the Sierra Club has quietly posted a new excursion to Israel for next year, J. The Jewish News of Northern California reported.

Called "Natural and Historical Highlights of Israel," the two-week trip in March will include many of the same activities the Sierra Club offered before activists convinced the environmental nonprofit to cancel two Israel outings: snorkeling, bird watching, nights on a kibbutz and a visit to Tel Aviv. **JE**

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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# Decades After the Holocaust, Efforts to Return Nazi-Looted Art Are Slow, Steady

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER



German soldiers in Naples, Italy, in 1944, pose with a painting taken from the National Museum of Naples Picture Gallery.

**I**T'S NEVER JUST AS SIMPLE AS “finders keepers, losers weepers.”

In June, the Philadelphia Museum of Art returned a 16th-century marksman's shield in its possession since the 1950s to the Dresden City Museum.

The shield — in the Dresden City Museum's possession until 1945, when it went missing — was a trophy from a Dresden bird-shooting competition, a practice common since the 1440s. Awarded to crossbow shooter Elector Johann Georg I of Saxony in 1618, the shield was donated to the city by the victor a year later. In the 1880s, it became part of Dresden's Council treasury, and when the Dresden City Museum opened up shortly thereafter, a part of the museum's collection.

At the end of World War II, the shield, kept in the museum's basement, went missing along with the museum's Council treasury collection. In 1956, the object, having reemerged, was auctioned off at a Swiss art trade. The owner, a resident of New York, donated the shield to the PMA 20 years later.

In 2016, however, the PMA realized it could no longer ethically possess the marksman's shield. Through the museum's provenance research — an ongoing curatorial practice of discovering an object's origin

— museum staff, led by PMA Director Emeritus Tim Rub, arranged for the return of the shield to Dresden. On July 2, the shield rejoined the Dresden City Museum's collection on display.

As tangled as the restitution was, it's hardly the only example. Since 2001, the PMA has returned several objects from its collection to the rightful owners. The museum continues to conduct extensive research on objects created before 1946 and acquired after 1932.

Those years are intentional. Since the beginning of the Third Reich, Nazi officials looted the art and historical objects of hundreds of thousands of private homes — particularly Jewish homes — and museums to assert dominance and destroy the livelihoods of the targeted population. Almost a century after the looting began, efforts to retribute and repatriate the stolen objects have just begun.

“The vast majority of people who lost everything that they had or much of what they had during the Shoah have never been able to reclaim any of their property, or very little,” said Lauren Levitt, a Temple University professor of religion, Jewish studies and gender.

Now, museums follow a set of standards to guide their provenance and restitution practices, keeping



Archer's Trophy (Artist/maker unknown; German, 1619), was returned to the Dresden City Museum from the Philadelphia Museum of Art in June.

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Museum of Art

in mind the rippling effects the Holocaust still has on many families, who now have little evidence of their relatives' existence in Europe before the Shoah.

“It's a testimony to the sort of values and respect that those professionals have in relation to these really valuable pieces of artwork that were looted, and otherwise taken and redistributed both during and after the war,” Levitt said of the guidelines.

Artwork, in addition to having great monetary value to museums and collectors, also has profound and sentimental meanings to Jewish families. In the early 20th





Captain H.H. Davies of Birkenhead looks through a collection of paintings found in a house in Hanover, Germany, belonging to an SS member who had looted the pieces from Holland.



General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, sorts through pieces of art looted by the Nazis that were kept in a German salt mine in 1945.



Published in the "Report on the Year 1943, Council of Elders of the Jews," a group of men sort through the confiscated possessions of Jews in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

century, European Jews were beginning to assimilate and acculturate into mainstream European culture.

Wesley Fisher, the director of research for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and World Jewish Restitution Organization, head of the Claims Conference-WJRO Looted Art and Cultural Property Initiative and former executive director of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, explained that art collection was a way for Jews to attain a more elite status, made appealing for those emerging from the shtetl period.

Jewish art collectors and artists joined many other Jewish elite in making their mark on European culture. As World War II approached, however, arts and culture became the target of Adolf Hitler's dictatorial rule.

"Hitler had himself been an artist, a rejected artist, but still," Fisher said. "There was the general recognition, as there very often is in dictatorships, that art plays a role in control of the population."

Hitler created the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, a Nazi agency designed for looting Jewish cultural objects, including art and Judaica. In addition to becoming the property of Nazi officers who aspired to join Hitler in the practice of art appreciation, the pieces were stored. There is speculation that Hitler, upon being victorious, would have created a museum to an extinct race, which would memorialize the Jewish mass genocide. The finest pieces would go to the Führermuseum, an unrealized art museum in Hitler's Austrian hometown on Linz, Fisher said.

The ERR was far from the only group designed to loot Jewish-owned artwork. The Gestapo also took part in the robberies. In Western Europe, the looting efforts were organized, with France and Italy creating similar initiatives. In the Soviet Union, the government had already nationalized Bolshevik (which also crudely included Jews) cultural items before the Nazis' arrival there. Artwork was state property.

Despite the inherent value of the art pieces to the Nazis, documentation of the artworks was sloppy.

"The Nazis, for the most part, certainly in large parts of what they were doing, were not recording where these paintings were coming from," Fisher said.

While Nazis tracked the prominent pieces from Paris' Jeu de Paume museum, they did not document the locations of other works. Furniture and less-movable pieces never made it to the databases.

To make matters muddier, art auctions, sales under duress and enforced sales sent these objects all over the world. Fisher said that 15,000 artworks were auctioned off in Paris after the Western Allies had returned them from the Munich Central Collecting Point, which was created as a repository for art stolen by Nazis.

In the decades after the war, the Claims Conference worked to create a database for the stolen art. There are an estimated 600,000 objects stolen from Nazis and their allies during the war; the database contains only a fraction of that figure.

"That still is pretty much the only database that shows what was taken, from whom the items were taken and what the state of the objects have been," Fisher said.

For museums such as the Dresden City Museum, the lack of organized data surrounding looted objects makes the process of retrieving stolen items from the collection even harder.

Andrea Rudolph, the curator of cultural history of the museum, said that 80% of its cultural history collection has been returned.

Dresden City Museum lost its database in the war and relies on others to triangulate and identify the lost objects and their locations. The museum has had a cup and drinking vessel returned in 2019 and 2017, respectively, along with a few other objects since 2002.

"The problem is, we don't have any capacity to do specialty research on this topic," Rudolph said. "We would need ... researchers and especially financial resources to pay someone to do this research."

Though the Claims Conference was created in 1951 to address reparations to Jewish people following the Holocaust, art repatriation was not its primary focus. Moreover, art restitution and repatriation more broadly did not gain an international spotlight until about 20 years ago.

For the 50 years following the creation of the Claims Conference, efforts were focused elsewhere, on providing monetary reparations to survivors and

memorializing the history of the Holocaust.

In the 1990s, however, a renewed interest in art restitution emerged following the opening of the archives in the Soviet Union after the fall of communism, which allowed access to records that would help in provenance efforts, Fisher said.

Around the same time, documentaries such as "The Rape of Europa" and books such as "Beautiful Loot: The Soviet Plunder of Europe's Art Treasures" by Konstantin Akinsha elucidated the Nazi history of looting art.

In 1998, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum hosted the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, in which 44 governments committed to the work of provenance and art restitution and developed the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art.

The American Association (now Alliance) of Museums, in response to the growing conversations around provenance, put out its own standards of self-regulation. In 2003, it created the Nazi Era Provenance Internet Portal, where 179 museums have opted into uploading information about objects in their collections that changed hands during the Nazi era.

Though representative of the world coming to terms with and working to correct the sustained impact of Nazi rule, the return and survival of artworks to their home cities is a reminder of the individual loss Jewish families experienced during the Shoah.

