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JANUARY 14, 2021 / 1 SHEVAT 5781

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# JEWISH EXPONENT

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Volume 133  
Number 40

Published Weekly Since 1887



## Solomonov Brings Israel Home With Web Series

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

WITH HIS FLEET of Philadelphia restaurants and three published cookbooks, chef Michael Solomonov has made a strong bid to be the most prominent proponent of Israeli food in America.

Now, the man once named the James Beard Outstanding Chef will look to bring the tastes of Israel to Americans through a new medium: a web series, which debuted on Jan. 13.

“Bringing Israel Home,” hosted by Solomonov, will air weekly on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. through April 28, and will feature the chef in conversation with writers, students and fellow chefs. Solomonov and his interlocutor will tackle a different topic each week before diving into a cooking demonstration, with each recipe available to the public prior to the show’s airing.

With “Bringing Israel Home,” Solomonov said, he’s able to do what he’s always aimed to do, even as the pandemic has kept him cooking in his home kitchen more than he ever dreamed.

“I bring people to Israel physically, and I

See Solomonov, Page 14



▲Shani Klein in Shemesh Shop’s tie-dye masks

Courtesy of Shani Klein

## Here’s What Opened and Closed in Jewish Philly in Tumultuous 2020

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

LAST YEAR, the Jewish Exponent covered how Jewish-owned businesses and Jewish organizations responded to the pandemic, economic crisis and general upheaval.

While we wrote many stories about

beloved community institutions shuttering for good (both due to the pandemic and more run-of-the-mill challenges), we also found several new ventures inspired by, or operating in spite of, a new reality.

So what opened for the first time in 2020, and what didn’t survive the year?

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Miriam's Advice Well

HOW TO HELP A TROUBLED FRIEND

A reader has watched a once-close friend from afar as she made a series of decisions that are hurting her and those around her. The question is: How much should the reader reach out to help? Miriam counsels that you can only do so much to help someone before you have to draw a line, while letting the friend know you're there if she wants support. For details, read Miriam's Advice Well online. 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/2021/01/11/dear-miriam-how-to-help-a-troubled-friend/](http://jewishexponent.com/2021/01/11/dear-miriam-how-to-help-a-troubled-friend/)



Philacatessen

VANILLA SHORTBREAD COOKIES

A more-than-normal amount of vanilla makes food columnist Keri White's shortbread cookies rather tasty. She notes that the cookies are a nice mix of being simple yet sophisticated at the same time. You also can make the dough and keep it in the refrigerator for several days or in the freezer for many months. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, including other recipes, gift ideas, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. [jewishexponent.com/2021/01/11/vanilla-shortbread-cookies/](http://jewishexponent.com/2021/01/11/vanilla-shortbread-cookies/)



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**SALES & MARKETING**

**DISPLAY**  
sales@jewishexponent.com  
  
Sharon Schmuckler  
Director of Sales  
215-832-0753  
sschmuckler@jewishexponent.com  
  
Susan Baron  
215-832-0757  
sbaron@jewishexponent.com  
  
Taylor Orlin  
215-832-0732  
torlin@jewishexponent.com  
  
Shari Seitz  
215-832-0702  
sseitz@jewishexponent.com

**CLASSIFIED/  
DEATH NOTICES**  
classified@jewishexponent.com  
Nicole McNally, 215-832-0749

**BUSINESS**

Laura Frank  
Publisher's Representative  
215-832-0512  
lfrank@jewishphilly.org  
  
Mike Costello  
Finance Director  
215-832-0757  
mcostello@jewishexponent.com

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
subscriptions@jewishexponent.com  
215-832-0710

**EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT**  
215-832-0797  
  
**News & Tips**  
news@jewishexponent.com

**Letters**  
letters@jewishexponent.com  
  
**Calendar Events**  
listings@jewishexponent.com  
  
Liz Spikol, Editor-in-Chief  
215-832-0747  
lspikol@jewishexponent.com

Andy Gotlieb, Managing Editor  
215-832-0797  
agotlieb@jewishexponent.com  
  
Jesse Bernstein, Staff Writer/Books  
Editor  
215-832-0740  
jbernstein@jewishexponent.com  
  
Sophie Panzer, Staff Writer  
215-832-0729  
spanzer@jewishexponent.com

**PRODUCTION**  
production@jewishexponent.com  
  
Jennifer Perkins-Frantz, Director  
  
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# JEWISH EXPONENT

*A Weekly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Jewish People*

Volume 117—No. 51

—20

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## UN MAY SEND TROOPS TO PALESTINE

### 'Court of Honor' Finds Dutch Leaders Guilty Of Working with Nazis

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—A Jewish "Court of Honor," made up of representatives of the Jewish community and the Dutch Zionist Council, has found Dr. Abraham Asscher and Prof. Dirk Cohen guilty of collaboration with the German occupying authorities during the war.  
Dr. Asscher and Prof. Cohen, who headed the German-dominated Jewish Council, were released on bail last month pending which Prof. Cohen appeared.

### Book Shops Stop Selling Children's Anti-Jewish Book

A children's edition of the Arabian Nights, containing anti-Semitic references has been removed from the shelves of four department stores through the efforts of the Philadelphia Council, American Jewish Congress, Charles W. Feinberg, executive director, announced.

Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, has sounded out a number of smaller countries over the last ten days on the question of whether they would be willing to send troops to Palestine if more serious fighting developed over the partition plan, it was learned according to a special dispatch by Thomas J. Hamilton, head of the New York Times UN Bureau.

Although the Secretary General's intervention in the Palestine question had been closely guarded, it was understood that Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Denmark figured on the list of European countries that he believed might send troops if the necessity arose.

### IRO Head Urges Opening of Doors To DP's in '48



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# Cemetery Restoration Pilot Project Underway

## LOCAL

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

**EFFORTS ARE** underway to organize a pilot project aimed at improving a small portion of run-down Har Nebo Cemetery — and organizer Rich Blumberg is optimistic that the project can not only succeed but grow in scope.

Blumberg said his impetus came when he wrote a history of his family, which has 10 members buried at Har Nebo.

“I visited with my son and was astonished by the number of fallen stones and disrepair,” he said. “It just doesn’t sit right for us living descendants, and it won’t be any better 20 or 30 years from now.”

Blumberg, who is the founder of business development and technology collaboration consulting company World Sales Solution, LLC, hopes to raise \$10,000-\$20,000 and identify an accessible 10-foot-by-20-foot location at Har Nebo to restore 10 to 18 gravestones.

The project would include lifting fallen headstones, filling in uneven ground, removing overgrown vegetation and



▲ Rich Blumberg's ancestors, including great-grandparents Herschel and Rebecca Blumberg (seated adults), are buried in Har Nebo Cemetery.

Courtesy of Rich Blumberg

cleaning the stones, Blumberg said.

Blumberg realizes he's starting small, considering the size of the distressed cemetery, but figures the general interest in genealogy these days may spur others into participating. He hopes to encourage synagogues to join in, as well as college fraternities and sororities looking for service projects and even kindergartners to paint decorative rocks.

“Even if I could do one plot a year, it's better than nothing,” he said. “We want to create a template kit that can be used by

other Jewish cemeteries.”

Har Nebo owner Richard Levy said he'd be amenable to a well-organized project under certain conditions.

“I'd have to think about this some more,” he said. “We'd always have to think of safety and that sort of stuff.”

Levy, who also owns Mount Carmel Cemetery, said in the past he has made volunteers sign waivers before cleanup projects.

Cemetery problems are a frequent complaint received by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, according to Addie Lewis Klein, director of



▲ Har Nebo Cemetery disrepair in the summer of 2020

Photo by M.B. Kanis

community engagement. She said they receive half a dozen calls every week.

“A number of us from the Jewish Federation are in support of this and giving advice and helping to get this off the ground,” she said.

Other organized and informal efforts have been made to restore local cemeteries in recent years.

The Friends of the Gladwyne Jewish Memorial Cemetery has worked for several years to restore a once-largely forgotten cemetery owned by adjacent Beth David Reform Congregation.

And a 2015 Jewish Exponent article about rundown conditions at Har Zion Cemetery in Darby refers to a woman identified only as Rivka, who said she had been visiting and repairing parts of the cemetery for 42 years. She did the same at Mount Sharon Cemetery in Springfield.

The Exponent has documented complaints about several area cemeteries in recent years.

In 2020, both Har Nebo and Mount Carmel were criticized because of poor conditions and closed gates. Levy attributed the problems then to the pandemic, but has since cited the difficulties of running cemeteries in an era when cremations are on the rise.

Levy was pushed by Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and state Rep. Jared Solomon, among others, to take care of the cemeteries. Jewish Federation helped arrange for a landscaping crew to cut the grass over the summer.

Mount Carmel was extensively vandalized in February 2017, prompting a large-scale restoration effort.

And as reported Jan. 7, complaints have increased about Har Jehuda Cemetery in Upper Darby in recent years. President Larry Moskowitz attributed part of the problem to declining revenues.

Older cemeteries with few new burials have less money coming in and tend to exhaust their perpetual care funds.

Those trends may worsen, according to the National Funeral Directors Association Cremation and Burial Report. The 2020 cremation rate was 56%, up 8% from 2015, and the organization projects that by 2035 nearly 80% of Americans will be cremated.

Klein noted that maintaining Jewish cemeteries can be especially difficult because they are more tightly packed, making mowing and landscaping more problematic. ●

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## New Bella Vista Store to Focus on Artisanal Smoked Fish

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**LAUREN BIEDERMAN** started working in the restaurant industry when she was 15.

After bussing tables and hosting, she moved to serving and bartending, later taking courses in wine and earning several certificates. In 2017, the Killington, Vermont, native moved to Philadelphia, where she worked at Osteria and Zahav.

And a little over 10 years since her first restaurant gig, she wants her new store, Biederman's Specialty Foods, to be Philadelphia's premiere destination for artisanal smoked fish.

Biederman's Specialty Foods is modeled on "appetizing shops," the stores selling cold appetizers characteristic of Eastern European Ashkenazi cuisine, that Biederman grew up frequenting with family in New York.

"My dad was born in Philadelphia, actually, and moved to New York City," she said. "He kind of grew up with

that food, and my whole family lives either in Brooklyn or in Connecticut. So, every time we go down there that's kind of what we eat. My dad shows up to Thanksgiving with two kilos of salmon, and always bagels and cheeses and cheesecakes from New York. It was kind of just the tradition of the family."

While Biederman oversees the day-to-day operations of the business, her family has been instrumental in getting it going. Her father, now in New Hampshire, helped with planning. Her younger brother, Evan Biederman, a recent college graduate, is one of her employees. Two older brothers have offered their expertise as contractors.

Biederman's fish, which ranges from classic smoked salmon, herring and whitefish to vodka-cured gravlax, will be sourced from a variety of smokehouses. One of her main suppliers is Samaki Smoked Fish in New York state, and she is also working on orders from purveyors in Ireland, Scotland,

See Fish, Page 13



▲ Evan Biederman with a brunch board

Courtesy of Lauren Biederman.


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# Rabbi Fredric Kazan Dies at 87

OBITUARY

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**FREDRIC KAZAN**, a longtime Conservative rabbi and educator who spent his life among Philadelphia’s Jewish congregations, died on Jan. 4. He was 87.

Over the course of his career, Kazan served Jewish Philadelphians at various institutions, including Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Congregation Melrose B’nai Israel, Temple Emanuel, the West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Adath Israel on the Main Line, Beth Sholom Congregation and Congregation Keshet Israel.

According to his daughter, Dr. Liebe Gelman, congregants at many of those institutions

told her in the days following her father’s death that they considered Kazan to be primarily “their” rabbi.

This, Gelman believes, was a vivid expression of her father’s impact, and a status that was earned through decades of close attention paid to his congregants. For years, Kazan kept index cards with detailed family histories of his congregants, so that sermons he delivered at simchas and funerals seemed to come from family members themselves. That care, along with his personal magnetism, drew hundreds into his orbit.

“My father was an extremely charismatic person,” said Dede Kazan, one of the rabbi’s five children. “Whenever you walked in the room, you felt



▲ Fredric Kazan, center, leads a tour of Jewish Philadelphia, in 2012.  
Jewish Exponent file photo

► Fredric Kazan with two of his grandchildren, in 1995  
Courtesy of Liebe Gelman



his presence.”

Kazan was born on Oct. 30, 1933, and his early life among Jewish institutions and those frequented by Jewish Philadelphians presaged his later, professional involvement. Kazan was born in South Philadelphia, the neighborhood where he’d help his uncle with his pushcart at the market. While still a boy, the family moved to Forrest Avenue in the Oak Lane section of Philadelphia, joining



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Temple Sinai prior to its move to the suburbs. He became a bar mitzvah at the synagogue and attended Hebrew school at Gratz College. In the summers, Kazan went to Camp Ramah.

After graduating from Central High School, Kazan attended Temple University and Hebrew University in Jerusalem (he'd continue his studies at Gratz College, Dropsie College and UCLA). As he learned Hebrew and fell further in love with Israel, Kazan was vexed by pressing questions, both professional and philosophical. Should he become a rabbi or teach philosophy? How would it work with his soon-to-be-wife, Marian Axelrod, if he was in Israel and she was still in Philadelphia?

Axelrod, who had known Kazan since they were teenagers, answered the latter

“My father was an extremely charismatic person. Whenever you walked in the room, you felt his presence.”

DEDE KAZAN

by traveling to Israel via sea and air. The professional dilemma was resolved when Kazan had a meeting with David Ben-Gurion. The meeting with one of Israel's founding fathers convinced Kazan that the American rabbinate would be the best way for him to serve his fellow Jews.

Kazan and Axelrod were married by Israel's first chief rabbi, Isaac Herzog, in 1955, when Kazan knocked on the

eminent rabbi's door and asked him for a little favor.

Prior to their return to Philadelphia, Kazan and his family lived in New York while he attended the Jewish Theological Seminary, and East Paterson, New Jersey, where he was a student rabbi. He led Congregation Ner Tamid in Van Nuys, California, also serving as an Air Force chaplain.

Back in Philadelphia with

his family, Kazan took the pulpit at his first local congregation, Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel, and never looked back. He loved Philadelphia — its history, its Jews and its football team. He led Jewish-themed tours of Philadelphia, and watched Eagles games with the television on mute and the radio broadcast of the game turned up. He was also a devoted supporter of Golden Slipper Club &

Charities, served as a leader within the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and was a committed Zionist.

