

JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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OF NOTE

OBITUARY

Cantor Isaac Wall Dies at 103

Hazzan's career stretched 90 years.

Page 4

LOCAL

Israeli Cuisine the Focus of Virtual Market Tour

Country's food a mix of worldwide delicacies.

Page 6

BOOKS

February Book Harvest Healthy

See capsule reviews of several good choices.

Page 24

Volume 133
Number 44

Published Weekly Since 1887



Purim Marks a Year of Altered Ritual Life

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

THE WALLS OF Germantown Jewish Centre bear the remnants of last year's Purim celebration.

"We still have signs in our building that say, 'Extra hand washing station behind the bar' because we were trying to encourage people to take the steps we thought at that time were going to help to contain the pandemic," Rabbi Adam Zeff said.

For many synagogues, Purim was the last Jewish holiday celebrated in person. On March 9, 2020, news of the pandemic was making people uneasy, but widespread shutdowns and research about the dangers of gatherings had yet to fully take hold. Many political leaders and health experts were still recommending hand washing as the main preventative measure against COVID-19's spread. Some shuls canceled events, while others held them cautiously: no shared food, no handshakes.

One Jewish calendar year later, leaders and congregants find themselves planning virtual and socially distanced celebrations

See Purim, Page 15



▲ Federation Housing residents wait in line at their COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

Photos by Eric Naftulin

Jewish Philadelphia Reports Rocky COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

WHEN MICHAEL SAEWITZ, 67, tried to sign up for an appointment at the Atlantic City Convention Center COVID-19 vaccination site, the registration system informed him he was number 11,800 in line.

He hasn't heard back from any local vaccination sites, so he called a number to register for another site in New Jersey, which put him on hold before hanging up on him.

"That's sort of typical of the whole process," he said.

Saewitz, who lives in Philadelphia and

See Vaccine, Page 14

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IN THIS ISSUE

4 HEADLINES

Local
Israel
National
Global

16 OPINION

Columns
Kvetch 'n' Kvell

18 LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Food
Arts

26 TORAH COMMENTARY

27 COMMUNITY

Jewish Federation
Mazel Tovs
Deaths

32 CLASSIFIEDS

CANDLE LIGHTING

Feb. 12 5:15 p.m.
Feb. 19 5:24 p.m.



Sisters persevere, open online bakery.

10



Book reviews: Fashion's flaws, getting a get.

18



Purim and eating go hand in hand.

23

JEWISHEXPONENT.COM

Miriam's Advice Well

PANDEMIC RANT PROVES UNCOMFORTABLE

A reader is subjected to a rant from a co-worker she runs into at a park and wonders how she should have responded. Miriam replies with some ways to defuse the situation if it happens again, among other suggestions. 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/2021/02/08/dear-miriam-pandemic-rant-proves-uncomfortable](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2021/02/08/dear-miriam-pandemic-rant-proves-uncomfortable)



Philcatessen

CHILAQUILES: BREAKFAST, BRUNCH, LUNCH OR DINNER

Food columnist Keri White explores chilaquiles, a traditional Mexican dish that can work at any mealtime; it's also a great way to use leftover tortillas. As always, there are plenty of variations you can incorporate into the dish. Read Philcatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philcatessen regularly for food content not normally found in the printed edition.
[jewishexponent.com/2021/02/08/chilaquiles-breakfast-brunch-lunch-or-dinner](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2021/02/08/chilaquiles-breakfast-brunch-lunch-or-dinner)



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SNAPSHOT: FEBRUARY 16, 1990

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



This month's Kid Reporter, 16-year-old Robert Grunstein, puts the finishing touches on the story of his family's escape from Hungary.
Photo by Scott Weiner

Fleeing to win freedom

On the night of Dec. 27, 1980, my mother, father, brother, uncle and I crossed the Hungarian-Austrian border to freedom. I was 7 years old.

My parents, Thomas and Aniko Grunstein, had been denied visas to travel abroad together. When my mother was issued a visa, my father's was recalled, and vice versa. Finally, we received travel visas for a ski vacation to the Austrian and Swiss Alps for two weeks. By chance, my uncle was also given a visa and my grandparents on both sides were already in the United States on travel visas.

We packed as much as we could into our small car, leaving behind many things. We were careful not to look suspicious to the border guards because our journey

See **REPORTER** next page

Robert Grunstein, 16, attends Torah Academy High School. He enjoys long-distance bike racing and spends his summers working as a lifeguard. His favorite academic subject is English literature.

A family escapes from Hungary to live as Jews

KID REPORTER
ROBERT GRUNSTEIN



The Grunstein family celebrates Chanukah in Hungary in 1978. Family members (from left) are Thomas, Robert, Gabi and Aniko.

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Longtime Cantor Isaac Wall Dies at 103

OBITUARY
ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

CANTOR ISAAC WALL, whose 90-year career included serving for 47 years as Har Zion Temple’s cantor and nearly 30 years in the same role at Congregation Rodef Shalom in Atlantic City, died Jan. 11. He was 103.

“He was the king, he really was, of his craft. What man

today can say, ‘For 75 years I led congregations and was the superstar?’” Rodef Shalom Rabbi Shalom Ever said. “He was the crown jewel of our synagogue.”

Wall was born in Poland on Dec. 23, 1917, and moved with his family to Denver in 1919. He received Jewish religious training under the guidance of his father and had already displayed his *hazzanut* talent by the time the family moved

to New York when he was 9 — he often was dubbed a wunderkind, daughter Ahavia Scheindlin said.

In New York, Wall studied the Talmud, liturgy and voice and, by 13, was davening as a cantor for the High Holidays in Hartford, Connecticut, including a performance for the governor. Ever noted that Wall’s bar mitzvah invitation referred to him as Hazzan Isaac Wall.



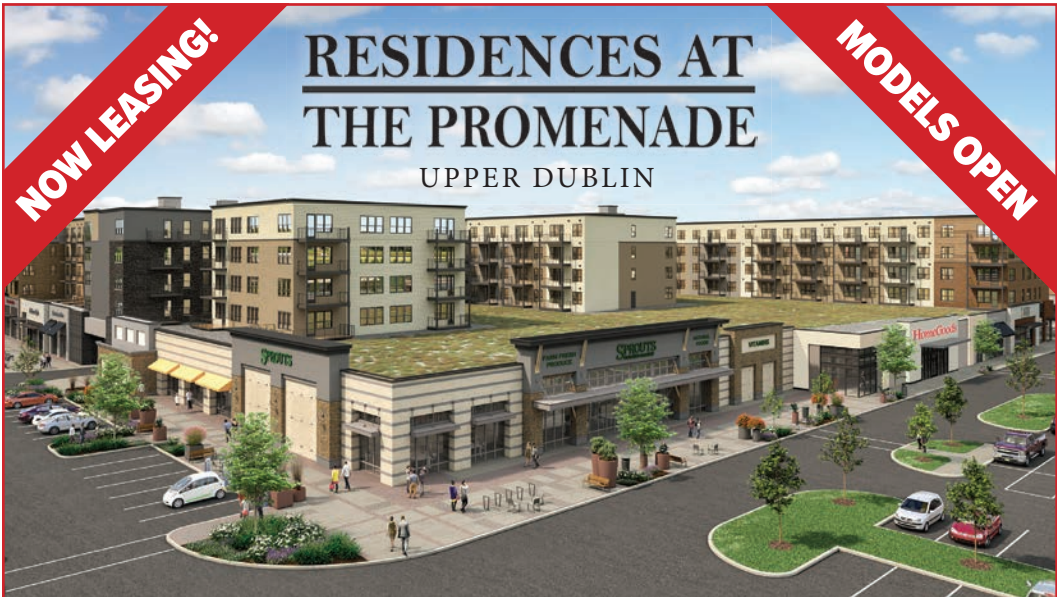
▲ Cantor Isaac Wall Photo by Rebbetzin Sera Ever

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Wall served as a cantor for several New York synagogues over the next few years, then took a job in Houston, traveling around Texas to conduct services for the armed forces during World War II. He arrived at Conservative Har Zion in 1944 — after synagogue congregants heard him sing during a visit to the Jersey shore — and further made a name for himself.

“He was a lot of the reason I came to the congregation,” said Cantor Eliot Vogel, his successor at Har Zion.

Wall had a deep respect for his profession, which was reflected in his modesty, Vogel said.

“It wasn’t about the bimah as a stage. It was all about the prayer,” he said. “Many people would say he’s a hazzan’s hazzan, a true pulpit artist.”

“He had a beautiful baritone

voice and never overdid it,” said son Joshua Wall, adding that many people have told him that when they listen to a cantor now, they always compare that hazzan to his father. “He was part of everyone’s family lives and their important moments.”

Over the years, Wall prepared thousands of boys for their bar mitzvahs, Scheindlin said. Those boys never forgot the cantor.

“I met them wherever I went in the world,” she said.

Wall retired and moved to Ventnor, New Jersey, in 1991, becoming the full-time volunteer cantor at Orthodox Congregation Rodef Shalom shortly thereafter.

Wall’s cantorial gifts mixed with an overriding sense of service, even in his later days, Ever said, noting that he braved snow and bad weather despite being urged to stay home.

► Wunderkind Isaac Wall, who was known in Yiddish as Isacle Voll

Courtesy of the Wall family



“For a quarter century, he was there every day — at 98, 99, until 100,” Ever said. “We should all learn from him.”

In September 2017, Rodef Shalom honored Wall’s 100th birthday with a tribute dinner. A Jewish Community Voice article about the event quoted synagogue leaders as saying Wall was the first one at Rodef Shalom each morning for davening.

His appearances grew infrequent his last couple years, although congregants still brought children to his apartment to receive blessings and prepare for religious life events, Ever said.

“He welcomed his home to several of my grandchildren,” said Frank Gelb, a former Rodef Shalom president, who knew of Wall from his time growing up in Har Zion’s original Wynnefield neighborhood.

Congregant Raye Felder of Ventnor said Wall had a great sense of humor and enjoyed puns, recalling a time when she brought him a shankbone for Passover from her hometown of Pittsburgh, and he responded, “Shank you very much.”

Joshua Wall said that when his father got together with his siblings, they’d speak to each other with a pronounced Irish brogue. Scheindlin said her father was a great mimic and did a spot-on Charlie Chaplin.

Wall had a large community

following and was often seen walking the Atlantic City boardwalk between his home and the shul.

“When people saw him on the boardwalk, they’d always stop him,” she said.

Aside from his religious singing, Wall was a fan of many kinds of secular music, including opera, big band, Broadway musicals and even the Beatles, Scheindlin said. Unfortunately, he became increasingly deaf in his final years and could no longer listen to music, although it didn’t impact his singing.

In addition to his cantorial service, he was a founder and past president of the Cantors Assembly and a fellow and founder of the Cantors Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He also taught music, liturgy and the reading of the Torah for 20 years at Solomon Schechter Day School (now Perelman Jewish Day School), which he helped found.

Wall’s wife, Sheva, died in 2004. He is survived by daughter Ahavia Scheindlin (Lon Levin); sons Shalom Wall (Kathy Conti) and Joshua Wall (Kathleen Dougherty); a sister, Florence Wall Gallop; 13 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. •

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Israeli Cuisine Displayed in Virtual Market Tour

ONLINE
SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

ANYONE WHO HAS visited Israel knows a tour of the country is not complete without sampling pita, falafel and hummus.

However, educator Danny Stein knows that if you don't try Yemenite *lachuch* and Tunisian *burika*, you're missing out on the country's diverse culinary heritage.

On Feb. 3, Jewish National Fund Women for Israel offered Eastern Pennsylvania residents a virtual tour of a site where nearly every category of Israeli cuisine can be found: Carmel Market in Tel Aviv.

The virtual tour of the market, or shuk, "From Our Jewish Home to Our Jewish

Homeland," was guided by Stein, a Philadelphia native and Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy (formerly Akiba Hebrew Academy) alum. He attended JNF-USA's college prep study abroad program Alexander Muss High School in Israel as a student and now works as an educator there.

During the tour, Stein highlighted dishes from Jewish groups throughout Europe and the Middle East. In addition to describing recipes and family businesses, Stein explained how each food arrived in Israel with Jewish groups making aliyah, from pastries made by Holocaust survivors from Hungary to kebabs brought by Romanian Jews who immigrated from the Soviet Union.

He also spoke about the



▲ Danny Stein, lower right, shares photos of a coffee shop in Carmel Market during his Zoom presentation. Courtesy of Jewish National Fund-USA

creation of the market itself, which was created by Russian Jews who fled pogroms and settled in Tel Aviv during the early 20th century.

Stein's photos and videos of hummus were accompanied by stories of Jews who fled Egypt in the 1950s after Israel was founded, as well as Nazi scientists who moved to Egypt after World War II to build a

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long-range missile designed to wipe out the Jewish state. The project, which was one of the first major strategic threats the young state faced, eventually fell through.

He played a video of a stall in the market that sells Yemenite *lachuch*, a type of flatbread that can be served with toppings. In the 1950s, the Jewish state was facing economic devastation caused by war, but leaders insisted on continuing to transport Jewish populations from around the world. With the help of Alaska Airlines, nearly 50,000 Yemenite Jews boarded 380 flights to Israel.

Even more amazing, Stein said, is the fact that Jewish immigration from Yemen has continued to the present day.

"There actually still are Jewish families left in Yemen, very, very few," he explained as he displayed a photo of a family in Ben Gurion Airport. "And

one of them, a big family, made aliyah in 2016. As we know, the civil war's been raging in Yemen for quite some time."

Stein shared a video of Tunisian *burika*, a fried dough stuffed with potato, egg and other fillings, along with stories of the country's Zionist

their European brethren, but many were sent to labor camps and concentration camps by Nazis and local collaborators in their own governments, which caused many to flee to Israel.

Stein told his audience that Tunisia was the birthplace

Vienna and Berlin. She was known for her angelic voice, became a household name despite the obstacles she faced as a Jewish woman in a Muslim country and demanded equal wages with her male colleagues.

For dessert, Stein displayed photos of Hungarian chimney

imprisoned in. She finally found her in Auschwitz at the end of the war and kept her alive until liberation. The two sisters survived and never went more than a few days without seeing each other for the rest of their lives.

Stein ended his virtual tour with a picture of his students dancing in the Carmel Market and a reflection on the diversity of Israeli culture.

"When my students, when they come to Israel, when you guys come to Israel, you're eating a German schnitzel on a French baguette with Egyptian hummus and Yemenite curry, and all these amazing groups of Jews from Romania and Iraq and Yemen and Hungary, they all came to Israel and formed this amazing country with an amazing culture," Stein said. •

When my students, when they come to Israel, when you guys come to Israel, you're eating a German schnitzel on a French baguette with Egyptian hummus and Yemenite curry, and all these amazing groups of Jews from Romania and Iraq and Yemen and Hungary, they all came to Israel and formed this amazing country with an amazing culture."

DANNY STEIN

movement and impact of the Holocaust in North Africa.

"People don't even realize that the Holocaust did touch North African Jews as well," Stein said. They were not exterminated to the same extent as

of Habiba Msika, one of the most famous singers and actresses in the world during the 1920s. Msika, who was Jewish, performed across the Arabic-speaking world, as well as in European cities like Paris,

cake pastries and told the story of his best friend's Hungarian great-grandmother, who was separated from her sister during the Holocaust and searched for her in every concentration camp she was

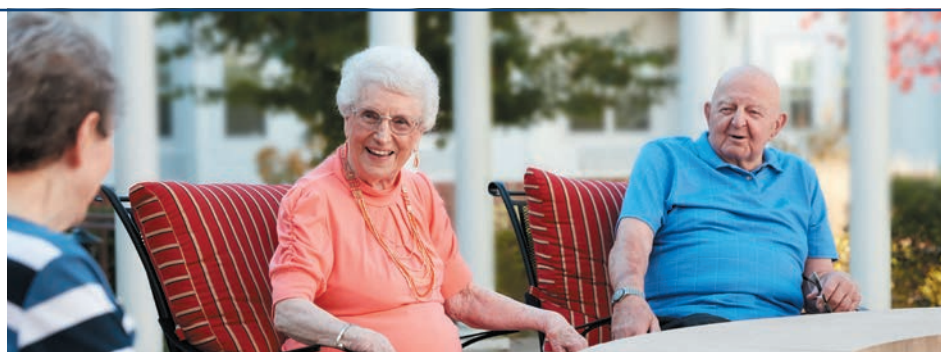
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NEWSBRIEFS

Former Nazi Death Camp Secretary to Stand Trial
GERMAN PROSECUTORS indicted a 95-year-old woman who served as a secretary to a Nazi death camp's commander during the Holocaust and charged her with complicity in the murders of 10,000 people at Stutthof, a camp in occupied Poland, JTA reported.

