

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

'LICORICE PIZZA'

Youth is wasted on the young in this Paul Thomas Anderson film.



PAGE 14

DECEMBER 30, 2021 / 26 TEVET 5782

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OF NOTE

LOCAL

New Year's Resolutions

Philadelphia's Jewish community set goals for 2022.

Page 4

LOCAL

Antisemitic Acts Break Out in South Jersey

Investigators looking into two incidents in Burlington County.

Page 6

LOCAL

JNF-USA Names Philadelphia JNF Future Leader

Sean Siegel shares a devotion to Israel.

Page 17

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Jewish Leaders Take Stance on Abortion

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

IF A JEWISH PERSON was asked to vote for one of two candidates in an election — one who advocated for abortion on demand or one who banned abortion entirely — medical ethics expert Dr. Daniel Eisenberg said that halachically, Jews should vote for the candidate who allowed abortions on demand.

American Jews are not being asked to make this black-and-white decision, but the U.S. Supreme Court is heavily weighing the question of allowing abortion in the United States. In July, the court will convene to decide whether to uphold Mississippi's 2018 law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy and potentially to strike the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which granted federal protection to women seeking abortions.

Republicans and Christian establishments have led the movement to restrict abortion access, but they are not the only ones with voices on the matter. Many area Jewish leaders would agree with Eisenberg's ethical argument.

See Abortion, Page 8



▲ A cohort of campers play at JCC Camps at Medford in 2020, a year when many camps canceled their summer sessions.
Courtesy of Sara Sideman

2021: Year in Review for Jewish Philadelphia

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE 2020, it seemed people were expecting the winds of change to come in 2021.

Health care workers receiving their first COVID jabs in December and an election yielding a new president in November were interpreted as harbingers. In 2021, we hoped COVID would be eradicated

and, in its place, would be a return to what was comfortable or a new normal that was even better than what life looked like before the pandemic.

Instead, we continued and continue to brave the unknown and move forward, adapting to COVID's new challenges, a changing climate and political landscape.

Turn to page 9 for some stories from the Jewish Exponent that shaped 2021.

See Review, Page 9

JEWISH EXPONENT

In the mailbox, online, on social media —
We've got you covered!

THIS WEEK

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 HEADLINES
 - Local
 - Israel
 - National
 - Global
- 10 OPINION
 - Columns
 - Kvetch 'n' Kvell
- 12 JEWISH FEDERATION
- 13 LIFESTYLE & CULTURE
 - Food
 - Arts
- 16 TORAH COMMENTARY
- 17 COMMUNITY
 - Briefs
 - Calendar
 - Deaths
- 18 CLASSIFIEDS

CANDLE LIGHTING

Dec. 31 4:28 p.m.
Jan. 7 4:34 p.m.



What does the future hold for mahjong?

6



Apps are on tap when it comes to celebrating the debut of 2022.

13



What were the best Jewish-themed movies and TV shows in 2021?

15

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Miriam's Advice Well
SUBMIT A QUESTION

Our resident advice giver is seeking questions from our readers. Are you perplexed about Jewish traditions? Unsure of pandemic-era protocol? Confused about child care and its related issues? Concerned about changes in your life? From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to news@jewishexponent.com and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line.



jewishexponent.com/category/community/miriams-advice-well

Philcatessen
QUICK, SIMPLE, DELICIOUS CHICKEN

Sometimes you don't want to spend a long time in the kitchen, but you don't want to settle for mediocre food, either. That's why food columnist Keri White is touting her new recipe in Philcatessen, her weekly blog at jewishexponent.com. A quick marinade, followed by a sear in the skillet and the creation of a pan sauce, is all it takes. Find Philcatessen for the recipe. Check the blog regularly for content not normally found in the print edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. jewishexponent.com/2021/12/27/quick-simple-delicious-chicken



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2022

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SNAPSHOT: DECEMBER 30, 1988

ANY ADVERTISER'S OFFERS FEATURED IN SNAPSHOT ARE NULL AND VOID

Walking a mile in each other's sneakers

By JENNIFER BAUCK
Special to the Exponent

When Jewish students from Akiba Hebrew Academy and the predominantly black students from Girard College get together, they sometimes participate in the "magic circle."

The Akiba youngsters, for example, sit inside the circle and talk among themselves about what it feels like to experience anti-Semitism. The Girard students, sitting on the outside, watch, listen, ask questions and try to understand how it feels to be Jewish.

Then the inner and outer circles switch places.

According to Akiba teacher Leslie Pugach, who supervises the regular meetings of the 25 participating students from each school along with her Girard counterpart, George Keller, some interesting insights result.

"The Girard kids were surprised at how little the Akiba kids agreed on what it means to be Jewish. Among the black kids, there was much more commonality.

"Even so, they could share feelings on coping with rejection and controlling anger," she said.

Pugach said her teaching has made her well-aware

At a Chanukah party uniting students from Akiba Hebrew Academy and Girard College, students (from left) Leonard Love of Girard, Ami Eden of Akiba, Anthony Johnson of Girard and Hana Goldstein of Akiba kindle holiday lights.

Photo by Scott Weiner

of stereotypes that exist in the minds of her students, and she has no doubt that the same thinking is true of the Girard youngsters.

The joint activities foster understanding and allow for friendships among youngsters who would normally never meet.

"I have known only Jewish kids all my life," said

See **AKIBA** next page

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JEWISH EXPONENT

DECEMBER 30, 2021 3

Machers Share Their Resolutions for 2022

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

JEWISH PHILADELPHIANS:

If you have sinned since Yom Kippur, this is your second, secular chance to reset for a new calendar year.

It's time to make New Year's resolutions for 2022. Jewish Philadelphia-area machers, or people who get things done, were kind enough to share their promises to themselves for the upcoming year.

Michael Balaban, president and CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

"An old Jewish story: Mendel meets David. He says, 'I haven't got much time today, my friend, so tell me, in one word, how is life?'"

"David says, 'In one word? Good.'"

"Mendel says, 'Give me a bit more detail. In two words, how is life?'"

"David replies, 'In two words? Not good.'"

"When asked for my New Year's resolution this year, I am reminded of this story. Our world today seems to be swimming in turmoil. Many respond by bemoaning and turning inward. My resolution

is to lean outward more — into things far greater than myself — my family, friends, community and prayer."

Rabbi Elliott N. Perlstein, Ohev Shalom of Bucks County

"I intend to venture farther and more frequently out of my comfort zone."

Rabbi Binyomin Davis, Aish Chaim

"I resolve to be kinder and more considerate of those I don't see eye to eye with."

Sophie Don, senior manager of programs, Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation

"I'm motivated to keep telling the stories of Jewish and non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and current victims of bigotry and antisemitism."

"Personally, I'm hopeful for a healthy and safe 2022! I'd like to spend time with my family and friends, and I'm hoping it will feel safe to travel again."

Allan Domb, Philadelphia City Councilmember At-Large

"We must remain committed to solving the violence epidemic — there's nothing more important than reducing and preventing gun

violence across our city."

"We need to think differently than we have before and use every tool available to us. This includes utilizing our academic experts to help us evaluate our efforts, deploying tech surveillance and being smarter than those causing issues, and examining innovative DNA analyses to help solve crimes and assist prosecutors."

Alan Scher, CEO, Kaiserman JCC

"At the JCC, we are beginning a strategic plan in 2022 with a series of conversations dreaming about our future."

"I will, as a result, put on the listening ears I remind preschoolers to place on their heads when I read the stories and look to be as present as possible with my mind, body and spirit to all the new connections, ideas and wisdom available to us across the Philadelphia Jewish community."

Ben Waxman, Center City resident and Democratic Primary candidate for the 182nd House District seat in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives

"My resolution is that we must commit in 2022 to taking

care of each other, even people we don't know."

"We are at a scary moment with positive COVID cases rising dramatically. The only way through this latest phase of the virus is for the world to make a resolution to come together, trust science and take the steps necessary to contain and end the pandemic."

Gabby Kaplan-Mayer, chief program officer, Jewish Learning Venture

"My intention for 2022 is to continue to innovate with all of our Jewish Learning Venture programming to find ways to make the Jewish community even more inclusive and supportive for all families raising Jewish kids, especially those who have felt marginalized in any way."

"I hope to also find new ways to support the amazing colleagues whom I work with. Personally, I am excited for a new year full of spiritual growth, discovery, fun and creativity."

Daniel Israel, owner of Deluxe Catering

"Personally, they say never trust a skinny chef, but my goal is to eat healthier, climb 100 flights of steps on the StairMaster four times a week

and lose 60 pounds."

"For my business and the Jewish community, my resolutions are to not just grow the catering and event planning businesses, but to grow to the point that we can be philanthropic for the following year."

"My other resolution is to use only compostable products for the business, as well as change all my vendors to be as local as possible to support other local businesses."

Josh Shapiro, attorney general of Pennsylvania and Democratic gubernatorial candidate

"In 2022, my resolution is to spend as much time with my family as I can while continuing to do everything in my power to make Pennsylvanians' lives better."

Polly Edelstein, program manager, Tribe 12

"Continue to build and deepen meaningful connections with our constituents, past, present and future, as Tribe 12 looks toward 2022 with optimism and hope."

