

HURTS SO GOOD?

‘ESAU’  
JUST OK

Weak female characters hinder a film depiction of Esau and Jacob’s story.



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DECEMBER 17, 2020 / 2 TEVET 5781

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# JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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#### We Let the Kids Plan Chanukah

And we learned a lot  
from the experiment.

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Volume 133  
Number 36

Published Weekly Since 1887



## Penn Hillel Rabbi Departs After Nearly 17 Years

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

BEFORE THE NEW YEAR rings in, Rabbi Mike Uram, 44, will leave his post as executive director and campus rabbi of Penn Hillel after nearly 17 years on the job.

Uram, who won a National Jewish Book Award in 2016 for “Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations,” will become the chief vision and education officer of Pardes North America, the American arm of the influential Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

In his time at the University of Pennsylvania, Uram had a front-row seat to the changing priorities and tendencies of Jewish college students — regarding Israel, denominational differences, religious practice and more — and will bring that field experience to his position at Pardes, which charges him to increase the frequency and quality of Torah learning in America.

Uram spoke to the Jewish Exponent

See Rabbi, Page 9



▲ Fran Orkin meets her great-grandson Bradley, who was born during the pandemic.

Photo by Rachel Keiser

## Oh, Baby: Pandemic Complicates Motherhood

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

DEC. 13 MARKED a full nine months from the beginning of the pandemic’s life-changing effects in Pennsylvania — that Friday in March when adults left their offices and children left their schools and both, in many cases, did not return.

For women who got pregnant just before the pandemic, or just after it began,

a period in their lives that was already sure to introduce them to a complex set of medical considerations and emotions was made even more convoluted.

Early news reports signaled that women giving birth could be barred from having anyone else in the hospital with them as their deliveries were underway, to say nothing of their newly required solitude when it came to doctor’s

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Miriam's Advice Well

COPING WITH A CRUSH OF CHRISTMAS CHEER AT VIRTUAL SCHOOL

A teacher writes Miriam about what seems like much more talk than usual related to Christmas in virtual schools this year and wonders how to handle the situation. Miriam responds by noting that virtual schools have advantages in that kids can just walk away from the screen if they're uncomfortable. She also suggests the teacher remind her educator peers that not all students celebrate Christmas. For details, read Miriam's Advice Well online. Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to [news@jewishexponent.com](mailto:news@jewishexponent.com) and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line. [jewishexponent.com/2020/12/14/dear-miriam-coping-with-a-crush-of-christmas-cheer-at-virtual-school/](http://jewishexponent.com/2020/12/14/dear-miriam-coping-with-a-crush-of-christmas-cheer-at-virtual-school/)

Philacatessen

VEGAN RICE AND BEANS

When people think of winter comfort foods, heavy and meaty stuff like soup, stew and chili comes to mind. Food columnist Keri White was looking for something a bit different and developed a recipe for vegan rice and beans that's as hearty as the aforementioned carnivore offerings. And pretty much any variety of bean will work, making it adaptable to what you have on hand. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, including other recipes, gift ideas, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. [jewishexponent.com/2020/12/14/vegan-rice-and-beans/](http://jewishexponent.com/2020/12/14/vegan-rice-and-beans/)



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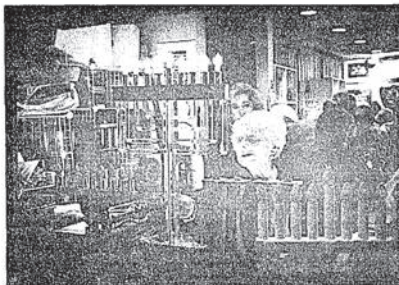


Photo by Dan Z. Johnson

Eve Bender examines a menorah at the gift shop of the National Museum of American Jewish History. Bender was taking part in a program called "Being Jewish at Christmas."

Photo by Dan Z. Johnson

## Jewish at Christmas doesn't have to be a reason to be bored

By RUTH ROVNER  
Special to the Exponent

Howard Saul reached for a bagel, took a bite and then gave the bagel to his son, Michael, who's almost 3. "Delicious bagel!" he told his son, as he also handed him some apple juice.

They were ready for refreshment after a spirited session of folk music in the sanctuary of Congregation Mikveh Israel, where Michael had been singing and clapping as Jackie Pack played her guitar and encouraged the audience to join in.

The sing-a-long was part of the annual "Being Jewish at Christmas" program at the National Museum of American Jewish History. And Howard Saul, who came for the first time with his wife, Gall; his son, Michael; and his daughter, 6-year-old Lauren, was delighted that his family had something special — and distinctly Jewish — to do on Christmas day.

"This is wonderful!" he said. "I remember how Jewish kids always said, 'We don't have anything to do for Christmas.' But this is a great idea. This is a memory my children will have for a long time."

On Christmas Day, when the streets in Philadelphia's historic district were eerily empty, the lines were long and the mood was festive at the museum, at Independence Mall East.

From noon until 5 p.m., visitors enjoyed a range of activities. Sing-a-longs led by Saul Broudy, Esther Halpern and Pack; story drama presented by Claudia Rader; two video presentations; minitours of the museum's exhibit, "Contemporary Artifacts"; and free bagels — 1,500 of them, donated by Brooklyn Bagels — were all part of the event, planned to give area Jews their own celebration Dec. 25.

"Christmas Day can be lonely for American Jews," said museum Director Margo Bloom. "It feels like everyone else is celebrating at home with their families," she continued. "The streets are empty, restaurants are closed, and so are most museums."

"That's why we offer 'Being Jewish at Christmas.' It's a time that Jews can be with other Jews and feel part of a community."

Last year, said Bloom, the estimated attendance was 3,000. And this year, even before specific numbers were tallied, it looked like another record turnout. As Bloom stood in the crowded lobby, where visitors ate bagels and picked up free copies of the Exponent and *Inside* magazine, the lines outside were three deep as ticket-takers tried to keep up with an overflow crowd.

"Look at this crowd!" said Karen Steinhause, who came from West Trenton with her husband, Larry; her son, Joshua, almost 3; and her daughter, Sarah, just 9 months old.

"I really like this atmosphere," she said. "We have common ground here. We're not celebrating Christmas, so we're all doing something that has to do with our own heritage."

Just the day before, Steinhause said, a salesman in a pet store had asked Joshua, "Have you told Santa what you want for Christmas?" and Joshua replied, "I don't celebrate Christmas."

Instead, he was celebrating being Jewish Dec. 25.

Last Christmas Day, said his mother, "we just hung around the house." But this year, the family's first time at the museum event, Joshua watched a film, "Hanukkah at Bubbe's," and joined in singing many Hebrew songs at the

See HOLIDAY page 62

## BALLOW'S



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# Rose Sandler, World Traveler, Dies at 39

## OBITUARY

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**NO ADVENTURE WAS** too daunting for Rose Sandler.

The Pipersville native went diving in the Caribbean, hiking in Patagonia, lobster fishing in Maine and camel riding in the Gobi Desert.

She rode in countless horse-back races. She completed the 655-mile Mongol Derby in 2014, competed in the 250-mile Race the Wild Coast in South Africa in 2016 and was named “rookie of the year” in the 100-mile Tevis Cup in California in 2017.

Sandler, a materials specialist, also suffered from mental illness and spent years battling depression. Her parents, Jay and Lisa Sandler, flew out to her home in Poway, California, in July to

escort her back to Bucks County when it became clear her condition was getting worse.

She died by suicide on Nov. 23. She was 39.

“She has left her family, friends and many others she adventured with throughout the world bereaved and heartbroken,” her parents wrote in an obituary.

Sandler grew up going fishing with her father, taking nature walks with her mother and riding horses at stables near her childhood home. Her father ran a crane operating business, and she developed an early passion for taking things apart and putting them back together.

Lisa Sandler said her daughter began experiencing mental health issues during her youth. She attended Central

Bucks East High School and later attended Penn State University, where she studied engineering. She went to work for Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. in Stratford, Connecticut, where she met and married Cameron Byrd. The marriage ended in divorce after three years.

She moved to North Carolina to manage a 40-horse stable before she was hired by General Atomics, an aerospace company in San Diego, and moved to Poway.

Although Sandler was not religious, she identified strongly with her family’s Jewish identity. She attended Hebrew school for several years and went to Camp Harlam, where she made lifelong friends.



▲ Rose Sandler

Courtesy of Jay and Lisa Sandler

sense of how she felt all the time.

Her parents said they tried every option that could offer hope for their daughter, but nothing seemed to stick.

“If there had been something that we could have found — we sure looked high and we sure looked low, but at this point, it’s not out there yet,” Jay Sandler said.

Abigail Sandler said condolences have come pouring in on social media since her niece’s death. Friends have shared stories about her kindness, intel-

ligence and sense of humor, and her paddling club, the Hanohano Outrigger Canoe Club, held a memorial in her honor. Traveling Stories, the storytelling organization she volunteered with, has also reached out. Some of her family members who have not spoken to each other for years are reconnecting to share their grief.

Lisa Sandler regrets not talking more frequently with her daughter about her illness and how much she loved her in the last months of her life. If she could do it over again, she said, she would ask her how she was feeling every day to check if she was planning to hurt herself.

She and her husband hope that other families impacted by mental illness and suicide can learn from their experiences and know they are not alone.

“Every family is different,” she said. “Keep being vigilant every day, as best you can, depending on your circumstances.” ●

*If you or someone you know is thinking of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text TALK to the Crisis Text Line at 741741.*

She shared her father’s love for Jewish cuisine; in the wake of her death, her friends wrote to her family about their fond memories of the latke parties she threw for Chanukah.

She had tried various medication and therapy options over the years, and when her depression grew worse in Poway, she sought treatment at Pacific Pearl La Jolla. She was close with her aunt, Abigail Sandler, who lived nearby and was a source of support as she navigated her intake interview and hospitalizations.

Her therapist, Michele Manker, worked with her for six years and said they developed a strong therapeutic relationship. Three years ago, Manker noticed Sandler stopped cycling out of her depression symptoms, which she had previously been able to do on a regular basis.

“In 40 years in the mental health profession, I have never seen anyone struggle this hard, just helpless, and try just about every form of therapeutic intervention that’s offered, really,” Manker told the Exponent.

She added that the pandemic had little impact on Sandler’s sense of isolation and hopelessness. In fact, Sandler once told her that the crisis meant everyone in the world had a

## What’s your legacy?



Cis established a permanent gift to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign before she passed away in 2006. Today, she is feeding the food insecure, supporting older adults, and caring for at-risk children in Israel through her endowment gift.

Thanks to Cis’ deep commitment to the Jewish community and her Lion of Judah Endowment with the Jewish Federation, her memory and generosity will live on forever.

**To establish your Jewish legacy, contact Jennifer Brier: 215.832.0528 or [jbrier@jewishphilly.org](mailto:jbrier@jewishphilly.org)**



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# Advocate for Elderly Elias Surut Cohen Dies at 93

OBITUARY

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

ELIAS SURUT COHEN of Wynnewood, an advocate on behalf of the elderly and a lawyer who served as Pennsylvania’s first state commissioner for aging issues, died on Nov. 24 at Lankenau Medical Center from an intestinal ailment. He was 93.