The woman, identified under German privacy laws only as Irmgard F., will be tried in juvenile court because she was under 21 when she worked at Stutthof.

The indictment is based on camp survivors now living in the United States and Israel. About 65,000 people were murdered at Stutthof. The indictment against Irmgard F. was the result of a five-year investigation, prosecutors said.

The woman reportedly resides in an old-age home north of Hamburg.

Celebrities Sign Statement Launching Black-Jewish Entertainment Alliance

More than 170 entertainment industry leaders signed a statement launching the Black-Jewish Entertainment Alliance, which is designed to foster dialogue and mutual understanding, JTA reported.

High-profile signees include Tiffany Haddish (who is Black and Jewish), Mayim Bialik, NFL player Zach Banner (a leading pro athlete voice against

anti-Semitism), Terry Crews, Herbie Hancock, Sharon Osbourne and Nick Cannon, who made anti-Semitic statements in 2020 on a podcast episode, but later apologized.

"In the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr., Rabbi Abraham Heschel, and the many Blacks and Jews who stood together in the fight for civil rights, we come together to support each other in the struggle against hatred and bigotry," the group's "unity statement" reads.

The organization will sponsor programming geared to its goals, along with "in-person trips such as pilgrimages to destinations that are historically and/or culturally significant to each community," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Jewish Inmate's COVID-19 Death Cited in Push to Vaccinate NY Prisoners

Lawyers working to expand vaccine eligibility for New York state prisoners are citing the case of an elderly Jewish inmate who died of COVID-19, JTA reported.

Ira Goldberg, 72, of Brooklyn, who was serving a seven-year minimum sentence for burglary, died on a ventilator on Jan. 4. His lawyers said he suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, asthma, chronic renal failure and high blood pressure.

The Center for Appellate Litigation and others

are suing New York state to give people in its prisons and jails access to vaccines in accordance with guidance from the American Medical Association. Congregation Beit Simchat Torah of Manhattan sponsored a letter signed by 120 clergy pressing Gov. Andrew Cuomo to include inmates in the state's vaccine plan; 27 other states have already done so.

Supreme Court Rejects Holocaust Heirs Appeal

The Supreme Court unanimously rejected an appeal by Holocaust survivors and their heirs who wanted to pursue restitution claims in the United States after failing in the countries where the art was stolen, JTA reported.

The opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts said that allowing the lawsuits to go forward would contradict international agreements.

"As a nation, we would be surprised — and might even initiate reciprocal action — if a court in Germany adjudicated claims by Americans that they were entitled to hundreds of millions of dollars because of human rights violations committed by the United States government years ago," Roberts wrote. "There is no reason to anticipate that Germany's reaction would be any different were American courts to exercise the jurisdiction claimed in this case." •

— Compiled by Andy Gottlieb



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HEADLINES

ISRAEL BRIEFS

Israeli Pay Rises 10%, Number of Salaried Jobs Drops 13%

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY in Israel rose 9.9% to the equivalent of \$3,526 between November 2019 and November 2020, but the number of Israelis in salaried jobs in that period fell 13%, from 3.74 million to 3.252 million, Globes reported, citing Central Bureau of Statistics data.

The rise in pay was attributed to the likelihood that most of the employees placed on unpaid leave in that period earn low salaries in sectors hit hard by the pandemic. Those include the accommodation and catering fields (average monthly pay of \$1,756), where the number of jobs dropped 63.4%, and the arts, entertainment and leisure sector (average monthly pay of \$2,678), where jobs were down 53.2%.

But in the well-paid high-tech sector — where the average monthly salary increased 2.7% to \$7,202 — the number of salaried jobs dropped only 1.2%, from 326,500 jobs to 322,500.

Vaccine Drive Slows, 'Fake News' Cited for Promoting Skepticism

The pace of COVID-19 inoculations in Israel has slowed by roughly 50%, and officials believe the slowdown is because of online “fake news” that promotes skepticism about the vaccine, The Times of Israel reported.

“At the beginning of the [vaccination] campaign we got used to inoculating between 100,000 and 120,000 people per day, and in the last few days we are barely reaching half of those figures,” Kalanit Kaye, the manager of Clalit’s vaccination drive, told the Ynet news site.

As of Feb. 7, 3.43 million Israelis had received the first dose of the vaccine, with 2.02 million also having received the second dose. Vaccines are now being offered all Israelis over 16.

The death toll from COVID-19 reached 5,096, as of Feb. 7. There were 2,625 new infections recorded the previous day, and 1,144 patients were listed in serious condition, including 312 who are on ventilators.

Western Wall Plaza Reopens

The Western Wall reopened to visitors from across the country on Feb. 7 as Israel lifted lockdown restrictions that prevented people from traveling outside a 1-kilometer radius from their homes, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The restriction was in place for 40 days as part of the nation’s third lockdown in response to COVID-19.

The Western Wall is now divided into separate sections, allowing people to pray in “capsules,” with ushers providing directions at the site, the Post reported.

Pandemic Prompts Half of Israeli Families to Reduce Savings

About half of all Israeli families have reduced their savings because of the pandemic — and one in six had to borrow money — The Jerusalem Post reported, citing a report by the Myers-JDC Brookdale Institute.

Fifty-one percent of the 1,501 survey participants said they used extra financial resources to deal with the crisis. That included reducing current savings, withdrawing money from savings, taking loans from banks or non-bank lenders or a combination of those actions.

In addition, 76% of those surveyed said they received some government assistance at some point, with 21% receiving multiple types of assistance. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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Philly Faces: Rhonda Saltzman and Mercedes Brooks

PHILLY FACES

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

IT MAY APPEAR that the Jan. 12 opening of Second Daughter Baking Co., an online bakery that draws on the Black and Jewish heritage of its founders, was just the beginning for Rhonda Saltzman and Mercedes Brooks.

But to know their story is to know that it's just another chapter of a winding tale.

Saltzman, 29, and Brooks, 27, sisters who grew up together in Delaware County, had talked for years about the possibility of such a venture before launching last month. Though their goal is to eventually open a brick-and-mortar store, Saltzman and Brooks are ready for the uncertain path that lies ahead. After all, the trials that

the pair have already endured together — a devastating fire, the loss of a husband, layoffs at the beginning of the pandemic — haven't stopped them yet.

"I feel like Rhonda brings out the best in me," Brooks said.

"Mercedes and I are best friends," Saltzman said.

Saltzman, a graduate of the The Culinary Institute of America, and Brooks, who has worked in hospitality while pursuing a degree in accounting, knew that their personalities would complement each other as much as their skills (Saltzman is the baker, while Brooks handles marketing, design and taste-testing).

Brooks and Saltzman live together and work together, a difficult proposition for any siblings. But their love for the project itself and their intersecting interests — Brooks has

brought Saltzman closer to photography, while Saltzman brought her sister closer to food — has made keeping the peace a cinch.

"I don't want to spend time with anyone else," Saltzman said.

Saltzman and Brooks had one Jewish grandfather, who passed certain traditions on to their father. Those practices, often food-centric, were reinforced for the sisters by their grandmother, who took to her husband's Jewish life.

Though they weren't raised Jewish, Saltzman and Brooks watched as their father worked in Jewish delis around Philadelphia. Later, after she'd graduated from CIA, Saltzman worked in Hymie's and Izenberg's between other gigs as a line cook and a baker. When she was "courting" her

► From left: Rhonda Saltzman and Mercedes Brooks

Courtesy of Rhonda Saltzman



future Jewish husband, as Saltzman put it, freshly baked babka and bagels made for an effective means of persuasion.

Saltzman and her husband, Lee Saltzman, a cook and graduate of the CIA himself, dreamed of opening a Jewish bakery together as she made her conversion to Judaism.

In 2015, Lee Saltzman died at 29 from pancreatic cancer, an episode that Saltzman recently recounted in an interview with KYW Newsradio. His death dealt a heavy blow to Saltzman and Brooks, and Brooks moved in with her sister the next year. Painful as it was to contemplate, the dream of the bakery stayed vivid.

In January 2020, Saltzman and Brooks suffered a severe fire at their home. They moved into their mother's house, where they expected to be until June. Then, March came around, and both sisters were laid off from their jobs.

It's a familiar tale at this stage of the pandemic: With more time on their hands than ever before, and a moment to catch their breath, the sisters decided that the time had come to make their dream into a reality.

As the second of three sisters, "Second Daughter" is solely Saltzman's title to claim

in this family, but in the minds of Saltzman and Brooks, the name is a nod to the fact that the store is owned by the two of them. In the fall of 2020, they began to offer baked goods out of their home.

Before the pandemic, and before Second Daughter, they'd sold baked goods through Etsy under a different name. The beginning stages of Second Daughter followed a similar pattern, as they advertised their tastefully photographed wares online, courtesy of Brooks, and baked everything from their kitchen. But it soon became apparent that a home kitchen couldn't handle the volume of orders that their cakes, cookies and focaccia breads attracted.

In January, they moved into a commercial kitchen at the Bok Building in South Philadelphia, debuting a new website and social media presence. As of now, the sisters offer their baked goods via pickup and delivery as the dream of a storefront — and a few more Jewish pastries for the menu — shimmers in the distance.

"I dare say, 'I plan' or 'I hope' to that," said Saltzman, "but that's something I would like to do." •

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French Chief Rabbi Clashes with Fellow Communal Leaders in Debate Over Nation's Jewish Future

WORLD

CNAAN LIPSHIZ | JTA.ORG

FRENCH CHIEF Rabbi Haim Korsia has long argued that his community is inseparable from the wider French society, which he insists will overcome its many challenges, including the anti-Semitism that has driven thousands of French Jews to seek a more secure existence in Israel.

But this hopeful message, a Korsia trademark, is for the first time coming under fire from prominent French Jews who accuse the chief rabbi of failing to recognize a bitter reality and unfairly faulting those who choose to leave.

In op-eds and social media posts in recent weeks, French-speaking Jews in France and Israel have pushed back against Korsia's optimistic take and his assertion that fear should not be the basis for emigration by French Jews. The debate, set off by a controversial and deeply pessimistic op-ed in the mainstream community weekly *Actualité Juive*, has dragged into the open a conversation about the fate of French Jewish life that more commonly takes place behind closed doors.

"It may actually be time to say aloud what many think inside: France is overrun," wrote the op-ed's author, Ariel Kandel, the Jerusalem-based director of an organization

promoting French immigration to Israel and the former head of the Jewish Agency's France operations.

"It's overrun in the fight on COVID-19, in the distribution of vaccines, but also in the fight against radical Islam and anti-Semitism," wrote Kandel, who is well-known in the community.

Kandel cited the common concerns of Jews in France for their security, recalling being harassed for wearing a yarmulke as a teenager on the Paris subway. But he went further in suggesting that French-Jewish patriotism amounts to little more than cheap symbolism.

"Jews live in France for

practical reasons. They love French culture, but their support for France is mostly on the pitch at soccer matches," Kandel wrote. "It's no coincidence that so many children of our community leaders live in Israel."

Despite years in which French Jews have been the target of terrorist attacks and hundreds of violent assaults, Jewish leadership and notable figures have rarely voiced hopelessness about the future. Korsia has taken the lead in combating perceived defeatism.

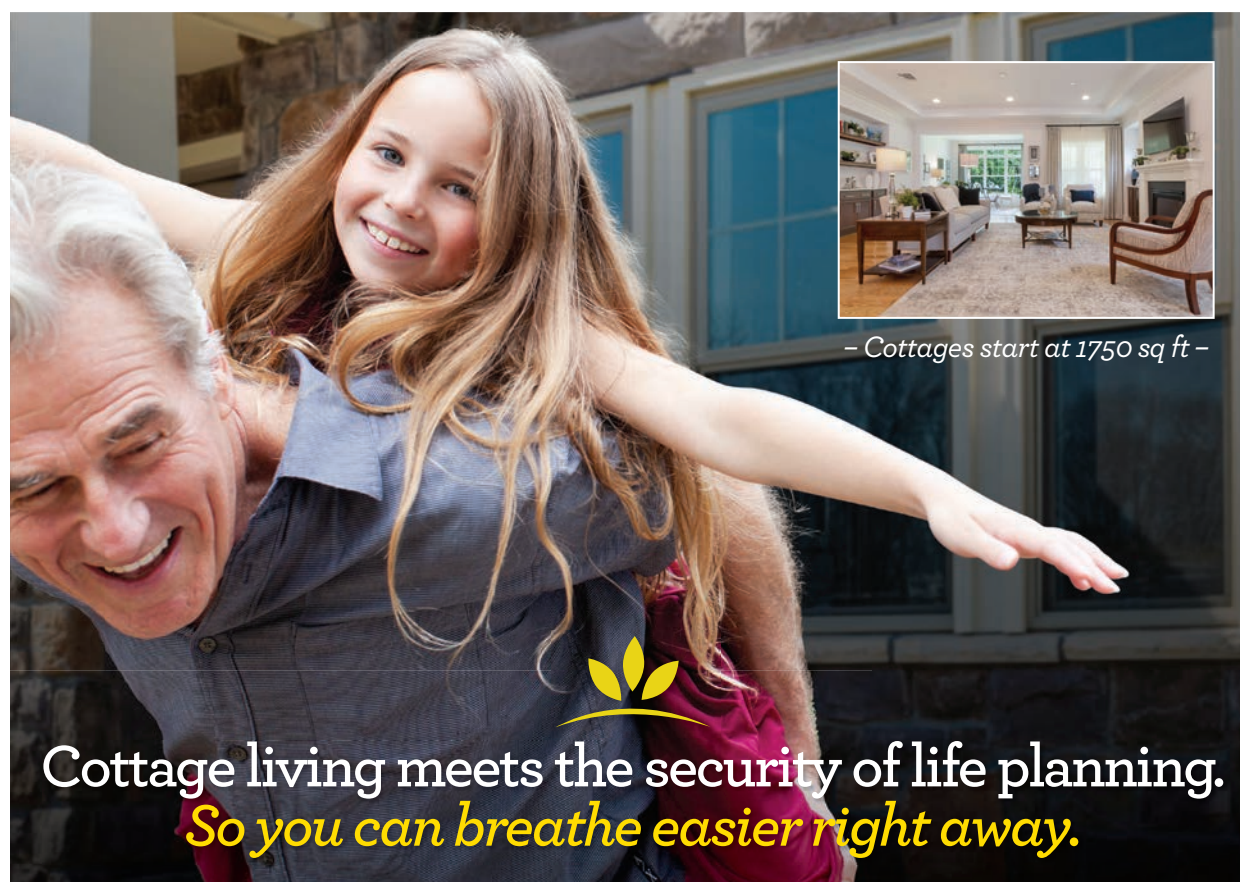
He called Kandel's piece "biased, bitter and one that caricatures a whole society." Noting the French Jews who had died fighting for France in the

20th century, Korsia, a former military chaplain and self-described French patriot, wrote in *Actualité Juive* that they "died because they were French, not because they were Jews!"

Korsia has consistently argued positions to this effect, insisting that French Jews assert their rightful place in French society and immigrate to Israel only as "an ideological and spiritual choice," not because of fear for their safety.

In 2015, he pushed back forcefully after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told European Jews to come "home" to Israel following a deadly terrorist attack on a

See Debate, Page 13



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Middle Eastern Eatery to Open in Queen Village

LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

EVERYTHING ABOUT Keshet Kitchen, a Middle Eastern comfort food restaurant set to open in March in South Philadelphia, is a burst of exuberant color.

There's the name, for starters: "Keshet" is Hebrew for rainbow. There are the eye-poppingly bright dishes, the kind of yellows and purples and oranges that come with the territory of good food from Israel and the region. And then there's the executive chef and owner, Sharon Shvarzman, the son of Israeli immigrants to Brighton Beach, New York, who raised their son in the restaurant business.

Shvarzman was deemed sufficiently colorful to appear on two Food Network television programs in the past, and now he'll bring that same sensibility to Keshet Kitchen in Queen Village.

"Our goal is to completely change what people's idea is of Middle Eastern food," Shvarzman said. "So yes, you can have mac and cheese and have it Middle Eastern-style."

The key: harissa.

Shvarzman and his partner, Abraham Bloom — also of Brooklyn, also of Israeli ancestry, also the son of food industry professionals — moved to Philadelphia from New York last summer so that Bloom could pursue a doctorate in physical therapy. Though they quickly came to love their adopted home, and especially Queen Village, moving during the pandemic made it difficult for them to meet other Jewish people.