"My personal one is to have more dinner parties (safely)." •

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Jewish Man Discovers Arm Wrestling Passion

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

FOR STEVEN ROSENBLUM, a Jewish resident of Northeast Philadelphia, arm wrestling is no mere party trick.

Several years ago, it became his main hobby. Then it turned into his side hustle, as he hosted tournaments all over the Philadelphia area. And now, it's about to transform into his business.

Rosenblum, who works a winter job as a foreman for a

snow plow company, is going to add arm wrestling to a combat school in the Franklin Mills Mall this January. The Philly resident will have sweat equity in the business, meaning he will work for his percentage.

"I think it's a great way to bring a community together," he said.

Rosenblum, 47, seems like he's out of central casting for an arm wrestling enthusiast.

At Northeast High School, he was a four-sport athlete in football, baseball, basketball and wrestling, winning a Public

League wrestling championship. He also did judo, Golden Gloves boxing and even kickboxing.

Then, as an adult, Rosenblum owned gyms for 15 years before the COVID-19 pandemic forced him out of business.

But it was at one of his gyms that he discovered his new niche passion.

A member named Sue Fisher asked Rosenblum if she could bring in her arm wrestling table. She told him she was a professional arm wrestler.

Rosenblum chuckled.

"It's not really a sport," he said, "no offense, defense, running, throwing."

But as time went on, it was Fisher who got the last laugh.

Rosenblum was fascinated that Fisher, a middle-aged woman with toned, but not huge muscles, could win battles of strength like this.

"It's more than just power," he said. "It's skill. It's technique. It's training your arm."

Around the same time, Rosenblum's son Brecken, then 11, told his father that he beat his aunt in arm wrestling. Yet

again, the Jewish man laughed.

"I said, 'You can't beat an adult,'" he recalled.

But yet again, as time went on, it was the arm wrestler who got the last laugh.

Rosenblum challenged his son to beat his mother, and he did. Then the father pushed his son to defeat his grandfather, and he did.

"My father, a stronger older gentleman who works out," Rosenblum said. "My son beat my father with little to no effort."

That was when Rosenblum decided to try this niche sport



▲ Steven Rosenblum, right, and Brecken Rosenblum, left, compete at an arm wrestling tournament. Courtesy of Steven Rosenblum

himself. He sat down against his son and beat him handily.

He was hooked.

The Philly resident started the Philadelphia Arm Wrestling Team, a group of five guys who got together to, well, arm wrestle. He also began hosting tournaments at places like the Final Score Sports Bar & Grill in Bensalem and Daydreams Gentlemen's Club in Philly.

Rosenblum has hosted 24 tournaments since 2019 for beginners, amateurs and pros. He has won four himself, and he describes himself as a low-level pro who can beat 90 percent of the population.

The tournaments, which started early on Saturdays and went all day, were fun but not very profitable, according to the host. So recently, he pivoted.

Rosenblum loves arm wrestling. He also has a sense that it's gaining popularity. But he believes it can get even bigger with more formal training facilities.

As Rosenblum put it, he's building a school.

"I can't wait to finish the gym so I can start teaching classes and really promote the sport," he said.

Rosenblum loves the sport because, contrary to its reputation as a test of raw strength, it actually has a way of leveling the playing field. Someone like Fisher, a regular-sized woman, or his 11-year-old son can beat people who are bigger and/or stronger.

A school will help smaller

and weaker kids train to beat bigger and stronger kids, according to the teacher.

"It shows kids that it's not only size or strength," Rosenblum said. "A weaker kid can easily beat somebody a lot stronger if their tendons are stronger and they've been doing the sport for a while."

Like other combat sports, both today and in the past, arm wrestling can also be a way to channel kids' energy, according to the gym entrepreneur. Rosenblum hopes to one day start a youth league through the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Center.

He said arm wrestling "would do great in the inner city."

"Kids will grow," he added. "They'll see it's not a one-day thing; it's a long-term sport. You have to put the time in."

Rosenblum has seen this process play out with his own son. The two practice when they get together and attend tournaments.

John Hancock Demonstration Elementary School actually banned arm wrestling because Brecken was beating everybody, according to his father.

"When he picked up arm wrestling, he liked to prove to somebody that he was stronger than them without beating them up," Rosenblum said. •

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Tam Cummings, Ph.D., Gerontologist
Author, *Untangling Alzheimer's: The Guide for Families and Professionals*

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Next-Generation Players Preserve Mahjong

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

MAHJONG PLAYERS want you to know that the tile game isn't just for bubbes.

"Over the last five years, it's just unbelievably grown," said Gail Stein, who teaches a beginner's mahjong class at Old York Road Temple-Beth Am in Abington.

Stein began teaching the class over a decade and a half ago, with membership hovering at around 35 to 40 per week. Although COVID-19 forced in-person attendance to drop, the Sisterhood-sponsored group still meets weekly, maxing out the capacity of their meeting space. Stein said five people have spots on the waiting list.

Although the group skews older, and still consists mostly of older women reaching retirement age or becoming empty nesters, the class has seen a few new faces.

"We're starting to get the next generation," Stein said.

The youngest player to join

the class was 13. A man in his 20s or 30s started attending the weekly meetup as well.

"They know if they walk in our door that they are accepted and that we will find a place for them to play," Stein said.

Mahjong is a strategy game, with Japanese, Chinese and American variations. Players aim to create a certain "hand" of tiles that contain various suits.

Beyond being an entertaining game to play, mahjong is mostly played for social purposes, Stein said. It's been this way since she was young, when she learned at 7 years old how to play mahjong from her mother. Stein played the game with a group of 16 friends in high school.

"It's just fun," she said. "It gives me so much pleasure to watch these girls have something to do that's fun because we all work so hard in our lives, and you don't have time for fun."

Although Temple-Beth Am Sisterhood's mahjong group leans toward the typical demographic, their core interest

in playing the game for its social benefits is what's piqued the interest of more young players.

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic began, Tribe 12, a Philadelphia-based organization connecting 20- and 30-something-year-old Jews, hosted a Mahjong 101 night for women and non-binary Jews to learn the game. The programming stopped due to the pandemic. When Tribe 12 asked members what programs they wanted to see in the coming year, mahjong made several appearances on people's lists of requests.

"We had a few people say that they're really interested in mahjong — either people who were in the group before wanting to start up again or people who have never played it, wanting to be part of a game," said Polly Edelstein, Tribe 12's program manager.

"It seems to be a very big thing in pandemic life to have people being nostalgic for things, even goofy things that they did in middle school," Edelstein said.

For young people with grandmothers who grew up playing the game, mahjong is not only a throwback game, but also a cultural touchstone and connector to past generations.

"The pandemic has really highlighted that people are not interested as much in the superficial anymore," Edelstein said.

The younger generation's interest in mahjong has been present for a while now, but it has been latent, said Sarah Allen, co-leader of the Philadelphia Riichi Mahjong Club, which holds weekly mahjong games at the Thirsty Dice game cafe in Philadelphia.

Allen, 25, first found out about mahjong when watching an anime in high school. She started playing the game online, but she soon forgot about it until she encountered a group of people playing the game at the Thirsty Dice in late 2019. She's been playing regularly with the group since July.

Mahjong is one of many tabletop games that has witnessed a growing audience overall.



▲ Mahjong is a tile game mostly played for the purpose of socializing, players agreed.

Photo by Gail Stein

"Recently there's been this renaissance or resurgence of tabletop games," Allen said.

Allen added that she's drawn to the physicality of the game. Although she first picked up mahjong online and enjoys playing virtually, the online game isn't the same as playing with a group in-person.

"There's something more fun about playing it in-person — actually sitting at the table, moving the tiles around with your hands," Allen said. ●

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Antisemitism Breaks Out in South Jersey

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

ANTISEMITISM HAS been breaking out too often for comfort in recent years, according to local and national Jewish leaders.

And in December, antisemitism struck South Jersey.

Two incidents, one at Marlton Middle School and another at Congregation Adath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel, happened in Burlington County specifically.

On Dec. 5 at Adath Emanu-El, a sixth-grade religious school student walked into the office and told synagogue leaders about a swastika sticker

on a sign in the parking lot. "We are everywhere," read the text above the swastika.

Then, on Dec. 16 and 17 at Marlton Middle, two swastikas were found in boys bathroom stalls. Next to one was the sentence "Hitler was right," according to Evesham Township School District Superintendent Justin Smith. The other had a stick figure with X'd-out eyes beside the word "Jew."

Leaders at both institutions informed local law enforcement about the swastikas, and investigations are ongoing. Police removed the sticker at the Reform temple and kept it for their records, according to Rabbi Benjamin David.

Evesham Township Police Chief Christopher Chew told the Courier Post that his department is reviewing video from Marlton Middle.

Burlington County Prosecutor Scott Coffina called both incidents "extremely disturbing." He said he thought they could be related to a larger rise in antisemitism in New Jersey and the country. But he didn't necessarily see them as a problem specific to the county.

Regardless of the reason, though, the outbreaks "need to be confronted," Coffina said.

After both incidents, Burlington and South Jersey residents and leaders did just that.



▲ This swastika was found outside Congregation Adath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel in December.