Levitt asserted that associated with each piece of art, in addition to its monetary value, is a story. For some families, a piece of art was a treasured object passed down from generations. By looking at it, one could feel connections to their ancestors. The physical pieces of art are a tether to the past generations of Jews lost to the horrors of the Shoah.

"As survivors are aging and becoming more frail, and many of them are no longer with us, there's something about objects in the ways in which they take up space," she said. "We know that they were there then, and they're here now." **JE**

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# Chicken Kebab Dinner

KERI WHITE | SPECIAL TO THE JE

**W**ho doesn't love kebabs? They are tasty, healthy, easy to eat and can be repurposed into salads or wraps if there are leftovers. The flavor and texture of the meat pleases everyone, and kids love the novelty of the presentation — even the pickiest eaters will be intrigued by dinner on a spear.

The only drawback, especially for this efficiency-oriented cook, is that they are somewhat labor intensive with the cutting and skewering. But for a small-ish crowd, they are a great summer dinner.

We made these classic chicken kebabs recently, and they were a hit. They were equally popular the next day for lunch — some folks tossed the

pieces over a salad, others wrapped them in pita with tahini dressing and chopped veggies.

Many traditional kebab recipes present a problem for kosher and kosher-style diners because they use yogurt or buttermilk in the marinade as a tenderizer. But this recipe uses mayonnaise, which does the handy trick of delivering flavor and tenderizing because of the vinegar and lemon juice it contains.

Along with the kebabs, we served brown rice and a green salad with tomatoes and cucumbers. For dessert, we showcased the bounty of summer blueberries in a simple crisp.

## Chicken Kebab Dinner

*Serves 4 with leftovers*

This was great with chicken, but the recipe would also work well with



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beef sirloin or lamb shoulder. If using beef or lamb, you may wish to moderate the cooking time to allow for medium-rare, which keeps the meat tender. Overcooked lamb or beef can be tough.

- 2 pounds boneless chicken breasts and/or thighs
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup mayonnaise
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 lemons
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Bamboo or metal skewers

Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces.

In a large zip-seal bag or sealable container, mix the remaining ingredients — squeeze the lemons and add the rinds into the mixture. Add the chicken and toss, making sure that all pieces are coated. Refrigerate it for 2-12 hours. Bring the chicken to room temperature.

If using bamboo, soak the skewers in water so that they don't burn on the grill. Place several pieces of chicken on each skewer, leaving a bit of space between each piece to ensure even cooking.

On a medium-hot, well-oiled grill,



place the chicken skewers, cover and allow them to cook for several minutes. When the chicken pulls away from the grill easily without sticking, it is ready to turn. Turn the chicken, wait several minutes and repeat until all sides are cooked. This should take about 12 minutes total, depending on the size of the pieces and the heat of the grill.

Remove the kebabs from the heat, place them on a plate and cover them with foil. Let them rest for several minutes and serve.

**Blueberry Crisp**  
Serves 6

This simple crisp can be made with any seasonal fruit and, if you have leftovers, it doubles nicely for breakfast the next day, either solo or spooned over yogurt.

Following a meat dinner, this can be made pareve, but if that is not a consideration, use butter in the crisp topping for a richer flavor, and top it with vanilla ice cream or homemade whipped cream.



- 5 cups fresh blueberries, rinsed and picked over
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ¼ cup margarine, vegetable shortening, coconut oil, or non-dairy butter, softened
- ⅔ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- ¾ cup rolled oats
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Heat your oven to 375 degrees F. In a 2-quart baking dish, place the blueberries, and add the sugar and lemon; mix well. In a medium-sized bowl, mix the remaining ingredients, making sure the butter is blended with all the dry ingredients. Crumble the oat mixture over the blueberries and press gently.

Bake for 35 minutes until the top is browning and the blueberry mixture is bubbly. **JE**

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# Theatre Ariel's New Season to Explore Old, Contemporary Jewish Theme

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

**W**hen it commences its 32nd season in October, Theatre Ariel will carry on the legacy of its founding artistic director, Deborah Baer Mozes, who retired after the 2021-'22 season.

And so, when deciding on a theme for the Jewish salon theater's four shows for 2022-'23, new director Jesse Bernstein did not have to brainstorm for long.

The theme will be legacy, as an email from the theater revealed.

"What do we inherit? What do we leave behind? What do we pass on to the next generation," it further explained.

But, as Bernstein elaborated, the subject is not just about the Main Line

organization continuing the legacy of its founder. It is also a topic that is relevant to Judaism — and specifically to Judaism today.

"What we inherit from the generations before," he said. "And also, as I was reading scripts, that theme started to emerge."

Theatre Ariel's first show of 2022-'23, "We All Fall Down" by Lila Rose Kaplan, is about whether a family's revitalization of an age-old Jewish tradition, the Passover seder, can bring them closer together. Its next play, "Ancient History" by David Ives, features a couple that eschews labels ... until the woman realizes that her Jewish background does mean something to her.

Both of those will premiere for the the-

ater's intimate crowds in 2022, with two more to follow in the first half of 2023.

In 2022-'23, the theater will continue its legacy of in-person performance. It ended the 2019-'20 season online because of the outbreak of COVID-19. The 2020-'21 schedule played out entirely on Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic and last year's shows were in person for the first two performances and virtual for the next two.

This year's plays will all be in person with locations to be determined, Bernstein said. The director, who served as associate director under Baer Mozes, said the theater still had 58 members and an average crowd of between 40 and 60 people for its 2021-'22 performances. Both of those numbers were in line with pre-COVID standards.

"We are very much about the conversation around the show, as well as the reading. We're looking to create community and dialogue," Bernstein said. "There is a hunger for that. You can still engage with your Judaism and be entertained."

Judaism is about continuity, he explained. But in the Jewish community of 5782, that continuity feels uncertain.

Synagogue membership is declining. Many shuls in the Philadelphia area see small crowds for Shabbat services.

Millennials are often unsure about the degree to which they want to affiliate. It's become a common refrain for local Jews of all ages to say something along the lines of, "I'm not religious, but I do appreciate my Jewish identity."

But what, exactly, is that identity today?

It's a question that, like so many in Jewish life, really only leads to many more questions.

"In terms of where we are right now in American Jewry, one of the things that is a question is how do you involve more people? What are the important things we want to pass on? And what are we inheriting that we need to adapt?" Bernstein asked.

And then, he asked some more.

"What are the things that are being forgotten that we want to make sure



Jesse Bernstein

Courtesy of Jesse Bernstein

are not forgotten? What is the value of Jewish culture and ideas and spirituality? How do we cling to that? How do we communicate that? How do we pass that on? That includes both the trauma and the celebratory parts."

Those are questions that Bernstein is asking not just about modern Jewry but about Theatre Ariel. The director wants to carry on Baer Mozes' legacy because he believes that Jewish art is a valuable inheritance worth continuing — and ultimately passing on to another generation.

At the same time, much like the average synagogue congregation in 5782, Theatre Ariel's audience is older. And finding younger members is an ongoing challenge. Bernstein, who is 44, is not sure where they are and how to find them.

The director and the theater's co-presidents, Marci Wilf and Judy Guzman, are looking into collaborating with venues that are more accessible to younger people, expanding the theater's social media presence and bringing younger people into the organization and its productions.

"It's going to be a process," Bernstein said.

But one well worth undertaking.

"It's important that our stories are handed down," Guzman said. **JE**

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# Professor, Activist, Playwright Mark Sacharoff Dies at 92



GALL SIGLER | SPECIAL TO THE JE

**M**ark Sacharoff, a Temple University professor, anti-Vietnam War activist and playwright died on Aug 7. He was 92.

Sacharoff may not be a household name like Allen Ginsburg and Jack Kerouac — with whom he hung out — but his activism and academic contributions may have changed the course of U.S. history.