Shvarzman dreamed of opening his own restaurant for some time, inspired by his parents' long-gone Mediterranean spot and his grandparents — a baker and a chef. Underwhelmed by Philadelphia's Middle Eastern offerings, and determined to create a little *haimish* feeling in a time that can seem devoid

of such comforts, Shvarzman and Bloom decided to give the dream a shot. Thus, Keshet Kitchen was born.

The pair teamed up with New Jersey-based public relations representative and consultant Morissa Schwartz, a longtime friend of Shvarzman's, who he'll rely on heavily in the opening months. At a time when foot traffic is low, a strong social media presence will be key for the new restaurant.

The trio wants Keshet Kitchen to become a social magnet when indoor gatherings become a part of life again, a fragrant way to bring friends and family together over Shvarzman's take on Middle Eastern food. There will be staples like falafel and shawarma, but there will also be pine nut and olive meatloaf and Shvarzman's

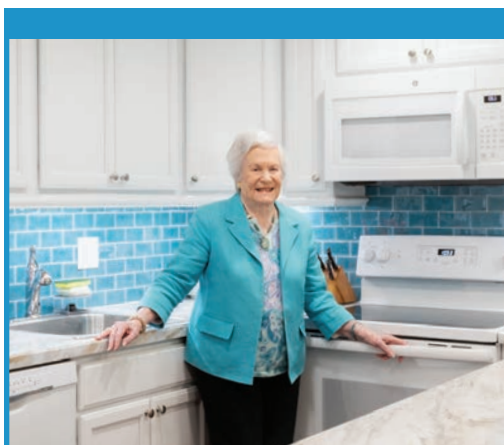


▲ Sharon Shvarzman, executive chef at Keshet Kitchen

Courtesy of Sharon Shvarzman

▀▀ Our goal is to completely change what people's idea is of Middle Eastern food."

SHARON SHVARZMAN



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Israeli grandmother's spin on borscht.

Shvarzman first made a name for himself as a cook when he appeared on the Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America." He swears that his appearance on the show was not a reflection of his skills as a chef, but rather the result of a friendship with one of the show's producers, who saw his obvious talents for the screen. He later competed in another Food Network show, "The Great Food Truck Race."

"The show has done me right," Shvarzman said. "I graduated Food Network university."

The grand opening at 705 E. Passyunk Ave. is on March

1, and though it can't be the proper indoor dining experience that the trio wants to provide just yet, their collective excitement for Keshet Kitchen will be hearty enough to subsist on for the cold months to come. In Shvarzman's telling, it'll be the place Jews of all stripes to forget about their differences for a while.

"It doesn't matter if you're a Cohen or a Liebowitz or a Schwartzman or a Schwartz," Shvarzman declared. "We are a family that all came from the same Jews, our ancestors dealt with the same hell that we are all dealing with today." •

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Debate

Continued from **Page 11**

synagogue in Denmark. In 2016, Korsia admonished a community leader from Marseille, Zvi Amar, for suggesting amid a spate of anti-Semitic stabbings that Jews avoid wearing yarmulkes in public.

“We will not cede an inch, we will continue to wear the kippah,” Korsia said.

Roger Cukierman, who at the time was the president of the CRIF umbrella of French Jewish communities, warned against voicing positions like the one put forth by Amar, as they “translate into a defeatist attitude of resignation.”

Such assertions have previously earned little public rebuke, even as France endured a series of jihadist attacks over the past decade, including several that have targeted Jews. In 2012, four Jews were killed at a Jewish school in Toulouse. In 2015, four more were killed at a kosher supermarket in Paris.

Despite vows by the government to stop the violence, each year dozens of anti-Semitic assaults occur in France, including cases of rape, murder and even torture.

Particularly painful to French Jews are the cases in which they believe the judiciary has failed to deliver justice. In one such case from 2017, a Muslim man pummeled his Jewish neighbor, Sarah Halimi, to death for 30 minutes at her home and then threw her body out a window while shouting about Allah and killing “the demon.” A court deemed him not accountable for his actions because he was high on marijuana at the time.

Anti-Jewish violence in France has pushed immigration to Israel to new heights. At least 33,278 French Jews have immigrated there since 2013, more than double the 15,401 French citizens who made that move in the prior seven years. Tens of thousands more have moved internally, from dangerous neighborhoods to



▲ The trademark optimism of Haim Korsia, the chief rabbi of France, is coming under fire for the first time in the Jewish community. Bertrand Rindoff Petroff/Getty Images via JTA.org

safer, heavily Jewish areas.

Kandel’s op-ed has brought the question of what this all means for the future of French Jews into the open, and found support from some of Korsia’s prominent constituents, who are loath to fault Jews who choose to emigrate. Rabbi Mikael Journo, the secretary general of Korsia’s own Association of French Rabbis, admonished Korsia in a Jan. 29 op-ed for insensitivity to Jews who leave France out of fear.

“We have the responsibility as religious leaders not to fault those who decide to leave and to support them no matter their reasons,” Journo wrote. “Who are we to judge those who want to be able to wear a kippah on the street?”

Veronique Chemla, a French-Jewish journalist and blogger, said that she’s never seen a rabbi oppose the chief rabbi publicly in this manner.

“I think we’re seeing two things here: the accumulated effect of 20 years of anti-Semitic violence, mainly by Muslims, against French Jews, which is of course making many French Jews doubt their future, and growing distrust of communal leaders who are largely insulated in their daily lives from this violence,” she said. “Increasingly, they’re seen as out of touch and representing the

government to the Jews rather than the other way around.”

The debate was a rare public reflection of growing tension between French Jews, many of them living in rough areas with frequent anti-Semitic incidents,

and communal leaders who tend to live in more upscale areas. Nowhere is this gap more noticeable than in the creeping rehabilitation of far-right ideologies among the rank-and-file of French Jewry.

Despite the public rebuke of communal leaders, support for Jewish defense groups in France is on the rise. Polls also suggest that Jewish support for the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen moved from being nonexistent 20 years ago to just a few points below the national average.

Rabbi Dov Maimon, head of the Europe activity of the Jerusalem-based Jewish People Policy Institute, wrote on Facebook that Korsia’s proposition is “to love Israel but from a distance, literally alienated from it. He has fallen in love with his *galut* [exile].”

But Paul Levy, a regional leader in the Consistoire, the organization responsible for religious Jewish life in France that employs Korsia, said Journo’s op-ed “divides us French Jews when a rabbi’s job is to unite.” ●



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Vaccine

Continued from Page 1

has a home in New Jersey, has a medical condition that qualifies him for vaccination according to both state and local vaccine eligibility criteria. He is one of many Jewish Philadelphians joining the nationwide lineup for a COVID-19 vaccine. He hasn't had much luck.

"Early on, I came to the conclusion that it was a very disorganized process, and I kept hearing about friends and family who were able to get appointments, but every time I tried to get one, I would hit a stumbling block," he said. "The system just was not prepared to handle the number of people that were applying in Pennsylvania and, to a lesser extent, New Jersey."

Vaccine distribution across the country has been plagued by delays, logistical failures and supply shortages.

Philadelphia's rollout has garnered particularly negative attention due to the city's partnership with Philly Fighting Covid, a startup created by a 22-year-old Drexel University student with no experience working in health care. The startup's disorganized approach, lack of staff training and switch to a for-profit model as reported by WHYY led the city to sever ties with the organization, but not before its registration system caused widespread confusion about vaccine appointments and eligibility.

The differences between Philadelphia's guidelines and Pennsylvania's guidelines have also caused confusion among vaccine seekers. Pennsylvania's Department of Health website states that the commonwealth is in Phase 1A of vaccine distribution and eligible groups include health care workers, Pennsylvanians living in long-term care facilities, people age 65 and older and those age 16-64 with high-risk conditions like cancer.



▲ Connie Berkowitz sits after receiving her first dose.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health website states that the vaccine is being distributed to people who are eligible in Phase 1A and Phase 1B of the city's own plan. Phase 1A includes patient-facing health care workers and elderly residents of long-term care facilities, and Phase 1B includes high-risk essential workers, those who work and reside in congregate settings, seniors 75 years and older and people with high-risk medical conditions.

As a result, Philadelphia residents who are eligible under state guidelines but not city guidelines find themselves at a loss. Many who are eligible under both have not been able to get appointments.

Lori Turner, a Center City resident with an immune deficiency that makes her eligible under both city and state guidelines, feels like she has tried every registration option available with no results.

"I've signed up for every

single waitlist, every single clinic, every single pharmacy where I would be eligible for a vaccine, only to either get a response saying, 'Thank you so much for signing up for the waitlist,' or I am not qualified for the category. And that's been the biggest confusion," she said.

"It seems every place that you go the category is a little bit different of who they're actually taking and who they're not taking. So what the state says versus what the city says versus what the place that's giving and administering the vaccine says doesn't seem to align," she added.

Sallie Gorohoff, 73, lives in Center City and has registered with five different places, including local pharmacies and the State of New Jersey. So far, none have given her a call back.

She thinks Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's vaccine rollouts have been less efficient than those in other states.

"The thing that's the most

frustrating is when I'm on Facebook or talking to friends, and they've been able to get the vaccine," she said.

Her husband, who is 75 and has a qualifying medical condition, was able to schedule an appointment for his first dose at Penn Medicine, where he is a patient, on Feb. 8.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health did not respond to a request for comment.

Residents of the counties outside Philadelphia are also experiencing setbacks.

Ilana Ponce has tried to

the government has not been proactive enough in reaching out to people to inform them of their eligibility.

"To put the burden on the people to get an appointment is misguided," he said.

Vaccine appointments haven't been chaotic for everyone, however.

Federation Housing, which provides affordable living communities for seniors aged 62 and older, asked the city for vaccine priority three months ago. In January, the organization was notified its request

■ There is no next step because there's no information. Nobody knows anything."

ILANA PONCE

get her parents, who live in Montgomery County, vaccinated because they are both over 65 and diabetic. A contact sent her a link for a local vaccination site and she managed to reserve a spot, only to be told it was a mistake, that the appointments were for people getting their second doses and that if her parents showed up they would be escorted away.

Her parents contacted pharmacies like Walgreens when they heard the vaccines would be distributed there, but were told they weren't available yet. Now, Ponce is considering driving them to Florida or flying them to Colorado, where she hears people have had more success.

"There is no next step because there's no information. Nobody knows anything," she said.

Saewitz said he wouldn't care if he got an appointment scheduled later in the year, as long as he knew he had a date and a time. He thinks

would be granted due to the age of its 1,500 residents living in congregate housing.

The city paired the organization with CVS Pharmacy to set up clinics to administer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at each of its 11 properties at the beginning of February. The city also has allowed Federation Housing's front-line staff members to receive the vaccine.

"It's really been a blessing," said Eric Naftulin, executive director and CEO of Federation Housing.

Connie Berkowitz, a resident at Miriam and Robert Rieder Apartments, got her first dose on Feb. 5 and is looking forward to getting her second.

"My first thing I want to do when I'm fully immune is meet my new great-granddaughter, who was born on the fourth of January," she said. ●

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Purim

Continued from Page 1

yet again as the pandemic rages.

At Temple Sholom in Broomall, Cantor Jamie Marx is busy adapting Purim spiels for Zoom. His company, The Spiel Guy, writes and sells scripts to synagogues across North America and the United Kingdom.

He is adapting two previous scripts by changing ensemble songs and duets into solos (group singing is difficult on Zoom because of delays) and altering stage directions. Instead of writing "Vashti exits stage left," think "Vashti turns off camera." He's also working with a graphic designer to create Purim-themed backgrounds.

One of the skits has a timely twist.

"I wrote a new spiel called 'Pandemic in Persia,' which is a lot of pandemic humor. So for synagogues that really wanted a timely, pandemic-themed spiel, which a lot of people seem to want, it tells a story of the Book of Esther, but as if there was a pandemic in Persia," Marx said.

Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek plans to hold some in-person activities with precautions. Rabbi Yehoshua Yeamans said the synagogue will hold several staggered megillah readings to accommodate social distancing, and participants will be required to wear masks. He is also planning a Zoom celebration that will take place a few days before the holiday and an ice cream truck rental to provide outdoor entertainment for younger congregation members.

"The fact that it's a holiday doesn't change the imperative to continue to be as strict as we have been with those protocols. At the same time, that does not preclude the opportunity to fulfill the commandments and the obligations of the day," Yeamans said.

His congregation held an in-person Purim celebration last year during which people were discouraged from



▲ Participants at Kehillah of Old York Road's 2020 Purim carnival
Courtesy of Kim Decker

touching hands. Two days later, he called an emergency board meeting, and members decided to close the synagogue.

Kehillah of Old York Road will host its Purim CARnival on Feb. 21 at Perelman Jewish Day School's Mandell Education Campus. The event will consist of activities and performances that families can enjoy from their cars, including a clown performance, groggers and change-throwing booth with proceeds going to charity. Nearly 20 local Jewish organizations will participate.

This is the first car-based event the KOYR community has organized, and Director Kim Decker said having access to a large outdoor space was a game-changer.

"I feel really blessed that we can try to do something that's not on Zoom," she said. "We can have something a little different to look forward to."

The most recent in-person event she organized was last year's Purim carnival.

"We got a huge donation of hand sanitizer that we used as a raffle item," she recalled.

Germantown Jewish Centre typically holds a joint celebration among its multiple minyans during Purim, and this year it plans to hold it on Zoom.

"One of the things we're planning is to have a sort of retrospective. We have wonderful video going back more than 15 years from celebrations past and

so we're going to create a sort of greatest hits reel of celebrations, to allow people to feel some of that joy," Zeff said.

He added that this year of altered ritual life has taught him to embrace a different definition of participation. With in-person celebrations, there's an expectation that attendees need to participate in the same way for it to count. On Zoom, however, the options are endless, from typing in the chat box to dressing up to dancing.

"There's a lot of ways for people to give feedback, other than being the one who's speaking and has all eyes," he said.

Marx said the pandemic has taught him the importance of virtual services in keeping far-flung community members engaged. Whereas streamed services were once considered an occasional project, the synagogue now realizes their potential for allowing college students, people with limited mobility and people in rehabilitation facilities to feel connected. In other words, they're essential.

"This technology has enabled us to reach all of them and we have heard such an outpouring of gratitude and love and support from our community," he said.

For Yeamans, this year has been a reminder that serving God can look different.

"God draws the picture of our lives and our job is just to color it in. We cannot draw the picture. And when the picture

changes, all that means is that our mindset has changed. We have tried to identify, 'OK, what does God want from us now?'" he said.

"Maybe in the past we were emphasizing certain parts of Judaism, but now that those are harder to do or unsafe, what are our priorities? What does God want from us now? And that can change in anyone's life, anytime, but the goal is the same." •

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Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski Made Jewish Addiction Work Possible



BY RABBI ZVI GLUCK

ON JAN. 31, the Jewish community lost one of the biggest forces fighting for those who are suffering the most.

At Amudim, a crisis intervention organization serving the Orthodox Jewish community, we have been humbled by the increasing number of community members who have come to accept the realities of mental health challenges in recent years. None of what we do today would be possible without the groundbreaking work of Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Twerski, of blessed memory, who died at 90 years old.

Twerski deserves to be remembered as a tzaddik (a righteous person), a title that he rightfully earned in his lifetime. But Twerski was so much more than a psychiatrist, author of dozens of books and brilliant Torah scholar. He was also a man who positively impacted countless families and individuals in so many ways, ranging from pulling out the rug from within the community of addiction to being outspoken about abuse

who was known simply in our family as “Reb Shia.”

I will never forget the time I reached out to him to discuss the suitability of 12-step meetings, trying to ascertain how I could send religious Jewish clients to a meeting that more often than not was being held in a church (many Orthodox Jews believe Jewish law forbids one to enter any Christian houses of worship).

Explaining to me that cases that had reached that level

the matter with anyone who saw the issue differently.

In addition to being available to offer guidance on specific cases or emergencies as they arose, Twerski was helpful to me in many other ways. Nearly 15 years ago, I found myself dealing with a crisis involving a family that had multiple children living in an abusive environment. With numerous rabbis weighing in with different views, I reached out to Twerski for an outside

asset to Amudim since the day we opened in 2014.