Rabbi Bob Layman, a longtime friend and colleague of Kazan's, remembers Kazan as a an exuberant, extroverted presence, never afraid to share an opinion or an idea, with “an enormous capacity for work.” However charismatic he was with congregants, it was in conversation with colleagues, Layman said, where Kazan “truly let his hair down.”

Kazan was predeceased by his wife, Marian. He is survived by his children, Liebe Gelman, Dede Rachel Kazan, Adam Kazan, Faith Kazan and Linda Kazan; his sister, Bonnie Kanefsky; and five grandchildren. •

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# Women's Health Expert Dr. Bernard Eskin Has Died

## OBITUARY

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

### DR. BERNARD "BERNIE" ABRAHAM ESKIN, whose medical career as an OB-GYN included teaching and research into women's health, died Dec. 29. He was 92.

“He felt very strongly that women had the right to control their bodies and have appropriate health care,” daughter Catherine Eskin said.

A just married Eskin arrived in Philadelphia in 1955 from Albany Medical College, interning at Einstein Medical Center Northern Division, where he was the first man to get a residency in OB/GYN at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

“He felt like he should learn



▲ Dr. Eskin conducts research.

◀ Bernie and Lynn Eskin

Photos courtesy of Catherine Eskin

women's health from women,” Catherine Eskin said.

He remained with the

institution and its successors for 63 years — teaching as a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Women's Med, Medical College of Pennsylvania (renamed after it admitted men in 1970), Hahnemann Medical School (after a 1993 merger) and Drexel University College of Medicine (after a 2003 merger).

Throughout his career, he was an active researcher, studying the breast and breast cancer, and served as lead researcher on studies that advanced research and clinical applications of iodine and related treatments.

Later research focused on the way medical practitioners treated aging in women. He wrote the first textbook, which is still widely used, on menopause and discovered what he called “geri-pause” — a shift in hormones that occurs after menopause is completed.

Catherine Eskin said his father's research interests dovetailed with the physical experiences of his wife Lynn over the years.

Eskin was a member of the Philadelphia County Medical Society and Pennsylvania Medical Society for 64 years, as well as a member of the PCMS board of directors and a delegate

## Adath Israel mourns the loss of our beloved Rabbi *Emeritus*, Fredric Kazan z”l.

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GROUNDBREAKING OF THE TUTTLEMAN CHAPEL, 1990

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to the PMS House of Delegates, according to Eileen Ryan, the PCMS director, membership and programming.

He received the PCMS Cristol Award in 1999, “which is given to a physician member for their dedication and exceptional contribution to the Society, furthering and enhancing the educational, scientific and charitable goals, purposes and functions of organized medicine,” Ryan wrote.

Eskin began a private practice in 1959, delivering babies in multiple hospitals for more than 40 years. He was a surgeon and an early adopter of laser tools.

He also worked with Planned Parenthood in North Philadelphia, made home visits through the late 1970s and participated in bridal fairs, where he counseled couples and handed out “Love Carefully” buttons.

“The thing I most admired

about my dad was his willingness to go against what the rest of the world was thinking,” Catherine Eskin said. “He often had conflicts with some groups because of his [belief in a] right to choose.”

“Your dad was a hero and true gentlemen that will be missed by so many including myself ... our condolences to your family and mom,” PCMS Executive Director Mark C. Austerberry wrote in an email to Catherine Eskin. “We will certainly recognize and celebrate the many achievements he did for not only physicians but organized medicine and the human race! He always thought and fought for the underdog!”

Aside from his medical interests, Eskin nurtured a lifelong passion for classical music and jazz.

“He took me to a bar when I was 7 to hear some jazz music when his buddies were in

town,” Catherine Eskin said. “My dad was a pretty cool guy.”

Eskin grew up in Atlantic City, where he was first chair in violin and viola in the All-Star Orchestra. He also played the clarinet and saxophone from an early age, landing his first paying gig at 11 or 12. He played about 40 shows with jazz bandleader Stan Kenton in the summer of 1942.

A musical highlight occurred two years later when, while a 16-year-old student at Princeton University — he graduated high school at 15 — he played viola in a quartet with Albert Einstein.

“It was probably one of the most thrilling moments of his life,” Catherine Eskin said.

During a World War II Navy stint, Eskin played in an officer’s club band and formed a band in Albany to support himself while in medical school. After the war, he completed his undergraduate



▲ Bernie Eskin (front row, third from right) as a youth performing in a jazz orchestra

studies at Rutgers University.

In the Philadelphia area, he joined a doctors’ orchestra, spending 30 years there and serving as its president. He later joined the Main Line Symphony Orchestra and the Lower Merion Symphony.

Bernie and Lynn Eskin were members of Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley and frequent travelers.

One of their highlights was meeting Princess Grace of Monaco. Grace Kelly was born in East Falls and her family was involved with Women’s

Medical College. Catherine Eskin believes her father met Kelly at some point through the hospital and, before a European vacation in the mid-1960s, he wrote her asking if they could visit. She agreed, inviting them for tea.

Eskin is survived by his wife, Lynn; three children, Gregg Eskin (Esther Cohen), JoAnne Sutkin (Steve) and Catherine Eskin (Michael Barickman); and seven grandchildren. ●

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# Neil Gorchow, Computer Programming Pioneer Who Worked With NASA, Dies at 95

## OBITUARY

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**NEIL GORCHOW**, a former Sperry Univac executive who helped create software used on NASA missions, died of heart failure at his home in Sarasota, Florida, on Dec. 26. He was 95.

The former Rydal resident partnered with NASA when Sperry Univac was chosen to develop the software used on the Gemini and Apollo programs. He knew the astronauts on both missions and was invited to attend several launches.

Gorchow was born to Joe and Doris Gorchow in Sioux City, Iowa. He served in the Navy during World War II and was one of the first entrants in the Navy's V-12 Program, a college course to train commissioned officers for the war. He served as a lieutenant, junior grade, aboard the destroyer USS Eugene A. Greene and was honorably discharged in July 1946.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa after the war. He returned to Sioux City to join his family's coal distribution business and served as chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Gorchow married Roslyn Wein in 1955. They moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he joined Sperry Univac as a software systems analyst in 1956 and later advanced to director of software systems.

Early in his 30-year career at the company, he helped to develop software for the U.S. Census and UNIVAC, the world's first commercially produced electronic digital computer.

He became vice president of product strategy in 1965 and lived with his wife and four children in Rydal while



▲ Neil Gorchow in Navy uniform

Courtesy of Jonathan Gorchow



▲ Neil Gorchow

“With all of his significant accomplishments and achievements, he never talked about himself.”

JONATHAN GORCHOW

working from Sperry Univac headquarters in Blue Bell.

His son, Jonathan Gorchow, described him as a strict but loving father who always put his family first.

“He was a wonderful role model in every way: as a father, as a business professional and as a religious and charitable man. He was very easy to love and admire,” he said.

J. Presper Eckert, co-developer of the first electronic digital computer ENIAC, and Grace Hopper, computer scientist and naval officer, reported to Neil Gorchow during his career. He helped develop Disneyland and Disney World animation systems and created early software for the French National Railway Systems and Lufthansa Airlines.

Jonathan Gorchow said his father advocated to make his field more accessible. He was an early champion of women in the computer industry, known to recruit coders from the corporate secretarial pool. He spoke at conferences and

called for companies to make computer software more user-friendly.

He was struck by his father's humility throughout his career.

“With all of his significant accomplishments and achievements, he never talked about himself. Even when we would ask him questions, he would understate his role in whatever he was doing, and give credit to others, and that's something we all learned from and greatly appreciated,” he said.

Neil Gorchow's daughter, Sheryl Gorchow-Stuart, agreed that he didn't talk much about his accomplishments, but remembered being allowed to stay up late to watch the space launches he helped orchestrate.

She said her father's volunteer work and commitment to education inspired her to pursue careers in the nonprofit industry and higher education. Neil Gorchow served on the advisory board of Temple University's Graduate School of Business (now Fox School of

Business) and was a founding board member of the Hebrew Free Loan Society. He was a member and president of Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park, where he enjoyed attending morning minyan, and had leadership roles with the affiliated Solomon Schechter Day School (now Perelman Jewish Day School).

His children were proud to join him on the bimah for Shabbat morning services during their summer breaks.

“He expected us to take Hebrew school seriously, or as seriously as our regular school studies,” Jonathan Gorchow said.

Gorchow-Stuart said her father was traditional in many ways, but always willing to be

flexible and supportive.

“When I was in college — I went to college locally at Haverford — I brought a whole group of my girlfriends home for seder one year, and I brought home a feminist Haggadah. And he cheerfully helped me lead a feminist seder,” she said.

Neil Gorchow and his wife moved to Sarasota in 2008. The couple traveled widely, and he pursued his passion for golf with family and friends until the pandemic.

In addition to Jon Gorchow and Gorchow-Stuart, he is survived by his wife, children Julie Levine and Bruce Gorchow and 14 grandchildren. ●

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# 'RuPaul's Drag Race' Features 'Jewish Princess'

## NATIONAL

SHANNON LEVITT | JE FEATURE

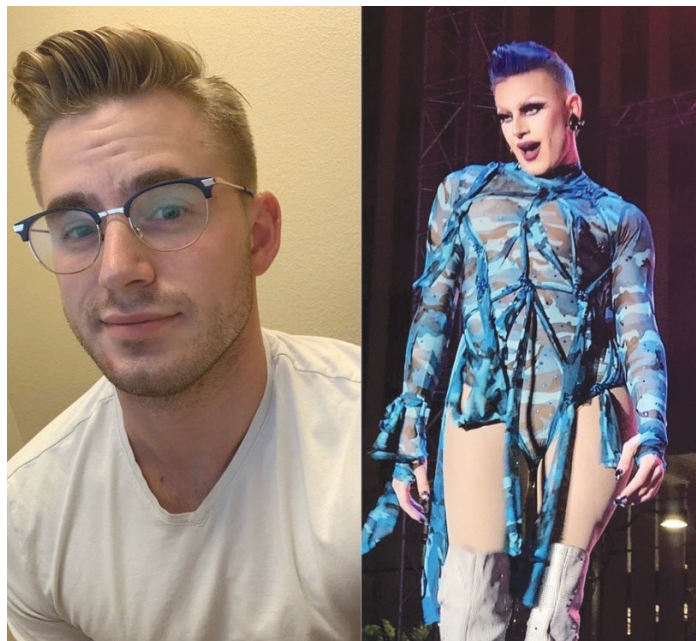
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED to go that way.

Joey Jay, the 30-year-old Phoenix-area contestant on "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season 13, unexpectedly found himself on the chopping block in the opening moments of the show.

Previous seasons began with introductions, funny interludes between contestants, a challenge and a runway walk. Only then came elimination. But on Jan. 1, Jay and fellow contestant Kandy Muse barely had time for introductions when RuPaul appeared, saying they would lip-sync before the judges and the loser would be eliminated.

"RuPaul is right there and then you're lip-syncing for your life," said Jay, who describes his drag persona as a "Jewish princess." "It was the scariest moment of my life."

Later, in the show's individual confessional, Jay laughed about possible "plot twists," though as of press time it was unclear how the drama would play out. But Jay's recent tweet, "S13 is basically just gay Saw," seems ominous.



▲ Joey Jay out of and in drag.

Photo courtesy of Joey Jay

"It was so much and all of us were so taken by it, but tomorrow's a new day," he explained. "This is going to be lovely TV."

Season 13 had other surprises thanks to COVID-19 — including the show's 12-day quarantine.

"Twelve days of self-isolation in a hotel room, you kind of go a little crazy," Jay said.

Jay's drag career began just four years ago — and as a part-time gig at that. By day, he

worked as an account manager at an educational software company in Mesa, Arizona. He only did drag on Friday nights because of his work schedule.

"I really value and cherish sleep," he said. "It was just really hard to function efficiently when the next day I had to sell."

But the job was always a means to an end — to save money for a condo and mark time while building a drag career.

He started auditioning for

"RuPaul's Drag Race" just a month after starting drag.

"Let me tell you, the audition process is very lengthy and it takes a lot of time and long days — very stressful, long days," Jay said.

His first two attempts weren't successful, and he hopes no one ever sees his first audition tape: "If it surfaces, it's not good," he said jokingly.

But the third time was the charm. Winning a coveted place on the show so quickly isn't the only unique thing about Jay's drag career. For one, his drag name is rather low-key. Born Joey Jadryev, he didn't feel a more flamboyant name would suit him. For another, Jay usually sports his own short hair rather than an elaborate wig, which is more the norm in the drag community.

His "boy hair" has drawn ire from other drag queens, but it's something he feels strongly about — and a topic he was planning to address on the show after his runway appearance. But he wasn't expecting to be in front of the judges right away. Depending on how things play out, he realizes "my plan could definitely go down the drain."

Talking honestly and publicly about things that matter comes naturally to Jay: His social media accounts are full of support for causes like Black Lives Matter.

"When you get in drag you are a political statement — you're not just in drag to put a wig on," he said. "It's your duty to educate people about Stonewall and Marsha P. Johnson."

Given that many of the show's fans are young and impressionable, Jay said he feels a responsibility to provide a perspective they might not otherwise get.

"Who knows what their parents are telling them or what their parents stand for, but I know equality is right," he said. "I'm a humanitarian and it's just so important for these

kids to know what's right and wrong."

People in the Phoenix area are proud of Jay's success.

"I've been watching 'Drag Race' for years," said Deb Behrendt, one of the chairs of AZ Jews for Pride. "I am proud that Joey Jay hails from Phoenix and is Jewish. I just feel like a proud mom watching Joey Jay slay!"

Behrendt's co-chair, Cantor Ross Wolman of Temple Chai, appreciates that Jay has chosen to highlight Jewish identity.

That identity is very important to Jay, whose family in Los Angeles is "very Jewish," he said. "Whenever I go visit them, we're just throwing Yiddish at each other all day long and laughing and it's so fun." Jay was very close to his late grandmother, an Orthodox Jew, and attended virtual services at his mother's synagogue for the High Holidays last year. "It's really nice because a lot of people have their preferred pronouns and it's very LGBT-friendly," he said.