To those who knew him well, Cohen was “Eli.” To his sons, Barry and Peter, he was someone to emulate. And in one much-publicized incident, he was referred to as “wild jackass,” a title that Barry Cohen disputes but the man himself was delighted by.

The incident came during a 1961 legislative session of the Pennsylvania Senate, just a few years into Cohen’s tenure as state commissioner for aging issues in the Department of Public Welfare, after he had earned a reputation as a forceful promoter of rigorous standards for nursing home operators. Sen. Israel Stiefel, a fellow Philadelphia Jew and Democrat (and a scholar of the Bible and Semitic languages) hurled the epithet at Cohen during the reading of House

Bill 1172. “A public official should be firm, decent and courteous,” Stiefel said, according to The Philadelphia Inquirer, “and these are qualities which Elias Cohen lacks.” Cohen was defended by at least one senator, according to the Inquirer, and the legislation passed anyway.

Cohen was appointed to his position as commissioner on aging in 1959, when he was just 29. By then, he was married to Marcia Cohen, who he met when she was still in high school in Long Island, New York. After they married in 1948, they moved to Camp Hill.

Marcia Cohen recalls that her husband was voted “most versatile” in his high school yearbook, and that he maintained his notably wide variety of interests and abilities throughout his life. Outside of his work as a public advocate, lawyer and editor of The Gerontologist, a national journal on aging, Cohen was also a leading collector of antique sheet music, according to Barry Cohen. He played guitar, too, and polished the silver of the Torah ornaments

See Cohen, **Page 8**



▲ Marcia and Elias Cohen in Arizona

Photo by Claire H. Cohen

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# LGBTQ Orgs Partner for Chanukah Celebration

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**TWO LGBTQ** Jewish organizations partnered this Chanukah to create an event focusing on light, leadership and love in their communities after a year full of darkness.

Philadelphia's Tribe 12 and JQT Vancouver celebrated the Festival of Lights with "Hanukkah Hotties," a virtual celebration with guests who are "lighting up their respective parts of the world by queering Jewish space and Jewifying queer space," according to the organizers.

Each night featured candle lighting prayers and interviews with LGBTQ Jewish community leaders and artists in the United States, Canada and Germany.

Canadian Indigenous Jewish photographer Kali Spitzer was scheduled to kick off the celebrations for the first night with an interview about how her heritage and identity impacts her artwork, but she had to cancel due to a death in her family. Host Carmel Tanaka, founder and executive director of JQT, shared a poem from "In Honor of our

Grandmothers," a collaboration of Indigenous and Jewish poets, to honor Spitzer's loss.

Davinica Nemtzow, diversity, equity and inclusion associate at Tribe 12, filled in for a discussion with Tanaka about the importance of Chanukah traditions and the strong bonds shared by international queer Jewish communities.

"That's been one of the silver linings of COVID, being able to connect with other organizations and people who are doing similar work, and being able to join forces and support one another," Tanaka said.

Night two featured New York-based performance artist Stuart B. Meyers, who is touring "The Shabbos Queen," his Shabbat-based performance focusing on self-love and love of community. Meyers, who grew up in South Jersey, stars as the character of Yenta.

He talked with Tanaka about his relationship with spirituality, his visit to the mindfulness-oriented Romemu Yeshiva and his study of the Kabbalah, especially his work studying healing through dreams.

"Reading dreams is reading Torah" he said.

Nemtzw made another appearance on night three,

along with Galia Godel, LGBTQ Initiative program manager for Jewish Family and Children's Service, to talk about their recent wins working with the LGBTQ Jewish community in Philadelphia.

Godel, who works as a Jewish educator, a sex educator and leader of J.Proud, said she was happy to see so many of the organizations she works with taking initiative to make their spaces more welcoming.

"One of the real wins, for Greater Philly and for me, is that I have to do so little convincing," she said. "It is so much more frequent that a rabbi or synagogue president will reach out to me and say, 'Hey, we're enthusiastic about doing this, we just don't know what the right next step is.'"

Nemtzw talked about how momentous it felt to be able to bring her vision of community building to others. She said she was especially excited about providing a safe, inclusive alternative to LGBTQ spaces like nightclubs, which can be heavily sexualized and oriented around substance use.

Tribe12 Assistant Director and matchmaker Danielle Selber joined Chicago-based LGBTQ matchmaker Kara Laricks on



▲ Clockwise from left: Carmel Tanaka, Davinica Nemtzow and Galia Godel  
Courtesy of Tribe 12

night four for a conversation about their methods for arranging matches for queer Jewish singles, using Tanaka as a model.

"I like to ask everybody some very basic — or for some people they're basic — questions about gender identity and how you date and what you're looking for," Selber said. "But one of the questions I ask that kind of gives everyone pause is 'Do you experience sexual attraction? And if so, to whom?'"

Laricks talked about the importance of discussing non-negotiable priorities early on in the dating process, whether it's a cat allergy or dietary preferences.

"This is the beauty of match-making, being able to have these conversations and learn the nuances," she said.

Selber also noted that interest in matchmaking has exploded during the pandemic, since people can't meet in person and realize they need support in their dating lives.

Arya Marvazy, managing director of JQ International in Los Angeles, joined to light the fifth candle. David Studniberg, founding member of Keshet Germany and curator of Jewish Museum Berlin, and non-binary Russian-Jewish poet Angelica Poversky lit the sixth. Nate Looney, manager of racial justice initiatives at Avodah, joined for the seventh and tarot reader Azra Silverstein joined for the eighth. ●

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# Where to Binge Jewish/Israeli Content

SCREEN

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to fill the Jewish content void that yawned open after you finished the latest seasons of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Unorthodox" or "Shtisel," 2020 saw the launch of three new streaming platforms dedicated to Jewish and Israeli movies, TV shows, documentaries and web series.

Not sure which one to start with? Read on.

"From OY to JOY," for programming that is meant to cheer viewers up, "You Gotta See This!" for classic and critically acclaimed films, and "When Do We Eat?" which features food documentaries like "Make Hummus, Not War."

The streaming service is still in its beta version, and it retains a certain homespun quality. The user experience copy embraces liberal use of the caps lock and exclamation point keys (the film "Dark Horse" is captioned "VERY FUNNY!!

entertainment," the website reads.

Since ChaiFlicks has been available for a bit longer than JEWZY, it offers a more polished user experience as well as a wider selection. As a platform that mainly focuses on Jewish religious and cultural identity in the diaspora, its main strength is in the diverse scope of

its international offerings, with browsing categories allotted to Latin America, Europe, Israel and North America. There is a lot of content dedicated to Jewish history and World War II, plus lighter U.S.-based fare like the Orthodox dating comedy series "Soon By You" and productions by the Los Angeles Jewish theater

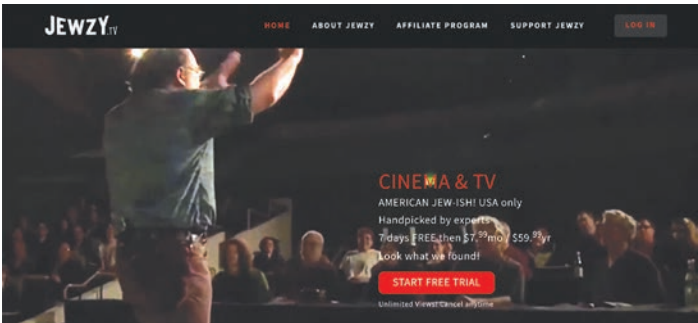
company The Braid.

After a 14-day free trial, a ChaiFlicks subscription will run \$5.99 a month or \$18 a year (this is a holiday offer — a typical annual subscription costs \$65.99).

**IZZY**

Whereas JEWZY and ChaiFlicks place a special emphasis on Jewish religion,

See Streaming, Page 8



▲ Screenshot of JEWZY home screen

JEWZY CINEMA & TV

A London-based group led by CEO and founder Jeremy Wootliff recently launched the beta version of JEWZY Cinema & TV, a streaming service dedicated to celebrating Jewish American identity.

"JEWZY is the new positive reason be a proud Jewish American," reads the FAQ section of the website. "Our specialty is HIDDEN GEMS of Jewish American entertainment."

An annual subscription offers access to 100 titles from around the world, especially the United States, Israel, France and Germany. The JEWZY genres with the most plentiful offerings are comedies and documentaries, and the platform also offers segments of i24 News and the series "Old Jews Telling Jokes."

The browsing category names are adorable. There's

FIVE STAR COMEDY!) Audiences can sample JEWZY using a seven-day free trial. Afterward, a subscription costs \$7.99 per month or \$59.99 per year.

CHAIFLICKS

After a beta version premiered early in the year, ChaiFlicks launched on Aug. 20 with more than 150 Jewish or Israeli-themed titles.

The platform was co-founded by Bill Weiner, Neil Friedman and Heidi Oshin. Friedman, founder of the Jewish-focused distribution company Menemsha Films, said the idea emerged in response to Netflix focusing more on original programming than on externally produced content.

"ChaiFlicks has been created to preserve our Jewish heritage by presenting the finest Jewish- and Israeli-themed

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- ...that you have found ways for our children to still participate in electives and special projects like the award winning "Names Not Numbers" program.*
- ...that new students, from South Jersey to Philadelphia, have been supported in integrating seamlessly through your philosophy of individualized learning.*
- ...that you keep us connected and continue to honor our children's accomplishments and milestones as a school community.*

**In this holiday season, like the Maccabees, you are our warriors and your lights shine bright.**

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Cohen

Continued from Page 5

at Main Line Reform Temple before the High Holidays.

After his tenure as state commissioner for aging issues came to a close, Cohen briefly served as the state's commissioner of family services. Soon thereafter, he entered the Temple University Beasley School of Law, graduating in 1975, a fresh-faced lawyer of 49 (he had previously earned a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs at Syracuse University). He had a stint on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine before he became the attorney directing the Project on Aging, Law, and Long-Term Care at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

His passion was on display in

testimony he gave to the United States House Permanent Select Committee on Aging as a representative of the Public Interest Law Center, an episode recounted by the Inquirer. Cohen, testifying to the House after a fire killed nine elderly residents of an unlicensed boarding home, thundered against the "callous neglect" of the commonwealth and the Department of Public Welfare for failing to enact the law of the land.

It wasn't all seriousness for Cohen.

Marcia Cohen remembers him as a quick wit and excellent travel partner. It was with his encouragement that Marcia Cohen decided to pursue a master's degree in social service at Bryn Mawr College. She said she sees her husband's

love of learning and desire to serve in her sons.

Jerry Chazen attended the University of Wisconsin with Cohen, and the two remained close until Cohen's death. Their dormitory friendship expanded into a lifelong shared interest in opera and theater, punctuated over the decades with joint vacations, live performances seen together and mutual interest each other's work — Chazen is one of the founders of Liz Claiborne Inc.

"I was proud to call Eli my friend," Chazen said.

