



# JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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Moves delayed or require extra steps.

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He oversaw city, state budgets for Ed Rendell.

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Volume 133  
Number 46

Published Weekly Since 1887



## Elkins Park Trio Helps Seniors Get Vaccines

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

FOR WEEKS, DANIELLE OTERO clicked on COVID-19 vaccine appointment websites, refreshing pages, to get her relatives lined up for a shot.

Even though she was successful — some had to go to Allentown, but a shot's a shot — she couldn't help but think about the many older members of her Elkins Park Jewish community who didn't have her computer savvy.

So she decided to do something about it.

Teaming up with friends Sarah Levin and Rebecca Klinger from Beth Sholom Congregation, Otero started connecting older members of their community with appointments. Otero taught Levin and Klinger the tricks of the trade — which websites to check for appointments and when to check them, which Facebook pages to follow.

With cases funneled to them through Beth Sholom and the Kehillah of Old York Road, Otero, Levin and Klinger have

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▲ "Purim" by Marc Chagall hangs in the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art: The Louis E. Stern Collection, 1963, 1963-181-11  
© Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

## Chagall's 'Purim' Journey to Philadelphia

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

IT TAKES PLANNING and a little willpower to visit Marc Chagall's painting "Purim" during the pandemic.

You have to reserve a time slot at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in advance,

get your temperature taken when you get there, and navigate the museum's warrens of galleries. But it was a similarly circuitous route — from pre-revolutionary Russia to Nazi Germany, from Brooklyn to Philadelphia — that brought "Purim" to Gallery 267a.

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JEWISHEXPONENT.COM

Miriam's Advice Well

PURIM OPT-OUT A POSSIBILITY?

A reader writes that she isn't up for the "forced happiness of Purim this year" and wonders if she can opt out of celebrating. Miriam responds that opting out is always an option, although there's always the chance the holiday could cheer her up, too. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to [news@jewishexponent.com](mailto:news@jewishexponent.com) and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line.

[jewishexponent.com/2021/02/22/dear-miriam-purim-opt-out-a-possibility/](https://jewishexponent.com/2021/02/22/dear-miriam-purim-opt-out-a-possibility/)



Philacatessen

ERICA PAIS' CARDAMOM BLONDIES

Food columnist Keri White shares a recipe for cardamom blondies provided by baker Erica Pais, who was featured in the Feb. 18 Jewish Exponent. The blondies deliver butterscotch flavor, while cardamom and cinnamon add a somewhat exotic element. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for food content not normally found in the printed edition.

[jewishexponent.com/2021/02/22/erica-pais-cardamom-blondies/](https://jewishexponent.com/2021/02/22/erica-pais-cardamom-blondies/)



Photo by Keri White

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## SNAPSHOT: FEBRUARY 29, 1980

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## ADL Criticizes Church Press Kit on Mideast

NEW YORK — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has criticized the National Council of Churches of Christ for distributing a press kit with the "unmistakable thrust" of trying "to undermine and reverse Christian support of Israel."

THE KIT, ENTITLED "American Churches and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" and sent last month to editors and reporters by Warren Day, executive director of the NCC's Office of News and Information, purports to be a summary of trends, comments and positions.

In a letter to the Rev. M. William Howard, NCC president, the ADL said it was "dismayed and disheartened" by the 20 items assembled in the packet. "Instead of

Committee; and Solomon S. Bernards and Leon Klenicki, co-directors of ADL's Interfaith Affairs Department.

## New Support Group Formed For Widows and Widowers

A new Widows' and Widowers' Support Group for people to age 55 has been formed by the Jewish Ys and Centers. "Single Again" will be the topic of the first meeting and discussion group Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the YM-YWHA, Broad and Pine Sts.

The group, formed to re-orient the widowed person to the community, has planned a weekly series of discussions to include "Traveling for One," "I Like Me;

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# Pandemic Makes Moving a Bigger Hassle

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**BETSY MORGAN WANTS** to move to Israel in late February or early March, but has had trouble finding someone to sublet her Center City apartment.

She's posted ads in Facebook housing groups but there's been little interest. Her landlord said she would get about 20 inquiries a week on Zillow when renting the place before the pandemic, but now she's lucky to hear from even one person.

Moving is stressful during the best of times. And a global pandemic throws a whole new set of challenges at those aiming to put down roots somewhere else. An international move like Morgan's is

a complicated process, but even local moves are fraught due to lack of in-person tours and the need to manage social distancing with movers.

Sisters Victoria and Sarah Alfred-Levow returned to their mother's house on the Main Line when their college classes went virtual. After a few months, they knew it was time to find a place of their own.

"We decided to move to East Falls because it kind of fits that bill of being close enough to visit, but far enough away that it actually felt like a new start," Victoria Alfred-Levow said.

Much of the apartment search took place online, but they were able to arrange an in-person tour of their favorite place before signing a lease.

After settling on a September move-in date, the siblings hired

movers. Having strangers in their house was surreal after many months of isolation, even though everyone wore masks. They were also concerned that their landlord wanted to send a handyman to fix some maintenance issues in the new apartment.

"It felt so stressful just knowing, 'Oh my gosh, am I going to have to worry about a stranger breathing in my house?'" Victoria Alfred-Levow said.

Rebecca Rendsburg and her husband David eyed a move to Philadelphia from New York for years before the pandemic, but new restrictions threw their plans into question.

David Rendsburg's mother lives in Lower Merion, and he attended Akiba Hebrew Academy (now Jack M. Barrack



▲ Betsy Morgan      Courtesy of Betsy Morgan

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▲ The Rendsburg family  
Courtesy of Rebecca Rendsburg

Hebrew Academy) and the University of Pennsylvania. The couple visited Philadelphia often. Rebecca Rendsburg was struck by the city’s history and manageable pace.

“I really fell in love with the

It’s so weird to walk around the neighborhood, get that exercise and see the amazing architecture, and know I’m still very much on the outside of this community.”

VICTORIA ALFRED-LEVOW

smallness of this city. There was an intimacy to it. There were neighborhoods that felt like little communities,” she said.

She and her husband loved New York, but needed a larger space to raise their two children and a more cost-effective lifestyle in order to send them to Jewish day school while saving for retirement.

“We can do that in Philadelphia. We did not feel like we could do that in New York City,” she said.

Their housing search was complicated by their inability to view places in person.

“We spent March and April into early May looking

at houses and virtually never getting a chance to actually go in to see the house, so the house we bought, we did not step foot in until the last week of July, until we moved, basically,” she said.

The Rendsburgs moved to the Hawthorne neighborhood in August and joined the South Philadelphia Shtiebel. Rebecca Rendsburg spent the summer doing outdoor activities like hikes and gardening with her new community.

“It was a really lovely experience,” she said. “But then things had to shut down in November with the uptick of infection around Thanksgiving, and so

that was a loss for us. Trying to connect and meet new people and be a part of a new community while you can’t actually see people in person has been a challenge.”

Victoria Alfred-Levow continues to attend virtual services, but misses getting to know her new neighbors.

“It’s so weird to walk around the neighborhood, get that exercise and see the amazing architecture, and know I’m still very much on the outside of this community,” she said.

Aside from the subtle struggle, Morgan is excited to join her partner in Haifa. Her two siblings live in Jerusalem,

and her mother plans to move to Israel in the near future.

Morgan, who grew up in Yardley and attended Drexel University, said she would miss the city’s walkability and community feel. She spent the past few weeks saying goodbye to her friends and loved ones from a distance and enjoying the snow.

“It’s been a bit of a hassle to drive in, but it is very beautiful, and I have been trying to take it in since I won’t see this much snow for a very long time,” she said. ●

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FEBRUARY 25, 2021 5



# Knitting Nonprofit Promotes Healing, One Stitch at a Time

**LOCAL**

**SOPHIE PANZER** | JE STAFF

**ELLEN RUBIN KNOWS** knitting is often thought of as a hobby for the elderly, but she believes the craft has something to offer everyone.

"I like to think of myself as the Pied Piper of the therapeutic benefits of knitting and

crochet," she said. "It helps with stress, anxiety, depression, PTSD, drug addiction, alcohol addiction and more."

Her passion for the fiber arts led her to open her store, Luv2Knit & More, in Jenkintown in 2017. Last July, the 52-year-old started her nonprofit, Therapeutic Crafters on Call, to educate volunteers to lead their own knitting and

crochet classes.

Rubin's fascination with knitting's therapeutic benefits stems from her career as a scientist; she worked as an immunologist for pharmaceutical firms. When a difficult pregnancy put her on bed rest 21 years ago, she taught herself to knit.

She kept her needles moving  
through the illness of a close



▲ Ellen Rubin in her store, Love2Knit & More

Courtesy of Ellen Rubin



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## A Bruce E. Toll Community



friend and during a grueling divorce, finding solace in the meditative activity. She began teaching others and saw how it helped them work through their struggles with anxiety, stress and pain.

She taught a friend who had major surgery and said it helped her through the recovery process when reading and even watching TV were difficult. She volunteered to lead an enrichment program for second-graders and saw how it soothed children coping with emotional issues. She led workshops in her store and at community centers for fatigued health care workers, foster

children, children with autism, deaf and blind learners, maternity patients and others, while collecting journal articles and studies about knitting's ability to help people manage pain and stress.

So what is it about knitting that makes such a difference? Rubin claims it helps the brain produce dopamine and serotonin, hormones that create a sense of pleasure and relaxation.

"It's not exclusive to knitting, certainly. You get into this meditative state with other things that could be drawing or gardening, but what's great about knitting and crochet



## HEADLINES

is they're portable, and most importantly, you make things you can donate and use to help other people," she said.

Before the pandemic, Rubin taught classes at her store. Now, she holds them over Zoom and offers one-on-one or two-on-one lessons with masks and distancing.

Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin started taking classes with Rubin while dealing with health issues and looking for a creative outlet to make her feel grounded. She said Rubin was a natural educator, which was helpful when she felt confused and out of her element.

monotony of so many hours spent at home.

"The nice thing about knitting is you look at it, you do admire the work you've done and you have something to show for it," she said.

Rubin has taught workshops at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park as well as for Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia.

"They were learning over Zoom, which isn't necessarily easy, so sometimes if someone wasn't picking up a certain thing, I actually drove out to that person's house and sat with them outside before it got

■ I like to think of myself as the Pied Piper of the therapeutic benefits of knitting and crochet. It helps with stress, anxiety, depression, PTSD, drug addiction, alcohol addiction and more."

ELLEN RUBIN

"She just made it very inviting and very easy and made me feel like mistakes were a part of the growth," she said.

Glanzberg-Krainin enjoys the intense focus knitting requires.

"It just calls for absolute attention in the moment, which is a very healing place to be," she said.

Toni Taterka took up Rubin's knitting lessons in December. She was looking for something that would help her relax while caring for her elderly mother during the pandemic. She already knew how to knit, but wanted to learn how to use different patterns to make clothing. Now, she's working on a neck warmer using the knit and purl stitch.

Feeling productive has helped her cope with the

too cold and showed them," she said.

She said meditation and mindfulness play an important role in her Jewish spirituality, and that knitting's meditative aspects complement prayer and her desire to make the world a better place.

Glanzberg-Krainin and Taterka praised Rubin's accessible teaching style and her emphasis on embracing mistakes as part of the learning process. Rubin tells her students her teaching abilities stem from 21 years of her own errors.

"I always say to them, 'You know why I'm really good at fixing mistakes?' Because I've made a lot of them,'" she said. •

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# Pa. Jewish Teen Readies for Olympic Trials

## NATIONAL

ADAM REINHERZ | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ZOE SKIRBOLL, 16, a Pittsburgh-area high school junior, knows exactly how long she felt like a fish out of water: seven weeks.

The champion swimmer, a Team USA hopeful who qualified for the upcoming Olympic trials, had to stop training in pools due to the pandemic — a hiatus that made her appreciate

I was 16.”

But Zoe Skirboll knows how to keep it in proportion.

“I like to sometimes keep my swimming life separate so I don’t really get overwhelmed,” she said. “Swimming can take a really big toll on your mental health, especially during practices. It’s a really hard sport, and you have to be mentally tough in it. I feel like just taking some breaks from it, like on the weekends, and just being with my friends and

freestyle in 24.90 seconds.

By her sophomore year, Zoe Skirboll was training for the Olympic trials. She remembers the moment she knew she made the cut: “That was kind of one of the biggest goals of my whole entire swimming career,” she said. “That was like the best moment. I mean, I worked for it. It was the greatest experience ever.”

Her father couldn’t be more proud.

“It’s just great seeing what

your work and your own blood does,” he said. “It’s very special.”

Four months remain until the Olympic trials, but Zoe Skirboll’s future is filled with meets and opportunities no matter what. In August she verbally committed to the University of Virginia, a swim team powerhouse.

Zoe Skirboll is relishing the chance to swim with the UVA Cavaliers under coach Todd DeSorbo, but for now is

focused on more immediate matters — as is her father.

“I’m sure a lot of dads, if they coach their kids, they can relate to it,” Jim Skirboll said. “The swimming career might last for me and Zoe maybe another year or two, then she’ll go to the University of Virginia, but the bond we have will last a lifetime.” •

Adam Reinherz is a staff writer for the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, an Exponent-affiliated publication.



▲ Zoe and Jim Skirboll

Courtesy of Jim Skirboll

swimming in a new way.

“Taking that little break honestly made me realize how special the sport was, and how much it meant to me, and how big a part it is in my life,” she said.

But the time away from the water wasn’t exactly a vacation: Skirboll worked hard on dry-land exercises to maintain fitness and develop strength.

Her devotion paid off, said her coach and father Jim Skirboll.

“It’s remarkable how some of these kids are handling this situation,” said Jim Skirboll of his daughter’s discipline during the pandemic. “I’m not sure if I could do that when

them helping me through, it is always great.”

Her father, who swam at Ohio University and heads Racer X Aquatics, structured his daughter’s early workouts around form rather than distance.

By middle school she was recognized as a prodigious swimmer. In 2015, as a fifth-grader, Zoe Skirboll set her first of five national age group records by swimming the 100-meter freestyle in less than a minute. One day later she set a new record in the girls’ 10-and-under 100-meter freestyle. After that, she became the second 10-year-old girl in history to swim the 50-meter

# CONNECT

*With Community*

*Saturday, March 6*

## BE INSPIRED

Havdalah service with Joey Weisenberg of Hadar’s Rising Song Institute followed by Schmooze Rooms to catch up with friends old and new.

Register at [Jewishphilly.org/SignUp](https://Jewishphilly.org/SignUp)

*Sunday, March 7*

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 Jewish Federation  
of Greater Philadelphia

# Former Pa. Budget Secretary Michael Masch Dies

## OBITUARY

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**MICHAEL MASCH**, financial and operations manager for Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and several colleges and universities, died Feb. 7 in Washington, D.C. He was 70.