One regret, however, is missing out on a bar mitzvah. Growing up, Jay was a competitive figure skater and the family couldn't afford both ice skating and a bar mitzvah. Jay's grandmother advised that a bar mitzvah could be put off, but there was an expiration date on ice skating.

Even though Jay is "more lax" religiously than his grandmother, missing out on a bar mitzvah still rankles.

"To this day, I have not had a chance to get my bar mitzvah," he said. "But it's on my bucket list because I know if I don't I'm going to have guilt for all eternity for my grandmother."

"RuPaul's Drag Race" airs Fridays at 8 p.m. on The CW Network, MTV, MTV2, PopTV and Logo. ●

Shannon Levitt is the managing editor of Jewish News in Phoenix, an affiliated publication of the Jewish Exponent.

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## Fish

Continued from **Page 5**

Alaska and Canada.

In addition to smoked fish, the shop at 824 Christian St. will offer maple syrup, cheese, tomato sauce and produce from Vermont. Biederman is receiving orders of butter from France and local items like bagels from Kaplan's New Model Bakery and pastries from vegan Jewish baking pop-up Lil' Yenta's.

"It's more of a curation of things that I would like to see," Biederman said.

once it is safe to do so.

Eugene Mopsik was walking to the Italian Market with his daughter on Christian Street one weekend in December when he saw the sign for the new appetizing shop. Intrigued, he ducked in and struck up a conversation with Biederman.

When he learned about her business idea, the New York transplant was reminded of the smoked fish shops he frequented with his father on the Lower East Side as a boy, and of the smoked fish he sampled during his world travels as a

At one point, I said to Lauren, 'Do you need an old Jewish guy in the shop?'"

EUGENE MOPSIK

Biederman has crowd-sourced ideas from the Bella Vista Neighbors Association, asking members about their favorite kinds of fish and what they would like to see in stock. Biederman's has sold takeout brunch boards with bagels, cream cheese, smoked fish, olives and pastries to test the waters before the official opening on Jan. 15.

"Those are very helpful, to have input," she said.

Although not all of the items at Biederman's will be kosher, there will be plenty of kosher options, and the dietary status of all items will be clearly marked.

"All of the fish that comes from Samaki is going to be kosher certified. We will not have any meat in-house ever," she said. "We are getting most of our baked goods from kosher bakeries."

Due to the pandemic, the shop will offer takeout and online ordering only when it opens. Biederman hopes to offer cafe-style seating outdoors, and later indoors,

freelance photographer.

"At one point, I said to Lauren, 'Do you need an old Jewish guy in the shop?'" he said.

He had knife skills from his time working at an Orthodox summer camp kitchen as a high school and college student, and Biederman welcomed him aboard. Now, he helps out slicing fish and produce.

"I was looking for something to keep me a little busier. I have some nonprofit board work that I do, but something in the food service industry was an exciting opportunity for me," Mopsik said.

So far, one of his favorite items is the pastrami-smoked salmon from Samaki. The fish is rubbed with pepper, coriander, paprika, mustard and other spices, which creates a blackened flavorful coating.

"It's fabulous," he said. "It's beautiful to look at, it slices nice, it's just got wonderful flavor." •

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► Interior of Biederman's Specialty Foods

Courtesy of Lauren Biederman



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## Solomonov

Continued from Page 1

bring people to Israel emotionally with the food that I cook and the stories that we tell," Solomonov said. "And now, we bring people virtually."

The first episode, which aired via Vimeo, featured "Haaretz" food journalist Ronit Vered and Via Sabra founder Avihai Tsabari, with the trio cooking chicken thighs and pilaf. Remaining episodes will include interviews with the likes of cookbook author Adeena Sussman, baker Uri Scheft and the lead singer of Yemen Blues, Ravid Kahalani. Together with Solomonov, they'll cook classic Israeli dishes like sabich, schnitzel and borekas.

Each episode will use the

evening's dish as an entry point to conversations about the people, places and cultures that make up Eretz Yisrael. An episode featuring conversations with gap-year students, many of them introduced to Israel for the first time, features basic Israeli foods for the newcomer, like couscous and chopped salad; the episode with Osama Dalal, an Akko-based chef, uses a quirky fish schnitzel recipe to talk about the city's long history of Jewish and Arab coexistence.

"We're so fortunate on this show to visit with an incredible lineup of people, who will bring that sense of place and culinary discovery to us at home," Solomonov said.

The genesis of the show is fairly simple, according to Solomonov. Unable to travel

to Israel to see his family and friends, and with more time on his hands than he's had in years, "Bringing Israel Home" is as much a way to stay sane as it is a venue for his cooking. There's only so much time to be spent running restaurants that are operating at a fraction of their pre-pandemic capacity.

"This is something that I kind of need to do," Solomonov said. "I really am homesick, and introducing people to Israel is what I do."

He's positive that the show would never have happened without the newly discovered time to devote to its production, nor without the void created by the impossibility of travel.

Tsabari, who appears on many episodes, is the proprietor of several tour guide companies, and will give



▲ Michael Solomonov will eat Israeli food on his new show.

Photo by Michael Persico

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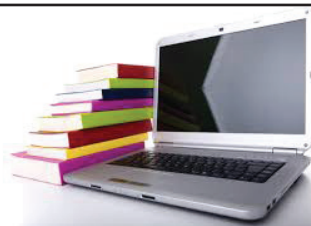
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contextualizing information and stories for some of the dishes. As a young man, he was a friend of Solomonov's brother, David, who was killed during his IDF service in 2003. The connections run deeper than that — David Solomonov was friends with Tsabari's sister, and Solomonov's mother was Tsabari's English teacher.

"I can count on one hand the people who are as generous, as genuine and have a really, really big heart, like Mike," said Tsabari, who lives in Hod HaSharon.

On the episode dedicated to David Solomonov, which will stream on March 3, Solomonov will interview members of his brother's unit and cook a lamb dish that was a family favorite.

Like Solomonov, Tsabari sees a direct line between the new burdens of travel and the desire for a show like "Bringing Israel Home."

"The fact that now people are being told that they can't come to Israel, even if they didn't plan to come to Israel before, is now making them more eager to come here," Tsabari said, even if "coming" to Israel doesn't take them any further than their stovetops and ovens.

Interested viewers can follow @bringingisraelhome on Instagram, and enter to win a private Zoom cooking class with Solomonov at the show's homepage.

"Bringing Israel Home" is supported by The Jewish Community Response and Impact Fund, Jim Joseph Foundation, Maimonides Fund, The Paul E. Singer Foundation and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation; The Hub on My Jewish Learning and The Nosh are promotional partners. •

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## Opened

Continued from Page 1

### Newly Open

#### Tot Shabbat Box

Jewish educator Beth Rabinowitz started Tot Shabbat Box to help families and children stay connected to Judaism while social distancing. The boxes, which contain blessings, art supplies, games, puzzles and other items to encourage open-ended, Jewish-themed play, were shipped to local addresses as well as homes in North Dakota, Canada and Australia. Rabinowitz has partnered with day schools, jkidphilly, PJ Library, jBaby Chicago and other organizations to develop and distribute the kits.

"It actually went from being just Shabbat and Havdalah to Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Mitzvah Mania," she said.

#### Best By

Max Levin founded Best By in 2020 after his family's wholesale business was left with a backlog of perishable food when restaurants shut down in March. He started selling items with short shelf lives directly to consumers at significant discounts. Since then, the company has expanded to offering next-day delivery in the Philadelphia area for toys, outdoor supplies, groceries, beauty products and other items that are being liquidated by manufacturers.

"Our core competency is perishables, but we are evolving into different opportunities," Levin said.

#### Shemesh Shop

Shani Klein opened her online store, Shemesh Shop, after a neighbor admired a tie-dye project she was doing with her kids over the summer. In addition to personalized shirts, hats and beach blankets, Shemesh Shop, which is named for the Hebrew word for "sun," stocks colorful cloth face masks.

Klein, a speech pathologist, added items to her inventory over the holidays, including

hand-dyed beanie hats and curated gift sets.

"Although the shop is still young, I've had a lot of returning customers and that means so much to me," Klein said.

#### Buddha Babe

While 2020 was the year of the online pivot for many business owners, Tina Dixon Spence opened her brick-and-mortar baby goods store, Buddha Babe, in November after running her online-only boutique for babies and toddlers for six years (her products are still available online).

#### Ilyan Jewelry

Gemologist Amy Fink used her connections and experience working in New York's Diamond District for 25 years to create a new business with friend Kimberly Kimmel, a fellow Akiba Hebrew Academy (now Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy) alum. Ilyan Jewelry, named for Fink's children Ilana and Ryan, offers a curated line of rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings for appointment-only shopping at their showroom office in Haverford. Fink said business was good during the holidays, and she and Kimmel are looking to grow the company through their website and word-of-mouth.

#### For Noshing: New Eateries and Pop-Ups

Baking became a quarantine pastime, and some Jewish bakers took it a step further, using their

new skills to fuel new business. Chef Yehuda Sichel, formerly of CookNSolo's Abe Fisher, opened his sandwich shop, Huda, and started serving sandwiches on his signature milk buns. Couple Ran Betite and Yael Cooperman sell sourdough, challah and Iraqi-Israeli treats inspired by Betite's grandmother at their pop-up, Metuka Freshly Baked. Jacob and Alexandra Cohen started Kismet Bagels and produce close to 2,000 "New York on the inside, Montreal on the outside," bagels every week. And Wharton student Ben Berman founded Good Pizza, delivering his homemade pies by lowering them to customers from his Center City apartment window.

#### Special Mention: Grassroots Food Truck

After six years of setbacks, former Penn Hillel chefs Troy Harris and Kareem Wallace launched the Kosher Grassroots Food Truck in November and started offering a delivery service in December. Harris and Wallace are not Jewish, but their business, also known as the Chosen Mitbach, caters to the Jewish community.

#### Permanently Closed

##### Mama's Vegetarian

Kosher diners and falafel fans throughout Philadelphia mourned the loss of Mama's Vegetarian, a Center City institution that offered Middle Eastern classics at an affordable price point. This was not a pandemic-related loss; the restaurant technically closed

in August 2019 due to disruption upstairs caused by renovations by the landlord, but owner Haviv David announced it would close permanently in June 2020 after the landlord declined to renew the lease.

##### Barclay Caterers

The pandemic has been especially hard on the entertainment and events industry. In June, Barclay Caterers, one of the go-to kosher catering companies in the Philadelphia area since 1966, announced on Facebook it had been forced to close for good. The post elicited an outpouring of sadness from patrons.

"It was so hard to close after 53 years. It's still very hard today," partner Steve Hellinger said.

##### Repair the World Philadelphia

Philadelphia's chapter of the Jewish social justice nonprofit Repair the World closed in July after seven years. The national organization made the decision to close the local office due to the financial difficulties of the pandemic. Philadelphia Repair offered community engagement programs, volunteer opportunities and service and education fellowships.

##### Cheu Noodle Bar

Cheu Noodle Bar, the Center City restaurant known for brisket ramen and other Asian fusion cuisine with a Jewish twist, closed in October. Chef and co-owner Ben Puchowitz said the restaurant's business model was not pandemic-friendly.

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#### Special mention: South Philadelphia Shtiebel

South Philadelphia Shtiebel left its prayer space on Passyunk Avenue in August — the small organization couldn't afford to spend so much money on a storefront while they weren't meeting in person. Rabbanit Dasi Fruchter is still offering virtual programming and even built a sukkah for limited numbers of occupants at her home in the fall.

"With start-ups, we have flexibility to adapt and innovate so quickly, on a dime," she said.

*Additional reporting by Jesse Bernstein. •*

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# We Were Interrupted. We Were Not Stopped.



BY U.S. REP. SUSAN WILD

ON JAN. 6, 2021, in the midst of unfolding chaos — the sounds of gunfire and shattering glass echoing around me — I made one of the toughest phone calls of my life. I FaceTimed my 27-year-old son and 24-year-old daughter, Clay and Addie, to see their faces and to tell them how much I loved them. While I tried hard to steady my voice and project some semblance of confidence, I had never experienced the kind of terror I felt in that moment.

Let's be clear on what took place last week: Domestic terrorists — armed with guns, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) including pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails, tear gas and other weapons — stormed the United States Capitol and brought democracy to a halt. Breaching one layer of security after another, they reached the doors of the House chamber — pounding on the doors and breaking glass to try to force their way in.

As revealed by the images that

have since been broadcast across our country and around the world, a thin line of officers had to rely on their own bodies and a makeshift barricade of nearby furniture to keep the violent mob from overrunning them and breaking into the House chamber — an outcome which, according to every indication, would have resulted in a massacre. It's a miracle that more people didn't lose their lives. As Reuters journalist Tim Bourg stated, "I heard at least three different rioters at the Capitol say that they hoped to find Vice President Mike Pence and execute him by hanging him from a Capitol Hill tree as a traitor. It was a common line being repeated. Many more were just talking about how the VP should be executed."

Vice President Pence, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the representatives on the floor were escorted out as the mayhem broke out. But those of us up in the gallery found ourselves trapped. Officers trained their weapons on the doors behind us. Feeling a sharp surge of panic as I tried to process what was happening, I sheltered under my seat. My colleague and friend Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado — a veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat — gripped my hand and assured me that we would make it out alive.

In the tension of the moment, I lost track of time.

I couldn't tell whether five or

30 minutes had passed since the officers had shouted instructions to retrieve gas masks under our seats and start crawling toward escape on the far side of the gallery. Finally, we were able to evacuate under their protection.

Members who had served in the military and had experience with gas masks from their days in combat — Rep. Crow, Rep. Ruben Gallego and others — helped civilians adjust the equipment. With officers leading the way, we filed out through the long, labyrinthine hallways of the Capitol, eventually reaching our secure location — a large committee conference room.

We stayed sequestered in that location for hours as Capitol Police worked to regain control and track down all those who had spread out across the complex. Photos and videos captured by resolute journalists show the nature of these individuals and the ideology that motivated them: the neo-Nazi wearing clothing emblazoned with "Camp Auschwitz" — only one of myriad anti-Semitic and racist symbols and paraphernalia proliferating throughout the crowd; the nooses left hanging across the complex, and the gallows the perpetrators had set up outside; the Confederate flags carried inside the Capitol; the white supremacist "OK" and Nazi salutes; the phrase "Murder the media" etched into one of the Capitol's doors; acts

of theft, vandalism and desecration committed in offices and on the floor of the chamber; and, most importantly, the violence — violence resulting in the deaths of five people and scores of serious injuries, including the death of a brave Capitol Police officer, Officer Brian Sicknick, who died protecting his country against those who would betray it.

