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Publisher & Chief Executive Officer

Craig Burke

cburke@midatlanticmedia.com

Associate Publisher

Jeni Mann Tough

jmann@midatlanticmedia.com

EDITORIAL

Editor | **Andy Gottlieb**

215-832-0797

agottlieb@jewishexponent.com

Staff Writers

Jillian Diamond, Sasha Rogelberg,

Heather Ross, Jarrad Saffren

ADVERTISING

Account Executives

**Alan Gurwitz, Robin Harmon,
Pam Kuperschmidt, Jodi Lipson,
David Pintzow, Sara Priebe,
Sharon Schmuckler, Samantha Tuttle,
Sylvia Witaschek**

MARKETING

Audience Development Coordinator

Julia Olaguer
410-902-2308
jolaguer@midatlanticmedia.com

CREATIVE

Art Director | **Steve Burke**

Graphic Designers | **Ebony Brown,
Lonna Koblick, Jay Sevidal,
Frank Wagner, Carl Weigel**

Digital Media Coordinator
James Meskunas

BUSINESS

Accounting Manager

Pattie-Ann Lamp
410-902-2311
plamp@midatlanticmedia.com
accounting@midatlanticmedia.com

Accounts Receivable Specialist

Sarah Appelbaum
sappelbaum@midatlanticmedia.com

Legal Notices

legals@jewishexponent.com

Main Office: 215-832-0700

editor@jewishexponent.com

215-832-0797

circulation@jewishexponent.com

215-832-0700, ext. 1

sales@jewishexponent.com

215-832-0700, ext. 2

classified@jewishexponent.com

215-832-0749

Connect with us:



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Happy Chanukah

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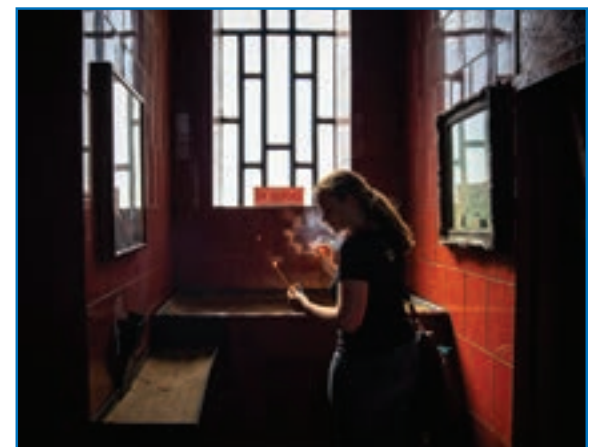
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In Viral Clip, French TV Host Asks Jewish Guest Why He Wears a Kippah in Public

An Israeli professor was asked by the host of a French TV news show why he publicly identifies his religion by wearing a kippah in a clip that went viral on Dec. 7.

"Many people are asking, why a professor wears a religious symbol in our studio," the host of CNews pressed Dr. Cyrille Cohen, head of immunology at Bar-Ilan University, who was invited to discuss vaccine effectiveness against the COVID-19 virus.

"For transparency, I wear it every day. I did not put it on especially for this show," he responded with an air of confusion.

But French-Jewish journalist Elisabeth Levy, who was also a guest on the panel, pushed further.

"You understand, don't you, that our non-religious way of life is discrete. It's not against religion, but

you should keep your religion to yourself," she said.

"My name is Cohen! Why would you want me to 'keep my religion to myself'? I'm coming from Israel," Cohen responded in exasperation.

A clip of the video drew quick condemnation on Twitter. "Is this 1930s Europe?" tweeted Israeli journalist Emily Schrader.

Though brief, the exchange illustrated the starkly different perspectives on religious expression in France, the United States and elsewhere in the western world. *Laïcité*, or "secularism," rather than religious freedom, is enshrined in the first article of the French constitution, which also protects the free exercise of religion. The term has long been understood to imply a strict separation between the private sphere, where religion is accepted, and the



Dr. Cyrille Cohen, head of immunology at Bar-Ilan University, reacts to a question on the French CNews program.

public, where it is discouraged.

Religious minorities have complained that French secularism is often gentler with displays of Christianity than other faiths.

"If a priest came in here would you ask him to take off his cross, if the pope, would you have him take off his cross and head covering?" Cohen said in the exchange.

Since 2004, French public schools have banned all personal displays of religion, including both crosses and yarmulkes. In 2009, debate erupted after a woman was banned from swimming in a public pool while

wearing a bathing suit in line with some Islamic interpretations of modesty laws. In 2016, the swimsuit nicknamed a "burkini" was banned by the mayor of Cannes, a beach town.

French Jews also came up against the government's strict adherence to *laïcité* when a hearing in the trial of suspects involved in the 2015 shooting at a Paris Kosher supermarket, which killed four Jews, was scheduled on Yom Kippur. The French judiciary refused to change the date after requests by the families of the victims, citing *laïcité*.

— David I. Klein

Adam Sandler to Receive Mark Twain Prize for American Humor

The eight crazy nights of Hanukkah came early for Adam Sandler when the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced on Dec. 13 that the comedian and actor would be honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at a ceremony in March.

The prize is presented annually to individuals "who have had an impact on American society" similar to that of the 19th-century novelist and humorist, "who startled many while delighting and informing many more with his uncompromising perspective on social injustice and personal folly."

Sandler, 56, got his start as an actor on "The Cosby Show" and was a cast member on "Saturday Night Live" for five years before eventually starring in a slew of blockbuster comedy movies in the 1990s and early 2000s, including "Happy Gilmore,"

"Big Daddy," "The Wedding Singer," "50 First Dates" and "Click."

Sandler has also given critically acclaimed dramatic performances, such as one in 2019's "Uncut Gems," in which he played a frenetic Jewish jeweler with a gambling addiction. Others include roles in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love" (2002), Noah Baumbach's "The Meyerowitz Stories" (2017) and Jeremiah Zagar's "Hustle" (2022).

Perhaps unusually for comics of his generation, the Brooklyn-born Sandler often places his Jewishness front and center, as in his portrayal of an Israeli fish out of water in "Don't Mess With the Zohan" (2008) and especially in his performance of "The Chanukah Song," originally an "SNL" bit in which he name checks dozens of Jewish celebrities. His 2002 animated comedy "Eight Crazy Nights" takes place during the

Hanukkah season.

Sandler, his wife Jackie and their two teenage daughters are set to star in a bat mitzvah-themed movie for Netflix based on Fiona Rosenbloom's 2005 novel, "You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah!"

Previous Jewish winners of the Mark Twain Prize include playwright Neil Simon, Lorne Michaels of "SNL," actors Carl Reiner and Billy Crystal, and comedian Jon Stewart.

There was no Mark Twain Prize in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous two winners before Sandler were 2019's Dave Chappelle and 2022's Jon Stewart. Chappelle was recently the subject

of controversy when he focused part of an "SNL" monologue on Kanye West's antisemitic comments and cracked jokes that suggested Jews run Hollywood. In the days following the episode, Stewart, a personal friend of Chappelle's, weighed in on the monologue and defended Chappelle's comments.

— Jackie Hajdenberg



Adam Sandler gives an acceptance speech at the 2022 Gotham Awards.

Zoom Beit Midrash Celebrates Kiloversary, 1,000 Days of Meeting

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

The World Health Organization declared COVID a pandemic on March 11, 2020, 1,016 days ago from this article's Dec. 22 publication.

For more than 1,000 of those days, a Zoom beit midrash has met virtually, gathering to discuss Torah, prayer and Jewish philosophy and culture. The group has hosted Rabbi Irving Greenberg, author of "The Jewish Way," and Rising Song Institute's Joey Weisenberg, among other lecturers.

On Dec. 16, the group, led by West Chester synagogue Keshet Israel Congregation member Rabbi Dr. Maury Hoberman, celebrated its kiloversary and 1,000th meeting.

"It's really special because their participation is special," Hoberman said of the group. "People come at this from different aspects of how they relate the Torah portion to their personal lives and how they relate the history or the music to their personal lives, which makes it fascinating. It's really a very diverse group."

Beyond philosophical conversations, the non-denominational group made up of mostly 50- to 70-year-olds has music Thursdays, where one participant selects a genre or song to play for the group. Each daily meeting, including abbreviated Saturday Shabbat services, ends with a *misheberach*, prayer for healing, and a five-minute meditation.

In addition to a regular 10-25 person daily attendance, Hoberman provides recordings of the daily meetings to about 20 members who can't attend the 9:30 a.m. sessions. While many attendees hail from West Chester and Keshet Israel, others are snowbirds in Florida or are from as far away as California and learned about the group via word of mouth.

"[Hoberman] is really engaging. His mission is to really teach people, and he's very good at it," said Neshamah Diana Faraone, a beit midrash member outside of San Francisco. "It didn't matter to me

that it was early in the morning."

Before becoming a rabbi, Hoberman was a surgeon. After retirement, Hoberman, now an octogenarian, pursued his ordination and received his *semikhah* from ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal in 2019. After meeting Faraone at an ALEPH-led Jewish heritage trip to Italy in 2016 and emailing back-and-forth for several years, Hoberman invited Faraone to the beit midrash.

Hoberman hosted the first beit midrash on March 22, 2020, according to Stew Feinberg, the group's de facto historian and record keeper, who attended that meeting.

The group was designed to be a way for Hoberman to foster Jewish community in a time of isolation and disorientation. After advertising the group in a post on the Keshet Israel Facebook page, Hoberman was joined by a couple dozen interested parties. In July, Hoberman had planned to reassess whether the group was still necessary, but people kept showing up.

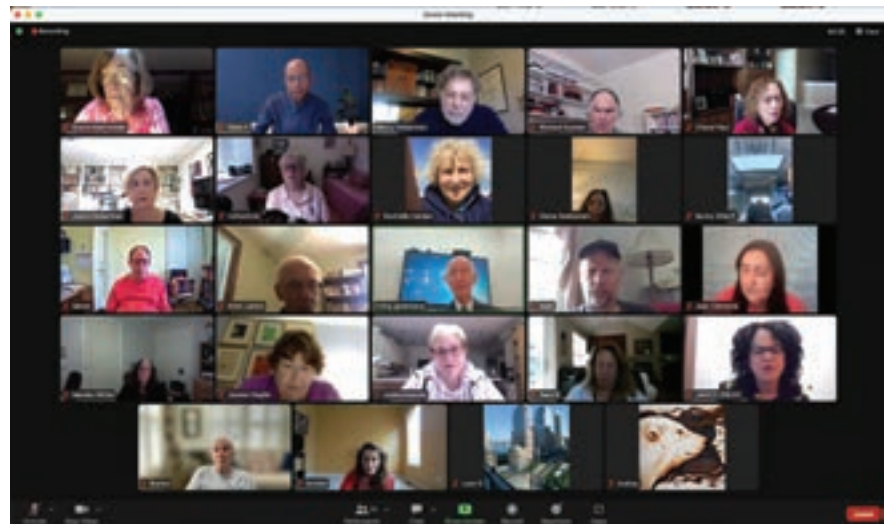
"That was about 950 beit midrashes ago," Feinberg said.

Many members touted Hoberman's teaching style, which invites participants to join in to conversations after Hoberman introduces various topics. Faraone remembers a particularly engaging conversation about whether animals have souls — a topic that emerged after several members had pets who died.

"People really feel included and cared for," she said.

Beyond the discussions and lectures, the beit midrash has become a social system and support group for some members. West Chester residents attend Keshet Israel services together on Saturday or hang out in each others' homes. For member Shellie Herdan, who joined the beit midrash a couple of months after it began, the group was a source of comfort after her husband's death.

"I needed to do kaddish, so I did it with them — for 30 days with them, every day," she said. "And then I stayed."



The Zoom beit midrash, organized by Rabbi Dr. Maury Hoberman, hosted Rabbi Irving Greenberg, author of "The Jewish Way."



The beit midrash was joined by Rising Song Institute's Joey Weisenberg, who played music for the group.

Influenced by his late-in-life journey to becoming a rabbi, Hoberman believes that Jewish adults should have more educational opportunities.

"There's a great hunger for Jewish education in adults," Hoberman said. "We often get the comment, 'How come they never taught us that before?!'"

For the group's members, technology, rather than being counter to the spirit of the ancient Jewish tradition, has been a helpful tool.

"One of the advantages and the reason people show up is because it's so convenient," Hoberman said. "The future of Judaism has to do with it using the technology that's available."

Member Jo Anne Deglin, a snowbird and Bala Cynwyd resident, believes that technology has made Judaism more accessible to Jews across generations, though she acknowledges that there's been a shift in what Judaism looks like.

"It's not the Judaism I think my mother grew up with," she said.

As technology opens up more opportunities for connection, conversation and information for the beit midrash, Deglin believes Jews should embrace what the future holds: "All we have to do is open the window to let it in a little bit, and then we'll see what's there." **JE**

srogelberg@midatlanticmedia.com

Deli Development and Bagel Boom: Area Jewish Restaurants Expand

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

Diners in the Greater Philadelphia area are hungry for more of their favorite Ashkenazi comfort foods, evidenced by the growth of multiple Jewish-owned and Jewish-style food establishments.

Last month, Russ Cowan, owner of Famous 4th Street Deli in Queen Village, signed a lease for the space that formerly housed Cherry Hill, New Jersey's Short Hills Restaurant & Deli in Short Hills Shopping Center. He plans to open a new deli, Radin's, there in 2023.

On Dec. 9, Kismet Bagels opened its second brick-and-mortar location in Rittenhouse Square at 1700 Sansom St., only eight months after the opening of a first permanent location in Fishtown. Owners Jacob and Alexandra Cohen will debut a bialy stall in Reading Terminal Market in January.