Masch served as Pennsylvania's secretary of budget and administration under former Gov. Ed Rendell from 2003 to 2008. Prior to that, he was Philadelphia's budget director when Rendell was mayor. He also served as the chief financial officer of the School District of Philadelphia from 2008 to 2012, and as a senior policy analyst for the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center.

Speaking at Masch's virtual memorial service, Rendell said Masch helped cut operating

costs and increase efficiency at a time when Philadelphia was facing a devastating deficit, shedding jobs and losing businesses. He described his colleague as a brilliant public servant, not only because of his financial wizardry or public speaking skills, but because he understood what was at stake.

"Michael never forgot that we weren't playing a game with numbers, or playing a game with statistics. We were playing in a battle that made people's lives better, that actually mattered," he said.

Masch also worked as vice president for budget and management at the University of Pennsylvania and vice president for finance and as chief financial officer at Manhattan College. He had been the senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer at Howard

University since 2015.

"Mike Masch ran towards fires with a heart full of love," Howard President Wayne A. I. Frederick said at the memorial. "He saw the most difficult things that needed to be fixed, and attempted to fix them. And he attempted to do that in a selfless manner for the good of others."

Born Oct. 14, 1950, Masch was adopted as a child and raised in a tight-knit Jewish community in Southwest Philadelphia. Social life revolved around Beth Am Israel synagogue, whose leaders shaped Masch's love for Judaism.

He graduated from Central High School in 1968 and attended Temple University, where he met his future wife, Rachel Falkove. They both realized they wanted to pursue a Jewish life that was more focused on social justice



▲ Michael Masch

Courtesy of Rachel Falkove

than the postwar synagogues of their childhoods had been. Masch was inspired by the Black Panthers and left-wing politics, and Falkove was involved with the environmental movement.

"By the time he got to college, he was very taken with the civil rights movement and the antiwar movement," she said. "He was trying to synthesize Jewish life with what was going on in our political world."

He studied at Temple for four years as an urban studies major and dropped out just before graduation. He later earned a master's degree in government and public administration from the Fels Institute of Government at Penn thanks to significant professional experience.

He entered public life with a job on the technical staff of Philadelphia City Council before working for Rendell. Later, he helped create the Philly Phlash transit line — named after the Flash, one of his favorite DC Comics characters.

As CFO of the city's school district, he helped restore it to balanced and surplus budgets from 2003 to 2007, although he was criticized for failing

to overcome state budget cuts during the recession in 2010.

He eliminated state deficits, produced surpluses and increased state funding for Pennsylvania's 500 school districts as secretary of budget and administration. He created the Pennsylvania Office of Performance Improvement to measure and improve performance of state agencies in this role.

He was passionate about creating new forms of Jewish community and worship, writing for the Jewish Exponent and becoming one of the founders of the Germantown Minyan. The group's two offshoots, Dorshei Derekh and Minyan Masorti, are still active at the Germantown Jewish Centre.

Friends and family knew he was a big fan of comic books and superheroes, loved a good party and approached everything with exuberance.

"He danced the hardest, he sang the loudest and watched the junkiest movies," Falkove said. "He had a good time. He solved really big problems, and he enjoyed it." •

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ISRAEL BRIEFS

**Suspected Oil Spill May Be Israel's Worst Ever**  
ISRAEL CLOSED ITS MEDITERRANEAN beaches to deal with what officials believe may be the country's worst oil spill ever, JTA reported.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority on Feb. 21 called the suspected spill one of the "greatest ecological disasters to afflict Israel since the founding of the state." It said that 105 out of 118 miles have been impacted and its consequences will be felt for years.

Thousands of volunteers are cleaning tar off the beaches and animals. Those include birds and turtles found covered with tar. The Israeli army has said it will send soldiers to help with the cleanup.

It hasn't been determined what ship is responsible for the spill, which is believed to have occurred around Feb. 11 about 20 miles from shore.

"We are making every effort to find those responsible for the disaster," Gila Gamliel, Israel's environment minister, said on Twitter.

**First Tesla Cars Set to Arrive in Israel**

A consignment of 70 Tesla cars is slated to arrive in Israel on Feb. 27 at Ashdod Port, with 50 more cars expected in March, Globes reported.

The cars were shipped from the United States to

Portugal, then reloaded onto vehicle vessel carrier the Gran Mediterraneo.

Israeli customers ordered the cars, most of which are the Tesla model 3, in advance. Car trading and leasing companies bought some of the cars under the assumption there will be demand to lease or buy them.

It's unclear what logistical arrangements were set in place so the cars could be prepared for delivery, Globes reported.

**Wix Now Israel's Most Valuable Publicly Traded Company, Worth Nearly \$20B**

Online website building tool provider Wix is now Israel's most valuable publicly-traded company, with a market capitalization of nearly \$19.7 billion, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Wix's market cap edged previous leader Novocure, a cancer drug maker, which was worth \$18.4 billion.

Last week, Wix reported that its fourth-quarter revenue grew 38% year over year to \$282.5 million, with the company adding 185,000 new premium subscribers.

"It is clear that we can now become a dominant player on the internet, and I expect us to strengthen

this position significantly over the coming decade," CEO and co-founder Avishai Abrahami said. "My goal and belief is that at this rate of growth, in the next five to seven years, 50% of anything new built on the internet will be done on Wix."

Wix went public in 2013. Its top product allows both companies and individuals to build websites with no maintenance.

**IDF Promotes 105-Year-Old Man to Colonel**

The Israeli Air Force promoted one of its founders, 105-year-old Alex Ziloni, to the rank of colonel for his longtime service, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Ziloni immigrated to Israel from Poland when he was 5, then served in the Royal Air Force during World War II. After the war, he helped establish the Israeli Air Force.

During the War of Independence, Ziloni led negotiations with British officials to buy 21 single-engine lightweight Auster planes.

Ziloni remained in the air force through 1960, serving in the 1956 Suez War, retiring as a lieutenant colonel and later working as a military attaché in Washington, D.C. ●

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Russian-Israeli Tennis Player Makes Australian Open Semis

**UNHERALDED RUSSIAN-ISRAELI** tennis player Aslan Karatsev made the Australian Open semifinals, losing in straight sets to top seed and eventual champion Novak Djokovic, JTA reported.

Karatsev, 27, defeated top-10 Jewish tennis player Diego Schwartzman in the third round of the tournament. His performance vaulted him from a worldwide ranking of 114th to 42nd.

“It gives me more experience, more confidence,” Karatsev said. “Now I will be playing all big tournaments without playing the qualifiers. So I’ll get this confidence and just keep playing, keep practicing. I am starting to believe more in myself that I can play with everyone.”

Karatsev was born in the North Caucasus region of Russia, and his maternal grandfather is Jewish.

“I moved to Israel when I was 3 years old with my family, and then I started to practice in Yafo, Tel Aviv-Yafo,” he said. “I grew up there, practicing there until 12 years old, and then I moved back to Russia with my father.”

### Dutch Torah Hidden During WWII Resurfaces

A Torah scroll that disappeared from a Dutch synagogue after the Nazis invaded the Netherlands,

was rediscovered recently and returned to the Jewish community, JTA reported.

The scroll, which is intact and in excellent condition, belonged to a synagogue in the city of Dordrecht, Chris den Hoedt, chairman of the Jewish Community of Rotterdam, or NIG, said.

After the Nazis shut down the synagogues in 1940, the scroll and others apparently were kept by a Jewish man who owned a metal factory, JTA reported. Another tradesman bought the factory, then gave the scrolls to Kees Pennings, a teacher who died in 2001. His widow, Tineke, told local historian Kees Weltevrede about the scrolls. Weltevrede then informed NIG.

“For decades, no one knew what happened to the scroll in Dordrecht. It was simply presumed lost, like so many other religious artifacts lost in the Holocaust,” he said.

### Jewish Celebrities Read Purim Story for Charity

Several Jewish comedians teamed up for a Purim event to raise money for the Met Council, a Jewish charity fighting poverty in New York City, JTA reported.

Howie Mandel, Bob Saget, Jeff Garlin, Susie Essman, Jeff Ross, Judy Gold and others performed an online Purim spiel on Feb. 22.

“The story of Purim is a story of perseverance and

hope — just what we need during these dark COVID times,” Met Council CEO David Greenfield said.

Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, a puppet character voiced by Jewish comedian Robert Smigel, made an appearance, as did standup comedian Russell Peters and Pennsylvania native Bari Weiss, the former New York Times opinion editor.

### Auction House Suspends Sale of 19th-Century Document Believed Stolen During Holocaust

Kestenbaum & Company, a Brooklyn, New York, auction house specializing in rare Judaic material culture, pulled from its catalog what the Jewish Community of Cluj, Romania, said is a 19th-century ledger from its Jewish burial society.

“The handwritten register has great value as a historical document, covering over 50 years of the history of the Orthodox Jewish Community, right from the year of the founding of the Society in 1836, but it is also a valuable art object, due to its exceptional aesthetic presentation,” the Jewish community wrote.

Because the ledger disappeared during the Holocaust, it thus is stolen property, the letter said.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization also asked that the item not be sold. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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Carol Shore, *Camp Galil-Habonim Dror*

Lisa David, *Camp Harlam*

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David Mink, *Center City Kehillah*

Darren Rabinowitz, Jacob Marder, Naomi Isaac-Hyman, Maddie Hoffman & Leah Spector, *Diller Teen Fellows*

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David Simon, *Golden Slipper*

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# Study: There's a 65% Chance You're on Mute Right Now

FAKE NEWS

SY LENCE | JE STAFF

**EXPERTS AT HECK** University have published a study that shows almost no one is using Zoom's mute button correctly.

"The findings were definitely surprising," said Dana Goldfarb, professor in the Department of Sociology. "When lots of people have to learn how to use technology in a short period of time, there's bound to be some hiccups, but our research shows there's a 75% chance you've been on mute while trying to impress your boss with an important PowerPoint."

The study showed there was a 37% chance you've been on mute while talking about David Foster Wallace on a virtual date, a 68% chance you've been on mute



▲ To quote from "Mr. Mom," "You're doing it wrong!"  
AndreyPopov iStock / Getty Images Plus

during a meeting that could have been an email and an 80% chance you've been on mute while trying to discuss anything but politics during a virtual Shabbat dinner with your Aunt Sharon.

"Our data indicates that

there's also a 55% chance you've ruined a public Zoom event by neglecting to mute yourself while your cat knocks a stack of dishes off the counter and your four dogs bark in the background," Goldfarb added. •

# Temple Beth Stoner: Wait, There's a Pandemic?

FAKE NEWS

MARY JUANA | JE STAFF

**RABBI THOMAS CHONGSTEIN** of Congregation Beth Stoner in Center City came to a startling conclusion the other day.

"Man, there must be something going on because the only people showing up for services were Cantor Snoop Doggberg and one congregant, Richard Marin-Cohen, who we call Cheech because he looks like a kosher pork rind," Chongstein said. "But I was walking around outside and saw some dudes wearing masks and asked them what was happening."

"It blew my mind when those dudes said there was a pandemic or something going on. No wonder nobody was showing up!"

Chongstein described the



▲ The indoor garden at Congregation Beth Stoner  
Kimberly Delaney iStock / Getty Images Plus

pandemic as a real bummer, but saw the positives in it, too.

"The Man [the police] has stopped hassling us and our indoor garden is growing better than ever. Our Maiu Wowie, Acapulco Gold and Thai Stick plants look especially far out and solid," he said.

As part of a charitable effort and a way to share the bumper crop, Congregation Beth Stoner announced a "Marijuana for Masks" program debuting on Feb. 31. Anyone bringing in new masks to be distributed to the poor will receive an ounce of their favorite weed. •

# Infant Sets Record for Number of Ys in First Name

FAKE NEWS

INLOCO PARENTIS | JE STAFF

**CENTER CITY RESIDENT** Bryaydyyn Wasserman landed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" a mere eight days after his birth for an unusual accomplishment: having four Ys in his first name.

"We had no idea he was so unique," mother Rebecca Wasserman said. "We just liked the name."

Father Adam Wasserman said he and his wife named their new son after his late grandfather, Bernard, but "Bernie" felt too old-fashioned. They wanted something a little more modern, something with pizzazz.

"Plus we didn't want people thinking we named him after Bernie Sanders," he said.

They narrowed it down to Bryan and Braydyyn and decided to combine the two in a new name that would symbolize the spirit of compromise.



▲ Bryaydyyn Wasserman is pretty smug after setting a new world's record — or is that just gas?  
Nattakorn Maneerat iStock / Getty Images Plus

The extraordinary infant, whose other talents include drooling and napping, toppled the previous world record of three Ys in a first name, which was held by Cyyynthia Green of Minneapolis. Green did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

Bryaydyyn's middle name is Samuel, after his late grandmother Samantha, and his Hebrew name is Boaz.

Sharing in the joy are siblings Kaedy and Cylyb. •





# Jewish Cat Owners Protest Caturday

## FAKE NEWS

KIT E. CORNER | JE STAFF

**JEWISH PET OWNERS** are speaking out against the popular Saturday social media trend called “Caturday,” when people take to Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Twitter to post photos and videos of their beloved felines.

“I just think it’s really unfair,” said Susan Tenkin, who lives with her Tonkinese, Allan, in Center City. “Allan



▲ Lucky the Jewish cat’s cuteness goes sadly unheralded.  
Photo by Andy Gottlieb

has all kinds of funny things he does — he responds to me when I talk to him, he fetches, and he wears a bow tie and footie pajamas every day.” Tenkin, who observes Shabbat and therefore does not go online on Saturdays, feels she and Allan are missing out on many messages of approval from strangers.

“My friends and family all know Allan and see him on my feeds all the time,” she said. “But if this didn’t take place on Shabbat, he could be the next

GrumpyCat, with a book deal, a stuffy — the sky’s the limit.”

She does post Allan’s photos on Saturday night after sundown, “but by then the damage has already been done,” she said. “And Caternight is not a thing.”

Tenkin and other frustrated photo-taking cat owners are trying to change Caturday observance to Sunday, but have found themselves stymied by the lack of a catchy hashtag.

They tried “SundayforMyOne andOnly,” but it was quickly

co-opted by dog owners, who posted soulful cheek-to-cheek pics with their obscenely affectionate pit bulls.

“The dog people are just outrageous,” Tenkin said. “They’re so superior. Did you know that cats can communicate with those buttons even better than dogs? And they’re not just saying ‘feed me’ all the time.

“Caturday is the only thing cat people have to themselves, and it’s awful that it’s not more inclusive.” ●

# Uncontroversial Seder Conversation Topics Narrowed Once More

## FAKE NEWS

VILDE CHAYA | JE STAFF

**ON FEBRUARY 19,** the Jewish Federations of North America released its annual list of approved conversation topics for the upcoming Pesach celebrations. For the 5781th consecutive year, according to the report, the list of acceptable topics has been significantly reduced.

