



JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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OF NOTE

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Local Jews React to Fred Neulander Musical

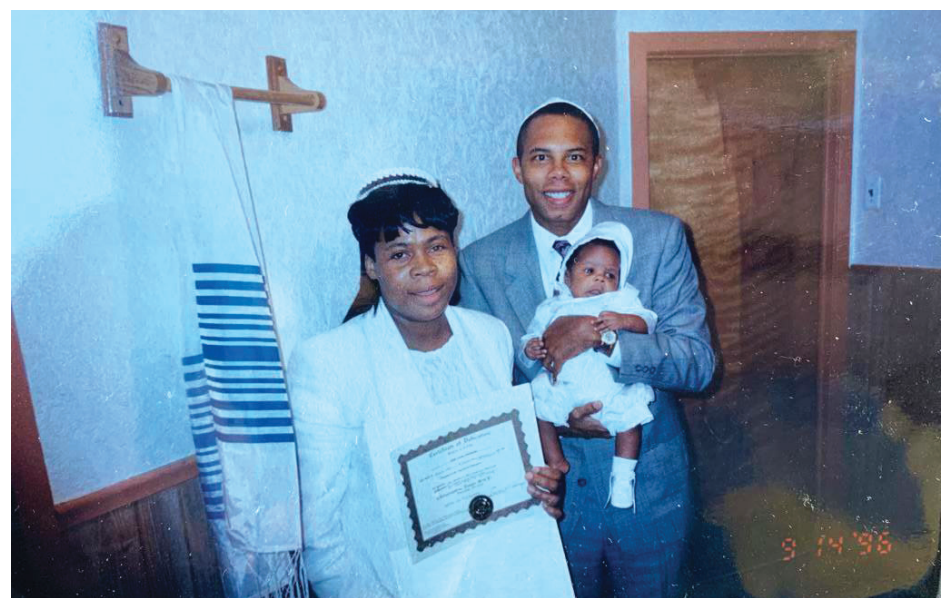
JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

WORD THAT A LOS ANGELES playhouse is turning a South Jersey tragedy — Rabbi Fred Neulander having his wife Carol Neulander killed — into a musical called "A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill" has left former members of the rabbi's community, M'kor Shalom in Cherry Hill, aghast.

In 1994, Neulander, who was having an affair with another woman, paid two hitmen to murder his wife. He left the Reform synagogue in 1995 and was convicted in 2002. He is incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison, serving a sentence of 30 years to life.

Matt Schatz, the playwright and composer behind the musical, lived in Cherry Hill during his senior year of high school in the late 1990s, as well as after college and after graduate school. His parents still live in the township, he said.

But while Schatz is Jewish and had a bar mitzvah at another South Jersey synagogue, he was never a member of M'kor Shalom. He said he decided to write



▲ Jared Armstrong's mother, Lou Ellen Butler, and his father, Antonio Armstrong, hold him as a baby during a simcha event celebrating his birth.
Courtesy of Jared Armstrong

Black Jew Denied Israeli Citizenship Twice

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

ACCORDING TO BOTH himself and his rabbi, Jared Armstrong is Jewish.

But according to the state of Israel, Armstrong is not Jewish enough to gain the birthright citizenship that the state promises.

The 24-year-old, who is Black and

grew up in Philadelphia, is trying to make aliyah "because it's my right," he said. After Armstrong's two-year basketball career at Division II Slippery Rock University in western Pennsylvania ended, Hapoel Haifa, an Israeli professional basketball team, recruited him to play because of his Jewish background.

Israeli officials, though, have rejected

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Miriam's Advice Well

COWORKER COMMENT CAUSES CONSTERNATION

A reader who works remotely wonders what to do after a colleague references an upcoming surgery that she knew nothing about. Given the lack of a relationship, she didn't know how to respond. As one option, Miriam suggests sending out a brief email that says, "Wishing you well on your upcoming surgery," then asking no questions or seeking specifics. For the finer points, visit Miriam's Advice Well online. 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/2022/02/21/dear-miriam-coworker-comment-causes-consternation/

Philacatessen

1-2-3-4 CAKE IN HALF

The 1-2-3-4 Cake may be iconic, but it makes way too much for a single household. Food columnist Keri White decided to cut the recipe and made a single-layer round cake with ganache icing that was top notch. She swapped out buttermilk to add tang and heft, but any kind of milk will work. Check Philacatessen for the recipe, and read the blog regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. jewishexponent.com/2022/02/21/1-2-3-4-cake-in-half/

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2100 Arch Street, 4th Floor,
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MAIN PHONE NUMBER:
215-832-0700

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

David Adelman and Gail Norry, Co-Chairs
Michael Balaban, President and CEO

JEWISH PUBLISHING GROUP

Andrew L. Cherry, Chair
Jay Minkoff, Immediate Past Chair

SALES & MARKETING

DISPLAY
sales@jewishexponent.com

Sharon Schmuckler
Director of Sales
215-832-0753
sschmuckler@jewishexponent.com

Susan Baron
215-832-0757
sbaron@jewishexponent.com

Taylor Orlin
215-832-0732
torlin@jewishexponent.com

Shari Seitz
215-832-0702
sseitz@jewishexponent.com

**CLASSIFIED/
DEATH NOTICES**
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215-832-0749

BUSINESS

Stacye Zeisler
Publishers Representative
szeisler@jewishphilly.org

Mike Costello
Finance Director
215-832-0727
mcostello@jewishexponent.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
subscriptions@jewishexponent.com
215-832-0710

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
215-832-0797

News & Tips
news@jewishexponent.com

Letters
letters@jewishexponent.com

Calendar Events
listings@jewishexponent.com

Andy Gotlieb, Managing Editor
215-832-0797
agotlieb@jewishexponent.com

Jarrad Saffren, Staff Writer
215-832-0740
jsaffren@jewishexponent.com

Sasha Rogelberg, Staff Writer
215-832-0741
srogelberg@jewishexponent.com

PRODUCTION
production@jewishexponent.com

Jeni Mann Tough, Director
Steve Burke, Art Director
Frank Wagner, Graphic Designer

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FBI enters probe of Torah thefts

By MARILYN SILVERSTEIN
Exponent Staff

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has become involved in the probe of a recent proliferation of Torah thefts on both sides of the Delaware River.

The FBI entered the probe this week as Torah scrolls were discovered missing from synagogue arks in the Greater Philadelphia area for the fourth and fifth times this month.

The latest targets of theft were Congregation Ner Zedek-Ezrath Israel in Northeast Philadelphia, where two Sifrei Torah were discovered missing when the ark was opened last Shabbat morning; and Temple Beth Hillel/Beth El in Wynnewood, where two Sifrei Torah were reportedly stolen from a small chapel after a morning minyan on Monday.

"The FBI has initiated an investigation into the Torahs stolen from several area synagogues," said special agent John H. Kunds, spokesman for the FBI's Philadelphia office.

"This investigation is based upon the

Saxton's congressional district encompasses both Cherry Hill and Mount Laurel, sites of two of the recent thefts.

"Saxton was deeply concerned about what was going on and about the potential for interstate activity involving these Torah thefts," the ADL director said.

Feigelstein said he learned of the FBI involvement from Jeffrey Maas, his

"This is not a run-of-the-mill theft. If you're a crack kid, you don't steal a Torah and sell it to the neighborhood fence."

Sgt. Mark Keenan,
Lower Merion Township Police

Shalom in Mount Laurel, N.J., which reported two Torah scrolls missing on Feb. 10.

Police investigating those earlier incidents say there are no new developments.

Now that the rash of thefts has spread to within Philadelphia's city limits, Feigelstein said, he has urged Philadelphia Police Commissioner Willie Williams to step up patrols around the city's synagogues.

In addition, he said, he has notified the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office of the thefts, in case civil rights violations come to light in the course of the investigation.

Feigelstein added that letters have gone out from his office to Greater Philadelphia rabbis and synagogue administrators "to offer ADL's services, in order to upgrade synagogues' internal and external security."

Rabbi Robert Layman, executive director of the Delaware Valley and Eastern Pennsylvania regions of United Synagogue of America, the association

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Two Synagogues Hire New Rabbis

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

AREA SYNAGOGUES
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood and Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park hired new rabbis in the past month.

Beth Hillel-Beth El, a Conservative institution, hired Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky to replace the retiring Neil Cooper, who will step down this summer. Congregation leaders announced the decision in a Feb. 4 email to the community.

“The survey responses, feedback from congregants, staff and clergy, and our Rabbinic Search Committee was overwhelmingly in favor of Rabbi Witkovsky as the right fit for our community,” they wrote. Keneseth Israel tapped Rabbi

Benjamin David to succeed Lance Sussman, who, like Cooper, will retire this summer. KI’s Board of Trustees revealed the hire in a Jan. 20 post on the temple’s website.

“KI’s Search Committee was impressed with Rabbi David’s commitment to teaching and learning, building relationships and engaging those across a spectrum of ages and stages in meaningful Jewish life,” they said.

Witkovsky will begin his tenure in June, and David will start on July 1.

Witkovsky, 37, is new to the area. He grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, attended rabbinical school in Jerusalem and spent the past eight years at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. But he was not the head rabbi



▲ Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky

Photo by Karen Smul



▲ Rabbi Benjamin David

Photo by Colin Lenton

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there. That’s the challenge he faces now. “It was time to lead a community,” he said. David, 45, is from the Philadelphia area. He grew up at Temple Emanuel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where his father, Jerome P. David, is rabbi emeritus after leading the community from 1974 to 2021. The David son attended Camp Harlam and served in NFTY, the youth organization for Reform Jews. Through those experiences, he found himself at KI many times as a youth; he knew of both its size, with more than 1,000 member families (today it’s closer to 800), and its prestige in the Reform movement with rabbis like Sussman and his predecessor, Simeon Maslin, a noted national leader. Out of rabbinical school, David served Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights, New York. Then he moved on to his current home, Adath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, a roughly 360- to 380-family synagogue.



▲ Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood
Courtesy of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El

But David is in the last year of his contract at Adath Emanu-El, and though he thought he might return, he was looking at openings on a Reform job board. That was when he saw that KI had an opening.

“There’s an expectation at KI that we continue to be a leading voice in the Reform movement and in the Philadelphia Jewish community,” David said. “To me, that’s really alluring.”

Witkovsky sold himself to Beth Hillel-Beth El leaders with his people skills.

During his weekend visit to the synagogue at the end of the interview process, the rabbi asked people questions, paid attention and remembered names, according to Barbara Bookman, synagogue president.

He connected with kids in the early childhood center by sitting on the floor and talking to them; he built rapport with older religious school students by using silly topics to spark conversations about Jewish values. Witkovsky told the sixth- and seventh-graders, for example, that there was a Jewish way to tie your shoes.

“He is very easy to get to know,” Bookman said. “Really natural.”

David seemed to convince KI higher-ups with his resume at Adath Emanu-El.

KI’s website announcement cited “meaningful relationships with congregants” as the first highlight from his time in Mount

Laurel. But it also credited David with promoting social justice initiatives, expanding Israel engagement and revitalizing the post b’nai mitzvah program and the adult bar/bat mitzvah and confirmation programs, among other accomplishments.

The post said David “has been an inspiring leader for the past 10 years,” referring to his time at Adath Emanu-El.

Witkovsky and David are taking over spiritual leadership at established congregations with hundreds of families. Yet they face a challenge unlike any that rabbis have faced before.

Both men said adapting to the post-pandemic future was their most important task. How do you use virtual spaces without overusing them? And, on a related note, how do you still get people to actually come to synagogue?

Neither man had a clear answer, as no one really does. But they at least knew where to start.

“People are looking for a community that cares about them,” Witkovsky said. “To be here for them in good times and bad.”

“Intentionally being a rabbi that is present and caring and helping to set the tone for the broader community to be present and caring for each other,” David concluded. ●

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Girls' Hoops Teams Resilient in COVID Season

SPORTS

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

THOUGH THE WINTER 2020-'21 Penn-Jersey Athletic League basketball season was canceled due to the pandemic, the Kohelet Yeshiva and Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy girls' basketball teams were far from idle in the season that never was.

Kohelet coach Kevin Scholla hosted voluntary practices for players to build skills for the 2021-'22 season and had graduating seniors show up, even though they knew they wouldn't play another game in their high school careers, to support the team.

At Barrack, coach Sean Rochester hosted bimonthly practices and a virtual motivational speaker series called "Wisdom Wednesdays," where

players learned leadership and life skills.

The unconventional coaching practices during last year's non-season paid off. This year, both Kohelet's and Barrack's girls' basketball teams achieved some of their respective teams' best results.

The Barrack team played the Abington Friends School in the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association state tournament quarterfinals on Feb. 21, beating them 63-36, earning the team's first PAISAA state tournament win in school history.

Kohelet Yeshiva became district champions and made it to the top eight in the conference championship for the second year in a row, its highest finish ever.

"We just have all different types of girls, as far as their skill

set, as far as their personalities," Scholla said. "But everybody kind of comes together when we're inside the lines."

Scholla attributes his team's success to its aggressive "Dobermann defense."

"You just have to be completely tenacious: full speed, big arms, big legs on defense," Scholla said.

Because of their focus on a good defense, anyone on the team can try to be aggressive, regardless of height or skill set.

"That doesn't mean you're going to do it well, but you can do it as best as you can," Scholla said.

The team has a "deep roster," meaning Scholla has encouraged his players to "accept their roles," big or small, to minimize conflict on and off the court.

While Rochester also advocates for players knowing



▲ The 2021-2022 Kohelet Yeshiva girls' basketball team

their roles, he implemented a new offensive strategy where the ball is constantly moving, as players aggressively pass and cut.

"They used to run a lot of set plays where things were very kind of robotic and designated for certain people to touch the ball at certain times, and this is a little bit more equal opportunity," Rochester said.

Though COVID gave the coaches and players an opportunity for fresh starts and new strategies, it's also presented its fair share of challenges.

"We've had a few different times where we've had girls out due to testing positive. Our school, while it is an inconvenience at times, we've had a very tight COVID protocol, so we always wear masks on the road," Rochester said.

The Barrack team also wears masks and social distances as best it can during practices, even wearing masks during games. In most cases, opponents go maskless.

"It is hard sprinting in masks, and when we play teams that don't play with masks, we are at a great disadvantage," Barrack senior player Arielle Zabusky said.