Over the years, Twerski became a guiding light for Amudim. He wasn’t able to join us for our 2015 mental health conference, a groundbreaking two days that gave mental health professionals the opportunity to share their feedback from the trenches, helping us focus our efforts to help as many people as possible in their personal struggles. But he worked with us every step of the way to create the program, spending hours on the phone with Amudim’s founder, Mendy Klein, and me in order to maximize the event’s potential.

Rabbi Twerski also taught me the perplexing nature of recovery. He explained that while some go through recovery and fare well in the long run, others keep repeating the same destructive patterns again and again.

Rabbi Twerski also taught me the perplexing nature of recovery. He explained that while some go through recovery and fare well in the long run, others keep repeating the same destructive patterns again and again.

issues, and so much more.

My father, Rabbi Edgar Gluck, and Twerski shared a close relationship that spanned 60 years. When I became involved with those in danger of slipping through our societal cracks, it was a privilege to be able to reach out to the man

were clearly life threatening, he told me straight out, “When a patient has cancer, do you look for the best doctor or a Jewish doctor?” He discussed this issue in one of his many books, and he made it clear to me that he was more than happy to have a discussion on

opinion. He introduced me to someone that he felt could get to the heart of the matter — Dr. David Pelcovitz. Not only was Pelcovitz perfectly suited to help me navigate the complexities of this particular case, but he became a tremendous inspiration to me and an invaluable

See Gluck, Page 26

Finding God in Nature After My Dog’s Death



BY DIONNA DASH

MY DOG’S NAME was Solomon Samson Dash. He had a nose longer than his face and could be calmed by listening to my family sing Ma’oz Tzur on Chanukah. We once pinned a kippah on his head and brought

him to our synagogue for a pet parade. He loved sweets, even the kosher-for-Passover ones, and his German Shepherd stature echoed his kingly namesake. He was Jewish through and through.

My dog died at the beginning of July 2020. His neck gave a funny little twist and his throat made a rattling groan, and even now, I still believe I witnessed the moment his soul left his body. My family and I wore kippot and recited Psalm 23 over his still frame and I freaked out when I found out he had to be cremated because Jews don’t do that!

The very next day, we drove up to the Pennsylvania Grand

Canyon, to a farmhouse that was clean and fur-free and didn’t smell so eerily of the past 12 years.

The first day we were there, it rained, heavily, as if the world was moaning. I laughed and ran and let the violent shivers cleanse my empty hands. The mornings brought crisp air and fog rolling off the mountain-tops. Someone said Solly would’ve loved the open land and the new smells and I hoped suddenly and desperately that his soul wouldn’t turn into a dybbuk because we hadn’t covered up the mirrors in our house before we left. In the nights, we roasted marshmallows around a fire and gazed

into the midnight expanse. My brother explained how the stars we see are already dead by the time our eyes capture them, and I thought about how something departed could still seem to light our whole world.

When we finally made it up to the peaks surrounding the canyon, my mind pictured Solly in the shadow of the valley of death below. My labored breathing had almost nothing to do with the climb up, and the edge of the trail I was balancing on seemed increasingly unstable. Yet the air smelled of wildflowers and slight condensation, and only the rustle of the tree leaves and the calls of low-flying hawks

dipped into the circling silence. I stepped back a bit onto firmer ground.

Standing atop that mountain, surrounded by towering trees that had been there for decades before me and would continue to be there for decades after me, I felt grounded. I stood in that dichotomy of life so fleeting and life endlessly evergreen and I accepted it all. Later that day, my mom told me she had seen Solly in the woods on the way back down. He had told her that he was OK, and that it was time to let him go, and when I closed my eyes

See Dash, Page 34

Time Running Out to Preserve Endangered Jewish Languages



BY SARAH BUNIN BENOR

I CAN'T STOP THINKING about Flory Jagoda, Joseph Sassoon and Kitty Sassoon — three American Jews in their 90s who died last week. As an Ashkenazi Jew, I do not share their family backgrounds. But their deaths hit home for me, as they were among the last native speakers of endangered Jewish languages — languages I'm helping to document before it's too late.

Flory Jagoda devoted much of her life to preserving one of those languages. She grew up in Bosnia speaking Ladino, also known as Judeo-Spanish, which her ancestors had maintained since their expulsion from Spain in 1492. She survived the Holocaust in part through her musical skills, playing accordion and singing in Serbo-Croatian. For decades, she wrote and performed Ladino songs, maintaining the Sephardic folk traditions of her nona (grandmother), innovating on them and bringing them to a wider audience.

Jagoda's music introduced me to Ladino and ignited my interest in Jewish languages. In my fifth-grade class at Jewish day school, my classmates and I learned her catchy tune "Ocho Kandelikas" (Eight Little Candles) along with Hebrew and English Chanukah songs.

As a teenager, I heard Jagoda perform at a Jewish Folk Life Festival — of which she was

a founder — and purchased a cassette of hers, "La Nona Kanta" (The Grandmother Sings). I still listen to those songs and now share them — especially my favorite, "Laz Tiyas" (The Aunties) — with my students when I teach about Jewish languages. My students read an article about Jagoda's work to promote Sephardic language and culture just a week before she died.

While Jagoda is among the last generation of native Ladino speakers, young people have continued her language preservation work, as we see in Devin Naar's archive of Ladino letters, books and other historical treasures; Bryan Kirschen's Ladino research and classes; and Sarah Aroeste's contemporary Ladino music and children's books. Due to these efforts, American Jews tend to know about the language. When I ask audiences which Jewish languages they have heard of, they generally mention Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino.

People are less familiar with other Jewish languages, including Judeo-Shirazi (from Iran), Judeo-Malayalam (from India) and Jewish Neo-Aramaic (from the Kurdish region) — all critically endangered. The many endangered dialects of Judeo-Arabic have been documented to varying extents, from Egypt to Morocco, from Syria to Yemen.

And some young people are keeping the music alive, such as Neta Elkayam, A-WA and Asher Shasho Levy for Moroccan, Yemenite and Syrian traditions. Even so, most American Jews have never heard of Judeo-Arabic. Whenever a speaker dies, we lose an opportunity to learn and teach more about the nuances of this rich language and culture.

Joseph and Kitty Sassoon died of COVID-19 within 12 hours of

each other, months after their 76th anniversary. Both were children of Baghdadi parents who spoke Judeo-Arabic natively. Growing up in Rangoon, Burma and Calcutta, India, Joseph and Kitty spoke multiple languages, but their parents spoke Judeo-Arabic when they didn't want the children to understand. As many American-born children of immigrants know, this means they picked up snippets of the language.

As adults, living most recently in Los Angeles, Joseph and Kitty spoke Hindi and English together and did not have much opportunity to use Judeo-Arabic, but their granddaughters remember them using some words and phrases. Kitty used pet names for grandchildren, like "*abdalnuana*" for boys and "*abdalki*" for girls (both literally meaning "penance" like the Hebrew "*kapara*") and frequently said "*mashallah*" (what God has willed) when expressing pride and joy.

Joseph called his mother Umm Shalom (mother of Shalom, her first son), in line with Judeo-Arabic convention, and hurled joking insults at grandchildren, such as "*harami*" (thief) and "*mamzerim*" (bastards — a Hebrew word used in several Jewish languages).

The Sassoons are characteristic of speakers of endangered languages. Unlike Jagoda, they did not devote their lives to cultural preservation. And they had varying degrees of knowledge of the language — Joseph grew up speaking more Judeo-Arabic than Kitty. While language documenters would prefer fluent speakers, even semi-speakers can provide important information, particularly when the language is severely endangered.

Every day, especially during

See Benor, Page 34

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

Lifelong Democrat Shares Concern

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, SOPHIA RODNEY ("I'm a Student and I'm Afraid of Where My Party Is Headed," Jan. 28) and the Jewish Exponent for printing this opinion.

I could have written that letter myself, and I wholly agree with everything you said.

As a lifelong Democrat, I have been in increasingly serious disagreement with their platform. Democrats are no supporters of Israel, and I am an ardent Zionist. I have wanted to change my registration to independent, but I can't do that until Pennsylvania allows independents to vote in primary elections. (Republicans are responsible for this blatant voter suppression.)

"The Squad," a foursome of blatantly anti-Israel and anti-Jewish members of Congress, is an example of the direction that the Democrats have been going. And don't anyone tell me that anti-Israel is not anti-Jewish.

The atmosphere on college campuses is atrocious — anti-Jewish and anti-Israel — and dangerous to Jews to be able to freely speak their opinions. The sad irony that a student should accuse Rodney of being "Trumpian" is that Trump supporters will not accept facts and blindly accept everything Trump says, and [the same goes for] anti-Israel and anti-Semites, who only believe what they have been brainwashed with and don't ever want to hear the whole complicated history. Zionists on campus get shouted down and are not protected.

Lisa Sandler | Pipersville

Voices of Reason Will Win Out

I am a lifelong liberal Democrat and I am worried about the shift of the Democratic Party toward the leftist/progressive voice ("I'm a Student and I'm Afraid of Where My Party Is Headed," Jan. 28). "The Squad" of Omar, Pressley, AOC and Tlaib in the House and Bernie Sanders in the Senate are making the Democratic Party feel unsafe for Jews who support Jewish right of self-determination (support of Israel).

These people are anti-Zionists and, unfortunately, anti-Semitic. An alternative is to support the repugnant party of Trumpism but that is not a real alternative. Still, the Democratic Party is the big tent and we, as liberal Democrats, must call out the Jew hatred in the progressive wing. As we know, leftists and the extreme right can agree on one thing — their hatred of the Jews.

My suspicion is that as President Biden shores up the liberal elements in the Democratic Party, the voices of reason and enlightenment principles will win out. There ought to be little support for the anti-democratic, anti-free speech of the leftists except those universities that have adopted loss of intellectual and honest debate. ●

Neil Sussman | Philadelphia

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An Easy Purim Dinner

FOOD

LINDA MOREL | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

PURIM IS A JOYOUS holiday that celebrates the triumph of good over evil, survival over adversity and the defeat of a dangerous enemy. Traditionally, Purim parties are boisterous and large.

Purim starts on Thursday evening, Feb. 25. But because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Purim party is likely to be smaller than the usual crowd of revelers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still advises limiting the size of gatherings. Although the COVID-19 vaccine is becoming available, it is wise to invite only immediate family and people

in your pod.

However, this offers the opportunity for a cozy, casual evening, calling for a carefree dinner that pays homage to foods in the Purim story.

The story's setting is ancient Persia, where King Ahasuerus throws a contest to select his wife. Mordecai, a respected member of the Jewish community, tells his niece Esther to enter. Smitten by her beauty, the king chooses Esther. But as queen, Esther finds herself in a predicament. No one at the court knows she is Jewish. How can she keep kosher? Thinking quickly, the queen becomes a vegetarian, eating chickpeas and seeds.

Soon Queen Esther learns that Haman, the king's chief



▲ Spinach and mozzarella frittata

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▲ Warm chickpea salad

margouillatphotos / iStock / Getty Images Plus

adviser, is plotting to annihilate the Jews. She foils his plot and arranges for Haman to be hung on the gallows he'd planned for the Jews.

Honoring Queen Esther, the ideal Purim menu is vegetarian, brimming with beans and seeds. These informal foods set the tone for a relaxed evening. The most fitting dessert are hamantaschen, triangular in shape, just like Haman's hat.

To rejoice the defeat of a murderous enemy, shake groggers and make noise every time someone shouts Haman's name. Keep the wine flowing. Less people doesn't mean less fun.

SPINACH AND MOZZARELLA FRITTATA | DAIRY

Serves 4-6

Equipment: 8-inch cast-iron skillet

- 2 tablespoons, plus 2 tablespoons olive oil, or more if needed
- 5-ounce container fresh baby spinach
- 4 large eggs
- Kosher salt to taste
- 1 small onion, diced fine
- 3 ounces of mozzarella, cut into small pieces and sliced thin

Preheat the broiler. If the broiler feature is inside of your oven, place a rack in the center of the oven, close the door and turn on the broiler.

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large pot on a medium flame. Put in the spinach in two or three batches. Stir the spinach after each addition until wilted but not cooked through. Add more oil, at any point, if needed. Cool to warm.

In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs with the salt until foamy. Reserve.

On a medium flame, heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in the skillet until warm. Using the handle, tilt the skillet so the oil covers the bottom evenly. Add the onion and sauté until fragrant and sweating, about two minutes.

Briskly whisk the egg mixture again until fluffy. Add the spinach and stir. Pour the eggs into the skillet. Place the mozzarella evenly around the skillet. Shake the skillet so the eggs move evenly between the ingredients. Leave the skillet on the flame until the eggs are set at the bottom but loose at the surface.

Using an oven mitt, move the skillet to the preheated broiler. Broil for about 5 minutes, checking often, until

the eggs are completely set and golden brown. The edges may begin to curl. Remove from the oven and cut into pie-shaped pieces. Serve immediately.

WARM CHICKPEA SALAD | PAREVE

Serves 4-6

- 1 teaspoon fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon fresh basil
- 1 (8-ounce) can of chickpeas
- ¼ cup olive oil, or more if needed
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar, or more if needed
- Kosher salt to taste

Chop the parsley and basil until fine. Reserve.

Place the can of chickpeas, liquid and all, into a medium sized pot. Heat on a medium flame until the chickpeas soften and are heated through. Place a colander in the sink. Drain the chickpeas in the colander, letting the liquid go down the drain. Move chickpeas to an attractive bowl.

Add the olive oil, vinegar, kosher salt, parsley and basil. Gently toss until ingredients are combined. If the chickpeas are a little dry, add more oil and vinegar. Serve immediately.

ESCAROLE AND SUNFLOWER SEED SALAD | PAREVE

Serves 4-6

- ¼ cup sunflower seeds
- 1 large head of escarole
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, rinsed and dried in paper towels
- Kosher salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ cup olive oil

Place aluminum foil on the tray of a toaster oven. Spread the sunflower seeds over the foil.

Bake the seeds at 350 degrees for 2 minutes, or until fragrant. Check often so they don't burn. This can be made in the oven, too. Cool to room temperature.

Break off all the escarole leaves. Rinse them well under cold water. Cut the leaves into bite-sized pieces. Dry them in a salad spinner or shake them in paper towels. Move the leaves to a salad bowl. Add the sunflower seeds and remaining ingredients and toss until the escarole is coated. Serve immediately. •

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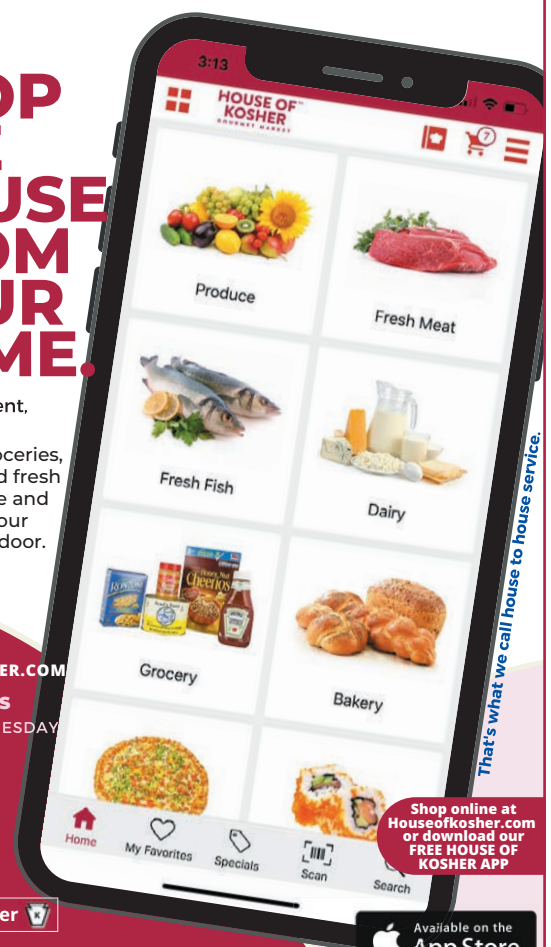
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Architect Opens ‘Daring’ Virtual Museum

ARTS

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

THE DARING DIAGONAL

Virtual Museum, an online collection of photos and writings concerned with historically significant expressions of diagonality in art and design, launched on Dec. 3.

For Joel Levinson, the founder and curator of the DDVM, it's the culmination of the curiosity he's harbored since he was a student of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania nearly 60 years ago.

Though the museum is primarily intended to provide historians with what Levinson believes is a crucial intervention in the study of architecture and design, the DDVM might just have something for everyone.

"I hope that readers of all stripes will see the world in a different way," said Levinson, founder of the architecture and interior design firm Joel Levinson Associates.