Those who attacked the Capitol were not patriots. They are traitors with blood on their hands. They must be treated as such and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

But to pretend that this event somehow happened in a vacuum — the work of the individuals who participated in the physical breach alone — would be profoundly false.

Earlier that same day, after all, the president had whipped the crowd into a frenzy, reiterating his false and destructive claims that the election had been stolen and telling his supporters to "walk down to the Capitol" and saying, "Our country has had enough. We're not going to take it anymore." "Fight!" he told them. After lying for months about the election and the possibility of overturning the results, the president and those objecting to the election's certification in Congress had led their supporters to expect an impossible outcome.

When the mob stormed the Capitol that afternoon, they were trying to prevent us from doing

our constitutional duty. But late that night, after midnight and into the early hours of the next morning, I was back on the House floor with my colleagues to do my duty. Critically, Congress was interrupted but not stopped. The will of the American people prevailed.

I believe we must take immediate steps to ensure that this president does not do further damage to our democracy in the last weeks of his term. But these immediate steps, while necessary, are insufficient. Once this chapter has passed and the new administration is in place, my colleagues and I must work to make our democracy stronger over the long run, to address the culture of violence, xenophobia and intimidation that has taken root in our society. And, regardless of political affiliation, we must all make clear that what happened this week will never be allowed to happen again.

Our country deserves better. The attack on the Capitol was an attack on our nation and an insult to every American. We must, and we will, rise above it. ●

Congresswoman Susan Wild was the first woman elected to serve Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District in the House of Representatives and the only Jewish federally elected Pennsylvania official. The former Allentown solicitor lives in the Lehigh Valley.

# When the Prayer for the Government Takes on New Meaning



BY RABBI MENACHEM CREDITOR

I REMEMBER MANY years ago feeling ambivalent about the prayer for the government recited in synagogues every Shabbat morning. Were we sanctifying the policies of an administration? What of political leaders who would use religious language in pursuit of their particular agendas? I wondered: Isn't God bigger than that?

My feelings have changed as I've grown older, but never have I

prayed as deeply for the government of the United States as I did last week, upon witnessing a violent mob attack our nation's capital. Professional journalists and smartphone-wielding citizens made clear that we were in dire need of heaven's help.

On Jan. 6, my children asked me to explain the inexplicable, and my response was a worried, stumbling prayer: *Please God, protect our government's leaders,*

*who have been whisked away from the very heart of America because of the threat of physical harm.*

Regardless of a citizen's political commitments regarding small government or universal health care, fiscal conservatism or foreign policy, the ancient sage Rabbi Chanina, the deputy high priest of his day, defined what it means to pray for the government when he said: "One should pray for the welfare of the government,

as were it not for the fear of the government, every person would swallow their neighbor alive." The violence in Washington, D.C., proved him right.

The common good is a fragile thing, and its preservation depends upon the collective stewardship of our leaders. Jewish history is replete with examples of how easy it can be for a leader to incite societal fissures. Just last week, we read in the Torah

of Pharaoh's successful method of incremental dehumanization of our ancestors, fomenting a division between us (Israelites) and them ("real" Egyptians). Jews have learned to trust the psalmist who warned not to place eternal "trust in princes or kings." But we have also learned to ask heaven's help in appointing leaders who will act in good trust. In other words, we pray that our government will succeed at keeping faith with the people it is called to serve.

The desecration of America's national symbols, the wielding of weapons on the Congress floor, the assault on law enforcement and the leaders they were sworn to protect was nothing less than an assault on the health of our country, an act of American blasphemy.

A faithful person, according to the great American civil rights leader Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, "holds God and man

in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair."

When a Jew beseeches God to protect the government, it isn't a partisan prayer or the expectation that God will explicitly intervene in a historical moment. A prayer for the government is a kind of citizen's Hippocratic Oath. *We pledge to protect each other from harm.*

This prayer is a traditional commitment to society's welfare, a ritualized way of ingraining in the collective Jewish conscience the biggest command of all: loving our neighbors as ourselves.

So let us pray. •

Rabbi Menachem Creditor is the scholar in residence at UJA-Federation New York. This piece was first published by JTA.

## KVETCH 'N' KVELL

### We Must Be More Inclusive

**LETTER-WRITER BETTE KLEIN** comments on an article you published, "Interfaith Couples Navigate Holiday Season" (Dec. 10), and the effect on Jewish grandchildren. She fails to understand reality.

I'm an older mom who never would have considered marrying a non-Jewish man. Times have changed. I have two sons. One married Jewish, the other not. I love my sons, and I love their wives. They are all wonderful parents, and I have four grandkids. In today's world, we must be more inclusive because we have to. I can't reject my son, and I have to accept his choices, including not having Jewish grandkids.

The reality is that lots of Jews are marrying out, some raising their kids Jewish and some not. In my case, they're not raising their sons Christian or Jewish, just to be good and ethical people. I can't ask for anything more.

Susan Yemin | Westfield, New Jersey

### B'Nei Mitzvot Are About the Children

I enjoyed reading "Has COVID Killed the B'nei Mitzvah Party?" (Alex Lazarus Klein, Dec. 28). As an event planner/ designer I sometimes think I've seen it all, but then find myself mistaken. When parents would agonize who was coming and not coming to their simcha, I had a simple piece of advice: When you are facing the bimah, watching your child, it won't matter who is sitting behind you. It's all about your child in that moment. •

Zozzie Golden | via jewishexponent.com

# Mourning and Joy — at the Same Time



BY RABBI EREZ SHERMAN

**THERE ARE PASSAGES** of the Talmud that you learn in the sacred books and are purely theoretical, and then there are pieces of Torah that become your reality in the blink of an eye.

The famous teaching from Masechet Ketubot, for example, instructs, "If a funeral procession and a wedding procession meet at an intersection, the wedding procession goes first."

Last Wednesday, this teaching was not rabbinic advice, but the reality I lived. My beloved aunt, Rachel Durlacher (z"l), passed away in Israel. At 16, she made aliyah from Philadelphia, met her husband on Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu and had 10 children and 37 grandchildren. She truly loved the land and the Jewish people. If you have ever traveled to Israel with me, personally or professionally, there was a 100% chance you met Aunt Rachel.

Rachel never left home without her *chalil*, a simple wooden flute, which she used to serenade God's world with her voice, with her songs, with her heart and with her soul. She never left home without a paintbrush and canvas, putting the beauty of God's world on paper for all of us to witness. And she never left home without something to give to someone in need: a shekel, a gift, a snack, a piece of Torah.

With the miracle of Zoom, our family gathered from the four corners of the earth — at 4:30 a.m. in Los Angeles and 1:30 p.m. in Israel — to remember

her sacred life. But just hours later, we were scheduled, also with the miracle of technology, to celebrate my sister's wedding. Nitza and her fiancé Jamie had waited patiently as COVID-19 postponed the original chupa date. As they watched world circumstances deteriorate, they rescheduled the wedding, providing us with a moment to find joy in challenging times.

And we did. For life must continue, and joy must be recognized and not delayed. Seven different family members around the world recited *sheva brachot*, toasts and speeches through a screen. At the end of the evening, a bride and groom rejoiced *uvchutot yerushalayim*, in the streets of Jerusalem.

As I laid my head to sleep on Wednesday night, I could not help but marvel at the wisdom of our tradition. Every morning, we recite the Psalm, *hafachta mispdi lmachol li, pitachta saki vatazreni simcha* — God, You turn my mourning into dancing, You change my sackcloth into robes of joy. And that Wednesday, as one part of my family sat shiva, the other part recited *sheva brachot*.

At each wedding I officiate, I explain the significance of the number seven, a number of wholeness and holiness. Shabbat is on the seventh day, a number of peace and of completeness. And yet, as we uttered the *sheva brachot* in a moment of completeness, my family across the world was also broken.

When we conclude a Jewish wedding with the smashing of the glass, we are reminded of the broken souls who yet wait for a day of celebration and joy. At the same time our cousins tore their garments for *keriah* in Israel,

we broke a glass in Los Angeles. Two symbols of brokenness, and yet two rituals of rebuilding.

Our extended family has a WhatsApp group. It is constantly in action, with family members around the world, 10 hours apart, talking. These last seven days have been particularly active, with memories that created our present and recent pictures that will create our future together.

This year has been a challenge for each one of us. There has been mourning and joy all at once, too many times to count. As a rabbi, I have learned to officiate Zoom baby namings, b'nai mitzvah, funerals and weddings. From Zoom room to Zoom room, families stare at me over a screen in preparation for these life cycle events, skeptical that any meaning can come without physical touch.

But then I receive letters, week after week, of grateful members of our community, who now do not need to imagine a grandparent across the country having an aliyah at a bar mitzvah or a cousin sharing a story they have never heard at a shiva. Community works, despite physical distance, because of social and spiritual closeness.

Twelve hours: a funeral and a wedding; *sheva brachot* and shiva; tears of mourning, tears of joy; a soul remembered and two souls. It is who we are, and who we must be. •

Rabbi Erez Sherman is a rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles and the son of Rabbi Charles Sherman of Melrose B'nai Israel Emanuel in Elkins Park. This piece was originally published in the Los Angeles Jewish Journal and is reprinted with permission.

#### STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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# Hot Chocolate: A Love Affair

## FOOD

LINDA MOREL | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

**BECAUSE I LOVE** chocolate, I was thrilled to learn that Jan. 31 is National Hot Chocolate Day. What could be better than a day devoted to this velvety rich drink?

Believe it or not, hot chocolate is actually good for you — if you skip the sugar. Unsweetened cocoa powder is loaded with antioxidants and flavanols, which are healthy nutrients.

Bringing back the best childhood memories, cocoa conjures up winter and the big four: sledding, skiing, snowball fights and sitting by a fireplace.

The first hot chocolate was enjoyed by the Mayans about 2,000 years ago. It was prepared as a savory drink

with chili peppers. Today in Mexico, sweetened cocoa is spiced with cayenne pepper and chili powder.

The French dress up hot chocolate with cinnamon sticks and vanilla. At breakfast, they often dip brioche into this silky rich elixir.

While Italian hot chocolate is so thick it's as filling as a meal, the American version is a lighter cocoa-kissed drink, topped by slowly melting marshmallows.

Because Jan. 31 falls on a Sunday, it's the perfect time to celebrate National Hot Chocolate Day.

Follow COVID-19 guidelines and limit gatherings to immediate family and people in your pod or host a party outdoors. Serve cocoa in fine



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china, rustic mugs or quirky cups. Whatever the style of your celebration, sipping this decadent drink is the ultimate indulgence.

### COCOA AMERICANO | DAIRY Serves 4

- 4 tablespoons, plus 4 cups whole milk
- 4 heaping tablespoons fine-quality unsweetened cocoa powder
- 8 heaping tablespoons sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- 8 standard-size marshmallows (JET-PUFFED brand is kosher)

In a medium-large pot, briefly heat 4 tablespoons of milk to warm. Sprinkle in the cocoa. Remove the pot from the flame. Stir until the mixture forms a chocolate paste.

Add 4 cups of milk, sugar and salt. Return the pot to a medium flame. Whisk vigorously until the chocolate paste dissolves and the ingredients are well combined. Bring the

cocoa to a fast simmer for 2 minutes.

Pour into 4 cups or mugs. Top with 2 marshmallows apiece and serve immediately.

### FRENCH HOT CHOCOLATE | DAIRY Serves 4

- 4 tablespoons, plus 4 cups whole milk
- 8 teaspoons fine-quality unsweetened cocoa
- 4 drops vanilla
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 8 ounces fine-quality semisweet chocolate

Optional accompaniment:  
brioche or challah slices

In a medium-large pot, briefly heat 4 tablespoons of milk over a medium flame until warm. Sprinkle in the cocoa. Remove it from the flame. Stir well until the mixture forms a chocolate paste.

Add 4 cups milk, vanilla, cinnamon sticks, salt and



sugar. Return the pot to a medium flame and stir to combine. Briefly bring it to a boil. Reduce the flame to low.

Add the chocolate. Stir it until it melts. Simmer for 5 minutes. Discard the cinnamon sticks.

Pour it into four cups and serve immediately. Dip brioche or challah slices into the hot chocolate, if desired.

## SPICY MEXICAN HOT CHOCOLATE

Serves 4

- 4 cups whole milk
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 (12-ounce) bags of semisweet chocolate chips
- Pinch of cayenne pepper, or more if you like it hot
- ½ teaspoon chili powder

Optional: fine-quality unsweetened cocoa for dusting

Place the milk, cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, sugar and salt in a medium-large sized pot. Heat it over a medium flame, whisking until the sugar dissolves. Add the chocolate chips, cayenne pepper and chili powder. Stir until the chocolate dissolves.

Cover the pot and simmer on low for 5 minutes until the hot chocolate thickens.

Pour it into four cups and serve immediately with a dusting of cocoa, if desired.

## HOT CHOCOLATE ITALIAN STYLE | DAIRY

Serves 6

### Whipped Cream Topping

- ½ pint (8 ounces) heavy cream
- ⅓ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon sugar

In a large mixing bowl, combine the heavy cream, vanilla and sugar. With an electric mixer, beat until soft peaks form. Stop beating often to make sure the cream is not over beaten, as it will turn into butter.

Cover the whipped cream with plastic wrap and reserve it in the refrigerator.

## Italian Hot Chocolate

- 12 ounces fine-quality semisweet chocolate
- 4 teaspoons fine-quality unsweetened cocoa
- ¼ cup whole milk, plus 1¾ cups
- 2 cups heavy cream
- ¼ cup sugar

Place the semisweet chocolate in a food processor and pulse on and off until it's broken into small pieces. Reserve.

In a medium-sized pot, briefly heat ¼ cup milk over

a medium flame until warm. Sprinkle in the cocoa and remove it from the flame. Stir well until the cocoa dissolves. (A few dots of cocoa may not dissolve.)

Add the remaining 1¾ cups milk, heavy cream and sugar. Return the pot to a medium flame and whisk until the mixture simmers. Reduce the flame to medium-low.

Add the semisweet chocolate pieces and whisk until the chocolate melts and is completely incorporated. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring often.

