



JANUARY 6, 2022 / 4 SHEVAT 5782

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— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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Cantor played in Jewish bands, too.

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Volume 134
Number 39

Published Weekly Since 1887



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Philadelphia Vaccine Mandate Presents Challenge

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

PHILADELPHIA INSTITUTED a COVID vaccine mandate effective Jan. 3 for "establishments that sell food or drink for consumption onsite," said a news release on the city's website.

And while several owners and managers of Jewish establishments said they believe in the vaccine's efficacy, they are mixed on whether the mandate is needed.

As Steven Nawalany, the owner of Lipkin's Bakery on Castor Avenue, put it, the mandate is "tough."

According to the kosher bakery owner, the mandate is difficult not because it will require extra labor to check cards at the door. It won't.

But rather, it will be difficult because so many of his patrons are unwilling to even wear masks. Lipkin's has a mask sign on its door and kicks people out if they don't wear one.

"They go to other businesses," Nawalany said.

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▲ In 2017, the Yiddish Culture Festival at Haverford College hosted anarchist punk band *Koyt Far Dayn Fardakht*. Photo by Wanyi Yang

Yiddishists Search for Community to Preserve Revered Language

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY in South Philadelphia, gaggles of Jewish children, many of whom were children of Holocaust survivors or refugees, flocked to Sunday schools around the city where they'd learn

Yiddish, a language they'd hold onto for their entire lives.

"It was a time of a renaissance of interest for that generation of children of immigrants," said Rakhmiel Peltz, a sociolinguistics professor at Drexel University. "To them, the essence of their

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Miriam's Advice Well

ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT KIDS AND COVID

Miriam asked her Facebook friends to detail the COVID-related challenges they're facing and, of the 40-plus responses she received, many were about sending kids back to school. So, this week she answers several similar questions, noting that she's generally a proponent of keeping kids in school. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to news@jewishexponent.com and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line.

jewishexponent.com/2022/01/04/dear-miriam-answering-questions-about-kids-and-covid/



Philacatessen

CHICKPEAS AND CHEESE

Food columnist Keri White has resolved to mix up ingredients and flavors this year, and her first Philacatessen blog post of 2022 does exactly that. On the menu is chickpeas and cheese, a variation of macaroni and cheese that replaces the pasta with chickpeas. Not only is it tasty, but it only takes a few minutes to prepare. Check Philacatessen for the recipe, and check the blog regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley.

jewishexponent.com/2022/01/03/chickpeas-and-cheese/

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MAIN PHONE NUMBER:
215-832-0700

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

David Adelman and Gail Norry, Co-Chairs
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JEWISH PUBLISHING GROUP

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

SALES & MARKETING

DISPLAY
sales@jewishexponent.com

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS

Stacye Zeisler
Publishers Representative
szeisler@jewishphilly.org

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS
subscriptions@jewishexponent.com
215-832-0710

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
215-832-0797

News & Tips
news@jewishexponent.com

Letters
letters@jewishexponent.com

Calendar Events
listings@jewishexponent.com

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

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

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

Eleanor Linafelt, Contributing Writer
215-832-0729
elinafelt@jewishexponent.com

PRODUCTION
production@jewishexponent.com

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

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SNAPSHOT: JANUARY 7, 1972

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Changing Jewish Family Is Topic Of Area Seminar

Volunteers who serve the Association for Jewish Children will discuss "The Changing Jewish Family" at a seminar Wednesday morning at Springfield House in Wyndmoor, the agency's newest residence for the care of adolescent boys.

Following a tour of the facilities, volunteers will divide into workshop groups to consider the changes in Jewish families the association has seen through the years and the kinds of services it has developed to meet the needs.

Discussion Leaders
Discussion leaders will be agency supervisors, Jean Goddard, Mrs. Clara Herchick, Mrs. Mildred Keeys and Mrs. Louise Maehara. The program will be conducted by Mrs. Harriet Goldstein, assistant executive director.

Other participants will include Joseph Taylor, executive director; Mrs. Ernest Cohen, director of volunteers; and Mrs. Paul L. Jaffe, chairman of the volunteer steering committee.