Though Levinson has long dreamed of creating some sort of archive of his collected material on diagonality, it was only about two years ago that the current iteration started to come together. A well-received lecture on the subject to a group in Germantown connected him with the physicist Kenneth Ford, who enthusiastically offered to edit any material that Levinson had into a book.

While the material for the book was being selected and arranged, Levinson created a website to host it all for public consumption. That website was eventually converted into the DDVM. Coincidentally, Levinson's drawings, correspondence and models are in the midst of being collected for publication as separate book by the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania.

The structure of the website that "houses" the museum

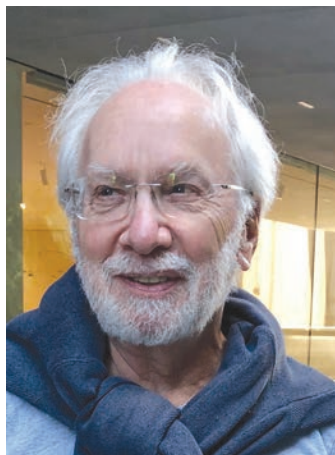
is based on Levinson's own design, mimicking the layout of a stately home built by Levinson many years ago. Each of the "rooms" are home to webpages covering individual aspects of diagonality, complete with plenty of photographed examples, often by Levinson himself. One can jump from 1.12 (Works by Children) to 3.5 (Fashion) with a few clicks of the mouse, and there's enough material for one to spend hours wandering the digital halls.

Levinson is 82 and a native of Philadelphia. Born and raised in Strawberry Mansion, Levinson's family moved to Mt. Airy when he was still a boy, where the spitball-firing Levinson spent more time in the principal's office at Germantown Jewish Centre than he did in the classroom. His highest aspiration in those days was to be a farmer or a writer.

Informed by his father that farming and writing were out of the question, and presented with a list of acceptable professions, Levinson landed on architecture at 13. Though the other personae pop up from time to time — he cultivated a small vegetable garden in his youth, and later wrote a novel about the Bosnian War — it's been a lifetime of thinking about buildings.

Entering Penn in 1957, Levinson had already developed a bit of an iconoclastic sense of self, he said. Coming from a line of rabbis on one side and Bertrand Russell-reading skeptics on the other, it was only logical that Levinson's architectural interests might become uncategorizable.

Levinson first became interested in what he calls the "Phenomenon of Diagonality" around 1960. Diagonal lines, in Levinson's estimation, were much more than met the eye. Everywhere he looked, he saw them, and not just in the buildings he studied. They



▲ Joel Levinson, creator of the DDVM
Photo by Julie Levinson

were in paintings and sculptures, chairs and graphics, products galore. It gnawed at him: How could something so fundamental be discussed so little?

"It became apparent to me that there is a big story here," Levinson said.

Ever since, Levinson has tried to make up for the gaps in the scholarship. His theory of diagonality encompasses design elements from antiquity to today, and art forms both high and low.

Eventually, Levinson said, material he's been gathering for decades will lead to a book, "The Daring Diagonal," for which there is already a preface, introduction and "a critically important chapter dealing with the right angle in architecture."

If this all sounds like it borders on the marginal or quixotic, it wouldn't take long for Levinson to make you think twice the next time you see a triangle. Even the distaste he holds for symmetry in design could get your brain moving.

For Levinson, architecture is a way to look for truth — both a mode of inquiry and the answer to questions, some urgent, some idle.

"There is a difference between what we observe, and what underlies that in reality," Levinson said. "These rather



▲ The interior of the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen
Photo by Joel Levinson

abstract ideas become expressed in my architecture — not in an academic way, I'm not trying to teach anybody anything — but they're just part of my thought

process, and they are embedded in my architecture." ●

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Reviews: Fashion's Flaws, Getting a Get

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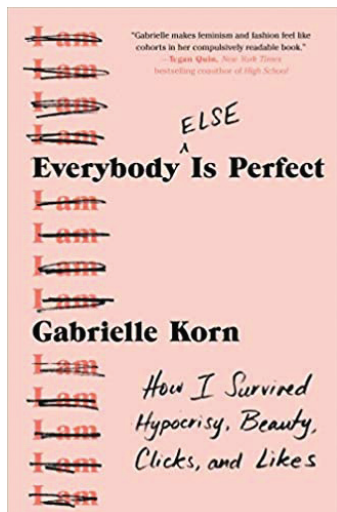
SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

"Everybody (Else) Is Perfect: How I Survived Hypocrisy, Beauty, Clicks, and Likes"

Gabrielle Korn
Atria Books

WHEN GABRIELLE KORN was a Jewish teenager growing up on Long Island, fashion fell into two categories. Korn and her peers could be either Jewish American Princesses, clad in velour sweatsuits and Tiffany jewelry, or emo kids in black hoodies and Converse sneakers. She fell somewhere in the middle and put together outfits consisting of bat mitzvah jewelry layered over band T-shirts or dresses with combat boots.

In her essay collection "Everybody (Else) Is Perfect: How I Survived Hypocrisy, Beauty, Clicks, and Likes," the former editor-in-chief of Nylon



Courtesy of Atria Publishing Group

chronicles her journey to the upper echelons of fashion and beauty media. She also details her fight to use her role to make the industry more inclusive to people of different races, genders, sexual orientations and body sizes.

Korn balances accounts of the misogyny and homophobia she encounters as an out lesbian in a largely straight

workforce with her awareness of the privilege that allows her to obtain positions of influence in a system rooted in white supremacist beauty standards.

"I understood that as a white Jewish lesbian, the parts of my identity that might marginalize me were largely invisible; I was benefiting from the system while being tokenized by it," she writes.

Toxicity in the fashion and media industries is often played for laughs in pop culture — think "The Devil Wears Prada" or even "Zoolander" — but Korn articulates the deeply personal and disturbing toll of a workplace that glorifies impossible beauty standards. She battles anorexia for years amid peers who compliment her dangerous weight loss (she weighs around 100 pounds at her lightest and sickest), promote unhealthy fad diets and issue passive-aggressive judgments if she dares to eat a bagel.

Korn is also the grandchild of Holocaust survivors and writes about how she first learned about the atrocity from her parents' explanations of her grandmother's hurtful behavior, like telling Korn she was ugly to "ward off the evil eye." A link between trauma and outward appearances is established early in her childhood, and the pattern reproduces viciously in the fashion world, where constant insecurity is weaponized against workers and eating disorders are common.

The title of the book comes from another toxic phenomenon Korn identifies: how often women are willing to declare other women beautiful while privately tormenting themselves over perceived flaws. Even as brands push "woke" lifestyles and people become increasingly willing to support body diversity and empowerment for others, many

remain incapable of embracing themselves.

Korn is bracingly honest about her struggles to find meaningful work and healthy relationships in her industry's vortex of image obsession and personal branding. Even more intriguing are her abilities as a cultural commentator; in one essay, she successfully ties the restrictive skinny jeans trend of the early '00s to the politics of the Bush administration.

Reading the book during an unprecedented health and economic crisis makes it difficult to sympathize with her stories of six-figure salary negotiations and attending fashion week, but her grueling quest for inclusivity and self-acceptance in an industry built on exclusion forms the basis of a book that is both compelling memoir and haunting exposé.

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Married Woman Seeks Get at Knifepoint

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

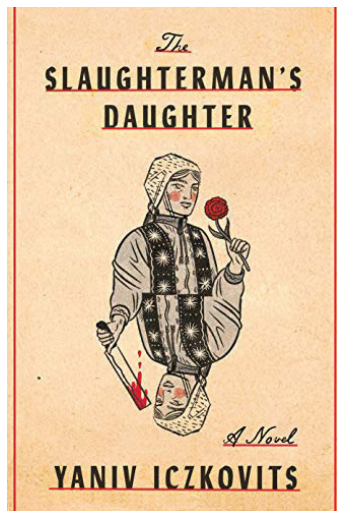
"The Slaughterman's Daughter"

Yaniv Iczkovits,
translated by Orr Scharf
Schocken

The year is 5654 in the Pale of Settlement (1894 to you Gregorians out there).

Mende Speismann's holy fool of a husband has run off some time ago, leaving her an impoverished *agunah* dependent on the generosity of her sister Fanny's comparatively wealthy husband.

In a fit of indulgence, Mende turns the handful of rubles she's scraped together for survival into a disastrously expensive day at the market, ending her spree only with a plunge into the Yaselda River.



Courtesy of Schocken

She survives, but Fanny, the strange, wolfishly intense younger sister, knows that Mende was born to be a wife and mother, and that she'll never be happy in the world she returns to unless some things are made right.

Unhappy with her loving but mostly silent husband, and determined to give Mende a better life, Fanny enlists the assumed town fool Zizek Breshov in her journey to find Mende's husband and force him to sign a *get*. The road from Motal to Minsk, it turns out, is longer than the miles the pair sets out to cover; the chaos that ensues will ask them to trek across their entire lives, as misunderstandings and a few sticky rumors soon involve the secret police, hostile locals, the czar's army and a terrible cantor named Shleiml.

Iczkovits, a celebrated Israeli writer with several novels to his name, sets out to tell a rollicking, madcap tale, and mostly succeeds. He populates his story with a mix of original characters and stock Jews, with

a nattering mother-in-law here and a cantor straight out of Chelm there. When Iczkovits stays with the perspectives of his most compelling characters — Fanny, Mende, a painter named Ignat Shepkin and Zizek (forced to leave his Jewish name and past behind after he's conscripted into the czar's army) — the book is a pleasure. But the time spent with some of the stock characters, as well as with the secret agent of the Russian Empire who's meant to be somewhat menacing, can be a drag.

Fanny, the *vilde chaya* of the village and the one-time apprentice to her *shochet* father, wields her knife across the Pale, slitting and threatening her way to Minsk while she tries to figure out how to reconcile her lives as a mother,

wife, Jew and woman. When the narration stays close to the slaughterman's daughter herself, the novel shines.

Iczkovits' story is often funny, if a bit old-hat in its sense of humor, which makes the conclusions he appears to arrive at regarding religion, conformity and the calamities to come to these Jews of the Pale feel oddly harsh. He demonstrates real love for the characters of "The Slaughterman's Daughter," though the space given to some overestimates the extent to which readers might feel the same. And in a 515-page novel, Iczkovits may have done well to take after Fanny, and carve with a little more precision. ●

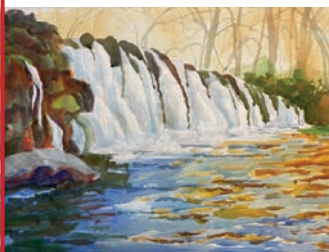
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LIFESTYLE/CULTURE

Jewish Books Bonanza in February

BOOKS

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

MAYBE IT'S THE FACT that the wave of dull insider accounts of the Trump regime seems to have finally crested. Maybe everyone had a lot of time for high-yield contemplation during 2020. Maybe the entire publishing industry wanted to create some difficult choices for me, personally.

Whatever the reason may be, February has proven to be a particularly exciting month for new releases in Jewish book publishing. As the Jewish Exponent, a print publication with finite column inches, has room for just two book reviews per month, here are a few books that would have merited a full review if not for such restrictions.

**"The Sun and Her Stars:
Salka Viertel and Hitler's
Exiles in the Golden Age of
Hollywood"**

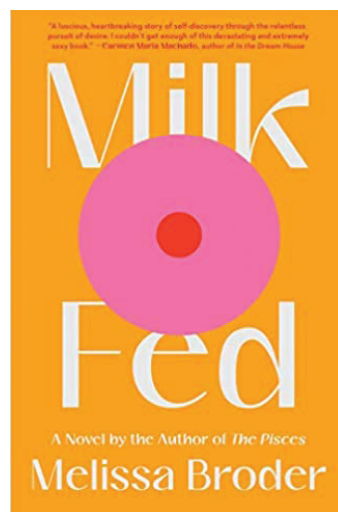
Donna Rifkind

Salka Viertel was a glowing node of connection during the Golden Age of Hollywood, a screenwriter and actor who could call on Greta Garbo, Aldous Huxley and Charlie Chaplin, among many others.

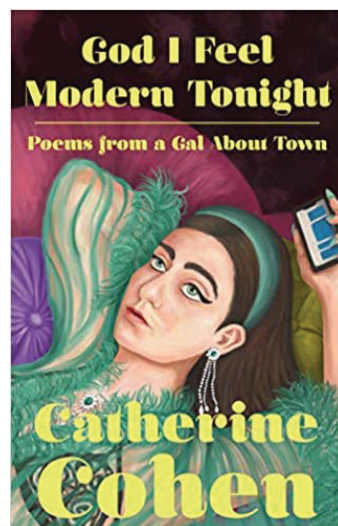
Born in 1889 in Sambor, a small Mitteleuropean city wrested back and forth between long-gone kingdoms, Viertel was an actor and screenwriter who fled anti-Semitic persecution for the welcoming shores of the American West Coast. Viertel's great talent was for shmoozing; her keen intuition for salon introductions and professional shidduchs made her well-known to the well-known. Rifkind's biography is the first book-length treatment of Viertel, who is as charming on the page as you might imagine.



Courtesy of Other Press



Courtesy of Scribner



Courtesy of Knopf

"Milk Fed"

Melissa Broder

"Milk Fed" is just 304 pages, with a small cast of characters. And yet, to try and succinctly describe what goes on here

would be a disservice to this odd, exciting little book.

Broder's story — about secular American Judaism, the contemporary professional woman's relationship to food and sex, and an Orthodox woman who works the counter at a frozen yogurt shop — is not for the faint of heart. If you're appropriately girded, give this one a shot.

"God I Feel Modern Tonight: Poems from a Gal About Town"

Catherine Cohen

If you had to put Catherine Cohen into a single category, "comedian" would come closest to describing what she does. But Cohen's career as a cabaret performer, actor, podcaster and stand-up all points to unique ambitions as an artist — she's appeared in mainstream shows like "Broad City" and "Late

Night with Seth Meyers," but she's also someone who, prior to the pandemic, performed weekly as a chanteuse at a New York club with an unprintable name. And you can still catch her podcast, if you're missing that live Cohen zing.

"God I Feel Modern Tonight" reads like poetry written by a non-poet; Cohen's singular voice and performance instincts give her work a quality you don't come across frequently. The PR for this book tries to brand Cohen as a very particular millennial type that exists more as an elevator pitch than a person — "A Dorothy Parker for our time, a Starbucks *philosophe* with no primary-care doctor" — but Cohen is blessedly uncategorizable.

"Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World's First Female Rabbi"

Written by Sigal Samuel, illustrated by Vali Mintzi

We don't often write about illustrated children's books, but an exception must be made for "Osnat and Her Dove." Why the story of Osnat has stuck with me since I was a child is anyone's guess, though it probably has something to do with finding the name funny when I was 10 and the fact that I heard it told with great care by the rabbi at Perelman Jewish Day School.

Whatever the reason, Samuels' retelling and Mintzi's striking illustrations — brilliant reds, yellows and oranges — transported me back to those days and, for that, I'm grateful.

"Nuestra America: My Family in the Vertigo of Translation"

Claudio Lomnitz

Lomnitz, an anthropologist at Columbia University, bites off quite a bit in this

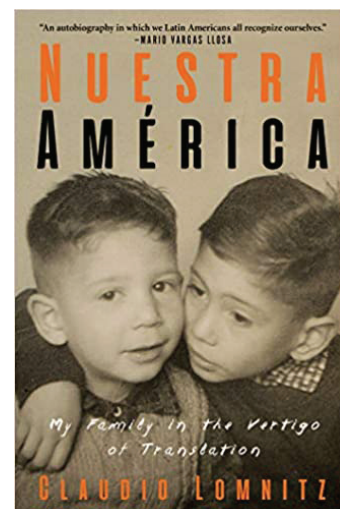
family memoir. His eye for the meta-stories of peoples and nations is brought to bear on the forces that shaped the lives of his grandparents, Jews who fled what is now Romania for Peru in the 1920s. They arrived to find that terrible truth that if one insists on being Jewish everywhere, one will be treated as a Jew everywhere.

"Nuestra America" is more than the tragic tale of a family caught in the gears of 20th century -isms, though that subject is certainly worthy of exploration on its own. Lomnitz reads his life and the lives of his family members as closely as he does political and cultural texts, complicating our understanding of both. The language can be a little dry, but the characters and the subject matter are anything but. •

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The Bigness of Little Things

BY RABBI GREGORY MARX

Parshat Mishpatim

MY WIFE AND I have not been able to travel, go out for dinner, see friends, even be with our own children and family members. I suspect that each of us have experienced the same painful isolation. When I go through my photos on the computer, I realize that so many of the big events have just been put on hold.