However, players aren't resentful of the mask-wearing. Senior Jessie Singer said that the school's strict COVID protocols "instilled in all of us a higher purpose in keeping our community safe."

Scholla said that Kohelet's team has had games canceled

at a moment's notice due to members of opposing teams testing positive.

The team also didn't have a bus driver this year, and players and parents carpooled to every game, something Scholla said "showed a lot of commitment."

Players seemed to take this year's obstacles in stride, coaches noticed, just grateful to play ball again. Not only competitive, the respective teams have formed tight-knit bonds.

"I love hearing girls clap and say 'her' name, just excited for each other, not just for themselves," Scholla said. "So that's made them a real team."

Kohelet and Barrack also find themselves in situations unique to few other teams. They represent the Jewish community in a secular league.

"As teams play against us, that's certainly something that they're aware of," Rochester said.

According to Singer, many of the teams in the league haven't interacted with many Jews on or off the court.

"Our whole team works hard to emulate ideal sportsmanship values, both because it is the proper and respectful way to play, but also because we want to make sure we are giving a good, kind name to the Jewish people and acting in a way that is representative of Jewish values," she said. ●

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HEADLINES

NEWSBRIEFS

Arizona Jews Sue to Stop State from Using Hydrogen Cyanide (Zyklon B) at Executions

LEADERS OF ARIZONA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY are suing the state to prevent it from using hydrogen cyanide — the same lethal gas deployed at Auschwitz — to carry out executions, JTA reported.

The Nazis used pellets of Zyklon B, a hydrogen cyanide formulation, in the gas chambers at Auschwitz and other death camps.

Using the gas in United States executions is “tantamount to approving of what the Nazis did,” said Janice Friebaum, former vice president and spokesperson for the Phoenix Holocaust Association. “It’s a very painful way to kill a person, and it’s fundamentally inhumane. To think that it was done to millions of people during the Holocaust is horrific enough, but to think that 70 to 80 years later we’re thinking of using it as a method of capital punishment is mind-boggling.”

Arizona stopped executions by lethal gas in 1992 but allowed for its uses for people who had already been sentenced; that leaves 17 people potentially subject to that form of execution.

JFNA Names Ben Platt’s Mom as Chair

Julie Platt was named as the second woman to chair the Jewish Federations of North America, one of the largest Jewish fundraising organizations in the United States, JTA reported.

Platt is a one-time banker who has become a leader in promoting Jewish education and also is musical star Ben Platt’s mom.

The JFNA brought in \$270 million in 2019.

An organization news release said that Platt has chaired the Los Angeles Jewish Federation and chairs JFNA’s fundraising campaign and its effort to enhance security protection.

Platt will formally succeed Mark Wilf this summer.

Florida Parent Arrested After Making Threats About Orthodox Day School Mask Mandate

A parent of a child at an Orthodox Jewish day school in North Miami Beach was arrested after saying he wanted to “burn this school to the f***ing ground” in a group chat, JTA reported, citing CBS Miami.

Mark Polyakov’s son was a student at Scheck Hillel Community School, which requires students to wear masks indoors and outdoors.

Polyakov reportedly wrote several messages in a group chat of about 70 parents opposed to the mask policy called “No more masks hillel” on Feb. 8 in which he said he wanted to burn the school.

Police arrested Polyakov on Feb. 14 after another parent in the chat reported his comments to the school administration. He was charged with one count of threatening to kill or do bodily harm, which can result in up to 15 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines. His son was expelled.

German Dictionary Changes Definition of ‘Jew’

A German dictionary entry for the word “Jew” was changed after members of the country’s Jewish community called the definition problematic, JTA reported.

The definition offered by the Duden dictionary included a note that the term is sometimes used as a derogatory slur, in addition to being the simplest way of referring to Jews.

But German Jews pushed back against the inclusion of the use of the word “Jew” as a slur, saying the term is the correct one and should be used without qualification.

The entry was updated on Feb. 14 and included the Central Council of Jews in Germany’s approval of the use of the term. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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Book Suggests Alexander Hamilton Was Jewish

NATIONAL

DAVID RULLO | JE FEATURE

ANDREW PORWANCHER is uncomfortable drawing comparisons between himself and Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of the musical “Hamilton.”

“I’m hesitant to say that Lin-Manuel Miranda and I are engaged in a collective endeavor of reimagining the story [of Alexander Hamilton] from a minority perspective because I don’t want to cast myself in the same league as one of the creative geniuses of our time,” Porwancher said.

And yet both Porwancher, a historian and author, and Miranda have found new ways to chronicle the journeys of minorities in America through the story of one of the country’s founding fathers: Alexander Hamilton.

Miranda did so through his casting and musical score accompanying his Broadway hit “Hamilton”; Porwancher does so in his book “The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton” (Princeton University Press), which explores the question of whether Hamilton was born and raised Jewish.

Porwancher is the Ernest May Fellow at Harvard University and the Wick Cary Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma. He said his enthusiasm for examining information from a different perspective is what distinguishes his book from others about Hamilton.

It’s long been known, Porwancher said, that Hamilton’s mother was named Rachel Faucett Lavien and that he was educated in Jewish schools. But no other Hamilton scholar, Porwancher said, has seriously reckoned with evidence that indicates a Jewish identity on the part of the founding father.

“My entry into this topic was



▲ Andrew Porwancher

Courtesy of Andrew Porwancher

not so much finding a smoking gun document that no one else had uncovered,” he said, “but it was a willingness to look at evidence that’s long been there with fresh eyes. And then, from there, go down a rabbit hole that involved uncovering archival material that hadn’t been looked at before.”

Porwancher spent seven years researching and piecing together the Jewish trail of evidence, starting with Hamilton’s stepfather, Johann Michael Lavien, and his mother’s possible conversion to Judaism before marrying the Danish businessman.

Porwancher also reexamined the business dealings of Lavien, a merchant living in the Caribbean. Other historians argue that Lavien wasn’t Jewish because he wasn’t identified as Jewish in the Danish Land Records and census registers. While Porwancher agrees that Lavien isn’t listed as Jewish, after examining more than 3,000 records, he found that none of the other Jews on St. Croix were identified as Jewish either.

In addition, the author took a fresh look at Lavien’s

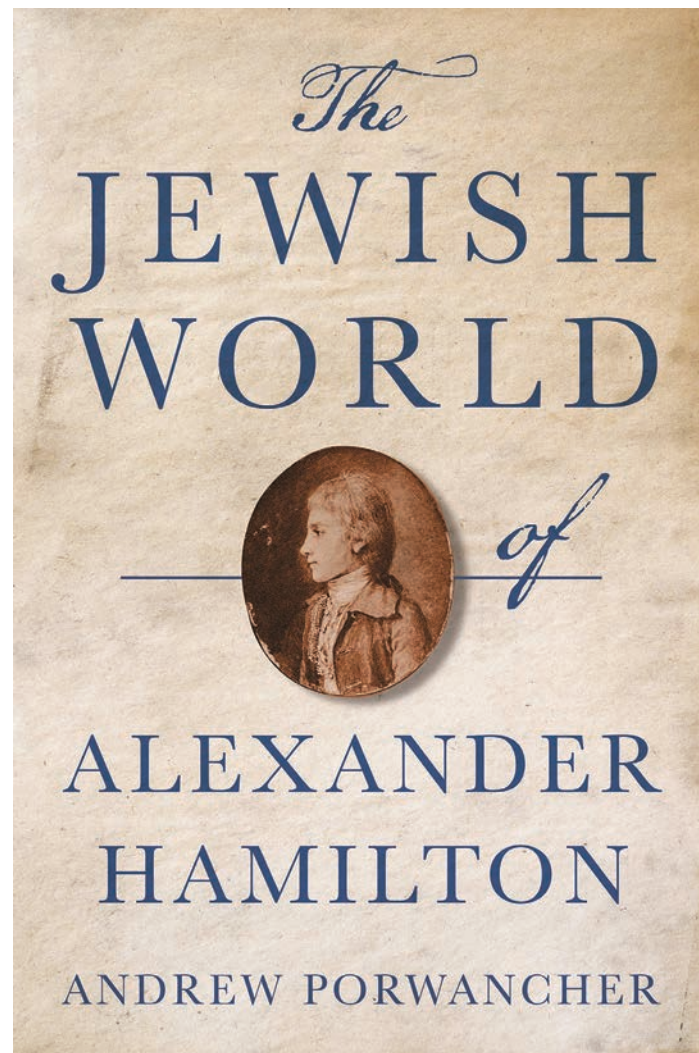
surname and its variants, his business dealings with other Jews and even the fact that Rachel and Johann’s son Peter — though not raised Jewish — was not baptized by the couple.

The book, Porwancher said, makes two related arguments.

“The first is that there is a probabilistic case to be made that Alexander Hamilton is born and raised Jewish,” he said. “The second part of the argument is that, although Hamilton reinvents himself as a Christian and has no Jewish identity in his American adulthood, he develops a closer relationship with the American Jewish community than does any other American founders.”

Hamilton, Porwancher writes, supported the cause of civic equality for America’s Jews at a time when antisemitism was often wielded as a cudgel in mainstream American politics.

Although Porwancher’s book looks specifically at the question of Jewish identity through the eyes of Alexander Hamilton, it also wrestles with what that identity might mean for America.



Princeton University Press

The historian said he wouldn’t be surprised if some Jews find solace from the notion that Hamilton might have been Jewish, especially as antisemitism has resurfaced with new vigor.

Other readers, he said, have taken umbrage.

“To be candid, I have received hate mail from specifically those kinds of people who are profoundly disturbed at the prospect that an American founder might be Jewish,” Porwancher said. “They think that I am somehow undermining the notion that America, from its inception, has been a fundamental Christian country.”

The author also was concerned with not promoting antisemitic tropes in his book.

“The notion that I’ve uncovered evidence that the patron

saint of Wall Street may have been hiding a secret, Jewish identity — that fear dovetails all too seamlessly with the kind of conspiracy theories involving bankers that are common today,” he said.

While Porwancher doesn’t think of himself as traversing the same creative circles as Miranda, there is no doubt that his book, like Miranda’s musical, has widened the conversation about one of America’s founding fathers.

“The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton,” published in August, was selected by the Journal of the American Revolution as its 2021 Book of the Year. •

David Rullo is a staff writer with the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, an affiliated publication of the Jewish Exponent.

HEADLINES

ISRAEL BRIEFS

Israel to Export Gas to Egypt Through Jordan

ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources approved a new route that will send natural gas exports to Egypt via Jordan, Globes reported.

The route was approved because of the growing demand for Israeli natural gas in Egypt; the route will increase gas exports to Egypt by more than 50%.

Offshore natural gas from Israel will head to Jordan through a pipeline to the border near Beit Shean. From there, it will go to Aqaba and then onto Egypt.

Israel exports 3 billion cubic meters of gas annually to Jordan under an agreement signed in 2016. And 5 BCM of gas annually is exported from Israel to Egypt via the former EMG pipeline from Ashkelon to El Arish in Sinai and onto Egypt.

Via the new route, exports to Egypt are anticipated to rise 2.5-3 BCM in 2022.

Lockheed Martin to Build 12 Helicopters for Israel

Lockheed Martin will build 12 CH-53K heavy-lift helicopters for Israel, with the first expected to arrive in Israel in 2026, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The aircraft will be manufactured at Sikorsky headquarters in Stratford, Connecticut. Additional Israeli-made systems like electronic warfare, communication and navigation systems will be installed there, too.

A letter of agreement was signed in late 2021 to acquire the helicopters and two additional Boeing KC-46 refueling aircraft. The deal regarding the helicopters is estimated at \$2 billion. There is an option to procure six additional helicopters.

The helicopters will replace Israel's fleet of Yasur helicopters at Tel Nof Air Base. The Yasur helicopters were first used by the Israeli Air Force.

Birthright Trips Return to Israel

About 2,000 Birthright Israel participants from North America will land in Israel in the coming weeks for the first time in 2022, The Jerusalem Post reported. The pandemic has forced trip suspensions at numerous times since March 2020.

Thirty from Pennsylvania, 28 from New Jersey and one from Delaware are among those expected to arrive in February or March.

Participants must be fully vaccinated. Birthright Israel said it is working with the Health Ministry on a COVID protocol.

Birthright said it expects 15,000 more participants from North America during the summer. The summer season will be the last for young adults 27-32 to participate. Birthright will limit trips to those 18-26 starting in winter 2023.

IDF Shoots Down Hezbollah Drone

The Israel Defense Forces said on Feb. 17 that they downed a drone that Lebanon's Hezbollah terror group flew across the border, The Times of Israel reported.

The incident occurred a day after Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said the terror organization has built military drones in Lebanon and has the technology to turn thousands of its missiles into precision-guided munitions.

The IDF said in a statement that air control units tracked the unmanned aircraft "throughout the incident" before shooting it down. The specific method for shooting down the drone wasn't revealed.

Army Radio said the drone likely belonged to the Hezbollah's elite Radwan Unit but didn't cite a source. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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Australia: Two Weeks of the World Down Under

TRAVEL

JILL PERLIN | JE FEATURE

AUSTRALIA IS A LAND of many cities, cultures and climates. Since it's so far away, and it takes a long time to get there, it's best to plan at least two weeks.

Here's a sample itinerary, in which you can visit two large cities — Sydney and Melbourne — and two other popular sites — the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. It's important to remember one thing — Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere. So, the seasons are opposite those of the U.S.

You can begin in Melbourne. To get a sense of the city, head to the Melbourne Skydeck. You'll ascend 88 floors in less than 40 seconds. Once you enter the Skydeck, take in 360-degree views of Melbourne through floor-to-ceiling windows. If you are a tennis fan and visit Melbourne in January, you can take in the Australian Open.

Outside of Melbourne is Phillip Island Nature Park, which has the largest little penguin colony in the world. You can watch the penguins waddle home from the ocean at night.

No trip to Australia would be complete without seeing a koala. You can do that at the Koala Conservation Reserve, which is approximately 20 minutes from the park.

There is also the Great Ocean Road. This 150-mile stretch of road is known for its scenic views, as well as surfing, wildlife, and hiking and biking trails. Start early in the day to avoid large crowds.

From Melbourne, fly to Alice Springs, where you'll learn about the heart of the Outback culture and ultra-remote living. Start at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Established in 1871, it was built to aid in communications

within and outside of Australia.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is one of the largest and most comprehensive health care services in the world and focuses on residents living in small, rural areas. Lastly, the School of the Air is a one-of-a-kind school for children there, where a teacher can be a day's drive away.