“Tie-dye! You really would’ve expected that tie-dye would remain more or less

uncontroversial,” CEO Jacob Netanyachoo wrote in a press release. “But that’s the way of the world these days.”

Discouraged topics now include snowmen and snow globes, any sort of flickering lights (especially strobes), the Main Line, the R5, prior attempts to shuck and/or jive, Flat Stanley, Stan Lee, “Thor: Ragnarok,” Gamestop (the store or its stock), chicken cooked in schmaltz, any SUNY school besides New Paltz, the last time you saw “The Last Waltz” and the collected works

of Adin Steinsaltz.

Additionally, families sitting down for seder are advised to avoid any discussion of crank calls, pratfalls, foul balls, symmetrical rhyming schemes, the Art Museum steps, the Eurasian Steppe, Ciara’s “1, 2 Step,” Sepp Blatter, rickety ladders, anything that matters, “The Call of the Wild,” whether your expense report was filed, calling JFK “Idlewild,” small magazines, German submarines, deviation from the mean and the Tammany Hall political machine. ●



▲ Debating whether matzah tastes more like cardboard or drywall is one of the few permissible seder topics.  
\_Shtandel iStock / Getty Images Plus

# Bubbe Convinced ‘This Could’ve Been Avoided if You’d Just Worn a Coat!’

## FAKE NEWS

IMA ALTERKOCKER | JE STAFF

**LENORA UNPRONOUNSKIWITCZ,** 84, cited a trip you took to the grocery store in February of 2020 as the indisputable beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“No coat, no gloves, no scarf, no matter what I told you,”



▲ You tell her she’s wrong.  
Juan\_Algar iStock / Getty Images Plus

Unpronounskiwitz said. “You’re surprised you got a cold, and then everyone did?”

Unpronounskiwitz, playing on your guilt for calling a little less than you should, reports that the weather that day was “yucky,” and “cold enough to catch your death.” Ignoring her, deciding that you were old enough to make your own decisions about your fitness for

the weather, you stepped outside to find that it was indeed a little cold. But you’d be damned before you’d go back inside to prove her right.

In a finding that could radically alter our understanding of the pandemic’s genesis, Unpronounskiwitz has pegged its inception to the moment you decided to just turn your car’s heat way

up instead.

Though Unpronounskiwitz has no background in epidemiology, no special feel for virology, and only the broadest understanding of the human respiratory system, she is certain that this whole mess would’ve never happened if someone learned to respect their elders.

“But what do I know,” she said. ●



## Vaccines

Continued from Page 1

made appointments for about 65 people and have at least that many on their waiting list.

Otero, a mother of three, formerly provided her expertise in international pandemic preparedness to the Department of Defense. Though she's not employed now, she's bringing that strategic thinking to this community vaccine project.

"Not a lot of sleep is happening, but we're getting a lot of appointments for people," she said. "People are very, very thankful, and I'm happy to help."

She stressed that the work they do is intended for members of their community only.

Otero, Levin and Klinger have been inundated with stories from immunocompromised cancer survivors, transplant survivors and others with complex medical histories "who really should be the first in line for the vaccine," Otero said. Helping them out is not just pointing and clicking: The choices inherent in the process can be overwhelming, and Pennsylvania is far behind other states in terms of vaccine distribution, making appointments hard to get.

"It feels like a 'Hunger Games' situation," said Klinger.

Dan Shmilovich, who has known Otero for years through their synagogue, praised her efforts in pursuing appointments for his older parents and immunocompromised brother.

"She's kind of like a hawk," Shmilovich said. "She's checking the websites early morning, at night, around the clock, as far as I know." She ended up finding appointments for them — but two hours away.

Such stories are common on social media, where groups offering emotional support alongside blink-and-you'll-miss-it appointment leads have cropped up nationwide. Some groups focus on cities and counties, while others tackle whole regions.

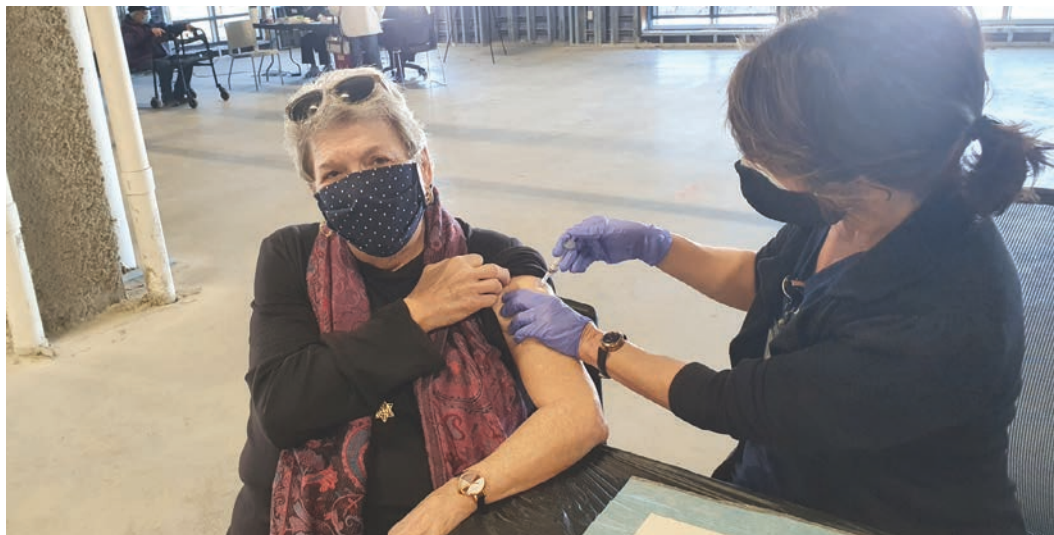
"PA CoVID Vaccine Match Maker," a Facebook group covering the southeastern part of the state, has more than 27,000 members. Posters are either "#Finders" or "#Seekers." There's a sidebar with PDFs, Word documents and a spreadsheet with names like "DELCO\_VACCINE\_LINKS.xlsx" and "weis\_pharmacies\_with\_vaccine\_by\_city\_0.pdf."

Members post frequently; some express frustration with



▲ Neil Klinger, Rebecca Klinger's father-in-law, receives his sought-after shot.

Courtesy of Rebecca Klinger



▲ Cheryl Shmilovich receives a vaccine. Danielle Otero helped her to secure an elusive appointment.

Courtesy of Dan Shmilovich

their lack of success, and others their gratitude for the help they've received. Notifications that appointments are available come with the tone of a breathless courier: "Lake Ariel, PA RITE AID!!!!!"

Lafayette Hill's Ilene Schafer and her husband Marshall have medical conditions that qualify them for the vaccine, but getting an appointment has been like trying to get Springsteen tickets in the old days of Ticketmaster,

Ilene Schafer said. They've had no luck using "PA CoVID Vaccine Match Maker."

"It feels totally patchwork," she said. "Everybody's doing their own thing. There's no coordination. There's no central database. There's no central anything. It's like the Wild West trying to get an appointment."

About 44 million Americans are at least partially vaccinated, according to the New York Times. At the current pace,

90% of the population will have received at least one dose of the vaccine by Christmas. Some of those people will have a trio of friends in Elkins Park to thank — and they're not stopping their work anytime soon.

"Until we stop getting names from the community, I'm not really putting a limit on it," Otero said. ●

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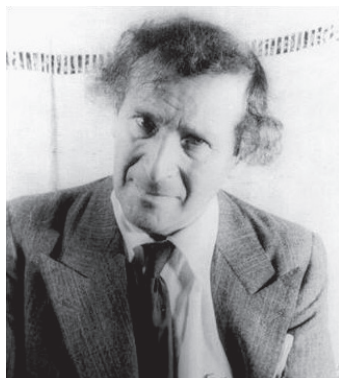
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## Chagall

Continued from Page 1



▲ Marc Chagall in 1941  
Carl Van Vetchen/Library of Congress/  
Wikimedia Commons

Chagall was in high demand when he painted “Purim” in 1916. Back in his hometown of Vitebsk in present-day Belarus after nearly a decade in St. Petersburg and Paris, Chagall was fresh off of successful exhibitions in Berlin and Moscow and snared a commission from the Petrograd Jewish Society for the Promotion of the Arts.

The society tasked him with creating large-scale murals of religious festivals for a Jewish secondary school attached to the city’s main synagogue. “Purim,” a study Chagall painted in preparation, depicts a man and a woman as they prepare to exchange gifts for the holiday; the word “Purim” is written in Hebrew in the corner of the study.

“He had gotten connected with these artists who were really very interested in exploring Jewish visual traditions, among others, in order to create a kind of authentically Jewish modern art in Russia,” said Matthew Affron, the Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of Modern Art at the museum.

The era of “Purim” was a fruitful one for Chagall; the following year, the revolutionary Soviet government asked him to serve as commissar for the arts, but Chagall declined, establishing a school in Vitebsk instead.

The commissioned murals were never completed, but Chagall took “Purim” with



▲ Front cover of the guide for the Degenerate Art Exhibition, which featured Chagall's paintings along with those of other artists.

Tel Aviv Stamps Ltd. auction photo licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

him when he moved to France a few years later, and sold it to Dr. Herbert Tannenbaum, a German-Jewish art dealer. Tannenbaum lent “Purim” to a Chagall exhibition in Cologne in 1925, and in 1928, sold it to a museum in Essen, Germany. But as Chagall’s star rose higher in Europe, so too did other forces.

A day after Chagall’s 50th birthday in 1937, “Purim” was confiscated by Nazi authorities for The Degenerate Art Exhibition, conceived by Joseph Goebbels, Affron said. The exhibit in Munich, intended to denigrate the work on display, featured more than 5,000 confiscated paintings and sculptures deemed insufficiently patriotic, exceedingly modern in style or generally inimical to the

Aryan ideal.

Several paintings from Chagall were displayed in a room designated for the disparagement of Jewish art, Affron said. More than 2 million people attended the exhibition as it traveled around Germany.

In 1941, Chagall and his wife just barely escaped Vichy France for the U.S. without “Purim,” which had been given to Ferdinand Möller, an art dealer appointed by the Nazis to sell “degenerate art” on the international market. According to the PMA, Möller failed, as the painting was sold to a German, Dr. Kurt Feldhäusser, who was killed in an Allied bombing raid. His mother brought “Purim” to Brooklyn in 1948; the following year, it was sold to lawyer

Louis E. Stern.

Stern, born in Balta, Russia, in 1886, was raised in Vineland, New Jersey, and went to law school at the University of Pennsylvania. He practiced international law in Atlantic City, Newark, New Jersey, and New York, and amassed a considerable art collection, including many works by Chagall, who became a personal friend.

When Stern died in 1962, some of his art collection went to the Brooklyn Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, while his art library went to Rutgers University. But the bulk of the collection, including “Purim,” was left to the PMA, where it hangs today in Gallery 267a. •

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## A Dispatch from Dark Days in Texas



BY BETSY MARKMAN

**DO YOU KNOW** the scene in “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” when all four grandparents share the same bed in an effort to keep warm? Texas has been like that this week, but without a daughter at the stove cooking soup.

I am currently in the suburbs northwest of Austin, Texas, where I am sitting out the power outages in a friend’s guestroom. I am warm, safe, dry, fed and enjoying the company of several others. We’re very fortunate. Exceedingly fortunate to have what we need and be able to offer warmth, hospitality, cooked food and electricity to others.

I write this on the third day of my evacuation, the fourth day of the storm, a few hours before (hopefully) we pick up an emergency supply of my heart medication that I spent hours yesterday getting transferred to the only open pharmacy in this suburb of 80,000 people.

Day 4 sees fresh snow on top of ice on top of 6 inches of existing snow that hasn’t melted. Any that’s disappeared is being heated in someone’s home to be used either to flush toilets or to melt into drinking water. Day 4 sees hunger set in for those whose food requires actual cooking.

Day 4 sees people give up hope. Day 4 is when we start hearing of people discovering deceased neighbors in the snow.

My apartment is a mile from the JCC in Austin. My power went out early Monday morning and returned yesterday, three hours after the water was turned off until further notice. The apartment is one of 300 in my complex, in a neighborhood of a half-dozen such complexes, shopping areas

and private homes. They’re all dark, and they’re all cold.

The neighborhood is about 50 years old, and the city never ran gas lines, so everything is all electric and has had no power at all since the wee hours of Monday night. The temperature has been below freezing the whole time, down to 9 degrees Tuesday.

When I woke up at 4 a.m. Monday, I was cold, but my Facebook friends told me we were part of a system of 40-minute rolling blackouts. Forty minutes off, four hours on. No big deal. Then 40 minutes turned to four hours, then seven hours and finally 40 hours. My phone service went out by 7 a.m. Monday, so I just lay in bed reading on my iPad. The phone lit up at 8 with Facebook messages and texts, including a note from a good friend in the suburbs who had light, gas heat and a gas stove. He also drives a pickup.

I messaged him and asked if I might be able to stay with him and asked him to pick me up if I still didn’t have power by noon. The phone service

went out again, and we didn’t connect until about 2 p.m., when I borrowed the phone of a neighbor with a different carrier. I texted this friend, as well as my dad and my son on opposite coasts.

I know my city doesn’t really have snowplows, but I didn’t expect his 30-minute round trip to take more than two hours. He was unable to get up the hill into my apartment complex and parked a block from the entrance, two blocks from me. He walked uphill the rest of the way, then walked back down carrying three days’ worth of my supplies.

I evacuated early. I am not sure how well I could have survived in an unheated home with no communication. I feel guilty as I use my fully charged phone to read Facebook updates from friends who are charging their phones in the cars. Facebook has been amazing during this time, as the few in my neighborhood group who have four-wheel-drive SUVs transport firewood, diapers and food from neighbor to neighbor.

The local middle school has become a “warming station” but only until 9 p.m. The synagogue I attend opened this morning as a refuge, one hour after the power came back and water was confirmed. The giving and sharing are heartwarming and among the most important work happening anywhere in the country.

COVID-19 complicates everything about this recovery, and I wonder if we’ll have repercussions from the fact that many families are doubled up, with far more human contact than anyone has had in months. One of the people who evacuated to the home where I’m staying has not had either COVID jab. I’ve had both plus two weeks for them to take effect, and my host has had one.

Shabbat arrives tomorrow night, and I look forward to hearing my host chant kiddush after I light candles. Other candles have been far more important this week. •

Betsy Markman is a middle school ESL teacher in Austin, Texas.

## Embracing a Different Kind of Purim Tradition



BY SHARON WEISS-GREENBERG

**ONE YEAR AGO**, we were debating how to navigate Purim carnivals — not whether they should take place. We were told that masks would not protect you from COVID-19 and were to be worn to celebrate Purim

purely for entertainment.