This is, of course, a minor pain when compared to the massive unemployment, economic downturn and increase of suicides in recent months. COVID takes life both directly and indirectly.

So how do we deal with all this emotional pain? What wisdom does our tradition offer to those who just “can’t take it anymore?”

The solution is doing things small. In our home, to cope with the new reality, we have created mini vacations, set up special dinners in our home and, of course, set up virtual gatherings. It is small in comparison to the big events of

last year, but in celebrating the small stuff we learn a critical lesson of Torah. Little things are more important than the big things.

Consider that last week’s Torah portion described the most decisive events in Jewish history, that shining movement when our ancestors stood at the foot of a quaking and smoking Mount Sinai and heard the majestic Ten Commandments proclaimed amidst thunder and lightning. The moment is grand in tone and content.

From Sinai, we learned fundamental teachings of our faith, absolute monotheism, uncompromising opposition to idolatry, the holiness of Shabbat, the sanctity of human life and marriage, and the inviolable rights of our neighbors.

By contrast, so many of the laws, which are proclaimed in this Torah portion, appear almost trivial, small in comparison. They deal with wounds inflicted during arguments, the treatment of slaves, oxen that gore, livestock which graze in a neighbor’s field, gossiping.

Our sages wisely comment that these laws are just as holy as the Ten Commandments. They are no less significant, no less sacred.

The rabbis decreed this to counter two prevailing trends in the ancient world.

First, in the Temple in Jerusalem, the order of daily worship included the recitation of the Ten Commandments (Mishnah Tamid 5:1). However, after the rise of Christianity, the reading of the Ten Commandments at daily worship services was discontinued. The early Christians contended that only these commandments were given at Sinai and none other.

Therefore, the other laws had no divine sanction (Palestinian Talmud, Berakhot 3c). To deemphasize the Ten Commandments, the sages removed them from the regular order of worship, and then augmented the authority of the “little laws” by explicitly claiming for them Sinaitic origin. All of the mitzvot are binding, not just the big and lofty.

Second, our sages knew what we have learned again in COVID. The little things are what make life meaningful. Life is lived around the kitchen table, on walks with our children in the beauty and splendor of nature, and, of course, in the honest conversations between life partners. When we can’t enjoy the big moments of life, like flying to a romantic destination, then make the little things big. Find intimacy wherever you are. Live and love and laugh because we don’t need to go to New York for a great night out. We can find joy in our own homes, enjoying the simple pleasures we used to take for granted.

George Eliot in “Middlemarch” wrote about the power of little people doing little things, “But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.”

The little act, the little task performed regularly and faithfully by little people, this is what gives tone, content and character to a society.

In her darkness, Helen Keller saw a shining truth, “I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty and joy to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble ... For the world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.”

In doing *little things* may we find *both greatness and joy*. •

Rabbi Gregory Marx is the senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen. The Board of Rabbis 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.



Gluck

Continued from Page 16

cycle haunting those in the latter group, Twerski said, one must give them the tools to approach life and its sometimes daunting circumstances in a healthier way.

But perhaps one of the most incredible lessons I learned from Twerski came during a Zoom conference for high-level mental health professionals, community leaders and philanthropists that took place approximately two years ago. One participant averred that a person can only be helped once they have hit rock bottom. When I disagreed wholeheartedly, another person jumped in, saying that Twerski had said exactly that

in one of his books. Wasting no time, Twerski explained that while he had made that statement 30 years ago, it no longer applied in today’s world, where hitting rock bottom too often means death.

That was vintage Twerski. He could balance Torah, medical knowledge and practical life skills while still being able to adapt his expertise and advice to changing realities. I have tried to model my own approach at Amudim after the example set by Twerski. When it has sometimes seemed awkward and embarrassing to do an about-face, I remind myself that if Twerski could publicly change his mind, I could, too.

Throughout my life,

whenever I hit a speed bump, I knew I could always count on Twerski. I treasure the moments I spent with him, particularly the time he sat me down at a family wedding and told me that he truly believed that Amudim’s work over the past several years to promote awareness and destigmatize mental health challenges had surpassed anything he had done in his lifetime. Surely it was an exaggeration and was meant as a form of encouragement, but it was meaningful and touched my heart all the same.

That was Twerski. Always uplifting. Always inspiring. I remember the times when people would try to convince him to give his stamp of approval for one organization

over another and he would have none of it, saying only, “I do what is best for Klal Yisroel. Don’t get me involved in politics and games.”

During his 90 years on this earth, Twerski made a tremendous impression as a Torah scholar, a psychiatrist, a rabbi, a clinician and a mentor, a man whose sage advice was a godsend to so many, empowering individuals and families and giving them strength even during their darkest moments. His ability to integrate his seemingly boundless knowledge of mental health with an equally vast ocean of Torah values was unparalleled, and even with his incredible erudition, he had the ability to inspire every person — his

kindness, humility and sensitivity shining with every word and on every page.

Despite his many professional accomplishments, I can’t help but remember Twerski as someone who spent his days and nights sowing seeds of happiness. As I close my eyes, the words and notes of his iconic “Hoshia Es Amecha” echo in my mind, a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to making the world a better place. •

Rabbi Zvi Gluck is the CEO of Amudim, an organization dedicated to helping abuse victims and those suffering with addiction within the Jewish community. He has been heavily involved in crisis intervention for 21 years. This piece was first published by JTA.



Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mobilizes financial and volunteer resources to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, in Israel and around the world.

February is Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month

Celebrate Disability Inclusion with These Local (Virtual) Events

The national Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM) is back for its 13th year this February. On the local level, Jewish Learning Venture's (JLV) Whole Community Inclusion initiative and the Jewish Special Needs/Disability Awareness Consortium of Greater Philadelphia, annually provide a month of programming and resources to help bridge the gap in creating a more inclusive Jewish community. The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is proud to be a part of this effort as a member of the consortium and a funder of JLV.

While JDAIM's programming will be virtual this February, the month is still jam packed with opportunities to learn more about disability inclusion in our local Jewish community. Check out jewishphilly.org/jdaim to see what this month of empowerment has to offer and how to register.

JDAIM Shabbat: Tikvah Shabbat Service *Saturday, Feb. 13, 9:00 a.m.*

Join Camp Ramah in the Poconos for a Shabbat morning service led by and geared for kids and young adults with special needs and their families.

JDAIM Shabbat: Mental Health and Our Community

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Everyone's welcome! Join Mishkan Shalom for an inclusive Shabbat morning service that will feature a talk by Dr. Mark Salzer of Temple University about his groundbreaking research on mental health and the importance of faith communities.

JDAIM Shabbat: A Disabled Artist's Journey Through Art & Activism

Sunday, Feb. 14, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Join Germantown Jewish Centre to hear from Wendy Elliott-Vandivier, an artist and long-time disability advocate, present information on her experiences as an artist and disability activist. As a member of the Jewish community in Philadelphia, she will also talk about some of the ways that synagogues can be welcoming and inclusive for people with disabilities.

Whole Community Inclusion: Purim Fun!

Sunday, Feb. 14, 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Purim fun for kids of all abilities! Join [jkidphilly](http://jkidphilly.org) for music, storytime and a fun craft to get ready for Purim. An ASL interpreter will be present.

Making the World More Accessible in the Time of COVID

Monday, Feb. 15, 12:00 p.m.

Join the Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council for a conversation with Stacy Levitan, Executive Director JCHAI, and Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, Acting Co-Executive Director of Jewish Learning Venture. Stacy and Gabrielle will describe their agencies, the people they serve and what they are doing to ensure that their communities are remaining engaged during the time of COVID.

Brunch and Belonging Series

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Jewish Disability Consortium of Greater Philadelphia invites you to take a break from work – grab a coffee or nosh – and learn with us from an expert in the field. In this presentation, disability advocate Shelly Christensen defines the concept of 'belonging' and how it relates to the lives of people with disabilities, their family members and all of us who are part of faith communities.

Disability Inclusion in Israel

Sunday, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

How is disability inclusion happening in Israel today? How do individuals with disabilities live with purpose and possibility? Kalman Samuels of SHALVA, an organization that supports and empowers individuals with disabilities and their families in Israel, explains these issues and more. Sponsored by the Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El Inclusion Committee and Adath Israel, come learn about how one innovative Israeli organization leads the way!

Did You Know?

Learn more about the Jewish disability communities in the five-county, Greater Philadelphia region with these facts and figures from the Jewish Federation's 2019 Community Portrait:

Mental, Behavioral and Developmental Health Conditions



17%

of Jewish households include someone with a learning disability or developmental disability, such as ADHD, dyslexia or an Autism spectrum disorder.

33%

of Jewish households include someone with a mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression.

Physical Health Conditions



55%

of Jewish households include someone diagnosed with a physical health condition.

16%

of Jewish households report someone who has a physical disability that impacts daily activities.

Caregiving



17%

of Jewish adults are caregivers for an older adult who has a health condition or disability.

7%

of Jewish adults are caregivers for someone under the age of 65 who has a health condition or disability.

The Jewish Federation commissions a population study once every 10 years to most effectively evaluate and support the needs of our local Jewish communities. Explore the basic socio-economic, demographic and public health trends across the region's Jewish populations here: communityportrait.org

BIRTH

► PHOEBE ROSE AND MILLIE RUTH KLINGHOFFER

Wendy and Neil Klinghoffer of Huntingdon Valley announce the birth of their identical twin granddaughters, Phoebe Rose and Millie Ruth Klinghoffer, on Dec. 1, 2020.

Sharing in their joy are parents Alexandra Neophytou and Scott Klinghoffer, sisters Zoe and Nora, Aunt Abbie and Uncle Kenny, and cousin Charlie.

Photo by Alexandra Neophytou



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Abramson Senior Care Appoints First Female Board Chair

ABRAMSON SENIOR CARE named Lorraine Drobny as the first female in its 155-year history to serve as chair of its board of trustees.

After serving as board vice chair (2012-2019) and first vice chair (2019-2020), Drobny stepped into the role of chair in October.

Drobny succeeds Howard Davis as board of trustees chair.

"This type of confident leadership doesn't come just from stellar professional experience, which Lorraine certainly has," said Carol Irvine, president and CEO of Abramson Senior Care. "It comes from deep, unparalleled passion born of her personal experience finding someone to entrust with the care of her own father and finding herself being cared for in the process."

Aside from her roles at Abramson Senior Care, Drobny is a member of the board of trustees and women's philanthropy for the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and past president of Hakol Group for Hadassah. Outside of her volunteerism, she is a principal at Stumar Investigations.

OROT Annual Event Slated for Feb. 20

OROT, which works to ensure that special needs children enrolled in Jewish day school can remain in their schools, with their peers and engaged in their communities, will host its annual gala virtually at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20.

This year's honoree is Perri Specter, a 2007 OROT alumna, who started with OROT in the third grade, graduated from Perelman Jewish Day School and the Delaware Valley Friends School, then studied illustration at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. She now works full time as a graphic designer for the law firm Pond Lehooky Giordano.

Five program alumni graduating high school this year — Michael Andelman, Olivia Collis, Lily Rabinowitz, Brenen Grossman and Raphael Shmulevich — also will be recognized during the event.

Teachers, current students and board Chair Chavi Schwarzbaum are slated to speak.

OROT was founded in 1999 and today has about 50 students in area schools.

NMAJH to Host North African Jewish Music Presentation

The National Museum of American Jewish History will host a free presentation of North African Jewish music on Feb. 17.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, Jewish vocalists and instrumentalists played an outsized role in the production of music in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia — a region known as The Maghreb.

Historian Christopher Silver will provide a musical tour of the North African Jewish past through sounds both traditional and popular by drawing on rare shellac records from his personal archive.

The presentation will be followed by an audience question-and-answer session.

The public may tune in online for free, with a \$10 suggested donation.

Visit nmajh.org/virtual-museum for details. ●

— *Compiled by Andy Gotlieb*



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COMMUNITY / deaths

DEATH NOTICES

DIAMOND

Dr. Herbert Diamond, 98, passed away in Bryn Mawr on January 31, 2021 after a fall and rapid decline. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Charlotte (2007) and his later-in-life love, Shirley Lubner (2020). Dr. Diamond is survived by his immediate family, Lenore and Dr. Stephen Robins, Meg Diamond, Dr. Steven Diamond, Dr. Diane Lichtenstein and his granddaughters, Dr. Rachel Diamond and her fiancé Josh Sandler, Paula Diamond and Cara Robins. Dr. Diamond was a graduate of both The University of Pennsylvania and its School of Medicine and spent his life living and working in the greater Philadelphia area. He began his career at a time when anti-psychotic medication first became available and there was optimism that patients in state mental hospitals could be transitioned into community based psychiatric clinics. The promise of independence for those with major mental illness was on the horizon. Dr. Diamond believed in this potential and spent his career as Medical Director of the West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Consortium. He spent his retirement contributing to the community he lived in, Beaumont at Bryn Mawr, through multiple volunteer positions as well as tending a garden to be assured of a supply of summer fresh tomatoes. He also travelled widely throughout his life, enjoying many family adventures and nature tours. A private burial is planned.

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ELS

Joan Els, a resident of Langhorne PA and formerly of Rydal PA died peacefully on January 27th at Chandler Hall Nursing home in Newtown, PA. Born on October 25, 1932 in Muncy PA, Joan was the daughter of Dr. Sterling C. King and Cecelia C. King. A graduate of Jefferson Nursing School, Joan practiced as an RN at Jefferson and later as the head of rehab at Rolling Hill Hospital in Elkins Park, PA. Joan was a loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother. She was adored by friends and family as a warm loving person with a big heart, a great sense of humor and impeccable style. Joan is survived by her son Todd A. Gross of New York City; Step Daughter Liz Lieberman of Park City, Utah; Grandsons: Zachary and Dallas Krum of Bensalem and great grandchildren, Carter and Saylor Krum. In addition to her parents, Joan was preceded in death by her daughter Karen Krum and husband Wilbert Els and siblings, Dorothy, Barbara and Sterling. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to St. Jude Children's research hospital and Chandler hall hospice of Newtown PA.

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DEATH NOTICES

GOLDBERG

William Goldberg passed away peacefully on January 26, 2021 after a 25 year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 82. Beloved husband of Evelyn (nee Kallen) for 57 years. Devoted father of David (Anne Marie) Goldberg and Becky (David) Shmukler. Devoted zaydah of David Jr, Ilana, Ava, Jenna, Ben, and Rachael. Loving great-zaydah of David, Trey, and Kelly. Loving brother of Evelyn Mendelsohn. Born in Paris, France to Erwin Goldberg and Taube Gerstenhaber as they were fleeing from Austria in 1938. He graduated from Central High School, class of 206 and Temple University for his Bachelors and Masters Degrees plus 60. He taught English at Frankford High School for 32 years and at Northeast High School teaching English for foreign born adults. He was active in the formation of the Philadelphia Teacher's Union. He was well read and enjoyed sharing his many hundreds of books. His book discussions highlighted his rich wit and charm. He was a member of Mensa, Philadelphia Ethical Society, B'nai Brith, Esperanto League of North Philadelphia and a Chavurah. He enjoyed flea markets, reading, playing his violin, chess, and classical music. He was the violin maestro of the orchestra at Central High School. Graveside services will be private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Parkinson's Foundation, Free Library of Philadelphia, or the Ethical Society of Philadelphia.

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DEATH NOTICES

GOLDSTEIN

Gerald P. Goldstein, retired US Air Force veteran and top-notch salesman, died February 4, 2021. He lived in Newtown, Pa, formerly of Levittown, Pa. Gerald was a member of the Fegelson-Young-Feinberg Post #697 Jewish War Veterans, where he helped develop their Holocaust program for area schools. Husband of the late Sonia. Father of Mark N. Goldstein (Judith), Nancy J. Schnitzer (Rabbi Jeffery) and the late Dr. Jeffrey Goldstein. Grandfather of Rebecca Schnitzer, Jonathan Schnitzer, Gedalia Goldstein (Chani), Tuvia Goldstein (Chani) and Daniel Goldstein (Talia), also survived by 18 great grandchildren. Family was everything to him and he was ever-present in the lives of his children and grandchildren. Contributions in his memory may be made to Congregation Tifereth Israel of Bucks County, 2909 Bristol Road, Bensalem, Pa. 19020.