Courtesy of Rabbi Benjamin David

See Swastika, Page 16

NEWSBRIEFS

Third Graders Told to Reenact Holocaust Scenes

A STAFF MEMBER at a Washington, D.C., elementary school instructed students to reenact scenes from the Holocaust on Dec. 17, JTA reported, citing The Washington Post.

When the third-graders at Watkins Elementary School asked why the Germans killed Jews, the staffer said it was “because the Jews ruined Christmas.”

The woman reportedly told a Jewish student to play the role of Adolf Hitler and to pretend to commit suicide. Another was told to pretend that he was on a train headed to a concentration camp and then to act as if he were dying in a gas chamber.

The staff member told students not to talk about the reenactment, but they told their homeroom teacher.

The staffer was placed on leave that day. School Principal Scott Berkowitz condemned the incident in an email to parents. He said the students met with the school’s mental health team.

AIPAC Gets Into Fundraising Business

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, which is the country’s largest pro-Israel lobby, is getting into the fundraising business, JTA reported.

The AIPAC name has caused confusion for years, as PAC typically stands for political action committee.

On Dec. 16, AIPAC launched a regular political action committee to funnel donations of up to \$5,000 to designated candidates per race, and a super PAC, which can raise unlimited money per candidate. The regular PAC will be named AIPAC PAC; the super PAC hasn’t been named.

“The creation of a PAC and a super PAC is an opportunity to significantly deepen and strengthen the involvement of the pro-Israel community in politics,” AIPAC spokesman Marshall Wittmann said. “The PACs will work in a bipartisan way.”

Torah Scroll Sections Reappear in Germany 83 Years After Kristallnacht

A German Protestant minister handed over segments of a long-lost Torah scroll to the city of Görlitz in southeast Germany, 83 years after his father, a town policeman, came to possess them, JTA reported.

The Torah hadn’t been seen since Kristallnacht on Nov. 9 and 10, 1938.

Pastor Uwe Mader, 79, the minister who turned the fragments over, said his father, Willi Mader, was a young police officer in training when he was called to the synagogue.

Uwe Mader said his father never spoke about what happened that night, so it is unclear how the four Torah fragments ended up in his hands. Uwe Mader believes they must have been cut out by someone who could read the Torah and select certain passages, including the creation story and the Ten Commandments.

The fragments changed hands several times over the years of Nazi and later Soviet rule, eventually winding up with Uwe Mader. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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ISRAELBRIEFS

Plan Approved to Nearly Double Petah Tikva’s Size

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT Planning and Building Committee approved a plan that would add 63,500 housing units in Petah Tikva, increasing the population of the city northeast of Tel Aviv from 266,000 residents to 460,000, Globes reported.

Many of the housing units will be in Sirkin, a new neighborhood on the army base being vacated there, and the Yoseftal neighborhood is set to be demolished and rebuilt. A new road from Sirkin exiting toward Jerusalem will be built.

The plan will encourage urban renewal in industrial zones and proposes adding 3.8 million square meters of office and commercial space, while also improving the transportation infrastructure.

Founded in 1878, Petah Tikva was the country’s first Jewish agricultural village.

Israeli Landline Phone Service Price to Drop 40%

Landline phone service in Israel will be reduced by about 40% in the next two years, saving the public about \$126.3 million annually, the Communications Ministry announced on Dec. 22, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Landline service prices are expected to drop from about \$16-\$19 a month to an average of \$9.50-\$12.60.

The change is expected to benefit the elderly and ultra-Orthodox populations the most because they are the main landline phone users. The price changes are based on the advice of Communications Ministry officials who found that Israeli telecom provider Bezeq makes exceptional profits.

The price changes are the first to landline phones since 2003.

Forty-seven Percent of Arab-Israelis Speak Only Some to No Hebrew

A 2020 survey by Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that 47% of Arab-Israeli respondents said they speak “medium” to “almost zero” Hebrew, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The 53% of Arab-Israelis who rate their Hebrew as “good” to “very good” compares to 91% of Jewish Israelis.

In October, a \$2.84 billion initiative was launched to reduce gaps in education among Arab-Israelis, including a program to improve Hebrew literacy, develop more relevant educational content, promote after-school education and reduce dropout rates.

The initiative also pledges \$760 million to build classrooms in Arab regions and an additional \$2,211 investment per Arab student. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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Abortion

Continued from Page 1

“We feel very strongly, as most of the Jewish community does, about the importance of women’s reproductive freedom,” said Elizabeth (Liz) Downing, the vice president of advocacy for the Greater Philadelphia section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The Greater Philadelphia NCJW signed on to an amicus brief for the case of Allegheny Reproductive Health Center et al v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services being heard before the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in 2019. The case argued that the abortion coverage ban violates the Equal Rights Amendment and the equal protection provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Members of the Greater Philadelphia NCJW participated

in the Philadelphia Bans Off Our Bodies March on Oct. 2.

“The mother should have the freedom to decide what medical procedures will work best for her,” Downing said. “Every woman should be able to decide that for herself.”

Downing has advocated for greater abortion access since before the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision occurred.

“I have many friends who had back-alley abortions when I was in college before Roe v. Wade, and many of them were never able to have children after that,” Downing said. “I don’t want to go back there, and I don’t want the young people today to ever have to know what that feels like to not have those services available if and when they need them.”

Local politicians have also made their thoughts on abortion known. If Roe v. Wade was overturned,

decisions around abortion access would return to the local level, putting an obligation on state politicians to have these conversations.

“Abortion, sadly, has become a lightning rod that’s used as a political sword to weaponize the political sphere and gain political points rather than being treated as thoughtful policy,” said Democratic state Rep. Jared G. Solomon, who represents the 202nd Legislative District, which includes Philadelphia County.

Like Downing, Solomon emphasizes the gestational parent’s right to choose whether to have an abortion.

According to Ben Waxman, the Democratic state representative candidate for the 182nd House District seat, which represents Center City, there’s “a lot of stigma about [something that] is a medical procedure.”

Community members have been eager to discuss the topic of abortion with Waxman.

Waxman’s potential constituency and Solomon’s constituency are both heavily Democratic and Jewish, yet the politicians emphasized the importance of reaching out across the aisle to discuss the contentious topic.

“The most revolutionary thing you can do is have a conversation with someone with different beliefs than you,” Waxman said.

The lack of conversation around abortion in political spaces has made it a polarizing and stigmatized topic. Solomon believes these conversations are difficult but necessary to craft laws that are realistic and driven by values, not political power grabs.

“We’re going to disagree, but we need to be able to have that discussion and a reasonable debate,” Solomon said.

The arguments against abortion have been monopolized by some Christians arguing that life begins at conception, according to Rabbi Abi Weber of Temple Beth



▲ Members of the Greater Philadelphia section of the National Council of Jewish Women at the Oct. 2 Bans Off Our Bodies March appear in Philadelphia.

Courtesy of the Greater Philadelphia Section of the National Council of Jewish Women

Zion-Beth Israel. She said that this view has caused Jewish spiritual leaders to be clear in their ideas about abortion.

“What you’re seeing much more are rabbis, particularly American rabbis, feeling a need to really assert some of these very old Jewish ideas that are different from Christian ideas,” Weber said.

Jewish leaders have emphasized that although the political obligation of Jews to advocate for abortion access is clear, the personal decision to have an abortion is delicate and complicated.

According to Eisenberg, “A fetus is considered to be a human being minus epsilon,” meaning being the closest to, without actually being considered, a born human being.

Because of this consideration, the life of the person carrying the fetus takes precedence over the fetus itself. Therefore, an abortion is permissible if the gestational parent’s health is in danger.

Weber believes that individuals need to consider mental health needs as part of the gestational parent’s overall health. Therefore, if the gestational parent is suicidal, or factors from the pregnancy place a severe strain on the person’s mental health, abortion would also be permissible.

Jewish thoughts on abortion have changed over time. After the Holocaust, Jews took a much more conservative stance on abortion due to interest in Jewish futurity, Weber said.

However, Waxman, who considers himself a progressive, said that Jewish experiences with authoritarian powers in the past have made some Jews more cautious of government restrictions, including for abortion.

Like most considerations in Judaism, although clear halachic guidelines to follow exist, each scenario for an abortion must be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any government restrictions on abortion, Weber and Eisenberg said, would deny this process to take place — a process which is personal, painful and profoundly complicated.

“I know the experience of having potential life grow in my body, and there’s no doubt that it’s sacred, beautiful and special and can be such a wonderful experience for so many people,” Weber said. “And having been through that experience, I’m all the more aware of the toll that it can take on people. As a society, we need to be focusing on the person carrying the child.” ●

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Review

Continued from Page 1

January

Jewish Educators Talk About How Things Have Changed During Pandemic

After having a semester to adjust to the pandemic conditions, with circumstances feeling a little less “unprecedented,” Jewish day school leaders began the spring semester anew. Some schools set up indoor classrooms; other administrators opted to rotate students in and out of the building with hybrid learning. As teachers learned how to instruct their students over the pandemic, the students showed resilience and adaptation to the new school structure.

Jewish Groups Respond to Early Biden Agenda

Shortly after President Joe Biden’s Jan. 20 election, Biden laid the groundwork for plans to combat the coronavirus, as well as create an agenda to make immigration to the U.S. easier, expand refugee admissions and condemn violent extremism, including antisemitism. Area Jewish leaders lauded Biden’s proposals.