Last year, my family dressed and attended Megillah readings with fewer than 100 people, which was considered extremely cautious at the time. By forgoing a potluck Purim meal for pizzas that were delivered and served to family units, we did not feel like we were compromising the holiday too much — and in making said minor adjustments, we were in fact going above and beyond the then gold standard to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A number of people sent coronavirus-themed *mishloach manot* or dressed up like Corona beer, but we all thought that this would pass well before

we had set our tables for the Passover seder.

We were living in a more innocent time. The novel coronavirus that originated in China would soon sweep the globe, but for many of us it still felt far away. Testing was halting at first, and it wasn’t until after we had put away our Purim groggers and costumes that we became fully aware of how dramatically cases around the world had begun to spike. Then the lockdowns began and life has never been the same.

Since Purim one year ago, we have adjusted, adapted and found compromises — both clever and painful — for observing and celebrating

Jewish holidays. We’ve gone virtual for many rituals and services, and done our best to maintain connections, relationships and community. It seems that as we approach each holiday still knee-deep in the pandemic, we begin by worrying about what this holiday can look like. We wonder how we can salvage the joyful, meaningful experiences.

When it comes to Purim, this feels especially painful. Not only are we one year into the pandemic, but Purim translates especially poorly to Zoom. How can we experience the cathartic joy, the carnivalesque release, the downright

silliness when we are not together?

But instead of trying to recapture the raucous joy of Purim, it’s time to adjust our attitude and lean into a different, often neglected side of this holiday.

There are four mitzvot related to the holiday of Purim: reading the Megillah of Esther (which tells the story), eating and drinking in a festive manner, sending *mishloach manot* (edible food packages) and giving to the poor.

This last should be our focus.

We will still read the Megillah

See Weiss-Greenberg, Page 38



# Overcoming Imposter Syndrome as a Rabbi



BY RABBI DAHLIA BERNSTEIN

**I AM LATE TO** Yom Kippur – which isn’t a problem except I’m leading services. My flight to Rochester was canceled, and my father, who is also a rabbi, is now standing in for me until I arrive. I get to the building, and services have started when I peer into the sanctuary, and I see my father killing it from the bimah.

My heart sinks, and I almost don’t go in. Imagine Rabbi Bernstein Sr. — suit, salt-and-pepper beard and a James Earl Jones baritone voice. Then there is me — an ill-fitting suit, mezzo-soprano voice and racking insecurities.

Whether it is rational or not, I feel like an imposter and know they will see right through me.

I spent many years working through the feeling that I would never be enough. I both fiercely defended my right to be a rabbi and also secretly felt fearful that I wasn’t the expert that they needed me to be. To some degree, everyone feels that way when they enter a new position, yet for some, that feeling lingers. One fear is that the quirk we think is so unprofessional may undermine our leadership, and the “imposter” within it wants to run and hide.

One issue I have with using the phrase “imposter syndrome” is that people often just stop there. We sit in the uncomfortable space of not feeling like we

are enough, and because this space feels so familiar, we accept that feeling like an imposter will just have to be the cost of being a leader. We get stuck looking at those who seem so confident and think, “If only I could be more like them.”

So we contort and spend our energy trying to be something we are not. It’s a cycle, and it has to end for you to feel the freedom and power you are looking for. Before his death, Rabbi Zusya said, “In the coming world, they will not ask me, ‘Why were you not Moses?’ They will ask me, ‘Why were you not Zusya?’”

Mic drop.

## We cannot risk losing any member of our precious tribe because of our insecurities.

Martin Buber shared Rabbi Zusya’s gut-punching message long before anyone was talking about “imposter syndrome.” Despite powerful teachings like this, we still fear leading the Jewish community we love so much. When questions that might change the way “things were done” come our way, even if we have innovative ideas, many of us hear this subversive voice that screams, “You’re going to mess it up” or “They won’t respect you if ...”

That voice is a nasty gremlin planted in our minds many years ago to protect us and keep us small, yet it rears its ugly head when the moment calls us to lead in a big way. Interestingly, the fear is twofold: both that we are too weak to make a difference and that we are so powerful that we can corrupt this vast and long-lasting tradition with just one decision.

It is a communal imperative to lead as ourselves. If we

want our institutions and this beautiful tradition to flourish, then leaders and communities need to be courageous enough to embody today’s diverse voices. I guarantee you that if it is your truth, it is someone else’s truth, too.

And we cannot risk losing any member of our precious tribe because of our insecurities.

After all, the amount of energy it takes to try to be someone we are not can be spent in more productive ways. We are leaking energy that could be better used in the service of our greater values and our institution’s missions.

So what if I told you that not only could you be yourself, but you could be precisely what your boss, your co-workers and the Jewish people need? It’s real, and it’s simple, and the first step is to accept that you don’t need all of the answers right now to be powerful.

Your intuition — combined with logic and emotional awareness — will help you locate the resources you need. Accepting yourself is not the same thing as “letting yourself off the hook.” Self-acceptance is the key to leadership.

Consider what Rabbi Nahman of Breslov said: “When you were born, the Universe decided it could not live without you.”

You are — and always have been — enough. •

Dahlia Bernstein is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Ohr in Bellmore, New York. This piece was first published by eJewishPhilanthropy.

## KVETCH 'N' KVELL

### Twerski Was ‘Astounding’

**THE FIRST TIME I HEARD** the name of Abraham Twerski was at a seder in Milwaukee in 1958. One of my first jobs when I graduated from college was in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and living in the Midwest was new to me. A local family did not want me to be alone on Passover and insisted that I go with them to a relative’s seder in Milwaukee. The seder had almost 40 people — relatives, friends and strangers who were far from home.

During the seder, the locals were talking about an Orthodox medical student who was so smart and brilliant that he was astounding the faculty at the medical school — Abraham Twerski. Reading the op-ed in the Exponent by Rabbi Zvi Gluck (“Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski Made Jewish Addiction Work Possible,” Feb. 11) is a reminder of my own experience, and filled in more information about the life and work of Abraham Twerski.

Jerome Leventhal | Silver Spring, Maryland

### Democrats Do Support Israel

Lisa Sandler’s letter (“Lifelong Democrat Shares Concerns,” Feb. 11) claims that “Democrats are no supporters of Israel ...” I have no idea how she comes to this gross generalization, but I am a lifelong Democrat, have been a Lower Merion Democratic committeeman, am a founder of Democratic Jewish Outreach PA, a federal PAC, and I am and have been my entire life a strong supporter of the state of Israel. I have purchased Israel bonds, visited relatives in Israel many times, and I’ve raised campaign funds for Sen. Bob Casey and other strong supporters of Israel. Casey, a Democrat, has voted for every military and other aid bill in support of Israel in Congress.

So, Democrats are supporters of Israel, contrary to Sandler’s misguided letter.

David Broida | Bryn Mawr

### It Feels Like Proof

“Finding God in Nature After My Dog’s Death” (Feb. 11) was a magnificent piece of writing that brought me to tears. It totally expresses my feelings about how nature is absolute proof there must be some kind of God. •

Sherry Wolkoff | Marlton, New Jersey

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# Triple Coconut Cake

## FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

**THIS CAKE WAS BORN** out of a surplus of coconut cream. My daughter used a portion of a can for quinoa porridge, and I wanted to use the rest before it went bad.

I am always on the lookout for tasty pareve desserts, and this one fit the bill. The cake itself is a riff on a traditional vanilla batter cake that is topped with caramel.

The caramel glaze, which normally uses heavy cream and butter, came together with coconut cream and coconut oil instead. I used unsweetened coconut for the topping — toasted then mixed with confectioner's sugar — but sweetened, flaked coconut

would do the job, too, toasted or not. Hence the “triple coconut cake” moniker.

Because it is pareve, the cake can follow any dinner. And it can go in many different directions.

There is definitely a Southern vibe: Coconut layer cake is an iconic and traditional dessert down South.

But I also feel this pulling to South Asia — Thai, Indian, Malaysian and other cuisines in that part of the world use a lot of coconut in both savory and sweet dishes. You could certainly highlight that culinary geography by adding chopped fresh mango as a garnish at the table or mixing ginger or cardamom into the cake batter.

And there's an association with Mexican and Central American cuisines, which frequently use coconut as an indigenous ingredient. Consider adding lime zest and juice to the various components, or serve it with sliced pineapple to enhance the Mexican angle.

Finally, if you and yours despise coconut, you can tweak the cake by substituting equal amounts of butter, margarine or shortening for the coconut oil, and buttermilk, regular milk or non-dairy milk for the coconut cream. In the caramel, swap heavy cream and butter (or non-dairy substitutes) for the coconut ingredients.

If you want a crunchy topping that doesn't involve coconut, you can toast chopped almonds, pecans or walnuts — or skip that step entirely and let the caramel glaze stand on its own.

oil, line it with parchment, then spray the parchment. Set it aside.

In a mixing bowl, blend the coconut oil and sugar on

medium until fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each. Add the coconut

cream and blend again. Sift the



## TRIPLE COCONUT CAKE

*Makes a 9-inch round cake, or about 8 servings, depending upon how you slice it*

A note on the ingredients: To achieve maximum coconut flavor, use unrefined virgin coconut oil; it has a much stronger coconut flavor. Most refined coconut oil has little or no coconut flavor. As for the coconut cream, this is a thicker, higher-fat version of coconut milk. If you can't find it, full-fat coconut milk will work, but the caramel will be a bit thinner.

### The cake:

- ½ cup coconut oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup coconut cream
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt

Heat your oven to 350 F, spray a round cake pan with

▲ Triple coconut cake with caramel glaze

Photos by Keri White

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dry ingredients into the bowl and mix until fully blended. The batter will be thick.

Scrape the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 35 minutes until done and lightly brown. The cake is done when the center springs back when lightly pressed with your finger or a toothpick comes out clean.

Cool the cake for a few minutes and, when it is cool enough to handle, invert it, removed the parchment and place it back in the pan or on a cake plate to glaze. Using a skewer or chopstick, poke holes in the cake so that the caramel can permeate when poured over.

**The caramel glaze:**

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup water
- ½ cup coconut cream
- ½ cup coconut oil

In a medium saucepan, melt the sugar and water over medium heat and let boil until caramelized; this will take about 10 minutes. It must be watched carefully, as once it begins to caramelize it will go from liquid gold to scorched black tar quickly.

When the sugar and water

mixture has reached a golden color and a syrup-like texture, add the coconut cream. Stir and allow it to blend to a smooth texture. If the sugar crystallizes, don't worry, just keep stirring over a low heat until it melts again. Add the coconut oil, and stir again until the caramel is golden and thick.

Pour the hot caramel slowly over the cake, allowing it to drip into the holes. Let the cake cool a bit before topping it with toasted coconut.

**The toasted coconut topping:**

- ¾ cup unsweetened shredded coconut
- ⅓ cup powdered sugar

In a medium-sized skillet, heat the coconut over medium, stirring and turning occasionally with a spatula, while watching carefully. After about 8-10 minutes, the coconut will begin to turn golden — once it starts to brown, the toasting happens quickly. Stir until all of the coconut is toasted, and pour it into a small bowl. Add the sugar and stir.

Pour the toasted coconut over the caramel glaze on top of the cake. ●



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# THE LOOK

## Pandemic Fashion: Going Beyond the Mask

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

IN 2020, comfort was key.

Elissa Bloom, executive director of the Philadelphia Fashion Incubator, saw the popularity of items like sweatpants, sneakers and leggings skyrocket throughout the fashion world. Those fortunate enough to work from home started taking business calls in sweatsuits instead of pantsuits and attended conferences in dress shirts over pajama bottoms.

Even as business casual outfits hang abandoned in closets, Bloom, who is Jewish, said local designers elevated the humble sweatshirt to a stylish wardrobe staple without sacrificing comfort.

"I know that a lot of different designers have been manipulating the sweatshirts or putting an applique or painting or doing embroidery," she said.

Danielle Tobin, founder of the apparel and accessories brand Elle Tobin, has embraced what she describes as the "COVID cozy" trend and designed several brightly colored sweatshirts from sustainable materials and reflective fabric that glows in the dark.

"It was most inspired by comfort first, and the second thing I was inspired by was just being bright and bold. Things were dark, and there was a lot of uncertainty, and I really just wanted to bring some sunshine to people's faces," she said.

Galit Carmely, owner of the boutique My Little Redemption in Old City, said the emphasis on comfort and bright colors combined with another trend: the return of the '80s. Shoulder pads and oversized sneakers were already creeping back into closets before the pandemic hit, but the necessity of working from home combined with a desire for bright visuals has accelerated the popularity of



▲ Granaté Prêt face masks

Photo by Annina King



▲ A Samsara Sari tutu skirt

Courtesy of Namita Penugonda Reddy

loose fits and colorful prints.

Carmely prefers the oversized sweatshirt trend to leggings, which she thinks are clingy and unflattering. She gravitates more toward classic and timeless pieces in her own wardrobe and inventory, but embraced the emphasis on comfort and some of the subtler aesthetic trends of 2020.

"I'm going toward the colorful pieces, a lot of matching," said Carmely, who is Israeli. "Pieces like a jacket that's not very fitted, that's more loose and comfortable, but has some shape to it. And I'm all about the same color for the top and the bottom."

See Fashion, Page 26

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# Home Design Trends: Functional Spaces

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**THE PANDEMIC'S BEEN** a busy time for interior designers, as clients restricted to their living rooms, kitchens and desks are finding that the new normal might call for a new couch.

Interior designers Amy Cuker (Down2Earth Interior Design), Candice Adler (Candice Adler Design) and Michelle Erdosi (Aeternum Design Studio) spoke to the Exponent about the choices they and their clients have made in the past year.

**Amy Cuker,**  
**Down2Earth Interior Design**

Since the pandemic began, Cuker and her team at Elkins

Park-based Down2Earth Interior Design have worked exclusively on residential projects. With lockdowns and shelter-in-place orders, Cuker anticipated that clients would come to see the home office as newly essential. They'd not only need a comfortable, productive space to work in, Cuker theorized, but one that served as a cocoon in a home with children.

But it didn't turn out that way. Instead of home offices, Cuker said, it's been mostly about basements, whether unfinished or in need of an update. When one party needs noise and the other needs quiet, it seems that the squeaky wheel is getting the grease. And extra time at home has afforded more attention to

worn surfaces, nicked corners and scuffed paint. Projects that might've been put off in the past in favor of travel, summer camp or leisure activities are finally getting completed.

"Counterintuitively, these aren't necessarily projects that address a specific pandemic need," Cuker said. "It's more just, you're finally prioritizing them."