GOLDSTEIN'S ROSENBERG'S
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GROSS

Richard J. Gross, of Ambler, formerly of Elkins Park, passed away on January 31, 2021, his 87th birthday. The husband of the late Irene Muhr Gross, he is survived by his longtime significant other, Nancy Guggenheim Berger, his children, Linda Gross and Robert Gross, and three grandchildren. A graduate of Cheltenham High School, he attended Vanderbilt University, graduating with a BA in Management. He first worked for Franklin Metal & Rubber Co., then owned and operated The Working Press, followed by a career as a Tin Man with the Home Depot, retiring in 2013. An avid sports and game enthusiast throughout his life, he enjoyed playing bridge, tennis, golf and poker. When not playing, he watched! He enjoyed a life full of crossword puzzles, extensive travel, theatre, concerts and dear friends. His body is being donated to the Humanity Gifts Registry in a nod to his mother, who always wanted him to attend medical school. There is no funeral planned. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the charity of one's choice.

To place a Memorial Ad
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DEATH NOTICES

GROSSMAN



Stella Grossman of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania died Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at Jefferson Torresdale Hospital. She was 93 years old. Stella was born February 7, 1927 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Abraham Wexler and the late Bessie Wexler (nee - Kleiman). She is the beloved wife of the late Malvin F. Grossman; father of Alan Grossman and his wife Carol, Gail Vladimir and her husband Larry; grandmother of Anna, Marcella, Alissa, Joshua, Sara, Dana, Jonathan, and Matthew; great grandmother of Luca, Matylda, Violet, Truman, Autumn, Ella, Liam; sister of Selma Hochman; aunt of Anita Hochman and Arthur Hochman. She is also survived by a loving extended family. Services were held in January by Rabbi Howard Cove, a close family friend. Donations may be made in her memory to City of Hope, 1420 Walnut Street, Suite 817, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

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DEATH NOTICES

HARVITZ

Irwin Joel "Jerry" Harvitz passed away on January 25, 2021. Jerry was born June 28, 1934 at 40th and Girard Avenue. He graduated from Overbrook High School. While there, he was on the bowling team and bowled a 249 game to lead the league in scoring. Jerry's father had a small printing shop and he, his mother and two sisters lived in the back and above the shop. Jerry's father had a massive heart attack when Jerry was 15 and after a semester at Temple University he took over the business setting type and running the jobs on the press, some by hand, some on an automatic. He worked 6 1/2 days a week and after becoming successful tried to explain that he wasn't born with his Porsche in the driveway. He went to Temple University six years in the evening to achieve his degree while running the business. As an adult, he became very involved in charitable organizations, belonging to B'nai B'rith and then serving as President of the Golden Slipper Club and Charities, three years as President of Jewish National Fund and also National Tay Sachs and Allied Diseases. He remained active in Golden Slipper by serving as Co-Chair, with his wife Patty, of the Scholarship Committee. Jerry was awarded the Gold Medallion and Horatio Alger Award. Jerry was an avid sailor and owned a 37' cutter rigged sailboat named the Graphic Ark. He sailed the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean and once in a race with 150 boats sailed from Marian, MA to Bermuda in 4 1/2 days at sea. He was able to cross that off his bucket list. He often sailed from Atlantic City to Newport, RI overnight for a week of sailing in Nantucket Bay. Jerry also loved tennis, played several times a week and enjoyed going to the U.S. Open followed by dinner at Peter Luggers every year with the boys. He went skiing in Aspen every winter until he was 80 years old and continued to play tennis until he became ill last year. His most enjoyable times were spent with his wife Patty, daughter Betsy, son-in-law Michael Dubin, and his two granddaughters Jessica and Sari Dubin. Together they travelled to Disney World, on Disney Cruises to Alaska and the Caribbean and to Aruba. He enjoyed holidays with his entire family which extended to nieces, nephews and their families and even twin great-great grandnieces. Jerry made and kept many friends over the years and will be remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, loyalty and generosity. He truly will be missed by his devoted wife, loving daughter and entire family. He will be reunited with his parents Anna and Jack, his sister and brother-in-law Betty and Jules Freedman and sister and brother-in-law Elaine and Arthur Gold. Contributions in Jerry's memory can be made to Golden Slipper Gems, Scholarship Fund or Jewish National Fund.

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DEATH NOTICES

ISAACMAN

Florence Isaacman, 88, of Harrisburg, passed away on Monday, February 1, 2021 at the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg. She was born on April 14, 1932 in Philadelphia, PA to the late Stanley and Lena (Myer) Cooke. Florence was a retired teacher from the Susquehanna Township School District. She was an active member of Beth El Temple, Beth El Sisterhood, Hadassah, the Jewish Community Center and the Retired Teachers Association. Florence was the widow of Bruce "Buddy" Isaacman and preceded in death by a brother, Dr. Stanford Cooke. Surviving is her son, Dr. Scott Isaacman and his wife, Bethany of Silver Bay, MN; 3 daughters, Jill Henig and her husband, Pinny of Harrisburg, Debra Bosin and her husband, Dan of Philadelphia, Karen Isaacman and her partner, Steve Prescott of Harrisburg, 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Graveside services were held on February 3, 2021 at Beth El Cemetery, Harrisburg, PA. Donations in her memory: Beth El Temple Isaacman Fund or The Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg.



KORNFELD

Adele Kornfeld (nee Levin), aged 90, January 27, 2021, of Philadelphia, formerly of Willow Grove. Beloved wife of the late Bertram H.; loving mother of David (Ellen), Robert (Pamela), and Anne Westrom (Michael); adoring grandmother of Julie, Billy (Heather), Danny, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Jacqueline; devoted sister of Fredda Segal and aunt to many loving nieces and nephews. She loved music, art and loved to cook for family and friends. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at Joseph Levine & Sons in Trevose, PA. Interment at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Philadelphia Orchestra (philorch.org) or The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society (pcmsconcerts.org/support).

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LAFAIR



Charlotte Lafair (nee Wolf) Jan. 30 of Philadelphia. Wife of the late Leonard Lafair; mother of Julie (Harris) Miller, Beth (Steve) Burak and the late Jonathan Lafair; grandmother of Eric, Helena (Dara) and Herschel; great grandmother of Leonard, Micah, Roxanne, Zivah and Rafi. Graveside services were held at Mt. Sharon Cem. Jan 31. Contributions in her memory may be made to Cong. Or Shalom, Berwyn PA or Alex's Lemonade Stand.

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LOVE

Susan Love, January 31, 2021 of Voorhees, NJ. Dear mother of Ashley Freedman, life partner of David Farber (loving son Drew Farber), loving daughter of Judy (and the late Donald) Love, dear sister of Sylvia Miller (Michael) and Roberta Budman, loving aunt of Rebecca Miller and Abby Budman. Former wife of Michael Freedman. Throughout a long career, Susan devoted herself to providing an enjoyable and meaningful living environment to seniors and their families. She served in a variety of leadership roles at the Jewish Geriatric Home in Cherry Hill, and helped manage its transition to Lions Gate Continuing Care Retirement Community in Voorhees. She served as CEO of Lions Gate since 2016. Susan's gentle and kind demeanor earned the trust and friendship of residents, staff, and the community. Susan genuinely cared for each and every resident. She was also a respected leader in the senior care field, active in many professional associations. Susan was a member of the Board of Trustees of Leading Age NJ & DE, and just prior to her illness she was appointed to an advisory board within Seton Hall University's Stillman School of Business. Susan was a very special individual who worked hard to achieve her goals, whether it was her professional work, obtaining her Master's degree and license in Nursing Home Administration, or volunteering her time to various organizations. In her spare time, Susan enjoyed golfing, reading and spending time with family. Susan also loved golfing with her parents in Boca Raton. Contributions in Susan's memory can be made to Lions Gate CCRC, www.lionsgateccrc.org or Urban Promise, www.urbanpromiseusa.org or a charity of the donor's choice.

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DEATH NOTICES

MYEROV

Loretta Myerov (nee Epstein) on February 1, 2021. Beloved wife of Joseph; Loving mother of Anita (Harry) Yampolsky, Neil (Joan) Myerov and Benjamin (Susan) Myerov; Devoted grandmother of Aaron, Megan (Robert), Micah and Celia; Adoring great-grandmother of Sebastian. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, 636 Morris Turnpike, Ste 3 A, Short Hills, NJ 07078.
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NEFF

Claire R. Neff, died on January 28, 2021. Claire was the third of four daughters of Miriam and, Philadelphia bandleader Abe Neff. She lived most of her 92 years in New York City where she retired from CBS. Her final two years were spent at the Horsham Center for Jewish Life. She survived the deaths of her three sisters and is survived by her beloved nieces and nephews. No memorial is presently planned. Please plant a tree in Israel or make a donation to the charity of your choice in her memory.

ROSOV

Helene A. Rosov, January 29, 2021, of Voorhees, NJ formerly of Cherry Hill, NJ. Mother of Philip G. Rosov, Karen M. Rosov and Wendy J. (Peg Sandel) Rosov. Grandmother of Elijah (Terri), Liat, Ariel, Talya and Gaby. Great-grandmother of Gideon. Sister of Henry S. Popell. Former mother-in-law of Cheryl Rosov. Helene was born and raised in Malden, MA. She was an ardent Zionist and lover of all things Jewish. Helene worked at Prudential Fox Roach Realty in the Rittenhouse, Philadelphia office. She loved a good bourbon Manhattan.

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SCHWARTZ

Erika Schwartz, February 4, 2021, of Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, born in Vienna, Austria. Loving mother of Michael Schwartz and Melissa (Eric) Lakness. Devoted grandmother to Mackenzie, Thomas, Heidi, and Parker. Survived by her brothers, Fritz Gotz and Wilhelm Kramer. Predeceased by her sister, Victoria Pio. Also survived by her sister-in-law, Nanci Gilberg, and brothers-in-law, Kenny Gilberg and Ed Pio. Adoring aunt to Ernie, Linda (Bill), Lisa (Jim), Michael, Brian (Eden) and Adam (Alli). She will be forever cherished by her family and many friends. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of the donors choice.
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DEATH NOTICES

SCHWARTZ

Barry H. Schwartz, 69, of Oakton, Virginia, passed away on Sunday, January 31st, 2021. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sheryl J. Schwartz; children, Robert Schwartz (Julia Bernstein), Lauren (Lance) Shapiro, and Rachel (Ben) Kramer; granddaughter, Mirielle Schwartz; sister-in-laws, Rhonda (Shaun) Schwartz and Robin Simmens; sister, Susan (Howard) Levinson; and mother and father-in-laws Elaine and Arthur Gamburg. He was predeceased by his parents, Shirlee and Sol Schwartz. A graveside service will be held at Red Butte Cemetery in Aspen, CO. Contributions in Barry's memory may be sent to HomeAid Northern Virginia or the Barry and Sheryl Schwartz UVA Fund.
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SPIEGEL

Edward Michael Spiegel, 81, died on January 29, 2021 in Pennsylvania. Edward was originally from Irvington, NJ where he grew up with his sister Civia Spiegel Yellin and parents, Fannie Waxman Spiegel and Ned Spiegel. After graduating from Irvington High School (1957), he went on to attend and graduate from Rutgers University. Edward served in the United States Coast Guard. He was a retailer/co-owner of Fierstien Oldsmobile in Philadelphia, Levis Hot Dogs in Jenkintown, PA/Ocean City, NJ, The Smithville Zoo in Smithville, NJ, and This Place Rocks at The Barn in Bucks County, PA. Edward Spiegel dedicated countless hours and many years to supporting youth athletics. He coached Little League Baseball for GYAC in Glenside PA and helped organize the JJBL in 1985, where he served as the leagues' first commissioner. Some may even remember him as Santa Claus, where he volunteered for many years to help bring joy to underserved children in Philadelphia. An avid NY Yankees fan, he enjoyed watching sports, talking about sports, and playing along with Jeopardy! each evening. He loved boating, summer vacations, spending time at the shore, and being with his family. Edward married his wife after just 6 months of dating. The dynamic duo remained inseparable for over 50 years. Like most, they endured the highs and the lows, but were always at each other's side no matter what. His greatest joy had been watching his grandchildren play sports and perform in theater. Beloved husband of the late Karen Spiegel (nee Fierstien). Loving Father of Neil (late Beth; Angie) Spiegel and Dr. Ian (Crystal) Spiegel. Grandfather to Ryan, Ricky, Evan, and Lucy Spiegel. Son of the late Fannie (nee Waxman) and Ned Spiegel and brother to the late Arlene ("Civia") Yellin. Uncle to Dr. Joel Yellin, late Dr. Lawrence Yellin, and late Nancy Yellin, and countless friends and family members whose lives he touched. Due to the current health crisis, funeral services and Shiva will be conducted privately. In his memory, his family encourages friends and family to consider making contributions to The Rutgers University Yellin Family Biomedical Colloquium Fund. Please be sure to mark gifts as tributes to the Yellin Family.

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DEATH NOTICES

TANNENBAUM

Philip J. Tannenbaum of Audubon, PA passed away peacefully on January 26, 2021. He was 91. Philip was extremely intelligent and accomplished, and his love of learning endured throughout his lifetime. After serving as a medic during the Korean War, Philip earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania with a triple major. He then continued his education and earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. For most of his career, he worked for Smithkline Pharmaceuticals and rose to become Senior Vice President and Director of US Medical Affairs. In his fifties, he left Smithkline and attended law school at Villanova University. He used his legal degree to serve the community by donating his time at Delaware County Community Legal Services. Family was very important to Philip. He was the son of immigrant parents and the oldest of three children. Philip was a devoted father, a loving grandfather and adoring great-grandfather. He was an avid tennis player, passionate about politics and loved to travel and read. Husband of the late Margaret Tannenbaum, he will be missed by his children Randi Tannenbaum (Wayne Morse), Dr. Alan Tannenbaum (Anna May), Dr. Amy Fitzsimmons (Mike), and Dr. David Tannenbaum, as well as his grandchildren Caitlin, Alexandra, Lauren (Will), Jason, Jordan, Elliot (Sam), Ian, Emma, Sophie, Jacob, Sydney, Katharine, Talia, and Max, great-grandchildren Riley and Jolene and sisters Lynne (Lou) Russo and the late Edda Gruber. Contributions in his memory may be made to a Charity of the Donor's Choice. Memorial Service to be planned at a later date.
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WATSON

Elizabeth Mae Watson passed away on January 31, 2021. Mother of Jenny Psaki (David Gordon). Grandmother of Avery Gordon. Sister to Barbara Kaufman and Eugene Watson. Ms. Watson was a child television and radio personality in the 1940's on "The Juvenile Jury", starring Jack Barry. Later in her career, she became an actress, a published poet and a long-time supporter of the Philadelphia Theatre community including Plays and Players Theatre and Interact. Private Graveside Services are being held at Montefiore Cemetery. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org/trees, or Project Home www.projecthome.org/donate.
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WOLF

Marilyn Wolf (nee Caplan) On Jan. 27, 2021, cherished mother of Janice (Steve) Wolf Rabinowitz, Abby (Daniel) Wolf-Weiss and Joanne (Paul) Wolf Jablonski, beloved sister of Stanley (Barbara) Caplan, devoted grandmother of Josh (Annie) Rabinowitz, Amanda (Robbie) Rabinowitz Towle, Elijah Weiss, Sascha Weiss, Jack Jablonski and Jonah Jablonski, adored daughter of the late Edward Caplan and the late Sally (Levin) Caplan. She will also be dearly missed by her much-loved extended family and friends. Marilyn was born and raised in West Philadelphia and was a graduate of West Philadelphia High School. A woman of many creative talents, she was the proud owner of Marilyn Wolf Designs in Narberth, PA. Marilyn loved life every single day and leaves a legacy to her dear family and friends of recipes, stories, and an abundance of joy. Services and Interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Obama Foundation, www.obama.org
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MEMORIALS



BERGER

In Memory of Renee Berger
April 7, 1955 - February 15, 2019

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I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.

When you come to visit me in my dreams,
you always seem to be happy. That's good.
I love you very much, and I always will.
I miss you terribly.

Proverbs 3:15

She is more precious than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her, and happy is everyone that holdeth her fast.

How profoundly we miss you.
Kenneth Berger and Family & Friends

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★★★★★
SOUTH TERRACE-Top floor. Immaculate, designer, rarely available 1 BD, 1.5 BA, open kitchen, custom window treatments, lots of closets, main BD suite w/dressing room area, W/D, wood floors, 1rg, sunny balcony, just steps to elevator. REDUCED \$194,900

SOUTH TERRACE-Sun-drenched 2 BD, 2 BA, open granite, one of a kind back garden, custom lighting, ceiling fans.