Spread Bagelry, the Philadelphia-based Montreal-style bagel purveyors, opened a Cherry Hill store on Dec. 5 in Commerce Square.

Cowan, a fourth-generation deli veteran from Brooklyn, will stock the menu at Radin's — named after his grandfather's family name Smoradinsky — with reliable favorites from Famous 4th and the several other delis he's owned and later sold in various locations in Center City and Cherry Hill, including the Kibitz Room, Pastrami & Things and Bread & Bagel.

Radin's, within walking distance of Cowan's home, offers convenience for the 67-year-old owner.

"I'm not the guy that's looking to retire, but I'm looking to make my life a little bit easier by having something around the corner from my house," he said.

Cowan recently put Famous 4th Street on the market but doesn't have plans to close the deli.

Michael Kaplan, son of Short Hills Restaurant & Deli owner Jerry Kaplan, said that the Short Hills establishment had to shutter in November 2021 due to the continued financial impact of the pandemic.



Famous 4th Street Deli owner Russ Cowan signed a lease in November to the now-shuttered Short Hills Restaurant & Deli in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Photo by Sasha Rogelberg

"We were just doing takeout only for almost three years," Kaplan said. "We were doing substantial business, but at that location, expenses are way too high."

Kaplan opened Short Hills 2 Go Catering in Marlton in August. The space's smaller 20-seat dining area and regular customer base have helped buoy the restaurant.

Classic Cake Co., which operates out of the former Short Hills Restaurant & Deli space, will move to a different location in the Short Hills Shopping Center.

Cowan said that a good deli should rely on the quality of its products, a strategy to which Cowan partially attributes his success.

"I tend to keep things very traditional: I pickle my own corned beef;

I smoke my own pastrami; we do our own baking, and I try to keep things as I remember it as I grew up with," he said.

While Cowan sticks with old favorites, Kismet Bagels has experienced success reinventing the classics, the Cohen couple said.

"Once people that own these shops started exploring and trying different concoctions and flavors and not limiting themselves to only what they've at a New York deli or New York bagel shop, you see the response from customers, who are so eager for new specials and new things and familiar flavors on a different setting, in a different vessel," Jacob Cohen said. "All bets are off now."

Kismet Bagels pairs bagels with unconventional schmears, such as

pickle and spicy everything cream cheeses.

Spread Bagelry also has found success in a new take on bagels, baking the bread in a wood-fired oven and serving unique flavors such as blueberry-lemon bagels and apple brown butter schmear. The Cherry Hill store will be its ninth location and first in New Jersey.

For the past year-and-a-half, the Cohens have experimented with bialys, a hole-less baked counterpart to their boiled-then-baked bagel cousins. In October, Kismet hosted a pop-up with Mike's BBQ in South Philadelphia, slinging burnt end bialys. They've also hosted pop-ups alongside Amanda Shulman's Her Place Supper Club and Pat's King of Steaks, serving French onion soup and cheesesteak bialys, respectively.



Kismet Bagels owners Jacob and Alexandra Cohen opened up their second brick-and-mortar location in Center City eight months after their Fishtown shop opened in April.

Photo by Mike Prince

While Kismet's Center City location will continue to operate in the same model as their Fishtown store, with both locations sourcing bagels from Kismet's commissary kitchen, the bialy stall will feature a more nimble menu, with bialys being made on-site. Customers will be able to watch their bialys being made behind the counter.

Kismet's creative menu gathered a following after the Cohens began selling bagels in a commissary kitchen in Fishtown in May 2020. After nine months of running a Sunday pop-up on Frankford Avenue, the couple opened up their first brick-and-mortar store on

113 E. Girard Ave. in April.

While the permanent Fishtown shop stuck to Kismet's roots, the Center City shop shows the business' desire to expand its reach. Kismet has operated a stand at the Rittenhouse Farmers' Market for the past year.

"Fishtown is like the newest, coolest neighborhood in Philadelphia, and then Rittenhouse Square is just such an institutional phenomenon," Alexandra Cohen said. "The area is just such a famous location and just made the most sense." **JE**

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Fun Activities Available for Local Jews on Christmas

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

You're Jewish. It's Christmas. Few places are open, so what to do? It's the annual question.

This year, you can just stay in and celebrate Chanukah, since the final night is on Christmas. But what if you want to go out? Locally, there are more answers than just getting Chinese food and seeing a movie, though that is always a good option.

Here's a brief guide to what you can do in the Philadelphia area on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Go to the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History's Being__at Christmas Event

In the late 2010s, the museum changed the name of this event from Being Jewish at Christmas to Being__at Christmas. It wanted to make it more inclusive to Christians looking for something to do later in the day, to people from other religions and to the non-religious, according to Dan Samuels, the museum's director of public programs.

And the activities on the schedule are fun for the whole family. At 10:15 a.m., there's an interactive kids concert with bubbles, balloons and puppets. An hour later, the Philadelphia Suns will perform a "1,000+ year old Chinese lion dance" that takes place during the Chinese New Year, according to an email about the event. And in the afternoon, kids and parents can take workshops on hip-hop dance and percussion instruments.

If you buy tickets in advance, your kids can get in for \$10, and you can pay \$15. The price goes up to \$20 for both groups on the day of the event, unless you're a museum member, in which case you can get in for free.

Find a Light Show

Light shows are often defined not just by resplendence, but by long car lines, too. Avoid those by rolling up on Christmas Eve or Day to displays that remain open despite the holiday.



The Being __ at Christmas event at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History event for families.



The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History welcomes everybody to its Christmas Day event for families.

There are plenty of options in that category. And those include some of the best, like the Holiday Light Show at Shady Brook Farm in Bucks County, which features millions of lights, the Deck the Hall Light Show at Dilworth Park, which illuminates City Hall, and the West Chester Griswolds, or the local family that imitates the Chevy Chase-led unit in National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation" by brightening its home with "more than 100,000 computer-controlled lights," according to a Visit Philadelphia listing.

Visit Philly also has a full list of light shows that you can visit during the hol-

iday season: [visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/top-holiday-lights-attractions-in-philadelphia/](https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/top-holiday-lights-attractions-in-philadelphia/).

The Christmas Eve Chinatown Dinner

Middle Child Clubhouse, the bar and restaurant on Front Street, and Lee How Fook, the Chinese restaurant on North 11th Street, are co-hosting an event at which you can pay \$55 a person and "get everything," family-style, according to an Instagram post promoting the evening. "Everything," in this case, means a lot of really good Chinese food, like crab Rangoon

nachos and breakfast fried rice, among other items.

Lee How Fook has a 4.3 out of five rating from 224 Google reviews. In that Instagram post, Middle Child Clubhouse called it "hands down, my favorite restaurant in Chinatown."

The Jewish Christmas Dinner and a Movie Event

Israeli restaurant Zahav's "traditional Jewish Christmas celebration returns with dinner and a movie at Lilah," according to an Instagram post promoting the gathering. This event is actually on Dec. 22, but its Christmas theme qualifies it for this list. Lilah is a venue on North Front Street.

The evening will begin with a "four-course feast," as the post explains, that includes five salads, dim sum dumplings, hot and sour soup, Peking duck, steamed buns and sesame sugar donuts. The movie, which will start a half hour after the dinner, "is a surprise."

A \$150 ticket is for a pair and covers food but not drinks.

Watch "The Fabelmans"

Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" has not done well in theaters since coming out on Nov. 11, making just \$8.7 million despite its \$40 million budget. It's the worst-performing movie in the 50-plus-year career of Hollywood's "most commercially successful director of all time," as Spielberg's Wikipedia page describes him.

Yet despite the poor box office performance, the Jewish director's coming-of-age film based on himself is acclaimed by both viewers and critics. It has a 91% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, an 82% rating on Fandango and a 7.9/10 on IMDb. Time's Stephanie Zacharek called it the best film of 2022. The New Yorker's Anthony Lane wrote that it was "touched with the madness of love."

You should be skeptical if only the audience or only the critics like a movie. But if they both like a film, it's probably worth your time. **JE**

jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com

Local Organizations Receive State Security Grants

Andy Gottlieb | JE EDITOR

Gov. Tom Wolf announced on Dec. 15 nearly \$4 million in funding to support security enhancement projects for 93 nonprofits, including several Jewish institutions in the Philadelphia area.

“While it’s a shame this has been necessary, I’m proud to have secured nearly \$20 million over the past three years to protect Pennsylvania’s diverse and vulnerable communities from hate-driven violence,” Wolf said in a prepared statement. “I look forward to the day when the goodness of humanity prevails.”



Gov. Tom Wolf

Wolf signed House Bill 859 to create the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in November 2019, one year after the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue complex shooting.

Administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the program supports grants to nonprofits that principally serve individuals, groups or institutions included within “a bias motiva-

tion category for single bias hate crime incidents,” as identified by the FBI’s Hate Crime Statistics publication, such as race/ethnicity/ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender and gender identity.

Applicants could apply for grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for security enhancements. The money can be used for safety and security planning, safety and security equipment and technology, training, building upgrades, vulnerability and threat assessments, and other security enhancements.

Local organizations receiving grants include:

Bucks County

Mid-States Habonim Camping Association, Inc., \$24,000

Delaware County

Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence, \$75,000

Montgomery County

Brotherhood Temple Brith Achim, \$24,814

Congregation Beth Am Israel, \$25,000

Kaiserman Jewish Community Center, \$40,000

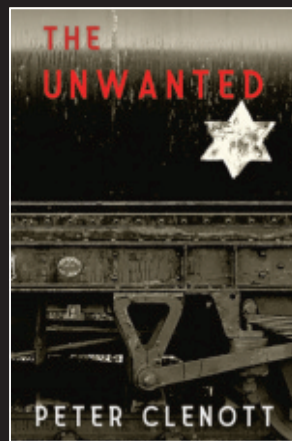
Kohelet Yeshiva, \$108,419

Philadelphia County

Drizin-Weiss Post 215 Jewish War Veterans of the United States Of America, Inc., \$84,333

Penn Hillel, \$25,000

PCCD plans to release another Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program solicitation in January. More information about PCCD’s Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program and the application process can be found on PCCD’s website at pccd.pa.gov/. JE



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“Germany has just invaded Poland; 14-year-old Hana Ziegler, the product of an illicit affair, is being driven by her grandfather and her psychiatrist to a euthanasia center; 16-year-old Silke Hartenstein graces the covers of Nazi propaganda magazines; Avi Kreisler is a Munich police detective rounded up for Dachau; David McAuliffe’s patrician father wants his eldest son elected first Catholic president of the United States. In the aftermath of war, revenge brings these four people together in ways unimaginable.”

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MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

INTO THE NEW YEAR

As 2022 comes to a close, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia reflects on how the community's generosity has created local and global impact for countless lives over the past year. The following stories illustrate how just some of those people have been uplifted and irrevocably changed through the Jewish Federation's funded services, programs and organizations.



“If not for your help, I don't know how I would make it.”

Meet Yakov, 69, from Kishinev, Moldova. During COVID, he was confined to his house, where his diabetes and hypertension impeded his ability to cook his own meals. Through the support of the local Jewish Federation and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Yakov received hot meals three times a week and was also given funds to cover the cost of his heating bill during Moldova's bitter winter.



“We are very appreciative that we are able to remain independent and safe in our own home.”

Meet siblings Saul and Nina, 91 and 89, who mutually take care of each other at their home in Northeast Philadelphia. For 30 years, they have been a part of the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC), which is run by Jewish Family and Children's Service. NORC, a grantee of the Jewish Federation, provides them with home repairs, winterization efforts and COVID protection kits.



“I serve today, full of pride and love for my country and my people.”

Meet Simona. Simona was born in Russia and moved to Israel at three years old to receive treatment for her uterine cancer. She has Jewish roots, but was not halachically Jewish. As an adult, Simona completed the Jewish Agency for Israel's Nativ program, supported by the Jewish Federation, and learned the meaning of being Jewish, which inspired her to convert to Judaism and become an officer in the IDF.



“I found a non-judgmental Jewish community outside of a synagogue setting where I can participate in my lost Jewish heritage.”

Meet Rose, 30, from Spring Garden, Philadelphia. Rose lost touch with her Jewish identity at the age of 11 when her mother remarried a Christian man. Now Rose is re-exploring her Judaism through OneTable Philadelphia, supported by the Jewish Federation, where she has already hosted three Shabbat dinners.

Whether in person or through screens, in times of peace or in war, the Jewish community does not waver. Support the Jewish Federation's mission to create a brighter future and an even stronger community by making a gift before December 31 at

jewishphilly.org/donate



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

Sam Salz



“It’s a good reminder to all the other young Jewish kids who are into sports, who want to play at a high competitive level, that they don’t have to compromise on being who they are,” Salz said.

Despite attending a Division I school with a 128-year-old football program, Salz began his journey to the sport about a year ago.

On Oct. 16, 2021, Salz took a trip to New York with Chabad and talked to a friend about training to join the football team. He said that when he brought up the idea to a stranger on the subway and received their approval, that sealed the deal for Salz. He began training when he returned home.

“I would do lots of sprints, lots of running,” Salz said. “I would do like 2½ to three hours in the gym a day, and then I would do about an hour-and-a-half to two hours in the field a day.”

When Salz wasn’t running sprints or completing agility training, he was

teaching himself the rules of football, a sport he had always enjoyed, and meeting with the team’s coaches, who let him join the team of 130 players, 85 of whom were scholarship players.

While attending Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Merion Station, there was no football team, Salz said. As the time to apply for colleges approached, Salz was interested in

Texas A&M for its tight-knit community, strong alumni network and culture of football fanaticism.