February

Elkins Park Trio Helps Seniors Get Vaccines

Beth Sholom Congregation member Danielle Otero teamed up with Sarah Levin and Rebecca Klinger and partnered with the Kehillah of Old York Road during the early days of the COVID vaccine rollout to help older community members schedule their appointments to get the jab.

March

One Year of the Pandemic: Those We’ve Lost

In April 2020, the Exponent created a segment called “Those We’ve Lost,” documenting the lives and deaths of those lost to COVID. In commemoration of the anniversary of the pandemic’s onset, we compiled

the profiles of those named in the segment. COVID deaths in the United States have now surpassed 800,000.

April

From Building an Ark to Vaccine Awareness: B’nai Mitzvah Plans Get Creative

Jewish tweens came of age in 2021 in a way much different than the previous generation. Celebrating Jewish adulthood over Zoom fell short for some families who missed the presence of clergy and relatives. Other families held in-person gatherings with strict COVID precautions, and some becoming b’nai mitzvah used the pandemic as inspiration for mitzvah projects, such as supporting the vaccine rollout.

Summer Camps Plan 2021 Safety Protocols

After a year of canceled summer camps, camp directors were committed to having campers return in 2021 to participate in the treasured Jewish tradition. Campers created their own pods, ate meals outside and signed community covenants asking them to follow their camps’ policies. With smaller attendance, camps were able to ensure COVID exposures were minimized, and only a few camp activities were eliminated for the year.

May

Israel Supporters March Down Parkway

May saw the most recent bout of violence in the Israel-Hamas conflict, and some Jewish Philadelphians were quick to show their support of Israel following the series of rocket attacks. Organized by the Israeli-American Council, the Philadelphia march to support Israel was one of 19 held nationwide. This particular rally was attended by nearly 100 people.

June

Israeli Food Truck Disinvitation Prompts

Complaints

A disinvitation of the Moshava Israeli food truck from a Philadelphia food festival prompted an uproar from community members. Organizers Eat Up the Borders and Sunflower Philly disinvited Moshava for fear of potential boycotts of the event, as there was no Palestinian food truck also present at the event. AJC, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Jewish Community Relations Council, Anti-Defamation League, Jews in ALL Hues and the Board of Rabbis of Philadelphia met with the event organizers in July.

July

Ventnor Couple Victims of Surfside Condo Collapse

On June 24, a condo in Surfside, Florida, collapsed, resulting in the deaths of almost 100 residents and visitors, many of whom were Jewish. Among the lives lost were the couple Bonnie and David Epstein, Northeast Philadelphia natives who spent many of their summers down the shore.

August

Coming Home: An Interview With New Jewish Federation President and CEO Michael Balaban

On July 1, Michael Balaban became the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia’s new president and CEO. In an interview with the Exponent, he outlined his plans to combat antisemitism and build a more Jewish future by adapting the Jewish Federation’s business model during his tenure.

September

Ida Floods Jewish Community Services Building, Sports Hall

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, which flooded the Schuylkill River, brackish water filled the basement of the Jewish Community Services Building, destroying the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and displacing

myriad Jewish organizations in the area. The Sports Hall of Fame seeks to relocate after having rescued and restored many of its objects.

October

JFNA Announces \$54M Security Initiative

Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric Fingerhut announced on Oct. 2 a grant program to help Jewish organizations bolster their security. The creation of the grant came after a surge of antisemitism in the United States since 2016, according to the Anti-Defamation League, which included the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue complex in Pittsburgh in 2018.

November

Holiday Gatherings Back On This Year

After many Philadelphians received their vaccines, they were eager to return to in-person Chanukah celebrations. Many families who reunited during the holiday cited the vaccine as the reason they were able to do so, saying they all felt safe gathering indoors after receiving their COVID vaccines.

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December

*Central Bucks Leaders
Condemn Antisemitism*

In November, members of the Pennsbury school board received threats, some of which were antisemitic in nature, after a school board meeting to discuss the district’s equity policies. At a Dec. 6 school board meeting, members of the board, including President Dana Hunter and Central Bucks Superintendent Abram Lucabaugh, condemned the antisemitic remarks. ●

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An American Muslim Leader Said Zionist Jews Can't Be Trusted Allies. Jews and Muslims Who Work Together Know Better



BY YEHUDA KURTZER

A LONG-SIMMERING conflict between CAIR, the Muslim-American civil rights organization, and the Anti-Defamation League has now reached the boiling point.

A Bay Area CAIR leader dismissed the ADL and groups like it as “polite Zionists” who could not be trusted as allies. ADL’s CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, fired back, calling her comments “textbook vile, antisemitic, conspiracy-laden garbage.”

It would be a mistake to see this as a mere spat between two organizations. It reflects what could be an alarming turning point in Jewish-Muslim relations in America, and a symptom of how polarization can undermine civil society. All of us who care about what Muslims and Jews could do together should take note and work to repair the damage that is being done.

In late November, Zahra Billoo, CAIR’s San Francisco director, delivered an address at the conference of American Muslims for Palestine. First, Billoo drew a straight line between support for Israel and an array of American social ills, including the killing by police of innocent Black and brown Americans. Those charges play on tropes that have become commonplace in far-left criticism of Israel and the Israel-America relationship.

But Billoo went much further, directing her listeners to be cautious about “polite Zionists,” naming Jewish federations, “Zionist” synagogues and Hillel chapters whose civil society world she said masks an Islamophobic agenda. Similarly, American Muslims for Palestine had just published a report that neatly divides the Jewish community between those to avoid — including the organizations listed above, as well as my organization and others — and those it was “safe” to work with. Both AMP and Billoo placed Jewish Voice for Peace and IfNotNow as the only Jewish organizations on the “good” list.

For those of us familiar with interfaith work, this separation of “good” and “bad” groups is a familiar and pernicious rhetorical and political strategy. It happens to American Muslims all the time, especially since 9/11, when others who are suspicious of them and their motives demand they pass litmus tests. Such tests are understandable: It is hard to engage with “the other,” so we often try to understand others through the prism of our own commitments and categories. Interfaith engagement, meanwhile, can be a strategy for building political power. And when the goal is to amass power, it is not surprising that groups would instrumentalize “the other” toward that end.

Doing so is very, very dangerous. To divide American Jews this way — between the vast majority of American Jews who identify with Israel and are thus characterized as dangerous and duplicitous, and the small dissident minority who are “kosher” — has two major problems. The first is that Jews, no less than anyone else, should have the right to narrate the complexities of our own

identities. We American Jews do overwhelmingly support Israel in one way or another, and most of us are comfortable with identifying as Zionist. Yet we exhibit enormous diversity concerning what those attachments mean to us and how they obligate us.

The overwhelming majority of Jews in the world see the emergence of a Jewish state as something that changes the meaning of being Jewish and see ourselves attached to that story in one way or another. Our interfaith friends need to approach this aspect of Jewish identity with curiosity, rather than dismissing it out of hand through a predetermination of what Judaism is “supposed to be.”

Secondly, this caricature of American Jews and our commitments strips us of the capacity to build relationships with our Muslim friends and neighbors — relationships that could be rooted in compassion and could even lead to us interrogating our own commitments. Urging American Muslims to write off the majority of American Jews as enemies from the start is to foreclose any possibility of serious interfaith work, and it undermines relationships that could be politically valuable for American Muslims. The strategy is as counterproductive as it is dehumanizing.

I am not primarily concerned with CAIR, but rather hope that this kind of thinking does not become normative in Muslim spaces (which at present, I do not believe it has). I am grateful to know Muslim leaders, like my friend and colleague Imam Abdullah Antepli, who are speaking out to rebuke CAIR, AMP and their leaders for misrepresenting American Islam, and instead are trying

to forge new paths forward. After all, the best critiques of any group or movement comes from leaders inside their own communities.

This has been the approach of our Muslim Leadership Initiative program at the Shalom Hartman Institute since it began: to invite Muslim leaders into the internal conversation of the Jewish people, and especially our debates about Israel and Zionism. Resilient relationships are built through trust and character witnessing rather than through demarcating red lines at the outset.

What I fear most, however, is how we as a Jewish community act in a moment like this. Some of my ire is reserved for the Jewish organizations named by AMP and the Billoo speech as “good” Jews and who are relishing the designation. I mean, sure: Everyone wants to be liked, and I understand the political logic of using external allies to help fight battles inside your community. Allies are allies, I suppose, but these groups are welcoming endorsements from those who are actively and dangerously delegitimizing the majority of world Jewry. In doing so, these “good” Jews are giving aid to an antisemitic stratagem.

I desperately hope the mainstream Jewish community — those of us named as the bad Jews — will not allow the focus on CAIR and its failings to thwart the work we absolutely must continue doing to build stronger and more resilient intergroup relationships. This is how polarization works: Extremists exploit fear to create divisions, and they reap the returns when the massive middle is scared away from the important work of seeking common ground.

I appreciate that organizations like the ADL

need to confront CAIR in a moment like this and call out the antisemitism, but I would hate to see this incident undermine years of patient work — by the ADL and many other organizations — in reckoning with the past and building trust. It would be catastrophic if positive Muslim-Jewish engagement in America were to be sabotaged by individuals and organizations unable to imagine alternatives to acrimony.