From Alice Springs, head to Ayers Rock, which is a 4½-hour drive. Also known as Uluru, Ayers Rock is actually a massive sandstone monolith in the heart of the Northern Territory's arid "Red Centre." Uluru is sacred to indigenous Australians and is thought to have started forming around 550 million years ago.

Take a sunrise walk around the 7.5-mile base trail, and stare in amazement at its incredible size. At night, take a stargazing tour and learn about the southern night sky. Lastly, do a camel ride and learn how camels were introduced into Australia in the 1840s.

Next, fly to Cairns, the gateway for the Great Barrier Reef. It provides some of the world's best snorkeling and scuba diving. Many local companies offer half-day and full-day excursions. Even if you are a novice, you'll be wowed by the clear water, colorful fish and abundance of coral.

Outside the city, head to Kuranda. Take the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway to the top, and observe wildlife, experience the rain forest and hike one of the many trails. Ride the scenic railway back down.

The final stop is Sydney. You can fly direct from Cairns. There is so much to see in this vibrant city.

Take a backstage tour of the Sydney Opera House. Beyond observing the Sydney Harbor Bridge, climb it! It's one of this author's all-time favorite travel experiences. Visit Bondi or Manley Beach, which are



▲ The Sydney Opera House is one of the most iconic sites in the world.

► Uluru is an awesome sight at any time of the day.



accessible by public ferry.

About two hours outside of the city, through a scenic ride, are the Blue Mountains. One highlight is the famous Three Sisters, an unusual rock formation in the mountains. Legend has it three sisters fell in love with three men but were forbidden to marry.

Throughout Australia, there is a wide variety of great food and drink. Seafood is always fresh and plentiful. Australia also has several wine regions worth visiting.

Lastly, Australia is well known for its zoos — Toronga and Australia Zoo, in particular. If you're a fan of the late Steve Irwin and his family, Australia Zoo will be familiar.

There is no shortage of things to do in Australia. Many local tour companies can help you get from place to place and with individual excursions. So, you can choose to see the sites on your own, or have someone else do the planning.

Either way, you'll find that Australia's people, attractions, cuisine and history make it a wonderful destination. It's worth the long flight and jet lag. And you'll surely want to return.

Getting Around:

- By air – There are direct flights to Melbourne and Sydney from the West Coast of the U.S. Within Australia, you can generally fly to and from major cities.
- By train – Australia has a large network of rail service within and outside of the large metropolitan areas.
- By cruise – Several cruise lines offer sailings to Australia. Some longer sailings also include New Zealand.

Must-Sees and Dos for a Short Trip:

In Sydney:

- Take a backstage tour of the Sydney Opera House.
- Visit the Sydney Harbor Bridge (if adventurous, do the Bridge Climb).
- Go out to the Blue Mountains.

In Cairns:

- Snorkel or dive the Great Barrier Reef.
- Pay a visit to Kuranda.

If You Have at Least Ten Days:

In Sydney:

- Take the public ferry to Bondi or Manley Beach.
- Use public transportation to visit the Taronga Zoo.

In Melbourne:

- Use a local tour operator to visit Phillip Island.



▲ You can walk across the Sydney Harbor Bridge ... or climb to the top.

► The koala is arguably the most adorable animal on the planet.
Photos by Jill Perlin



- Rent a car and drive the Great Ocean Road.
 - Visit local wineries.
- In the Outback**
- Visit Ayers Rock/Uluru.

This Destination at a Glance
Over 50 Advantage: It can be expensive to do everything in Australia you might want to do. It also takes more time. It's a vast country, and there's a lot to see.

Mobility Level: Generally low to moderate. The Sydney Harbor Bridge Climb requires a higher level of mobility.

When to Go: Check out: travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/best-time-to-visit-australia.

- Where to Stay:**
- Sydney – Sydney Harbor Marriott
 - Ayers Rock – Sails in the Desert
 - Cairns – Hilton Cairns

- Special Travel Interests:**
- Aboriginal history and culture
 - Unique natural wonders •

Jill Perlin is a freelance writer and an avid and intrepid traveler.

Jewish Australia

LIKE MANY OF AUSTRALIA'S early European settlers, the first Jews in Australia were transported there as British prisoners in the 18th century. An Australian Jewish presence began on Jan. 26, 1788, the day that approximately 16 Jews — 15 convicts and one baby — arrived in what is now Sydney Harbor with a large contingent of non-Jewish prisoners.

Those early Jews were the first of several waves of immigrants that would repeatedly change the Australian Jewish community, including Russians and South Africans, as well as Britons.

Despite its diversity, Jews were and remain a tiny minority in the land Down Under, comprising about 0.4% of the first cohort of British convicts shipped off to the Australian colonies. Interestingly, that remains about the same as the Jewish proportion of the total Australian population today.

Population estimates number Australian Jews today at well above 110,000, although just 91,022 Australians identified as Jewish in the government's 2016 census. Most live in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Melbourne has the largest contingent.

Until the 1930s, all synagogues in Australia were Orthodox, and about 70% of them remain so. There are Reform congregations in Melbourne and Sydney.

Australian Jews have played a prominent role in Australian society. The nation has had a Jewish head of state (twice), a Jewish head of the judiciary and a Jewish head of the armed forces.

The seamless integration of Jews into Australia allowed them to flourish in all spheres but religion. The Jews' incorporation into society led to a rise in intermarriage, a drop in synagogue attendance and a lack of affiliation with Judaism in general. Nonetheless, there are still many who maintain their Jewish institutions and congregations.

Australian Jewry in the 21st century is not particularly religiously observant but has a vibrant Jewish identity. Major traditions are widespread, such as seder night at home and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at the synagogue. The community gives generously to fundraising causes and has a good record of making aliyah to Israel. •

— Jeffrey Orenstein





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Musical

Continued from Page 1

the musical because, upon moving to Cherry Hill with his parents as a high schooler, he lived in “the very apartment unit where the two hired hitmen in this case lived at the time of the murder.”

“This has haunted me for years,” Schatz added.

But his new musical, premiering in June at the Geffen Playhouse, is ensuring that this tragedy continues to haunt the community that it rocked so many years ago, according to former M’kor Shalom congregants.

“It’s offensive,” said Shelly Gordon, a Palm Beach, Florida, resident who belonged to M’kor Shalom from 1990 to 2008.

“It was just a horrible experience for everybody,” added Martin Mellman, a Cherry Hill resident and M’kor Shalom member from 1990 to 2005.

“To profit from such a tragedy is sickening,” said Jim Kennedy of Cherry Hill, whose family called the synagogue home for 45 years.

Gordon, Mellman and Kennedy are no longer members of the Reform congregation. So they are less

concerned with their feelings than with the memory of Carol Neulander, who Mellman described as “a very sweet lady” who “never hurt anybody.”

The congregants expressed outrage that the Neulanders’ three children, two of whom testified against their father, had to relive the experience.

“It reopens old wounds,” Kennedy said.

“To make this into entertainment is an insult to her memory, to their family, to the congregation,” Mellman added.

“How could someone who knew the family, or knew of the family, lived in the community, possibly do something like this?” asked Gordon of Schatz.

M’kor Shalom President Drew Molotsky echoed the former congregants. Through a public relations representative, he sent a statement on behalf of the institution.

“This musical is about our history. It involves our friends and our community, and it is very serious to us,” he said. “To make light of it or to exploit it for entertainment value is not something we will ever condone.”

According to Schatz, however, the blowback is, at least in part, a result of the



▲ M’kor Shalom in Cherry Hill

Courtesy of M’kor Shalom



▲ Rabbi Fred Neulander
Jewish Exponent archives



▲ Matt Schatz

Photo by Jenna Hymes

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playhouse’s original description of the show as containing “both chutzpah and humor.” “A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill” is not comedic or light-hearted, Schatz said; and it is, he argued, both serious and respectful of the tragedy and its consequences.

The playwright/composer, who lives in LA and has a long list of musicals to his name produced around the country, said that he’s using art for one of its intended purposes: to answer unanswerable questions. He added that, “It’s a very Jewish thing to believe that the questions are more important than the answers.”

But sometimes, according to Deborah Baer Mozes, founding artistic director of

Theatre Ariel on the Main Line, real-world concerns outweigh the goal of artistic honesty.

Baer Mozes considers two factors when choosing a play for her salon theater: the subject matter and how it’s treated.

“There are certain subject matters I would have trouble directing,” she said. “Like plays about abuse.”

The director said she would not produce “A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill.” But she acknowledged that, as a member of the Philadelphia Jewish community who met Neulander, she

couldn’t separate her personal connection from her artistic consideration.

When she can, though, and when she decides to take on a loaded subject matter, Baer Mozes tries her best to handle it with care.

“It would have to be written in a way that wasn’t sensationalizing the case but was really grappling with the moral issues in a way that had moral integrity,” Baer Mozes said. ●

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
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Denied

Continued from Page 1

his citizenship application twice, with the second denial coming on Feb. 9. They told Armstrong they thought he spent nine months converting to Conservative Judaism through Rabbi Michael Beals in Wilmington just because he wanted to play pro basketball in the Jewish state.

But Armstrong says he only went through the conversion process because Israel's Interior Ministry wouldn't recognize his Jewish background. Armstrong's mother, Lou Ellen Butler, converted before he was born with Congregation Beth El in Philadelphia, a nondenominational synagogue. Israel's Law of Return requires those making aliyah to be affiliated with a denomination.

So, Armstrong converted. Yet it still wasn't enough for officials who doubted his sincerity.

Armstrong believes race is a factor.

"They saw a Jew of color who wanted to play a sport, and they thought that wasn't sincere," he said.

Beals, who leads Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, agrees.

"His motives are insincere because he's an African American who wants to play basketball," the rabbi said, referring to the judgment from Israeli officials. "That's the only reason."

A Feb. 10 Jewish Telegraphic Agency story compared Armstrong's case to other recent immigration cases involving Jews of color.

Between December and January, the Interior Ministry denied the applications of "a Ugandan man who converted with the Conservative movement" and a Black Jew who "had not spent adequate time in the community where he converted after he became Jewish," according to the JTA report. The second man, David Ben Moshe, got his



▲ Jared Armstrong

Courtesy of Jared Armstrong

decision overturned before being rejected again because he "had been convicted of a crime in the United States."

"They put a spin on why they deny you so it doesn't sound racist," Armstrong said.

According to Beals, Armstrong was born Jewish because his mother converted before she gave birth to him. And growing up, the Philadelphian was very much Jewish, he said.

He went to synagogue, observed the High Holy days and kept Shabbat; Armstrong's mother didn't allow him to play sports on Saturday.

"We kept it all day until the sun went down," he said.

When Armstrong was between the ages of 10 and 12, though, his parents got divorced and he stopped going to Congregation Beth El. He never had a bar mitzvah and drifted away from the strict observance of his boyhood years.

But his sense of identity never left him; the teenager and

then-collegian always knew he was Jewish in his "heart and soul," as he described it.

At the same time, Armstrong was doing his best to make it as a basketball player.

He scored more than 1,000 career points in just three

seasons at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School in Lansdale. Then he graduated from Virginia-based Fork Union Military Academy before spending a year in Maryland at Mount Zion Prep, recording more than 16 points per game for both teams.

After missing his freshman season at the College of Central Florida, he bounced back at Butler Community College in Kansas and then transferred to Slippery Rock. In 2018-'19 and 2019-'20, he averaged double-digit points and came away convinced he could play professionally.

Yet his only option was in Israel, so he applied for citizenship.

Upon rejection, he began studying with Beals, who knew Armstrong's aunt from her attendance at his services.

Armstrong went into the mikveh and spent nine months studying "every aspect of Judaism" over Zoom due to COVID, the rabbi said. He showed up every week, and his conversion was approved by the required Beit Din, or house of judgment, of "three knowledgeable Jews," as Beals described it.

Yet in addition to doubting Armstrong's sincerity, the Israeli government said it couldn't

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accept classes conducted on Zoom. During those virtual classes, Beals never doubted his student's authenticity.

"He was very passionate. I could look at his face," the rabbi said. "I'm hoping somebody will step in, overturn this and say, 'This is not who we are.'" Armstrong is appealing the decision. He is in Israel on a visa and his family is supporting him.

"It's heartbreaking because you grow up a Jew, and then you're being told you're not a Jew," he said. "Only God can tell you who you are." •

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JEWISH EXPONENT

Turn-of-the-Millennium Looks ‘All That’ Again

FASHION

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

LOW-RISE JEANS are making a comeback, much to the near-unanimous chagrin of Jewish fashion experts.

The return of the infamous pants, deemed “unflattering” and “outdated,” is an omen of the return of a whole host of clothing styles of the late 1990s and early aughts — for better or for worse.

“We’re seeing the ’90s kind of in full-force, moving into the early 2000s a little bit,” said Rachel Mednick, adjunct professor and fashion educator at Drexel University.

The delight in early ’00s pop culture was made clear on

the national level when 103.4 million viewers tuned into the Feb. 13 Super Bowl halftime show, where Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre began and ended the concert with a rendition of their 2001 collaboration “The Next Episode.” Other ’90s and ’00s superstars — 50 Cent, Mary J. Blige and Eminem — helped draw in an audience 7% larger than last year’s performance, according to The New York Times.

Mednick sees college students walking into her classroom wearing crop tops and showing midriffs or donning leggings and oversized T-shirts, paying homage to the turn of the millenium.

“That was ‘the thing’ when I was growing up,” Mednick,

34, said.

The styles are colorful, a little suggestive, but comfortable, making them appealing to not just younger audiences, but also to those transitioning out of their pandemic sweatsuits, Fashion Statement Boutique owner Marissa Gelman said.

“People are ready to go out there, being comfortable, but they also want to express themselves — colors and different types of fabrics,” Gelman said.

Though an outspoken opponent of low-rise jeans, Gelman is incorporating ’90s inspirations into her upcoming designs, adding “sophistication” to the styles with which she grew up.

She’s leaning into the long,



Fashion Statement Boutique owner Marissa Gelman is leaning into long, crochet dresses made popular in the '90s.

Courtesy of Marissa Gelman



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flowy skirts popular 25-30 years ago, as well as long crochet dresses, hoping to evoke images of “Friends”-era Jennifer Aniston. Miniskirts and spaghetti straps of the ’00s, however, will not make an appearance.