The program was arranged by the program sub-committee of the agency's volunteer steering committee. Members are Mrs. Morris Coppersmith, Mrs. Naftal Garson, Mrs. Jaffe, Mrs. David Lipkin and Mrs. Arthur Salazar.

Helps Troubled Children
The association, a constituent of the Federation of Jewish Agencies, supported by the United Fund, helps troubled children and families through programs which include services at home, foster family care, group residence care and family day care. The agency also has a program for unmarried pregnant women and an adoption service.

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Nonprofits Revamp Fundraising Strategies

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

IN MARCH 2020 at the dawn of the pandemic, Philly Friendship Circle canceled its annual gala — its largest fundraising event — just two weeks before it was scheduled.

“Everybody was just so shocked that people didn’t even know what to do,” organization co-founder Chani Baram said. “Nobody was thinking about where they’re giving; everyone was just so worried about their health and their family’s health and how we’re going to survive.”

But after a second pandemic year, Philly Friendship Circle and other Jewish area nonprofits have adapted to ever-changing circumstances to overall meet fundraising goals, designing creative solutions to pandemic-era restrictions in the process.

In 2021, the friendship circle held a virtual gala with a Zoom “after-party,” which Baram deemed “really successful.” It opened doors to new ways to think about engaging donors.

“A big part of how organizations view fundraising is in-person events and in-person interactions with donors,” Baram said. “That’s something that people — that we all — have to get more creative about: finding ways to connect with people that aren’t necessarily seeing them in-person.”

Other nonprofits had similar experiences getting creative with engaging donors. Jewish Family and Children’s Service used Zoom events to its advantage, booking big names it wouldn’t otherwise be able to for in-person events, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement Pia Eisenberg said.

Our Closet, JFCS’ free clothing program, held a virtual Fashion for All event in November 2020 with Neiman



▲ The Philly Friendship Circle was able to exceed its fundraising goal for its 2021 Philly Friendship Walk. Photo by Jay Gorodetzer

Marcus, hosting Aerin Lauder, the luxury lifestyle brand designer and granddaughter of Estee Lauder. Three hundred guests attended the event, raising more than \$170,000.

Toraisedollarsforfoodrelief, JFCS hosted celebrity chefs, such as Michael Solomonov and Frankie Oliveri, owner of Pat’s Cheesesteaks in South Philadelphia.

“If we were in person, we wouldn’t have been able to get these speakers,” Eisenberg said.

The Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia began better accommodating donors for its events, keeping them to less than an hour and holding large fundraising events, such as its annual the Good Fight gala, in the mornings, when more people were available.

ADL Philadelphia sent out gift baskets to donors attending the gala in advance, so they were able to enjoy the contents during the event, according to Lisa Welsch, ADL Philadelphia’s director of development.

“At any nonprofit event, people come and expect wonderful food, wonderful entertainment, wonderful drinks and programming,” Welsch said. “And this was a way for us to send a nice box

and say thank you.”

As nonprofits have adapted to pandemic conditions, however, the more they’ve realized some of these changes are for the better in a post-pandemic world. Building deeper, more personal relationships with donors is one thing these organizations intend to keep in the long term.

“I like to think of JFCS as ‘boutique giving,’” Eisenberg said. “You can come into our organization and pick something off the shelf that speaks directly to you, as if you were going to a boutique and picking out the sweater that’s your best fit.”

Eisenberg found that during the pandemic, there have been many restricted donations, specifically for COVID relief.

Because the donors take a personal approach to giving, nonprofits wanted to take a more personal approach to engaging donors. Over the past two years, JFCS has sent out emails and written updates to their donors, as well as made phone calls and one-on-one Zoom calls.

In 2021, JFCS had a matching challenge: the board membership doubled its gifts, and members of the community responded.



▲ For its 2021 Walk Against Hate, the Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia emphasized the importance of grassroots organizing and fundraising.

Courtesy of Lisa Welsch

“That is an important message — that the key stakeholders of your organization are setting the tone and setting an example, walking the walk,” Eisenberg said.

For Philly Friendship Circle and ADL Philadelphia, grassroots organizing efforts were prioritized for the future. Both nonprofits held respective fundraising walks outdoors during the pandemic, attracting community members to the causes.