Sacharoff was a vehement opponent of the Vietnam War. One of his contributions to the anti-war struggle was an extensive bibliography of works on the Vietnam War, which was featured in The New York Times.

That bibliography was reviewed by journalist Neil Sheehan, and it was that review, Sacharoff was told later by activist Daniel Ellsberg's lawyer, that convinced Ellsberg to share the Pentagon Papers with Sheehan.

Sacharoff was born in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1929 to Russian Jewish immigrants. Growing up in a cold-water

flat, Sacharoff was eager to move to college.

However, despite being a top student, Sacharoff's Jewish working-class background threatened his academic career.

"He was waitlisted at Wesleyan [University] despite his incredible credentials because, he believed, they had a quota of Jews at the time," said his son, Laurent Sacharoff.

Even though Sacharoff later matriculated at Wesleyan on a full scholarship, his class background contrasted with that of his peers.

"Wesleyan was a fancy school, and he was, a little, a fish out of the water," Laurent Sacharoff said.

After graduating in 1950, Sacharoff gravitated toward the era's literary societies and moved to Greenwich Village in New York City. There he befriended poets and writers such as Ginsburg, Kerouac and Dylan Thomas.

"It was such a special time for him," said his daughter, Ariadne Green. "He was just engaged with a large group of people that were talking about ideas ... It

was really about living in that time."

A decade later, Sacharoff resumed his academic career and completed his Ph.D. at Hunter College. He pursued his passion of plays in a provocative dissertation on "Troilus and Cressida" by Shakespeare, where he suggested that the famous play was misunderstood by some conventional scholarly works.

In 1967, Sacharoff joined Temple University's faculty as an English professor.

"He really enjoyed teaching; he was really great with students," Green said.

Initially, Sacharoff immersed himself in academic research.

"Early on, he was publishing like mad in academic journals," Green said. Gradually, he became more invested in activism and his writing projects.

Following the end of the war, Sacharoff became involved in anti-nuclear proliferation activism and worked with the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy.

Sacharoff headquartered his activism work from home, which enabled him to be central in his children's upbringing.

"He spent a lot of time with us as children when we were growing up. He was a very present dad," Laurent Sacharoff said.

Although not religious, Judaism was significant in Sacharoff's life.

"He was very interested in the history of Judaism and the Bible as a work of literature," Laurent Sacharoff said.

"Culturally, he definitely, completely identified as Jewish ... that was something that was deep for him and important for him," Green said.

Together with the Playwright Workshop, Sacharoff produced his own play, "The Front Door," which demonstrates his humor and attraction to the avant-garde.

"It was a dark comedy ... it was definitely influenced by his time in the Village, by artists who are also dreamers and can also get stuck," Laurent Sacharoff said.

In addition to his son and daughter, Sacharoff is survived by his wife Joan and his son-in-law Jon Green. **JE**

*Gall Sigler is an intern for the Jewish Exponent.*

## BERGER

ELAINE (nee Tucker) - August 13, 2022; predeceased by the love of her life, Henry A. Berger and mother of her other love, Aldon M. Berger. A woman of grand style and great humor who loved bridge, entertaining and cooking. An avid volunteer with a passion for helping people with disabilities. She will be forever missed by her adoring nieces and nephews whom she loved as if they were her own.

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## FINKLE

LANGHORNE, PA - Linda Silver Finkle, age 79, died on Friday, August 12, 2022. Born in New York City on October 15, 1942 to the late Kate R. and Jules N. Silver, she was a resident of beautiful Bucks County for most of her life. Meeting her future husband, Arthur, at age 13, Linda and Arthur dated through high school and college, marrying in 1964. Linda's family was the most important thing to

her. She cherished her two sons, and when she was later blessed with grandchildren, they became the light of her life. Linda graduated from Pennsbury High School, Class of 1960, Temple University with a B.S. in Education, and received a M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Rider University. Loving the environment of learning, she later enrolled at the College of New Jersey and became certified as a school administrator. Linda started her career as a teacher in the Trenton Public School System. After her children were in school, Linda worked at Ring Nursery School. Returning to work full time in 1979, she was a teacher and administrator at Chapin School and the Assistant Director of Admissions at The Hun School of Princeton. An educator for more than forty years, serving as a teacher, guidance counselor, mentor, principal, and educational consultant, Linda cherished the relationships she built with students and their families, often hearing from them to this day. Following her retirement,

Linda served in various capacities as a volunteer "extraordinaire." A member of Har Sinai Temple for more than 60 years, Linda and Arthur became members of Congregation Kol Emet in 2010. She served on the Board as liaison to the Religious School. Linda held various positions as a member of the Board of The Villas at Shady Brook for more than 12 years. She supported the work and activities of Greenwood House, the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, and HomeFront. Linda is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Arthur L. Finkle, her devoted sons, Andrew E. (Heather) and Daniel S. Finkle (Tim), adored grandchildren, Julia Hannah and Joshua Nathan Finkle. Linda's cherished brother, Stuart Roth Silver (Linda) of Hilton Head, SC and his family, niece Elise (Chip) and nephew Joel (Katie), great niece Brooke, great nephew Garrett, and great niece Samantha, also survive. In addition, Linda's life was blessed with caring and dedicated friends who added to the fullness of her life. In fact, though not legally,

they, too were her family. The family respectfully requests that contributions in Linda's memory be to Greenwood House, 53 Walter Street, Ewing Township, NJ 08628, HomeFront, 1880 Princeton Avenue, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648, or The Trenton Jewish Cemetery Project, PO Box 5315, Princeton NJ 08543.

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## HOFFNER

LEONARD B. - On August 11, 2022. Beloved husband of the late Reba (nee Yasno). Devoted father of Jamie Komemi and the late Jeffrey Hoffner. Loving grandfather of David Komemi (Ashley Burdge) and Michal Komemi (Dan Faby). Dear great grandfather of Hunter and Riley. Mr. Hoffner was a longtime member of William Penn Lodge-B'nai Brith. Contributions in his memory may be made to B'nai Brith International www.bnaibrith.org.

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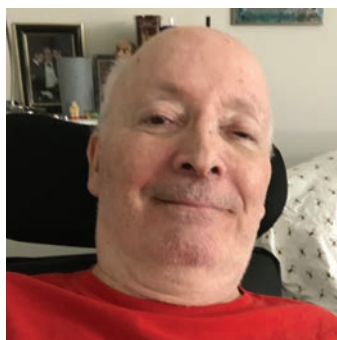
## GAIER

GERALD ALEXANDER - Jerry passed away peacefully on August 16, 2022 at 89 years old. He was the beloved husband of Linda Penny Gaier (nee Lewisohn) for over 62 years. A loving father to Michael (Jennifer) Gaier and David (Randi) Gaier, adoring Poppy to Kelsey, Andrew, Mason, and Samantha. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or a charity of the donor's choice.

## KEAN

LEROY EDWARD - August 12, 2022, of Philadelphia; beloved husband of the late Lois (nee Sitkin); loving father of Kenneth, Candace and Kirby (Susan Giralddi) Kean; brother of Dr. Herbert (Joyce) Kean; grandfather of Evan Kean. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Leroy's memory may be made to the Union League Legacy Foundation-Kean Family Scholarship Fund.