Pour it into 6 cups. Generously dollop whipped cream on top. Serve it immediately. •



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# Books: Nostalgia as Religion, Novel Falls Short

## Pastrami as Religion

### BOOKS

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

*"Beyond the Synagogue: Jewish Nostalgia as Religious Practice"*

Rachel B. Gross  
NYU Press

RACHEL B. GROSS, a professor of Jewish studies at San Francisco State University, is willing to bet that you don't see your purchase of a scarf from the National Museum of American Jewish History gift shop as religious practice. Ditto for a kosher-style pastrami sandwich scarfed down at Hymie's, an afternoon spent on a Jewish genealogical website or a historical tour of Congregation Mikveh Israel.

These activities, as we typically understand them, are Jewish cultural practices, distinct from religious practices that take place in synagogues or around the Shabbos dinner table. They are expressions

of nostalgia, in many cases, rather than spiritual exercises.

But Gross argues in her provocative new book that this distinction between "religious" and "cultural" is false. The widely shared experience of American Jewish nostalgia is, she says, the expression of understanding between Jews living and dead, i.e., religion, and create networks of sacred meaning. To view nostalgia as merely "a wishful affection or sentimental longing for an irrevocable past," Gross writes, is a mistake. It is in a Hymie's booth, she argues, digging into that pastrami sandwich, where American Jews practice religion today.

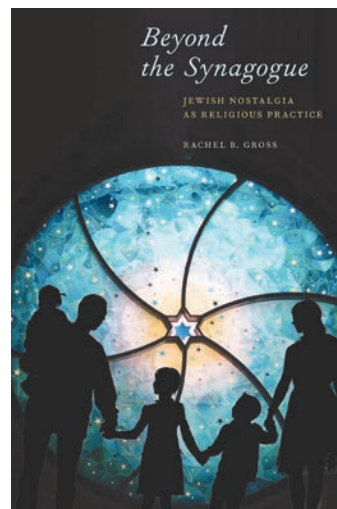
Jewish communal leaders, philanthropists and academics have sounded the alarm at the decline of traditional religious practice, Gross says, giving rise to a fundraising structure that privileges "Jewish continuity" above nearly all else. "But if we reorient where we look for American Jewish religion and reconsider how we define it,"

she writes, "then we start to find a lot more of it."

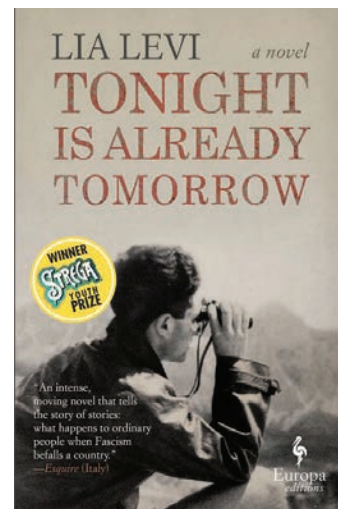
Gross uses the framework of "lived religion," expanding the definition of religious activity beyond what "official" religion allows. Rather than accepting religion as prescriptively defined by official texts and dictates of traditional institutions, Gross uses a descriptive approach that "helps us to take seriously the structures, commitments, and activities that shape everyday life," she writes.

Gross' assessment of the way institutional Judaism dismisses activities that aren't officially Jewish is well-argued and comprehensive, and her claim that this is partially due to an understanding of nostalgia as feminine and therefore unserious deserves greater study. But it's difficult to accept her larger argument.

I write for a Jewish newspaper, and read about Judaism and Jewish people more than any other subject, but I don't understand that



Courtesy of NYU Press



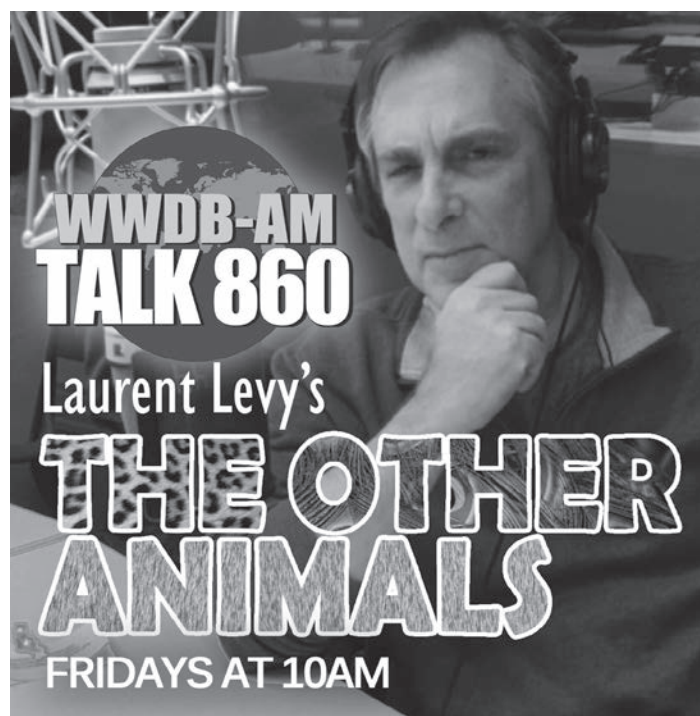
Courtesy of Europa Editions

to be religious. Likewise, it makes me feel a bit sad to consider that a preference for bagels and ancestry.com could constitute a connection to the infinite.

If powerful sectors of institutional Judaism are not properly valuing cultural practice, as Gross charges, it makes sense to argue for the intrinsic value of such practices rather than argue that they should

be recategorized as religious. Non-religious connections to Judaism should be encouraged and nurtured, but we don't need to radically reorient our communal understanding of those connections in order to see their worth.

Whether you buy the larger argument, Gross' book challenges prevailing orthodoxies of American Jewish life with respect and purpose.



## Too Many Stories, Not Enough Time

*"Tonight is Already Tomorrow"*

Lia Levi; translated by  
Clarissa Botsford  
Europa Editions

"Tonight is Already Tomorrow" is a translated work published by Europa Editions written by a prominent Italian novelist about a mid-century child prodigy. If that sounds a bit like one of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels, I'll admit that my interest in Ferrante led me to this new Europa novel by Lia Levi.

But unlike Ferrante's popular books, Levi's "Tonight is Already Tomorrow" is kind of a drag.

The writer's powers of

description are impeccable, even in translation, and her sense of the dramatic is on full display in her tale of a Genoan Jewish family caught up in the gears of Italy's fascist turn. But confusion reigns in this short novel, which introduces characters and plot lines that are quickly dropped, as if Levi, overflowing with ideas, had trouble deciding which to include. In trying to take a bite out of every cake, "Tonight is Already Tomorrow" ends up without a distinctive flavor.

At times, Levi appears most interested in the character of Alessandro, the brilliant little boy set to change the fortunes of the Jewish Rimón family. In

the chapters about him, you can see the outline of an interesting book, with grand machinations of history and familial strife seen through the eyes of a precocious little boy. But Levi finds so many other characters to inhabit that we don't spend as much time with Alessandro as we'd like. In such a short book, far too much real estate is occupied by far-flung cousins and other minor characters.

There are ideas for five interesting novels in "Tonight is Already Tomorrow." Unfortunately, Levi didn't end up with one. •

jbernstein@jewishexponent.com;  
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# Paradise Eluded in ‘Some Kind of Heaven’

## FILM

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

IN THE OPENING scenes of “Some Kind of Heaven,” viewers are treated to the well-choreographed dance that is life in a Florida retirement community.

A parade of golf carts zoom along in formation. A synchronized swimming group splashes merrily in a pool. Later, an instructor leads a line of women in a baton-twirling routine. The message is clear: Everyone has a place here.

So what happens to those who can’t find theirs?

The documentary is produced by The New York Times and Darren Aronofsky, the director behind “Black Swan” and “Pi.” It is the feature directorial debut of Lance Oppenheim, a 24-year-old filmmaker whose Instagram account fairly screams “nice Jewish boy.” In interviews with various outlets, Oppenheim said he headed to The Villages retirement community in central Florida and showed up to as many clubs and events as he could to find his subjects and their stories.

The community, founded by Jewish developer Harold Schwartz, markets itself as a Disneyland for seniors, and one retiree likens the beautiful grounds, social activities and robust dating scene to being in college again.

While there’s nothing wrong with older adults keeping active and socially engaged in their later years, the residents of The Villages live in a bubble. Most of them embrace the insularity and predictability. Others, after coughing up quite a bit of money, find they have flown into a gilded cage.

The film, which screened virtually at the Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival Jan. 10-13, follows the lives of four residents.

Anne and Reggie are a



▲ A cheer squad in The Villages  
Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

married couple whose vastly different approaches to retirement strain their relationship. Anne, an athlete, takes naturally to days full of activities and dominates the pickleball court. Reggie, on the other hand, turns to illegal and recreational drugs as he pursues a vague sense of spirituality. Anne’s nerves fray as she struggles to make herself heard in her marriage and contends with Reggie’s increasingly severe delusions, which soon yield dangerous consequences.

Barbara is a widowed Bostonian who moved to The Villages with her husband before he passed away. Despite the fact that she is surrounded by seemingly infinite clubs and opportunities to socialize, she feels lonely and homesick.

Oppenheim captures Barbara’s precise and peculiar sadness at being alone in multiple crowded rooms; she is always a few beats behind

at tambourine class or a few steps out of line when she goes dancing. She is also the only character who works full time, and the dreariness of working a desk while being surrounded by the trappings of wealth and leisure are evident on her face.

Dennis is not technically a resident of The Villages; he’s a van-dweller fleeing a California DUI fine and hoping to shack up with a wealthy lady friend. He showers at the pool and frequents bars and dances as he searches for someone to offer him financial security.

Having lived most of his 81 years as a drifter, he still dreads sacrificing his freedom for the comfort he craves as he ages. Although his gold-digging comes off as slimy, his

See Heaven, Page 22



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# Magic and Advice a Potential Danger

CANDLE LIGHTING

Jan. 15  
Jan. 22

4:42 p.m.  
4:50 p.m.

BY RABBI JOSHUA WAXMAN

## Parshat Va'era

IT'S ALL THE magicians' fault.

In this week's Torah portion, Va'era, Moses approaches God with a demand and a warning: Pharaoh must release the Israelites from bondage or else God will send plagues against the land of Egypt and its people. It's a setup, of course: God knows that Pharaoh will refuse to heed the divine command and, in the latter stages, will even harden Pharaoh's heart to ensure he won't comply. The plagues *will* come down against Egypt, the people *will* be freed.

But at the beginning, when Moses first approaches Pharaoh, perhaps the battle lines had not yet been drawn and there was a way out of this predicament without suffering and loss of life. Perhaps.

Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh and make their appeal. As God has predicted, Pharaoh demands a sign of their authenticity and so Aaron casts his rod to the ground where it becomes a snake. At this critical moment, the Torah tells us, "Then Pharaoh, for his part, summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and the

Egyptian magicians, in turn, did the same with their spells; each cast down his rod, and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed their rods." (Exodus 7:11-12)

Pharaoh is unimpressed because his magicians are seemingly able to replicate Aaron's feat. It's important, however, to notice that the Torah uses the word *b'lateihem* — translated here as "with their spells" — to specify the manner by which the magicians turn their rods into serpents. The exact meaning of the term is unclear — it appears nowhere in Torah outside of this story — and the commentators debate its valence, with Ibn Ezra understanding it as trickery or illusion.

Whatever the case, the method the magicians employ is not miraculous in the sense of Aaron's transformation, and the text further confirms that their magic isn't so powerful because the serpent that Aaron produces swallows all of theirs. But in any case, it's enough: Pharaoh is convinced that Moses and Aaron represent no power beyond what his magicians possess and refuses to let the Israelites go: "Yet Pharaoh's heart stiffened and he did not heed them, as the

Lord had said." (7:13)

The same dynamic repeats itself for the plagues of blood and frogs: The magicians either replicate or give the appearance of replicating Moses and Aaron's feats, each time *b'lateihem*, with their spells. It is only with the plague of lice that the magicians are unable to copy the miracle. Acknowledging a power greater than their own trickery, they tell Pharaoh that this plague is a genuine work of God, but by now it is too late: "But Pharaoh's heart stiffened and he would not heed them." (8:15)

It is clear from the Torah that the magicians' replication of Moses and Aaron's feats played a crucial part in convincing Pharaoh that things were under control and he could safely ignore God's demands. The repeated word *b'lateihem*, moreover, underscores that the magicians knew the whole time that they — and, by extension, Egypt — were facing a power greater than their own.

But they were so invested in their role of assuring Pharaoh, telling him what he wanted to hear, and demonstrating their own prowess and skill that they were either unable or unwilling to acknowledge this fact. By the time they concede that the threat Moses and Aaron pose

is beyond their power, it is too late because Pharaoh is already set in his ways.

Jewish wisdom emphasizes the importance advisers play in supporting both leaders and good governance through their expertise.

The esteemed Rabbi Yom-Tov Lipmann Heller (1579-1654) notes that we pray for the welfare of the government rather than just of the king himself specifically to include his advisers because of the critical role they play in upholding the state. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (1707-1746) notes in his groundbreaking work of ethics "Mesillat Yesharim" that advisers can easily mislead by providing bad or self-serving advice, which he connects with the prohibition against placing a stumbling block before the blind.

Advisers' expertise grants them an added measure of authority, which is invaluable when they provide responsible and impartial guidance. But this is precisely why self-serving advisers can be so damaging: They can exploit the veneer of credibility that their knowledge and reputations impart to further their own ends and preserve their own positions, as is the case with Pharaoh's magicians.

Since the start of the

coronavirus outbreak, we have all seen firsthand what happens when leaders fail to heed impartial and scientifically-based advice provided by qualified experts. And we have also seen the terrible betrayal of those who misuse their titles and official roles to promote false narratives rather than advocate for facts and uphold the public interest.

While there is no question in the Torah that Pharaoh holds ultimate responsibility for his decisions, the faithless magicians who offered obsequious and self-serving advice rather than forcefully stating the truth from the beginning also share responsibility in the downfall of Egypt and the spread of the plagues. •

Rabbi Joshua Waxman is rabbi emeritus of Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Congregation in Fort Washington. 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.



## Heaven

Continued from Page 21

vulnerability is sobering — a reminder of the dire straits that await those who don't, or can't, plan for their futures while they still have time.