Growing up attending B’nai Abraham Chabad in Center City, Salz enjoyed a *hamish* community, wanting to find that same warmth wherever he chose to matriculate. Texas A&M’s Chabad, led by Rabbi Yossi Lazaroff, felt like what Salz was looking for.

“It’s a very, very warm community; everyone kind of knows everyone,” Salz said of B’nai Abraham Chabad. “And A&M is very similar to that.”

Lazaroff sees Salz every day at morning prayers, Torah classes and Friday night dinners. For the past 18 months, he’s provided support for Salz, one of about 60-90 Jewish students at Chabad.

Despite being one of the largest colleges in the country composed of more than 56,000 undergraduates, Texas A&M’s Jewish population is small, Lazaroff said. Though Salz believes he hasn’t encountered any challenges balancing his Jewish identity with his role on the football field, Lazaroff said it’s not always easy being a minority.

Lazaroff remembers Salz having concerns about making compromises to his Judaism to pursue football.

“It’s been very beautiful to see someone like him saying, ‘I’m not going on the field on Shabbos.’ ... He’s not looking to bend the rules; he’s looking to play by the rules,” Lazaroff said.

Though pursuing a degree in economics with an interest in real estate, Salz still believes there’s a chance he could become a professional athlete.

His next step is to play in a game, competing for one of 11 spots on the field with 129 other athletes, including about 45 other walk-ons.

“I’m doing everything I can to compete, to make it to that position,” he said.

As a backup plan, Salz is interested in rabbinical school, using his experience navigating being a *shomer Shabbos* Jew and D1 athlete to relate to young people.

“There needs to be a rabbi for every generation,” Salz said.

“It’s very important that we have rabbis who care about law, are knowledgeable and present Judaism well, as well as who can relate to students or assist students, Jewish kids, anyone who’s asking, in a way that you can relate to,” Salz continued.

For Salz, the evolution of his identity as a football player is intertwined with his evolution as a Jewish person, he said. If he were to select becoming a rabbi from the many goals he strives toward, he would teach a young Jewish generation informed by the lessons he learned on the field.

“You can’t separate the Judaism from the football,” he said. **JE**

srogelberg@midatlanticmedia.com

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

Sam Salz is meticulous in matching his kippah to his football uniform: The white and burgundy of the head covering matches his Texas A&M football jersey and makes it easily visible to a crowd, he said.

In a Nov. 26 primetime television broadcast, Salz can be easily recognized by his kippah as he jumps up and down and waves his arms, a victory dance celebrating an Aggies home win against the Louisiana State University Tigers.

The 20-year-old sophomore and running back from South Philadelphia plays with No. 39 on his jersey, representing *lamed tet melachot*, the 39 categories of work forbidden on Shabbat.

Salz refuses to play on the Sabbath and is an active member of the Texas A&M Chabad. After joining the Aggies as a walk-on in October, Salz, with his coaches’ permission, missed the first practice with the team to observe Yom Kippur. He’s the second-ever Shabbat-observant NCAA Division I football player.



No 'One Size Fits All' in Protecting Minorities

The announcement that the Biden administration is establishing an inter-agency group to coordinate U.S. government efforts “to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of bias and discrimination,” shows that the White House is interested in more than a ceremonial approach to address antisemitism. That’s a good thing.

But the combination of so many different forms of bias — antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black hatred, anti-Asian hatred, homophobia, transphobia and more — into a homogenized melting pot of a response risks not adequately dealing with the complexities of bias against any minority. The announced approach smacks of trying to please everyone. We are concerned that it will result in a response that will please no one.

Each minority community that is a proven target of the angry, resentful and mentally unbalanced hate-mongers who are pumped up by the steady drip of social-media content and loose gun laws is different. Each is deserving of individualized attention and the development of a carefully tailored approach and response. Jews are no exception.

The attacks on Jews continue, with no end in sight. From spray-painted swastikas and antisemitic slogans to taunts, heckling and assaults of Jewish children and adults on the streets of our neighborhoods, each disturbing event triggers the Jewish trauma that our community is not safe. While we are pleased by the rise in government dollars earmarked for communal security and the increasing coordination between law enforcement and the security monitoring arms of Jewish communities, we worry that much more is needed.

Any plan of action must be based on accurate information. But it now appears that those responsible for keeping track of hate activity haven’t been able to gather reliable numbers. The FBI, for example, has been criticized for publishing incomplete data on hate crimes. Thus, the FBI reported a drop in antisemitic acts in 2021, while the ADL reported an alarming rise in such activities during the same time.

It turns out that the reason for the disconnect is simple. The FBI relies on voluntary reports from law-enforcement agencies. But several major law-enforcement regions, including Los Angeles County,

New York, Miami and Chicago, did not submit data for 2021. It is therefore no surprise that without reports from the very areas where most American Jews live, the FBI compilations cannot be accurate.

Government officials have explained that many states and law-enforcement agencies failed to report on bias and hate activity properly or at all after a shift to a new reporting system. That means that the problem of antisemitism is worse than officials thought and probably closer to what we feel in our bones. And the same is almost certainly true for other minorities who are suffering from rising bias and attacks.

The bureaucratic blunder is disturbing. Even with the best of intentions, government cannot solve a problem that it doesn’t fully understand. And with the White House now proposing to deal with all forms of bias generically — rather than with deliberate focus on each minority community that is being targeted — we worry that the individualized and singular needs of each minority community, including the Jewish one, will not be addressed sufficiently. That would not be good for anyone. **JE**

The United Nations, Disappointment and Irrelevance

We have long been critical of the world body known as the United Nations.

Born of a noble purpose as an intergovernmental organization created to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, promote social progress, better living standards and human rights, achieve international trust and cooperation, and be a center for the harmonization of actions and relations among the countries of the world, the United Nations we know today is a mere shadow of the lofty institution it was designed to be. Chief among the reasons for its failure are the institution’s astonishing lack of honor and honesty.

The list of U.N. disappointments is long. Two more occurred over the last few weeks and have been largely ignored. Perhaps the lack of protest or comment reflects the irrelevance of the world body. Perhaps it reflects the futility of criticism. Most likely, it’s because no one really cares what the United Nations says or does.

On April 26, Israel will mark its 75th birthday. That will be a day of great celebration in Israel and

throughout the Diaspora. But the anniversary will not be recognized by the United Nations. Instead, earlier this month, the U.N. General Assembly voted to commemorate the same day as the 75th anniversary of the Nakba — the Palestinian term for catastrophe or disaster — the day that marks the destruction of Palestinian society and its homeland that led to the establishment of Israel. The Nakba Resolution was passed by a vote of 90 in favor, 30 against and 47 abstentions.

Most commentary on the vote has focused on the lopsided number of countries who voted in favor, including Israel’s two-faced peace and prosperity Abraham Accords dance partners, and the stalwart support of most Western and European Union members for the Jewish state, who voted against. We agree with those comments. But we are bothered by the 47 abstentions. What is it about this vote that led to the wobbly-kneed refusal of 47 countries to take a principled position? And why is it that Ukraine — a country begging for hard-core Israel support for its war effort — didn’t even cast a vote?

And speaking of Ukraine, there’s the upcoming,

much-anticipated report of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres about Iran’s compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal. In typical, unprincipled U.N. fashion, the secretary-general has yielded to pressure from Russia not to address the issue of Iran supplying Russia with drones for the war in Ukraine.

Under U.N. Resolution 2231, Iran is prohibited from transferring long-range, payload-laden drones, like the ones it has provided to support Russia’s war effort. Russia denies it is using Iranian drones. Iran admits sending some drones but says they were sent before the Ukraine war started in late February. Western states say they have definitive evidence that both Russia and Iran are lying, and are demanding a U.N. investigation. The secretary-general says he won’t conduct an investigation into compliance issues unless the Security Council authorizes it. Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council with veto power over such a directive.

So, nothing will happen. And the United Nations will continue its disappointing tradition of irrelevance. **JE**

Trump for Sale

There seems to be no limit to former president and current candidate for president Donald Trump's narcissism. Nor does there appear to be any limit to his quest for cash.

In a video posted last week on Truth Social, Trump promised that he would soon make a "major announcement." Speculation regarding the announcement ranged from his possible return to Twitter, a run for speaker of the House or the formation of a third party to compete with Republicans and Democrats. But the consensus was that the "major announcement" would have something to do with Trump's announced candidacy for president in 2024.

But that wasn't it. Instead, the very next day Trump announced an online store to sell \$99 digital trading cards of himself as a superhero, a sheriff, an astronaut, a fighter pilot and a mix of other fantastical figures. The 45,000 Trump action figure nonfungible tokens (NFTs) sold out in one day. The estimated haul was \$4.45 million, plus a percentage of any later sales on secondary markets. But not a penny of sales proceeds will go to the Trump campaign. Instead, the revenue will go directly into Trump's pocket.

His NFT sale announcement was classic hucksterism, peppered with traditional Trump self-aggrandizement. Ranging from claims that his years as president were "better than Lincoln, better than Washington" and promising buyers of his NFTs that they would be entered into a series of small-print limited sweepstakes to meet Trump one-on-one, golf at one of his properties or receive a ticket to a gala at a Trump resort, the sales schpiel had all the charm of a Ronco late-night TV pitch for a Vegematic.

Trump critics were gleeful. Supporters were embarrassed. Critics claimed to be vindicated as Trump's NFT-gate served as further evidence of the man's self-absorption and lack of seriousness. Supporters struggled to contain themselves and to avoid criticizing Trump himself for the NFT misstep. Instead, they pummeled his "advisers" and urged the firing of whatever clowns orchestrated the whole plan or wrote the embarrassing copy of the Trump sales pitch.

We join the critics. While there is nothing wrong with Trump trying to make money, we still expect a level of dignity and restraint in how the man seeking the highest office in the land conducts himself. We know that Trump has never felt constrained by convention. And we know that he views himself exempt from behavioral or other limitations observed by most others who seek public office. But the over-reaching nature of this effort — with Trump literally promoting himself as a cartoon character just to line his own pockets — seems to go too far.

Nonetheless, given the mounting legal challenges Trump is facing and the extraordinary legal fee charges he will be receiving in the months ahead, maybe it's not such a bad idea for him to do anything he can to make some money. **JE**



Ban Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

By Rabbi Beth Janus and Seth Lieberman

Reds, yellows and oranges burst out and dance around us as fall arrives in Philadelphia. But soon after this vibrant display of beauty, the roars of gas-powered leaf blowers seize our attention.

Several weeks ago, we read the story of creation from Genesis. Here we learn one of our first commandments, "The Holy One of blessing took the first earthling and placed them in the Garden of Eden, to serve it and to care for it." Living on a healthy planet is crucial for our wellbeing and the survival of all of God's creation. This obligation to serve and care for the Garden of Eden, with its Tree of Life, prompts us to ask how we are caring for our current corner of the planet.

When our beloved trees lose their leaves, do we respond in a way that shows care for our Earth? Too often, we respond with gas-powered leaf blowers. As they work, they unleash carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and carcinogenic hydrocarbons into the air that surrounds us, dramatically contributing to climate change. Our holy texts provide Jews with a vital moral perspective. During this time of climate crisis, our voices need to be amplified.

Climate scientists tell us that we need to reduce emissions drastically if we are to achieve the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. After 1.5 degrees, irreversible events will occur. These catastrophic events will affect us all but especially those with fewer resources.

While curbing climate change can seem overwhelming and complex, there are concrete steps we can take immediately that will have a measurable effect. Alongside Washington, D.C., Seattle and more than 170 municipalities in the country, Philadelphia can join the growing consensus that phasing out gas leaf blowers will significantly reduce carbon emissions.

A 2011 study by the car review company Edmunds found that using one gas leaf blower for 30 minutes generated more hydrocarbon emissions than driving a Ford Raptor pickup truck from Philadelphia to Juneau, Alaska! Transitioning to electric blowers immediately reduces the harm.

The Jewish value to protect the earth is clear, but it is just one of the reasons to ban these polluting machines. We also share the value of protecting our community's residents. The Mishnah teaches us in Bava Batra 2:8,9 that we must distance animal carcasses, graves, threshing floors and tanneries from a city because all of these harm air quality and residents' health.

Gas blowers emit up to one third of the oil and gas used to power them. These emissions cause asthma, cancer and cardiovascular conditions for those who live in places where they are used. They

are especially harmful for the workers who strap on the blowers and must breathe their fumes all day long. Many of these workers are low-wage immigrants who have little choice in what they do to earn a living.

The simplest and quickest solution is to transition to electric leaf blowers. We are used to seeing powerful electric vehicles, and the same technology is widely deployed for both commercial and consumer leaf blowers. Because of the widespread ban of gas blowers, the technology is readily available and positively reviewed by publications such as Wirecutter.

Electric blowers are significantly quieter than gas ones, and their engines generate zero emissions. Because the cost of operating battery equipment is low, the costs will be recouped on average within 10 months. Phasing out gas blowers over a few years allows landscapers time to plan.

As United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said at the COP27 conference in November, "Human activity is the cause of the climate problem. So human action must be the solution. It is a moral imperative. We need all hands on deck for faster, bolder climate action."

Our Jewish values can power our actions to address causes of climate change. Join our campaign to ban gas powered blowers in Philadelphia ... we can protect ourselves, the planet and landscape workers. Sign our petition at QuietCleanPhilly.org. **JE**

Rabbi Beth Janus is a Reform rabbi living and working in Philadelphia. She is a member of the Germantown Jewish Centre's Green Team. Seth Lieberman is a member of the Germantown Jewish Centre's Green Team and runs Leadership Breakthroughs, a firm developing scientific and medical leaders. He is a cofounder of QuietCleanPhilly.

letters /

Archbishop Sends Holiday Greeting

Together with the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, I extend prayerful best wishes as you prepare to celebrate the Festival of Lights in all of its beauty.