Kitchens are a priority, as always. Storage space is valued in a way that it wasn't before, Cuker said, as families are finding that they want more food in the house. And Cuker's seen formal dining spaces reclaimed as an extension of the kitchen, as the pandemic has allowed some families to admit the truth: They weren't

entertaining all that much before, and they don't plan to start when it becomes a possibility again.

**Candice Adler,**  
**Candice Adler Design**

Like Cuker, Cherry Hill-based Candice Adler has found the extra time at home has turned "maybe next year" changes into "why not now?" projects for her clients.

But Adler's guidance for the people she works with hasn't changed: When it comes to couches, chairs and sitting areas, she says, "if it's comfortable enough for a seder, then it's going to work."

Non-functional seating that serves purely aesthetic purposes is waning in

popularity, while functional space is the name of the game. Spare bedrooms increasingly double as gyms and offices, and basements that needed work have gotten it. Unlike Cuker, Adler has seen a slight increase in the demand for home offices, but she's noticed a greater emphasis on the kitchen as a place to congregate, which has led to more attention to space and storage — larger fridges, especially.

And whereas silver was the trend in kitchens for a long time, brass is coming back, Adler said, so everyone who got rid of their brass in favor of silver is switching it back, and everyone who dragged their feet on making the switch is delighted to find that they have



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▲ Families now want more kitchen space, according to Candice Adler, who designed the rooms above. Photo by Candice Adler



▲ A kitchen designed by Amy Cuker of Down2Earth Interior Design

Photo by Rebecca McAlpin

no switch to make.

"They're like, 'Oh my God, it's come back!'" Adler said.

Lastly, Adler sees that her years of stressing the importance of lighting are finally paying off, as clients now realize how transformative new lighting choices can be.

"If you really want to give your room a face lift without spending a ton, a little bit of paint and a fabulous light will go a very long way," Adler said. "It can change everything."

## Michelle Erdosi, Aeternum Design Studio

Aeternum, based in Fishtown, typically splits time between private residence jobs and commercial design. Erdosi's specialty is hospitality, so as the world of her clients contracted, her expertise in figuring out what makes a warm and inviting public space has been brought to bear on

private homes.

"It all kind of comes down to having that people-centric sense of hospitality and experience, to be the focus of how we design," Erdosi said.

This year, being people-centric has meant designing for interiors where working hours often bleed into after-work. Creating home offices, living rooms and kitchens that are "a little bit more multi-functional and a little more flexible," Erdosi said, is her way of meeting client needs.

Erdosi is seeing the same trends as Cuker and Adler: Goodbye, beautiful, inhospitable chairs; hello, function and performance in every room — but especially the kitchen.

"I see that as a performance space, where we ask of that space and we need it to deliver and not just look cute," she said. ●

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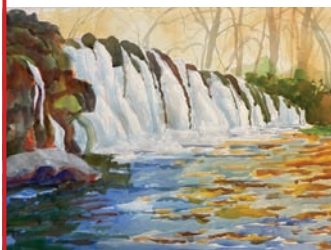


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## THE LOOK

### Fashion

Continued from Page 23

She expects high-waisted pants and more bright prints will be popular this summer. Much like last year, comfort will dictate outfit preferences; think fewer dresses and more jumpsuits.

Bloom said eye-catching accessories have become popular due to the ubiquity of Zoom meetings.

"Statement earrings and necklaces have been making a comeback because people are only visible from the chest up on Zoom calls," she explained. "I've seen a lot of really interesting, more chunky, kind of bold types of necklaces and earrings."

She added that Incubator designers have also embraced face masks, which are literally the must-have accessory of the pandemic since you won't be allowed in the grocery store without one. Tobin has created several using reflective fabric, and Annina King, owner of Granaté Prêt, created a line of masks embellished with Swarovski crystals and hand-painted by local artists.

"Who would have thought, a year ago, that masks would be our fashion accessory of the year? That we'd be finding one to match every outfit or match our winter scarf?" she said.

King also started an initiative to hire local workers to sew masks for hospitals that needed them in the early days of the pandemic. She is now working on a line of masks that will minimize acne for wearers and consulting dermatologists to find the best materials.

Bloom said the supply chain issues and economic upheaval created by the pandemic accelerated a trend of upcycling and sustainability that has built over the past few years. Rather than shopping for new clothes, people are more likely to spend carefully, alter or tailor items they already own or embrace do-it-yourself projects like tie-dye.



▲ Elle Tobin sweatshirt

Photo by Anna Tobin

Namita Penugonda Reddy, founder of Samsara Sari, repurposes old saris into dresses, skirts, scrunchies and other items. *Samsara*, which means "rebirth" in Sanskrit, refers to the process of giving new life to used garments. During the pandemic, she has focused on making tutu skirts for young girls.

"Even if they aren't going anywhere, people still want their kids to look cute," she said.

Bloom said the recession has led to a surge of interest in shopping locally, fueled by an awareness that struggling small businesses might not make it through the pandemic without shoppers' support. Rather than ordering from fast fashion retail giants like H&M, people are thinking strategically about preserving businesses that contribute to their local economy and communities.

"People are really being more discerning and thinking, 'What is important to me? What are the essentials that I really need in my wardrobe?'" she said. ●

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# Jews of Philly Fashion: Jacob Hurwitz

## FASHION

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

*It's the newest edition of Jews of Philly Fashion, introducing you to the Chosen few who dress our city. They might mix wool and linen, but they've got some strong opinions on mixing stripes with florals. In this space, we'll talk to designers, sellers, buyers, influencers, models and more. This week, we spoke to Jacob Hurwitz.*

**JACOB HURWITZ HAS** an unusual resume for a fashion designer: He's worked as a math teacher and as a senior quantitative risk analyst.

But Hurwitz, 41, is not your typical designer, and his

Ardmore-based menswear line American Trench is something different as well.

The son of an electrician and a nurse, Hurwitz was as interested in fashion as any teen — he shudders now at his fascination with logo tees — but it wasn't until after college that he took it a step further, when he took a job at the Mitchell & Ness flagship store.

That was a fortunate time to grab on: Mitchell & Ness' high-quality retro jerseys were skyrocketing in popularity, and Hurwitz had a front-row seat to watch a brand take off.

Hurwitz taught for several years after getting a graduate degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania, and then settled into a secure

job in the energy sector. Along the way, he watched as cheap, disposable clothing made overseas exploded in popularity while American manufacturing dwindled.

Yearning to get out from behind a computer and make something tangible, Hurwitz got together with his friend David Neill and they launched a Kickstarter campaign that promised well-made U.S.-crafted men's trench coats and socks. Now, eight years later, American Trench offers jeans, sweaters and other basics too, and is sold in stores all over the country.

**What's the last book you read?**

"Delivering Happiness" by Tony Hsieh. The recent news of Tony's death is a tragic end to a brilliant mind who made a very cool company and built a great culture but couldn't overcome his own unhappiness.

**What clothing trend would you like to see make a comeback?**

After COVID, I'm hoping

people get into looking nice again and return to some form of "dressing up." Tailored clothing, outerwear, hoodies and sweatpants can live together in the same closet. It doesn't have to be all lounge wear or all dress-up.

**Best jersey you ever saw at Mitchell & Ness?**

Tie. Brooklyn Dodgers Jackie Robinson home with the red 42 lettering, and the 1950 Phillies Whiz Kids Richie Ashburn.

**What's the best quality in a friend?**

Compassion.

**What's your most treasured item?**

The love and wisdom my parents have given me over my lifetime.

**What item of clothing should more people wear?**

High-quality T-shirts. Like high-quality socks and underwear, they make a huge

difference in daily comfort.

**Whose style do you admire?**

Bruce Pask, the men's fashion director of Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus. Even though he is the creative director of such posh stores, he dresses in a very approachable way, and mixes things really well, like jean jackets under overcoats.

**Who's an exciting designer in Philadelphia that people aren't talking about enough?**

David DiLorenzo of Dilo Home is making wicked good candles. His scents are just next level. I've always liked the idea of candles but never really burned them at home with any frequency. But now I get it.

**What talent would you most like to have?**

I wish I could dance. I have no rhythm. ●

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▲ Jacob Hurwitz of American Trench

Photo by Joseph Stern Photography

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# Comedian Jackie Hoffman Is Ready for This to End

## THEATER

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

**JACKIE HOFFMAN'S** used to being onstage or in front of the camera, so this pandemic thing isn't sitting well with her.

"I'm just sitting shiva for the loss of live theater," the Queens-born comedian and singer said, adding that she's passed some of the time with voice work or on TV shows that shoot in New York.

She'll pass a little more time with the Bucks County Playhouse on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., when she appears in "Word of Mouth: Fast Forward." Hosted by NPR's Ophira Eisenberg and the Playhouse's Michaela Murphy, the streaming program will showcase monologues by Hoffman, model Eric Rutherford

and Eric Woodall, resident director of the Broadway touring and Las Vegas productions of "Mamma Mia!"

Hoffman, 60, will talk about being nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or Movie for her role as Joan Crawford's housekeeper "Mamacita" in 2017's "Feud: Bette and Joan." The eight-episode miniseries detailed the contentious relationship between Crawford and Bette Davis and featured Mamacita often walking on eggshells around her volatile employer — but standing up to her, too.

"I didn't know a lot about the real-life person," said Hoffman, who lost out on the award to Laura Dern. "It was kind of frightening because Jessica [Lange] was so convincing as

Joan Crawford."

Hoffman said she doesn't have favorites, but her role in "Feud" ranked right up there, as she enjoyed working with noted producer Ryan Murphy and Hollywood stars Susan Sarandon (who played Davis), Judy Davis, Alfred Molina, Stanley Tucci, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Kathy Bates. She worked with Murphy again more recently in "The Politician."

Hoffman has a dry wit, the kind that comes out in Facebook posts like one she wrote early last year: "If you're in Ft. Lauderdale and still mobile, catch this embittered New Yorker's evening of music and comedy that's not a musical comedy. All inclusive, gays preferred." It's typical of the voice she features in her one-woman shows, in which she talks wryly about her Jewish background and her personal life.

"I was blessed with a hysterectomy," she said, noting that it provided plenty of material for her show at the time, "Jackie With a Z." A 2007 New York Times article noted she was performing three weeks after surgery, "with a cot backstage for whenever she wasn't singing or talking."

Hoffman grew up shomer Shabbat with a kosher kitchen, regular shul visits and nine years in yeshiva. Although not religious today, Hoffman did play Yenta in "Fidler Afn Dakh," a Yiddish adaptation of "Fiddler on the Roof" that ran from 2018 to 2019.

Although she's comfortable with all types of performance, she likes live performance best, especially her solo shows at Joe's Pub in New York.

"That's the most terrifying and draining, but it's the most rewarding," she said. "If it fails, it's all on you."

Hoffman's built a lengthy resume over the years, with 70 acting credits listed on imdb.com, including the upcoming film "Shiva Baby" about a



▲ Jackie Hoffman

Photo by Andrew Warner

college student running into her sugar daddy while at a Jewish funeral with her parents.

On TV, she's had roles on everything from "Curb Your Enthusiasm" to "30 Rock" to "The Good Wife." Oddly, she's never appeared in any of the New York-shot "Law & Order" programs, although she did audition once. She joked that she was the only New York-based actor to never appear in the long-running shows.

Film roles have included "Legally Blonde 2," "Kissing Jessica Stein," "Birdman" and "Garden State."

On Broadway, she performed in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "On the Town," "The Addams Family," "Xanadu," "Hair" and "Hairspray." In Chicago, she starred in six revues at The Second City Theatre, winning the Jeff Award for Best Actress.

To fill a little more time while she's waiting to get back to the stage, Hoffman will also

appear on XM Radio in March with host Seth Rudetsky in a livestreamed discussion and performance.

In the meantime, Hoffman plans to while away the days watching "reality dreck" like "Real Housewives."

"It's almost like an altar I daven at because there's nothing else to do," she said. "It's a great escape."

As for her upcoming Bucks virtual gig, it may mark her first area performance, though she has been to Philadelphia: She remembers a visit to the Mütter Museum.

"Any town that has a conjoined Siamese twin colon is my kind of town," she said.

Tickets for "Word of Mouth: Fast Forward" are \$15 and are available at StellarTickets.com. For details, visit BucksCountyPlayhouse.org or call 215-862-2121. •

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# In Light We Are Seen

BY RABBI ROBERT LEIB

## Parshat Tetzaveh

**STEP INTO THE** Molish Sanctuary at Old York Road Temple-Beth Am in Abington and you're immediately enveloped by a breathtaking room with a soaring ceiling, continuous red brick walls and warm gold carpeting reminiscent of Sinai's desert sand.

Designed by noted architect Vincent G. Kling and completed in 1972, this spiritual oasis includes, ipso facto, our award-winning *aron kodesh*, holy ark, and *Ner Tamid*, eternal light, both designed by the late Hungarian architect Mark Zubar.

Our *Ner Tamid* consists of glass cut into flamelike shapes that irregularly jut out of its brass fixture. Above the flames, an expansive *Magen David*, Star of David, is etched in black into the white-painted concrete ceiling, creating a powerful image of the symbols of the Jewish faith.

Exodus 27:20, the opening verse of this Shabbat's sedrah, Tetzaveh, is the well-known biblical source for the *Ner Tamid*, the so-called eternal light, found in each and every synagogue.

I'm intrigued by the thought that the commandment of the *Ner Tamid* is suspended (literally and figuratively!) between the very exhaustive description of the mishkan, the desert tabernacle, found in *last* Shabbat's portion, Terumah, and the detailed description of the elegant, ceremonial clothing worn by Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons — the tabernacle's officiants — which immediately follows the opening verses in this Shabbat's portion.

One can thus infer from the biblical narrative spanning chapters 25-28, that the *Ner Tamid* bridges the celestial world of holy space with the temporal world of consecrated individuals who, in turn, minister to

the people. At the very intersection of the sacred and the profane; at today's nexus of rabbinic-led ritual obligation and lay-congregational practice, it is the *Ner Tamid* — more than any other symbol reminiscent of the ancient tabernacle — that continues to symbolize the eternal presence of God in our midst.

Occasionally, I've had congregants walk through a pitch-black sanctuary — invariably a sight few, if any, have ever witnessed — lit only by the incandescent glow of the *Ner Tamid*: Judaism's answer to a dependable, comforting, reassuring night light that illuminates the meeting place where heaven and earth reside; the abode where the spiritual and temporal dwell; the assembly where pulpit and pew embrace.