Cohen is survived by his wife, Marcia, sons Barry and Peter, and four grandchildren. •

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Streaming

Continued from Page 6

history and culture, the content available on IZZY focuses mainly on secular Israeli life.

The platform, which was founded by Josh Hoffman and launched on May 21, features more than 100 titles and updates its offerings weekly. In addition to externally produced dramas like "Magic Men" and comedies like "10% My Child," IZZY hosts exclusive offerings like the three-part docuseries "Under the Iron Dome" and "Rescue Bus 300."

The content goes beyond documentaries about hummus and religious pilgrimages to portray a vibrant, diverse and modern Israel. There's plenty of food and military-themed footage to be found, but there's also "The Stand-Up Comedians,"

a special that focuses on the difficulty women comics encounter while forging careers in a male-dominated industry, "Transkids," a documentary series about the transgender community in Israel, and "Where Do You Live?" a comedy series about a young man pulled between his dreams to become an actor and the wishes of his traditional Bukharan Uzbek Jewish family.

IZZY subscriptions cost \$4.99 per month or \$49.99 per year. The platform does not offer a free trial period, but you can watch selected films and episodes for free before you subscribe. •

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## Rabbi

Continued from Page 1

about the students he's worked with, what the next generation of Hillel leaders can do to succeed and being mistaken for a college junior.

### What will you miss most about Penn Hillel?

What I'll miss most is the students. Being around an incredible, high-density group of smart, passionate, nice, idealistic and super-effective people. There are very few places with as rich and dynamic of an undergraduate student community as the University of Pennsylvania, and all of that is just maximized by the incredible richness and dynamic nature of the university itself.

And being around young people is incredibly stimulating. It keeps you young, and keeps you tied in to what's really happening in the world, and how the world is changing in front of us. And I will miss that very deeply.

### When you were hired at Hillel, you were 28. Do you feel like you're the same person as when you arrived?

No. That's part of what's so meaningful to reflect on.

When I came to Philadelphia, my wife and I had just gotten married. And essentially, in a 16-year period, I learned to be a husband, and learned what it meant to really be a rabbi. I learned what it meant to be a father, three times over. I learned what it meant to become a leader.

I think that that's a word that was thrown around, but actually having the responsibility of taking care of a relatively large organization and a huge constituency of students, parents and alumni, I think I've learned how to stand up publicly and stand up for the things that I believe in.

And I am an entirely different person in that way. When I started, people would be like, "Oh, are you a junior?"



Rabbi Mike Uram

Photo by Scott Spitzer Photography

And then a few years went by, and students would say, "Oh, are you a grad student?" And now freshmen even say, "Oh, are you someone's dad?"

The way that I relate to students has really changed, from being the cooler older brother or camp counselor vibe. There was a period in the middle where I wasn't really sure how I related, because I was too old to be the new young rabbi, but I wasn't yet at the uncle or parent place yet. And that's actually been one of the nice things about the last four or five years, that I'm able to play a role that is definitely an adult role with students, with all of the distance that comes with that, but none of the baggage of the student might have with their parents or their direct relatives.

### What is going to make the next generation of Hillel leaders successful? What would you tell them?

The first thing and most important thing is to be incredibly, deeply committed to students. College is a learning laboratory, where students take the lead. And so the highest level of Hillel work is where it is not about providing services to students, but pushing certain students into action, to grow

best d'var torah that a Hillel rabbi could ever give is when a student gives it.

A successful Hillel leader is someone who knows how to put their ego aside and to make room for the student. The goal is not to shine on their own, but to create space.

The second thing is that because campuses are becoming increasingly political and fractured, just like the rest of American society, future Hillel directors have to be politically nimble, so that they can relate to and care for a very large spectrum of Jews, of different Jewish identity formulations, different political orientations and to hold together a very broad tent.

The third piece is a really deep emphasis on impact over attendance. If we're just focused

on getting more students to show up and to participate, that's not a deep enough mission. The mission has to be to create experiences and relationships and communities that really provoke students to grow into fully self-actualized adults. And that is a much more serious mission than just attendance.

And the final thing is that they have to be really gifted at both the kind of art of the work, which is this intangible ability to connect with people, to inspire people about Judaism, but also have strong business skills, to use data and metrics to work more effectively and more efficiently, and be able to not just do the work, but to able to build systems. •

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## Motherhood

Continued from Page 1

appointments. The circumstances were enough to give many women pause; a report from the Brookings Institution released in June estimated a 13% reduction in 2021 births, compared to 2019.

What was supposed to be a “magical time” for women like Allison Teich instead felt quite different.

Teich, 35, a teacher with the School District of Philadelphia, found out that she was pregnant with her second child, a boy, on March 27. Her doctor told her that she’d been pregnant for about four weeks. Her son Jaxon was born on Nov. 25, brought into a world shaped by the pandemic.

Teich feels fortunate to have had a more conventional pregnancy experience in the past — morning sickness aside, there’s a certain charm to everyone’s

excitement about your condition, and it’s nice to have doors held open for you here and there. Still, it also means that she knew what she was missing when the Teich family went into lockdown in March.

At that time, Teich began remote work, simultaneously tending to other people’s children, her soon-to-be child, and her 2-year-old daughter Parker. Matters were complicated further by the fact that Teich was initially pregnant with twins, one of whom was lost early on.

Stressful as it all was, Teich feels fortunate to have given birth to a healthy boy, one who was able to be brought into the global community of Jews via an adapted brit milah.

“When I found out, I wasn’t disappointed. I was thrilled, despite the state of the world,” Teich said. “We have been wanting this baby.”

For women who’d already

had children, pregnancy during COVID could be compared to their last go-round. For first-timers like Rachel Keiser, 31, it was a different story.

Keiser found out that she was pregnant in January. She and her husband, who live in Philadelphia, were able to tell their parents and siblings the good news in person. A future filled with babyproof furniture shopping seemed imminent.

The most memorable shopping experience of Keiser’s pregnancy, however, might have been the massive grocery-and-supplies shop that she and husband made on March 13 — a panicked stock-up repeated in supermarkets all over the country. They ended up picking out a stroller online.

It’s not just the loss of giddy shopping expeditions that nag at Keiser, whose son, Bradley, was born on Sept. 11. She didn’t get to sit on the porch at the



▲ Jenn Reiss Sillman and her newly expanded family prepare for a trip to Costco.  
Photo by Jenn Reiss Sillman

family house in Ventnor, New Jersey, talking about what was to come; she had to share the excitement with her friends via FaceTime; there was no brit milah, only a non-ritual medical procedure that loved ones watched on their devices.

“We just missed out on so many things during the pregnancy that I had looked forward to,” Keiser said.

If there’s one thing that Keiser does feel grateful for, besides Bradley’s health, it’s that she was able to have her husband with her in the room when she gave birth, something she’d worried about. Now, she’s getting to know baby Bradley, and getting ready for the day that he can be properly introduced to loved ones.

Jenn Reiss Sillman, director of Jewish student life at West Chester University Hillel, found herself in a similar spot. She learned that she was pregnant at the end of December 2019, with an Aug. 28, 2020, due date. She was elated.

In late February, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases told reporters in a now-infamous interview that

she had briefed her family on the gravity of the coronavirus, telling them that they “ought to be preparing for significant disruption to our lives.”

It was around this time that Reiss Sillman told her boss that she wasn’t so sure that she felt comfortable returning to work in person after spring break for WCU students. In the end, the world made the decision for her, and Reiss Sillman found herself working from home. Initially, it seemed like a pretty good deal.

“At first I felt really blessed. I was like, ‘Wow, how lucky am I, I don’t worry about getting myself sick, I’m not in a position where I’m an essential worker,’” Reiss Sillman recalled. “And then it started to set in when I started growing a stomach and my friends didn’t see it. My family barely saw it. I didn’t get to go out and do the normal shopping a new mom gets to do where she picks everything out.”

Reiss Sillman wonders about the world that her daughter, Hannah, has been brought into. Regardless, she is excited for Hannah and the world to become mutually acquainted. ●

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# We Let Our Kids Plan Chanukah This Year — and it Taught Me So Much About the Holiday



BY HANNAH LEBOVITS

**WHEN I GO OUT** with my kids, we often play a homemade game called, “I spy with my little eye something very Yiddish.” The kids pick up on anything related to the practices, laws and symbolism of Jewish tradition.

See two triangles that almost look like they could be a Star of David? You win a point! A mezuzah on someone’s door? Two points! It’s a great way for them to secure their sense of identity and see themselves in the things around them.

In prior years, during Chanukah, the game has

reached silly levels. Living in a Jewish community near a major city, there are just so many things to find that relate to our lives. Menorahs in windows after sunset, any random donut shop, even a bag of potatoes in the grocery store.

But this year, with the pandemic making this kind of urban exploration impossible or impractical, I realized something about the game. Playing it outside of our home means that my kids take the Jewish items inside of our home for granted. And when preparing for Chanukah, this became especially clear.

Because the truth is, I’ve outsourced the Chanukah experience more than any other holiday. And many of my fellow parents have done the same.

Parents of school-aged kids know this well. Unlike most major Jewish holidays, Chanukah doesn’t require any school vacation days. And though one day of Purim can also be celebrated in school,

Chanukah is eight days long. And those days are some of the most enjoyable. Regular academic practices are replaced with school trips, fun activities and, of course, lots of junk.

Community events are early enough in the day, with menorah lighting happening at around 5 p.m., that even young kids can enjoy public affairs. The spiritual meaning of the holiday and its timing with Christmas make it incredibly visible as well. So it makes sense that many of us end up relying on others to make Chanukah fun, meaningful and celebratory.

But this year, our home has become our community. We’ve had to learn how to adapt and bring what we could from our normal communal structures into our homes. We’ve learned a lot along the way about what is most meaningful to our family, about how we want our communal spaces to change in the future, and how we can keep holiday traditions alive even when we aren’t with our

families and communities.

But I hadn’t quite figured out how to do that on Chanukah. Our kids are in school but are restricted in how they can celebrate there. Communal activities are out of the question. We had previously traveled over Shabbat Chanukah, which was no longer an option either.

And then it hit me.

We can do anything.

The beauty of this holiday — and especially of experiencing it amid a global pandemic — is that we have the opportunity to make it our own. Eight full days to play as many games of dreidel, eat as many latkes and sing as many songs as we’d like. It’s an incredibly freeing feeling. Like the lights of the menorah, the possibilities can expand what we might have expected.

So, with this newfound knowledge, I turned to my go-to fun advisory board: my kids. They requested a parade, dessert for dinner, dreidel with Chanukah gelt (instead of just

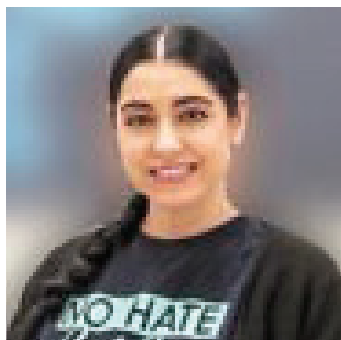
chocolate chips), a game night and something to put outside of our home to show the world what we’re celebrating.