Young designers now in their 30s don’t have the same desire to bring back the styles of their youth. Instead, the Generation Z “Zoomers,” now teenagers, are embracing the looks. Video streaming social media platform TikTok, which has skyrocketed influencers to fame, has helped popularize these looks, Mednick said.

But young people aren’t the only ones inspired by throw-back fashion. Plenty of people tend to look back on past eras for inspiration.

“I think back to even my grandmother and what she wore growing up, and I think that was such a beautiful era, and things were handmade, and it was so different,” Mednick said. “She looks back on that and appreciates that and says, ‘Why don’t we do this anymore? Things are so much better made; it was better quality.’”

Mednick and Gelman both cited the ’60s and ’70s as

THE LOOK



Gabrielle Mandel's new collection drew inspiration from the abstract patterns and bright colors of the '60s and '70s.

Photos by Gabrielle Mandel

inspiration for their personal fashion: "funky, free-flowing" skirts with "flower power" patterns and bright colors.

Gabrielle Mandel, creator of art and home goods collection Supra Endura, is launching a collection of abstract-patterned beeswax wraps and dishcloths inspired by the time period, with the additional influences of pop art, Henri Matisse's impressionism and designer Roy Halston Frowick's affinity for disco.

"People are turning more towards this fun optimism and probably a little bit of hedonism that also kind of started in the '70s," Mandel said.

COVID has made people

itch for levity and bright colors in their style, Mandel said. Mednick agreed, arguing that the '70s were a simpler time, before social media and the pandemic made life feel complicated.

But there is a tendency to add rose-tinted lenses to nostalgia-inspired looks as well.

Mandel, also in her 30s, grew up in the '90s, never seeing the looks she felt inspired by in person.

"I wasn't around for the '70s music and wasn't really understanding things for most of the '80s, as a 3-year-old," she said.

Though many people are drawing on the laid-back

reputation and styles of the '60s and '70s, few have actually lived through the time period and, therefore, have a reductive perception of that era.

"There's both an overgeneralization and also not really a deep understanding of what actually was happening," Mandel said. "Obviously, there was a lot of turmoil and a lot of big changes in the '60s, and it's hard to really understand what the mood of those times were."

As the next generation takes an interest in the turn of the millennium, experts are wondering if this cycle has the potential to continue. Ten years from now, will kids be wearing clothes inspired by the 2010s?

Mednick has reservations. So much clothing from the '10s was also inspired by past decades; it's hard to tell what's original at times.

"We're kind of stuck at this point," she said. "I don't know how much newness we're really seeing." •

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Designers Explain Tectonic Shifts in Interiors

HOME

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

AS WE HEAD into spring, only one thing is certain in the interior design market: A lot of things are happening at once.

To go over them all, the Jewish Exponent talked to three designers in the Greater Philadelphia area.

**Michelle Erdosi,
owner, Aeternum Design
Studio, Philadelphia**

In September, Erdosi talked about how, during the pandemic, with people home more often, houses and apartments were becoming “multifunctional.”

A breakfast nook could be

for eating the day’s first meal or working from your laptop, for example. A bedroom could be for sleeping or taking a Zoom meeting.

But now, post-omicron, according to Erdosi, clients are emerging from their homes, or “survival mode,” as she describes our collective approach to 2020 and ’21, and looking out again. The designer, due to this development and her background in commercial design, has made like her customers and shifted back toward focusing on it.

Clients are starting to ask her the question that most white-collar participants in the economy are asking: What’s the future of the office going to look like?



A dining area in a workplace created by Daroff Design

Courtesy of Daroff Design Inc.
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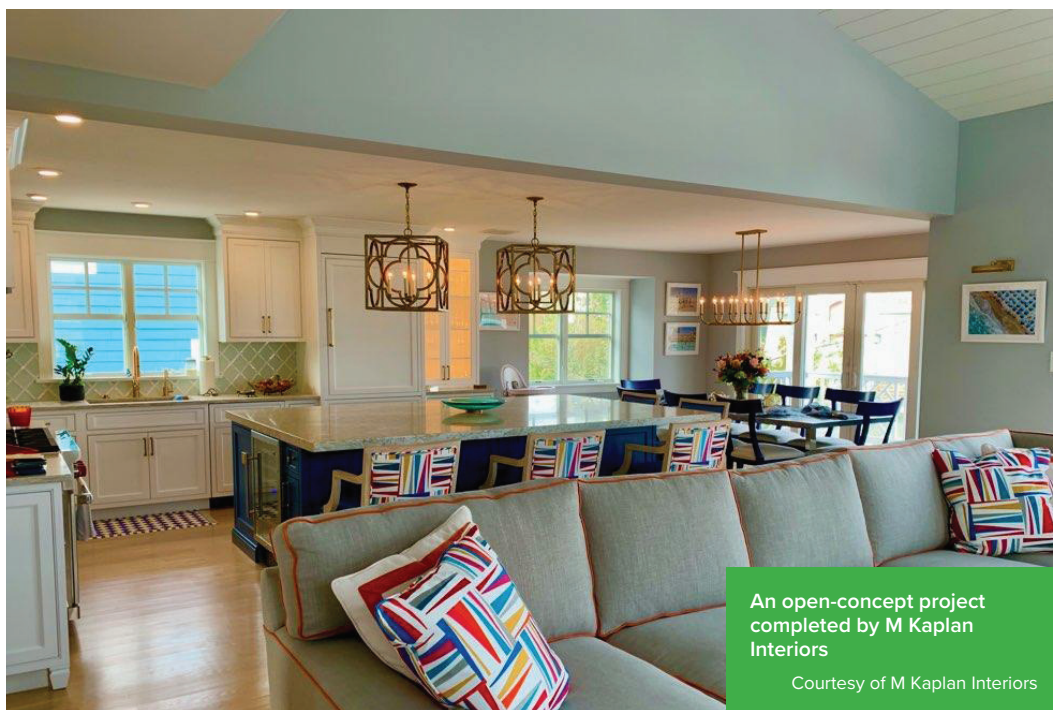
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THE LOOK



An open-concept project completed by M Kaplan Interiors
Courtesy of M Kaplan Interiors

Since Erdosi is a designer, it's her job to at least have an inkling of an answer.

"I'm looking at creating a hospitality, kind of kitchen vibe," she said. "They can eat there and maybe they have meetings."

The owner's intention is for the office to not feel like an office, she added.

Her designs are open, with booth seating and plug-ins. They are for people to sit down, eat and then work for a morning or afternoon. They are also for workers to have meetings with each other, both formal and informal.

One of Erdosi's clients is asking for that kind of layout with the understanding that its employees will no longer come in eight hours a day, five days a week. But it does want the office to be there for people when the company needs them or when they want an office space themselves.

The new office, essentially, at least according to Erdosi's design, will be a place where workers want to go, not a place where they have to go.

"Something that's fun," she said.

Karen Daroff, owner, Daroff Design Inc. + DDI Architects, PC, Philadelphia

For both commercial and residential projects, Daroff sees a similar trend. She calls it "inside-out spaces," or outdoor spaces that can be used the same way people use indoor living rooms: to hang out.

Restaurants have recaptured parking lots and streets for outdoor dining; while apartment complexes, condominium buildings and even senior living facilities have added features like pool decks and lounge areas.

Daroff says this trend, like so many others, emerged out of the COVID crisis.

In 2020 and '21, area residents started to rediscover the great outdoors after spending so much time in their homes. They also developed a more acute sense of how people spread illness and a related desire to trade small spaces and large groups for open spaces and smaller groups.

"People are more aware of living a healthier lifestyle," Daroff said.

And with her commercial

office projects, Daroff is noticing a similar theme. Like Erdosi, she is designing office spaces to be for gathering as much as working.

Many of Daroff's office blueprints include open kitchen areas.

"It becomes a hub of the office," she said.

Matt Kaplan, owner, M Kaplan Interiors, Malvern

Kaplan understands the macro developments in the interior design industry. He has been in the business for 30 years, and his family has been in it for 100 years.

And he says that today, in line with the multifunctionality and sociability of so many spaces, customers want furniture to withstand heavy and continuous usage.

Customers are investing more in furniture and, more specifically, in pieces that are both casual and durable, according to Kaplan. On top of furniture, customers now prefer a fabric called Crypton that is known for being, as

See Home, Page 20

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THE LOOK

Home

Continued from Page 19



Michelle Erdosi

Courtesy of Aeternum Design Studio

Kaplan described it, “super durable.”

“People can spill red wine on it and not have to worry about it,” he said.

But this approach has a downside, according to the owner. Casual, durable pieces are not fancy; so their aesthetics don’t vary much from each other.

Colors are often creams, whites and grays; shapes are usually squared-off and boxy. It’s a style that’s simple in scale and design, Kaplan said.

It’s also not unique, he added.

“It’s kind of like vanilla and chocolate,” he concluded.

The new aesthetic moves in both market directions. Companies save money by making simple designs. But

customers today are also less concerned with style than function.

Kaplan said this shift extends into clothing and even behavior.

Adult men don’t wear ties to work anymore; kids dress for school like “they’re going to gym class,” the owner explained, in sweatpants and sweatshirts; Kaplan’s teenage kids dress this way.

And adults and kids alike can accomplish almost anything non-physical on their phones.

“You can order DoorDash on your phone,” Kaplan said. “People just want things to be easier.” •

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I Know the Obstacles Faced by People with Disabilities. That Is Why I Am Lobbying for Change



BY AARON KAUFMAN

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED in living life to the fullest. When you grow up with a disability, you are faced with a choice of whether or not to let it define you as a person.

People often find it easy to say no to someone with a disability, “No, we can’t accommodate that; no we aren’t set up for that,” and so on. But I always wanted to hear “Yes, don’t worry, we’ll find a way.”

I grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland, just north of Washington, D.C. When I was seven years old, a close friend of my parents was running for the Maryland House of Delegates. My dad invited me to join him outside the polling place, handing out

literature for the candidate. I felt as if I were doing something important and I knew I was making my parents proud. Four years later, I stuffed envelopes for other candidates, and before long I got to meet Chris Van Hollen (now a U.S. senator from Maryland), Jamie Raskin (now a U.S. representative), Hillary Clinton and others. Politics became my lifeblood.

I didn’t set out to become an advocate for the disabled; it just kind of happened. When I was able to vote for the first time, I went to my local polling place and found that I wasn’t physically able to get inside the building. The building had no accommodations for someone with cerebral palsy, which means I have difficulty with a wide variety of everyday tasks, including walking on my own. They told me that I could go somewhere else, but I didn’t want to — I wanted to vote with my friends and neighbors. I refused to accept this situation, so I reached out to my local representatives, and I ultimately had the opportunity to testify before

the Montgomery County Council. They decided to allocate funds to make all polling places accessible, not just in my neighborhood, but across the entire county, where more than a million people live.

After graduating from the University of Maryland, I continued my work on disability issues, first as a special education teacher and then as a lobbyist at an advocacy organization called The Arc Maryland, which helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities flourish in both their personal and professional lives.

More recently, I was hired in a senior position at the Jewish Federations of North America, which has made the empowerment of people with disabilities a top priority of its work across the Jewish world. Our achievements in this realm have become models for other communities as well. JFNA has cultivated my strengths, accommodated my needs and — most importantly — enabled me to bust some myths about people with disabilities. Sometimes when people see me up on the Hill, when we’re going to meet with lawmakers, their eyes get really big seeing a well-dressed young man enter their office using a walker, as if they’re surprised that someone with a disability is a professional lobbyist.

Some perceive people with disabilities as only being able to perform jobs that involve what many call “food, filth, flowers and filing.” I guess they’re not thinking of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Itzhak Perlman, Marlee Matlin, or any of the millions of Americans with disabilities who have accomplished all kinds of amazing feats.

That dynamic in itself created an opening for progress. For example, the chairlift at the Rayburn House Office Building was perennially broken, meaning that when I went to lobby lawmakers, someone had to hold my hand and help me walk up the stairs. It’s the kind of thing that most people don’t think about, but it impacts the capacity of people with disabilities to participate in the democratic process. When I told Rep. Raskin about the issue, he and his chief of staff succeeded in having a new chairlift installed.

We’ve had so many victories for people with disabilities at JFNA. Perhaps the biggest one was four years ago, when we helped prevent the Americans with Disabilities Act from being gutted by legislation that would have made it harder for those with disabilities to sue for discrimination.

But with all the progress we’ve made, there’s more work to be done.

Starting at home, our own Jewish communities can and should implement measures that foster inclusion. Jewish organizations should set aside disability related funds in their budgets that include accommodations for individuals with disabilities, such as captioning and ASL interpretation and other accommodations according to specific needs, and events should always be held in accessible venues. Professionals — especially senior leadership and hiring managers — must demonstrate a positive attitude about hiring people with disabilities. Jewish organizations must also create an environment where all members of a community feel comfortable sharing what they need. And our lay and community leaders must include people with disabilities on all

committees, not just disability ones.

On the policy level, we are advocating vigorously for Congress to expand eligibility for ABLE savings accounts, which permit people with disabilities to set aside a portion of their income on a tax-free basis to help pay for physical and psychological therapies, durable medical equipment, and other things that they need. However, right now this program is only available to those who become disabled before the age of 26, which leaves out millions, including many veterans; statistics show that 70% of disabilities are not congenital, but are acquired later in life.

In addition, we are seeking a significant investment in home and community-based services that will benefit not just people with disabilities, but also many low-income older adults. This program enables Medicaid beneficiaries to stay at home or in their local communities rather than having to move to a facility for care.

Each year, all of this work culminates at our Jewish Disability Advocacy Day on Feb. 23 and 24. Champions, such as Tony Award-winning actress Ali Stroker and Paralympic athlete Ezra Frech, are joining us as we unite with one voice to champion policies that advance the rights of people with disabilities. My own personal mission is to ensure that people like me have the same kinds of opportunities that I have been so blessed to have, and that we value people with disabilities for everything that they have to offer, thus making life better both for them and for us all. •

Aaron Kaufman is senior manager of legislative affairs, Jewish Federations of North America.

Be heard.