As you light the menorah and recall the glory of the Temple's rededication, may you be filled with joy and hope. May this Chanukah also strengthen the bonds of love and affection you share with family and friends.

Shalom Aleichem! **JE**

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez., Archbishop of Philadelphia

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



Chanukah Is the Holiday That America Needs Right Now

By Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein

As a young child, I often wondered why people light the hanukkiah, or Chanukah menorah, in so many different places. Some light the candles on their front porches and driveways, some in the streets, others in city parks and a very select few even light candles at the White House.

But with the recent rise of antisemitism, some only shine their lights in the inner chambers of their home, a place that feels safe and secure. As the Shulchan Aruch, or Code of Jewish Law, warned centuries ago, the mitzvah of *perumei nisa*, or publicizing the miracle (Talmud Shabbat 23b), was contingent on the dangers of institutional antisemitism and our enemies' desire to extinguish the Jewish people's light. (Shulchan Aruch, O.C.H, Chanukah 3:5)

In America today, our democracy faces a similar problem. The barrage of threats to our civil society, increased polarization and a heightened threat from domestic extremists are pushing the light away, to the detriment of us all.

Many Americans today feel that they cannot express their true identities because of how others might perceive or treat them. The fear of rejection, the fear of violence, or worse, cause too many to hide their light, acquiescing to the oppressor. Chanukah literally means to rededicate, rebuild, reconstruct — our institutions and our selves. We are to fix that which has been broken so we can reimagine what is possible for the future. During this festival of lights, we are reminded to embrace our unique identities, regardless of what oppressive systems might dictate.

As a proud American Jew whose ancestors on one side fought in the American Revolution while other ancestors were enslaved on American soil, and as an Orthodox rabbi working to build communities of the 21st century that work for everybody, I understand the way systems of oppression conspire to extinguish our lights.

Systems of oppression are often described using “the four I’s”: ideological, interpersonal, institutional, internalized. The Greco-Syrians of the Chanukah story opposed the Jewish people’s relationship to God and the Torah (ideological), forced the Jewish leaders to coerce their loved ones to publicly defame the Torah (interpersonal), renamed Jerusalem “Antiochus” and decreed that Jews remove their mezuzahs, sacrifice pigs and write above the door of their houses “there is no God in this place” (institutional). Finally, they caused many Jews to embrace the ways of their oppressors (internalized).



America needs a Chanukah because when walls and windows are breached and broken, whether in 2021 or 2,200 years ago, it is hard to believe one would ever see light again.

That’s why I believe that just as the Jewish people need a Chanukah to usher in a time for light in the face of much darkness, America needs a Chanukah, too.

With ideological and culture wars pinning social groups against one another, many search in the darkness for even a few Maccabees to remind Americans what our democratic seal still stands for.

In the year 164 BCE, Antiochus of Greece breached the doors of the Jerusalem Temple, defiling the sacred, leaving but one flask of oil. Though not a direct parallel, in the year 2021 C.E., a dangerous mob of white supremacists breached the doors of the United States Capitol building, defiling democracy and sending defenders running for their lives.

America needs a Chanukah because our light still burns strong and we must recommit to the democratic ideals of our nation.

America needs a Chanukah so that when we come across darkness and hate in the media, we can combat that rhetoric with language of justice, love and openness.

America needs a Chanukah because when walls and windows are breached and broken, whether in 2021 or 2,200 years ago, it is hard to believe one would ever see light again.

The Alter Rebbe of Lubavitch taught: “A little light dispels a lot of darkness.” The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

For thousands of years, lighting the hanukkiah was an act of protest, reclaiming who we are, reclaiming our stories and rededicating ourselves to the past lights, and the ultimate restoration of the menorah’s light in a rebuilt Jerusalem. A time when systems and structures exist where all people feel like they can bring their light, and that they belong. As we approach the winter months and the year ahead, let us remember there is always light, and we must let ours shine. **JE**

Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein is the rabbinic scholar and public affairs adviser for the Jewish Federations of North America.



Pan Am 103: Prisoners of Hope

By Rabbi Charles S. Sherman

On Dec. 11, I awoke to the stunning news that the man accused of making the bomb that killed 270 people in 1988, the Lockerbie bombing, was now in custody.

On Dec. 21, 1988, I was the senior rabbi of the largest synagogue in Central New York. It was a cold, blustery, uneventful early morning until “that phone call.” It was from Syracuse University, informing me of the bombing.

I was told that, among the 270 people killed, 35 were Syracuse students flying home for Christmas after a semester abroad. The Jewish chaplain, a colleague and good friend, was already on his way to JFK to be of assistance. The university, with its large world footprint, wanted and needed to bring its community together almost immediately and asked if I would represent the Jewish community.

Thirty-four years later, now living in Elkins Park, I clearly remember putting down the telephone, sobbing uncontrollably, a transformative moment, one of the most difficult days of my life as a pulpit rabbi – and not exactly sure if I had the content and composure to offer the necessary wisdom and context.

The bombing, of course, was a tragedy for everyone on board and their loved ones. But when so many young students, at the prime of their lives, were taken, it was especially jarring and unbelievable; all of their dreams and potential were gone in seconds.

That evening, Hendricks Chapel, a very impressive centerpiece of the Syracuse campus just steps away from the better-known Carrier Dome, was overflowing; there were students, faculty and members of the larger community – thousands of people, seated and standing in the aisles and thousands more on the campus in silence, in pain and disbelief.

Inside the chapel, every faith tradition was represented. Leaders from different traditions and beliefs were all there for the same purpose – sharing the importance of community, at times of a faceless community, where people still feel connected by a culture of reciprocal responsibilities.

No political commentary was necessary. The heinous nature of the crime was obvious. And I, a “person of faith,” seized with anger and disappointment, needed to somehow relay a message of honest belief and confidence. My immediate response was one of reassurance.

In part, this is what I said:

“There are certain matters of the soul that will always defy mathematical or scientific explanation.



We can't know if there is a heaven or if God exists. We can't know why bad things happen to good people. Humble acceptance of the limitations of our knowledge is where faith begins. Faith is learning to live in that zone of discomfort. Faith is learning to feel at home there. But faith is also action. It is an act of faith to take what we can know and use it to fulfill God's purpose on earth.

“It's tempting and understandable to say, ‘Why me? What did I do to deserve this? It's not fair. It shouldn't be this way.’ Yet, such sentiments reveal more about us than they do about God. When we say something is not fair or we do not deserve it, we haven't sat down with a scale and put our merits on one side and demerits on the other side to see our merits outweigh our demerits. No, what we really mean is: I do not want life this way. I want it to be the way I want it. The thing is, life comes as it comes. It is what it is. And faith is our trust in our ability to handle that which we cannot control. It is what God has given us to live fully, bravely and meaningfully in this less-than-perfect world.”

The late Leonard Fein, a friend, was a brilliant social scientist, a passionate and gifted writer and a veteran social activist. In trying to cope with his daughter's sudden death, a personal tragedy beyond description – “the permanent presence of an absence” – he confronted one of the toughest questions there is: How can we pick up the pieces of our lives and go on to laugh and love in the aftermath of grievous loss?

“We live neither in the valley of the shadow of death nor atop the mountain of redemption; that we live

instead in a desert of shifting sands where the best we can do as we seek to come to a better place and a better time is to press our bodies against those who falter and are about to faint, hold them close and upright until we come to the next resting place, there to regather our energy and then to resume the journey.”

The news of the man arrested brought it all back. On some levels, it is still very fresh for me.

I often wonder how best do we honor those lost that day? How have we resumed the journey? When you enter the “quad,” the Syracuse main campus, bucolic, busy and rooted in tradition, there are some steps you must climb that lead to a centerpiece called The Place of Remembrance. It is a semicircular, extraordinary concrete structure that includes the names of the 35 Syracuse students who died on Pan Am 103.

Each year, the Syracuse community gathers in that sacred space during Remembrance Week for a candlelight vigil and rose-laying ceremony. It reminds us to look back and act forward in resuming the journey.

For in the end, we are Jews, *assirei tikvah* (prisoners of hope). We suffer with all who suffer; we remember that we, too, were strangers once, and more than once; we remember the winding through the desert; and we know there is not only a promised land but also a promised time. We know that they who plant in sorrow will surely one day reap in joy! **JE**

Rabbi Charles S. Sherman is the rabbi of Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El in Elkins Park.



Why Christian Zionism Is More Important Than We Think

By Irit Tratt

In the days preceding his election victory, Israel's incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was interviewed by Christians United for Israel founder and chairman, Pastor John Hagee. The comfortable rapport between the two men was evident throughout their talk. Hagee heaped "God's prayers" on the Israeli leader "for all the rest of his life."

This display of mutual admiration reflects the years Netanyahu has spent cultivating connections between Israel and the U.S. evangelical community. For example, Netanyahu spoke at CUFI's 2017 annual conference and told the Christian crowd that they are "Israel's best friends in the world." Netanyahu's address to attendees at the Christian Media Summit in Jerusalem this week indicates that a Likud-led government will remain wedded to safeguarding Israel's relations with evangelicals.

That Netanyahu would take time away from a hectic campaign to speak to Hagee suggests an awareness of the fractious response Israel's new coalition would soon receive from American Jewish groups.

For example, following the electoral success of the Religious Zionist Party, led by Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, the American Jewish Committee released a statement expressing "serious concerns" over previous declarations by RZP members, which conflict with the AJC's prioritization of "pluralism" and "inclusion." Indeed, Smotrich and Ben-Gvir's incendiary comments targeting the LGBTQ and non-Orthodox communities understandably disconcerted the American Jewish establishment.

Both lawmakers have since tempered their rhetoric, with Ben-Gvir disavowing his former association with the far-right Kahanist movement. Still, the Democratic Majority for Israel maintained that it was "deeply troubled" by an "extremist party" gaining a "foothold in the Knesset." Unsurprisingly, the Union for Reform Judaism's chosen language touched on how Likud partnering with the RZP would potentially "jeopardize" Israel's democracy.

Yet it was the former head of the Anti-Defamation League, Abe Foxman, who issued the most direct condemnation. Speaking to The Jerusalem Post last month, Foxman said that he would cease supporting Israel if the incoming

government alters the definition of who qualifies as a Jew under the country's Law of Return.

Such reactions from American Jewish leaders underscore the growing dissonance between U.S. Jewry and Israel's political class. As a result of this, the Jewish state must reframe its relationship with the U.S. to one that emphasizes boosting ties with reliable evangelical allies as it carefully navigates its struggles with Diaspora Jews.

In his book "The Arc of a Covenant," Walter Russell Mead notes that American Jews have often refrained from pushing the U.S. government to adopt favorable policies toward Israel. Instead, they have tended to encourage the U.S. to moderate its pro-Israel positions. Historically, writes Mead, it was not leading Jewish families like the Rothschilds and the Warburgs who strongly advo-

stances on issues critical to Israel's security, notably Iran's quest to acquire nuclear weapons. Instead, their legislative agenda is dominated by noble yet consensus-driven topics such as the war in Ukraine and combating antisemitism.

For their part, organizations like CUFI and the Christian Coalition of America have made lobbying against the revival of the flawed 2015 Iran nuclear deal a cornerstone of their political efforts.

While in office, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Vice President Mike Pence repeatedly pointed to the inextricable link between their Christian faith and their affinity for the Jewish people. Lawmakers like Kevin McCarthy are even experiencing pushback from several Jewish institutions after vowing to remove far-left "Squad" member Rep. Ilhan Omar from the House Foreign Affairs

Evangelicals remain the most ardent custodians of the U.S.-Israel bond. By contrast, American Jewish organizations' public disapproval of Israel's unwillingness to placate their pluralistic demands is indicative of an establishment more concerned with defending progressive ideologies.

cated the creation of a Jewish state but influential Christians like J.P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller.

To date, U.S. Jewry and evangelicals have retained robust differences in their approaches to the U.S.-Israel relationship. While more than half of U.S. Christians backed former President Donald Trump's 2017 relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, only 16% of American Jews did so, according to an AJC poll.

Given that Christians comprise more than 60% of the U.S. population, it makes both demographic and political sense for Israel to nurture its alliance with evangelicals. Israeli tourism figures released before the pandemic show that Christians constitute more than half of Israel's foreign visitors. And with Israel's Ministry of Tourism introducing initiatives to lure Christians to the Holy Land — even as Jewish missions like Birthright face financial setbacks — this figure will likely increase.

Politically, Jewish groups have softened their

Committee should he become majority leader.

Despite some troubling trends among their youth, evangelicals remain the most ardent custodians of the U.S.-Israel bond. By contrast, American Jewish organizations' public disapproval of Israel's unwillingness to placate their pluralistic demands is indicative of an establishment more concerned with defending progressive ideologies than protecting Jewish interests.

Israel must not get bogged down in nourishing such liberal orthodoxies. Moments devoted to fending off such criticism is time spent away from focusing on domestic and international threats.

The divisive comments made by American Jewish leaders portend a reality that requires Israel to reorient its connection toward evangelicals as it seeks to convince Jewish organizations of its centrality and value to the Jewish people. **JE**

Irit Tratt is a writer who resides in New York.

Survey: Democrats Much Likelier Than Republicans to See Antisemitism as Problematic

A national survey found that Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans to agree that prejudice against Jews is a serious problem and that antisemitism poses a growing threat to Jews, JTA.org reported.