We ordered some photo booth masks and put together a parade (which also turned into a play). We settled on whole wheat waffles with marshmallows for “dessert for dinner” night. We let them count out three chocolate coins each when they played dreidel. And we’ve ordered our “pin the candle on the menorah” for game night.

But my kids’ last request gave me pause. The idea of decorating the outside of our home was incredibly foreign to me. While I myself had grown up in an area with many brightly lit homes on the block, in my Orthodox Jewish upbringing I was often taught that the practice was exclusively for those celebrating Christmas, and that we should be proud of our own holiday and its traditions, which did

See Lebovits, **Page 17**

# ‘Let Our Fate Be a Warning to You’: The Significance of Holocaust Education



BY MEG PANKIEWICZ

**TREMBLING, WITH TEARS** in his eyes and panic on his face, Sam realized he had forgotten a small piece of bread he carried with him in his pocket every

time he left the house. I pulled the car over in an attempt to comfort and reassure him that we could return to his home and he would not go hungry. Sweet Sam. Even though this happened almost 20 years ago, this moment is ingrained in my mind forever.

Witnessing the raw trauma of Holocaust survivors, and forming close relationships with many of them, has been a powerful incentive for me in the field and mission of Holocaust education.

I have worked for years to modify curricula in schools to encompass a more

multicultural approach and promote human empathy through literature and stories of human suffering, and I have seen firsthand the effects of Holocaust education.

The Holocaust is more than a history lesson: It can be a road map of how to live your life. In my studies of the Holocaust, hearing the pleas from the survivors to carry on their stories — and hearing the echoing cries of the victims as I stood in the crematoriums and gas chambers in Poland — has changed every aspect of how I live. As educators, we are on the frontlines of

combating hate and inequities. Our roles are noble and powerful and can transform the way future generations live and how they treat all sentient beings. It is extremely rewarding and inspiring to see my students take the lessons of this genocide and be proactive in their own pursuits of social justice and human dignity.

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security released reports this past September stating white supremacists are the most lethal threat to the United States. How did we get here? Is there something seriously lacking

in our education system? In Haim Ginott’s book “Teacher and Child,” he published a letter written by a Holocaust survivor to educators with this plea: “Help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated Eichmanns.”

It is not only imperative to study the factors and reasons behind the birth of certain hateful ideologies but also the reasons why they continue to grow and flourish in society. We have seen the horrific rise in hate

See Pankiewicz, **Page 14**



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# Helping Our Lone Soldier Along His Path Pankiewicz

Continued from Page 11



BY STACIE STUFFBEAM

**WHILE WE OFTEN TALK** about the need to protect the land of Israel, those of us living outside of the Jewish state don't talk often enough about what that really means.

Though my husband and I live in the U.S., four of our sons have bravely chosen to serve as lone soldiers — soldiers serving in the IDF without parents living in Israel. All have served in combat units, all with a strong desire to protect Israel. This past week I got a call from my youngest son, our (6-foot-2) "baby." He is in the officers' training pre-course and wanted to talk some things through.

I was honored that he turned to me, and I was determined to be as supportive as possible. Together, we considered the practicalities and pros and cons of continuing on to become an officer versus being discharged and becoming a civilian. We talked about how COVID-19 might impact this decision and what the best path for him might be.

He talked and I listened — a skill I've honed as a lone soldier mom — and I tried not to insert my opinion, a skill I'm still working on, and only offer support (all the while thinking: I vote for discharge so I can stop worrying so much!).

During this discussion,

my son talked about the need to be ready to lead his unit into war. Bam! With just one sentence, my wall — the one I've carefully constructed to separate the idea of protecting Israel and the actuality of my son protecting Israel — came crumbling down.

It's not the first time. My husband and I have been lone soldier parents for almost eight years. At times, we had two — and once, for a few weeks, three — sons serving at the same time. Our first *chayal* is a *Tzuk Eitan* (Operation Protective Edge) veteran, and there have been many times over the last eight years that the situation has been tense and it seemed Israel might be on the brink of war.

If there has been any upside to a global pandemic for me, it's been that things in Israel have seemed quieter than I remember them being for a long time. During the coronavirus crisis, I've had a chance to worry about other things in Israel, like how long the soldiers had to remain on base and how they were doing laundry. Were they getting enough to eat? Had anyone on base been diagnosed? All of these small worries allowed me to rebuild my wall, not of denial, but of separation between the idea and the reality that my son, a thoughtful soul, a gentle warrior, might have such an enormous burden.

We know that each of our children is on their own path and one of our most important jobs as parents is to help guide and support them as they make their way along that path.

Prior to the pandemic, we used to travel to Israel for our sons' *tekesim* (ceremonies). Leading up to their *Tekes Kumta* (Beret Ceremony) the

soldiers do a very long hike. For some units, parents are invited to join their soldier for the last couple of kilometers, a truly amazing experience we have been honored to participate in.

Several years ago, sitting with other parents while waiting to join our second *chayal* for those last kilometers, we struck up a conversation with another parent sitting with a soldier that I assumed was there to support a sibling. As it turned out, that soldier was a member of my son's unit but had been injured and could not participate in the long hike. As we talked, the soldier told me that when he had been injured on a training hike, he had fallen behind and, as is the way in the IDF, his fellow soldiers stood by him to help him. He told us that one soldier in particular had stayed with him supporting him until the end of the hike. At some point we realized it was our son who had stayed on and helped him make it to the end. Now, this soldier was there to do the same for my son.

As my son's unit came into view, this young man immediately fell in behind my son with his hand on his shoulder helping to support and push him to the finish.

Now, as I reflect on the conversation with my youngest son, I know one thing for sure: Just as that soldier literally had my son's back, I will be there for my current *chayal*, at his back, supporting him on his chosen path. And, just as importantly, I know that all of Israel has his back as well. ●

Stacie Stuffbeam is the executive director of the Michael Levin Lone Soldier Foundation. She lives in Pittsburgh.

speech and hate crimes. There is a toxic presence of people who are emboldened by their hate today. Hate speech never ends with hate speech, it evolves into action. Unchecked hate speech creates an environment that is conducive to violence. It only escalates. History has proven this; present times have solidified this.

As a person of conscience, I cannot stand idly by and not do my part to combat hate. The greatest weapon against hate is education, particularly Holocaust education. Teaching the importance of individual choice, collective responsibility, the dangers of hate and that being silent to an injustice is also being compliant to it, results in creating a better society that promotes human decency.

Sam, a Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia living in Pittsburgh, and my best friend for almost 20 years, passed away last June. I miss him every day and think about his small piece of bread that he carried in his pocket with him everywhere. He would tell me that I would be his "witness"

to the catastrophic horrors he faced during the Holocaust after he was no longer here on this earth, and I would be responsible for telling his story and teaching his lessons. I promised him that I would never stop telling his story or teaching about the Holocaust.

As a Holocaust educator, I must create "future witnesses" so that Sam's story and the story of millions who perished in the Holocaust will never be forgotten. Education, empathy and awareness are the cure to the destruction of a society and the theft of human dignity.

"Let our fate be a warning to you" is engraved on the mausoleum at Majdanek death camp in Poland, which contains the ashes and remains of the victims, a place of profound sadness and unspeakable tragedy. Our obligation now, as persons of consciousness, is to heed and listen to the pleas of the genocide victims from their graves. The future of humanity rests on their ashes. ●

Meg Pankiewicz is an English and Holocaust and genocide studies teacher at Canon-McMillan High School in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

## KVETCH 'N' KVELL

### Letter Is an Affront

**AS A RECENTLY RETIRED** Reconstructionist-trained rabbi, I have known many Orthodox Jews and Orthodox rabbis both before and during my decades of service to the Jewish community who would be embarrassed to read or say the kinds of things that I read in Kvetch 'N' Kvell letter entitled "There's More to Shabbat than Going Without Tech" (Dec. 10).

The smug, self-righteous, self-satisfied, condescending tone of the letter should be an affront to all Jews regardless of denomination or post-denomination. Perhaps the Exponent itself should engage in a little *hesbon hanefesh*/accounting of the soul for its decision to publish such a brazen attack by one Jew on another, especially when the latter is expressing a deeper appreciation of Shabbat. ●

Rabbi Avi Winokur | Philadelphia

### STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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

## A NOTICE TO OUR READERS

There will be no print edition of the Jewish Exponent the week of Dec. 31. That week, please visit us online at [jewishexponent.com](http://jewishexponent.com), where the paper will be available in digital form.



# Ginger-Soy Braised Salmon

## FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

**I LOVE SALMON** seasoned with ginger and soy. The flavors complement the fish beautifully and provide a simple way to add interest and variety to a standard ingredient.

Pairing it with roasted honeynut squash, an autumn favorite, and a simple green salad was the work of a moment, and dinner was ready.

Braising generally suggests a long, slow cooking process with plenty of liquid to break down a protein — think brisket, lamb shoulder or pulled turkey. In this case, the braise was brief; you don't need to break down the already-tender fish, but the technique allows the flavors to permeate the salmon, producing a delicious result.

These days we are enjoying the bountiful squash harvest,

and honeynuts are sweet, cute and easy to prepare. Unlike butternuts, their larger and less-sweet cousins, which can be difficult to cut, honeynuts are relatively simple to prep and cook. Salt, pepper and olive oil do the trick, but you can certainly get creative — Chinese five-spice powder would be a nice way to highlight the Asian flair in this meal.

We tossed baby greens with rice vinegar and oil for a simple salad, but you have lots of options to round out this meal. In place of the squash, consider rice or noodles. Ditch the salad for roasted or sautéed broccoli, steamed greens or string beans.

The salmon delivers plenty of flavor and complexity, so you can keep the sides quite simple without risking bored taste buds!

## GINGER-SOY BRAISED SALMON

Serves 4

A word on the salmon: I used Coho, which is quite lean — hence the braise, which prevents the fish from drying out. Sockeye salmon is another lean species and would lend itself well to this cooking technique. That said, fattier varieties like North Atlantic and king work just fine here.

- 1¾ pounds salmon filets
- Salt/pepper
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tablespoon canola or vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1-inch piece ginger, grated
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes (or to taste)
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- ½ cup white wine or vegetable broth
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped

Heat your oven to 275 F. Sprinkle the fish with salt, pepper and lemon juice and set aside.

In a large ovenproof skillet, heat the oil and sauté the onion, garlic, ginger and red pepper until fragrant and slightly softened, about 4 minutes. Add the soy sauce and wine and bring it to a boil. Remove the skillet from the heat, add cilantro and stir until wilted.

Push the sauce ingredients to the sides of the pan and place the salmon filets in the center. Spoon the sauce and vegetables over the fish until coated, cover the pan with a lid or foil and place it in the oven. Bake for about 25 minutes, depending upon the thickness of the salmon. It should be cooked through but not dried out.

## ROASTED HONEYNUT SQUASH

Serves 4

These little beauties are sweet

and flavorful. Some people eat the skin, although it can be rather tough. I prefer to scrape the luscious flesh out and discard the skin. You can cook these ahead of the salmon, but leave them in the oven to finish while the fish cooks.