There is so much work to be done. Muslim-Jewish relations took on extra political significance with the rise of antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred since the 2016 election. The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to be exploited not just by marginal Jews and Muslims but by other Americans, including in Congress, to divide us. This exploitation is especially sad and ironic since America could genuinely be one of the few places on earth where Jews and Muslims might forge an extraordinary bond. Even in Israel-Palestine, a future for peace and justice for all its inhabitants will need to be built by Jews and Muslims together.

If, like me, you are a member of the Jewish community alarmed by the CAIR story, don’t let it undermine your efforts in realizing such a future. Let their leaders navigate their own leadership failures, and let’s not make it harder for them by drowning them out. Instead, let’s lead our communities and ask, “What can we do to strengthen the relationship with American Muslims?” •

Yehuda Kurtzer is the president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and host of the Identity/Crisis podcast.

Israel and Her Neighbors

BY WILLIAM Z. FOX

WHAT WERE THE ODDS of Israel's survival, living in a hostile neighborhood, when she accepted the United Nations partition plan in 1947? What did those odds go up to when she was immediately attacked on all sides by the well-equipped armies of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon — along with the tacit support of numerous others? And what were the odds of her winning that war? But, as we all know, against all the odds, Israel not only survived but won the war and her independence.

We are the most blessed generation of Jews in Jewish history. Why? Since God chose us to bring the concept of ethical monotheism to humanity over 4,000 years ago, every 75 to 100 years there has been an organized attempt to exterminate us, eradicate us and wipe us off the face of the map — the most recent being the Nazis roughly 85 years ago. And today, the black clouds of antisemitism and hate are gathering again all over the world, fueled by our current nemesis, radical Islam. (Note that I'm saying radical Islam, not all Islam.)

So why are we the most blessed Jewish generation? Because we have been privileged to witness three momentous developments.

First, the rebirth of the Jewish nation in our biblical homeland after thousands of years of dispersion throughout the world. I can clearly remember the day in 1947 when my father burst into the house and, with his booming auctioneer voice, called out to my mother, "Anne, Anne, the U.N. has voted to approve the partition plan!"

Second, we all have watched Israel grow from nothing more than a patch of sand in the Middle Eastern desert into one of the most successful, powerful,

respected, free, democratic nations in the entire world. We have fulfilled the biblical prophecy that "you shall become a light unto the nations." For the almost 73 years of modern Israel's existence, humanity has benefited in countless ways through Israeli inventions and advances in medicine, technology, innovation, science, farming and more. Israel has won more Nobel prizes per capita than any other country in the world. And all of this has happened before our very eyes. We, our generation, have been blessed to witness it.

Unbelievably, however, through all her growth and accomplishments, Israel has had to defend herself on a daily basis. Whether it has been formal wars, limited campaigns, local skirmishes or never-ending, blood-thirsty terrorism, slaughtered Israelis have been the rule, not the exception. But the world needs to know this: Every single armed conflict that has occurred has been initiated by Israel's enemies, with Israel then defending herself and retaliating.

And the third momentous development? Today, we are witnessing the beginning of the end of Arab/Muslim rejectionism of Israel. Today, some of Israel's neighbors are finally

waking up to the reality that Israel is not going away and is really a friend, not a foe. They said this would never happen. They said it could never happen, but it is happening. The snowball has begun rolling downhill, and I believe it is now impossible to stop.

The recent Abraham Accords have added four Arab/Muslim countries — the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco — to Egypt and Jordan, making six countries that have effectively made peace with Israel, and more are on the horizon.

My wife Myra and I recently returned from a 15-day trip to Israel, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. While in Dubai, we spent the better part of a day at the Expo 2021 World's Fair, where over 150 nations have individual pavilions celebrating their countries. What a thrill it was for us to be in an Arab/Muslim country walking into the main entrance of their Expo and seeing the flag of Israel flying proudly among those of the other nations of the world.

When we experienced the show in the Israeli pavilion, I was so overcome with emotion that, when it was over, I ran to the front of the theater and sang the Shehecheyanu blessing. Some

people thought I was crazy (and by the way, that included Myra) and maybe I was, but it was just me being me. Others came up to me, shook my hand and thanked me.

The challenge is that Palestinian radicals, Hamas and other radical Islamic terror groups, and countries like Syria and Iran that fund them, are still bent on killing Jews and driving the Israelis into the sea. Indeed, we're now hearing the chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," not only there but in demonstrations on college campuses and major cities across America — from the Jordan River, which is the border between Israel and Jordan, to the Mediterranean, in other words, the entire country of Israel.

For many years, this conflict has been characterized as being very complicated. In reality,

however, it is very uncomplicated. Simply put, many radical Arabs and Muslims have not wanted a Jewish state to exist in their midst, living on what they consider to be their land. And they have done everything in their power to change the on-the-ground facts of Israel's reality. However, due to political considerations and other factors, in the broader Arab/Muslim world, that mindset is now changing. But still today Israel must continue to defend herself against the radicals who are very much alive and continue to work for her destruction. •

William Z. Fox is on the national board of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. This op-ed was adapted from a speech he gave at a recent FIDF gala in Baltimore, Maryland.

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

New Names Lose Past Meaning

IN THE DEC. 16 ISSUE of the Jewish Exponent, the theme of diversity in the Philadelphia Jewish community was reflected in the numerous articles highlighting the different denominations of Judaism, activities and personalities of Jews across the religious spectrum and numerous references to intermarriage.

This is a realistic reflection of our community in modern times. But let's not lose our community history.

The Exponent can take the opportunity to reference historically Jewish organizations and honor their importance to the Jewish community by identifying their former names in addition to their current acronyms.

We should not assume that everyone understands that HIAS stands for Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society or that JEVS Human Services was originally Jewish Employment and Vocational Services. If the Exponent continues to write about these organizations, remind the reader why they are of interest to the Jewish community.

And while you are at it, let's hear more about local historic and worthy Jewish organizations, including FHBS (Female Hebrew Benevolent Society) and others that still serve Philadelphia Jewry. •

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JEWISH EXPONENT



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Simple Appetizers for New Year's Eve

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

I AM NOT a huge fan of this holiday. But I am a huge fan of (safe) hosting and gathering and sharing a convivial meal with family and friends. New Year's Eve presents an opportunity for all of that if you can tease out the pressure to drink too much and stay up too late.

This selection of appetizers will not overly tax the cook and can be part of a larger cocktail buffet if dinner is not being served. Conversely, if a full meal is on the menu, these nibbles can deliver a nice, light appetizer course that doesn't fill up the guests or compromise the main event.

FIRECRACKER SALMON BITES

Serves 4 as an appetizer

This recipe was inspired by a shrimp dish I saw on a food blog; I've tweaked it to fit a kosher audience. They can be served on toothpicks hot or at room temperature. The version here is quite spicy thanks to jalapeno pepper, but if that is not to your liking, you can use any marinade you like — teriyaki sauce, mustard, white wine vinaigrette or tandoori.

- 1 pound salmon fillet, skin removed, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped jalapeno peppers
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Pinch of salt
- Juice of ½ lemon

Heat oven to 375 degrees and line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix all the ingredients except for the salmon in a medium-sized bowl. Add the salmon to the bowl and toss

it gently to coat. Let it sit for about 30 minutes. Place the salmon pieces on the baking sheet and bake them for about 10 minutes or until just done. Cool the salmon slightly, stab it with sturdy toothpicks and serve it as an appetizer.

COLD VEGGIE PIZZA

This is the ultimate cheat: store-bought dough and bottled dressing. But it is tasty, pretty to look at with the colorful vegetables and a volume appetizer that you make in a baking tray and cut in pieces. It does not involve fussing with canapes, sealing wontons or other high-effort action. If you are so inclined, feel free to make your own biscuit dough and ranch dressing.

This pizza can be made ahead of time but should be assembled close to serving. You don't want the sauce to sit on the crust for a lengthy spell or it may become soggy. But you can bake the crust, mix the sauce and chop the veggies a day ahead, then assemble the pizza an hour or so before your guests arrive.

- 1 package crescent roll dough
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup ranch dressing
- ½ pound cream cheese, softened
- 2-3 cups finely chopped assorted raw vegetables, preferably in varied colors, such as broccoli, tomatoes, mushrooms, carrots, beets, cauliflower, yellow, red and green peppers
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese

Roll the crescent dough onto a cookie sheet and bake according to package directions. Set the dough aside to cool completely.



▲ Stuffed Mushrooms

Zolotaosen / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Mix the mayonnaise, cream cheese and dressing until well blended. Spread this mixture onto the crust — be sure it is completely cooled or it will “melt” the sauce. Top it with chopped vegetables and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese. Cut the dough into bite-sized pieces and serve it chilled or at room temperature.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Makes 24

These mushrooms can be made ahead of time. Save the last step for the final 5 minutes in the oven to heat the filling until ready to serve.