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## KITEI

MICHAEL ALAN, December 1, 1950 – August 23, 2021. Married to the love of his life Mirria (Blumenfeld) for 43 years. Proud father of Scott (Helen) and Eric (Heidi), Pop Pop to Arianna, Caroline, Austin, Henry, David and Carter. Brother of Dr. Franklin Kitei (Lynne), and caretaker for his faithful beagle Hannah. Michael never lost his sense of humor during a 23-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis, with his devoted friend and brother for life Alan Trachtman and his sister-in-law Susan Blumenfeld always by his side offering steadfast love, support, assistance, and encouragement. Michael loved to write poetry to Mirria from the day they met until just before his passing. When he was no longer able to write, he would have Alan pen them for him. Proud graduate of New Hampshire College and devoted fan of Philadelphia sports—especially the Phillies. Professionally, Michael taught Hebrew school and excelled in a number of sales jobs, taking great pride in masterfully training and mentoring the next generation. Michael always said that he “Never had a bad day in my life,” and made sure that everyone he met heard his favorite jokes—over and over and over again! He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, but has left a legacy of love and laughter that will continue on through his friends and family.

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## LEVINE

Sydelle Levine, better known as “Simmie”, died on August 13, 2022, at age 93, at home in her apartment at the Green Hill Condominium in Wynne-

wood, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Loving mother of Linda Olitsky of Havertown, Pennsylvania (Morris) and loving stepmother of Karen T. Levine (Andy Sisson) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Laurie Levine Lowen (Frank) of Spokane, Washington, and Barry H. Levine of Spokane, Washington. Devoted grandmother of Stacy Olitsky, Elana Salzman (Noah), Neal Olitsky (Leanna), Tara Frady Armstrong (Price) and Kaeti Frady. Beloved great-grandmother of Rose Weathers, Eden Weathers, Aviva Olitsky, Shira Salzman, Chaya Salzman and Talia Olitsky. Sydelle Levine (nee Sydelle Golden) was the youngest of three children and was predeceased by her brother Henry Golden (Blanche) and her sister Jeanne Kalinsky (Frank). She married Ernest Arons in New York, but they were soon divorced, leaving Simmie to raise their daughter Linda as a single mother. But in 1972, Simmie met her soon-to-be second husband, Dr. Samuel Levine, and became stepmother to his three children. She and Sam lived in Mount Vernon, New York and later moved to the Philadelphia area. Sam passed away in 2016. In addition to her family matters, Simmie had an outstandingly successful career as an educator, teaching in the New York City public schools and later as a Board of Education official. She also worked on Madison Avenue in the advertising business. Simmie was an author, writing a play that was later produced and publishing a children's biography of Revolutionary War heroine Sybil Ludington. Simmie was very active in her community as well, and in 2005 achieved recognition as Woman of the Year at the Free Synagogue of Mount Vernon. Among her outstanding qualities was a love of social activities. Simmie hosted numerous large family and friend gatherings, including the annual “Singalong” which drew both near and distant relatives. She had many devoted friends, and was a devoted friend to them. Simmie's hospitality was famous, along with her expression “mi casa es su casa” (Spanish for “my house is your house”). She hosted not just relatives, but friends of her stepchildren, in some cases for months-long stays—exhibiting the famous virtue of Abraham the patriarch and Sarah the matriarch. Simmie's upbeat positive attitude was infectious, and she enriched the lives of all who knew her.

## LINCHUK

Leonard Linchuk passed away suddenly on August 16, 2022. He was the son of the late Betty and Samuel Linchuk. Born in Philadelphia on January 19, 1936, and former resident of Allentown, PA, Leonard had called Cherry Hill, New Jersey home for the last 30 plus years. Leonard graduated from South Philadelphia High School in 1954 and from Drexel Uni-

versity in 1958, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Known for his sense of humor and positive outlook on life, Leonard will be deeply missed by many friends and family. In his youth, his nickname was Chuckles because of his great smile and was known as Len or Lenny to his close friends. Leonard had many careers in his lifetime and with each one, he had a strong and dedicated work ethic. In the beginning of his career, he worked as a mechanical engineer with New York Ship Building Corporation at Camden where he was assigned to work on the Savannah, the first nuclear freighter. He then moved to Allentown, PA where he became general manager of the Cata Garment Company. He helped organize the Lehigh Valley Needles Trades Association in 1963. In the early 1980s, he ran Dave Shores Restaurant in Philadelphia before starting his own wholesale women's clothing business named LL Fashions. Following that, he had a small clothing boutique called the Front Room for many years, before working for Yellow Book, where his personality and dedication made him a top salesman. Later years, he continued working part-time as card dealer for multiple charity events. He enjoyed meeting interesting people and loved to learn about them. Leonard was a proud father and grandfather. He is survived by his daughter, Vicki Linchuk, son, Steve Linchuk (Carolyn) and two granddaughters that he adored, Olivia Hally (Andrew) and Bridget Linchuk. He is predeceased by two brothers, Theodore and Edward Linchuk. His wife, Leslie Fraenkel passed away in 2015. Donations in his memory can be made to his favorite charity, the Make a Wish Foundation, or the American Heart Association.

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## MATYAS

ADELA (nee Ghelman), 95, of Montgomery County, Pa., formerly of Caracas, Venezuela, died peacefully on 8/13/2022. She was the beloved wife of the late Tibor Matyas-Schmidt. She was the devoted daughter of Abraham and Clara Ghelman and the loving sister of the late Jaime Ghelman. Born in Bessarabia, Romania, she grew up in Maracaibo, Venezuela. After marrying, she moved to Caracas where she and her husband raised their daughter. Adela was active in the Caracas Jewish Community and, along with her husband, supported the State of Israel and traveled the world. In later years, they moved to Montgomery County, PA, where they became members of Beth Shalom Congregation in Elkins Park. A retired attorney who enjoyed practicing her profession, she was most dedicated to her family, includ-

ing nieces, nephews, and cousins who will treasure her memory. She is survived by her devoted daughter, Belinda Glijansky (Alex), two cherished grandchildren, Ghefia (Jeffrey) and Avi (Angela), and three adored great-grandchildren, Natalie, Tobias, and Asher. Contributions in her memory may be made to Beth Shalom Congregation 8231 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027 or Abramson Senior Care 5 Sentry Parkway East, Suite 100, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

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## NEFF

JOYCE (nee Brown) - August 13, 2022, of New York, formerly of Phila.; beloved wife of the late Alan M. Neff; loving mother of Andrew Neff (Nancy) and Lauren Neff; devoted sister of Sheldon Brown; also survived by 4 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Joyce's memory may be made to the American Association for Cancer Research (aacr.org).

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## SAVITT

Judith (nee Cooper), August 15, 2022, of Philadelphia, PA. Beloved wife of the late Judge David N. Savitt; loving mother of William (Nazak) Savitt and James (Venus) Savitt; cherished grandmother of Megan, Eli, Bernardo, Jacob, Samuel and Atesa; devoted sister of Dianne Zimmerman. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Judith's memory may be made to Jumpstart for Young Children (jstart.org).

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## SHECTER

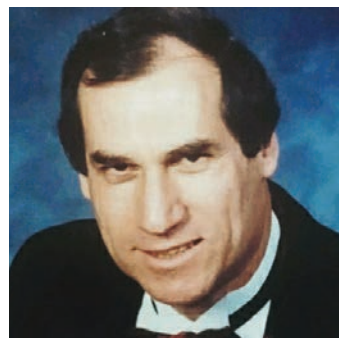
DIANE (nee Levins) On August 16, 2022. Beloved mother of Jonathan (WeiYun) Sheckter and Jane (Bentley) Saul; Dear sister of the late Wendy Feller; Adoring grandmother of Thomas, Valerie, and Maxwell. Funeral services are private. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia www.jewishphilly.com.