If you can't find honeynut, any autumn squash works here — delicata, acorn, butternut, kabocha, etc.

I am a fan of the straightforward salt/pepper/olive oil combo, but you can get as creative as you like with paprika, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, butter, honey, cayenne, garlic powder or seasoned salt. The only limit is your imagination and your pantry.

You can time the cooking of these so that they are mostly done when you put the fish in the oven. That way, when

you reduce the heat from 350 to 275 to cook the fish, the squash will finish cooking and save you having to take them out and reheat before dinner. Don't worry about overcooking them; at that low temperature, they will be fine.

- 4 honeynut squash, halved and seeded
- Salt/pepper/olive oil

Heat your oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment.

Place the squash, cut side up, on the sheet and drizzle it with olive oil. Brush to spread and coat the surface with oil. Sprinkle the squash with salt and pepper, and bake for about 45 minutes until the flesh is tender when pricked with a fork. •



▲ Salmon and honeynut squash

Photo by Keri White

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# ‘Esau’ Puts New Twist on Biblical Brotherhood

## FILM

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

“EVERYBODY CALLS ME a writer. But writers write about people, and all I can write about is bread,” muses the eponymous protagonist of “Esau,” director Pavel Lungin’s new film offering a modern spin on the famous biblical brothers.

The movie, based on a novel of the same name by Israeli author Meir Shalev, is narrated by Lior Ashkenazi’s Esau, a food writer. He returns home to his family’s Israeli village from his residence abroad when he hears that his elderly father Abraham, played by Harvey Keitel, is deteriorating. He has not been back for decades, and his brother Jacob, played by Mark Ivanir, has taken over the family bakery.

He also married the woman they both love, Leah, played in her younger years by Shira Haas. Jacob, bitter at his brother’s abandonment, tells Esau to stay away, but a call he believes to be from Leah lures him back to the village.

It’s a family legacy that treats linear time as a suggestion rather than a rule. The camera hops from the brothers’ Russian grandfather arriving in Israel to their birth, to the boys’ youth, to the present day, to another moment in the past about their parents’ courtship at the very end of the film. The ancient facades and dirt roads of the village appear untouched by time, and the muted colors of the clothing and costumes never look quite modern, even in the present day.

The film’s main success is its portrayal of the relationship



▲ Harvey Keitel (left) and Lior Ashkenazi in “Esau”

Courtesy of Archstone Entertainment

between art and life. The fact that all screenplays are created by writers means there are too many films about writers — starry-eyed new hires at fashion magazines, grizzled crime reporters, troubled novelists — but “Esau” actually wields its characters’ occupation to great purpose in building a story.

The bulk of the narration consists of Esau finally pivoting from bread and attempting to write about people by reflecting on why he left home. When his brother discovers the typewritten pages, he is furious, both at the information he finds and his assumption that his brother is trying to make money off his experiences.

Jacob is also enraged that his daughter, a photographer, is taking candid photos of him for her photography exhibition. He loses patience when she sneaks up on him in the bathroom (his reaction is portrayed as harsh, but it’s pretty reasonable not to want someone — let alone your own daughter — barging in while you’re showering to take naked photos of you).

He accosts both of them for trying to profit off his pain.

“You’ll take it, and you’ll use it, and you’ll sell it,” he spits. “Couple of rats, both of you.”

The exchange raises valid questions about the ethics of creating art based on your own life, especially family strife.

The great weakness of the story is its poorly developed female characters. Anyone familiar with the brothers’ original story can recognize how Leah is objectified. In the Torah, Esau trades Jacob his birthright in exchange for a bowl of stew. In this film, he trades it for a glance of Leah’s retreating form through the eyeglasses he is forced to share with his brother due to Abraham’s stinginess.

As an adult, Leah withers away to a shadow in the wake of her son’s death, refusing to eat, speak or bathe. She is a specter hanging over Esau’s visit and a catalyst for a major fight, but she does basically nothing.

Leah is a symbol of the brother’s rivalry, an obstacle in their relationship, rather than her own person. Haas, whose star performance in Netflix’s “Unorthodox” established her as one of the most talented

Jewish actors of her generation, clearly did her best to portray Leah’s childhood vibrancy, but even she could not overcome such a badly conceived role.

The twins’ mother, Yulia Peresild’s Sara, is more interesting, but she also finds herself shrunk before a man taking up too much space. Abraham regularly berates her and calls her a goy, a reference to the conversion of her Russian father and her fondness for Russian folk music. There is a scene of reconciliation that is meant to be sweet, but her husband does little to atone for his emotional abuse.

In the end, Esau will remain with audiences for the questions it poses rather than the answers it provides.

Is there a morally correct way to write about people who have hurt you, and who you have hurt in turn? Can you write, or photograph, or paint your own experiences if they are shaped by people who want to be left out of your story? And if you can’t, are you simply left writing about bread? ●

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# Tenuous Memories Can Be a Threat

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BY RABBI JON CUTLER

## Parshat Miketz

*Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh (Menashe from the Hebrew root: to forget) meaning God has made me forget completely my hardship and my father's home. [Genesis 41:51]*

**MEMORY IS FRAGILE.** As a counselor, I have worked with individuals who faced trauma or difficulties and tend to forget or repress their memories. Thus, with the name Menashe, Joseph sought to erase such memories of his past, and because of the difficulties that he encountered and most likely did not share his background with his son. This changed when his brothers arrived in Egypt to purchase food during the famine.

Because Joseph was successful interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, he was appointed as the second-in-charge over all of Egypt. Only Pharaoh had more authority over the young and very astute appointee to this high and powerful position.

As viceroy and because of his rise in status, he was expected to marry an Egyptian fitting his new station in life and was quickly married off to Osnat, the daughter of the powerful

Priest of On. Out of that marriage came two sons. Joseph names the first Manasseh who "enabled me to forget all my suffering — and my father's house." The second son's name was Ephraim meaning, "being fruitful," referring to Joseph's ability to produce children, specifically while in Egypt.

By naming his first son Manasseh, Joseph did not focus on his painful past. He was determined to forget his anger toward his brothers, and he did need to seek revenge. Instead of killing him, the brother sold him into slavery. In addition, he would purge from his memory the difficulties with the wife of Potiphar and his years of imprisonment in the royal dungeon.

When he went into prison he was dismissed and demeaned as a *na'ar ivri* (a Hebrew "boy.") When he emerged from prison, he was renamed by Pharaoh as *avrech*, the one to whom others would bend their knees.

All societies, cultures and peoples have historical memories. For example, the Passover seder and Haggadah reminds us that we were slaves in Egypt and that we were redeemed by the grace of God. But other events throughout Jewish history have not withstood the test of time

and are forgotten.

As such, much of historical memory is thus tenuous. We need to look only to the first decades of the 20th century, as the horrific tragedies during World War I committed against the Jews of Europe were only overshadowed by the Holocaust that destroyed one-third of the world's Jewish population.

The Holocaust — despite all the monuments and museums that commemorate and seek to preserve this still unbelievable tragedy — has disappeared from the consciousness of much of our contemporary generation. A recent study by the Pew Foundation (2019) has shown that only 45% of college students knew about the Holocaust.

With the creation of Israel in 1948 and Israel's successful victories in its War of Independence followed 19 years later with the stunning victory of the Six-Day War, Jews throughout the world were ecstatic. Yet the memory of the trials and the triumphs of these early years has, in many cases, all but dissolved with each succeeding generation of Jews.

Many studies have reported the sharp decline of support for Israel in the younger generations of Jews, especially those on college campuses. And a

significant number of Jews have embraced the Palestinian narrative that the creation of Israel was a *nakba*, or catastrophe, for the indigenous Arab population.

The tenuousness of historical memory has always threatened Jewish survival. However, the holiday which we just celebrated, Chanukah, acts as a remedy. Chanukah, a minor holiday, has been enthusiastically embraced by American Jews as a cure to Christmas.

However, we have lost the historical memory of the origin of Chanukah. The Talmud focuses on the resanctification of the Temple and the miracle of the little cruse of oil that lasted for eight days. It recounts the defeat of Antiochus' army by the Maccabees.

What is not mentioned is the rest of the story — the confrontation within Judea between the Jewish elite that embraced Hellenism and those traditionalists who refused to forsake their traditional faith and values.

The Hellenized Jews had the support of the Syrian colonizers and happily discarded historical memory to guarantee their place in Greek society. They very well may have succeeded if not for the perseverance and

the courage of the Maccabees who defended Jewish values and traditions.

Each generation from the time of the Maccabees faces the alienation of younger Jews from the tradition — the erosion of Jewish identity. Once again, we see in this generation that 54% of Jews intermarry.

The stories of Chanukah and Joseph are to remind us today that each generation is reborn with a new sense of pride and that Judaism is not forgotten. The evidence is that there are ongoing efforts to reverse these trends: increased funding for intensive Jewish education and programs like Birthright that introduce America's younger Jews to the history — and the magic — of Israel. •

Rabbi Jon Cutler is the rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County in Chester Springs. 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.



## Lebovits

Continued from Page 11

not include decorating the outside of our home. My husband came from a similar background and understood my discomfort.

So, we made a compromise with the kids — we'll put something up, but it won't be lights. And it won't be a Christmas decoration that's Jew-ified. It will be something that suits us and our holiday. We settled on a large Chanukah-themed backdrop to hang across the front of our house. We figured that not

only could others admire it, but they could use it as a selfie background, if they so choose (#happyChanukah).

We knew our home would be our community this year. What we hadn't expected was that our practices might catch on or be noticed.

Immediately after we put the backdrop up, people started slowing down when driving by. If we were outside, drivers rolled down their windows to wish us Happy Holidays or a Happy Chanukah. When they saw us walk to our home after a quick stroll around

the neighborhood, several of our new neighbors who had noticed the image wished us the best. And then, two days after we put up our decorations, a Jewish family across the street put up a sign as well: "Eight nights, eight lights," it read, the pride spreading like fire from our home to theirs.

I don't know if we'll celebrate like this in future years. Most of my list of Chanukah activities is so candy-filled that they might not be ideal for a year when the kids get donuts in school, chocolate at a public menorah lighting and cake

from bubbe over Shabbat.

But I am certain that I've experienced a paradigm shift — a different perspective that I couldn't reach during any other holiday we've experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. While preparing for and managing the other holidays, I had intuitively understood that many things inside of our home would not change. That those things that would be done differently revolved around the ways that we engage with others — services, having guests, visiting family. But when it comes to Chanukah, we

realized we didn't have much inside our home. The small activities we engaged in were dwarfed by the communal and institutional ones.

We now see it as our home's duty to directly engage with the holiday, in a way we never have. And I know that's something we'll try to hold on to for a very long time. •

Freelance writer Hannah Lebovits is an incoming assistant professor at the University of Texas-Arlington and lives in Dallas with her husband and two children. This piece was first published by JTA.