- 2 dozen crimini or white “button” mushrooms
- Cooking spray
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 small red pepper, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tablespoons chopped basil or parsley

Heat oven to 425 degrees and line a baking sheet with

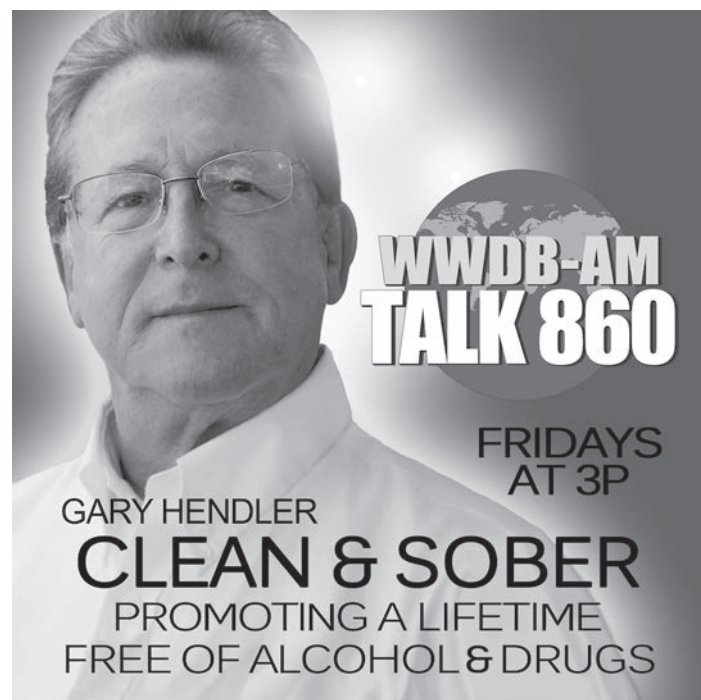
parchment paper.

Remove the stems from the mushrooms and discard or reserve them for another use (the veggie pizza, perhaps?). Coat the mushroom caps lightly with cooking spray and bake them on the prepared cooking tray, hollow side up, until the mushrooms begin to

sweat, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, blend the remaining ingredients.

Let the mushrooms sit until they are cool enough to handle. Fill the mushrooms with the cheese mixture, and return them to the oven just to warm the filling, about 5 minutes. ●



Youth is Wasted on the Young in 'Licorice Pizza'

ARTS

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

THE COMING-OF-AGE genre is a chameleon — a vessel easily adaptable to a host of different backdrops and climates — and Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza" is the lizard languishing in the summer of the San Fernando Valley in California in 1973.

Those asked to come of age are Gary Valentine (Cooper Hoffman, son of the late Philip Seymour Hoffman), a big-boned 15-year-old kid-actor quickly running out of roles to play, and Alana Kane (Alana Haim), an easy-breezy

25-year-old with a level head weighing her prospects and biding her time as a photographer's assistant.

And, like a chameleon, "Licorice Pizza" is a visual spectacle, shot on 35 mm film that captures the dreaminess of the early '70s but with awkward physicalities — some racist and sexist tropes that were better left in the '70s — that limit its majesty.

Gary, the smooth-talking hustler, is followed around by an entourage of latchkey-kid Lost Boys, his minions in his business ventures — first a waterbed company, then a pinball arcade. He's their Peter Pan, the boy who never grows



▲ Alana Haim (left) and Cooper Hoffman in "Licorice Pizza," Paul Thomas Anderson's most recent film

Photo by Melinda Sue Gordon

up, but he acts the role of the de facto adult (the last role Gary seems well-equipped to play, having grown out of the ones available to him

by his middle-aged talent agent friends).

Gary's reality as a teenager betrays his desire to act as the adult: He's pimply and

red-faced and tucks the tail of his shirt into his pants with clammy hands. He goes to bars and knows the patrons on a first-name basis, but he sits and orders rounds of only Coca-Cola.

But his latest and greatest attempt to grow up, thwarted by his teenage susceptibilities, is his infatuation with Alana, whom he meets when she taps her toes and holds the mirror Gary uses to fix his strawberry hair — a little greasy, but combed over meticulously — before he takes his high school yearbook picture.

Although Haim tackles her debut acting role with impressive ease and complexity, Alana Kane the character (and Haim by default) spends the film let down by her counterparts.

As a photographer's assistant, she's slapped on the tuchus by a photographer but brushes it off with a roll of her eyes.

When she takes former child actor Lance home for Shabbat dinner with her family (the real-life Haim family), she finds out that the boy she believed was Jewish actually identifies as an atheist. He refuses to do the Motzi over the challah, saying that if God existed, he wouldn't have permitted the suffering in the Vietnam War.

See Licorice, Page 20

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The Best Jewish Shows and Movies of 2021

ARTS
JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

FROM THE FAMILIAR (“Curb Your Enthusiasm”) to the obscure (“The Club”), from the educational (“Jerusalem”) to the absurd (“Big Mouth”), from the controversial (“My Unorthodox Life”) to the meh (“The Shrink Next Door”), it was an active year of Jewish-themed entertainment.

Since we fancy ourselves great critics here at the Jewish Exponent, we watched, lauded and excoriated a lot of it.

Here’s our comprehensive list of the best Jewish-themed shows and movies of 2021.

Shows

HBO’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm”
In its 11th season and

third decade (it started in 2000), “Curb” has taken on a timeless quality.

It doesn’t matter which cultural moment we’re living through in American life. Larry David’s perverse but incisive questioning of social conventions and moral codes is always hilarious and thought-provoking.

Netflix’s “The Club”

Unless you’re an avid watcher of Jewish shows (my wife) or Turkish shows (my grandma), “The Club” won’t come up on your Netflix algorithm. But it’s worth trying to find.

The six-episode season has several good qualities, starting with its Jewish protagonists. Plus, who knew the Jews had such a long history in Turkey?

Netflix’s “Big Mouth”

Streaming’s endless library offers wacky creators a lot of space to be their weirdest selves. That’s what “Big Mouth,” an animated coming-of-age sitcom, is for Jewish comedian Nick Kroll, its creator, writer and primary voice actor.

But at its best, “Big Mouth” also sheds light on the awkward, painful and utterly hilarious experience of going through puberty. And season five this year offered a new twist: What happens when teenagers learn to hate and resent each other?

Netflix’s “My Unorthodox Life”

Love Julia Haart as an embodiment of female empowerment or hate her as a denigrator of Orthodox Judaism. You can’t deny that she has your attention.

Any nine-episode binge series that has two Wikipedia sections devoted to its critical reception is, at the very least, starting a conversation.

CNN’s “Jerusalem”

Forget your preconceived political notions about CNN. After all, Fox News is known for having a good polling operation. These cable news channels can do some things right.

In CNN’s case, “Jerusalem” is one of them. It’s a great beginner’s history lesson about the holy city, as told by history professors/total nerds.

Adrien Brody’s guest appearance on HBO’s “Succession”

Maybe you don’t watch “Succession.” Well, you should, because it’s the best show on

TV right now. And once you’re caught up, you will enjoy this tense season three episode that features Brody, the greatest living Jewish actor, playing a Jewish investor who holds the balance of power of a WASP-y corporation in his hands. The episode also touches on antisemitism in a subtle, nuanced and even multi-generational fashion. It was one of the better modern portrayals of that perpetual illness.

Beanie Feldstein’s role on FX’s “American Crime Story”

I will leave it to the Exponent’s Sasha Rogelberg to explain how Feldstein, known previously for playing comedic roles in “Lady Bird”

See Screen, Page 20



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JEWISH EXPONENT

DECEMBER 30, 2021 15

Calling People In

BY RABBI GREGORY S. MARX

Parshat Vaera

WE ARE LIVING in a time of tremendous polarization.

Political analyst Bill Bishop observed that America is going through a sorting of sorts. Much as the incoming students of Hogwarts stood before the “sorting hat” to determine into which house the students would be assigned, we Americans are being self-sorted by our religion, ethnicity, race and, most of all, our politics.

There are “blue states,” and there are “red states.” Looking at the map of our country, we are divided not between the North and South as we were during the late 19th century, but are now divided between the coasts and the heartlands.

While this has benefits, as we often feel more comfortable with like-minded people, there are negative unintended consequences. Like-minded

people tend to become more extreme. We “feed off of each other’s opinions” and, in turn, become more radical when we are not challenged by opposing viewpoints. When there is no one to challenge our positions, we tend to become more entrenched and too often turn to violence when confronted by an opposing viewpoint.

Too often, we see today people screaming at each other, unable to bridge the gap. The news is full of violence on our streets, in our Capitol and, only recently, in multiple school board meetings. It seems we’re fighting over everything: vaccines, mask mandates, voter suppression, voter fraud, CRT, antisemitism and women’s reproductive rights.

As a child, I remember being told about the bell curve, where the majority of people are in the middle with fewer people on the extremes.

Now, our world has been turned upside down. Now, it

seems like the fringes are the loudest and the most violent, and the middle is disappearing before our very eyes. Those in the middle are losing heart, steam and conviction, ceding our country to the radicals on both sides. We see an inverted bell curve.

We read an interesting line in Exodus 6:6, inspiring Moses to free the Israelites: *“Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am the LORD. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements.”*

This, too, was a world of violence, slavery and oppression. The more the Israelites bemoaned their plight and Moses raised his voice in protest, the more Pharaoh hardened his heart.

Their world was a world of polar opposites. You were either in one court or another. You were either for Egypt or the Israelites — you had to take

sides. Neutrality was not an option. Then God tells Moses that the divine presence will free them with an outstretched arm.