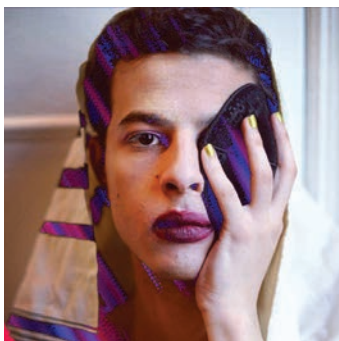
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JEWISH EXPONENT



I'm a Queer Mizrahi Jew Who Left the NY Orthodox World. This 'Bubby' Took Me In



BY JE'JAE CLEOPATRA DANIELS

IN ORTHODOX JUDAISM, a child's Hebrew name is given within the first week. The rules for our lives are predetermined, assigned based on our gender at birth. Since I was born, I knew inside that I was created differently from others — and I was labeled a non-conforming case who needed fixing.

Growing up on the Lower East Side as a '90s baby, I lived in an era when the neighborhood, a historic region in New York City and American Jewish history, was experiencing major changes and gentrifying rapidly. The Jewish presence was in decline, and the immigrant melting pot for which the neighborhood was known was being whitewashed in a boom of galleries, 5-star clubs and high-rise buildings.

In the middle of all of it was me: queer, hip, Mizrahi, not easily fitting in. My family and I were more accustomed to bonding with the local Puerto Rican and Black communities than with the wealthy Ashkenazi Jews who seemed to control the majority of Jewish life in the temples of our area.

I always wrestled with my identity and the alienation of not fitting into the class, race and "formal" gender expectations of the Orthodox world. It took me many years to realize that not fitting in a box was

actually an immense opportunity. It gave me the ability to connect with a multitude of under-recognized people — like my adopted Bubby Roz.

Bubby Roz, or Ms. Roslyn Engelmayer, was a lovely balaboosta who became my adopted grandmother when my own grandparents on both sides of the family passed before I reached third grade. I met Bubby Roz in first grade when she held a festive Purim party in her cozy apartment. My mother took my brother and me; I was dressed as a tiny brown rabbit. I remember arriving at the door and looking up at a towering woman who had so much warmth in her eyes that her statuesque height didn't frighten me. Her first words to me were, "I love you as one of my own grandchildren," and since then we have been inseparable.

Bubby Roz was disabled, feminist, charismatic, a bit of a hoarder of memorabilia (but always clean) and had the biggest heart. She had become estranged from her family — her husband walked out the door without a civil divorce and left her to raise three kids alone. So Bubby and I always knew what it was like to feel excluded, for life to present a challenging but unique path. And we used our alienation as a form of empathy to welcome the stranger.

Well into her later years, Bubby Roz would host free meals every Shabbat for the "misfit" Jews of the LES who weren't easily welcomed in their neighbors' homes, or didn't have a "male" to lead services. Although I was demonized by my fellow archaic tribe members for being "different" and not conforming to Jewish values, I actually spent my

time appreciating the company of my elders and wanted to hold mature and philosophical conversations — thanks to the relationship Bubby and I developed.

Living in a world that repressed my inner authentic self made NYC seem like a conservative bubble. We could peer at the secular world, but couldn't step into it. Decades before I found queer-inclusive spaces, my limited knowledge of my orientation and gender identity was based on the queerphobia of my Modern to ultra-Orthodox surroundings. Even in the closet, I was always automatically labeled without being given a chance to define myself, and the harmful labels and bullying buried me in depression and self-deprecation. My parents, too, were policed for trying to affirm my gender presentation, receiving reprimands from my day school. While they defended my differences when they could, they didn't want to acknowledge my coming out in public.

In synagogue, rabbis would preach about loving thy neighbor, but then make queerphobic jokes during Shabbat services — and racist ones in Yiddish so the maintenance workers of color wouldn't hear. I felt like the only one who was "different" in a normalized bigoted world — and at the same time, I was confused because I was trying to live by Jewish values, which emphasize welcoming the "other."

I left Orthodoxy in 2011 and my former religious world didn't want to hear my side of the story. Families who used to consider me one of their own now harassed me weekly on the

See Daniels, Page 28

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

Connect Palestinians to Terror

WITH MATT NOSANCHUK, president and co-founder of the New York Jewish Agenda as an American Jewish community liaison to former President Obama ("Condemning That Flawed Amnesty International Report Doesn't Bring Israel Any Closer to Peace," Feb. 17), who needs enemies?

Not once does Nosanchuk mention the word terrorism as directed by the Palestinians toward Jews nor Hamas and the Palestinian Authority's goal of a "Palestine from sea to sea." Hasn't there been enough proof that no matter how many concessions Israel makes for peace, the response from the other side has been bombs, missiles, rockets, tunnels, stabbings and cars driven into bus shelters.

If I've missed any other terrorist acts, I apologize to thousands of Israelis who have been victims of Palestinian terror attacks.

Zachary Margolies | Philadelphia

Impersonator Not the Same as Interpreter

Dean Malissa is not an impersonator of George Washington ("Mikveh Israel to Celebrate Presidents' Day," Feb. 17). That description is demeaning.

Malissa is a gifted actor who is a renowned Washington scholar. He is an historic interpreter. He brings a vast knowledge of George Washington, in all of Washington's roles, to his audiences, which include presidents of the United States, foreign dignitaries, Congress, governors and Purple Heart recipients. He has presided over several naturalization ceremonies for new United States citizens.

For years, he has been America's official historic portrayer of Washington, working under the auspices of Washington's home — Mount Vernon. He serves now as the distinguished George Washington emeritus.

Words are important, and the Exponent should choose them with care.

Phyllis Malissa Finkelstein | Delray Beach, Florida

Reminiscing About Rabbi Maslin

I met the late Rabbi Simeon Maslin ("Reform Leader, KI Rabbi Simeon Maslin Dies at 90," Feb. 10) when he arrived at The Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism. He and I were close in age, and I later wrote a history of our congregation from which this excerpt came. I thought it might add to the fond memories you in Philadelphia have of Rabbi Maslin, or "Shim" as I and other friends called him.

"Rabbi Simeon Maslin (1957-1961) came to us in the full bloom of youth, with little prior experience, a fine singing voice, a self-possession rarely found in a 26 year old, and a wit and wisdom he used to weld our congregation into a more unified and cohesive Rabbis institution for learning and worship." •

Dr. Joseph Birnbaum | Toms River, New Jersey

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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

JEWISH DISABILITY & INCLUSION



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia continuously strives toward building a more accepting, diverse and inclusive future, where Jewish spaces are welcoming for all who want to participate. We provide funding and needed resources to partners and agencies that serve the disability community and create opportunities for all to achieve their highest potential and lead independent, fulfilled lives.

Of Jewish households in Greater Philadelphia:

16% include someone with a physical disability that impacts daily activities

17% include someone with a learning disability

33% include someone with a mental health condition

55% include someone diagnosed with a physical health condition

Impact by the Numbers During the Fiscal Year 2021

\$450,000+ in Jewish Community Fund grants toward 9 programs focused on disability inclusion both locally and in Israel

\$350,000 in emergency relief funding to help agencies adapt services as needed throughout the pandemic

485+ clients in Greater Philadelphia living with disabilities received a variety of services, including case management, socialization services and independent living skills

1,170+ youth and adults in Netivot and Sdot Negev, Israel received therapeutic services for mental health or skill-building to support independent living



Meet Matthew

“Our son Matthew has Fragile X syndrome and is a JCHAI client. With the pandemic, we knew it would be difficult for him to give up in-person socialization, but he has found fulfillment in participating in their virtual programs. He is a hardworking young man living a life not so different from other young adults, and he is worthy of the same opportunities as everyone else.”

Cristy Hollin, mother of Matthew, a Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence (JCHAI) client

JCHAI, a Jewish Federation grantee, provides cutting-edge inclusive, supportive, vocational and living programs for adults with intellectual disabilities.

“Through the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, we are able to create specially-designed inclusive programming for families raising Jewish children with disabilities and provide accommodations such as an ASL interpreter for any jkidphilly program. We are continually grateful for the partnership and support of the Jewish Federation which allows us to do this important work!”

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, Chief Program Officer
JEWISH LEARNING VENTURE

Dinner with a Nod to China

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

THIS DINNER CAME together rather nicely last week. I had some salmon, bok choy, leftover brown rice and leftover roasted kabocha squash.

A Chinese flavor palate suggested itself, but I wanted to do something more than spritz soy on the salmon.

The sauce I created was a corker — I was practically licking the plate when we finished. Repurposing the rice and roasted squash was a good move; I loathe waste, but I equally detest the boredom of reheated leftovers. By mixing them up and infusing them with toasted garlic, the two items were completely reinvented, and there was not a hint of monotony in the air. Here's what I did:

SALMON WITH CARAMELIZED SOY SAUCE

Serves 4

This sauce was easy to make, and it delivered complexity and depth beyond the sum of its parts. By essentially caramelizing the sauce, the flavors concentrated and melded in a way that was pretty darn amazing. I had intended it for the fish, but when that was gone, I found myself pouring it out of the dish onto my rice ... always a sign that the recipe was a success.

For the sauce:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup white wine
- ½ cup water

For the salmon:

- 4 salmon fillets
- 2 teaspoons of the sauce

In a small saucepan, mix all the ingredients and bring them to a boil. Lower the heat, and continue simmering until the

sauce is reduced and thickened into a syrup, about 15 minutes.

Heat your oven to 300 degrees F.

Line a baking dish with a piece of parchment large enough to loosely wrap the salmon. Place the salmon on the parchment, and spoon a bit of the sauce over each fillet. Wrap the salmon with the parchment, and bake 20-25 minutes until done. Note: If you do not have parchment, use a baking dish with a lid, or cover it tightly with foil.

When the salmon is done, remove it from the parchment and pour the remaining sauce over the fish.

TOASTED GARLIC RICE AND KABOCHA

Serves 4

Don't roast squash just for this dish — the idea is that you can repurpose leftover cooked veggies into something delicious and unique with this preparation. Cabbage, broccoli, carrots, greens, etc. can all be used to great effect in this manner.

- 4 large garlic cloves, sliced very thinly
- 2 cups cooked rice
- 2 cups cooked kabocha squash or another vegetable, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 tablespoons vegetable or canola oil
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- Pinch of salt

Place the garlic, oils and salt in a large skillet and heat to toast the garlic, stirring and watching it carefully. When the garlic is golden brown and crispy, remove it from the oil and set it aside.

Add the rice and vegetables to the seasoned oil, and stir fry to allow the flavor to infuse and to let some of the rice and veggies crisp a bit.



▲ Toasted garlic rice and kabocha

► Salmon with caramelized soy sauce

Photos by Keri White

Taste and add salt, if needed. Before serving, sprinkle the toasted garlic over the dish.

BOK CHOY WITH GINGER AND GARLIC

Serves 4

The addition of a small amount of honey to this dish tamped down the bitterness; I am not sure if my batch was particularly strong, or whether a sharper flavor is common for bok choy at this point in the season.

- 2 large bunches bok choy, rinsed well and chopped coarsely
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- Sprinkle of red pepper flakes
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil
- 1 teaspoon honey, if needed

In a large skillet, heat the oil and sauté the garlic, ginger, salt and pepper flakes until fragrant. Add bok choy and turn over frequently until wilted and soft, about 6 minutes.

Taste it; if the greens are bitter, add the honey and mix well. If not, omit the honey and serve. ●



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‘My Best Friend Anne Frank’ Misses Opportunities

FILM

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

THOSE ONE DEGREE of separation from Anne Frank have made their way into headlines in recent weeks: Dutch Jewish notary Arnold van den Bergh, who allegedly betrayed the Frank family by reporting their whereabouts to Nazis officials, a potential foe; and Hannah Goslar — a friend — Holocaust survivor and schoolmate of Frank’s in Amsterdam, whose story is most recently depicted in the film “My Best Friend Anne Frank,” now streaming on Netflix.

“My Best Friend Anne Frank,” directed by Ben Sombogaart, oscillates between scenes of Hannah (Josephine Arendsen) navigating the beginnings of Nazi rule in Amsterdam in tandem with the trials and tribulations of teen-dom and surviving the horrors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, where she takes on the role of parent to younger sister Gabi, while still a child herself, only 16 years old.

Hannah and Anne (Aiko Beemsterboer), young teens more concerned with wooing blond-haired, blue-eyed boys than with the ongoing Second World War, are given an unwelcome dose of reality as they are told more and more often by their parents to keep a low profile and to avoid picking up the phone or leaving the house — lest someone dangerous spots the bright yellow cloth stars sewn onto their cardigans.

Despite both being young Jewish girls growing up in the Netherlands, Hannah and Anne couldn’t be more different. Hannah is shy and blushes deeply when she’s teased by classmates who ask her how her mother became pregnant. She wants to become

a nurse but is sensitive and naive to the way the world works.

Anne is keen on taking Hannah outside of her comfort zone. Growing up with older sister Margot, Anne is knowledgeable, confident and outgoing. She instigates kerfuffles with Hannah, often being the first to tease her on her childlikeness, but also the first to apologize and the first to ask Hannah for help when she’s in a tight spot.

As quickly as their friendship is established, it is stripped away from them as the war and the film escalate. Hannah believes the Frank family flees to Switzerland for a skiing vacation that she was uninvited from, and Hannah, baby sister Gabi and father Hans Goslar are captured by Nazis and sent to Bergen-Belsen, where they are separated.

In the days leading to the camp’s liberation, Hannah’s sole mission becomes to find extra food to send over to a sick Anne, who is in a different part of the camp with harsher living conditions.

The title of the film, though enticing to audiences, is misleading, as the film features modest screentime between Hannah and Anne. Their friendship serves as a plot device to thread together Hannah’s experiences before and during the Holocaust, both of which are punctuated by moments of friendship with Anne.

In its efforts to bill itself as a film about their relationship, “My Best Friend Anne Frank” instead tries to weave together the narratives of two complex characters, both of whose stories fall flat.

Meaningful questions about Hannah and her family are left unanswered, particularly as her family is given a way to escape the camp. Due to the family’s possession of Palestine exchange papers, a detail not explained in the film, they are



▲ From left: Aiko Beemsterboer and Josephine Arendsen as Anne Frank and Hannah Goslar in “My Best Friend Anne Frank”

► Josephine Arendsen as Hannah Goslar in “My Best Friend Anne Frank”

Courtesy of Dutch FilmWorks/IMDb



permitted to be exchanged with a German prisoner of war. According to a 1997 Scholastic interview with Goslar, the Goslar family also had passports from Paraguay, and their documentation allowed them to occupy a part of the camp that was exempt from the Holocaust’s worst horrors.

Goslar is also originally from Berlin; the family moved to Amsterdam after a failed attempt to move to England. With little contextual information about Hannah, the film falls short in painting her as a full-fledged character, especially one independent of Anne, whose story is so well-documented.