The cinematography is gorgeous and intimate, full of surprisingly strong and coordinated bodies in motion, swaying palm trees and cerulean swimming pools. The last time anything this dreamily colorful hit screens was when "La La Land" was

released back in 2017.

The juxtaposition between the manicured golf courses and the pained looks on the subjects' faces never lets you forget something is off. It's as if Oppenheim is challenging the viewer to distinguish between the constructed beauty of a fake-historic town square and the genuine beauty of the hopes and joys of its pedestrians.

At certain points, the portrayal of The Villages

appears cloistered to the point of being oversimplified. The shots are scrubbed clean of any references to politics, with no lawn signs indicating the political divisions of the past four years. According to Business Insider, Republicans outnumber Democrats two to one in this community, and it has not been spared election-related turmoil and controversy.

Sweeping this reality under the rug in order to create a more

universal narrative arc is the easier, if not most accurate or satisfying, storytelling choice. It would have been interesting to hear from a resident whose political, racial or cultural background added another layer to their sense of alienation from their neighbors.

Nevertheless, this intriguing, surreal documentary packs incredibly layered and nuanced stories into 83 minutes. The fact that Oppenheim was able to

gain the trust of these retirees, who are separated from him by so many years, and portray their stories with such warmth reveals a level of empathy that is a pleasure to watch unfold on screen.

"Some Kind of Heaven" will be available on iTunes, Google Play, Amazon Video and other platforms on Jan. 15. •

spanzer@jewishexponent.com;  
215-832-0729



# Jewish Community Relations Council Offers Many Opportunities to Get Involved

**THE JEWISH COMMUNITY** Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia educates and advocates in Greater Philadelphia, in Congress and in the Pennsylvania State Capitol on behalf of Jewish interests and issues throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, in Israel and around the world.

Through community relations, government affairs, social action and advocacy, JCRC is dedicated to improving inter-group understanding and advancing a just and pluralistic society. JCRC focuses on education and advocacy for Israel, Holocaust education, interfaith relations, domestic affairs, racial justice initiatives and more.

Given the events over the past year, JCRC's efforts are needed now more than ever. "Our work includes planning and presenting educational and advocacy

opportunities for Jews across our region and building strong relationships with our neighbors from other communities of faith and ethnicity," JCRC Board Chair Arlene Fickler said. "JCRC programs are free and open to all who are interested in engaging with us, so please register for our programs or reach out to our JCRC team for more information."

Each year, JCRC provides education about the Holocaust, racism, genocide and the dangers of prejudice through sponsoring speakers, art competitions and multiple youth symposiums on the Holocaust, which bring thousands of students together from across Greater Philadelphia to hear from Holocaust survivors directly. JCRC also convenes a major, community wide, Holocaust commemoration ceremony.

## Upcoming JCRC Events

JCRC HAS MANY interesting programs slated for the coming month that are open to the entire community. From educational seminars to advocacy opportunities, there are so many ways to get involved. To register or learn more about each of the following programs, visit [jewishphilly.org/jcrcevents](http://jewishphilly.org/jcrcevents).

### 26th Annual Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service with Global Citizen360: A Dialogue

Monday, Jan. 18, 11:00 a.m.

The JCRC is partnering with PRO-ACT (Philadelphia Recovery Community Center) on a dialogue on race and Martin Luther King's continued legacy. The program will feature a video of "What is Your Life's Blueprint" and JCRC and PRO-ACT community members will engage in dialogue on how King's message continues to resonate today.

### Pennsylvania's "Fab Four" on What to Expect from the New Congress

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:00 p.m.

JCRC in partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley will host a panel conversation with U.S. Reps. Chrissy Houlahan, Mary Gay Scanlon, Susan Wild and Madeline Dean.

### Web Series with David Horovitz

Thursday, Jan. 28, noon

JCRC is excited to announce the next webinar in our continuing series with David Horovitz, founding editor of the online newspaper Times of Israel. In this session, Horovitz will discuss the most pressing issues in Israel and the Middle East today, including the recently announced national elections that will take place in March and the incoming Biden-Harris administration.

### JFNA Virtual Mission to Washington

Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 1-2

The first-ever National Jewish Virtual Mission to Washington is an opportunity for communities across the United States to join together virtually with political leaders and policymakers from both sides of the aisle, to advocate for the future of the Jewish community. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about and advocate for laws that fight anti-Semitism, ensure a strong

U.S.-Israel relationship and provide government resources to keep Jewish institutions flourishing.

### JFNA's Jewish Disability Advocacy Month

February — All month

From diverse communities across North America, Jewish Federations are coming together to harness our collective power to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. Help advance policy that empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence.

### Making the World More Accessible in the Time of COVID

Monday, Feb. 15, noon.

JCRC is proud to host our Jewish Disability Advocacy program with Stacy Levitan, executive director JCHAI and Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, acting co-executive Director, Jewish Learning Venture. Levitan and Kaplan-Mayer will describe their agencies and the people they serve and what they are doing to ensure that their communities are remaining engaged during the time of COVID.

### JCRC Celebrates Black History Month: Tracing the Story and Legacy of Rabbi Abel Respes

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.

JCRC and the African American Museum in Philadelphia will be joined by members of the Respes family and a local historian to share the revolutionary and inspiring story of Rabbi Abel Respes.

### Gamal Palmer — Diversity Gym and Jews of Color

Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.

Gamal Palmer, senior vice president of leadership development at the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, will lead a workshop entitled "Diversity Gym." Much like we all approach fitness from different levels, we also work through our biases from different levels of biases. Some are better at working alone, while others need more personalized coaching to help reach their goals.

**Interested in learning more about the Jewish Community Relations Council? Contact JCRC Director Laura Frank at [lfrank@jewishphilly.org](mailto:lfrank@jewishphilly.org).**



## BAR MITZVAH

### ► ETHAN FERRARA

Ethan Ferrara was a bar mitzvah on Nov. 14. His mother Rachel Lenetsky, grandparents Marvin and Diana Lenetsky and sister Lily Max Butchin were all called to the Torah.

Photo by Marvin Lenetsky



## BIRTHS

### ► DALIA ELYSE WEISS

Stephanie Weiss and Barry Edwards, along with big brother Jonah of North Bethesda, Maryland, announce the birth of their daughter and sister, Dalia Elyse, on Oct. 21.

Dalia is the granddaughter of Susan and Arthur Weiss of Richboro and Suzanne Edwards of Rockville, Maryland, and the late Stephen Edwards. Sharing in the happiness are aunts and uncles Rachel and Josh Miller, Cory and Martin Weiss, Beth Panitz and Michael Edwards, and cousins Lila, Jordyn, Isaac, Miles, Samuel and Seth.

Dalia Elyse is named in loving memory of her paternal great-grandmother, Dorothy Rubrum, and her maternal great-grandmothers, Leonna Kapnic and Esther Weiss.

Photo by Stephanie Weiss



## ANNIVERSARY

### ► BERNSTEIN

Neil and Janet Bernstein celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Jan. 8.

Their loving family wish them another 65 years of happiness, including children Steven and Renee, Mindy and Ken; grandchildren Adam and Elaina, Brad and Stephanie, Chelsea, Kenny; and great-grandchildren Nathan, Nova, Milee and Arah.

Photo by Mindy Hilbert



### ► EZRA NATHAN SOLISH

Jackie and Tom Guilfoyle of Manhattan, New York, formerly of Ambler, and Bonnie and Larry Solish of Philadelphia announce the birth of their grandson, Ezra Nathan Solish, on Dec. 24.

The parents are Heather and Scott Solish of Brooklyn, New York. Also celebrating are his brother Xavi, Aunt Allison and Uncle Paul Gittens and cousins Sammy, Natty and Ben.

Ezra Nathan is named in loving memory of maternal great-great-uncle Nathan Markovitz.

Photo by Jackie Guilfoyle



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Abramson Family Donates \$2.5M for New CHOP Emergency Department

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA announced on Jan. 5 a \$2.5 million gift from The Abramson Family that will be used to build the emergency department of a new 250,000-square-foot inpatient hospital in King of Prussia.

The Madlyn K. Abramson Emergency Department — the first dedicated pediatric emergency department in the King of Prussia area — is scheduled to open in the fall. It will include 20 beds equipped with the latest technology and the most advanced diagnostic equipment.

The emergency department will be adjacent to and operate with CHOP's existing King of Prussia Specialty Care & Surgery Center and Urgent Care. CHOP announced the expansion in 2018.

The Abramson family has supported CHOP since the early 1990s, including helping to fund a pediatric research center in 1995. The Leonard and Madlyn Abramson Pediatric Research Center more than doubled the space available for scientific discovery at CHOP.

In addition, three generations of the Abramson family have held volunteer leadership roles at CHOP.

"I am so excited for my family to be a part of

CHOP's expansion into the suburbs, as we know the new hospital will help so many families," said Madlyn Abramson's granddaughter Stephanie Wolfson Cohen, who is a member of the CHOP Foundation Board of Overseers and the King of Prussia Hospital Advisory Council.

### Three Local Organizations to Receive Covenant Foundation Grants

The Covenant Foundation, which provides money to support Jewish education in North America, announced \$1.7 million in new grants on Jan. 6, including to three area organizations.

Jewish Learning Venture of Jenkintown will receive \$50,000 to train educators to be jkid-ACCESS Guides "in order to engage families raising Jewish children with disabilities while simultaneously providing Jewish experiences and learning for those families."

Makom Community will receive \$53,000 to serve Jewish families in South Philadelphia by expanding its daily after-school enrichment programs for pre-K through seventh-grade students.

And Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia will receive \$20,000 to expand its youth/teen volunteer engagement program by

developing a Jewish service-learning curriculum with volunteer opportunities for Jewish youth and teens in the five-county Philadelphia region.

### Four-Part KleinLife Program to Explore 'United States Presidents in Retirement'

A four-part free virtual series for adults called "United States Presidents in Retirement" begins on Jan. 18 from 12:30-1:45 p.m. through KleinLife.

Attorney David Hudiak will lead the series.

"In this series, participants will get an up-close-and-personal look at the chief executives' lives after their terms in the White House," Hudiak said. "Some led mundane lives while others led a combination of mundane and noble lives. In addition, we'll also delve into their presidencies, their personal lives and deaths, and some fun facts about their retirements. Above all, all former presidents proved to be human, like you and me."

Other sessions will be on Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 from 12:30-1:45 p.m.

To register and receive a Zoom link, contact Mariya Keselman-Mekler, KleinLife's counseling and program manager and certified art therapist, at 215-698-7300, ext. 185, or email mkeselman@kleinlife.org. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

DEATH NOTICES

BRENT

Lillian H Brent passed away at home on October 5, 2020 at the age of 92. She was born of Lithuanian Jewish immigrant parents, Hershel and Florence Hoffman, in Rochester, NY in July 1928. She attended school in Rochester and then attended the University of Rochester with a degree in Education. She married her high school sweetheart, Robert Brent while he was getting his PhD and then MD at the University of Rochester. Her first two children, David and James, were born in Rochester. She then moved to Boston and then Washington, DC where Lawrence was born. Her family finally settled in Philadelphia where Deborah was born. Lillian was a woman full of love and great energy. She received a master's degree and worked as a reading specialist while she cared for a family of four children while her husband was often busy working. Lillian was a saver and Robert was an investor. They accumulated wealth and were great benefactors to the causes that were close to their hearts. These included Thomas Jefferson University, the University of Rochester, and Jewish charities. After the death of James, Lillian donated money to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia including a scholarship in memory Jimmy Brent. Lillian had a number of life-long friends who were friends of the family. She worked until the age of 62 and when she retired, she started spending the winters in Sarasota, Florida. She loved Sarasota and made many new friends there. Robert continued to work, converting one of the rooms in their Sarasota home into an office. They wintered in Sarasota until health issues forced them to return to the Philadelphia area for good. Lillian, in her final home, Cathedral Village, continued to make friends. In her final days, she rested in bed cared for by wonderful home health aids, Jeanette and Paula Augustine. She is predeceased by her son, James, and survived by her husband, Robert, of 71 years; children: David, Lawrence, and Deborah; 11 grandchildren: Rebecca, Daniel, Alyssa, Jacob, Joshua, James, Julia, Rachel, Jonathan, Michael; 15 great grandchildren; and her bother Marvin Hoffman.

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FINESTONE

Harriet Finestone (nee Norsoph), age 94, passed away on Jan, 1, 2021. Married 73 yrs to the love of her life, Gerald z"l. Loving mother of Mark (Sandy) Finestone and Fern (Neil) Mittin; adoring grandmother of Jared and Melissa Finestone, Stacey (Andrew) Salsman and Jamie (Adam) Liebman; cherished great grandmother of Jayce, Alexis, Victoria, Sadie, Sophie and Emma. Before retiring, she was the bookkeeper for Finestone Sabel Shoes. Interment was private and shiva was virtual. Contributions in her memory may be made to Beth Sholom Cong. or Alzheimer's Assoc. www.alz.org

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DEATH NOTICES

FREEDMAN

Alma Freedman, 88, passed away December 31, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. Formerly of Lower Merion, PA, Alma attended Penn State University where she studied Advertising and Marketing. After positions with companies such as The Marriott Corporation in Washington D.C. as well as in NYC, Alma ultimately spent several years, prior to retirement, in Atlanta, GA as Divisional Vice-President of Advertising and Marketing with Federated Department Stores. Alma was the beloved daughter of the late Elsie Freedman and Samuel Freedman, and is survived by her loving sister, Fran Freedman of Los Angeles, CA. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimers Association.

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GOLDENBERG

Joseph Goldenberg, Dec. 31, 2020. Husband of the late Marlene Goldenberg (nee Sadoff) Beloved father of Wayne (Jennifer) Goldenberg, Elysa Ruderman, and Samuel Goldenberg. Loving brother of David Goldenberg. Devoted grandfather of Elizabeth and Anna Goldenberg, and Nicole and Jake Ruderman. Funeral Services private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America, https://vva.org.