TOWER-Special renovation. Large 3 BD, 3 BA, open granite kitchen, wood floors, new windows, sunny corner balcony, washer/dryer. Includes heat, gym, pool, 24 hr doorman, storage. Available immediately!

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

TERRACES-2nd floor. Designer, roomy 1 BD, 1 BA. Custom kitchen counters, lots of closets, washer/dryer, large balcony, looking woods. New hallways and lobby! \$149,900

TOWER-5th floor, renovated 2 BD, 2 BA, open kitchen, lots of closets, washer/dryer, wood floors, sunny balcony, pool, gym, doorman, reduced cable package(\$76). Heat/AC included. \$210,000



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INFORMATION

LEGAL NOTICES

ARSENAL PHOTO SUPPLIES INC. filed a foreign registration statement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The address of the principal office is 1238 CALLOWHILL STREET, SUITE 404, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123. The Corporation is filed in compliance with the requirements of the applicable provisions of 15 Pa. C.S. 412.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **Concord Buying Group, Inc.**, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of New Hampshire, withdrew from doing business in Pennsylvania on 1/21/21. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation is 770 Cochituate Road, Framingham, MA 01701 and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed for Donor Names It inc with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The registered office address is located at 3 Narbrook Park, Narberth PA 19072 in Montgomery county. This corporation is incorporated under the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

Philly Sugaring Salons and Education, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

StoTime, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. Michael E. Stosic, Esquire 236 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF CAMILLE W. MARKER a/k/a CAMILLE W. MARKER-DODGE; CAMILLE MARKER-DODGE, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to PETER B. DODGE, EXECUTOR, c/o Roy Yaffe, Esq., One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042. Or to his Attorney: ROY YAFFE GOULD YAFFE AND GOLDEN One Commerce Square 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042

ESTATE OF CLARENCE FARMER, Sr., Deceased
Late of Pennsylvania
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to Nicole Farmer-Administratrix, c/o their attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF DEBORAH G. GREENE, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to WAYNE S. GREENE, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Andrew J. Barron, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103. Or to his Attorney: ANDREW J. BARRON THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ROBERT P. DISTEFANO Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to James Spingler and Mary Spingler, Executors or to their attorney Michael Wolinsky, Esq. 1015 Chestnut Street Ste. 414 Philadelphia, PA 19107

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF DEBRA MARIA THOMSON, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ANDREW E. STECKI, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Or to his Attorney: ANDREW E. STECKI THE LAND TITLE BLDG. 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF DOROTHY MARIE FITZGERALD a/k/a DOROTHY M. FITZGERALD, DECEASED
Late of Caln Township, Chester County
Notice is hereby given that, in the estate of the decedent set forth below, the Register of Wills has granted Letters Testamentary to the persons named. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to make known the same to them or their attorneys and all persons indebted to said decedent are requested to make payment without delay to the Executors named below.
Executor
Edwin S. Fitzgerald, Pottstown, PA 19465 c/o his Attorney: Steven R. Sosnov, Esquire SOSNOV & SOSNOV 540 Swede Street Norristown, PA 19401

ESTATE OF FREDERICK SCHROEDER, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to WILLIAM WEAVER, SR., ADMINISTRATOR, 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 GABOR SZALONTAY a/k/a GABOR A. SZALONTAY, II, GABOR A. SZALONTAY, GABOR ANATALE SZALONTAY, GABRIEL SZALONTAY, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to - ERIN JOHNSON, ADMINISTRATRIX-CTA, c/o Benjamin L. Jerner, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144. Or to her Attorney: BENJAMIN L. JERNER JERNER LAW GROUP, P.C. 5401 Wissahickon Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144

ESTATE of Irena Kozuchowski, Deceased
Late of Philadelphia; Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims are to present same without delay to: Executrix: Margaret Wisniewski c/o Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire Begley, Carlin & Mandio, LLP P.O. Box 308 Langhorne, PA 19047
Attorney: Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire Begley, Carlin & Mandio, LLP P.O. Box 308 Langhorne, PA 19047

ESTATE OF JAMES J. HENDRICKS a/k/a JAMES HENDRICKS, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to KYLE HENDRICKS, KEVIN HENDRICKS AND KURT HENDRICKS, EXECUTORS, c/o Bruce M. Doffman, Esq., 901 N. Penn St., F-2102, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Or to their Attorney: BRUCE M. DOLFMAN 901 N. Penn St., F-2102 Philadelphia, PA 19123

Estate of Jeannette F. Maitin, Deceased
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who requests all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent, to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Karin Maitin Schnoll, Executrix c/o her attorney: Ellen S. Fischer, Esquire Fenningham, Dempster & Coval LLP
5 Neshaminy Interplex Suite 315
Trevose, PA 19053

ESTATE OF JOEL SLUTZ, 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 payment without delay to Beverly S. Sitrin, Administratrix, 237 Emerson Drive, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444.

ESTATE OF KAREN G. CLANTON, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia, 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 Owen Clanton, Executor c/o Jon Taylor, Esquire PC 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1838, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The Law Office of Jon Taylor 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1838 Philadelphia, PA 19103

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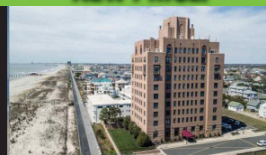
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above Estate have been granted to
the undersigned, who request all
persons having claims or demands
against the estate of the decedent
to make known the same and all
persons indebted to the decedent
to make payment without delay to
CLARENCE GIBSON, JUANITA
MICHEL AND BARBARA E. JOHNS-
ON, EXECUTORS, c/o David S.
Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 6th
Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia,
PA 19102.
Or to their Attorney:
DAVID S. WORKMAN
ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MAN-
DEL, LLP
The Bellevue, 6th Fl.
200 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF MARIE C. PERRY a/k/a
MARIE PERRY, DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the
above Estate have been granted to
the undersigned, who request all
persons having claims or demands
against the estate of the decedent
to make known the same and all
persons indebted to the decedent
to make payment without delay to
ALBERT PERRY, III and DANIEL
PERRY, EXECUTORS, c/o Lauren
Rosalinga Donati, Esq., 25 W. Third
St., Media, PA 19063,
Or to their Attorney:
LAUREN ROSALINDA DONATI
THOMPSON & DONATI LAW
25 W. Third St.
Media, PA 19063

ESTATE OF MARJORIE FARMER,
Deceased

Late of Pennsylvania
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on
the above Estate have been gran-
ted to the undersigned, who re-
quest all persons having claims or
demands against the Estate of the
decedent to make known the same
and all persons indebted to the de-
cedent to make payment without
delay to Nicole Farmer-Administra-
trix, c/o their attorney Debra G.
Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300,
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF MARY J. ENGLE, DE-
CEASED.

Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the
above Estate have been granted to
the undersigned, who request all
persons having claims or demands
against the estate of the decedent
to make known the same and all
persons indebted to the decedent
to make payment without delay to
ROBERT A. ENGLE, EXECUTOR, c/o
Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Nesham-
iny Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA
19020,
Or to his Attorney:
HARRY METKA
4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9
Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MUNIRA BAKHRIEVA
a/k/a MUNIRA HAKIMOVNA
YUSUPOVA, MUNIRA BUKHRIEVA,
DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on
the above Estate have been gran-
ted to the undersigned, who re-
quest all persons having claims or
demands against the estate of the
decedent to make known the same
and all persons indebted to the de-
cedent to make payment without
delay to SHAKHNOZA S.
BAKHRIEVA, ADMINISTRATRIX,
c/o Francois-Ihor Mazur, Esq.,
2434 Huntingdon Pike, Ste. 1,
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006,
Or to her Attorney:
FRANCOIS-IHOR MAZUR
MAZUR LAW FIRM, PC
2434 Huntingdon Pike, Ste. 1
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

FICTITIOUS NAME

FICTITIOUS NAME REGISTRATION
An application for registration of
the fictitious name **Tri-State Eye
Associates**, 4101 Tyson Ave., Phil-
adelphia, PA 19135, was filed in the
Department of State at Harrisburg,
PA, January 21, 2021, pursuant to
the Fictitious Names Act, Act 1982-
295. The name and address of the
person who is a party to the regis-
tration is Edward Gerner, MD, 4101
Tyson Ave., Philadelphia, PA
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OPINION

Dash

Continued from Page 16

that night, my nightmares of barking Jewish demons ceased.

Those seven days were a shiva. Not the traditional ones we held for my grandmother or my uncle, but one of quiet acceptance and world-altering mourning. After the week had passed, both the sky and my thoughts had cleared.

There's an Anne Frank quote I first read in eighth grade that I've been thinking about recently: "The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature."

I used to think that I understood this quote, that surely bright yellow daffodils blooming in the summer and variegated snowflakes dancing down in the winter could make us smile for a time, but I never knew nature to be so healing, so restorative, so spiritual, and I feel profoundly grateful that I experienced its power.

Since I've been back at school, I've been going on long walks, ranging anywhere from four to 12 miles. I don't take a set course, I just put on some music and wander. Around 6 p.m., as I begin to meander back to my apartment, the sky paints itself in brilliant colors. Often, I stop and just watch the cotton-candy clouds and the fading sun and I think about stars that die quickly but shine long and a merciful God who sculpted such beauty and granted us eyes with which to see it. I think about souls'

safe passages and prayers whispered into the sound of paws scratching velvet ears.

I used to see God in Jewish objects and spaces, in pinned-on kippot, family-filled synagogues, and the neat Hebrew lettering of printed prayers. Yet it seems now that God is equally in nature, holding the paintbrush that colors the sunsets, sprinkling the water that quenches the buds' thirst, coughing up the fog that collects on the mountains like rings of smoke from a cosmic pipe, and maybe even shepherding the souls of those who lacked covered mirrors and funeral processions and burial rites to greener, endless pastures. •

Philadelphia native Dionna Dash attends the University of Pittsburgh, where she is a student leader at Hillel JUC. This piece was first published by Times of Israel.

Benor

Continued from Page 17

the COVID-19 pandemic, more speakers of endangered languages die. If we don't interview them now, we will lose our opportunity forever. Fortunately, several organizations have been doing this important work, including the Endangered Language Alliance, the Jewish Language

Project and Wikitongues in the United States and the Mother Tongue Project in Israel.

This is not just a Jewish issue. Of the 7,000 languages of the world, about half are now endangered. Organizations like these are our last hope to record them before the last speakers are gone. We can all get involved by donating funds, volunteering or connecting the projects with speakers of endangered languages.

May the memories of Flory Jagoda and Joseph and Kitty Sassoon be a blessing — and a wakeup call: We must act now to preserve their languages and cultures while we still can. •

Sarah Bunin Benor is a professor of contemporary Jewish studies and linguistics at Hebrew Union College. She directs the Jewish Language Project and edits the Journal of Jewish Languages. This piece was first published by JTA.



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**JEWISH
EXPONENT**

▼ SUNDAY, FEB 14

Virtual Tour of Rome

Join Micaela Pavoncello and **Golden Slipper Gems** for a virtual tour at noon to learn about the Roman Jews' resilience, culinary traditions and interesting customs. Pavoncello is a well-known tour guide and art historian who specializes in bringing the history of the Jews in Rome to life. Cost \$36. Register at facebook.com/events/3516815891747778.

'The Vigil' Screening

Steeped in ancient Jewish lore and demonology, "The Vigil" is a supernatural horror film set over the course of a single evening in Brooklyn's Chasidic Borough Park neighborhood. **Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival** will stream the film for seven days beginning at 7 p.m. in partnership with IFC Films and Tamar Simon from Mean Streets Management. Email info@pjff.org for more information.

▼ TUESDAY, FEB 16

LGBTQ Art

Join art therapist Debora King and **Jewish Family and Children's Service** LGBTQ+ Initiative Program Manager Galia Godel at 4 p.m. to explore your gender, your sexuality and your questioning nature through art making. The facilitators will provide a safe space to express feelings about one's identity, build self-esteem and increase a sense of support. To register or for more information, contact GGodel@jfcsp Philly.org or 267-273-6006.

Israel Bonds Book Club

Israel Bonds Women's Division holds a book club every two months, normally rotating meeting locations in private homes and currently holding the book club virtually. Both fiction and non-fiction books, with Israel as the backdrop, are selected. The

next book club will take place at 7:30 p.m. with the selection "Murder on a Kibbutz," by Batya Gur. Visit contact/34DQYB2 for more information. Participants must make a \$100 minimum bond purchase in 2021.

▼ THURSDAY, FEB 18

JEVS Career Webinar

Join **JEVS** career counselor Samara Fritzsche and JFCS social worker Sarah M. Waxman at noon for a free JEVS Human Services Zoom webinar discussion about the universal emotional stages experienced due to job loss and how to re-energize and focus on next steps. Register at jevshumanservices.org/upcoming/career-strategies-events/.

The Race for America

"Jews, Race and Religion," a free online lecture series offered by the **Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies** at the University of Pennsylvania, will focus on intersections of race and religion, drawing lessons from the history of anti-Semitism, examining the role of Jews in the racialized culture of the United States and exploring the role of race in Jewish identity. All events in the series will take place on Thursdays from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Register at katz.sas.upenn.edu/resources/blog/jews-race-and-religion.

Not Antigone's Heirs

Join the **Center for Jewish History** at 4 p.m. for a talk by Miriam Schulz, AJS dissertation completion fellow 2020/21, who looks at a little-known chapter of Soviet Jewry: Soviet Yiddish cultural groups and influential individuals and the ways in which they created their own vernacular Holocaust memory culture in the Soviet Union. Pay what you wish and registration required at tickets/not-antigone-2021-02-18 to receive a link to the Zoom webinar. ●

NEWSMAKERS

Kellman Brown Academy hosted a Tu B'Shevat cookies and craft kit event on Jan. 31 in front of Homemade Goodies By Roz.

► KBA students Ilana Wizmur, left, and Natalie Wizmur
Photo by Lisa Feingold



Members of the Jewish Children's Folkshul & Adult Community gathered via Zoom on Jan. 24 for The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest, a Tu B'Shevat celebration focusing on environmental education and climate justice. Each participating family received supplies to start two parsley plants.



▲ Jenia Jolley, Folkshul member and gardener, teaches participants how to plant parsley seeds. Photos by Leah Wright



▲ Isadora Wright, a Folkshul student, displays artwork she created.

On Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, Theatre Ariel will present Zoom performances of "The Value of Names" by Jeffrey Sweat.



▲ Clockwise from top left: Robb Hutter, Joe Canuso and Rachel Brodeur rehearse "The Value of Names."
Photo by Deborah Baer Mozes

Rena and Harold Fruchter, performing as Gramma and Zabba, have told Jewish stories and performed parody songs for children since last spring. Their videos are available via their YouTube channel and the Gramma and Zabba Facebook page. Here, the pair prepares for Tu B'Shevat.



▲ Rena, left, and Harold Fruchter

Photo by Harold Fruchter

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OUR MISSION EXPANDS ITS REACH

Abramson Senior Care has served as a safety net for the frail Jewish elderly for 150 years. And while the senior care landscape has changed around us, we have remained passionately committed to this mission.

From 2008 through 2019, we gradually expanded our reach through services such as Transitional Care, Home Care, Hospice, Care Advisors, Medical Adult Day, Outpatient Memory Care, Primary Care and Palliative Care. This array of services now provides care to nearly 5,000 seniors throughout our community each year—wherever and however they need us.

THROUGH BOLD LEADERSHIP

In 2020, with Medicaid increasingly directing seniors away from nursing homes and toward home-based care, and with more seniors expressing a preference for aging in place, we made the difficult decision to sell our treasured Horsham campus, the Abramson Center for Jewish Life. While we share in our community's many emotions about this sale, it was necessary for sustaining our vital work.

TO SERVE MORE SENIORS

Today, **Abramson Senior Care** means a spectrum of caring services that empowers seniors to remain safely independent at home for as long as possible—choosing a nursing home only when absolutely necessary—aging in place with dignity, purpose and choice. It means support not only for seniors, but for the families who love them.

The vulnerability of our seniors has never been more painfully apparent. We continue to ask—how can we serve them better? Our evolution began years before the pandemic, but the many lessons learned this past year inform our path forward.

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

We are humbled and privileged that the community has entrusted us with caring for seniors since 1866. We will continue to be here for you and your family for generations to come as we navigate the aging journey together.

 — **Carol Irvine**
President and CEO

 — **Lorraine Drobny**
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 — **Howard Davis**
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Follow our journey by visiting us at www.abramsonseniorcare.org.



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