For a film that woefully neglects plot points, “My Best Friend Anne Frank” pays refreshing attention to detail, breathing life into a Holocaust narrative that has been mirrored in past films such as “The Boy in the Striped Pajamas” and “The Devil’s Arithmetic.”

The Jewish mourning tradition of tearing clothing depicted in the film is evocative. Hannah can’t pass a threshold of a room without kissing the mezuzah, even retrograding a couple of steps to make sure she fulfills the mitzvah. In these small moments, the film reminds the audience of the Jewish people’s deep commitment to tradition, even in the

face of extreme adversity.

The story of Hannah as depicted by “My Best Friend Anne Frank” is a true reminder of the humanity of those who endured the Shoah. Beyond being resilient and heroic, survivors — particularly children — are still human: impetuous, impulsive and misguided at times.

In its effort to tell the story of two girls over several years, “My Best Friend Anne Frank” spreads itself a little too thin, the important reminder of the Shoah diluted by the film’s lack of restraint. ●

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Concert to Celebrate Yiddish Language, Culture

MUSIC

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

THE YIDDISH BALLAD “*A brivele der mamen*” dates to more than a century ago, written during a time of uncertainty for many Jewish families who became separated; while some braved the journey to Ellis Island to build a new life in the United States, others stayed behind in Eastern European shtetls, awaiting good news and money from their loved ones overseas.

In the song, a mother requests that her son, who recently immigrated to New York, write her a letter to let her know that he’s alive and well — “*Nisht farges dayn mamen*,” she pleads, “Don’t forget your mother.”

The lesson of the song is similar to that of Harry Chapin’s “Cat’s in the Hat,” and both espouse the message of the importance of always treasuring the relationship between parent and child, lest it becomes too late.

Though “*A brivele der mamen*” is more than 100 years old, Temple Adath Israel on the Main Line Cantor Elizabeth Shammash still believes it’s a song that should be heard by today’s audiences and is a reflection of the enduring relevance of Yiddish.

“Yiddish is alive and well,” she said.

Shammash will perform “*A brivele der mamen*” on March 2 and 3 in Philadelphia as part of “*Yiddishe Nightingale*,” a multimedia concert celebrating Yiddish music and history. Baltimore-based Beth El Congregation Cantor Thom King and National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene Artistic Director Zalmen Mlotek will perform alongside Shammash.

The program is part of Philadelphia-based nonprofit Lyric Fest’s 2022 season, meaning it will be heard by both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences.

“We’re thrilled that this is going to reach not only the Jewish community in the environs



▲ Cantors Thom King and Elizabeth Shammash (standing) rehearsing with National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene Artistic Director Zalmen Mlotek

but also the song community that comes to our concerts to learn new things and hear these stories,” Lyric Fest founder and Artistic Director Suzanne DuPlantis said.

The concert gets its name from “*Yiddishe Nightingale*,” a song by Irving Berlin that inspired DuPlantis. The program was funded largely in part by Jewish donor Michael Leeds and will be Lyric Fest’s first Yiddish show.

The performance’s broad audience underlies the potential universal impact of Yiddish, performers said.

“Whether they understand the words or not, there’s something about the music; there’s something about the musical themes themselves — based on the modes, based on many, many songs that were written as folk songs as just pure expressions of people’s feelings,” Mlotek said.

Though knowledge of Yiddish is not required for attendance, English supertitles will be projected on the stage for each song.

The music performed will range from traditional *nignim* (melodies) from the mid-1800s to King’s performance of the Yiddish version of “If I Were a Rich Man”

from the Folksbiene’s 2018 adaptation of “Fiddler on the Roof.”

Performed in chronological order, the songs reflect 150 years of Yiddish history, Mlotek said: Yiddish songs were performed as part of Purim spiels in Russia and Poland in the mid-19th century and evolved into operettas that reflected life and history.

During the time of Jewish immigration to the U.S., the music, like “*A brivele der mamen*,” reflected changing family structures, culture and assimilation.

As more Jews assimilated in the U.S., English made its way into Yiddish theater music; in Europe, Jews wrote Yiddish lullabies to soothe their young children enduring the trauma of the Holocaust.

“Each one (song) has its own particular, interesting story,” Mlotek said.

According to Shammash, the music is just as relevant as ever.

“We’re not reviving something dead,” Shammash said. “This issue of immigration is front and center: How do we treat the stranger? How do we welcome the refugee? What was it like under Trump? What is happening now? It’s amazing how it’s absolutely still topical.”



▲ Cantor Elizabeth Shammash of Temple Adath Israel on the Main Line

Courtesy of Elizabeth Shammash

music was a departure from their usual repertoire.

“Yiddish is a folk language. ... It’s not liturgical, so much as it is sort of — I like to think of them as devotional pieces,” King said.

Through song, audiences can get the “flavor” of the Yiddish language, Shammash said.

“It’s just such a beautiful, fun, expressive language,” she said. “The music is really the same.”

The concert will take place on March 2 at the Academy of Vocal Arts and on March 3 at Adath Israel. Both performances begin at 7 p.m. The program will debut on March 1 at Beth El Congregation in Baltimore. Proof of COVID vaccination, including a booster shot, is required for entry. The March 3 concert is free for Adath Israel members. ●

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Author, Humorist & Social Observer

FRANK LEBOWITZ

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BY RABBI JASON BONDER

Parashat Vayakhel 5782

IN THIS WEEK'S Torah portion, we meet Betzalel, son of Uri, son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah for the *second* time. He is God's pick to lead the construction of the *Mishkan* — the Tabernacle.

The Torah says that God gave Betzalel special talents. "God has endowed him with a divine spirit of skill, ability and knowledge in every kind of craft and has inspired him to make designs for work in gold, silver and copper, to cut stones for setting and to carve wood — to work in every kind of designer's craft" (Exodus 35:31-33).

But this shouldn't be news to us. Regular readers will likely recognize that the Torah says almost the exact same thing back in the 31st chapter of Exodus. Why again?

In W. Gunther Plaut's "The Torah: A Modern Commentary," we find an answer. "Such repetition was an integral part of the narrative style of the ancient Near

East" (Plaut, 621).

But that was then, and this is now. Can we still find meaning in this repetition today?

I think so. I see two lessons for us in our times. First, a lesson about art. Second, a lesson about community.

There was inherent risk in putting an artist at the head of the project of building the *Mishkan* because art is subjective. Would everyone appreciate the designs that Betzalel made? Would everyone understand the symbolism? Would the design be suitable to the Divine Presence that would repeatedly descend upon that portable structure?

Judging by the Torah's descriptions, the project seemed to be a major success. Yet I can't avoid thinking that at least one ancient Israelite visitor to the *Mishkan* must have quipped, "I really just don't see what all the fuss is about this Betzalel guy."

I see in this imagined dissenter's opinion the first lesson about repetition in this week's portion. Perhaps, through telling the story twice, the Torah is talking to the

critics among us. If you don't see something in acclaimed art at first glance, look again. You might pick up something that you hadn't perceived before.

This doesn't only apply to visual art. It applies to our prayers, too. I often think back to when I was a rabbinic intern preparing for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. I was just meeting this community for the first time, so I sought input from members.

"What are you looking for in the services?" I asked. "We want you to make it feel like home," they said. To which I replied, "Great. Which home?"

Our first experiences in synagogue powerfully impact how we see Judaism forever after. We are sometimes inclined to think that the tunes we first hear are the exact ones sung at Mount Sinai.

It took me longer than I would like to admit to realize that many of my favorite tunes from synagogue services aren't even 100 years old, let alone ancient. Nurit Hirsh's "Oseh Shalom," written in the 1960s, is my favorite example. For so long, I was sure that Moses

sang that tune.

Many people cringe when certain tunes in synagogue are not "their" tunes. Perhaps the repetition we find in this week's portion is encouraging us to give some tunes a second chance.

If we must revisit artwork or a piece of music to truly appreciate it, it is all the more important to revisit our communities as well. This brings me to the second lesson I find in this Torah portion. I don't think it's an accident that this repetitive portion is named "Vayakhel."

Bringing people together is messy business. Sometimes it takes more than one try.

Our portion begins, "Moses then convoked (*Vayakhel*) the whole Israelite community ..." This gathering is also a second chance of sorts. A few chapters earlier, the Israelites convoked themselves (*Vayakhel*) in a rebellious way to build the golden calf. Now they are trying it again with better intentions. We must try again and again to make it work just right.

Frustrations can run high

these days as we try to figure out the best and safest ways to gather. People leave their computers muted or unmuted at the wrong times. Internet connections aren't always flawless.

Vayakhel reminds us that when we convene, we are engaged in the process of creation. If you don't find the beauty the first time, go back again. Try and find something beautiful despite the frustration. *Vayakhel* teaches us that creating sacred space and sacred community is an art form that must be repeated. •

Rabbi Jason Bonder is the associate rabbi at Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



Daniels

Continued from Page 23

streets walking to school. I was truly grieving the estranged relationship with my mother, former peers and neighbors. By 2015, I was ex-communicated and found myself homeless. I went to Bubby Roz's home to find comfort. I didn't expect her to open her home to me, but she welcomed me to live with her, like a one-eyed cat receiving warm milk.

For nearly two years, I was Bubby's new roommate. Her home was an unlisted shelter for decades where many cis male Jews who were homeless were given a roof over their heads: the failed Talmudist

who never got his ordination, a Chasid who thought he was the Messiah, an ex-con and dirt bike rider, an Israeli lawyer with a cannabis business before it was legalized — and me, the first gender non-conforming artist in her house. Art, nature and Bubby seemed to be the only comfort to heal my open wounds from being disowned.

Eventually, along with my trans Jewish collaborator Hazel Katz, I made a documentary called "Bubby & Them," which follows Bubby Roz's and my journey through our challenges: disability, gender dysphoria, trying to meet our needs and co-existing in a cluttered home. The film discusses a two-page

homophobic edict, written and signed by prominent local rabbis, which was illegally mailed to every Jewish and non-Jewish co-op in the LES to warn them that Jewish organizations were including queer Jews. As upsetting as this letter was, it also reflected the shifting landscape of the neighborhood: Where Orthodoxy once held power, now progress towards acceptance was being made.

"Bubby & Them" premiered in Brooklyn through our sponsor UnionDocs in June 2017, followed by over 25 film festivals. But sadly, barely any Jewish venues have shown it. One major New York producer told us that our content wasn't

"appropriate for our audiences." They rave about diversity and showcase gay series, but trans Jews are told to wait their turn, even if they're telling a heart-felt PG story like mine.

But I refused to be discouraged. While the struggle to tell trans Jewish stories for wider audiences continues, I hope my creative expression can protect and heal wounded trans youth and educate allies to ensure that no child is left behind despite their identity. If a Jewish film festival will feature "Bubby & Them," great. If not, we will keep taking up space until all Jews, gentile, trans and cis allies can show up as their full selves and know they will

always be loved, supported, blessed and welcomed.

After witnessing the magic of our Brooklyn screening, Bubby said to me, "You're going to go places and be a star." It makes me cry every time I think about it or doubt myself from the daily struggles of transphobia I face. Our beloved Bubby Roz now lives in a nursing home in New Jersey, and her words evoke resilience. I love you, Bubby. You provided me a home and made me feel cherished as my queer-licious self when I needed it the most. We should all follow your example of unconditional love for all non-conforming kids. •

This first appeared on Alma.

BIRTH

► SYLVIA LU SCHWARTZ

Joan and Mark Dossick of Langhorne and Margate, New Jersey, announce the birth of their granddaughter, Sylvie Lu Schwartz, born Aug. 9, 2021.

Sylvie is the daughter of Tracie and Matthew Schwartz of New York City.

Sylvie is named in loving memory of her maternal great-grandmother Sylvia Dossick and paternal great-grandmother Lucille Meiowitz.

Sharing in their joy are grandparents Randi and Gary Holsten and Steve and Lenae Schwartz; great-grandparents Al Meiowitz and Claire and Al Schwartz; aunt and uncles Alyssa and Sean Perlman and Jesse Schwartz; and cousins Dylan and Sydney Perlman.



Photo by Tracie Schwartz

BAR MITZVAH

► MAURICE ISAAC KANTER

Maurice Isaac Kanter became a bar mitzvah on Feb. 19 at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel in Philadelphia.

Maurice is the son of Gregg Kanter and Sheri P. Rosenberg z”l, the brother of Markus and Margaux, and the grandson of Seymour and Rhoda Kanter of Philadelphia and Marcus z”l and Ann Rosenberg of Dallas.

Maurice is a seventh-grader at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy. His interests include creative writing, music composition, basketball, skiing and travel.



Photo by Gregg Kanter

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Philadelphia Orchestra to Present ‘Fiddler’ in Partnership with University of Michigan Musical Theater Students

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA will co-present a new semi-staged concert production of “Fiddler on the Roof” on March 3, 5, and 6 in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts in partnership with the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan.

The performances will feature the orchestra and Broadway performers sharing the stage with students from the university’s Department of Musical Theatre.

They will perform John Williams’ Academy

Award-winning orchestrations, which will be heard in their entirety for the first time in live performances of the musical. Williams adapted the score composer Jerry Bock created for the 1971 film.

“It’s amazing to me that 50 years have transpired since this production was made,” Williams said. “Presenting this wonderful score and show in a form that’s never been heard or seen reanimates and extends the life of a great project that means so much to so many people. The story is never going to be old. It’s as basic and human as any story can ever be.”

Broadway veterans Chuck Cooper (who won a Tony Award in 1997 for “The Life”) and Loretta Ables Sayre (nominated for a Tony in 2007 for “South Pacific”) will star as Tevye and Golde, respectively, while Chad Jennings plays butcher Lazar Wolf, alongside many U-M students.

Conductor/Music Director Andy Einhorn will lead the performances, which are directed by Sarna Lapine and choreographed by Alison Solomon.

Brother Murdered by Terrorists in Jerusalem to Speak at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood will host at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 Kasriel Kay, whose brother Eli was murdered by terrorists on Nov. 21 in the Old City of Jerusalem while on his way to work.

Kay and his wife, Shani, will speak on “Lessons Learned from Eli’s Death, Including His Love for the People and Land of Israel and How Everyone Can Be a Hero” and also discuss the struggles lone soldiers face in the Israel Defense Forces.