The divide between Republicans and Democrats in the Quinnipiac University survey released on Dec. 14 tracks with previous polling — but it also comes after weeks of antisemitic invective from the rapper and designer Kanye West, who now identifies as a Christian conservative and who has courted Republicans.

It also comes after former President Donald Trump, a Republican, dined with West, who is now known as Ye, and Nick Fuentes, a prominent Holocaust denier, and after multiple government and nonprofit groups mentioned spikes in reported attacks on Jews.

The survey showed that 83% of Democrats identified prejudice against Jews as a very serious or somewhat serious problem. Just 44% of Republicans agreed with those assessments. Overall, a substantive majority, 60%, agreed that prejudice against Jews is a serious problem.

A similar divide characterized a question about whether antisemitism “represents a growing threat to Jewish Americans,” with 73% of Democrats saying that it does, as opposed to 34% of Republicans. Overall, 51% of respondents said it represented a growing threat.

Turkey Arrests 44, Claims They Are Tied to Mossad

Turkey arrested 44 people on Dec. 14 for what officials claimed was their involvement with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, JTA.org reported, citing Turkish media.

Those arrested appear to be largely Turkish citizens, and the group includes several private detectives, as well as the director of a private detective firm named Ismail Yetimoglu. No Israelis were arrested.

According to Turkish media, those arrested are accused of shadowing Palestinians and pro-Palestinian organizations in Turkey. Israel has not publicly addressed the arrests.

The arrests come at a warm point in Turkish-Israeli relations, as the two countries recently exchanged ambassadors for the first time in years. This past spring, Mossad’s collaboration with MIT, the Turkish intelligence service, was touted as essential in ending a plot by an Iranian-backed terror cell targeting Israeli tourists in Istanbul.

To Save a Species, a Persian Leopard Moves to Israel

After arriving from France, 2-year-old Mademoiselle is acclimating to her new home before meeting her planned mate, Coresh, JNS.org reported.

Staff at the Ramat Gan Safari, near Tel Aviv, had asked the public for suggestions for a name for the Persian leopard. She was previously in the Beauval Zoo in France’s Loire Valley, Ynet reported.

The leopards will be placed in the same den to familiarize themselves with each other’s scent. Once the safari crew determines that the couple is interested in the encounter, they will be permanently placed in a den together.

“The couple was not chosen as mates randomly,” said safari zoologist Keren Or, according to the report. “She has been intended for Coresh from birth based on specific information and family ties and has been trained in both French and English ahead of her arrival.”

The two felines will participate in a project to reproduce the species, which intends to populate European zoos with 200 leopards and release some of them into the wild.

UAE Jewish Community Opens First Kosher Supermarket in Gulf

More than 100 people gathered in Dubai on Dec. 12 as the United Arab Emirates’ Jewish community opened the first-ever kosher supermarket in the Gulf, JNS.org reported.

The supermarket, named “Rimon,” will meet growing demand for kosher products due to the significant increase in the number of Jews traveling and relocating to the UAE in the wake of the 2020 Abraham Accords.

“Our wonderful community, which keeps growing and prospering here in the UAE, most gratefully continues to benefit from the extraordinary embrace we have received from the Emirates government and local authorities, for over a decade now,” UAE-based Rabbi Levi Duchman said. **JE**

— Compiled by Andy Gottlieb

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IN UKRAINE,

Chanukah Candles Are a Lifeline in the Midst of Power Outages

Steve Lipman | JTA.org

Amid the power outages stemming from Russian attacks, the volunteers will have blankets and sweatshirts for the cold, as well as menorahs and kippahs for religious observance purposes.

In the days before Chanukah, which started on Dec. 18, a few men and women from two Conservative institutions in Israel traveled to the small Jewish community in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, with a supply of needed items.

Amid the power outages stemming from Russian attacks, the volunteers brought blankets and sweatshirts for the cold, as well as menorahs and kippahs for religious observance purposes.

Some 300 boxes of Chanukah candles will also do double duty.

These days, the power in Chernivtsi, a city of around 250,000 (before the war) in Western Ukraine, is more off than on. So the candles will do more than allude to the story of the Maccabees; they will help light Jewish homes across the city.

"This year, it's really important" to have and use Chanukah candles, said Lev Kleiman, leader of the city's Conservative Jewish community, in a recent Zoom interview.

Although the need is urgent, "we will hold onto the candles until Chanukah," he added, his Russian interpreted by Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia, the Russian-born and Jerusalem-based "circuit rabbi" of the Conservative movement's Schechter Institutes

and executive director of its Midreshet Schechter Ukraine. The organizations have been coordinating the move of holiday supplies to Chernivtsi.

Among a few "couriers" bringing goods to Jewish communities in Ukraine, Gritsevskaia has made several trips there in the last 10 months. At the start of the war, she urged Jews in other cities to make their way to Chernivtsi, which was far from the intense fighting on the eastern border.

Chernivtsi, which served as a place of refuge for thousands of displaced people from elsewhere in parts of the Soviet Union threatened by the Nazi army during World War II, is again attracting refugees from throughout the country. Earlier in the war, Kleiman turned his synagogue into a refugee center for some of the millions of Ukrainians fleeing their homeland. The city also became a gathering site for worldwide faith leaders who have denounced the violence and expressed solidarity with the embattled Ukrainians.

Located on the Prut River, Chernivtsi (known at one time as "Jerusalem upon the Prut" for the strength of its Jewish community) is 25 miles north of the Romanian border and home to one of the country's most active Conservative communities.

The city's Jewish population before the war began was estimated at 2,000, including many Holocaust survivors.

And today, following the invasion? The number could be larger or smaller (no one is counting), but some western cities have experienced population growth due to all of the migration.

"No one knows," said Kleiman. "Many left, but many came."

'There are a lot of parallels'

As in other Ukrainian cities, many Jews in Chernivtsi, especially women, senior citizens and children (everyone except draft-age males), have migrated. But uncounted other ones have come to a place of relative safety, either renting apartments or staying in ones under the auspices of the Jewish community. Most of the Jews in Chernivtsi now are those exempt from military service, said Kleiman. Others stayed to be with their husbands and fathers who joined the Ukrainian army after the war began or to care for their aged parents.

Despite real signs of war — rifle-carrying soldiers and policemen on the streets, empty shelves in stores because of shortages, people hurrying to



Even though the need is urgent, Lev Kleiman said his community will wait to use the candles until the start of Chanukah.



safety when they hear sirens – Jewish life there has continued, said Kleiman. The most active organizations in the city are the local outpost of the Chasidic Chabad-Lubavitch movement, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee-supported Hesed Shoshana Welfare Center and Kleiman's Kehillat Aviv Synagogue, which sponsors daily Jewish activities.

The synagogue, located near the Chabad center with which it cooperates on relief activities, is housed in a small, two-story building that contains an office, a kitchen and a large multi-function hall. Kleiman said this Chanukah will be more important than ever because in addition to its ability to bring people together, the holiday also asserts Jewish survival. "There are a lot of parallels," he said.

Electricity in Chernivtsi flows only a few hours each day, and at night, no street lights are on, thanks to incessant Russian bombing of Ukraine's infrastructure and to government-imposed restrictions designed to conserve available resources.

A holiday of lights sans lights? "We've never done it before," said Kleiman, adding that the Jews in his city understand the holiday's symbolism.

Some will come to the synagogue for a communal candlelighting, Kleiman said. Others will light their candles at home. Like all other buildings in Chernivtsi, Kleiman's office and apartment are subject to periodic electricity blackouts, often announced in advance.

"With G-d's help, we will soon have a generator"

– and 24/7 lights and heat in the synagogue, he said. Until then, he and the other residents of Chernivtsi will shiver. The temperature in the city was 29 degrees during the Zoom interview, and a light snow was falling.

Though no Russian missiles have fallen inside Chernivtsi itself, some have reached the outskirts, causing damage to the area's infrastructure and utilities. Other parts of the country have not escaped the Russian onslaught; two months ago, more than 4,000 Ukrainian towns, villages and cities had experienced outages, and 40% of the country's grid was crippled. The bombing of power stations is a major part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's plan to weaponize Ukraine's weather to bully the country into submission as winter sets in. (In addition to candles and other supplies, some Jewish groups are sending generators and heaters.)

'Support each other'

Home in past years to such prominent Jews as actress Mila Kunis, the late Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld, former Knesset speaker Yuli Edelstein and the late poet-translator Paul Celan (born Paul Antschel), Chernivtsi has an honored place in the country's history. On the eve of World War II, some 45,000 Jews lived in the city, about a third of the country's total Jewish population. The collaborationist Romanian authorities, who ruled

the area, established a ghetto in Chernivtsi where 32,000 Jews, including many from the surrounding region, were interned; from there, they were shipped to concentration camps in the nearby Transnistria area, where 60% died.

A third of the city's Jews survived the war. The population grew to about 17,000 when widespread migration from the USSR began in the late 1980s. Like many cities in the former Soviet Union, Chernivtsi has experienced a modest Jewish revival since communism fell and open expression of Judaism was allowed again. It was largely spurred by the arrival of Chabad emissaries and programs sponsored by the JDC.

Though Chabad is the prime Jewish mover in Ukraine, there is also a growing non-Orthodox presence in the country. The Israeli branch of the Conservative movement sent its first full-time representatives to Ukraine a decade ago. The movement's Jerusalem-based Masorti Olami organization sponsors a network of synagogues, schools, camps, youth groups and kosher-certification services across Ukraine. A few decades ago, Kleiman attended the Midreshet Yerushalayim day school in Chernivtsi and Camp Ramah Ukraine. In addition, the Reform movement's World Union for Progressive Judaism has established 10 congregations in the country; the movement estimates that 14,000 Ukrainian Jews identify as members.

These are boring days in southwest Ukraine. TV and radio are only available when the electricity is on, and Internet and cellphone service is spotty. Kleiman called the war a test of the people's mettle, a spur to their growing national unity. As a form of solidarity, many have switched the language of their conversations from Russian – the lingua franca during the Soviet days – to Ukrainian.

Nobody in Chernivtsi's Jewish community is starving, said Kleiman. Kosher food is available at the synagogue, and volunteers bring supplies to people unable to travel. Overall, the morale of the Jewish community is good, he says. Native-born members of the community "support each other," while some people from other parts of the country, separated from their families with fewer personal connections, are depressed, he said.

In the boxes of materials Gritsevskaya has brought to Chernivtsi from Israel are some Israeli-style dreidels, whose Hebrew letters stand for the words, *Nes gadol haya po*: "A great miracle happened here." On dreidels used in the Diaspora, the last word is sham, or "there."

The linguistic symbolism in a land under siege is clear, noted Kleiman, who plans to explain the message to those taking home a dreidel.

"I understand; they will understand, too," he says. "I hope the miracle will also happen in Ukraine." JE

Disney+ Doc Traces Idina Menzel's Rise, From the Bat Mitzvah Circuit to Broadway

Stephen Silver | JTA.org

Before becoming one of the most iconic vocal performers of her time, appearing in Broadway shows such as “Rent” and “Wicked” and voicing Queen Elsa in “Frozen,” Idina Menzel got her start singing as a teenager on the wedding and bar and bat mitzvah circuit near where she grew up on Long Island and other parts of the New York area.

“It was everything to me, formatively,” Menzel said of her early singing experiences. “I believe ... that that had a lot to do with my education in music and genres, but also as a performer. I was so young when I did it ... I would lie about my age, I would be 15 or 16 years old and I’d dress all mature and go in in high heels. I would usually be the only woman in a group of six guys.”

In the new documentary “Idina Menzel: Which Way to the Stage,” which had its world premiere in mid-November at the DOC NYC film festival and is now available on Disney+, Menzel discusses those experiences, even returning to the main venue where she used to perform at weddings and bar mitzvahs. The film also shows Menzel in Pittsburgh in the immediate aftermath of the Tree of Life massacre and shows her sharing her thoughts on it as a Jewish person.

The film, directed by Anne McCabe, follows Menzel’s 2018 arena tour, along with Josh Groban, which culminated in Menzel fulfilling her lifelong dream of headlining Madison Square Garden. It combines concerts with intimate behind-the-scenes moments, as well as archival footage from Menzel’s early life and throughout her career.

“When I heard that the tour was going to culminate at Madison Square Garden, I realized that it was a dream come true — it was a place that I’d always wanted to play, growing up on Long Island, and living in New York City, at NYU and beyond that,” Menzel said. “The fact that I was going to be



Idina Menzel performs in a scene from “Idina Menzel: Which Way to the Stage.”

playing there was a big deal, and I wanted to film it, no matter what I did with the footage, I know I just wanted to document it for myself, so I could take that in and really just appreciate the moment.”

The documentary shows Menzel with her then-preteen son — from her previous marriage to Taye Diggs — and her husband, actor Aaron Lohr, while going through the process of in vitro fertilization.

The tour that the film follows arrived in Pittsburgh about two weeks after the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue massacre, and Menzel is shown singing the “Rent” number “No Day But Today” to a crowd at Pittsburgh’s PPG Paints Arena. (Menzel more recently wrote and performed a song called “A Tree of Life,” which was featured in the closing credits of a recent HBO documentary about the tragedy and its aftermath.)

In that part of the film, Menzel wears a shirt with a Jewish star that says “Stronger Than Hate.”

“That show was all about tolerance,” Menzel says of “Rent” in the film, while on stage in Pittsburgh. “It was about

love, it was about community... I’m sitting here in this beautiful city, a Jewish girl from Long Island. I thought about how we light candles in the Jewish religion, sort of choosing light over darkness, choosing love over bigotry.”