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## TOOLE

RUTHELLEN, 1933-2022 - On August 3, Ruthellen Toole, devoted wife, mother and grandmother; beloved sister; trailblazer for women in business; arts lover; activist in Jewish causes; and philanthropist, died of complications due to Alzheimer's disease in San Diego. She was 89. She was born Ruthellen Dietz in Philadelphia, the first child of Sylvia and Si and older sister to Carl, Bob and Suzi. As a single mom to three children, she started her career in the late 1960s at the onset of what became a revolution in computing and data processing. In 1967, she began working for Honeywell as a self-taught computer programmer and quickly proved invaluable as a teacher to new employees. After her boys went off to college, Ruthellen journeyed west with her young daughter, where they settled in the Bay Area. In 1991 she married Monte Toole, the love of her life. Together they became active in Bay Area and Israeli Jewish charities after Monte's successful semiconductor manufacturing company went public. She is survived by her three children, Larry Tollin, Mike Tollin and Cindy Tollin, and five adoring grandchildren: Samantha, Georgia, Lucas, Adam and Rebecca and by her brother Bob Dietz and sister Suzi Dietz. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a contribution to either the Alzheimer's Association or the Osher Marin JCC.



## YAARY

AMIRAM on August 14, 2022. Beloved husband of Rina (nee Kohn) Loving father of Michael Yaary (Allyson), Ron Yaary, and Eric Yaary (Sharon); Dear brother of Baruch Waldman. Contributions in his memory may be made to any Jewish charity of the donor's choice.

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What's happening at ... Temple Har Zion

# Temple Har Zion Hires New Rabbi Adam Lautman

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

Growing up in a Conservative synagogue in Livingston, New Jersey, Adam Lautman felt invisible. It was the early 2000s, and Jewish culture seemed all about “nice Jewish boys meeting nice Jewish girls and having nice Jewish babies,” he said.

For a gay teen, the situation was “challenging.” But at the same time, Lautman felt a connection with Judaism. He even looked in a Jewish Theological Seminary catalog at one point to see if he could become a cantor. But then he read that JTS was not accepting homosexuals for that program.

It was not until the early 2010s, while a student at Rutgers University, that Lautman found his place: Nehirim, a Jewish spirituality community for LGBTQ people. During retreats and other gatherings, Lautman grew to love reading, studying and discussing the Torah. He also realized that a gay man could be out of the closet as a Jew.

Today, Lautman, 33, is not just an out and proud Jew. He’s a rabbi, ordained in 2020 at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles.

And after serving in a variety of rabbinical jobs for the past two years, he’s taking over his first senior rabbi role at Temple Har Zion in Mount Holly, New Jersey. The 50-family congregation gathers in its white, architecturally striking domed sanctuary at 255 High St., just steps away from Mount Holly’s downtown. Inside, it has a small but cozy social hall and a hallway of offices.

But after two pandemic years that forced congregants to worship from home, it feels quiet inside. Lautman is the synagogue’s only full-time employee and the first rabbi on the payroll since Cynthia Kravitz left in January of 2021. And while a solid 20 or so people attend Shabbat services weekly, the temple no longer offers a religious school like it did before 2020.

The rabbi who once felt invisible in his Jewish community is taking over

the leadership of a congregation looking to increase its visibility.

“I have a story of sort of having to find my way into the Jewish community and forming that relationship with God and my relationship with the Jewish community, as opposed to always having it be spread out before me and easy,” Lautman said. “That makes it helpful and easy to connect with people who are struggling with their Judaism, who aren’t as connected and to empathize and to be there for people.”

But while Lautman understands the challenge of revitalizing the synagogue, his mindset is not growth, growth, growth. For now, he just wants to get to know the congregation’s devoted members, most of whom are older.

Even if the temple grows in the long run, the rabbi hopes to remain focused on making deep connections with members. That’s why right now the first step is to come back together in person “a lot more,” he explained.

“So many people of all ages are craving connection,” the rabbi added. “There’s a wonderful opportunity here to provide those opportunities for people.”

Temple Har Zion is 85 years old. From 1985 to 2017, Rabbi Richard Simon led the congregation. Then Rabbi Tiferet Berenbaum replaced Simon for two years from 2017 to 2019. After Berenbaum, Kravitz served from January 2020 to January 2021 before stepping away into a semi-retirement.

Kravitz, though, was part-time. But before hiring Lautman, the synagogue’s board of trustees decided to bring on a full-time spiritual leader again.

Laura Markowitz, a board member and the chair of the search committee, said they felt it was important for Har Zion and the rabbi to commit to each other. The shul had always run on a full-time clergy model with volunteers handling all of the other synagogue duties, and it could so again, the trustees believed.

Over the past year-and-a-half, Hazzan Evelyn Gould, who lives on the West Coast, served as a sort of rent-a-



Rabbi Adam Lautman in his office at Temple Har Zion in Mount Holly, New Jersey, on Aug. 18  
Photos by Jarrad Saffren



Temple Har Zion at 255 High St. in Mount Holly

rabbi when Har Zion needed someone to come in, like on the High Holidays. With the temple reopening, it was time for the board to find its leader again.

“It was important to have somebody full-time and in the area,” Markowitz said. “The board feels that it’s important, and it’s important to the members.”

And then Lautman came for his

in-person interview/try-out. As he led a service from the bimah, Markowitz had a moment.

“I sat there and looked at him and said, ‘It’s a match,’” she recalled. “It just hit me. I didn’t think it. I felt it.”

Lautman moved to Cherry Hill on July 25 with his cat Buffy. [JE](#)

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



# Here Comes the Judge

BY RABBI MEGAN GOLDMARCHÉ

## Parshat Re'eh

**A**s we enter the month of Rosh Hashanah, I get a bit more self-reflective. Both in the lovely thoughtful way and in the self-criticizing judgy way. Am I being the person I want to be? How many *al-heits* will I have to say with genuine admonition this Yom Kippur?

While we all claim to not want to be judgmental, we also play the judge all the time, for our friends and family, for ourselves and, for most of us, for strangers, famous people and just about anyone else with whom we come into contact.

This parsha is definitely not anti-judg-

ing: We are told we must set up judges in all of our cities, but, of course, it is not just left at that. It is written in Deuteronomy 16:

"They [the judges] shall judge the people [with] righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show favoritism, and you shall not take a bribe, for bribery blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts just words."

Of course, it would be ideal if we all judged that way but is that really how it works? Is it possible to avoid favoritism? Research shows that we are biased toward people who we like, people like us and people who have been good toward us in the past. We can and should work to eliminate these biases, but they are natural and difficult to uproot.

This leads me to one of my favorite

Talmud passages, from B. Sanhedrin 17a:

*Rabbi Yohanan says: They place on the Sanhedrin only judges of high stature, and of wisdom, and of pleasant appearance, and of suitable age so that they will be respected. And they must also be masters of sorcery, i.e., they know the nature of sorcery, so that they can judge sorcerers, and they must know all seventy languages in order that the Sanhedrin will not need to hear testimony from the mouth of a translator in a case where a witness speaks a different language. Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: They place on the Sanhedrin only one who knows how to render a carcass of a creeping animal pure by Torah law.*

Based on this passage, to be one of the judges we are talking about in the Torah, one needs to be wise, powerful, attractive, not too old or too young, experts in magic, fluent in 70 languages and able to produce a convincing argument that creeping animals, which the Torah states explicitly are ritually impure, are actually pure.

What is this telling us? Basically no one is fit to be a judge. But, of course, we need judges; the Torah just told us we must appoint them.

What does this have to do with me, a local rabbi who recently moved to town to lead Tribe 12, a local nonprofit that connects people in their 20s and 30s to Jewish life and community in Philadelphia today so they will choose to stay connected tomorrow?

I am pretty sure that I am one of the foremost experts in 20s/30s Jewish life based on my work experience. I have been working with 18-39-year-olds to build Jewish community since 2006 and, before that, I was doing the work as a college student at Penn.

And yet I acknowledge that in reality to

really know exactly what all 20s and 30s young Jews want and need, you need to be simultaneously 22 and 26 and 30 and 35 and 39. And you need to be single and coupled and queer and straight and white and a person of color and neurotypical and neurodiverse. You need to be Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, Orthodox and post and non-denominational. You need to come from an interfaith family and a Sephardic family and from the FSU. And I could go on and on and on.