## Year-End Tax and Charitable Planning: Post-Election

**2020 CONTINUES TO BE** a tumultuous year, and the ramifications of the election are still to be determined.

While Joe Biden is the president-elect, which party organizes the Senate will not be clear until the Georgia runoff elections on Jan. 5. With narrower majorities in both houses, it will be important for legislative proposals to be bipartisan, and much of what the next administration hopes to accomplish may have to wait until after the elections in 2022.

Several additional factors can impact key tax and charitable planning decisions this year-end. While the pandemic continues to affect the economy, House and Senate leaders remain at loggerheads in crafting additional COVID relief that might include new tax provisions. Congress needs to pass funding legislation by mid-December to avert a government shutdown. State and local governments face unprecedented fiscal crises that also could lead to new or larger tax burdens to balance their budgets.

While passage of the Biden administration's tax program remains uncertain, it revolves around several important tax changes that are targeted to individuals with incomes greater than \$400,000 and especially those with incomes over \$1 million. The Biden plan contemplates reimposing a top income tax rate of 39.6% for those with income above \$400,000, and taxing capital gains and dividends at ordinary income tax rates for those with income over \$1 million.

In addition, the Biden plan would cap the value of itemized deductions (including the charitable contribution deduction for those who itemize) at 28%. The estate tax rate might increase from 40% to 45% and the estate and gift tax exemption amount could be reduced to as low as \$3.5 million (rates and amounts that were in place in 2009). Other significant estate tax changes such as the elimination of the stepped-up basis at death (or imposition of a tax on unrealized gain on a decedent's final tax return) could also be part of a Biden plan.

*Even if these proposed changes were enacted, it is unlikely they would be effective until sometime late in 2021 or tax year 2022.*

Some of the key considerations for year-end decisions include:

- **Use appreciated assets when possible to make a gift:** Donating stock or other appreciated capital assets remains a best practice. You avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation, and you can qualify for a charitable contribution deduction for the full fair market value of the shares or other assets as of the date of contribution. With the current rally in the stock market, such assets could be prime candidates for donation at year-end.

Josh Gross, chair of the Jewish Federation's Investment Committee, commented that "donating appreciated stock is almost always better than donating cash. For Pennsylvania residents, the highest long-term federal income tax is 23.80%, plus a 3.07% Pennsylvania resident tax on capital gains. So if a Pennsylvania donor can donate appreciated stock they will save 26.87% of taxes on the gains. This could be great for tax and portfolio planning as well as possibly allow a larger gift than by just using cash."

- **Other charitable planning strategies might make sense:** In addition to gifting long-term appreciated securities, there are several other charitable planning strategies that can be beneficial. For example, consider establishing a (or adding to an existing) donor-advised fund at the Jewish Federation and take advantage of an immediate charitable tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time. Other charitable giving vehicles to consider include a charitable lead trust, especially as interest rates remain low. A CLT is an irrevocable trust that benefits charity and the non-charitable beneficiaries, such as family.
- **Perhaps the tried-and-true year-end tax planning mantra prevails:** Consider



Kritchanut, Getty Images

deferring income and accelerating deductions where appropriate to reduce the current year's tax bill.

- **Certain tax provisions enacted in 2020 could be most beneficial:** The CARES Act enables the current deduction of up to 100% of adjusted gross income for cash gifts to charity (other than to donor-advised funds, supporting organizations and private foundations). Individuals considering large cash donations may find this one-year expansion of the AGI limitation particularly beneficial.
- **Don't forget about the IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution:** The IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution remains an attractive alternative to those over age 70½ who may not otherwise be able to itemize their deductions and claim a tax benefit from a charitable contribution. Keep in mind Congress has suspended the pension rules which impose "required minimum distribution" requirements for 2020 in response to the COVID crisis, yet IRA contributions to qualified charities still could make sense for some, especially individuals who have used such contributions as a form of annual support for favored charitable organizations. The maximum distribution in a single calendar year is \$100,000.
- **Some wealth transfer strategies may be appropriate, especially as interest rates remain low:** It may make sense to engage in certain wealth transfer or gift transactions before year-end to take advantage of the higher estate and gift exemption amount. There are a number of estate planning techniques that can be used, including using gifts or sales of property expected to produce income or increase in value to remove existing or future wealth from the donor's transfer tax base.

Endowment professionals at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia remain available to work with you and your other professional advisers to maximize the benefits of these and other tax planning strategies for you and the Jewish community. For more information, contact Jennifer Brier, director, Planned Giving and Endowments, at [jbrier@jewishphilly.org](mailto:jbrier@jewishphilly.org) or 215.832.0528.

*Content is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal, tax or financial advice. When considering gift planning strategies, always consult with your own legal and tax advisers.*



## COMMUNITY / *deaths*

### DEATH NOTICES

#### BERGMAN

David Bergman passed away on December 9, 2020 at age 93. David was born in Philadelphia, one of two sons, along with Edward, to Gerson and Leah Bergman. After graduating from West Philadelphia High School and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and returning from WWII military service, Dave took over the family pharmacy near Rittenhouse Square. He later added two more stores and earned a M.S. from U. Penn at age 60. After meeting Nancy Levin in 1948, they married in 1952 and moved to Center City where they raised three children: Leah (now deceased), Drew, and Michael. He enjoyed summers with his family in the Poconos and Long Beach Island, NJ. He was active in a variety of professional and civic organizations, including as President of the Philadelphia Assoc. of Retail Pharmacists and the Center City Residents Assoc. Patrons of the Philadelphia Orchestra and other arts organizations, Dave and Nancy also traveled extensively, visiting 88 countries. Nancy, the love of David's life, passed away in August, 2020. David is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Contributions can be sent to Doctors without Borders, Friends of Rittenhouse Square, or the charity of your choice. [www.epsteinmemorial.com](http://www.epsteinmemorial.com) for our online guestbook.

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#### ELLMAN

Arthur Edwin Eilman on Nov. 19, 2020. Husband of Elaine (nee Zlotnick). Father of Stacy (Michael) Oglesky, Amy (Jeffrey) Michels and Meredith (Ross) Podell. Grandfather of Adam (Meredith), Lauren, Ben, Jessica, Brett, Sarah and Katie. Great grandfather of Ryan, Joseph and Sloane. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1818 Market St, Ste 2820, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).  
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#### GINSBURG

Vicki Ginsburg (nee Goldsmith) on December 6, 2020. Cherished best friend of daughters Ellen (Ray) van der Horst and Rhonda (Larry) Cetlin; devoted grandmother of Benjamin and Matthew van der Horst and Blair (Ryan Kearney) and Zach (Emily) Cetlin; dear sister of Mel (Bette Brannigan) Goldsmith. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Bernard. Private graveside service is planned. Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.  
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#### GORDON

Mitchell M. Gordon on December 10, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Dori (nee Kessler); Loving father of Joel Gordon and Eric (Sandra) Gordon; and the late Ellen Solomon. Dear brother of Marvin (Rozi) Gordon; Devoted grandfather of Julie, Jake and Lindsay. Father-in-law of Philip Solomon. Services and interment are Private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1818 Market St., Ste. 2820 Phila., PA 19103.  
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#### GOSIN

Phyllis Kay Trachtenberg Gosin, formerly of Lafayette Hill, Blue Bell and most recently Plymouth Meeting, PA, passed away peacefully on December 5, 2020 at the age of 76. Loving mother of Barry (Kimberly) Gosin and the late Fredrick Gosin, proud grandmother of Eric and Chloe as well as her grand-puppies, Bevo and Juliette and grand-cats Cocoa and Cream, and brother of Joel (Anita) Trachtenberg. Phyllis will always be remembered as a compassionate listener, a great teacher and an incredibly strong woman, who overcame countless obstacles throughout her life with great character. Friends, of whom there were many, will remember her as a "tough cookie" who despite life's challenges was always able to have fun and lots of laughs with friends and family. Above all else, she will be remembered for the love, support and fierce loyalty for her family. We will miss her but take great comfort that she is finally at peace, reunited with the souls of her parents and her son, Fred. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, there will not be a memorial service at this time. Interment was private. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions in memory of Phyllis Gosin may be made to the Fred Gosin Scholarship Fund, c/o The Phila. High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, 901 S. Broad St., Ave. of the Arts, Phila. PA 19147.  
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#### GROSS

Marilyn Gross (nee April) on December 8, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Milton; Loving mother of Alan (Michelle) Gross and Randy (Donna) Gross; Devoted grandmother of Leah (Rueben), Jacob, Many (Ami), Katherine (Brett) Corey (Dr. Rachel Lewin) and Benjamin; Adoring great-grandmother of Moshe and Ravi. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 1818 Market St., Ste. 2820, Phila., PA 19103, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
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#### GROSS

Eleanor Gross (nee Seltzer) passed December 3, 2020. Survived by her devoted husband of 59 years and sweetheart of 65 years, Ronald, whom she met as a teenager while attending Elkins Park Jr, High School. Daughters Laura Rosenberg, Jane (Drew) Greenblatt and six Grandchildren, Penina, Harry, Max, Charlie, Roxanne and Sam. She was predeceased by her parents Helen and Nathan, and son in law, David. Eleanor was a funny, gracious, effervescent spirit that lit up every room she entered. She was a big personality in a little package with a huge circle of friends, some dating back to elementary school. She was an avid reader, traveler, gardener and game player. Eleanor was a believer in life-long learning and continued to take classes and attend lectures her entire adult life. Though her life was full of trips to Europe, playing Canasta and Mah Jongg, gardening, going down the shore, decorating, collecting antiques and attending multiple Book Clubs, Eleanor's most passionate commitment was to her family and her role as wife, mom and nana. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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#### JOSEPH

Sandra Joseph, on December 7, 2020. Beloved stepmother of Tammi (Robert) Smith and Eric (Heather) Silberman; Dear sister of Stanton (Susan) Joseph; Devoted grandmother of Zachary, Tori, Marielle and Julia; Loving aunt of Adam, Jennifer, Jonathan, Allison and Daniel. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Philadelphia Zoo, [www.philadelphia-zoo.com](http://www.philadelphia-zoo.com) or Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

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#### KATZMAN

Saul Katzman on December 6, 2020. Beloved husband of Faye (nee Moskowitz); Loving father of Marc (Donna) Katzman and Larry (Liz) Katzman; Devoted grandfather of Samantha, Alex, Felicia, Macy and Riley. Due to COVID restrictions, services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, [www.alzdiscovery.org](http://www.alzdiscovery.org) or Old York Road Temple-Beth Am, [www.oymrt-betham.org](http://www.oymrt-betham.org)

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#### LITTMAN

Solomon Littman, M.D., on Dec. 8, 2020. Husband of Rosette (nee Tenenbaum), father of Dr. Dan (Laura Johnston) Littman and Dr. Mario Littman, grandfather of Justin and Eric Littman. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami or Lankenau Hospital, Wynnewood, PA.

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### DEATH NOTICES

#### SCHMULENSEN

Phyllis Schmulenson, a former librarian for the City of Philadelphia, died December 4, 2020.