Eli Kay was a recent immigrant from South

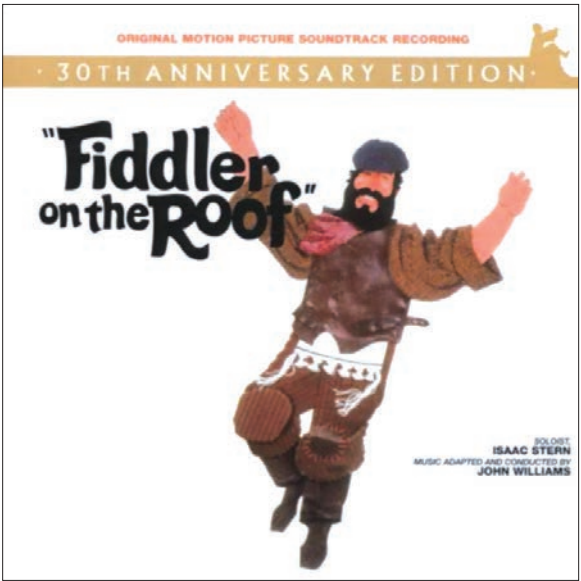
Africa who was employed as a tour guide at the Western Wall, according to The Times of Israel. He was walking to work when East Jerusalem resident Fadi Abu Shkhydam, a Hamas activist, opened fire and fatally wounded him, injuring four others. Abu Shkhydam was killed by police at the scene following a brief gun battle.

Eli Kay previously volunteered in Kibbutz Nirim in southern Israel for a year and served in the IDF as a lone soldier in the Paratroopers Brigade until August 2019.

On Feb. 1, security forces demolished Abu Shkaaydam’s home.

For more information, contact Lisa Richman at morah1@gmail.com. Attendees must be vaccinated and wear masks. ●

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



▲ Movie poster of “Fiddler on the Roof”

Courtesy of MGM

WHAT’S GOING ON in Jewish Philadelphia?

Submit an event or browse our online calendar to find out what’s happening at local synagogues, community organizations and venues!

Submit: listings@jewishexponent.com
Online: jewishexponent.com/events/

JEWISH EXPONENT

A RESOLUTION OF ABRAMSON SENIOR CARE

The Board of Trustees of Abramson Senior Care record with sorrow the passing of their esteemed colleague and friend

Constance Wilf, z”l

whose commitment to Jewish causes and philanthropy benefited the seniors served by Abramson Senior Care, and who served as an example to the entire community.

Constance joined the board of trustees in 1980 when the organization was PGC. Before becoming a trustee, Constance was an active member of the PGC community and volunteered on the Public Relations Committee. She was a dedicated fundraiser for the Weiss Institute, PGC’s research arm, including editing the ad book and coordinating activities for the Weiss Institute Ball.

Passionate about volunteerism, Constance joined the professional team at PGC as the Director of Volunteers from 1975 – 1980. During that time she transformed the volunteer office into a permanent department of the agency whose responsibilities included supporting every other department in the organization. She also initiated a training program for volunteers that focused on best practices when working with seniors.

Alongside her husband, Harold z”l, she was an incredibly generous supporter of Abramson Senior Care giving to the New Campus, Annual and Endowment Funds, and to the gala.

Abramson Senior Care and our entire Jewish community were truly fortunate to have been the beneficiary of her time, leadership, and enduring tzedakah.

To her family, including daughter-in-law Karen Wilf, and granddaughters Lauren Wilf and Carolyn Wilf, and all who mourn her passing, the Board of Trustees of Abramson Senior Care offer this expression of profound sympathy. May they find solace in the knowledge that her dedication, generosity and good works will serve as a living tribute to her and will benefit future generations.

Lorraine Drobny
Board Chair

Carol A. Irvine
President and CEO

COMMUNITY / *deaths*

DEATH NOTICES



BERNSTEIN

Morton (Tex) Bernstein, beloved husband of the late Marilyn, passed away on February 16th 2022. Survived by children Steven (Toba), Gordon and Elizabeth Bernstein, grandchildren Harris and Jaclyn, and brother-in-law Ira Baraz, as well as his sweetheart Harriet Baum. Donations may be made to the Jewish War Veteran of the U.S.A Donate-Jewish War veterans of The U.S.A. (jvw.org)

FRYER

Fryer, M.D., Larry A. On February 11, 2022 wife of Sandra (nee) Hoffman, father of Eric (Jennifer) Fryer, Beth (Michael) Blumberg, David (Shoshannah Tornberg) Fryer, and Andrea (Vince) Fryer Cuinn. Brother of Sandra (Lloyd) London. Also survived by 7 grandchildren. He was a retired Medical Director for the Northeast Center for Behavioral Health. Larry also served as a captain in the U.S. Airforce. Contributions in his memory may be sent to Old York Road Temple Beth Am (oyrbetham.org), National Council of Jewish Women of Greater Philadelphia (ncjw-philadelphia.org) or the Nicholas Center for Autism (tncenewyork.org)

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GARDNER

Norman A. Gardner 79 of Bala Cynwyd, Pa. died on Feb. 11, 2002. Norman is survived by his adoring wife Annette Gardner (Feinstein) children Susan, Amanda, and Julie Walters and cherished grandson (Za) Daniel Walters. Also survived by sister-in-law Arlene Friedman and deceased brother-in-law Dr. Theodore Feinstein. Norman was born in Montreal, Canada. He attended McGill University and became a dual citizen of the U. S. He was Chairman and Founder of Laser Lock Technologies and took his new company Verify me public. Services were private due to Covid. We will cherish the time we spent with Norman.

GINGOLD

Sylvia Gingold, age 96, passed away on February 5, just 18 days short of her 75th wedding anniversary to her beloved Martin Gingold. She was cherished by her husband, daughter, Helene Peyton, and son, Allan Gingold. She was a devoted former NYC teacher and supervisor of early childhood education. She was known for her beautiful smile and positive, giving nature. She was loved by all who knew her. She is survived by her husband, daughter and son as well as 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

A Community Remembers

Monthly archives of
Jewish Exponent Death Notices
are available online.
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DEATH NOTICES

KANTOR

Avrum Kantor, February 12, 2022, of Philadelphia, PA; beloved husband of the late Roslyn (nee Snyder); loving father of Ron Kantor (Barri Orlow) and Rebekah Grieves; devoted brother of Linda Fields, Sheila Dyan (partner Charlie Gaglia) and Marc Kantor (June); cherished grandfather of Sydney; dear brother-in-law of Bill Snyder (Shelley). In lieu of flowers, contributions in Avrum's memory may be made to Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, Pottstown, PA , ryerssfarm.org, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancan.org or to Abington Hospice at Warminster.

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LEDERHANDLER

Renee Lederhandler nee Silberman, February 15, 2022. Wife of the late Morris. Mother of Robert (Wendy) Lederhandler and Linda (Noan) Goldman. Grandmother of Jordan (Lindsay) Goldman, Staci (Gary) Glaser, Joshua (Gena) Lederhandler and Jared (Michelle) Lederhandler. Great grandmother of Spencer, Ava, Gavin, Carter, Aidan, Madisyn and Lily. Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1818 Market Street, Suite 2820, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

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STEIN

Leonard "Bucky" Bertram Stein of Wilmington NC, born May 28, 1925, passed away February 13, 2022. Bucky was born in Bridgeton, NJ, to Rose and Max Stein, and grew up in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Overbrook High School, and it was at the age of 16 that he met Ruth, who would become his wife of 68 years. Bucky served in the Coast Guard during WWII and loved to talk about his time stationed in Alaska, and patrolling the beaches of Cape May on horseback. The family is certain that is how the USA won the War. Bucky and Ruth had two children, Elliott and Howard, while living in Philadelphia among both of their extended families. In 1955, they moved to Jacksonville, NC, where Bucky started Tireville, a one-man open-air tire retreading service. They had a daughter, Deborah, and Bucky worked relentlessly to build his business. Howard joined Bucky in 1976, and together they created Target Tire and Buffalo Tire, adding employees and co-workers who were all swept up into the Stein business and family, which were one and the same. Bucky delighted in broadening the horizons of every person he worked with, or came in contact with. He was particularly proud of the trips he hosted for his employees/customers/suppliers all over the world. When Bucky and Howard sold the business in 2004, Bucky then turned to philanthropy with the same doggedness with which he approached everything in his life. His impact is far reaching and deep-rooted. Bucky's passions were widespread, and included exercise, reading, politics, theater, movies, music from Beethoven to Bruce, food, wine, traveling, hunting...there was nothing that didn't interest him, and nothing he liked more than the company of a good dog. He enjoyed conversing on almost any topic, didn't hesitate to give his opinion, and was in constant pursuit to help everyone he knew live life to their maximum potential. Bucky became well known in recent years for his World Famous Homemade Nut Butter, and his Wine Cork Boards. And if you visited Bucky in his home, you never left empty-handed. Bucky will be sorely missed by many, but none more so than his children, Elliott Stein of New York, Howard Stein of Wilmington NC, Deborah Mathies and husband Blair Mathies of Chesapeake Beach MD, grandchildren Susan Turner and husband Wayne Turner, Henry, Rose and Max Mathies, great grandchildren Ashley and Greyson Turner, and Mordecai Mathies, his sister-in-law and nieces and nephews...and his "Special Lady" Rita Reibman of Wilmington NC. Bucky was predeceased by his sister Estelle "Sis" Elion, his wife Ruth, and his grandson Justin Stein. A Celebration of Bucky's Life will be held in the near future. Please make any donations: "In memory of Bucky Stein" to: New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation 2001 South 17th St.Wilmington, NC 28401 or Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Foundation 1414 Physicians Drive Wilmington, NC 28401

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LISS

Jonathan Daniel Liss, February 10th, 2022 of Walnut Creek, CA, previously from Philadelphia, PA; beloved husband of Mona (nee Astra), loving father of Joshua (fiancé Sarah), Adrienne (deceased) and Alexander (Rachel) Liss, brother of Marjorie (Mitchell) Berman; also survived by many nieces and nephews and cousins. Jonathan was a successful insurance broker and financial planner for over 50 years. He loved the outdoors, walking his dogs and meeting people. We will all miss his caring and compassionate nature. Contributions in Jonathan's memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association (alz.org) or the charity of your choice

DEATH NOTICES

MELNIKOFF

Yetta (Steinberg) On February 17, 2022. Wife of the late Robert A. Forman and the late Benjamin Melnikoff. Mother of George (Lenore) Forman, Ruth Forman, and Estelle (the late Frank) Jones. Grandmother of Samantha Tracey, Eric Forman, Tina Christian, and Alaina Jones. Great grandmother of Erin Tracey, Emeline Forman, and Audrey Forman. Funeral services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

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NEIBAUER

Nathan Neibauer, age 83, of Huntingdon Valley, PA, passed away unexpectedly on February 7, 2022. Husband of Ethel (nee Fox) for 56 years; loving and proud father of Lawrence C. Neibauer and Ruth Neibauer-Baker (Paul); adoring P-Pop to Sydney and Samantha Baker; and brother of Fred Neibauer (Debbie) and Cheryl Rubin (Dave). In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America myasthenia.org or a charity of the donors choice.

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DEATH NOTICES

SHAFRITZ

Arnold B. Shafritz (Arn), 95, formerly of Merion, January 22, 2022, in Glendale, CA. A beloved considerate, bright, and inquisitive mensch, Arn was generous, thoughtful, silly, and serious. Arn graduated from Overbrook and Penn's Moore School in 1949. An early computer geek, he worked on ENIAC, won a patent, and wrote papers. In 1957 he cofounded Auerbach Associates and evolved into HR Director. After retirement, he audited courses at Penn. Arn, a rated chess "Expert", played weekly at clubs, competed in 70+ official tournaments. This "chess-nut" was so riveted, that once he had to be retrieved an hour after Thanksgiving dinner started! Arn loved sports. He taught his family tennis and softball and took them to the Phillies, Sixers, Globetrotters and annual Penn Relays. He walked daily, played volleyball weekly at Ardmore YMCA, and was an ardent Philly sports fan. Arn loved all music, especially folk and musicals. A creative storyteller, at Camp Hofnung - where he and Hadassah (Das) met - he would brush a mop outside the bunk windows to enhance ghost stories. Arn and Das won a big Bulletin puzzle. He co-authored *How To Win Tangled Names Contests*. He loved cards, puzzles, math, word games, jokes, puns and riddles, and wrote many clever poems. A caring husband, father (and in-law), grandpop (and great-pop-pop), uncle, cousin, and friend, Arnold is together again with his wife Hadassah in Simi Valley, CA.

WILDER

Kenneth Michael. February 17, 2022. Beloved son of Marilyn and Stanley Wilder. Loving brother of Donna Wilder. Contributions in his memory may be made to Progeria Research Foundation www.progeriaresearch.org or a charity of the donor's choice.

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MARCUS

Susan C. Marcus (nee Jacobs) of Penn Valley Pennsylvania passed away at age 76 on February 11, 2022. She is survived by her husband Richard Marcus, her children Michael Caplan (Jennifer), Julie Weiser (Todd), Jimmy Caplan (Alyson) and Janie Marcus (Casey); her seven grandchildren Evan, Jordan, Maddie, Ella, Sammy, Anna and Finnegan, and her brother David Jacobs (Diana). Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

WEST LAUREL HILL FUNERAL HOME
www.westlaurelhill.com

SHADIS

We mourn the passing of Richard Shadis, age 69, father of Brandee and Ryan, grandfather of Reese, Jonah, and Nate, and brother of Marilyn and Robert. Richard bravely fought through serious health challenges for many years, which thankfully allowed his grandkids the opportunity to know and love him. He was the recipient of a donated kidney and liver, which added fifteen years to his life. The Gift of Life Donor program is meaningful to he and his family. He was a committed advocate for animals in need. He rescued stray animals and found them homes, and in some cases, adopted them himself. He had a special bond with his cats, Simba and Pumpkin. He cherished every moment with them. Richard will be missed by all that knew him, but never forgotten.