A medieval rabbi, Ibn Ezra, comments that this arm was actually an extended hand stretching from heaven to earth. The arm did not come to smite but invite. In other words, it was a hand not of chastisement but of peace and invitation.

Here is a possible solution to our problems today. Rather than extending an arm to destroy, maybe we can extend a hand to welcome. Rather than “calling out” our opponents and yelling at them, maybe we might consider “calling them in” for discussion. Rather than demonize our opponents, perhaps we should talk with them and see them as human beings. Maybe now is the time to get out of our political bubbles to talk less and listen more. That is why we have two ears and one mouth.

The more we demonize, “call out” our opponents, the more hate and polarization will result. But what if we could “call them in” and listen to each other, respect each other and seek to understand each other?

This takes so much more work. It can be exhausting and is terribly time-consuming. Listening to each other, perhaps over a meal, is a way to heal the rifts that are destroying our country. •

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx is senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Or. 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.



Swastika

Continued from Page 6

On Dec. 5, the same day that the student walked into the synagogue office, David sent a letter condemning antisemitism and hate to his congregation of about 400 families. Later that night, Adath Emanu-El held its preplanned Chanukah candle lighting in the parking lot.

David made a Facebook post, and about 200 people, including non-Jews, showed up to light candles on the holiday’s last night.

“It was this beautiful moment,” he said.

Like the rabbi, Smith responded swiftly to the incident at his institution. On Dec. 17, a day after finding the first swastika, Smith sent a letter to his community.

He promised to discipline

the students involved if he discovered their identities. He also said Marlton Middle would be “collaborating with community resources to help with increasing understanding and acceptance among all students.”

Smith concluded by calling diversity “an incredible strength of our community.” Other leaders have also condemned the antisemitic activity.

“As long as I’m breathing and in elected office, I will never stay quiet at antisemitism,” said Mount Laurel Mayor Stephen Steglik.

Mount Laurel is starting a diversity and inclusion board in 2022, and a Jewish resident is going to be on it, Steglik added.

U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (NJ-03), who represents

Mount Laurel and Evesham in Congress, denounced hate and antisemitism.

“It breaks my heart that we’ve seen so much hate, division and antisemitism in our community this month,” Kim said. “In our togetherness, I hope we stand up to divisive rhetoric and hate.”

On Dec. 21, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy made a statement via Twitter.

Through a tweet criticizing several antisemitic outbreaks around the state, the governor said he was “appalled that swastikas were recently drawn” at Marlton Middle.

“We will not let antisemitism or hatred go unchallenged here in New Jersey,” Murphy added.

Based on this response,

Steglik believes far more residents condemn antisemitism than those who support it. But Coffina thinks that antisemitism and hate are still deep-rooted cultural issues.

The prosecutor argued that institutions can only do so much. Local police departments and his office, for example, can respond only when an incident rises to the level of a crime.

“Parents have to be teaching their kids just how harmful a swastika is,” he said.

Like many synagogues in the Philadelphia area, Adath Emanu-El is not waiting for that to happen. After finding the swastika sticker and notifying police, David and his staff reviewed their security protocols.

Later, Adath Emanu-El brought in a representative from Coffina’s office and a security advisor from the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey to evaluate how staff handled this incident.

Adath Emanu-El came away from this experience confident in its basic safety approach of having a guard on duty during services and school hours, according to David.

The temple added that protocol after the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue complex shooting in Pittsburgh, which killed 11 Jews.

“All of us have experienced antisemitism in recent years,” said the rabbi. •

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
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COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, DEC. 31

Parsha for Life

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

Geography of Summer

What is the history of the summer vacation? How does it apply to the Jewish community? Why, where and how do we travel? What is a Jewish “staycation”? **Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel's Temple Judea Museum** 2021 fall exhibition “The Geography of Summer” is open. Visit the gallery in person at 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, or follow the exhibition on the Temple Judea Museum Facebook page and on YouTube.

▼ SUNDAY, JAN. 2

Genealogy Lecture

Join the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia at 1:30 p.m. for a lecture by Gil Bardige, a genealogist for more than 40 years with 14 years of experience in DNA. This meeting is for members only. Check the website for complete membership information: jgasgp.org. Contact membership@jgasgp.org for more information.

Writing Course

In the **Briya Project's** Sh'ma – Hear Your Inner Voice weekly course of eight, two-hour class sessions from 6-8 p.m., we gather on Zoom for moments of ritual and writing, to harness our creative spirits, seek our artistic voices and let them speak out. The course continues until

Jan. 16. Contact taliala@briyaproject.com for more information.

▼ MONDAY, JAN. 3

Mahjong Game

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

▼ TUESDAY, JAN. 4

Text Study

Join **Beth Sholom Congregation** Rabbi David Glanzberg-Krainin at 8 p.m. for a close reading of Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg's work “Moses: A Human Life,” which reveals Moses as far from perfect — a very human man, riddled with insecurities, anxieties and uncertain of his faith. 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

▼ WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5

Mahjong Class

Old York Road Temple-Beth Am presents weekly beginner mahjong classes until Jan. 19 from 6:45-9 p.m. \$80. Contact Gail Stein at aplusteacherus@gmail.com or 215-947-2203 for registration. 971 Old York Road, Abington.

▼ THURSDAY, JAN. 6

Book Talk

Har Zion Temple Sisterhood and Department of Lifelong Learning present the Open A Book ... Open Your Mind series via Zoom. Each event will cost \$18. At 7 p.m., author Sam Apple will discuss “Ravenous.” For more information and to register, email openabook@harziontemple.org •

COMMUNITYBRIEFS

JNF-USA Names JNFuture Leader

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND-USA named Sean Siegel as its new JNFuture Campaign Exec in Philadelphia.

While attending Pace University in New York, Siegel became the founding president of Students Supporting Israel and served on the national SSI committee for two years, eventually serving on the SSI board of directors.

Siegel said his devotion to Israel started after a life-changing Birthright trip.

“At that point, Israel became my life, my love, my passion. I knew I wanted to dedicate every waking minute to supporting our homeland,” he said.

JNF-USA is a philanthropic organization for Israel that supports environmental and nation-building activities in Israel's north and south. The organization is developing new communities in the Galilee and Negev, connecting the next generation to Israel, and creating infrastructure and programs that support ecology, individuals with special needs and heritage site preservation.



▲ Sean Siegel

Courtesy of Jewish National Fund-USA

Maccabi Games to Return in 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Maccabi Games to be canceled in 2020 and 2021, but the competition is slated to resume from July 31 through Aug. 5 at the Lawrence Family JCC on the Jacobs Family Campus in San Diego.

Team Philadelphia announced it will be participating and that tryout information will be coming soon.

Available sports include 16U boys soccer, 16U girls soccer, 16U boys basketball, 16U girls basketball, 16U ice hockey, boys and girls tennis, swimming, golf and dance.

The cost will be \$2,000, inclusive of airlines, uniforms and swag. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Barrie Mittica at bmittica@phillyjcc.com.



▲ The 16U girls soccer team in 2018

Courtesy of Michael Keitz

Red Cross Says Blood Donations at Critical Level

The American Red Cross said blood supply levels are at historic lows — at a time of year when donations are typically lower than at other times of the year.

Potential donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

If there is not an immediate opportunity available, donors are asked to make an appointment in the days and weeks ahead.

All who donate through Jan. 2 will receive a Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt while supplies last.

Those who give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a getaway to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. In addition, donors will be also be automatically entered to win a home theater package and a \$500 e-gift card.

Fencing Academy of Philadelphia Offers Classes at Kaiserman JCC

The Fencing Academy of Philadelphia will offer two winter beginner-level courses for children 8-17 at the Kaiserman JCC starting on Jan. 4.

Children 8-12 will have classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 9-10 a.m. on Sundays.

Children 13-17 will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon.

For details, visit fencefap.com. •



What's going on in Jewish Philadelphia?

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LEGAL NOTICES

CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - ALACHUA COUNTY, FL -
CASE NO.: 01-2021-DR-3107 - IN RE THE ADOPTION OF: T.M.M., A child -
NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING - To: ALYSSA
MORALES - Physical desc.: 35 yrs. old, Caucasian, brown hair dyed blonde,
hazel eyes, 5' 6", about 120 lbs. - YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION FOR
ADOPTION has been filed regarding T.M.M. (DOB 5/4/15). There will be a
hearing on the Petition, which will terminate parental rights of Alyssa Mor-
ales, on 2/8/22 at 9:00 A.M. before Judge Denise Ferrero. This Hearing will
occur by zoom, the zoom info. is as follows: Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/96492678096?pwd=bkYwRTB4aUFTOTmRWSHA1aDhZM21VdZ09Dial> by your location: 786.635.1003 Meeting ID: 964 9267 8096
Passcode: 154282 UNDER SECTION 63.089, FL STATUTES (2021), FAIL-
URE TO TIMELY FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE AND THE
PETITION WITH THE COURT AND TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING CONSTITUTES
GROUNDS UPON WHICH THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL
RIGHTS ALYSSA MORALES MAY HAVE OR ASSERT REGARDING THE
CHILD. Should Alyssa Morales wish to contest the adoption, Alyssa Mor-
ales, is required to serve a copy of written defenses, if any, to it on Petition-
ers' atty., Mary K. Wimsatt, whose address is 2750 NW 43rd St., #102,
Gainesville, FL 32606 on or before 1/26/22 and file the original with the
clerk of this Court at 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601, before
service on Petitioner or immediately after. If Alyssa Morales fails to do so, a
default may be entered against Alyssa Morales for the relief demanded in
the petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders,
are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. Alyssa Morales may
review these documents upon request. Alyssa Morales must keep the Clerk
of the Circuit Court's office notified of current address. (Alyssa Morales
may file Notice of Current Address, FL Supreme Court Approved Family
Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the ad-
dress on record at the clerk's office. WARNING: Rule 12.285, FL Family
Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of docu-
ments & info. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal
or striking of pleadings. Dated: 12/1/21, J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq., Clerk of The
Circuit Court, Civil Div., 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601. By:
/s/ Michelle Thompson, Deputy Clerk

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DEATH NOTICES

FINE

Iris Fine (nee: Chinofsky) Dec. 11, 2021. She was the wife of the late Michael Ira Fine, the mother of Alan Fine (Michael Wilkie, Jr.), and Faith Fine, sister of Steven (Rose) Chinofsky, and the daughter of the late Sidney and the late Lillian Chinofsky. Iris was a tax examiner at the Internal Revenue Service. Memorial contributions may be made to The American Diabetes Association or Congregation Beth Or.