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KAZAN

Rabbi Frederic Kazan, on January 4, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Marian (nee Axelrod); Loving father of Dr. Liebe Gelman (Bob), Dede Rachel Kazan (Bruce Wheeler); Adam Kazan (Rebecca Starr), Faith Kazan and Linda Kazan; Dear brother of Bonnie Kanefsky; Devoted grandfather of Dr. Ari Gelman, Dr. Daniel Gelman, Shira Gelman, Ezra Kazan and Noah Kazan. Contributions in his memory may be made to Golden Slipper Club and Charities, 215 Presidential Blvd., 1st Fl., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 or Greater Phila. Zionist Organization of America, PO Box 56, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

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DEATH NOTICES

KOPMAN

Dr. Norman M. Kopman, 78, of Philadelphia, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 29, 2020, as the sun was rising over the intra-coastal water way. Norman was born November of 1942 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was raised in a multi-generational home by his loving grandparents, Jacob and Molly Nackowitz and his professional working parents, Herman and Pauline Kopman. Norman attended Akiba Hebrew Academy, the oldest pluralistic Jewish secondary school in the United States. This past year, 2020, Norman was able to join his Akiba classmates in a reunion via Zoom which he greatly enjoyed. His college years were spent at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, graduating with a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences. Upon graduating college, he went on to medical school attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Norman proudly joined the United States Army in 1969, during the Vietnam War, serving as a physician stateside where he completed his training and residency programs the next 6 years. During his time at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, he and his first wife, Joan, were blessed with their daughter Stephanie. Norman was accepted into the William F. Miller Pulmonary Fellowship Program at Dallas Methodist Hospital in 1974. After completing his fellowship, he set up a solo pulmonary practice in Dallas. He served Southwest Dallas area and its residents for the next 38 years. His practice included years of Medical Directorships of ICU, and Cardiopulmonary Departments. Norman balanced his busy career with outside interests which included jogging, bicycling, fresh and saltwater sailing both nationally and internationally. He had a 34-year poker game he attended with his long-term poker buddies. He also loved his gentleman's farm in Waxahachie, Texas and all his rescue dogs and animals. He enjoyed movies, dinner reservations, music, and the arts. He is survived by his wife, Trish Kopman; daughter, Stephanie Beike and husband Brian of Evanston, Illinois; and stepson, Michele Indelicato and wife Gretchen of New York, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Pauline Kopman; brother, Arthur Kopman; cousins; nieces; and nephews.

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DEATH NOTICES

LANDAU

Ethel Landau passed away on January 5th, 2021. Ethel dedicated much of her life making contributions to the Jewish community. Her distinguished career included Chairman of the Philadelphia Women's division of Israel bonds, the Women's Leadership Board of the Federation of Jewish Agencies, a founding member of Women of Vision, a Founder of the Brith Sholom Women's division of Hebrew University, a lifetime member of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center and Board member of the Zionist Organization of America. She received the National Brith Sholom Communal Award in 1983 and the Woman of the Year Award from Brith Sholom's Emile Zola Chapter. She was also the recipient of the Legion of Honor – Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Ethel and her late beloved husband, Leonard, were married for 62 yrs. They were members of Beth Sholom for over 50 yrs. They dedicated the Board Room of Gratz College to help foster Jewish education for our youth. A devoted and caring matriarch, Ethel is survived by her loving daughters Merle (Steven) Fischer, and Sue (Lewis) Fleishman, grandchildren: Kymm (Chris) Myers, Brooke (Drew) Raider, Laurie Pogach, Brett (fiance Ashley) Fleishman, Ari Fleishman and greatgrandchildren: Jacob, Lily, Dylan, Morgan, George, and Charlotte. Contributions may be made to Old York Road Temple-Beth Am, Gratz College or Jewish Federation.

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DEATH NOTICES



LEIBOWITZ

Elaine Leibowitz died on January 1, 2021 after a brief illness. She was the much loved wife of the late Barton Leibowitz and the daughter of the late Martin and Sarah Stein. She is survived by her children, Steve (Katherine) Leibowitz and Harriet Cramer. She was totally adored by her grandchildren, Julia (Michael Leichtman) Cramer, Anna (Andrew) Fisher, and Brooke and Chase Leibowitz, and by her great grandchildren (Cole, J.P., Blake and the late Christopher). She is also survived by her devoted former son-in-law, David Cramer (Christine). Elaine was a proud graduate of Temple University and Olney High School, a Board Member for many years of the Abramson Senior Center, and a long-time member of the Philadelphia chapter of Hadassah and Israeli Bonds. She loved to travel, host amazing parties and, most of all, spend time with her family and her many friends. She was loved by all who were lucky enough to know her. Services were private, due to the pandemic. Once the Covid risk is over, we will have a celebration to remember this extraordinary, magnetic and loving person. Contributions in her memory can be made to a charity of the donor's choice. WEST LAUREL HILL FUNERAL HOME, Inc. www.westlaurelhill.com

LEINER

Dr. Seymour Leiner was born on March 14, 1937, and passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 26, 2020. A graduate of the Brooklyn School of Pharmacy and the University of Basel Medical School, he was both a Pharmacist and an Orthopedic Surgeon. Known for always putting other people's needs before his own and the first to give you the shirt off his back, he will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Seymour is survived by his Children, Gregory (Sarah) Leiner and Jessica (Bennett) Brookstein, Grandchildren Ethan Leiner, Lourdes Leiner, and Lillian Brookstein. He is also survived by his sisters, Marilyn Schiff and Isabel Schramm. A Vietnam Veteran, he was buried on January 5th, 2021 at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Welfare Fund" at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home, 2701 Southampton Rd, Philadelphia PA 19154.

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## 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

### Elaine S. Leibowitz

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.

Elaine joined the board of Abramson Senior Care in 2011. She gave generously to Abramson Senior Care through both the Annual Fund and the annual fundraising Gala, and was a lifetime member of the Auxiliary. Her support has helped to ensure that seniors throughout the Philadelphia region will continue to get the care and support they need.

A very giving and caring person who always wanted to help people and make their lives better, Elaine was involved with the Philadelphia Chapter of Hadassah and Israel Bonds. She had a zest for living which she wanted to share with everyone and was a wonderful friend to all those in her life. Abramson Senior Care and our entire Jewish community were truly fortunate to have been the beneficiary of her time, leadership, and enduring tzedakah.

Elaine was the wife of the late Barton (Buddy) Leibowitz z”l, of blessed memory, a former board trustee.

To her children Harriet Cramer and past board trustee Stephen R. (Katherine) Leibowitz; 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

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## COMMUNITY / *deaths*

### DEATH NOTICES

#### MACHLES

Frank Machles on January 2, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Patricia (nee Ackerman); Loving father of Stephanie Chappelle and the late Gillian Fringer; Dear Brother of Martin Machles and Arnold (Lois) Machles; Devoted grandfather of Lewis, Shawn, Samantha, Shelby and Patrick. Also survived by 2 great-grandchildren. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, C/O Jewish Federation of Greater Phila., 2100 Arch St., Phila., PA 19103.

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#### MORROW

Bernard Morrow of Wynnewood, PA, passed away on January 7, 2021. Loving husband of the late Jeanette Morrow (nee Edelstein). Father of Randi Morrow, Dr Todd Morrow & Dr Richard Morrow and four grandchildren. Son of the late Nessie Morrow. He was Past President of William Penn Lodge, B'nai Brith, & Mason Equity Lodge, a retired Sales Manager of Sears, and volunteered at Lankenau Hospital. Graveside Services Roosevelt Cemetery. Contributions in his memory may be made to American Heart Association, [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

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#### NEIMAN

Myrna Neiman, 80, of Jenkintown, PA died December 26, 2020. She was the beloved wife of Norman Neiman, loving mother of Sharon (Michael) Neiman-Hackett and Andrea (Harry) Neiman-Dent, adored grandmother of Rowen Hackett, Trae Dent and the late Ashley Dent and the dear sister of Julie Shafritz and the late Carey Mandell. Graveside services were held at Shalom Memorial Park. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Ashley Nicole Dent Memorial Fund, 747 Hammocks Way, Edisto Island, SC 29438 or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, [www.michaelj-fox.org](http://www.michaelj-fox.org)

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#### SAUL

Albert Saul, 72, passed away on January 2, 2021, in Philadelphia. A graduate of Drexel University (Mechanical Engineering), Temple University School of Medicine, and residency and fellowship at Einstein Hospital, Al worked as a Cardiologist first in South Philly and then in the medical offices at Jefferson Hospital, Torresdale. His claim to fame was treating Stevie Nicks after she fell off the stage at a concert. He was a private pilot and loved airplanes and could often be found pouring over a WWII model. Beloved husband of 49 years of Linda (nee Marinoff), loving father of Marla Figlin (Ross) and David Saul (Anna), and hero to his grandchildren Noah Saul, Shiloh Saul, and Madison Figlin. Private graveside services were held at Shalom Memorial Park. Contributions in his memory may be made to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), American Cancer Society (ACS) or Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

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### DEATH NOTICES

#### SHAPIRO

David Shapiro passed in the evening of Sunday December 13, 2020 in Fairfax CA at the age of 83. He went peacefully, with grace, in his home. He is survived by his longtime companions and step family of 50 years; Barbara Engerth, Edward Engerth, Eric Engert and brother Raymond Shapiro and his wife Judie. David was born in 1937 in Philadelphia to Alexander and Sadie Shapiro and grew up attending Overbrook High school. David was a starting forward on one of the best high school basketball teams of all time which, in the 1950's, featured Wilt Chamberlin and Vince Miller and faced other prominent players of that era. After high school David engaged in dental product sales. Then, in Bucks County PA, he worked for Ronald Katz in building material sales. David went on to be a successful business owner in the Kensington, Delaware Avenue waterfront area of Philadelphia as well as South Philadelphia on Oregon Avenue and Front Street. At those locations he joined forces with Ronald Kalek and then opened his own stores under the "Builders Salvage" name. He closed out a successful business career in the Philadelphia area as the owner of "Big Dave's Building Materials". The bustling stores had customers parked deep into Delaware avenue. His father Al, came out of retirement to be a force in customer sales. His nephews Joel and Todd Shapiro and relation Eric Engert spent multiple summers in their first jobs, gaining an education from David in the subtle nuances of negotiating business deals that they still put in practice in their professional careers today. Big Dave was a talented negotiator and salesman and was a physical presence in those stores carrying more sheets of plywood and sheetrock in one go than anyone else in the warehouse could manage. In 1992 he moved to California north of San Francisco in Marin County, Fairfax California. He continued to work on major accounts in the East Coast for many years traveling between CA, PA and NJ. He also manufactured doors and windows with Bobby Horning in PA for 20 years and worked as sales representative in San Francisco at "Goodman Lumber Company". During his 30s he started a 50 year loving relationship with Barbara Engerth and became a stepfather to Edward and Eric in the 1970s. He was always gracious and generous with those who knew him, with acts of kindness such as lending his GMC Jimmy SUV to Eric and 2 friends to do a 3 month cross country camping trip in 1981. From 1992 through 2020 he lived in Fairfax California with Barbara primarily to be available as a grandfather to Maxwell and Ela Rae Engert. Barbara and Dave's house was near the schools and would be a welcome retreat a few times a week for the grandkids and their friends. He will remain one with the world in Marin California where you can visit with him at a location in the nearby environs to Mt Tamalpais State Park. David was as gregarious and generous a person as anyone would ever meet and will be remembered fondly by everyone who got to know him over the years.

#### SHUBERT

Jeffrey M. Shubert, December 31, of San Francisco CA formally of Philadelphia. Husband of Tsuya, father of Spencer and Dustin, brother of Steven M. and Susan Shubert. Survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and Fraternity Brothers from Sigma Alpha Ro and the Equity Lodge of the Masons. Services will be private. Contributions in memory of Jeffrey Shubert may be made to the University of California, San Francisco supporting neuroendocrine research. To make a gift, visit [makeagift.ucsf.edu](http://makeagift.ucsf.edu), or send a check donation payable to "UCSF Foundation" to UCSF Foundation, PO Box 45339, San Francisco, CA 94145.

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### DEATH NOTICES



#### SILVERMAN

Florence Silverman (nee Kester), age 93, January 2, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Samuel (Sammy) Silverman. Devoted mother to Ricky (Miriam) Silverman, Randi (Bob) Robinowitz, the late Alan "Pee Wee" Silverman, Carla Silverman and Robert Silverman. Loving grandmother of Andrew (Sara) Silverman, Alaina (Sam) Spiegel, Erica Silverman, Brian and Jeffrey Robinowitz. Great grandmother to Charlie and Emma Silverman and Mila and Jack Spiegel. Twin sister of Marilyn (Len) Malkiel. Contributions may be made to the City of Hope Medical Center or the charity of your choice.

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#### SMITH

David Smith on January 1, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Gertrude (nee Goldstein); Loving father of Jeffrey Smith, Barry (Ruth) Smith and the late Howard (Jeanne Kolodner) Smith; Devoted grandfather of Aaron and Eliana. After retiring from mechanical engineering, he volunteered at the Franklin Institute for over a decade. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Bucks Co. SPCA, [www.bc-spc.org](http://www.bc-spc.org) or to National Parkinson Foundation, [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org) or to Magen David Adom Israel's National EMS, [www.mdais.org](http://www.mdais.org).

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#### SPIVAK

Karl L. Spivak, known affectionately by friends and family as "Bud" died on December 12, 2020. Adored by wife Ann (Haines), daughter Stacy, son Noah (Robin Shuler) and grandsons Jaryd and Adam. Karl, the son of J Henry Spivak and Miriam Fingles grew up in West Philly, attended Drexel University graduating as a Mechanical Engineer and then received his law degree from Temple University after which he practiced Patent Law. His education was paused by WWII while he spent several years as a machine gunner in the Army stationed in France and Germany. In 2001 they moved to Carefree, Arizona. He was married to Ann for 65 years during which time they had a wonderful life and travelled the world. It just won't be the same without him!