Such a nighttime scenario also elicits the subsequent question of the sages: "*Mei'ei matai ...?*" when could the ritual sacrifices resume in the morning? The Talmud in Berachot 9b offers a few illustrative suggestions but the most compelling explanation is more of a sociological one: "*mi'she'yireh et chaveiro rachok arba amot, va'yakirenu.*"

Dawn is defined as when one can see other people from a distance and recognize them as friends! That, essentially, is when the darkness begins to lift and when we can acknowledge the dignity, the humanity of the "other" in our midst. Such an interpretation also suggests that, for us, the once communal act of in-person worship (may such a scenario return *bimheirah v'yameinu!*) must necessarily be preceded by the basic, fundamental act of human interaction and mutual recognition. To greet one another in the flesh, *panim el panim*, face-to-face, is certainly the ideal, of course, even if that's had to be severely if not completely curtailed this past year.

This Shabbat *also* happens to mark the annual celebration of Shushan Purim in both the Old City and the adjacent neighborhoods of Jerusalem. *Maseichot*, the ubiquitous wearing of masks, highlights for us — as it does each and every year — the stark and sobering realization that the real world of true spirituality, of authentic collaboration, of unpretentious partnership lies underneath the surface and the superficiality of mask wearing.

So, permit me to remove my own mask of shame and contend that we Americans are *still* suspended between the darkness of yesterday and the light of tomorrow. Will we *still* be entrapped by the sinister darkness of systemic racism and inequality; of white supremacy and ethnic bigotry; of cultural

prejudice and gender bias; of wild conspiracy theories and blatant anti-Semitism?

Or, rather, will we — slowly but surely — move into the broad daylight of mutual tolerance, respect, acceptance and compromise?

The Talmud actually compares the long night of exile to the dawn of Purim. For when dawn breaks, all that was previously hidden will finally be revealed. Whatever appeared dark is now bathed in the gleaming light of day when we can, if we will it, stand quietly and confidently on the border of light.

Like our biblical ancestors of old, we too live in the warm shadow of the *Ner Tamid*, which offers comfort and consolation, healing and hope, respite and renewal. The oldest surviving

symbol in all of Judaism reminds us that a new day has dawned. Let us attempt, with all our might, to be *chaverim*, friends one to the other, so that the better angels of our nature might yet vouchsafe for us all the blessings of a better and brighter tomorrow. ●

Rabbi Robert Leib is the senior rabbi of Old York Road Temple-Beth Am in Abington. The Board of Rabbis is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



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## Connie Smukler: A Real-life Hero for the Soviet Jews

WHEN ISRAELI POLITICIAN and human rights activist Natan Sharansky published "Never Alone: Prison, Politics, and My People," a memoir chronicling his years of political imprisonment in Soviet Russia and life after his release, it quickly drew global acclaim.

But his harrowing story also caught local attention when Sharansky named one of his liberators as Philadelphia resident Connie Smukler.

Released last year, Sharansky's "Never Alone" reads: "[Connie Smukler] and her comrades created an international network of hospitality, hosting the families of prisoners of Zion, who crisscrossed the world ... going from home to home, town to town, and country to country, advocating for their loved ones' freedom."

Sharansky praised Smukler as a pillar of strength during his incarceration.

"My experiences with Sharansky have defined me in many ways," Smukler said. "I look at him and see a treasure for our Jewish people. It's thrilling to know I've had a little bit to do with that. I want to be remembered as someone who made a difference. In a way, he's given me that legacy."

That legacy is an impressive one. Smukler and her husband, Joe, were leaders of a 1970s and 1980s movement to liberate thousands of Jews from an oppressive Soviet Union. This included refuseniks, Soviet Jews, such as Sharansky, who were stripped of their rights to emigrate.

It wasn't until 1973, during a visit to Israel, that Smukler realized how dire the situation was for refuseniks. On the trip, the Smuklers met a Soviet man who pleaded with them to save his brother's life. "You have to get my brother out of Leningrad. He is my whole life. I cannot live without him," the man begged.

That was the moment Smukler realized that she needed to take action. "I had never seen a Soviet Jew before," she said. "But I had this charge, and I had to do something."

After that interaction, Smukler helped inspire a local group of housewives who wanted to advocate for the freedom of Soviet Jews. Through the Soviet Jewry Council of the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council, they organized protests, marches and hunger strikes, and they relentlessly lobbied Congress to take action.

Smukler, herself, made countless trips to the former Soviet Union, secretly meeting with Soviet Jews to hear their stories and help refuseniks navigate the Soviet oppression they faced. After a KGB interrogation in 1981, Smukler was no longer permitted entry to Russia until the fall of the Iron Curtain.

However, it was in 1975 when the Smuklers first met Sharansky during one of their visits to the Soviet Union. The couple and the refusenik activist immediately connected through their shared passion to champion the rights of Jewish people. Not long after this initial meeting, Sharansky was arrested and sentenced to the Soviet gulag, convicted for trumped-up charges.

"It was terrible. I didn't know how I would survive. We supported other prisoners too, but he was my friend, and that made it even harder," Smukler said.

The Smuklers campaigned for Sharansky's release, and after nine years of imprisonment, he finally gained that freedom. Throughout that time, Smukler and her army of housewives persisted as part of an international network of efforts to pressure the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate. By the late 1980's, their work paid off and Soviet Jews began to receive more rights, including the right to emigrate.

Following this great achievement, Smukler continued to be an active leader in the local community. A current trustee and former vice chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and board member of the Anti-Defamation League, Smukler remains steadfast in her belief that grassroots efforts can truly make a difference. She recently established the Constance and Joseph Smukler Tribute to the Global Soviet Jewry Movement: Let My People Go exhibit at the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv, Israel.

"I grew up in a very anti-Semitic environment, always thinking I was missing something. Little did I know I was missing my Jewishness," she said. "My husband used to say that in every Jew there's a *pintele yid* [small spark of Jewish faith]. Sharansky helped light that spark, and it's been on fire ever since."



▲ Natan Sharansky and Connie Smukler on Glienicke Bridge in Berlin, the location where Sharansky famously crossed the border to gain his freedom in 1986  
Courtesy of Connie Smukler

### Did you know...

### The Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council

played a major role in gaining freedom for Jewish Soviets and helping their transition after emigration? Even today, the Jewish Federation continues to address the needs of people from the Former Soviet Union and Russia.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation Names Co-Chairs

THE PHILADELPHIA HOLOCAUST Remembrance Foundation has named Jake Reiter and Matt Pestronk co-chairs of the organization's board of directors.

Former chair David Adelman will remain a PHRF board member and part of the executive committee.

Pestronk, president of Post Brothers Apartments, and Reiter, president of Verde Capital Corp., have each served on the executive board for five years.

The organization also named five new board members. They are Matthew J. Meltzer, an associate at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Tony Payton, a partner at government relations firm David Scott Partners and a former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; David Waxman, the co-founder and managing partner of real estate development firm MMPartners; Justin Wineburgh, president and CEO of creative studio Alkemy X; and Jonathan S. Krause, the co-chair of the litigation department at Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg.

The PHRF said in a news release that it will launch new programs designed to provide enhanced Holocaust education. It also is developing curricula and teacher trainings about the common ground between racism and anti-Semitism.

The flagship program of the organization, which is a nonprofit that educates the public about the Holocaust, was the expansion of the Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza in Center City.

### Nemours duPont Hospital for Children Opens Kosher Pantry

Nemours duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware, opened a new kosher pantry in January to make meal preparation and storage convenient for Jewish families keeping kosher.

The pantry, which is available at all times, has a full-sized refrigerator, a microwave, cabinets for storage and space for meal preparation and clean-up.

"By being culturally aware and recognizing the importance of having kosher food readily available and the space with which to prepare it, we can enhance the patient experience while understanding we all want the same thing, the very best for the children entrusted to our care," said Cindy Bo, senior vice president of Delaware Valley strategy and business development at Nemours Children's Health System.

### Real Estate Developer Albert M. Greenfield III Dies at 65

Real estate developer and corporate bond trader Albert M. Greenfield III, whose grandfather and father were major Philadelphia-area real estate financiers, died Feb. 7 from Alzheimer's disease complications, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Greenfield acquired his grandfather's company and renamed it Albert M. Greenfield & Company, Inc. in 1990. He was known for promoting Chestnut

Street as a commercial zone that was pedestrian friendly and played a key role in renovating properties in Center City and Manayunk, among other areas.

Aside from serving on the board of the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, he was involved in the development of Dilworth Park and the Arden Children's Theatre.

Earlier in his career, he worked as an investment banker and a corporate bond trader.

Greenfield's grandfather was known as "Mr. Philadelphia" for his involvement in development, politics and civic affairs. Those included the 1944 acquisition of the financially troubled Jewish Exponent, which he turned over to the Allied Jewish Appeal, the precursor to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Greenfield is survived by his wife, Wendy; three sons, Aaron, Matthew and Jason; four grandchildren; and two sisters.

### Philanthropist Shirley Shils Dies at 100

Philanthropist Shirley Shils died Feb. 1 at her Penn Valley home. She was 100.

Shils and her late husband, Dr. Edward B. Shils, were involved in numerous philanthropic endeavors.

Shils served on the board and executive committee of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life, as vice president of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, and as chair of the Women's Division of Philadelphia Allied Jewish Appeal's Israeli Emergency Fund.

The couple endowed the Edward B. Shils and Shirley R. Shils Term Professorship in Entrepreneurial Management at the University of Pennsylvania in 2001. Earlier, they endowed the Edward B. and Shirley R. Shils Term Professorship in Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution at Penn's Carey Law School.

Penn Dental Medicine named the school's state of the art clinic after Edward and Shirley Shils in 2017.

Shils is survived by children Ronnie Burak, Nancy Shils and Edward Barry Shils, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### University of Pennsylvania Doctor Wins Israeli Dan David Prize

University of Pennsylvania cancer cell therapy pioneer Dr. Carl June was named a 2021 Dan David Prize laureate.

The Dan David Prize is endowed by the Dan David Foundation at Tel Aviv University, which annually awards three \$1 million prizes.

June is the Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine at Penn and director of the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center.

He was recognized in the "future" category for his contributions to molecular medicine, including his work in developing chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy, which in August 2017 was the first Food and Drug Administration-approved personalized cellular therapy for cancer.

June will share the \$1 million prize with Dr. Steven Rosenberg, chief of the surgery branch at the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Zelig Eshhar, an immunologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

The Dan David Prize is endowed by the Dan David Foundation at Tel Aviv University, which annually awards three \$1 million prizes. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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### BIRTH

#### ▼ CARSON SHAE WEINTRAUB

Gary and Erin Weintraub of Chicago announce the birth of their daughter, Carson Shae Weintraub, who was born on Oct. 19, 2020.

Sharing in the family's happiness are brother Hunter; great-grandmother Eleanor Belson of Bal Harbour, Florida; grandparents Susan and Stanley Weintraub of Havertown and Rhonda and Stuart Salins of Highland Park, Illinois; aunt Dayna, uncle Larry Weintraub and cousins Jonah and Noam Weintraub; uncle Louis Weintraub, aunt Samantha Jones and cousins Matthew, Ethan and Zoe Weintraub; aunt Lauren Salins, uncle Alex Solomon and cousin Eve; and aunt Nisa and uncle Jordan Salins.

Carson's Hebrew name is Mina. She is named for her maternal great-great-grandmother, Mina Bromberg.

Photo by Gary Weintraub



## 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

### Shirley R. Shils, 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.

Shirley joined the board in 1983 and was an active member of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center (PGC) community, Abramson Senior Care’s predecessor agency. She generously gave of her time, serving as the chair of the York House Committee and on the Public Relations and Marketing Committee, and the Community Services Committee. Shirley was also a lifetime member of the Abramson Auxiliary and a dedicated volunteer.

In addition to giving of her time, Shirley supported Abramson Senior Care’s mission to care for those seniors in need by graciously contributing to the Capital Campaign and annual fundraising gala. Her contributions have ensured that seniors throughout the Philadelphia region will continue to get the care and support they need.

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 children Dr. Ronnie Burak (Dr. Carl Burak), Nancy Shils and Edward Barry Shils; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; 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



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## COMMUNITY / *deaths*

### DEATH NOTICES



#### BERKOWITZ

Betty Berkowitz (nee Finberg) on February 13, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Bernard Weintraub and the late George Berkowitz; Loving mother of Philip (Janice) Weintraub, Jerry (Linda) Weintraub, Beverly (Jim) Childs, Adele (Jim) Oestreich and Daniel Weintraub. Also survived by 17 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. Services and interment were private.

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#### BIRNBAUM

Louis Birnbaum, passed away on February 13, 2021. He was survived by his daughter, Dona, his two granddaughters, his great grandson, special friends Tom and Eric, Sweet Potato and Ginger, nieces, great nieces, nephews, great nephews, childhood friends, and all who loved him.

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#### BLACK

Lee Forest Black, February 14, 2021 of Philadelphia, PA; beloved and cherished husband of Molly (nee Crane); dear son of Mickey & Barbara Black; cherished son-in-law of Robert Max Crane and Paula Crane; devoted brother of Anna Black Morin (Eric Morin); adored grandson of Marvin and the late Annette Wolowitz Black and Julian & Rita Ehrenberg; cherished uncle of Ruby and Hattie Morin. Also survived by his loving aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family and friends. Services were private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the not-for-profit “ Hughie and Selma Black Foundation,” funding organizations that provide camp experiences for children of all socio-economic backgrounds, 123 S. Broad Street, Suite 1200, Philadelphia, PA 19109, or a charity of the donor's choice. May the goodness of Lee's life be a blessing.

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### DEATH NOTICES

#### BRENNER

Gerald Stanley Brenner, beloved husband of Linda (Byer), passed away on February 11, 2021 at the age of 86. Born in Brooklyn, Gerry was the son of Abraham and Jean (Dembowitz), and adoring younger brother of Melvin, who predeceased him by just fifteen months. Gerry graduated from Samuel J. Tilden High School and the City College of New York before flying (for the first time in his life) to the University of Wisconsin where he earned his PhD in Organic Chemistry. He met his b'shert, Linda (a seventeen-year-old freshman), during his first week on campus. They were married three years later, in 1959. Gerry and Linda settled first in Plainfield, New Jersey, later moving to Plymouth Meeting, where they resided for nearly fifty years. They have belonged to Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Norristown, and subsequently Tiferet Bet Israel Synagogue in Blue Bell, since moving to the area in 1971. Gerry's career, which was also clearly his hobby, spanned nearly sixty years. He retired from Merck and Company as Senior Director of Pharmaceutical Research after 33 years, and began a second career as a consultant and expert witness to the pharmaceutical industry for another 24 years. When he wasn't doing the work he loved so passionately, he could be found on the racquetball court, in the garden, working on a home improvement project, or traveling with his beloved Linda. Gerry was full of gratitude for all of his blessings, and was always eager to give of himself to others. Whether in service to his synagogue or other charitable organizations or serving as an advocate to those who had difficulty advocating for themselves, he did the work quietly and without fanfare, but always to the utmost of his abilities. Gerry's greatest joy, in addition to his beloved Linda, was his brood of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is loved and missed by his children, Jeffrey (Tamar) Brenner, Beth (Dan) Heyman and Susan (Gidon) Yitzhak; his grandchildren, Avraham, Rachael, Asher, Shayna and Chaya Brenner, Bennett (Sara), Noah (Craig Arno) and Aaron Heyman, Brit (Elad) Siman Tov, Liad, Merav, Sarah and Ovadia Yitzhak; and great-grandchildren, Dakota, Randy and Amber Kraus and Yaakov and Avital Siman Tov. The family respectfully suggests memorial donations be directed to Tiferet Bet Israel, University of Wisconsin Hillel, or the Gerald Brenner Science Scholarship at City College of New York.