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#### WECHSLER

Roger Steven Wechsler, formerly of Bensalem, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Loving father of Jeffrey (Danielle) Wechsler and Erica (Andrew) Rovinsky. Devoted Zayda to Max and Avery. Proud brother of Peter Wechsler and Scott (Susan) Wechsler. Roger will be remembered for his passion of all things Judaism and sports. He served as the Cantor of Temple Beth Ami Congregation for many years and was previously a member of and back-up cantor at Temple Sinai in Dresher since his teenage years. He knew the lyrics of just about every Allan Sherman song and was an avid Philadelphia sports fan who rarely missed a game. For many years Roger also hosted a sports talk radio show and served as sports director at WBCB in Fairless Hills. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a private Graveside Service is being held. Contributions may be made to Temple Beth Ami, 9201 Old Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19115.  
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### DEATH NOTICES

#### WEINER

Irene Weiner (nee McArdle), 96, of North Wales, passed away due to complications of COVID-19 on December 7, 2020. The former Corp. Irene M. McArdle served during World War II. Prior to her military service she worked at the Frankford Arsenal as a "Rosie the Riveter". Following the War she was a dedicated homemaker and the beloved wife of the late Benjamin Weiner. Loving mother of Sherry (Jay, Esq.) Ginsburg. Cherished grandmother of the late Randall Fedner, Matthew Ginsburg, Esq., (Emily), Alexander Ginsburg, Esq., (Elizabeth), and Reid Ginsburg, Esq. (Emily). Step grandmother of Amy Ginsburg, Melanie Furjanic, and the late Justin Ginsburg. Adored great-grandmother of Hannah and Ethan Ginsburg and numerous step great-grandchildren. Aunt to many beloved nieces and nephews. A friend to all; she will be missed. Funeral services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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**ESTATES**-Renovated 2 BD, 2 Bath, new kitchen, granite, custom lighting, new balcony, parking by your door.

**TERRACES-NEW LISTING** - 2 BD, 2 BA, granite kitchen, custom lighting, new balcony, parking by your door. **\$259,900**

**ESTATES**-Renovated 2 BD, 2 BA, walk up town home, granite kitchen, custom lighting, new balcony, parking by your door. **\$259,900**

**TOWER**-5th floor, renovated 2 BD, 2 BA, open kitchen, lots of closets, washer/dryer, wood floors, sunny balcony, pool, gym, doorman, reduced cable package(\$76). Heat/AC included. **\$209,900**

**TERRACES**-2nd floor, Designer, roomy 1 BD, 1 BA, open kitchen counter, custom lighting, large sunny balcony. **\$199,900**

**TERRACES**-Top floor, 2 BD, 2 BA, new granite kitchen, new refrigerator, new washer/dryer, new heating and a/c, new electric, custom lighting, custom closets. Sunny balcony. Near elevator and parking. **\$219,900**

**TOWER**-4th floor All new, designer studio apartment. New kitchen, bathroom, lighting. Wood floors. Sunny balcony. **\$1300**

**TOWER**-3rd floor, Roomy 2 BD 2 BA, Sunny front balcony, modern kitchen, custom closets, washer/dryer, custom lighting, mirrored closets, wv carpets, coat closet, large balcony. Available immediately. **\$1900 Includes Heat/AC**

**TOWER**-9th Floor All new, renovation 2 BD, 2 BA, kitchen, sunny balcony view.

**TERRACES**- 2 BD, 2 BA, open granite kitchen, wood floors, washer/dryer, lots of closets, custom lighting & window treatments. Available immediately! **\$2150**

**TOWER-NEW LISTING** Expansive, renovated 3 BD, 3.5 BA "home", Extra space with one floor living. All new expanded, open granite kit., with breakfast bar. New bathrooms, W/D, lots of closets, corner balcony. Includes heat, A/C, gym, pool, parking.

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## INFORMATION

### LEGAL NOTICES

**DISSOLUTION** - Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors and shareholders of 42nd Street Properties Inc. a Pennsylvania corporation, having its registered office at 4701 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143, in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended, have voted to wind up its affairs, so that its corporate existence shall be ended upon the proper filing of the Articles of Dissolution and the issuance of a Certificate of Dissolution by the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **MONTGOMERY MCCracken WALKER & RHODS LLP**, Solicitors, 1735 Market St., Phila., PA 19103

**GIVE**-Youth has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Nalynn Park, Esq. 1001 W. Cheltenham Ave. Suite 204 Melrose Park, PA 19027

**J & A Siding Inc** has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

**NAMEROW LAW, P.C.** has been incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 29 of the Business Corporation law of 1988 as a Professional Corporation. Namerow Law, PC 1500 JFK Blvd. Suite 1723 Philadelphia, PA 19102

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Application for Formation of Bank Holding Company Hyperion Bancshares, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to form a bank holding company with respect to Hyperion Bank Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application, including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application/notice to Judy Lynn at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Ten Independence Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or via email: comments.applications@phil.frb.org. The comment period will not end before January 16, 2021 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the application, contact Judy Lynn, Director, Mergers and Acquisitions, at (215) 574-6171. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed for **Sharappa Inc.** with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 3, 2020. The registered office address is located at 249 S 24th St Apt D, Philadelphia PA 19103 in Philadelphia county. This corporation is incorporated under the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

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fourlevens@comcast.net

### ESTATE NOTICES

**ESTATE OF AGNES LEE MAIER a/k/a AGNES MAIER, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS TESTAMENTARY** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **RONALD D. FRIEDMAN, EXECUTOR**, c/o Stephen H. Frishberg, Esq., 50 S. 16th St., Ste. 3530, Philadelphia, PA 19102.  
Or to his Attorney: **STEPHEN H. FRISHBERG DOLCHIN, SLOTKIN & TODD, P.C.** 50 S. 16th St., Ste. 3530 Philadelphia, PA 19102

**ESTATE OF ARADEAN L. RICHARDS a/k/a ARADEAN RICHARDS, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS TESTAMENTARY** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **JAMES E. MONK, EXECUTOR**, c/o Len Haberman, Esq., 1800 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1500-A, Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to his Attorney: **LEN HABERMAN HABERMAN LAW, P.C.** 1800 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1500-A Philadelphia, PA 19103

**ESTATE OF ARLEEN L. HOROSCHAK, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION** - CTA 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 **JASON HOROSCHAK, ADMINISTRATOR**-CTA, 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 CHRISTOPHER DIEHL SCHMITT, DECEASED.**  
Late of Pennsylvania  
**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 **Kristen Schmitt**, 24 Wynmere Drive, Horsham, PA 19044.

**ESTATE OF JOSE LORENZO CRUZ, Deceased**  
**LATE of Pennsylvania**  
**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 decedents to make payment without delay, to George Cruz 1801 Allen Circle Jamison, PA 18929.

### ESTATE NOTICES

**ESTATE OF BARBARA ALEXANDER, DECEASED**  
Late of Pennsylvania  
**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 **Chad Alexander, Executor**, c/o his attorney: **David Neal Rubin, Esq.** 2 Penn Center Suite 1030 1500 JFK Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19102.

**ESTATE OF BARBARA D. BARNES a/k/a BARBARA BARNES, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS TESTAMENTARY** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **ALTHA BURGEE, EXECUTRIX**, c/o Howard M. Solomon, Esq., 1760 Market St., Ste. 404, Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to her Attorney: **HOWARD M. SOLOMAN** 1760 Market St., Ste. 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103

**ESTATE OF FRANCIS HARDMAN a/k/a FRANK J. HARDMAN, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **CHARLES A. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR**, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110.  
Or to his Attorney: **Charles A. J. Halpin, III** The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

**ESTATE OF GUIDO SERANO, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS TESTAMENTARY** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **ADRIANA SERANO, EXECUTRIX**, c/o Kristy E. McCabe, Esq., 1515 Market St., Ste. 1801, Philadelphia, PA 19102.  
Or to her Attorney: **KRISTY E. MCCABE FRITZ & BIANCULLI LLC** 1515 Market St., Ste. 1801 Philadelphia, PA 19102

**ESTATE OF JOANN D. RAFFA a/k/a JOANN RAFFA, DECEASED.**  
Late of Philadelphia  
**LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **CHARLES A. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR**, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110.  
Or to his Attorney: **Charles A. J. Halpin, III** The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110





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**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF LAWRENCE FREDERICK BRICKNER, JR. a/k/a LAWRENCE BRICKNER, LAWRENCE F. BRICKNER, JR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES A. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110.  
Or to his Attorney:  
Charles A. J. Halpin, III  
The Land Title Bldg.  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF NAJEE JONES, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia, 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: Lisa Dorman, Administrator c/o attorney Gary Stewart Seflin, Esquire 30 West Third Street Media, PA 19063  
Or to Attorney:  
Gary Stewart Seflin, Atty.  
30 West Third Street  
Media, PA 19063

**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF NANILIA DILCESE, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES A. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110.  
Or to his Attorney:  
Charles A. J. Halpin, III  
The Land Title Bldg.  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF ROSE ROSENFELD, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to RUTH KATZ, EXECUTRIX, c/o Michael D. Rubin, Esq., 686 Gray Circle, Southampton, PA 18966.  
Or to her Attorney:  
MICHAEL D. RUBIN  
LAW OFFICE MICHAEL D. RUBIN  
686 Gray Circle  
Southampton, PA 18966

**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Fictitious Name Registration  
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 16, 2020 for **Catchy Choices** at 160 Grandview Road Ardmore, PA 19003. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Lawrence Didona at 160 Grandview Road Ardmore, PA 19003. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

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**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 28, 2020 for **CMG Home Financing** at 1626 Locust Street Suite 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Eric Chesen at 1626 Locust Street Suite 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 19, 2020 for **DeBreauxs Enterprises** at 2135 North 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19151. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Frances DeBreaux at 2135 North 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19151. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 28, 2020 for **GI Contractors** at 8439 Torresdale Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19136. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Michael Faber at 8439 Torresdale Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19136. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 23, 2020 for **Green Orchid DS** at 225 Dora Ave. Horsham, PA 19044. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Marie Siravo at 225 Dora Ave. Horsham, PA 19044. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 27, 2020 for **House Whole Heavy** at 910 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19146. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Shariff Yarbrough – Pollard at 910 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19146. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 19, 2020 for **Illustrations** at 2047 Wallace St. Philadelphia, PA 19130. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Allen Perkins at 2047 Wallace St. Philadelphia, PA 19130. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 16, 2020 for **Mark's Organic Soap** at 602 S 60<sup>th</sup> St. Philadelphia, PA 19143. The names and address of each individual interested in the business are Markiem K. Thompson and Shaneika B. Thompson both located at 602 S 60<sup>th</sup> St. Philadelphia, PA 19143. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

To place a Classified Ad, call 215.832.0749

**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 09, 2020 for **Muscle Through** at 424A Fort Washington Ave. Fort Washington, PA 19034. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Andre Sanders at 424A Fort Washington Ave. Fort Washington, PA 19034. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

**STATEWIDE ADS**

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## COMMUNITY / calendar

### ▼ FRIDAY, DEC. 18

**Yiddish Language and Culture**  
The **Yiddish Arts and Academics Association of North America** will hold its Not Your Usual Intensive Winter Yiddish Language and Culture Program. The first Yiddish winter intensive program in the San Diego area, it will run from Dec. 6-20 virtually over Zoom. Workshop prices vary. Email info@yaaana.com for more information.