“That particular concert is now tragically defined by what had happened in Pittsburgh, and I felt like I couldn’t ignore that, and I felt like that song was the right song for the moment, and that if there was any way I could use my music to help heal, then I wanted to do it,” she said.

The documentary also looks back at Menzel’s entire career, from breaking through in the original production of “Rent” in the mid-1990s (the “which way to the stage” subtitle, as “Rent”-heads will know, is a reference to what was Menzel’s very first line in that musical), to an ill-fated run at a pop career, to her second big musical smash, “Wicked,” which landed on Broadway in 2003. Viewers also get the story of the “Frozen” phenomenon and its Menzel-performed torch song “Let it Go,” as well as other notable episodes — such as the time John Travolta

mispronounced her name at the Oscars in 2014. (Menzel finds the whole thing hilarious.)

Menzel’s career is about to come full circle, with another bar/bat mitzvah-related performance: She is set to co-star in “You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah,” a Netflix movie adapted from the young adult novel by Fiona Rosenbloom and directed by Sammi Cohen. The film will reunite Menzel with Adam Sandler, who played her husband in 2019’s “Uncut Gems” and will do so again in the new movie.

“You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah” does not have a release date but is expected to arrive sometime in 2023. For now, she’s reveling in the documentary.

“It was just such a joy because I got to look back on it... I got to see myself as a little girl again,” Menzel said. “How I always believed in myself, even more so than maybe I do now. There was no one who was going to tell me that I wasn’t going to live my dream one day. I believed that I had something to offer the world, and so it was really emotional for me to see.” **JE**

Thai Turkey Meatballs with Coconut Curry Sauce

KERI WHITE | SPECIAL TO THE JE

This dish is a great way to use ground turkey which, let's be honest, can sometimes be on the dry, bland side.

The curry can be made as spicy or mild as desired and, even though it is a bit exotic, meatballs and noodles are quite familiar, so picky eaters may go for it. I opted to make spice paste, but to simplify the preparation and save time, jarred green curry paste is an excellent hack. Use about a third of a cup of curry paste in place of the garlic/ginger/onion/chilis.

This dish was delicious served atop brown rice noodles, but it would be equally swell over rice. I completed the meal with a miso-dressed salad, but the options for veggie sides are nearly limitless — greens sautéed with ginger and garlic, carrots roasted with soy and miso, cabbage sautéed with sesame oil and sesame seeds, et cetera.

2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients until thoroughly blended. Refrigerate them while you make the curry sauce.

For the curry sauce:

- 1 whole hot chili pepper
- 1 small onion
- 4 cloves garlic
- 2-inch piece ginger
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 can coconut milk
- ½ cup chicken broth

To finish:

- Juice of 1 lime, plus additional wedges for serving
- 1 handful chopped fresh cilantro, divided

among the meatballs.

When all sides of the meatballs are seared, shake the can of coconut milk well, and add it to the skillet along with the chicken broth. Stir carefully, making sure not to break up the meatballs. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes until done.

Five minutes before serving, remove it from heat, add half of the cilantro and the juice of one lime. Stir, cover and let it sit for a few minutes.

Serve the meatballs over rice or noodles with additional fresh cilantro and lime wedges.

Green Salad with Miso Dressing

Serves 4

- 1 head romaine lettuce or 1 package baby lettuce

2 carrots, grated

- 1 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 1 scallion, white and green parts, sliced

For the dressing:

- Juice of ½ lime
- ¼ cup miso (any type)
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 teaspoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons canola oil

Place all the salad ingredients in a large, shallow bowl. Mix the ingredients well, making sure to break up the miso, and thoroughly blend it to an even consistency, either with a fork or a blender.

Toss it over the salad just before serving. JE



Thai Turkey Meatballs in Coconut Curry Sauce

Serves 2 with leftovers or 4 without

For the meatballs:

- 1 pound ground turkey
- ½ cup finely minced onion
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon finely minced fresh chili pepper
- ¼-½ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- ½ cup plain panko

In a blender or food processor, puree the chili, onion, garlic, ginger and oil. Pour the mixture into a large skillet, and heat until fragrant. Using wet hands, form the turkey mixture into meatballs a bit smaller than a golf ball, and place the meatballs in the skillet — add more oil to prevent sticking.

Sear the meatballs, and turn them over until they are seared on all sides. During this step, scrape the skillet bottom to make sure the seasonings do not burn and to distribute them

Photos by Keri White

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CHERRY

February 19, 1942 - December 15, 2022
 Palm Beach Gardens — Sharon Cherry, age 80, passed away on December 15, 2022, at her home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Sharon, a Philadelphia native, is survived by her husband of 45 years, Martin Cherry, step-children Kim, Ross, and Larry Cherry, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Sharon graduated from Temple University and taught at Overbrook High School in Philadelphia before relocating to Palm Beach Gardens. Sharon was an active and ardent supporter of animal rights groups in Philadelphia and Palm Beach. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Furry Friends Adoption www.furryfriendsadoption.org

EVANS

DR. LEONARD D.O., formerly of Lower Merion, Pa. passed away December 12, 2022. Husband of Denise, Father of Christopher, Melanie (Paul M.), and Gabrielle (Christopher S.), Brother of Dr. Barry Evans M.D. (Beth), and loved by everyone's pets. Leonard enjoyed crossword puzzles, telling jokes, coin collecting, and watching sports. Leonard devoted the past 38 years of his life to practicing internal medicine until the very end.

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GROSS

WILLIAM (BILL)

August 13, 1940-December 3, 2022
 William Sigmund Gross, beloved husband, father, grandfather and prominent Philadelphia businessman passed away at the age of 82 on December 3, 2022. Bill was born in Philadelphia to Leon and Rose Gross and grew up in the Wynnefield neighborhood. A lifelong Pennsylvanian, Bill attended Gompers Elementary and Beeber Junior High. He graduated from Friend's Select School in downtown Philadelphia— n education which he valued greatly— nd he would later serve on the Board of Alumni of his high school alma mater. At Villanova University, Bill earned a degree in business. While in college he served as editor of The Villanovan and promoted a series of classical music concerts on campus. During his senior year in 1962, Bill would meet the love of his life and future wife, Joan Dolgonos, at a Philadelphia Orchestra concert at the Robinhood Dell, and they married in 1964. Bill and Joan had their first daughter, Karen, in 1965 and welcomed their second daughter Elayne in 1968. Upon graduation, Bill joined his father in his family's business, Radio Broadcasting Company, which in its early years supplied background music, public address systems and internal phone systems for businesses. But Bill's undaunted entrepreneurial spirit and his love of technology, specifically radio and communications, led him to steer RBC in new and exciting directions. The company became a dominant force in the pocket pager (beeper) market in the region and in the 1980s expanded into the as yet not fully realized technology of mobile phones. With Bill at the helm, the family business would expand to found WWSG-TV or Channel 57, which offered over-the-air services for HBO, Prism and financial news for viewers without cable TV. Always with an eye to the future, Bill recognized the coming wave of cellular and was on the forefront long before cell phones were in everyone's pockets. While a young man, Bill belonged to the Vesper Boat Club and enjoyed rowing on the Schuylkill River. He was a member of the Union League of Philadelphia and Rotary, The Merion Cricket Club and Stonewall and French Creek Golf Clubs and served on the Board of the Veterinary School at the University of Pennsylvania as well as the East Nantmeal Planning Commission. Always a student of history, Bill realized a lifelong dream when he and Joan purchased a historic property where he could indulge his love of gardening and watching crops grow. With their two children, Bill and Joan traveled to many destinations around the world, and because of Bill's love of fishing and hunting the family purchased a Great Camp in upstate New York and a beachside home in the USVI. Bill especially loved visiting Alaska and hunting lodges throughout the states.

He loved The Three Stooges, The Blues Brothers, science fiction and was an avid collector of vintage coffee mills. Bill was preceded in death by his parents Rose and Leon and his sister, Ladina. He is survived by his wife Joan, his daughters Karen Kent (Mitch) and Elayne Courts (Chris) and his grandchildren Nat, Rowan, Parker, Wyatt and Tess. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider honoring Bill by donating to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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KIRSCHBAUM

Phyllis (Taksey) Kirschbaum died peacefully in West Palm Beach Florida on December 1, 2022, at the age of 92. Born in Philadelphia on June 19, 1930 to Nathan (z"l) and Pauline (z"l) Taksey, Phyllis led a life devoted to her family, friends and the Jewish community. She was the loving wife of Charles Kirschbaum (z"l) for 67 years, devoted mother to Ned (Betsy) and Nancy Kirschbaum, and doting bubbe to her precious grandsons, Sam and Ari. She spent special times with brother Sam Taksey (z"l) and sister-in-law Edith (z"l) by the Florida seaside and held a special place in her heart for her many nieces and nephews from both the Taksey and Kirschbaum families. Phyllis worked as a bookkeeper for Jurin Distributing Co., a wholesale snack business, much to the delight of her children and their friends. Phyllis served the Jewish community her entire adult life in various capacities. As a young woman, she belonged to the American Jewish Congress. As a wife and mother, she was active in synagogue life at Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, serving as editor of the newsletter and on committees devoted to synagogue and community outreach. After retiring to Boynton Beach, Phyllis continued to serve her synagogue and her community, ultimately becoming President of Temple Torah and a mentor to many. In her final years at the Tradition of the Palm Beaches, Phyllis and her friend, Rita spent hours each week organizing the honors for Shabbat and holiday services. And she made sure everyone who took care of her feel loved and appreciated. After serving others tirelessly for so many years, you can now rest. May your memory forever be a blessing!

KNOPMAN

ADELE (nee Markowitz), age 100, died on December 12, 2022. Wife of the late Aaron Kropman; mother of Martin Knopman, Harriet Bernstein, Phyllis Laufer, Richard Knopman and Ilene Steinberg; also survived by 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchild-

dren. Contributions in her memory may be made to KleinLife, 10100 Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19116.

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KUSHNER

Maxene Kushner, loving wife, devoted mother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, world traveler, avid reader, and lifetime Philadelphian at heart, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2022. Maxene was born in Philadelphia in 1930 and married Maxwell Kushner in 1949. Lifelong and inseparable companions, the "M&Ms" were looking forward to celebrating their 72nd anniversary when her husband passed away last year. They were the perfect example of a team – united, connected, devoted, and caring for each other until the very end. Maxene was a kind, generous woman who loved her family, her home, her patio, spaghetti and meatballs, not-quite-ripe bananas, reading books, and playing solitaire with real cards. A champion of the underappreciated, she told truth to power and never backed down from a fight when she knew she was correct. She saw people as they really were, and liked them in spite of it. It made her happy knowing that she could still scrub a floor and do her own laundry right to the end. She was loved far more than she could ever imagine, and is missed far more than she would ever believe. Maxene is survived by son Brian, brother Ari Fisher, sister-in-law Marlene Wald (yet another Max), and numerous nieces and nephews. A private funeral service was held in Boca Raton. Contributions in her memory may be made to Einstein Healthcare Network's Andrew Zachary Wald Fund or any reputable cause.



LEVIN

BETH - December 16, 2022 of Richboro, PA. Beloved wife of Steven; loving mother of Staci Steinbrecher (Doug), Chad Levin, daughter-in-law Agnes Levin, and the late Dr. Gabriel Levin; adoring grandmother of Jordan, Shane, Ruby, Violet, and Douglas,

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Jr.; devoted sister of Sharon Snyderman (Bob); treasured aunt to many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Hope For Depression (hopefordepression.org).

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LINDER

THELMA (nee Elster)-We are saddened to announce the passing of Thelma Linder z"l, wife of the late Lee Linder z"l, mother of Rhonda (Michael) Yanoff and Sharon (Mitchell) Cohen; Bubbie of Rabbi Eric (Dava) Yanoff, Abby (Adam) Sher, Adam (Samantha Hirsch) Yanoff, Joshua Cohen, Jonathan (Nikki) Cohen, and Jeremy (Emily) Cohen; Big Bubbie of Aiden, Ezra, Avi, Anael, Evan, Jacob, Alexandra, Jonah, Gabriel, Theo, Jason, Leo, Julie, Devon, Dana, Drew, and Emmett. Contributions in her memory may be made to Camp Ramah in the Poconos, www.ramahpoconos.org, Adath Israel in Merion Station, PA, www.adathisrael.org, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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LIPKIN

DOROTHY GRANT (nee Swift) December 12, 2022. Age 100. Wife of the late Edward Grant, late Martin Lipkin and companion of the late Alex Weingarten. Mother of Rena Grant, Fred (Robbi) Grant and Robert (Miriam) Grant. Grandmother of Ronni Temple, Frank Chackler, Alison (Adam) Masef and Eddie (Brooke) Grant. Great grandmother of Adam, Shaela, Kate, Reilly, Grace, Ella, Troy and Charlotte. Close friend of Gordon and Barbara Weingarten. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

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MARGOLIS

LENORA "Norie" (nee Sitner), 84, passed away on December 10, 2022 in Boca Raton, FL. Norie was born May 3, 1938 in Philadelphia, PA. She was pre-deceased by her parents, Izadore & Sophie (nee Verbitsky) Sitner, brother Morris Sitner, 2nd husband Harris "Heshy" Margolis, and son Marc Klingsberg. She is survived by her daughter Barbara Klingsberg, brother Frank Sitner, 1st husband Evan Klingsberg, full time caregiver & loving friend for the last 8 years Claudia Eaton, her step children Robert Margolis (Marcia), Stuart Margolis (Suzette), David Margolis (Karen), and 5 grandchildren Caroline (Brian), Katie, Josh, Lauren, and Taylor; along with many nieces and nephews that adored her. Family & friends were the core of Norie's world, along with her love to travel, and the casinos (in her later years). Contributions in Norie's memory can be made to The Alzheimer's Association, or the charity of your choice.