#### CHASE

Linda M Chase (nee Goodman) of Cherry Hill, New Jersey and Marco Island, Florida passed away on February 13. She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Paul, her children, Jodi (Tim) Heilizer, Jeff (Cathy) Chase and Mark (Alyssa) Chase, along with her niece Stacy Greenspan and nephew Steven (Jamie) Greenspan. Her grandchildren Alec, Jake, Nick, Ellie, Matthew, Ethan, Ilana, Maya, Jada, Travis, David, Samantha, Jason, Stephanie, Katy and Ani will miss her dearly. Linda grew up in Bala Cynwyd on Maple Ave, graduated from Lower Merion High School, then Penn State (We are...) with a degree in education. She was a lifelong camp person first at Indian Trails then Seneca Lake and finally serving as the Girls Head Counselor at Camp Kweebec for 25 years where she made an indelible mark and enriched numerous lives. She will be remembered for her compassion, kindness, spirit, positive energy, patience and generous heart. She always put others needs ahead of her own and helped those she knew find their best selves. She made lifelong friends wherever she went forging genuine connections. She was preceded in death by her loving sister Ina and parents Rose and Joseph Goodman. In accordance with her love of children donations can be made in her name to The Guadalupe Center ([www.guadalupecenter.org](http://www.guadalupecenter.org)) where she volunteered.

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### DEATH NOTICES



#### CASPER

Howard Morton Casper, 90, passed away on February 11, 2021 from COVID-19. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, daughter Susan Brenman, granddaughter, Emily, and grandson, 'Jule.' Howard was born in Philadelphia on March 16, 1930 to Sadie and Martin Casper. His older brother Lee passed away in 2016. Howard moved to Newark, NJ when he was a young boy, but returned to Philadelphia after graduating from Weequahic High School in 1948. He was in his Coast Guard uniform when he first met his bride-to-be, Nancy, at Horn & Hardarts in Bala Cynwyd. They shared 63 years traveling the world, collecting art, and surrounding themselves with cherished friends and family. The Casper Art Collection can be found at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, PA. As a builder, Howard and his partner Harold Sukonik built more than 5,000 homes in Northeast Philadelphia. An exceptionally generous man, Howard wished to make life a little easier for all whom he encountered. Contributions, if desired, may be sent to either the Bryn Mawr Hospital Foundation or Lankenau Medical Center Foundation at the following address: Main Line Health Development 240 North Radnor Chester Road Suite 340 Radnor, PA 19087. Please be sure to indicate, either in the Memo field of the check or on an accompanying note, that your gift is In Memory of Howard Casper Memorial contributions can also be made via Main Line Health's website for Bryn Mawr Hospital Foundation or Lankenau Medical Center Foundation:

**BMH:** <https://www.mainlinehealth.org/ways-to-give/bryn-mawr-hospital-foundation/make-a-gift-online>

**LMC:** <https://www.mainlinehealth.org/ways-to-give/lankenau-medical-center-foundation/make-a-gift-online>

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#### DIAS

Howard R. Dias, CPA. February 15, 2021. Cherished husband of Barbara Dias (nee Goldberg). Loving father of Danielle and Zachary Dias. Dear brother-in-law of Bruce (Kathy) Goldberg, Howard Goldberg, and Linda Goldberg. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Levi Bible Academy, [www.jewishbucks.com](http://www.jewishbucks.com)

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## COMMUNITY / deaths

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#### DUBROW

Selma Dubrow (nee Boose), age 91, passed away peacefully on February 12, 2021. Selma taught English for 32 years, the last 25 at George Washington High School, influencing and inspiring hordes of students who continued to express their appreciation well after her retirement. She won the Rose Lindenbaum Teacher of the Year Award in May 1982. Selma was also a class sponsor and director, as well as an actress in local theatre. Following retirement, Selma and her husband, Bernie, performed for organizations, apartment complexes, and retirement communities. Selma and Bernie traveled extensively, but their favorite destination was Israel, beginning in August of 1967, months after the Six Day War. They later spent a six month sabbatical in Israel. Selma is survived by her children Cheryl (Dr. Steven) Nadler and Kenneth (Laura) Dubrow, Esq., her grandchildren Dayna (Josh) Hafetz, Dr. David (Carla) Nadler, Samantha Dubrow, and her 5 great grandchildren, Chelsea Hafetz, Chase Hafetz, Tyler Nadler, Blake Nadler, and Devyn Nadler. Contributions in her memory may be made to Congregations of Shaare Shamayim, 9768 Verree Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19115. A private funeral was held on February 14, 2021.

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#### GODOROV

Brad Kent Godorov passed away February 9, 2021, age 57. Beloved son of the late Stanley and Rhoda "Ricki" Godorov. Dear brother of Craig Godorov and Stacy Cohen (Mark). Loving uncle of Mackenzie, Chelsea, and Colby. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Association for Adults with Developmental Disabilities 261 Old York Rd. Suite 530 Jenkintown PA 19046 www.info@aaddpa.org. Services were private.

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#### GOLDBERG

David H. Goldberg, 88, was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA and was a long-time resident of Cherry Hill and Ventnor, NJ. He passed away on February 13, 2021. Devoted husband of Rochelle (nee Kressman) of 45 years. Loving father of Marc (Elyse) Goldberg, Meryl (Howard) Lightstone, Frank (Shari) Kressman, Stacy (Bryan) Krause and Debra (Brian) Nussbaum. Predeceased by son Louis Goldberg. Adoring Pop of 18 grandchildren: Lindsey, Emily, Rebecca, Meredith, Rachel, Kyle, Audrey, Ben, Sam, Hayden, Sander, Ilana, Hannah, Kaitlyn, Leah, Josh, Aaron and Joel. He was an energetic and hardworking entrepreneur and ran De-luxe Transportation for 40 years. He was so generous and loved his family dearly. He enjoyed sports, food, traveling and spending the summers basking in the sun at the Jersey shore. Due to Covid-19, private funeral services are being held at Roosevelt Memorial Park on Sunday, February 21, 2021 and virtually via Zoom. Contributions in his memory may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of David H. Goldberg to support cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via www.jimmyfund.org/gift.

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#### HALL

Edis R. Hall, on February 13, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Bernard Hall. Loving mother of Sylvia (Harris) Reitman, Jesse (Elizabeth) Peterson Hall and the late Roberta Luxenberg (Alan/Jan). Loving grandmother of Julia Reitman Melnick (Jason), Hillary Reitman (James Holder), Benjamin Luxenberg (Nina Gold), Sam Luxenberg and Rebecca Peterson Hall. Great grandmother to Oliver Heath Melnick and Shira Bobbi Luxenberg. Edis devoted her life to the field of library science and education including volunteering to teach adult literacy programs for many years post-retirement. She traveled the world with her family and lived for many years in Perth, Western Australia where she was head librarian at Christ Church Grammar School. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Center for Literacy https://centerforliteracy.org.

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#### JACOBSON

Gert Jacobsohn, February 14, 2021 of Wyndmoor, PA. Beloved husband of Myra. Devoted father of Alice Jacobsohn, Hannah (Ran) Anbar, Jamie (Irene) Jacobsohn and Diane (Michael) Hemingway. Proud grandfather of Joshua, Rebecca, Ze, Jonathan, Rachel and Elana. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donors choice.

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KLEYMENES

Leonid Kleymenes, 72, passed away on February 12, 2021 in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife Zinaida (nee Kravets) and daughter Julie (Eric) Goldman. Grandfather of Jack and Sydney Goldman. Service was private. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation P.O. Box 5014 Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014 [www.michaelj-fox.org](http://www.michaelj-fox.org).

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KURTZ

Phyllis Kurtz (nee Yates) on February 11, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Seymour; Loving mother of Donna (Donald) Silverman, Mitchell Kurtz and Zane (Jane) Kurtz; Devoted grandmother of Barbara (David), Rachel (Abby), Matthew (Jessica), Jordan, Reese, Joshua, Hannah and Seth; Adoring great-grandmother of Reuben, Judah, Sydney, Leo and Levi. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Hadassah, 1518 Walnut St., Ste. 402, Phila., PA 19102 or Keshet Israel Cong., 412 Lombard St., Phila., PA 19147.

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LEVENSON

Gertrude Levenson (nee Kaplan), passed away on February 15, 2021. Wife of the late N. Victor Levenson. Mother of A. Lynne (Steve) Liesner and Sharon Levenson. Grandmother of Jennifer Liesner, Samantha (Dan) Sinkler and Amanda (Jay) Scharmin. Aunt of Arlene (Joel) Sharkey, Susan Kaplan, Joyce (Mark) Levick-Spiegel, Roberta "Bobbie" (Bruce) Braverman and Nancy (David) Kaplan Law. Contributions in her memory may be made to the National Breast Cancer Foundation or to the charity of your choice.

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LEWENSON

Dr. Fred Lewenson, February 15, 2021; of Norristown, PA; beloved husband of Helen (nee Trachtman); loving father of Stephen Lewenson (Marc) and Peter Lewenson (Victoria); cherished grandfather of Jared, Ethan, Aaron, Eric and Channa. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Federation of Greater Phila. ([jewishphilly.org](http://jewishphilly.org)) or a charity of the donor's choice.

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MAZER

Arlene Mazer (nee Kula) on February 14, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Irving; Loving mother of Michael (Rita Forman) Mazer, Lee (Melissa) Mazer and Marc (Joanna) Mazer; Devoted grandmother of Aaron, Ethan, Jordan, Harry, Addison and Alexa. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 1818 Market St., Ste. 2820, Phila., PA 19102, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

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MELTZER

Dr. Ronald T. Meltzer January 19, 2021 of Bala Cynwyd, PA formerly of Philadelphia; son of the late Tillie (Segal) and Morris Meltzer. Beloved husband for 66 years to Helene "Cookie" (nee Presser) Meltzer, cherished daughter Paula Meltzer (Howard Garonzik), loving granddaughter Allison Berlant (Seth Broderson) and adored great-granddaughter Isabella. He was predeceased by his brother David (Joyce) Meltzer. Dr. Meltzer graduated from Overbrook High school. He went to go on to Temple School of Pharmacy. After several years of working as a pharmacist he continued his education at PCOM. After an internship at Metropolitan Hospital, he opened a family practice in Merion. Several years later he relocated to Narberth where he practiced for the rest of his career. He loved being a doctor and his patients loved him. Services and interment were private. Donations in his honor may be sent to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House or Philabundance.

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ROSENBERG

Selma Rosenberg, 102 years young, died February 17, 2020. She was the wife of the late Howard Rosenberg, the mother of Sandye (Gary) Kodish and the late Marlene (Stephen) Jass and grandmother of Dr. Jodi (Dr. Rich) Wachs, M.D., Pamela Rothka, Eric (Amber) Kodish, Barbara (Daryn) Jass and Susan (Jack) Jass. She is also survived by 7 great grandchildren. Contributions can be made to American Macular Degeneration Foundation, [amdf.org](http://amdf.org)

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SEGAL

Bernard L. Segal, MD, FACC, Cardiologist, of Villanova PA and Palm Beach FL, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 in Palm Beach, Florida after a brief illness, surrounded by his family, at age 91. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Idajane Fischman Segal, cherished daughter, Jody Segal Reinbold (Kirk), and precious grandchildren, Darby and Pierce. Dr. Segal was born in Montreal, Canada during the great depression to Russian immigrants. He received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine degrees from McGill University in Montreal. He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and graduated with honors in 1955. Dr. Segal completed his internship at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and completed his first year of residency at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. His second year of residency was completed at Beth Israel Hospital of Harvard University, under Paul Zoll, MD, who developed the pacemaker. Dr. Segal then completed a one-year Cardiology fellowship at Georgetown Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health under the tutelage of W. Proctor Harvey, MD and Eugene Braunwald, MD. While in Washington, Dr. Harvey introduced him to William Likoff, MD, who asked Dr. Segal to join him in practice but agreed to wait because Dr. Segal had already accepted a position at St. George's Hospital in London, England as a U.S. Public Health Fellow. At St. George's, he furthered his post doctoral training under two of the leading cardiologists of his day, Aubrey Leatham, MD and Paul Wood, MD. Dr. Segal returned to Philadelphia where he spent 24 years with Dr. Likoff at Hahnemann University Hospital and was later appointed Chief of Cardiology. He went on to develop the successful Philadelphia Heart Institute at Presbyterian Medical Center. After Dr. Segal spent 10 years at Presbyterian, Allegheny University persuaded him to move his entire faculty to develop a new cardiovascular network and serve as their Senior Vice President. In 1998, Dr. Segal and his faculty joined Thomas Jefferson University, where he served for ten years as Director of the Division of Cardiology. In 2010 through his Foundation, he endowed the Bernard L. Segal Chair in Clinical Cardiology at Jefferson. He retired in 2016 after practicing medicine for over 60 years. He helped pioneer modern cardiology as a physician, investigator and educator. His 12 books and 375 scientific papers established him firmly in the vanguard of cardiology. Dr. Segal has served on the editorial boards of several medical journals. He was a member of Philadelphia County Medical Society PAMED and Fellow and Emeritus member of the American College of Cardiology, where he served on many committees as well as their Board of Trustees. Dr. Segal is also past Fellow of the American Heart Association; the American College of Physicians; and the Laennec Society. Dr. Segal has been recognized with many honors during his outstanding career, most recently the Strittmatter Award, presented by the Philadelphia County Medical Society in 2015. Medicine was not just a career, but a sacred calling to Dr. Segal. When he wasn't practicing, he was researching the latest advancement and strategizing how to put it in practice and bring it to his current institution. A true visionary with an entrepreneurial spirit, his philanthropy brought many programs and innovations in Cardiology to the Philadelphia

DEATH NOTICES

area. It could be said that Philanthropy was his second calling; he had no true hobbies. Although he did learn to play golf in his later years and appreciated a good wine, they never compared to his passion for Medicine. He lived his life in service to others. His heartfelt empathy for patients and his medical acumen earned Dr. Segal a reputation as one of the finest cardiologists in the country, and one of the most beloved physicians among his patients and staff. Funeral service and burial were private, officiated by Rabbi Jon Cutler, Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County. In lieu of flowers and other tangible expressions of sympathy, the family asks that memorial donations be made to your charity of choice. Memorial tributes and messages of condolences may be sent to the family through Joseph Levine and Sons.