### ▼ SUNDAY, DEC 20

**Hunt for Techelet**  
Join **Congregation Beth Hamedrosh** at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom to learn about the fascinating history of the search for techelet, the special blue dye used for tzitzit and in talitot in ancient Israel (and used by royalty in other cultures). Call 610-642-6444 or email bethhamedrosh@verizon.net for more information.

### ▼ MONDAY, DEC 21

**Caretakers Support Group**  
In this supportive online **Jewish Family and Children's Service** group facilitated by Lillian Rozin, you will have a forum to talk about the challenges and opportunities that come with the responsibility of caring for others. The group meets at 3 p.m. and RSVPs are required to receive Zoom password. Please contact Rivka Goldman at 267-256-2250 or rgoldman@jfcsp Philly.org.

### ▼ TUESDAY, DEC 22

**Comfort Food Cooking Classes**  
Join **Judaism Your Way's** virtual

Cooking Classes at 6:30 p.m. to make our favorite Jewish comfort foods during a fun, hands-on lesson sure to produce tasty results! You'll receive the easy-to-follow recipe and easy-to-find ingredient list ahead of time. Find more information and register at judaismyourway.org/cooking-classes. Cost \$36.

### ▼ WEDNESDAY, DEC 23

**IT Support for Connection**  
A **Jewish Family and Children's Services** group for people to come and ask questions and learn about various ways to connect. Topics may include Zoom, Google Hangouts, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, etc. Come with specific questions or to learn a new communication platform! Questions? Contact Rivka Goldman at 267-256-2250 or rgoldman@jfcsp Philly.org. Group meets at 10 a.m. Donations of \$10 appreciated.

### ▼ THURSDAY, DEC 24

**VFI Educates**  
**Volunteers for Israel** announces VFI EDUCATES — its new online content-rich live Zoom programs from Israel. The programs are designed to transport you to archaeological digs, historic neighborhoods and homes, ancient cultural sites, and bustling streets in the Jewish homeland. All programs are free and interactive, with real-time discussions. To sign up to be notified of future programs and Zoom codes email your name, email and state to vfi volunteer@gmail.com. Starts at 2 p.m. ●



WHAT'S GOING ON

in Jewish Philadelphia?

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Submit: listings@jewishexponent.com

Online: jewishexponent.com/events/

JEWISH EXPONENT



# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## ADL Honors Dr. Rachel Levine

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE honored Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine on Dec. 6 with its new Courage Award.

ADL Regional Director Shira Goodman told KYW Newsradio that Levine's status as an openly transgender official and the way she has handled the pandemic inspired the organization to honor her.

"She has been attacked, she has been misgendered. She is Jewish and she has been called horrific things. She has been called a Nazi for the restrictions she has tried to put in place under the Wolf administration to protect Pennsylvanians during the pandemic. She has had threats from extremists," Goodman said.

"She has just been steadfast in working for the people of Pennsylvania, standing up, not being afraid to be in public, to be in front of people and tell us what we need to know to give us the facts to help get us through this tough time."



▲ Clockwise from top left: Anti-Defamation League Cleveland Regional Director James Pasch, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, ADL Philadelphia Regional Director Shira Goodman and KYW Newsradio's Cherrie Gregg appear at a Dec. 6 virtual event honoring Levine.

Courtesy of Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia

## Gratz Partners With Carleton University

Gratz College and Carleton University of Ottawa, Canada, signed a memorandum of understanding on Dec. 8 that "forges a collaboration between the two schools, with a focus on Holocaust studies and international engagement," according to a Gratz news release.

Possibilities include exchanging faculty and staff, student exchange programs and joint research projects.

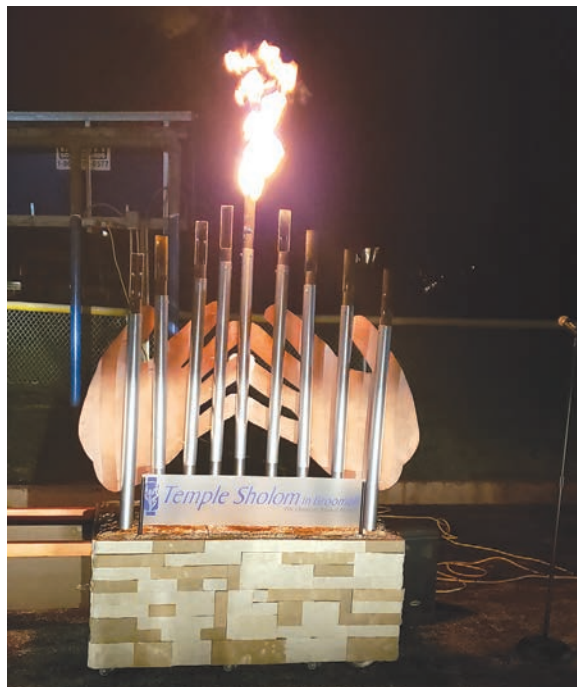
"We are honored and excited to develop a partnership with one of the great universities in Canada," Finkelman said. "The collaboration will make Gratz and Carleton stronger institutions by complimenting each other's programs and strengthening international cooperation in higher education."

Under the agreement, Gratz will work directly with the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton, with students and faculty having access to Carleton's libraries and archives. There also will be opportunities to join the center as research affiliates.

In exchange, Carleton faculty and students can access Gratz's Holocaust Oral History Archive, which houses one of the largest collections of audiotaped testimony in the U.S.

## Temple Sholom in Broomall Adds Menorah

Temple Sholom in Broomall on Dec. 11 lit for the first time a new Chanukah menorah created by congregants Rick and Sue Shandler and their children Bram and Eli.



▲ The new chanukkiah at Temple Sholom in Broomall  
Photo by Abbey Krain

Executive Director Abbey Krain said the menorah — which is made of copper, glass and other materials — is both a piece of art and a functional menorah. It uses propane tanks to light.

"When the 'candles' are lit, the display is absolutely magnificent," Krain said. "The Shandlers designed and created this piece and it was truly a labor of love. They thought of everything, and the back of the chanukkiah is even outfitted with a fire extinguisher ... just in case.

"We enjoyed lighting the chanukkiah in our parking lot, with all proper pandemic protocols for social distancing, on several night of the holiday," she said.

## Ohev Shalom of Bucks County Hosts Drive-Through Chanukah Event

On Dec. 6, Ohev Shalom of Bucks County hosted a Chanukah drive-through event, according to Barbara Glickman, the synagogue's educational director.

The multigenerational interactive event included a social action component (donations for a food drive) and various Chanukah-themed activity stations, including Count the Dreidels, Flip the Latke, Sufganiyot Toss and Judah's Jeopardy, as well as candle blessings with the synagogue's religious staff.



▲ A scene from the Ohev Shalom of Bucks County Chanukah celebration  
Courtesy of Barbara Glickman

## About 200 Participate in Car Menorah Parade

Lubavitch of Greater Philadelphia reported that its annual car menorah parade on Dec. 12 was its largest ever locally, with about 200 cars bedecked with electronic menorahs gathering on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Because of the pandemic, however, the event was a bit different than usual.

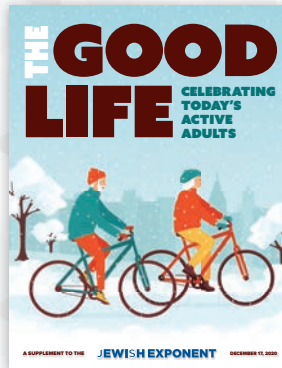
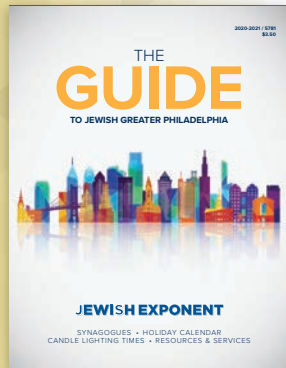
As usual, the parade wound its way through Center City, stopping for Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, the regional director of Lubavitch of Philadelphia, to kindle the giant menorah opposite the Liberty Bell. Shemtov explained that Philadelphia was the site of the world's first public menorah.

But this year, the parade continued to its final destination outside Citizens Bank Park in South Philadelphia.

Once there, cars parked and participants were entertained with a concert by the band 8th Day, which was projected on a large screen. Yeshiva students dressed up as huge dreidels distributed presents and individually wrapped nosh to those in their cars, as a fire juggler ended the show. ●

Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

# 2021 Magazine AND Featured Content



**JEWISH EXPONENT MAGAZINES** are high-gloss, full-color, special interest supplements mailed with select issues of the Exponent focusing on a variety of subjects unique to Jewish life in the Delaware Valley. Their convenient size, modern design and sharp editorial make them favorites with our readers, and a smart choice for your advertising plan.

## MAGAZINES

**Mazel Tov!** Celebrates the joy of bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings and other Jewish lifecycle events (published twice a year)

**The Good Life** Delivers the latest news and trends for those over 55 (published twice a year)

**This Summer** Ushers in the season with the best of fun-in-the-sun for everyone

**The Guide to Jewish Philadelphia** Annual resource for everything Jewish in the Delaware Valley.

**Winter Holiday Magazine** Features holiday feasting, gifting, traveling, giving and more.

## FEATURED CONTENT

*In-paper Featured Content sections explore various topics of special interest to our readers.*

**Camps** Featuring day, sleep-away & specialty camps

**Healthy, Wealthy and Wise** In-paper section examining healthy finances and healthy families!

**The Look** Just when everyone is ready to shake off winter, we present the latest, freshest in personal and home fashions.

**Passover Palate** Our annual and much anticipated collection of Passover traditions, recipes and entertaining ideas

**Cancer Awareness** Published in October, this section takes a look at the latest techniques in treating and coping with cancer.

## Publications by date

	AD SPACE DEADLINE	PUB. DATE
Camps	Dec 31	Jan 7
Healthy, Wealthy and Wise	Jan 22	Jan 28
Camps	Jan 29	Feb 4
The Look	Feb 19	Feb 25
Passover Palate	March 5	March 11
Spring Mazel Tov!	March 5	March 25
Home & Garden	April 9	April 15
Mothers Day	April 23	April 29
The Good Life	April 16	May 6
Confirmations	May 4	May 13
This Summer	May 28	June 17
Rosh Hashanah Food	Aug 13	Aug 19
Rosh Hashanah Food	Aug 20	Aug 26
Rosh Hashanah Greetings	Sept 1	Sept 9
The Guide to Jewish Philadelphia	Aug 12	Sept 14
Cancer Awareness	Oct 1	Oct 7
Fall Mazel Tov!	Oct 1	Oct 21
Winter Holiday Magazine	Nov 5	Nov 25
The Good Life	Nov 26	Dec 16

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