“So many people have been introduced to Friendship Circle because their friends or family brought them to the walk,” Baram said about the 2021 Philly Friendship Walk. “So it’s more than just fundraising. We see our big fundraising events as community programs and a way to

engage the community.”

While the friendship circle met its 2021 fundraising goal with the help of a few big donors and government support, Baram asserts that those who donate \$18 a month are just as important.

Navigating pandemic-era restrictions has not only helped organizations adapt to future models of giving, but has given them a chance to reaffirm their values.

“Especially as an inclusive organization that serves a diverse population, we pride ourselves on making sure that we are there to accommodate everybody,” Baram said. “We want to make sure that everybody can participate.” •

srogelberg@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0741

HEADLINES

ISRAEL BRIEFS

Israel Begins Administering Fourth Coronavirus Shots

ISRAEL BEGAN ADMINISTERING a second booster shot to citizens over 60 and to medical workers who received their first booster at least four months ago, JTA reported.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Jan. 2 that the move is a bid to protect vulnerable segments of the population against the omicron variant.

"We've been first in the world [with the] booster shots and that policy has protected Israel's citizens well," Bennett said, according to The Times of Israel.

In July, Israel became the world's first country to offer residents a third coronavirus vaccine.

While the ability of a fourth coronavirus vaccination to boost immunity is unproven, the question is being studied at Israel's Sheba Medical Center in a study of 6,000 people.

Some experts have criticized the move for getting ahead of the data. Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Biden's chief medical adviser, said he would instead recommend focusing on third shots.

Scientists Worry About Avian Flu Killing Thousands of Israeli Cranes, Possibly Spreading to Humans

As the omicron variant spreads across Israel, scientists are worried about a new infectious disease threat: an avian flu that has killed thousands of wild birds migrating through Israel in the past month, JTA reported.

The flu has already spread to Israeli poultry farms.

Thousands of crane carcasses from birds infected with the disease were found at the Hula Lake Reserve in the north of Israel. The government is killing off thousands of chickens to stop the flu from spreading unchecked through poultry farms — and to reduce the chances of it jumping from birds to humans.

Amnon Lahad, chair of Israel's National Council for Community Health, said the spread of the avian flu was "very concerning," but noted that avian flus don't tend to spread as quickly among humans as the coronavirus.

Israeli Startups Raise Record Amount in 2021

Israeli startups raised a record \$25.6 billion during 2021 — an increase of nearly 150% from 2020, Globes reported, citing IVC-Research - Meitar law firm data.

The money was raised in 773 financing rounds. Israeli startups raised \$8 billion in 206 deals in the fourth quarter of 2021 alone.

IVC - Meitar said it also was a record-setting year for Israeli exits, which climbed to \$22.2 billion, with near-equal shares of IPOs and M&As. That included 75 IPOs, 23 occurring on Wall Street. And 163 M&A deals totaled \$12 billion.

Record Imports of Calves, Lambs Reported

A record 856,630 calves and lambs were imported to Israel for fattening and slaughter in 2021, The Times of Israel reported, citing Agriculture Ministry figures.

This was a 42% percent increase, compared with 2020 when 601,741 animals were brought to the country.

About 96,800 animals were transferred to the Palestinian Authority, compared with 45,440 the previous year.

But seven bills to stop such live shipments within three years have been proposed by lawmakers. In November 2018, lawmakers greenlighted a bill to gradually reduce livestock imports and to stop them completely within three years, moving entirely to chilled meat imports. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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Synagogues Close to Finding New Rabbis

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

TWO AREA SYNAGOGUES

— Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood and Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey — have reached the final stage of their searches for new rabbis.

Both Conservative congregations will welcome their final candidates for Sabbath weekends in January. The prospective rabbis will mingle with congregants, look at the temple's religious schools, attend services and deliver sermons. To be fair to the candidates, synagogue leaders did not want to mention their names.

Rabbi Neil Cooper, 68, is retiring from Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in June after three decades as synagogue leader. Rabbi Aaron Krupnick, 60, is stepping down in the summer after 27 years of guiding Congregation Beth El.