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MILNER

EDITH (nee Grunberger). Dec. 15, 2022. Devoted wife of Israel Milner. Loving mother of Reena Brooks (Barry), Joseph Milner (Allison), the late Jerome Milner, and the late William Milner. Beloved Bubbie of Becky,

Gaby, and Sylvie. A survivor of the Holocaust. Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Sinai Holocaust Education Fund, 1401 Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA 19025.

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PERELMAN

FLORENCE K. - nee Kassel. December 13, 2022. She was a clerk/typist for the City of Philadelphia. Beloved wife of the late Stanley E., Devoted mother of Holly (Robert) Lankin and Harvey (Ilene) Perelman. Loving grandmother of Andrea Lankin (Leah Garber), Rebecca (Mitchell) Harris, Elyse (Eric) Golub and Andrew (Evette) Perelman. Loving great grandmother of Max, Suri, Dani, Sidra and Shannon. Contributions in her memory may be made to Beth Sholom Congregation, 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 or Crohns and Colitis Foundation, 2 Bala Plaza, Suite



WERLINSKY

REMEMBERING FLORENCE (nee Ginsberg) on the first anniversary of her passing. Florence is deeply missed by her friends and family and all of the lives that she has touched. Florence was the daughter of the late Samuel and Betty Ginsberg and sister of the late Morton Ginsberg. She was married to Dr. Samuel Werlinsky for 49 years, until his passing in 1999. Florence was an ambitious woman. She graduated from The Jewish Hospital with a nursing degree and she worked as a nurse, in many different capacities, for many years, until she became a nursing home administrator. She undertook many ventures in her lifetime, including continuing her education into her 90's. Florence was always there for a friend in need. She utilized her nursing skills to assist friends who required help with medical needs. She was selfless, generous and had an excitement for life, always ready to take on an adventure. She was a world traveler, even riding an elephant in Africa in her late 80's. She wasn't the type to observe, if she wanted to do it, she did it. Florence was a social butterfly with beautiful wings. She was active in her synagogue, Hadassah and her condo's entertainment committee, as well as many other things, too many to mention. She was small but mighty, a true force of nature. Anyone lucky to have known her has been blessed. Florence's greatest accomplishments, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren miss her beyond words. Not a day goes by that her influence has not been felt in our lives. Mom and Grandmom, thank you for all of the wonderful memories. We love and miss you.

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you and your
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What's happening at ... Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel Honors Long History

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel in Center City is a combination of three different synagogues that once existed in Jewish Philadelphia — Temple Beth Zion, Temple Beth Israel and the Neziner Congregation.

The first to open, Temple Beth Israel, did so in 1840. That makes BZBI the third-oldest congregation in Philadelphia, according to the history section on the temple's website.

For a religion in which *l'dor v'dor*, or from generation to generation, is a core principle, maintaining an almost 200-year-old Conservative congregation is a serious responsibility. But BZBI leaders say it comes naturally. You can feel the tradition when you walk through the doors on South 18th Street, according to Rabbi Abe Friedman, the temple's spiritual leader.

People dress how they want to dress, Friedman explained, in everything from three-piece suits to T-shirts. They also sit wherever they want since BZBI members have never believed in markers of status. And when congregant Eileen Dwell joined in 2014, people were friendly right away and quick to reach out.

"I feel comfortable there," she said. "I feel comfortable spiritually; I feel comfortable socially."

Akil Bowler, the chair of the building committee on BZBI's board of trustees, is a convert to Judaism who joined the temple around the same time that Dwell did. And he echoed her sentiment.

"The congregation and community as a whole is not cliquey," he said.

How could it be? The respective synagogues that formed BZBI were places of refuge for Polish, German, Eastern European and Russian immigrants to the United States. Merging was a business decision, but it also brought those groups together. And today, while BZBI no longer needs to serve as a place of refuge for immigrants, it does remain a melting pot.



Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel rabbis Abe Weber and Abe Friedman

Among the 400 member households are people who have lived in the city for decades, empty nesters who moved downtown from the suburbs and young families who live in the Graduate Hospital and Point Breeze neighborhoods, according to BZBI Assistant Rabbi Abe Weber. While "a lot" of congregants have joined within the last 10 years, Friedman said, several have been members for almost 50 years. Certain families are "second, third, even fourth generation in the congregation," he added.

The mix has helped BZBI avoid some of the difficulties that have plagued other local synagogues in recent years. The 400-family congregation has remained stable over the past five years, with old members leaving and new members joining each year. BZBI's early childhood program and religious school have 65 and 45 students enrolled, respectively. And 60 to 70 people attend Shabbat services each week unless there's a special event like an *aufruf*, in which case more people attend. Most of that crowd is in-person now, too, since BZBI is back open after staying closed or partially closed for much of the pandemic.

"It's people who are committed to



BZBI's new member meet and greet, Sukkot 2022

living in the city. BZBI is their central hub," Weber said. "A lot of our Shabbat regulars are families who are really committed to being part of the fabric of the city, and that's nice to see."

Friedman, Weber and other temple leaders are in the process of developing a strategic plan for the 2020s. There are not yet specifics to share, but there is a principle to follow, according to Friedman. He wants BZBI to continue fostering a sense of belonging, but to do that for the wide variety of Jewish people today. He mentioned Dwell, a synagogue member for decades in the suburbs before joining BZBI, and Bowler, who started his conversion process in the past decade, as two types of members whom the synagogue should work to accommodate equally.

"How do we make BZBI a place where people will feel like they are seen and centered in the experience of our community?" Friedman asked. "In the next 10 years, I'm committed to deepening our investment in terms of belonging as a core piece of BZBI."

That is what BZBI's leaders have always tried to do. Now they are just attempting it with a different and modern population of Jews.

"There's a huge weight of respon-



Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel in Center City

sibility to hold true to the past but to help it build for the future," said Lynne Balaban, the synagogue's executive director. "So much of what we do is making sure we're respectful of the culture and community but also helping it come into the next age or century for families who will utilize it down the road." **JE**

jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com



Chanukah and Joseph Inspire Us

By Rabbi Linda Holtzman

Parshat Miketz

The story of Joseph is a story of dreams: first Joseph revealing his own dreams that antagonize his brothers, then Joseph finding the meaning in the dreams of those with whom he is imprisoned, and finally, in this week's Torah portion, Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams and finding himself second in command of all ancient Egypt.

Dreams in the Torah have power as do all the dreams in our own lives. Miketz falls during Chanukah, so dreams are especially important to us right now. We need dreams to give us the impetus to move ahead, to gain vision, to process all that happens in our lives and our world.

This is the time of year that is cold and dark. The days are the shortest of the year. Many of us go out in the darkness in the morning and come home from work after the sun has set. Having so little light and so much dark time should give us extra time to dream, but it isn't always enough. To learn to use this dark time well, we need to pay attention to Joseph and to what helped him look into dreams so deeply and clearly.

First, Joseph pays attention. He learns as a boy to notice what is going on with others. His own brothers teach him how dangerous it can be to not pay attention. And when Joseph grows up, he is primed to notice everything in life. There are many writers who see Joseph as a queer man: He loves bright, multicolored coats; he isn't interested in sleeping with his employer's wife; he is treated like an outsider. Joseph learns to pay careful attention to everything to help him negotiate the challenging, unaccepting world.

As we read the story of Joseph, we can all use his inspiration. We can

give ourselves ample time to dream and to hold onto our dreams. We can all try to pay closer attention to what the world is bringing us. And we can all use this time to shine a light on what is truly happening in our lives and our world. It is not a coincidence that the story of the dreamer, Joseph, and the holiday, Chanukah, fall at the same time every year.

It is nothing short of a miracle that Joseph, an imprisoned, young, possibly queer outsider, a young man from another land, can use dreams to catapult himself to such a position of power. When Joseph can reach inside and find a way to access the power of dreams, to shine light on the truth, there is no end to what can happen. It is a miracle.

When we give ourselves the time to focus on our dreams, when we shine a light on ourselves and our world, there is no end to what can happen. There can be new miracles. It was up to Joseph to persevere, even from deep within a prison, and to find the light he needed to change the fate of an entire people, an entire country. It is up to each of us to give ourselves the time to step back at this cold, dark time and to shine a light on all that we need to see to change our own people, our own country.

When we shine our lights in the world, miracles happen. Then we see injustice and we work to fight against it. Then we see how people are mistreated because of their race or religion or sexual identity or gender and we work to fight against that mistreatment. Then we stay open to all that desperately needs to be changed and healed in this broken world and we don't shy away from the work that needs to be done.

It is not easy to let ourselves use these short days with so little light effectively, but the confluence of the Joseph story and the miracle of Chanukah remind us that we can cause miracles. We all have dreams:

dreams of a better world, of a community where everyone is treated with loving kindness and respect, dreams of a world where antisemitism and Islamophobia and racism and homophobia and transphobia vanish.

We can use the inspiration of Chanukah and of Joseph to do our part to bring about the miracle of this new world. My hope is that this Chanukah will be the one that inspires us to create a healthier, kinder and more just community and country. Wishing all of us a Chanukah of great miracles! **JE**

Linda Holtzman is the director of student

life at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the rabbi of the Tikkun Olam Chavurah. She is a commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Faith Based and Interfaith Affairs and is involved with the Anti-Gun Violence initiative of Live Free/POWER. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.





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SUNDAY, DEC. 25

BEING ___ AT CHRISTMAS

Being ___ at Christmas is back at The Weitzman. Beginning at 10 a.m., get in the groove at an interactive kids' concert, a traditional Chinese lion dance demonstration from the Philadelphia Suns, a family-friendly drumming workshop and hip-hop dance workshop with Movemakers Philly. **For more information, contact programs@theweitzman.org or 215-923-3811. 101 S. Independence Mall East, Philadelphia.**

For more information, call 215-635-1505 or email office@mbiee.org. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

BINGO WITH BARRY

Join Barry at Tabas Kleinlife for an afternoon of bingo at 12:45 p.m. on Dec. 27 and 28. Free parking and free to play with snacks available on Dec. 28. **For more information, call 215-745-3127. 2101 Strahle St., Philadelphia.**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Introduction to Judaism at Congregation Kol Ami is an engaging, multi-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life, from Nov. 2-March 8 at 7-8:30 p.m. No charge for congregants. \$180 per device for non-congregants. **For more information, contact Ruth Scott, director of community engagement at ruth@kolaminj.org. 1101 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.**

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

CANASTA GAME

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

PARSHA FOR LIFE

Join Rabbi Alexander Coleman, a Jewish educator and psychotherapist at the Institute for Jewish Ethics, at 9 a.m. for a weekly journey through the weekly Torah portion with eternal lessons on personal growth and spirituality. **Go to ijethics.org/weekly-torah-portion.html to receive**

the Zoom link and password.

MUSICAL KABBALAT SHABBAT

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

information. 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

MONDAY, DEC. 26

MAHJONG GAME

Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El Sisterhood invites the community to join our weekly mahjong game at 7 p.m. Cost is \$36 per year or free with MBIIE Sisterhood membership.

ENGAGEMENT

GOULD-LINARES

Julia and David Gould of Newtown and Lisa and Bryant Linares of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, announce the engagement of their children, Jacqueline Taylor Gould to Cameron Robert Linares.

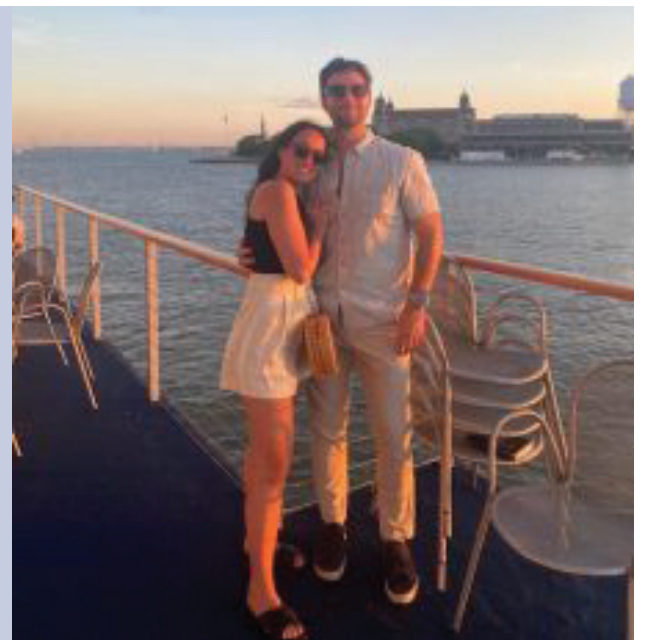
Jacqueline is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with a teaching degree in special education and a master's degree as a reading specialist. She is a special education teacher in New Jersey.

Cameron is a graduate of Fordham University as a business major with a dual concentration in finance and information technology. He is the principal consultant at Wonderbotz.

Jacqueline's grandparents are Fran and Floyd Zonenstein of Boynton Beach, Florida.

A spring 2024 wedding is planned.

Courtesy of the Gould family



Courtesy of The Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History Instagram

Out & About

Courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



Courtesy of Debbie Zlotnick



Courtesy of Hannah Koval



1 The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Women's Philanthropy division held its annual Lion of Judah event on Nov. 10 at Hotel West & Main in Conshohocken. 2 Federation Housing residents enjoyed entertainment from an Elvis Presley impersonator. 3 Cheltenham resident and Penn State University student Hannah Koval made challah turkey for her family's Thanksgiving dinner this year. 4 The Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties held a turkey drive to help provide 670 meals to local families during the holiday season. 5 KleinLife in Northeast Philadelphia celebrated Thanksgiving with more than 130 area seniors. 6 Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim's beer club had an outing at Tired Hands Fermentaria in Ardmore.