And you can see where I am going. No one person can have all of these traits. And yet we need to do the work of building community for this population and all other populations.

So what do we do? We try our best. At Tribe 12, we pay attention, actively listen and then respond, we create diverse offerings, we live in the now and watch for what's next, but most importantly, we are not convinced we are right. We know that what was explicitly impure yesterday may be the purest thing we need tomorrow. We have always been committed to disrupting the ordinary, and we do our best to do it righteously, knowing every day we have a chance to do better.

Thank you for such a warm welcome to Philadelphia and happy end to 5782! **JE**

*Rabbi Megan GoldMarche is the executive director of Tribe 12. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.*



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# AUGUST 26–AUGUST 30



Beth Sholom Congregation

## FRIDAY, AUG. 26

### PARSHA FOR LIFE

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

### ROCK SHABBAT

Join Beth Sholom Congregation's Rabbi David Glanzberg-Krainin and Cantor Jacob Agar at 6 p.m. for a rock music Kabbalat Shabbat service. The entire community is welcome. **Call 215-887-1342 for more information.**

## MONDAY, AUG. 29

### 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.**

## TUESDAY, AUG. 30

### BINGO WITH BARRY

Join Barry at Tabas Kleinlife for an afternoon of bingo from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1. Free parking and free to play with snacks available on Aug. 31. **For more information, call 215-745-3127. 2101 Strahle St., Philadelphia. JE**

## social announcements

### WEDDING KAUFMAN-STERBA

**G**abrielle Michaela Kaufman and Richard Alex Sterba were married on April 30 at Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, Virginia, officiated by Cantor Jason Kaufman.

Gabrielle is the daughter of the late Marshall Kaufman and Richelle Kaufman and sister of Samuel C. Kaufman.

Richard is the son of Richard William Sterba and Harriett Myers Pettola.

Gabrielle is a graduate of the Institut Catholique de Paris and the University of Paris VII — Diderot. She grew up in Lower Merion and graduated from Lower Merion High School. She works as a translator and serves on the Junior Board of the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center.

Richard is a graduate of Westminster College and the George Washington University Law School. He is an attorney in Washington, D.C.

The couple resides in Alexandria, Virginia.



Photo by Amelia Johnson

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# Out & About

Courtesy of Stephanie Hampson



1

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



2



3

Courtesy of Hilary Levine



4

Courtesy of Serena Franks



5

Courtesy of Morah Marla Gelfont

1 KleinLife campers enjoyed the color blast event during the color games week near the end of the camp season. 2 The Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties held Bagel Day for employees at its Margate office. 3 On Aug. 15, the American Jewish Committee Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey hosted Sergiy Kyslytsya, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, for an exclusive and off-the-record briefing and luncheon. 4 The Milton & Betty Katz JCC in Margate held its Seventh Annual Jackie and Hank Herskowitz Sports Night on Aug. 11 featuring a guest speaker in former Villanova University men's basketball coach Jay Wright. 5 Morah Marla Gelfont, a Hebrew school teacher with Ohev Shalom of Bucks County, recently returned from Israel after completing the Yad Vashem Seminar for educators in Jewish supplemental programs.



# Nelson Mellitz

## ELECTED COMMANDER OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

**N**elson Mellitz, 74, is a man defined by commitment.

He's been married to his wife Debbie Markowitz Mellitz for 42 years, and they have two daughters. He served in the Air Force for 32 years, including during the Vietnam and Iraq wars, and retired as a colonel, according to a news release about his career from Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

And since the early 1990s, he has continued his "family's 80-year legacy," per the release, of helping JWV fulfill the mission that is self-evident in its name. Over the past three decades, the Cherry Hill, New Jersey, resident has helped Jewish veterans through a variety of leadership roles within JWV, including national chief of staff, department of New Jersey commander and others.

And now he is stepping up to lead the national organization in its top rank of national commander. JWV announced Mellitz's unanimous election at its 127th National Convention in Savannah, Georgia, on Aug. 11. Mellitz will serve in the position for one year.

His goals as the leader of the Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization will be to fight antisemitism, support Israel and communicate with federal, state and local leaders about helping veterans.

Mellitz said the JWV should play a major role in helping to fight antisemitism on campuses because there are thousands of veterans at universities. He also wants to build relationships with soldiers as they return home because returning service members are often unsure about how to access state and federal benefits. As for supporting Israel, he said it's important for Jews to do that "wherever the opportunity presents itself."

JWV was formed in 1896 by Jewish Civil War veterans who wanted to disprove the rumor that Jews never



served. That, Mellitz explained, was the rumor at the time. He sees it as his duty to play a similar role today.

"We're going to be showing where antisemitism exists, how to knock it down," he said.

Mellitz grew up in Philadelphia's Oxford Circle neighborhood and graduated from Northeast High School. Though he had a bar mitzvah, his commitment to Judaism started in earnest at 22. Mellitz's father had just died, and his grandfather, Morris Mellitz, came over to his house to tell him they were going to synagogue.

They went to the now-defunct Beth Emeth Congregation and kept going, week after week. Today, the veteran remains a synagogue member but at Congregation Beth El, a Conservative shul in Voorhees, New Jersey.

As he explained, "I believe in God and Judaism."

After coming home from his tour of duty during the Vietnam War — in which he served but not in Vietnam itself — Mellitz started to see the importance of helping fellow veterans. He had friends committing suicide or ending up on the street. Many did not

know where to go for federal Veterans Administration (now Veterans Affairs) benefits. Some also did not have families for support.

Mellitz tried to help veterans he knew who were living on the streets of Philadelphia. He took them to the VA office, but "back then they didn't help people very much," he said. So, it fell on Mellitz to give them money, food and even socks.

"The big thing they ask for is socks," he said. "There just wasn't much of a support network."

That was why, later in life, Mellitz tried to become his own support network. With other JWV members, he started taking annual trips to Capitol Hill to talk to representatives and senators about the needs of veterans.

Over the past year, he helped successfully lobby for the PACT Act, an expansion of benefits to veterans dealing with toxic exposure. President Joe Biden signed the bill into law earlier this month.

"Commander Mellitz and myself were integral pieces in speaking up for the JWV in many different ways," said Ken Greenberg, the national executive director of JWV. "It's a major win for veterans no matter what area you served in."

According to Mellitz, the VA system has improved a lot in the past few decades and continues to get better. But the necessity of offering practical help to veterans remains.

Mellitz said he wants "a welcome home for every military member that comes home after being deployed." He also plans on working with Our Community Salutes, a nonprofit with a chapter in Cherry Hill, to host an informational dinner about benefits and important contacts for high school graduates who have enlisted in the military.

"In the United States of America, we have the resources to help these people," Mellitz said. **JE**

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



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porated under the provisions of the  
Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation  
Law of 1988.

**JJ MONROY CONSTRUCTION,**  
**INC.** has been incorporated under  
the provisions of the Pennsylvania  
Business Corporation Law of 1988.

LIMITED LIABILITY CO. - Notice  
is hereby given that a Certificate  
of Organization was filed with the  
PA Dept. of State for Eliza Gresh  
LLC in accordance with the pro-  
visions of the PA Limited Liability  
Company Law of 1994. RONALD  
W. FENSTERMACHER, Solicitor,  
RONALD W. FENSTERMACHER,  
JR., PC, 1001 Conshohocken State  
Rd., Ste. 1-311, West Conshohocken,  
PA 19428

**Steel City Enterprises Inc.** has  
been incorporated under the provi-  
sions of the Pennsylvania Business  
Corporation Law of 1988.