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INFORMATION

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed in the Department of State of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 03, 2022 for **Aluminos Dilca Inc.** under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

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MARQUEZ MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, INC. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

NONPROFIT CORP. - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Articles of Inc. were filed with the Dept. of State for **Promoting Literacy and Art Amongst Youth and Students**, a nonprofit corp. organized under the PA Nonprofit Corp. Law of 1988, exclusively for charitable purposes. **MONTGOMERY McCRACKEN WALKER & RHOADS LLP**, Solicitors, 1735 Market St., Phila., PA 19103

TANYASIRI CORP has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. Peter George Mylonas, Esq. Marple Exec. Center 2725 West Chester Pike Broomall, PA 19008

LEGAL NOTICES

THE SAMUEL F. BROWN AND REBECCA L. BROWN REVOCABLE TRUST AS AMENDED SAMUEL F. BROWN, Deceased Late of Philadelphia This Trust is in existence and all persons having claims or demands against said Trust or decedent are requested to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **BARBARA ANN BROWN, TRUSTEE, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103**, Or to her Attorney: **ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19103**

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE NOTICE Estate of **Judith Hatten**, late of Maple Glen, County of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Deceased. Letters of Administration on said Estate having been granted, and all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will present them without delay for settlement to: **Caroline Jaroszewski, Administrator c/o Solomon Weinstein, 1032 Millcreek Drive, Feasterville, PA 19053.**



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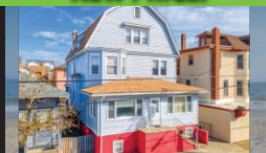
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the above Estate have been granted
to the undersigned, who request
all persons having claims or
demands against the estate of the
decedent to make known the same
and all persons indebted to the de-
cedent to make payment without
delay to JUAN R. BERRIOS MAR-
QUEZ, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o
Samuel Reveron, Esq., 2536 Doral
Dr., Pennsauken, NJ 08109
Or to his Attorney,
SAMUEL REVERON
2536 Doral Dr.
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Estate of Annette Farber
Farber, Annette
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 Lawrence Marc
Goodman, c/o John R. Lundy, Esq.,
Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC, 450
N. Narberth Ave., Suite 200,
Narberth, PA 19072, Executor.
Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC
450 N. Narberth Ave.
Suite 200
Narberth, PA 19072

ESTATE OF CYNTHIA LYNN
FULTON a/k/a CYNTHIA L.
FULTON, CYNTHIA FULTON, 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 D. FULTON, EXECUTOR,
c/o Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Ne-
shaminy Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem,
PA 19020
Or to his Attorney:
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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF DEBRA DENISE MICKLES, DECEASED Late of Montgomery County LETTERS on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedents to make payment without delay, to Steven Lipski, Administrator c/o Ellen S. Fischer, Esquire 955 Horsham Road, Suite 307 Horsham, PA 19044

ESTATE OF DOLORES MELISH, DECEASED

Late of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Edith Keller, Executrix c/o Michael E. Eisenberg, Esquire 2935 Byberry Road, Suite 107 Hatboro, PA 19040

ESTATE OF DONALD D. FEATHER, SR., DECEASED.

Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JAMES MILLER, EXECUTOR, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: DANIELLA A. HORN KLENK LAW, LLC 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ENRIQUE BORGES, 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 NILSA BORGES-CRUZ, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: DANIELLA A. HORN KLENK LAW, LLC 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

ESTATE OF ERNESTINE HOYLE a/k/a ERNESTINE FLEMING, 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 TIFFANY TINA HOYLE, EXECUTRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150, Or to her Attorney: JAY E. KIVITZ KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C. 7901 Ogontz Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ERROL DAVID, 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 BEVERLY DAVID, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ESTHER M. ROBERTS, 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 GAIL D. GREEN, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Roy Yaffe, Esq., One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042, Or to her Attorney: ROY YAFFE GOULD YAFFE AND GOLDEN One Commerce Square 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042

ESTATE OF GRIGORY RAITER a/k/a GREGORY RAITER, 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 LINA MATLIS and MARINA POBIRSKI, ADMINISTRATORS, c/o Michael D. Rubin, Esq., 686 Gray Circle, Southampton, PA 18966, Or to their Attorney: MICHAEL D. RUBIN LAW OFFICE MICHAEL D. RUBIN 686 Gray Circle Southampton, PA 18966

ESTATE OF HARRY C. BARBER a/k/a HARRY BARBER, 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 HELEN C. MELCHIORE, ADMINISTRATRIX, 13 Valley Green Dr., Aston, PA 19014, Or to her Attorney: MARK J. DAVIS CONNOR ELDER LAW 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF HOWARD LEE SAMPSON a/k/a HOWARD LEE SAMPSON, SR., 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 CAROLYN P. SAMPSON, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St Philadelphia, PA 19103

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ILEAN MAE MATHIAS a/k/a ILEAN M. MATHIAS, ILEAN MATHIAS, 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 ILEAN I. MATHIAS, EXECUTRIX, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: DAVID S. WORKMAN ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF IRENE N. LANGRON, 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 DEBRA MOORE, 1328 Wanamaker St., Philadelphia, PA 19131 and KONSWELLA BENTLEY, 130 Stony Creek Rd., Lansdale, PA 19446, ADMINISTRATRICES, Or to their Attorney: MARK J. DAVIS CONNOR ELDER LAW 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF JOSEPH L. ROSSI, 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 known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Debra G. Speyer, Esq., Administrator c/o his attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE J. McKEON, 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 Frances R. McDermott, Executrix, 1230 Bristol Rd., Southampton, PA 18966, Or to her Attorney: BETH B. MCGOVERN Trevoose Corporate Center 4624 Street Rd. Trevoose, PA 19053

ESTATE OF JOYCE WILLIS a/k/a JOYCE B. WILLIS, 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 CHRIS STEVEN GLADNEY, ADMINISTRATOR CTA, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St Philadelphia, PA 19103



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ESTATE NOTICES

Estate of June M. Pecura, 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 Richard S. Pecura, Executor, c/o Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or to their attorneys, Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC One Commerce Sq. 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF KATHLEEN INEZ BRUNER, 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 PATRICIA A. BELLEZZA, EXECUTRIX, 1008 Napa Circle, Pensburg, PA 18073

ESTATE OF KENNETH M. SHERIDAN, 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 JAMES JOHN SHERIDAN and THOMAS SHERIDAN, JR., ADMINISTRATORS, c/o Bradley Newman, Esq., 123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030, Philadelphia, PA 19109, Or to their Attorney: Bradley Newman Estate & Elder Law Office of Bradley Newman 123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030 Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF LUKE PIERRE ELLINGTON, 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 DAVID V. BOGDAN, ADMINISTRATOR, 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520, Philadelphia, PA 19110, Or to his Attorney: DAVID V. BOGDAN 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520 Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF MARC A. GARAFOLO, DECEASED

Late of Pennsylvania LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Francis J. Garafolo, Administrator c/o his attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Estate of Martin M. Thorn Thorn, Martin M. 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 Doris V. Steinhagen, 743 Cornwallis Dr., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, Executrix. Keith Levinson, Esquire Boulevard Law Center 1730 Welsh Road Philadelphia, PA 19115

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ESTATE NOTICES

Estate of Natalie C. Bellerjeau, 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 Richelle Bellerjeau and William W. Bellerjeau, Administrators, c/o Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103 or to their attorneys, Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC One Commerce Sq. 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF RANDOLPH WALLS, 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 MARGARET FOSTER, ADMINISTRATRIX, 1720 Brassie Court, Kissimmee, FL 34746-4535, Or to her Attorney: BETH B. MCGOVERN TREVOSE CORPORATE CENTER 4624 Street Rd. Trevoose, PA 19053

Estate of Rose M. Bonino aka Rose Mary Bonino, 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 Lisa M. Turowski, Executrix, c/o Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or to their attorneys, Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaefer & Toddy, PC One Commerce Sq. 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ROSITA CARRION, 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 Carlos Rivera and Felicia Rivera, Administrators, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150, Or to their Attorney: JAY E. KIVITZ KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C. 7901 Ogontz Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF SHARON R. KELLER, 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 CONNIE FIORENZA, ADMINISTRATRIX, 314 Nina Court, Williamstown, NJ 08094, Or to her Attorney: BETH B. MCGOVERN Trevoose Corporate Center 4624 Street Rd. Trevoose, PA 19053

To place a Classified Ad, call 215.832.0749

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF THELMA LEE AYERS, DECEASED.

Late of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA. LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to PHILIP E. FRANKS, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Neal G. Wiley, Esq., 1880 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1740, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: NEAL G. WILEY ALEXANDER & PELLI, LLC 1880 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1740 Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF TIMOTHY A. KASTNER, aka Timothy Alexander Kastner, DECEASED

Late of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Erin Kastner, Executrix c/o Michael E. Eisenberg, Esquire 2935 Byberry Road, Suite 107 Hatboro, PA 19040 Or to Attorney: Michael E. Eisenberg, Esquire 2935 Byberry Road, Suite 107 Hatboro, PA 19040

ESTATE OF ZAIRA BRUNO, 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 SUSAN MATOUZ, Executrix, c/o Michael L. Golden, Jr., Esq., One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042, Or to her Attorney: MICHAEL L. GOLDEN, JR. GOULD YAFFE AND GOLDEN One Commerce Square 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042

STATEWIDE ADS

Miscellaneous: DISH Network. \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-335-6094

Miscellaneous: GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-888-605-4028

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Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-877-670-0236 or visit dorranceinfo.com/pasn

Miscellaneous: DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Call for more details! (some restrictions apply) Call 1-855-806-2315

Miscellaneous: Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-402-5341



Chai.



News for people who know we don't mean spiced tea.

Every Thursday in the **JEWISH EXPONENT** and all the time online **@jewishexponent.com.**

For home delivery, call **215.832.0710.**

COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, FEB. 25

Jewish Signs Exhibit

The Signs of Our Jewish Times exhibit at the Temple Judea Museum at **Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel** will be on display until March 31. What constitutes a “sign”? Admittedly, our definition is quite broadly interpreted. See for yourself. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park. For more information: TJMuseum@kenesethisrael.org; 215-901-2656; 215-887-8700 ext. 416.

JDAIM Shabbat

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel's Inclusion Committee presents: Inclusion Shabbat with Association for Adults with Developmental Disabilities at 6 p.m. with Cantor Amy Levy and congregant Heather Michaelson. Join us in-person or at kenesethisrael.org/stream. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

▼ SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Piano Concert

The **Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel** Community Music Arts Committee announces the next concert of its 22nd season: Haochen Zhang, world-renowned pianist, in recital at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$36 at kenesethisrael.org/musicarts. The recital also will be available (only to ticket holders) via Vimeo in early March. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

▼ MONDAY, FEB. 28

Virtual Classes

Golden Slipper Gems is a great place to connect with friends and meet new people. Our diverse speakers will stimulate your passion for learning, and you'll keep returning to sample all that we have to offer. Click on our website and learn more about our most recent classes: goldenslippersgems.org.

Tikvah Support Group

Join Tikvah at 6 p.m. for a

facilitated space to provide support and resources to parents, family members, friends and caregivers of those with the lived experience of mental illness. The meeting is facilitated by Alexis Bracy and Neen Davis. Call 215-832-0671 for details.

Mahjong Game

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

▼ TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Bingo with Barry

Join Barry at **Tabas Kleinlife** for an afternoon of bingo from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on March 1, 2 and 3. Free parking and free to play with snacks available on March 2. For more information, call 215-745-3127. 2101 Strahle St., Philadelphia.

▼ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Book Talk

Join **Jewish National Fund-USA** and small communities from across the country virtually as we hear from businessman, thought-leader and author Scott Shay. Learn about his case study of anti-Zionist conspiracy theories in his book “Conspiracy U” at 7 p.m. Email jwertheim@jnf.org for more information.

▼ THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Book Talk

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

NEWSMAKERS

Jewish Men's Clubs Wrap Tefillin

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs held its annual tefillin-wrapping event at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park on Feb. 13.

Seasoned wrappers and first-time wrappers both participated; wrappers also took part from home via Zoom.

► Cantor Jacob Agar and first-time wrapper Kathy Banker at the tefillin event at Beth Sholom on Feb. 13. Courtesy of Beth Sholom Congregation



Jewish Family Service Gets Donation

The Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties received a two-year pledge of \$2,500 annually from J.S. Goldstein Funeral Home and Monuments, Inc. The funds will help JFS ensure that residents and clients get the programs and services they need.

► Jason Goldstein, owner of J.S. Goldstein Funeral Home and Monuments, Inc., presents a \$2,500 check to Beth Joseph, senior director of communications and donor relations for Jewish Family Service. Courtesy of Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties



South Jersey Rabbis Select New Leader

The South Jersey Board of Rabbis and Cantors named Rabbi Abby Michaleski as its new president. Michaleski is the spiritual leader of Beth Israel Congregation in Vineland. She has been a member of SJBRC since 2018.



► Rabbi Abby Michaleski
Courtesy of Beth Israel Congregation

Perelman Students Enjoy Spring Weather

Perelman Jewish Day School students said the Hatikvah outside during a spring-like day last week. Temperatures were in the 60s.



► Perelman students start their school day outdoors. Courtesy of Perelman Jewish Day School

Abrams Holds Annual Shabbat Event

The Abrams Hebrew Academy held its 16th annual Cholent Bowl on Feb. 18. The Cholent Bowl emphasizes the importance of Shabbat by having each class make cholent, a Jewish stew. A panel of judges even picks a winner from the classes.

► Abrams students pose during the 16th annual Cholent Bowl on Feb. 18. Courtesy of Abrams Hebrew Academy



MEMORY CARE

Café

Join us each month for coffee and conversation specifically for people with dementia and their caregivers.

What is a Memory Café?

Originally started in England, this informal setting provides the caregiver a forum for discussion, reducing the isolation often felt by people with dementia, their caregivers and families. Discussions can range from practical tips for coping with dementia, avoiding caregiver burnout or information about community resources. There is no cost or obligation, and many attendees develop friendships that result in support even outside the Memory Café setting.

All attendees will adhere to proper COVID-19 guidelines including masking, staying socially distant and hand sanitizing.

Every Tuesday of the Month

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Questions? 215-321-6166

Event to be held at:
Barnes and Noble
(in the Starbucks)
210 Commerce Boulevard
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

 **ARDEN COURTS**
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arden-courts.org

DEMENTIA

Support Group

Specially Designed for Families and Caregivers

If you are caring for someone with dementia, **who is caring for you?**

You are not alone. This informational, supportive group will help you to learn more about the disease as well as understand their feelings about the changes dementia has made on their daily lives. Support groups can also help you:

- Learn practical caregiving information
- Get mutual support
- Learn about your local community resources
- Find solutions to challenging behaviors



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Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

RSVP: 215-957-5182 or
Warminster@arden-courts.com

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779 W. County Line Road
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