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

Courtesy of Stu Coren

Courtesy of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Rue Landau

JEWISH DEMOCRAT ANNOUNCES CITY COUNCIL RUN

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

Rue Landau's father Mike Landau grew up at Har Zion Temple back when the Conservative synagogue was in Philadelphia's Wynnefield neighborhood. And her mother Dotsy Landau came of age at a Reform temple, Congregation Rodeph Shalom on North Broad Street.

But even though they hailed from different denominations, the Landaus preached the same Jewish value to their daughter: tikkun olam.

"When I was growing up, my parents taught me that we all have a role to play in healing the world," she recalled.

Since reaching adulthood three decades ago, Rue Landau has tried to do her part. She's been a housing organizer, an attorney for Community Legal Services and the director of Philadelphia's Commission on Human Relations and Fair Housing Commission.

And now she wants to try to do her part by serving on the Philadelphia City Council. The 53-year-old announced her campaign for one of the seven at-large seats on the body on Dec. 13 before friends and family members at the John C. Anderson Apartments in Center City. At-large council members represent the entire city.

Landau, a Democrat, is one of more than a dozen candidates in the race for those seven seats, including five incumbent reps in Isaiah Thomas, Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Kendra Brooks and Jim Harrity. If elected, she would become the first openly LGBTQ+ member of council in Philadelphia history. John C. Anderson, whom the apartment complex is named after, was a gay but not out councilman from 1979 to 1983 before dying of AIDS complications.

"Throughout my career, I've done work in basically every neighborhood in this city," Landau said. "Between those connections and my love for every neighborhood, that makes me a good candidate for at-large."



Landau's parents moved out of the city to raise her in Cheltenham. But after she graduated from the University of Delaware, she moved back into Philadelphia at an apartment at 10th and Clinton streets. She had just come out as a lesbian and felt like there was a "more vibrant community in the city than there was in the suburbs," she said. Landau received acceptance from her parents and found a gay community through bars, coffee shops and bookstores.

She also started her activist work by assisting Kensington residents in finding affordable housing and by helping to provide social services to

victims of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 1998, Landau earned a law degree from Temple University and started a decade-long tenure at Community Legal Services, where she represented low-income tenants fighting evictions.

Starting in 2008 and continuing into 2021, she served as director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and the Fair Housing Commission, where she worked with city council to, as a campaign email put it, "overhaul the city's Fair Practices Ordinance and Fair Housing Ordinance." Landau's efforts helped returning citizens get a fair shot in job application processes, provided better

housing accommodations for pregnant and breastfeeding women and added eviction safeguards.

But she left those commissions to teach housing law at Temple and to become the director of law and policy at the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Over the past couple of years, though, she has watched her beloved city fall into a cycle of violence. And now she wants to help.

"I want to use my skills to help Philadelphia turn around and become the city we know we are and can be," Landau said.

Landau and her wife, legal aid lawyer Kerry Smith, are raising their son in South Philadelphia. They attend Reconstructionist synagogue Kol Tzedek in West Philadelphia even though Smith is not Jewish.

The candidate wants other families to see Philadelphia as a place where you can get married, raise a kid and go to synagogue. To her, this means supporting low-income renters, full school funding, increased funding for libraries and recreation centers, more street lights and an overall investment plan that includes businesses.

"All of those things have been proven to immediately reduce violence in neighborhoods," she said.

Smith met Landau 20 years ago when she was helping a friend sub-lease a New York City apartment to Landau's friend. As Smith remembered it, her future wife walked in the door and had infectious energy. So they started dating, even though Smith lived in Boston and Landau in Philadelphia. But as their relationship developed, it became clear to the Bostonian that she was going to have to move to Philadelphia. Landau would take her around the city, talk about everything they saw and run into people she knew.

"It's the way she talks about Philly and looks at Philly. She's like a tour guide," Smith said. "Here's our people and who we are." **JE**

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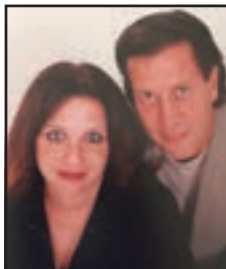
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Miscellaneous:
Get DIRECTV for \$64.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Save an additional \$120 over 1st year. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-855-806-2315

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

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

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To Mr. & Mrs. Leon and Fran Levy and Family
**Happy Hanukkah
with Love**
-Terry

To Stuart Bykofsky and Family
**Happy Hanukkah
with Love**
-Terry

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Legals

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 04, 2022 for **Somar Distribution** at 12428 Balston Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Roberto Martinez at 12428 Balston Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.417

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 September 27, 2022 for **Body Contour Business Academy** at 1500 Chestnut Street #2 Philadelphia, PA 19102. The names and address of each individual interested in the business are Erica Ortiz and Nicole Myrie both located at 1500 Chestnut Street #2 Philadelphia, PA 19102. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.417

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 September 27, 2022 for **Reeves Training** at 7606 Woodcrest Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19151. The entity interested in such business is Reeves Consultants LLC, whose Commercial Registered Office provider's address is 7606 Woodcrest Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19151 in Philadelphia County. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on September 30, 2022 for **DreamChaser_Scrubs** at 4213 N Bodine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140. The entity interested in such business is Dream Chaser Cleaning LLC, whose Commercial Registered Office provider's address is 4213 N Bodine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 in Philadelphia County. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

Fictitious Name Registration
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on September 30, 2022 for **SKS Photography** at 1121 S Clifton St. Philadelphia, PA 19147. The entity interested in such business is AOTS LLC, whose Commercial Registered Office provider's address is 1121 S Clifton St. Philadelphia, PA 19147 in Philadelphia County. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation for a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation were filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for **Doshinkan Aikido of North America** under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on 12/13/22 with respect to a proposed nonprofit corporation, **CHCS Holdings Corp.** which has been incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.

NOTICE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION for a Pawnbroker License. Notice is given that **Cheltenham Pawnshop LLC** did on 12/1/2022, submit to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Banking & Securities, an application for renewal licensure of a pawnbroker office at this location, which is as follows: 8160 Ogontz Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095, Montgomery County. All interested persons may file written comments in favor of or in opposition to the application for renewal with the Pawnbroker Hearing Officer at: PA Dept of Banking & Securities, Non-Depository Licensing Div, 17 N. 2nd St, Ste 1300, Harrisburg PA 17101. All comments to be considered must be received by the Department within thirty (30) days from the date of this newspaper publication.

NOTICE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A PAWNBROKER LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **Olney Pawnbrokers, Inc.** did on 12/01/2022, submit to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Banking, an application for renewal licensure of a pawnbroker at this location, which is as follows: 5708 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19141. All interested persons may file written comments in favor of or in opposition to the Application with the Pawnbroker Hearing Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Banking, 17 N. 2nd Street, Suite 1300, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2290. All comments to be considered must be received by the Department within thirty (30) days from the date of this newspaper publication.

CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, October Term, 2022, No. 002531. Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2022 the petition was filed, praying for a decree to change his name from Kharee Basil Ramue-Hart to Kharee Basil Ramsue. The Court has fixed December 16, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. in Courtroom 691, City Hall, Phila., PA for the hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

ESTATE OF AARON JENKINS, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to, Keisha Jenkins, Administratrix, 1446 W. Sparks St., Philadelphia, PA 19141 or to their attorney Mu'min F. Islam, Esq., MFI Law Group, PLLC, 1117 Ivy Hill Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19150.

ESTATE OF ANNA MARIE DeTRANO-ROSSI, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County **LETTERS TESTAMENTARY** on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to PASQUALE DeTRANO, EXECUTOR, c/o Howard M. Soloman, Esq., 1760 Market St. Ste. 404, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Or to his Attorney: **HOWARD M. SOLOMAN** 1760 Market St. Ste. 404 Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

ESTATE OF BONNIE K. CRANER, DECEASED.
Late of Telford Borough, Montgomery County, PA
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to BRUCE H. BENJAMIN (a/k/a BRUCE HERBERT BENJAMIN), EXECUTOR, c/o Howard M. Soloman, Esq., 1760 Market St., Ste. 404, Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to his Attorney:
HOWARD M. SOLOMAN
1760 Market St., Ste. 404
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF CECIL EDWARD FLOYD, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to STEPHANIE MARIE FLOYD BROOKS, ADMINISTRATRIX, 16331 Hawfield Way Dr., #2412, Charlotte, NC 28277,
Or to her Attorney:
MARK J. DAVIS
CONNOR ELDER LAW, LLC
644 Germantown Pike, 2-C
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF CECIL FLOYD, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to STEPHANIE MARIE FLOYD BROOKS, ADMINISTRATRIX, 16331 Hawfield Way Dr., #2412, Charlotte, NC 28277,
Or to her Attorney:
MARK J. DAVIS
CONNOR ELDER LAW, LLC
644 Germantown Pike, 2-C
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF ERVIN T. GLENN a/k/a ERVIN T. GLENN, SR., DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ADRIENNE A. GLENN, EXECUTRIX, 6342 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia, PA 19138,
Or to her Attorney:
DANIEL BALTUCH
104.5 Forrest Ave., Ste. 10
Narberth, PA 19072

ESTATE OF FAYE A. FLITTER, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims

against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Andrew M. Flitter, Administrator, 35 Grand Banks Circle, Marlton, NJ 08053 or to their attorney Edward L. Paul, Esquire, 1103 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 105C, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

ESTATE OF FRANCES AMELIA DUNMORE A/K/A FRANCES A. DUNMORE A/K/A FRANCES DUNMORE, DECEASED.
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 ERNEST C. DUNMORE, SR., ADMINISTRATOR, 1629 S. 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145,
Or to her Attorney:
David H. Lipow
O'Brien, Belland & Bushinsky, LLC
509 S. Lenola Rd
Building 6
Moorestown, NJ 08057

ESTATE OF G. STEPHEN TINT, DECEASED.
LETTERS of TESTAMENRY 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 DAVID N RUBIN, ESQ
1500 JFK BLVD
STE 1030
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102
215-564-2672

ESTATE OF HAROLD REUBEN STERN, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to GREGORY STERN, ADMINISTRATOR, 19 Moredon Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

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

ESTATE OF HAZEL LATHAM, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to REID OAKLEY, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150,
Or to his Attorney:
JAY E. KIVITZ
KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C.
7901 Ogontz Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF JAMES C. RUSH, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION DBN 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 LA-VERN LUNSFORD, ADMINISTRATRIX DBN, 225 W. Hansberry St., Philadelphia, PA 19144,
Or to her Attorney:
ROBERT DIXON
6800 Clearview St.
Philadelphia, PA 19119

ESTATE OF JOHN P. HILL a/k/a JOHN HILL, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ENEIDA HILL, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102,
Or to her Attorney:
KRISTEN L. BEHRENS
DILWORTH PAXSON LLP
1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JOSEPH FRANCIS LAWSON a/k/a JOSEPH F. LAWSON, SR., DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MATTHEW LAWSON, EXECUTOR, c/o Joseph T. Pace, Esq., 8515 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136,
Or to his Attorney:
JOSEPH T. PACE
LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS J. METTET, P.C.
8515 Frankford Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19136

ESTATE OF KEVIN DOERR, JR., DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Kevin Doerr, Administrator, 517 Oak Lane, Tamaqua, PA 19252 or to their attorney Mark Feinman, Esquire, 8171 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19152.

ESTATE OF LOUISE BARLOW, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to AQUILA N. LEVY, EXECUTRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150,
Or to her Attorney:
Jay E. Kivitz
Kivitz & Kivitz, P.C.
7901 Ogontz Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF MARIAN SZCZEPANSKI DECEASED
Late of Philadelphia, PA. LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make pay-

ment without delay, to Administrator, Piotr Bagniewski. Beneficiaries Renata Iwanska, Edyta Agnieska Zawadzka.
The Law Offices of Jon Taylor, Esquire, PC, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1888, Philadelphia, PA 19103
the estate attorney

ESTATE OF MARIE ROSE MCBRIDE, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ALBERT EDWARD MCBRIDE, III, EXECUTOR, 1322 Amosland Rd., Prospect Park, PA 19076

ESTATE OF MARILYN E. GARDELLIS, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to GEORGE C. GARDELLIS, JR., EXECUTOR, c/o Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020,
Or to his Attorney:
HARRY METKA
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9
Bensalem, PA 19020

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

ESTATE OF MONICA ANN HEALEY, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Patrick J. Healey, Esq., Administrator, 7104 McCallum St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

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

ESTATE OF REINALDO ALAMO, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims

or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to YOLANDA MORALES, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to her Attorney:
DANIELLA A. HORN
KLENK LAW, LLC
2202 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF SONDR A BROWNWELL, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Mark Feinman, Esquire, Executor, 8171 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19152.

ESTATE OF SONDR A HARTENBAUM
Late of Montgomery 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 Executors GLEN HARTENBAUM, 3982 Martin

Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Or DAVID HARTENBAUM, 1600 White House Road, Maple Glen, PA 19002.

ESTATE OF TAJ'ANAE SHATAYA VANESSA SILER, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to WILLIAM ANTHONY CALANDRA, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102,
Or to his Attorney:
KRISTEN L. BEHRENS
DILWORTH PAXSON LLP
1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF TYRONE DAVID TYLER, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to SHARRON TYLER, ADMINISTRATRIX, 4682 N. Sydenham St., Philadelphia, PA 19140

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