**510 Real Fresh Inc.** has been incor-  
porated under the provisions of the  
Pennsylvania Business Corporation  
Law of 1988.  
Arangio & George, LLP  
2000 Market St.  
Suite 1440  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**CBS Kosher Food Program** is a  
federally funded non-profit food  
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following goods: Dairy, Dry, Frozen,  
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Bakery, and Non-Food/Paper goods  
for the year of November 2022  
through September 2023. IFB infor-  
mation can be found at <https://www.cbsfoodprogram.com/procurement>  
or by emailing [blake@cbsfoodprogram.com](mailto:blake@cbsfoodprogram.com). Bids are due by 9/20/22  
at 5:00pm. Winners will be an-  
nounced by 10/14/22.

CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE -  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA  
- No. NC 2206005 - NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that on 6/30/22,  
the Petition of Mia Morgan on be-  
half of her minor child CARSON

MORGAN-McCOULLUM, was  
filed in the above-named Court,  
praying for a Decree to change his  
name to CARSON McCOULLUM  
The Court has fixed 9/8/22, at 9:00  
A.M. in Courtroom 6F, 1501 Arch St.,  
6th Fl., Phila., PA, as the time and  
place for the hearing of said Petition,  
when and where all persons inter-  
ested may appear and show cause,  
if any they have, why the prayer  
of the said Petition should not be  
granted. DANIEL MUKLEWICZ,  
Atty. for Petitioner, AVALLONE LAW  
ASSOC., 215 S. Broad St., 5th Fl.,  
Phila., PA 19107, 215.735.5525

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
- PHILA. COUNTY, PA - FAMILY  
DIV. - No. NC2206003 - NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Petition  
of Heather Jeanine Jenkins, Parent  
and Natural Guardian, on behalf of  
her minor child, NASYA AUTUMN  
ADAMS, was filed in the above-  
named Court praying for a Decree to  
change her name and birth certificate  
to NASYA AUTUMN BRADSHAW.  
The Court has fixed 9/15/2022, 9:00  
AM, in Courtroom 6A, Family Court,  
1501 Arch St., Phila., PA 19102, 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. BRADLY E. ALLEN,  
Atty. for Petitioner, 7711 Castor Ave.,  
Phila., PA 19152. 215.725.4242

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS -  
PHILA. COUNTY, PA - June Term  
'22, No. NC2206002. NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that on 6/9/2022,  
the Petition of Laila Adam Abdalla  
and Abdelaziz Abdalla on be-  
half of their minor child SHUHD  
ABDELAZIZ ABAKR ABDALLA,  
was filed in the above-named Court,  
praying for a Decree to change  
her name to: SHAHD ABDELAZIZ  
ABAKR ABDALLA. The Court  
has fixed 9/15/22, at 9:00 A.M. in  
Courtroom 6A, City Hall, Phila., PA,  
as the time and place for the hear-  
ing of said 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. LAURIE  
GINSBERG, Atty. for Petitioners,  
LAURIE GINSBERG LLC, 1420  
Walnut St., #1006, Phila., PA 19102,  
215.735.4003

DECREE NISI - Phila. Orphans'  
Court Div. O.C. #1330 DE of 2021/  
Control #217614, Estate of Joseph  
Edward Stanley - Notice is here-  
by given that on 1/19/22, a citation  
was awarded, and it was decreed  
preliminarily that the title to the in-  
terest of Joseph Edward Stanley in  
real estate situate 1627 W. Seybert  
St., Phila., PA is in Janice Rouse &  
Roberta Stanley. If no exceptions  
to the decree are filed within three  
(3) months, the decree shall be  
confirmed absolutely. Roderick L.  
Foxworth, Atty. for Petitioner, 7715  
Crittenden St., #382, Phila., PA  
19118, 267.674.2368

IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER  
OF WILLS OF DELAWARE  
COUNTY, PA - IN RE: ESTATE OF  
JOE LOUIS DONALDSON, SR.,  
DECEASED - FILE NO. 2322-1821  
- RE: PETITION FOR CITATION TO  
SHOW CAUSE WHY PETITIONER  
SHOULD NOT BE APPOINTED  
ADMINISTRATOR - RULE - AND  
NOW, this 10th day of Aug. 2022,  
upon consideration of the above-re-  
ferenced Petition, it is hereby  
ORDERED and DECREED that a  
Rule to Show Cause is issued and  
directed upon Joe L. Donaldson,  
Jr. and Jerilyn Donaldson to show  
cause why this Petition should not  
be granted. Respondent(s) shall  
submit a written response on or be-  
fore the 28th day of Sept. 2022, via  
one or more of the following options:  
(1) U.S. mail at ATTN: Register

of Wills, 201 W. Front St., Media,  
PA 19063; (2) In-Person or drop-  
box at the Office of the Register  
of Wills, First Fl., Gov't. Center  
Bldg., Media, PA, 19063; (3) fax at  
610.891.4812; and/or (4) email at  
[RegofWills@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:RegofWills@co.delaware.pa.us). No  
Hearing is scheduled. If you fail to  
file a response, the averments in the  
Petition may be deemed admitted,  
and the Register of Wills may enter  
an appropriate Order pursuant to  
231 Pa. R.C.P. 206.7.  
BY THE REGISTER OF WILLS  
/s/ RACHEL EZZELL BERRY, ESQ.

ESTATE OF ALAN JAY DENIS  
a/k/a ALAN J. DENIS and ALAN  
DENIS, DECEASED.  
Late of Newtown 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  
DEBRA L. DENIS (NAMED IN WILL  
AS DEBRA DENIS), EXECUTRIX,  
c/o Rebecca Rosenberger Smolen,  
Esq., One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623, Bala  
Cynwyd, PA 19004,  
Or to her Attorney:  
REBECCA ROSENBERGER  
SMOLEN  
BALA LAW GROUP, LLC  
One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

ESTATE OF BARRY S.  
WEINTRAUB aka BARRY  
STEPHEN WEINTRAUB  
Late of Harrisburg, 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 de-  
cedent to make payment without delay,  
to Janice Weintraub, Executrix, c/o  
Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum  
DeVito Kaplan Schear & Toddy, PC,  
One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market  
St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103  
or to their attorneys,  
Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq.,  
Zarwin Baum DeVito  
Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC  
One Commerce Sq.  
2005 Market St., 16th Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF CAROLE M.  
SMITH a/k/a CAROLE SMITH,  
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  
MARK A. SMITH, EXECUTOR, c/o  
Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy  
Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020,  
Or to his Attorney:  
HARRY METKA  
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9  
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF CATHERINE L.  
CHAMPION  
Champion, Catherine L. late  
of Philadelphia, PA. Margaret  
Barnwell, c/o David W. Crosson,  
Esq., Crosson Richetti & Daigle,  
LLC, 609 W. Hamilton St., Suite 210,  
Allentown, PA 18101, Administratrix.  
Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC  
609 W. Hamilton St.  
Suite 210  
Allentown, PA 18101

ESTATE OF DUANE A. GOINGS,  
DECEASED  
Late of Philadelphia County  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION  
on the above Estate have been  
granted to the undersigned, who

requests all persons having claims  
or demands against the Estate of  
the decedent to make known the  
same, and all persons indebted to  
the decedent to make payment with-  
out delay to  
DUANE MININALL, Administrator  
c/o DENNIS A. POMO, ESQUIRE  
121 S. Broad St., Ste. 1200  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-665-1900

ESTATE OF EDGAR NORMAN  
McCLAIN, 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 de-  
mands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment without  
delay to SHERRY LEE McCLAIN,  
EXECUTRIX, c/o Robert S. Cohen,  
Esq., 123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201,  
Jenkintown, PA 19046,  
Or to her Attorney:  
ROBERT S. COHEN  
LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT S.  
COHEN  
123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