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LEVENSON

Rita Levenson (nee Cravetz) on December 18, 2021. Wife of Harold. Mother of Alan (Merav) Levenson and Donald (Debora) Levenson. Sister of Leah Pleat. Grandmother of Lance, Elah, Mia and Netai. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

MOSS

Dr. Herbert Moss on December 19, 2021. Beloved husband of Sandra (nee Goodman); Loving father of Jacqueline Moss and Jennifer Moss Abramson; Adoring grandfather of Leon and Allyson. Contributions in his memory may be made to Friendship Circle, 754 S. 9th St., Phila., PA 19147, www.philly-friendship.com or Old York Road Temple-Beth AM, 971 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001, www.oymbetham.org or a charity of the donor's choice.

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SCHWARTZ

Theodore A. "Ted" Schwartz, Esq. on December 17, 2021, beloved husband of Linda (nee Hirschhorn), loving father of Pamela Rosenberg (Scott), and Scott Schwartz, and to his stepdaughters Jennie Pisony (Richard) and Paulette Strauss (Stuart), and brother of James. Adoring Poppy of Samuel, Benjamin, Max, Rachel, Simone, and Lily. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Special Olympics of Montgomery County or Gift of Life Donor Program. Contact J. Levine & Sons for Zoom information.

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Licorice

Continued from Page 15

Gary takes Alana to an agent later in the film, hoping to help her land some film and television roles. Alana comes prepared to say 'yes' to everything and bolsters her qualifications with the claim of speaking multiple languages, including Hebrew. The agent, despite proclaiming that "Jewish noses are becoming more popular," is largely dismissive of Alana's talent.

Alana is a chaperone, a babysitter and a beard for a closeted gay man, all of which seem to frustrate her chances of finding her passion.

But she's let down by no one more than Gary and his illusions of grandeur when it comes to his businesses. She parades around in a bikini at the opening of Gary's waterbed business, while everyone else remains clothed.

As Gary finds success, acts impetuously and is able to act

as the businessman and also enjoy the immaturity that comes along with turning everyday objects into phalluses, Alana struggles. She's caught in her need to find success in adulthood, but she is trapped by her desire to stay by Gary's side, relishing in never-ending youth, flawed as it may be.

As Anderson is wont to do, he creates an ensemble of complex characters, places them into a specific yet resplendent setting and lets them roam free, exposing their shortcomings in the process.

As Gary and Alana's relationship falls into the background of the story, replaced by their own individual journeys, the obvious age gap and illegality of their relationship falls away as well — out of sight, out of mind. But the audience's discomfort remains, as it does in many of Anderson's other films.

In Anderson's effort to fill

his world with fastidious details and color, he sometimes goes too far. His decision to have a white man in the film mock his Japanese wife's language by speaking in a caricature of broken English felt particularly egregious and unnecessary.

The term "Licorice Pizza" is slang for a vinyl, and it's the name of a chain of Southern California record stores for which Anderson had a clear affinity. Without any hints or explanation of the film's title in the film itself, "Licorice Pizza" is an in-joke only Anderson gets.

Maybe that's why "Licorice Pizza" feels more like a spectacle than a relatable bildungsroman. Anderson has manufactured a film to fulfill his own nostalgia in "Licorice Pizza," not the audience's. ●

srogelberg@jewishexponent.com;
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Screen

Continued from Page 15

and "Booksmart," pulled off a portrayal of Monica Lewinsky: "It was an important retelling of a narrative from the 1990s that redeemed Lewinsky in the eyes of popular culture."

Movies "Upheaval"

Menachem Begin was a soldier in the Zionist movement, the founder of Israel's conservative Likud party and, eventually, Israel's sixth prime minister from 1977 to 1983. Described as a "terrorist" by the British government, as a young man, Begin would grow up to preside over the Camp David Accords with Egypt.

In other words, Begin is a fascinating character. And, according to the Exponent's

Andy Gotlieb in a June review, this movie does him justice.

It's lean, colorful and revealing. It also hones in on the theme that defined Begin's life: Jews were not going to stand down anymore. They were going to fight.

"Tick, Tick... Boom!"

"Rent" playwright Jonathan Larson's semi-autobiographical story got the Lin-Manuel Miranda treatment in this 2021 adaptation. It's a dramatic story about the Jewish playwright's struggle to make it, and his uncertainty about his career choice.

When those are the notes, Miranda is probably the guy to play the music. Larson himself died in 1996.

"Asia"

This Israeli film focusing on a mother-daughter story stars Jewish actress Shira Haas of "Shtisel" and "Unorthodox" fame. Haas plays the 17-year-old daughter, Vika, of a 35-year-old, Russian expat single mother, Asia, portrayed by Alena Yiv.

While Asia works long hours to make ends meet, Vika starts hanging out with skaters, smoking weed and drinking. But over the course of the movie, they form a gradual bond.

Somehow, too, according to a July review in the Exponent, that bond was uplifting without being overly sentimental. ●

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NEWSMAKERS

TruMark Gives Out Items to Those in Need

On Dec. 20, TruMark Financial Credit Union delivered children’s hats, gloves and sweatshirts to local nonprofits that help people in need.

All five organizations — APM Neighborhood Community, Emilie United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuaries, the Maternal and Child Health Consortium, Mitzvah Circle and Our Closet — provide services to families who may need food, health care, clothing and shelter.



▲ From left: Mitzvah Circle’s Susan Giuliano and Fran Held, as well as TruMark Financial’s Mary Ellen Kull, prepare to distribute clothes to area nonprofits.

Courtesy of TruMark Financial Credit Union

Barrack Student Hosts Talk on Israel

Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy junior Raphael Englander hosted a talk on The Abraham Accords on Dec. 8. Dr. Driss Moussaoui, the founder of the Department of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in Casablanca, Morocco, and Robert Greenway, president of the Abraham Accords Peace Institute, addressed the audience.

► Raphael Englander

Courtesy of Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy



KleinLife Spreads Word about Meals Program

KleinLife’s Sharon Kaplan, Shelley Geltzer and Benjamin Toledano told people about the Subaru Share the Love Event at the nonprofit’s weekly Grab and Go Meal Distribution. The Philadelphia organization is a partner of Subaru in its Meals on Wheels effort, which delivers meals to homebound seniors. Now through Jan. 3, when you buy or lease a Subaru, \$250 will go toward Meals on Wheels.



▲ From left: Sharon Kaplan, Shelley Geltzer and Benjamin Toledano spread the word about Meals on Wheels during KleinLife’s Grab and Go Meal Distribution.

Courtesy of KleinLife

Akiba-Barrack Class Gathers for Reunion

Members of the Akiba Hebrew Academy’s Class of 1959 gathered on Zoom recently to celebrate their 80th birthdays. Akiba is now the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy.



▲ Akiba-Barrack alums talk on Zoom during their recent reunion.

Courtesy of Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy

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2022 Magazine AND Featured Content



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

MAGAZINES

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

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

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

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

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

FEATURED CONTENT

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

Camps Featuring day, sleep-away & specialty camps

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

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

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

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

Publications by date

	AD SPACE DEADLINE	PUB. DATE
Camps	Jan 7	Jan 13
Healthy, Wealthy and Wise	Jan 21	Jan 27
Camps	Feb 4	Feb 10
The Look	Feb 18	Feb 24
Passover Palate	March 18	March 24
Spring Mazel Tov!	March 11	March 31
The Good Life	April 14	May 5
Confirmations	May 26	June 2
This Summer	May 27	June 16
Rosh Hashanah Food	Sept 1	Sept 8
Rosh Hashanah Food	Sept 9	Sept 15
Rosh Hashanah Greetings	Sept 16	Sept 22
The Guide to Jewish Philadelphia	Aug 18	Sept 20
Cancer Awareness	Sept 30	Oct 6
Fall Mazel Tov!	Sept 30	Oct 20
Winter Holiday Magazine	Nov 4	Nov 24
Hanukkah Gift Guide	Dec 4	Dec 8
The Good Life	Nov 25	Dec 15

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