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DEATH NOTICES



VICTOR

Saul Victor died after a life well lived but fell victim to the ravages and complications of Covid 19 on Tuesday, December 29, 2020. Saul was truly loved by all who knew him from his long time friends to the people he would meet casually, from his peers to the younger generation of guys and girls who considered him to be the coolest, but most especially he was a "brother" to his lifetime pals. Saul was most precious and loved by his family whether by blood or extension of his blended family, new in-laws, nieces, nephews, babies and girlfriends/boyfriends, grandchildren. He was their hero, their mentor, their friend. There is a hole in our hearts for this man, Saul, who is survived by his wife, "the love of his life", Beverly (nee Rubin), his children Howard (Melissa) Victor, Wendy (Dean) Siegel, Ashley (Todd), Jason (Sarah) Siegel, and David (Michele) Siegel. Adored Pop Pop to Chad, Mara, Jennifer, Adam, Joshua, Noah, Sydney, Taylor, Stephanie, Joseph (Joey), Ryder and Bobby. He was beloved by a huge family of nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews who considered him their father/patriarch always there to give support, love and generosity. Saul was born October 22, 1938 to Rose and Morris Victor in Wilmington, Delaware and spent his younger years living in Atlantic City, New Jersey with his siblings Jerry (deceased), Adele and Mitchell before eventually settling in Philadelphia, PA. In his teen years, he and his brother were given a trumpet by their Uncle Oscar which began their love of music. He married his high school sweetheart Sybil and after years of working as a paperhanger, entrepreneur, and owner of Pearlstein's Furniture, he realized his dream to become a singer and forming his own band, and was he "a hit". Music was in his blood and his signature was My Way (Frank Sinatra) and Sweet Caroline (Neil Diamond). Saul lived a life of constant celebrations whether it was family events (and there were many), Saturday night dinners and a movie, traveling extensively, but his real passion was his love of golf and all he met on the course. He will be truly missed and may his memory be a blessing. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Temple University School of Music, Boyer College Annual Fund (giving@temple.edu) or a charity of your choice.

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WEINER

Norton Weiner, an insurance agent, on January 1, 2021. Husband of the late Luisa and the late Louise. Father of Glenn (Sandy) Weiner and Bart (Nadine) Weiner; Grandfather of Melissa (Tyler) Hart, Josh (Candice) Weiner and Jacob Weiner; Great-grandfather of London, Ruby and Hannah. Funeral Services are private. Contributions in his memory may be made to St. John's Hospice, 1221 Race St., Phila. PA 19107.

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**ESTATES**-Renovated 2 BD, 2 BA, walk up town home, granite kitchen, custom lighting, new paint, ceiling fans, large sunny balcony. **\$259,900**

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**TERRACES**-2nd floor. Designer, roomy 1 BD, 1 BA, custom kitchen counters, lots of closets, washer/dryer, large sunny balcony, looking woods. **\$199,900**

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★★★★★  
**TOWER**-Available immediately! 4th floor All new, designer studio apartment. New kitchen, bathroom, lighting. Wood floors. Sunny balcony. **\$1300**

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## INFORMATION

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is s hereby given that **Arca Services Inc.**, a foreign corporation formed under the laws of the State of Delaware where its principal office is located at 7301 Ohms Ln, #320, Edina, MN 55439, has registered to do business in Pennsylvania with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, PA, on 12/22/20, under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. The registered office in Pennsylvania shall be deemed for venue and official publication purposes to be located in Philadelphia County.

Elite Solar, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.  
David J. Kramer, Esquire  
550 Pinetown Road Suite 410  
Fort Washington, PA 19034

ESTATE OF EDMONIA THOMAS, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County, PA  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to STEVEN THOMAS, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Daniel P. Muklewicz, Esq., 215 S. Broad St., 5th Fl., Phila., PA 19107, Or to his Attorney: DANIEL P. MUKLEWICZ, AVALLONE LAW ASSOCIATES 215 S. Broad St., 5th Fl. Phila., PA 19107

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### LEGAL NOTICES

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Articles of Incorporation were filed with the PA Department of State on behalf of **Fox Fields Law, P.C.**, a professional corporation organized under the PA Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended. **TROUTMAN PEPPER HAMILTON SANDERS LLP**, Solicitors, 100 Market St., Ste. 200, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Articles of Incorporation were filed with the PA Department of State on behalf of **Pelican Partners, P.C.**, a professional corporation organized under the PA Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended. **TROUTMAN PEPPER HAMILTON SANDERS LLP**, Solicitors, 100 Market St., Ste. 200, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Pursuant to the requirements of section 1975 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, notice is hereby given that **ZYGO CONSULTING, INC.** is currently in the process of voluntarily dissolving.

### ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF RUTH D. MEADE a/k/a RUTH MEADE, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia County, PA  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to **SANDRA R. MacBRIDE, EXECUTRIX**, c/o Brian L. Strauss, Esq., Rothenberg Center, 1420 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: **BRIAN L. STRAUSS THE ROTHENBERG LAW FIRM LLP** Rothenberg Center 1420 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA 19102

Estate of Thomas R. Raymond; Raymond, Thomas R., 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: Kathleen Pietrzak, 12534 Deerrun Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154, Executrix. Paul H. Young, Esquire 3554 Hulmeville Rd. Suite 102, Bensalem, PA 19020

### ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ALFONSO J. PASSARO, SR. a/k/a ALFONSO PASSARO, SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to **MICHAEL PASSARO, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, c/o Marc Vugin, Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: **MARC VUGIN KLEIN, VUGIN & GOLD** 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ALFRED B. SMITH, DECEASED  
Late of Lansdowne Borough, Delaware County, PA  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Cynthia Walker, Executrix, c/o her attorney: **David Neal Rubin, Esq.** 2 Penn Center Suite 1030 1500 JFK Bvd. Philadelphia, PA 19102.

ESTATE OF AMITY F. GANN a/k/a AMITY GANN, 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 **REBECCA A. HUBBARD, EXECUTRIX**, c/o Benjamin L. Jerner, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144, Or to her Attorney: **BENJAMIN L. JERNER JERNER LAW GROUP PC** 5401 Wissahickon Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144

Estate of Ava Mercedes; Mercedes, Ava, 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: Frank Mercedes, c/o Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq., Perpiglia & Assocs., 1332 Jackson St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, Administrator. Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq. Perpiglia & Assocs. 1332 Jackson St. Philadelphia, PA 19148

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ESTATE of CATHERINE L. NOLAN-HESTON a/k/a CATHERINE L. HESTON  
Late of BUCKS County  
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ESTATE of CHARLES J. GLOVER, III  
Late of BUCKS County  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who requests that 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: **Scott Glover, Administrator** c/o Joy Dickstein, Esquire 668 Woodbourne Road Suite 101 Langhorne, PA 19047 or to his attorney: **JOY DICKSTEIN, ESQUIRE** 668 Woodbourne Road Suite 101 Langhorne, PA 19047

ESTATE OF DOLORES D. MARTIN, 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 **RICHARD MARTIN, EXECUTOR**, c/o Mark J. Davis, Esq., 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, Or to his Attorney: **MARK J. DAVIS LAW OFFICE** MICHAEL S. CONNOR LLC 644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

ESTATE OF DORIS M. OUZTS, (a/k/a DORIS OUZTS, 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 **JAY E. KIVITZ, ADMINISTRATOR**, 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150, Or to his Attorney: **Jay E. Kivitz Law Offices** Kivitz & Kivitz, P.C. 7901 Ogontz Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19150

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**ESTATE NOTICES**

Estate of Dorothy M. Smith; Smith, Dorothy M., Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia, PA  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY  
on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: William A. Smith, 14 Grant Dr., Holland, PA 18966, Executor.  
Edward J. Campanella, Esq.  
477 West Valley Rd.  
Wayne, PA 19087

ESTATE OF EDMUND GOLDEN, 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: LEONARD GOLDEN, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Bradly E. Allen, Esq., 7711 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 1952,  
Or to his Attorney:  
BRADLY E. ALLEN  
LAW OFFICE OF BRADLY E. ALLEN  
7711 Castor Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 1952

ESTATE OF EDNA HOLLIMAN, Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the Estate of the above named Edna Hollimon, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the said decedent are requested to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the said decedent to make payment without delay to: Holly Hollimon-Baxter, Executrix c/o Lisa Comber Hall, Esquire  
HALL LAW OFFICES  
A Professional Corporation  
27 S. Darlington Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF EYLESHA MICHELLE ROBBINS, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: DAVID V. BOGDAN, ADMINISTRATOR, 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520, Philadelphia, PA 19110,  
Or to his Attorney:  
DAVID V. BOGDAN  
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520  
Philadelphia, PA 19110

Estate of Victoria Halenda; Halenda, Victoria, 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: Steve Halenda, c/o Henry S. Warszawski, Esq., 413 Johnson St., (201), Archways Prof. Bldg., Jenkintown, PA 19046, Administrator-CTA.  
Henry S. Warszawski, Esq.  
413 Johnson St., (201)  
Archways Prof. Bldg.  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Estate of Grace E. Moragne; Moragne, Grace E., 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: Carol Ashton Kennedy, c/o Jennifer L. Damelio, Esq., Friedman, Schuman, PC, 101 Greenwood Ave., Fifth Floor, Jenkintown, PA 19046, Executrix.  
Friedman, Schuman, PC  
101 Greenwood Ave.  
Fifth Floor  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF JAMES CALHOUN HUMES a/k/a JAMES C. HUMES, 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: MARY QUILLEN, EXECUTRIX, c/o Lisa M. Nentwig, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102,  
Or to her Attorney:  
Lisa M. Nentwig  
Dilworth Paxson LLP  
1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JAMES R. DERBYSHIRE, SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: JAMES R. DERBYSHIRE, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Megan McCrea, Esq., 1 Summit St., Philadelphia, PA 19118,  
Or to his Attorney:  
MEGAN MCCREA  
ROSS & MCCREA, LLP  
1 Summit St., Philadelphia, PA 19118

ESTATE OF JOANNE M. DISIPIO a/k/a JOANNE M. MENSICK, 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: MICHELLE CHECCHIA, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Carol S. Sharp, Esq., 412 E. Street Rd., Feasterville, PA 19053,  
Or to her Attorney:  
CAROL S. SHARP  
412 E. Street Rd.  
Feasterville, PA 19053

**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF MARK ANTHONY WASHINGTON a/k/a MARK WASHINGTON, 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: RODERICK L. FOXWORTH, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, 7715 Crittenden St., #382, Philadelphia, PA 19118,  
Or to his Attorney:  
RODERICK L. FOXWORTH, JR.  
7715 Crittenden St., #382  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

ESTATE OF ROBERT E. WATERS, SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: BARBARA A. WATERS, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Benjamin L. Jerner, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144,  
Or to her Attorney:  
BENJAMIN L. JERNER  
JERNER LAW GROUP, PC  
5401 Wissahickon Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

ESTATE OF ROBERT W. INGRAM, 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: MARY ELLEN INGRAM, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Danielle M. Yacono, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
Or to her Attorney:  
DANIELLE M. YACONO  
THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES  
1701 Walnut St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**ESTATE NOTICES**

ESTATE OF WILLIAM ZELINSKI, 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: Robert Zelinskie and Richard Zelinskie, Administrators, c/o Stephen M. Specht, Esq., 2332 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19145,  
Or to their Attorney:  
STEPHEN M. SPECHT  
GREEN & SCHAFLE, LLC  
2332 S. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19145

ESTATE OF GEORGE M. MEDZIGIAN a/k/a GEORGE MALCOLM MEDZIGIAN, Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY  
Notice is hereby given that, in the estate of the decedent set forth below, the Register of Wills has granted Letters Testamentary to the person named. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to make known the same to her or her attorney and all persons indebted to said decedent are requested to make payment without delay to the Executrix named below.  
Executrix:  
Halq Babaian  
c/o Diane H. Yazujian, Esquire  
P.O. Box 1099  
North Wales, PA 19454  
Attorney:  
Diane H. Yazujian, Esquire  
P.O. Box 1099  
North Wales, P A19454

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## ▼ FRIDAY, JAN 15

### Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Join the **Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El Kehillah** for an exciting, interactive and musical Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv service with Cantor Stephen Freedman. 3:30 p.m. at facebook.com/groups/mbiee.org. For more information, call 215-635-1505.

## ▼ SUNDAY, JAN 17

### Read All About It

Join **Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society in Greater Philadelphia** at 1 p.m. for a virtual meeting about using Newspapers.com to research family history. Host Sharon Taylor's roots lay in Mariampol, a typical small town in eastern Galicia (today western Ukraine), and in Philadelphia. Turning to Newspapers.com, Taylor explored the tale of her great-uncle's kidnapping by the Russian Army. Meetings are for paid members only. Visit jgsgp.org or contact membership@jgsgp.org for more information..

## ▼ TUESDAY, JAN 19

### Higher and Higher

Join Cantor Stephen Freedman of **Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El Kehillah** for his continuing virtual prayer series, These Are A Few Of My Favorite Prayers, at facebook.com/groups/mbiee.org at 1 p.m. Call 215-635-1505 for more information.

## Disaster: Financial Preparation

Join **JEVS Career Strategies & Career Solutions** for a series of financial education webinars geared toward those 55 and up in partnership with Citizens Bank. This session's topic is preparing for financial disasters or unexpected loss of ability to manage your finances. RSVP at jevshumanservices.org/finance0119 to join the noon event.

## ▼ WEDNESDAY, JAN 20

### WellnessMatters

During the month of January, access the Wellness Experience Library, including exercise classes from yoga to HIIT workouts, calming meditations, expert tips and DIY self-care. For more information, contact **JAFCO FamilyMatters** Events Manager Melanie Foldes at melanie@familymattersnetwork.org or 267-637-0210.

## ▼ THURSDAY, JAN 21

### Your Income and Expenses

Join **JEVS Career Strategies & Career Solutions** for a series of financial education webinars geared toward those aged 55 and up in partnership with Citizens Bank. This session's topic is learning the benefits of tracking and understanding money coming in and going out. RSVP at jevshumanservices.org/finance0121 to join the noon event. ●

## NEWSMAKERS

Israel Defense Forces Staff Sgt. Ben (last name withheld), from Souderton, who serves as an Iron Dome combat soldier, prepares for Chanukah. There are about 1,000 Lone Soldiers from the United States and 41 native Pennsylvanians serving as Lone Soldiers in the IDF.

Courtesy of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces



Members of Congregation Brothers of Israel raised \$6,720 for food banks during December. Half was donated to the BCHG Community Food Pantry at Pennadel, and the other half went to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Mitzvah Food Pantry at Congregation Tifereth Israel.

► From left: Brian Gralnick, director of social responsibility for the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, with Rabbi Aaron Gaber

▼ At the BCHG Community Food Pantry at Pennadel, from left: Dave Marino, Bev Trautwein, Kathy Korhonen, Rabbi Aaron Gaber, Fred Gropper and Joyce Leichter. Courtesy of Congregation Brothers of Israel



**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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