ESTATE OF ELAINE C. COFFEY,  
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  
MARIA CONCETTA, EXECUTRIX,  
c/o Stephanie M. Shortall, Esq., P.O.  
Box 50, Doylestown, PA 18901,  
Or to her Attorney:  
STEPHANIE M. SHORTALL  
ANTHEIL MASLOW & MacMINN,  
LLP  
P.O. Box 50  
Doylestown, PA 18901

ESTATE OF ELEANOR A. MARR  
aka ELEANOR MARR  
Marr, Eleanor A. aka Marr, Eleanor  
late of Philadelphia, PA. Lisa A.  
Levin, c/o Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq.,  
1234 Bridgetown Pike, Suite 110,  
Feasterville, PA 19053, Executrix.  
Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq.  
1234 Bridgetown Pike  
Suite 110  
Feasterville, PA 19053

ESTATE OF FRANCIS A. GATTO,  
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 CHRISTINA MONZO,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, 2830 S.  
Marvine St., Philadelphia, PA 19148,  
Or to her Attorney:  
BRANDON J. LAURIA  
LAURIA LAW LLC  
3031 Walton Rd., Ste. A320  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

ESTATE OF FREDRICK ANTHONY  
DEMURO a/k/a FREDRICK  
A. DEMURO and FREDRICK  
DEMURO, 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 DEBORAH DEMURO,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Harry  
Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd.,  
Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020,  
Or To her Attorney:





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## LONGPORT OCEAN PLAZA



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This amazing and impeccable 3 bedroom, 2 bath Condominium includes 2 assigned parking spaces. Elegant and timeless, a remarkable find which has recently been renovated from floor to ceiling with designer finishes. Coastal living at its best with approximate 1,770 sq ft of beautiful surroundings which boasts an open and spacious living area with sliding doors to the deck for enjoying the beautiful sunsets. The living area also features a linear fireplace, perfect for the cool evenings at the beach. A separate dining area and den are perfect for family and friend gatherings. A custom bar boasts amazing Quartz counter tops with a mirrored wall and beverage refrigerator. The kitchen is beautifully equipped with state-of-the-art appliances. This exquisite unit offers hardwood flooring throughout, and beautifully tiled bathrooms. The Master Suite offers a spa like atmosphere with gorgeous bathroom finishes, a comfortable seating area, a walk in closet and additional storage space. The Guest Bedroom is bright, inviting, and spacious. The third bedroom featuring bunk beds, could also be designated as a home office. The Ocean Plaza is situated on 27th Ave and the Beach and offers an Oceanfront Pool and 24-hour security. A wonderful opportunity to live on the Beach and enjoy amazing sunrises and sunsets in this lovely Longport community.

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## Wish Your Friends & Family A HAPPY NEW YEAR in the Jewish Exponent

The Jewish Exponent's Greetings issue  
will publish on Thursday, September 22<sup>ND</sup>  
**DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

SIZE  
A  
\$150

3" x 5.25"

*Shana Tova*



**MAY THE NEW YEAR  
BE EVER JOYOUS  
FOR YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY**

YOUR NAME

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B  
\$95

*May you be inscribed  
in the Book of Life  
for a happy and  
healthy year.*

YOUR NAME

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SIZE  
C  
\$55

*L'Shana  
Tova  
Tikatevu*  
YOUR NAME



## PLEASE RUN MY GREETINGS I WOULD LIKE AD (circle one here) A, B, C

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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HARRY METKA  
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9  
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF GILBERT BACKERS  
Backers, Gilbert late of Philadelphia,  
PA. Vivian Wylie, 80 E. Collom  
St., #206, Philadelphia, PA 19144,  
Executrix.  
Keith Levinson, Esquire  
Boulevard Law Center  
1730 Welsh Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19115

ESTATE OF GREGORY JOSEPH  
MCCANN aka GREGORY J.  
MCCANN  
McCann, Gregory Joseph aka  
McCann, Gregory J. late of  
Philadelphia, PA. Joanne Cuffey,  
c/o Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq.,  
1234 Bridgetown Pike, Suite 110,  
Feasterville, PA 19053, Executrix.  
Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq.  
1234 Bridgetown Pike  
Suite 110  
Feasterville, PA 19053

ESTATE OF JAMES HILTON  
BUTTNER a/k/a JAMES H.  
BUTTNER, 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  
PAUL BUTTNER, EXECUTOR,  
c/o Bradley Newman, Esq., 123 S.  
Broad St., Ste. 1030, Philadelphia,  
PA 19109,  
Or to his Attorney:  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
ESTATE & ELDER LAW OFFICE  
OF BRADLEY NEWMAN  
123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030  
Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF JOAN ROBERTA  
THOMAS  
Thomas, Joan Roberta late of  
Philadelphia, PA. Maureen Farrell,  
Esq., 1628 JFK Blvd., Suite  
1901, Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Administratrix.

ESTATE OF JUDITH C. MILLER  
Miller, Judith C. late of Philadelphia,  
PA. Zicetius Sheppard, 1938  
Ellsworth St., Philadelphia, PA  
19146, Administrator.  
George V. Troilo, Esq.  
Law Offices of Gregory Pagano, PC  
1315 Walnut St., 12th Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF JUDITH MORINAKA,  
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 Cynthia C. Howlett,  
Administratrix c/o his attorney Debra  
G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite  
300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF KATHLEEN GLORIA  
CARMICHAEL, 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 PAULA CARMICHAEL,  
ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Nicole B.  
LaBletta, Esq., 200 Barr Harbor Dr.,  
Ste. 400, Conshohocken, PA 19428,  
Or to her Attorney:  
NICOLE B. LABLETTA  
LABLETTA & WALTERS, LLC  
200 Barr Harbor Dr., Ste. 400  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

ESTATE OF MARC H. HALPERT,  
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 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 MARY JANE  
WEIDMAN, 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 de-  
mands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment without  
delay to DONALD J. WEIDMAN,  
EXECUTOR, c/o Harry Metka,  
Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9,  
Bensalem, PA 19020,

Or to his Attorney:  
HARRY METKA  
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9  
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MBOMBO OWATE,  
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 GIDEON OWATE,  
ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Jay E.  
Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19150,  
Or to his Attorney:  
JAY E. KIVITZ  
KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C.  
7901 Ogontz Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF MICHELLE  
McCANDLESS, 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  
NANCY SALANDRA, EXECUTRIX,  
c/o Bradley Newman, Esq., 123 S.  
Broad St., Ste. 1030, Philadelphia,  
PA 19109,  
Or to her Attorney:  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
ESTATE & ELDER LAW OFFICE  
OF BRADLEY NEWMAN  
123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030  
Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF RITA WALLACE,  
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 de-  
mands against the estate of the  
decedent to make known the same  
and all persons indebted to the  
decedent to make payment without  
delay to Theresa Capra, Executrix,  
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 SAZA MARTINEZ,  
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 FREDDY MARTINEZ,  
ADMINISTRATOR, 594 Bryant St.,  
Westbury, NY 11550,  
Or to his Attorney:  
JOSEPH VACCARO  
5918 Torresdale Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19135

ESTATE OF VICTOR MORINAKA,  
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 Cynthia C. Howlett,  
Administratrix c/o his attorney Debra  
G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite  
300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF WAYNE THOMAS,  
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 KENNETH M. THOMAS,  
ADMINISTRATOR, 32 Wavecrest  
Dr., Islip, NY 11751  
Or to his Attorney:  
HENRY A. JEFFERSON  
JEFFERSON LAW, LLC  
1700 Market St., Ste. 1005  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF WILLIAM WESLEY  
BENNETT  
Bennett, William Wesley late  
of Philadelphia, PA. Karen  
Morrison, c/o Andrew I. Roseman,  
Esquire, 1528 Walnut St., Suite  
1412, Philadelphia, PA 19102,  
Administratrix.  
Andrew I. Roseman, Esquire  
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