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SHILS

Shirley R. Shils (nee Seigle), February 1, 2021, age 100, passed peacefully in her Penn Valley, PA home of 65 years. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Edward B.; loving mother of Dr. Ronnie Burak (Dr. Carl Burak), Nancy Shils, and Edward Barry Shils; adoring grandmother of Eli (Julia) Burakian and Benjamin Max Szczurek and great-grandmother of Levon, Ani, Ariana, and Eduardo; devoted sister of the late Harold Seigle; treasured aunt of Jeff Seigle (Rabab Butti) and Lisa Seigle Byrnes. Funeral services were private with a memorial to be held in the future. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Pennsylvania SPCA [pspca.org/donate](http://pspca.org/donate), Planned Parenthood [plannedparenthood.org](http://plannedparenthood.org), or the Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund [shilsfund.org](http://shilsfund.org)

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WEISBERG

Harriet Beth Weisberg (nee Sisman) on February 15, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Jerome "Jerry"; loving and devoted mother of Andrea, Rhonda and Mona. Harriet was a true force to all who had the great pleasure to know her, and an active volunteer for many charitable organizations. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory are appreciated to Carversville Farm Foundation [www.carversvillefarmstore.org](http://www.carversvillefarmstore.org) (providing organic and nutritious food to our neighbors in need) or (SARC Sarcoma Alliance Collaboration through Research) [sartrials.org/donate](http://sartrials.org/donate)

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YUDENFRIEND

Minya Yudenfriend (nee Block). It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the death of Minya Block Yudenfriend on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, three days before her 93rd birthday. Minya was the devoted wife of Herbert Yudenfriend for almost 70 years, mother of Donna Lawrence (Jeffrey), Ruth Morrel, Paula Yudenfriend Green (Arlin) and the late Lisa Aronin (Douglas). She was the cherished grandmother of Michael Lawrence, Elana Stein (Josh), Josh Lawrence (Gabi), Shira Nanavati (Akshay), Eric and David Morrel, Rabbi Noah Aronin (Tovah), Chava Aronin, Brittany Rodriguez (Brandon Diez), Danielle Rodriguez (Andrew Duncan), Alison Imbergamo (Mike), Sam Green (Annie Leiman), Mike Green (Meriah Schoen), and Lisa Green, and great grandmother to William and Benjamin Lawrence, Isabelle and Judah Stein, Amalia, Adir and Ariyah Lawrence, Annaelle and Zeke Nanavati, Yaakov and Eli Aronin, Luca and Liam Imbergamo and Cole Duncan. She is also survived by her sister, Sherry Goldberg. Minya and Herb were married at Har Zion in 1951, and she has been an active member for over 60 years. The family respectfully requests that contributions be made to Har Zion Temple or AMITchildren.org

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our lives go on without you  
But nothing is the same  
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When someone speaks your name  
Sad are the hearts that love you  
Silent the tears that fall  
Living our lives without you  
is the hardest part of all  
You did so many things for us  
Your heart was kind and true  
And when we needed someone  
We could always count on you  
The special times will not return  
When we were all together  
But with the love within our hearts  
You will be with us forever  
We love and miss you

Love Always,

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Dani, Jesse, Bea, Miles, Jules

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# Wish Your Friends & Family A HAPPY PASSOVER in the Jewish Exponent

Be a part of our March 25<sup>th</sup> holiday edition.  
**DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

DESIGN  
**A**  
\$95

## Best Wishes

to all for a

## Happy Passover



YOUR NAME

DESIGN  
**B**  
\$75



A SWEET & JOYOUS

## Passover

YOUR NAME

DESIGN  
**D**  
\$45



## HAPPY PASSOVER

YOUR NAME

DESIGN  
**C**  
\$45

## Warm Passover Greetings From

YOUR NAME



– Personal Greetings Only –



**PLEASE RUN MY GREETING IN YOUR HOLIDAY ISSUE.**

I WOULD LIKE AD (circle one here) A, B, C, D

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

The name(s) on the message should read: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All greetings must be paid for in advance.)

OR email your information and credit card number to: [classified@jewishexponent.com](mailto:classified@jewishexponent.com).

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If you have any questions, contact the Jewish Exponent at 215.832.0749 or [classified@jewishexponent.com](mailto:classified@jewishexponent.com).

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**TOWER-Special renovation.** Large 3 BD, 3.5 BA, open granite kitchen, wood floors, new windows, sunny corner balcony, washer/dryer. Includes heat, gym, pool, 24 hr. doorman, storage. Available immediately!



**SOUTH TERRACE-Top floor.** Immaculate, designer, rarely available 1 BD, 1.5 BA, open kitchen, custom window treatments, lots of closets, main BD suite w/dressing room area, W/D, wood floors, lrg. sunny balcony, just steps to elevator. **\$199,900**

**SOUTH TERRACE-S**  
drenched 2 BD, 2 BA, open w/ granite counters, tiled back kitchen, custom lighting, ceiling fans.

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

**TERRACES-2nd floor.** Designer roomy 2 BD, 2 BA. Open kitchen counter, washer/dryer, large sunny balcony, pool, bulk cable, storage. Reduced cable charge (\$76). Heat/AC included. **\$210,000**

**TOWER-5th floor, renovated 2 BD, 2 BA,** open kitchen, lots of closets, washer/dryer, wood floors, sunny balcony, pool, bulk cable, storage. Reduced cable charge (\$76). Heat/AC included. **\$210,000**



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Caregiver with 10 years live-in exp., seeks full or part time job. I have experience with Dementia, Alzheimer's, stroke & hospice patients.  
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## INFORMATION

### LEGAL NOTICES

717 S. 51st Street Condominium has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Capstone Law LLC 1760 Market Street Suite 1200 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Notice of Winding Up Proceedings Catholic Health Care Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with a registered address located at 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103 in Philadelphia County does hereby give notice of its intention to dissolve from doing business in this Commonwealth. Any proceedings directly affecting this company shall be sent to 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103. This shall serve as official notice to creditors and taxing authorities.

### ESTATE NOTICES

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

ESTATE OF DANIEL CHARLES DE PISO, JR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LEA LETO, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Brian L. Strauss, Esq., 1420 Walnut St., 2nd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: BRIAN L. STRAUSS THE ROTHENBERG LAW FIRM, LLP 1420 Walnut St., 2nd Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF FLORENCE W. KIRN, 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 JOHN A. KIRN, EXECUTOR, c/o Andrew J. Barron, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ANDREW J. BARRON LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF FREDERICK SCHROEDER, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to WILLIAM WEAVER, SR., ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020, Or to his Attorney: HARRY METKA 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9 Bensalem, PA 19020

### PET SERVICES

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### ESTATE NOTICES

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### ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF KAREN G. CLANTON, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia, PA  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Owen Clanton, Executor c/o Jon Taylor, Esquire PC 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1838, Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
The Law Office of Jon Taylor 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1838 Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of MARJORIE FARMER, 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 Nicole Farmer-Administratrix, c/o their attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF MUNIRA BAKHRIEVA a/k/a MUNIRA HAKIMOVNA YUSUPOVA, MUNIRA BUKHRIEVA, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been 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 SHAKHNOZA S. BAKHRIEVA, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Francis-Ihor Mazur, Esq., 2434 Huntingdon Pike, Ste. 1, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, Or to her Attorney: FRANCOIS-IHOR MAZUR MAZUR LAW FIRM, PC 2434 Huntingdon Pike, Ste. 1 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

ESTATE of Nicholas R. D'Annunzio aka Nicholas D'Annunzio; D'Annunzio, Nicholas R. aka D'Annunzio, Nicholas, 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: Donna Schmidt, c/o Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq., Perpiglia & Assocs., 1332 Jackson St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, Administratrix.  
Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq. Perpiglia & Assocs. 1332 Jackson St. Philadelphia, PA 19148

ESTATE OF WILLIAM LEONARD GOLDSTEIN, 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 STUART GOLDSTEIN, ADMINISTRATOR, 316 Inman Terrace, Willow Grove, PA 19090, Or to his Attorney: MARYBETH O. LAURIA THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL S. CONNOR, LLC 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

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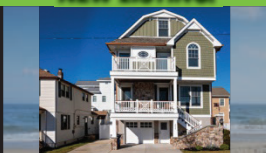
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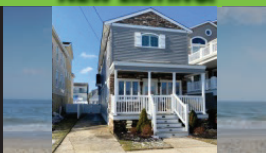
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FROM EVERY WINDOW!

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THE BEACH & BOARDWALK!

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## FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 15, 2020 for **God's Kingdom Apparel** at 1203 Taylor Way Collegeville, PA 19426. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Cory Huffman at 1203 Taylor Way Collegeville, PA 19426. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

## FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 23, 2020 for **Spirit HQ** at 2140 Hanford Way Pennsburg, PA 18073. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Jeanette A. Krantz at 2140 Hanford Way Pennsburg, PA 18073. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

## STATEWIDE ADS

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**JE Box ( )**

**Classified Dept.**

**2100 Arch Street 4th Floor**

**Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**DEADLINE -**

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**Friday by 10 am for the following Thursday's issue**

**Call 215-832-0749**

## OPINION

### Weiss-Greenberg

Continued from Page 18

and in costume, albeit virtually and/or socially distant. We should still enjoy a festive meal with our families. We can still be joyous and exhibit the tradition of “v’nahafochu,” literally “turning things upside down” by being so joyous that we cannot keep the Purim story straight, in perhaps new ways. Traditionally, this is accomplished through alcohol consumption. This year, we can appreciate how wearing masks is no longer an occasional thing but a staple of our wardrobes. On Purim, let’s make them not only protective, but also joyful and silly.

My biggest hope, however, is that we more equally distribute the focus of these four mitzvot to highlight giving to the poor. The rates of poverty have skyrocketed in the past year. Families who had jobs and enough to care for their families

and give tzedakah to support others are now standing in lines at food pantries.

This year, we can take time this week of Purim to consider the financial inequities and misfortune that have befallen our communities, including our dear friends and family. We may not be able to sing and dance together, but we can give and care for the poor, many of whom are not strangers and whose contingencies have risen.

Let’s allow our experience of a pandemic Purim to have a lasting impact on the values and meaning of the holiday. Yes, we should still thoughtfully cultivate much-needed joy, but we can also pay equal attention — perhaps this year even more attention — to those who are not as fortunate.

This year my family will still dress up. We will prepare

*mishloach manot* — Purim gift baskets — with cards indicating that we have made donations in lieu of lavish gifts. We will read the Megillah as a family zooming with our community.

And as a family, we will choose where to make donations, and make it clear that we are blessed and grateful to be able to have a home and food and to help others have the same.

We will take the moment to laugh, eat, enjoy and be grateful for what we have and not what could have been. •

Sharon Weiss-Greenberg is director of education partnerships for My Jewish Learning. She studied at The Drisha Institute for Jewish Education and Yeshiva University and got a doctorate from New York University. She was the first Orthodox woman chaplain at Harvard University. This piece was first published by JTA.

# Be heard.



Email your letters  
to the editor.



letters@jewishexponent.com

**JEWISH  
EXPONENT**



## ▼ FRIDAY, FEB 26

### Resume Renovation

Join **JEVS Career Strategies** to learn how to use a resume to get noticed by employers. The free career webinar will be held on Zoom at noon. Register at [jevshumanservices.org/event/career-webinar-resume-renovation/](http://jevshumanservices.org/event/career-webinar-resume-renovation/) to receive a link.

## ▼ SATURDAY, FEB 27

### 'Til Kingdom Come

Official selection of Docaviv, the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival and more, "Til Kingdom Come" is an exhilarating work of cinema and a mesmerizing look into the unique bond between evangelical Christianity and the Jewish state. **Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival** will screen a sneak preview at 7 p.m. for 24 hours only. Cost \$12, available to residents of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Visit [pjff.org/](http://pjff.org/) for more information.

## ▼ SUNDAY, FEB 28

### Virtual Purim

**Jewish Children's Folkshul & Adult Community** will host a Purim Open House at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom with shpiels, stories, music and the four mitzvot of Purim. Juggler Andrew Scharff of "Andrew 's Big Show" and musician Dot of "Dot's Serenades" will entertain. Register for the free event at [eventbrite.com/e/purim-with-folkshul-tickets-140635601871?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch](https://eventbrite.com/e/purim-with-folkshul-tickets-140635601871?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch).

### Mekor Presents MOSHAV

**Mekor Habracha** will host a Zoom concert featuring the renowned band MOSHAV at 8 p.m.

General admission starts at \$36 per household. Higher levels of support, including sponsorships, offer chances to compete for raffle prizes, such as designer necklaces donated by Gael R. Opportunities for dedications in someone's honor or memory are also available. All proceeds will benefit Mekor Habracha Center City Synagogue. Visit [mekorhabracha.org](http://mekorhabracha.org) for more information.

## ▼ TUESDAY, MARCH 2

### Family Genetic History Beth Israel of Chester

**County Sisterhood** will host a presentation from Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered regarding understanding family genetic ancestry and how to safeguard against cancer at 7 p.m. This virtual event, presented by a FORCE scientist and a genetic counselor from Fox Chase Cancer Center, will be full of life-saving information and include an interactive quiz and a Q&A session. RSVP with your name and affiliation, if any, to [BICCSisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:BICCSisterhood@gmail.com).

## ▼ THURSDAY, MARCH 4

### The Race for America

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

## NEWSMAKERS

On Feb. 7, more than 100 religious school students and adult congregants of Tiferet Bet Israel participated in the World Wide Wrap, a tefillin education program created by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. Additionally, the TBI Men's Club sponsored "build a pair" tefillin kits to help students learn the process of wrapping tefillin.

► Miranda Koellhoffer, a second-grade student, with her homemade tefillin  
Photo by Samantha Koellhoffer



Members of the Center City Kehillah were joined on Feb. 21 by award-winning baker Tova du Plessis for a hamantaschen-baking demonstration via Zoom. Du Plessis, owner of Essen Bakery, used her own recipe and took questions from viewers as she assembled the hamantaschen.

Photos by Miriam Steinberg-Egeth



**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT** Published weekly since 1887 with a special issue in September (ISSN 0021-6437) ©2021 Jewish Exponent (all rights reserved) Any funds realized from the operation of the Jewish Exponent exceeding expenses are required to be made available to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, a nonprofit corporation with offices at 2100 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. 215-832-0700. Periodical postage paid in Philadelphia, PA, and additional offices. Postmaster: All address changes should be sent to Jewish Exponent Circulation Dept., 2100 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. A one-year subscription is \$50, 2 years, \$100. Foreign rates on request.

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