Regarding their decisions to retire, both men pretty much said what Cooper said in August: "It's time." Krupnick further explained that, at 60, he didn't feel like he could see the future of Judaism like he could in his 30s.

"Jewish life needs to evolve," Krupnick said then.

According to Beth Hillel-Beth El President Barbara Bookman, one of the challenges moving forward is figuring out the new, post-pandemic normal.

How much does a synagogue do in person versus over Zoom? Also, how much of its programming can be a combination of the two?

These are questions that will help drive Jewish life in the next generation of rabbinical leaders.

"Things are different. We've had a Zoom minyan where that's been very successful,"



▲ Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey

Courtesy of Congregation Beth El

Bookman said. "I'm not sure if it's going to be as easy for the morning minyan to get people to come back in person, instead of over Zoom."

Stuart Sauer, the president of Beth El, echoed a similar theme.

During the pandemic, the Voorhees temple used virtual services and programs to remain accessible to congregants who had moved to Florida or the Jersey shore. Based on that success, synagogue leaders see Zoom as a part of Beth El's future.

Every rabbi they interviewed, over Zoom, naturally, agreed.

"All the candidates felt as though Zoom was going to be a major part of spiritual services for the foreseeable future," Sauer said.

One rabbinical candidate visited Beth Hillel-Beth El in December. The other two finalists are coming in January.

Beth El also is using the first month of the new year for the final step in its search process.

At both places, the candidates who made it this far showed a combination of old- and new-school priorities, according to synagogue leaders.

"Relationships and building relationships were really important," Bookman said. "Getting to know people and families."

But Bookman said that rabbis expressed unique ideas she hadn't heard before, like forming groups around congregant interests and study groups that grew because they focused on whatever the groups were interested in.

No matter how unique those ideas were, though, they still came back to the oldest and most important rabbinical priority: listening to people.

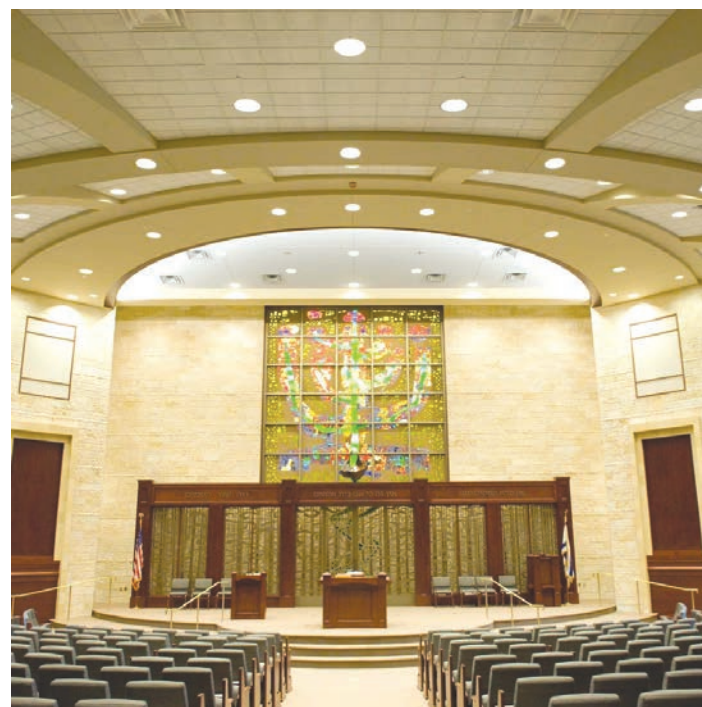
Sauer said that, during Beth El's interview process, he looked for that quality more than any other.

Tone of voice, mannerisms, eye contact with the camera, direct answers to questions.

"We asked a question, and we got an answer," he said.

Sauer explained that synagogues are still relevant because people depend on them for baby namings, bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and funerals — the big life cycle events.

In many cases, Jewish people talk to their rabbis about more intimate subjects than they do to their friends. Therefore, without the ability



to listen well, no candidate can move on to the final round.

"You want them to have a connection with you," Sauer said.

In 2022 and beyond, building a connection also means bringing people and, in particular, younger families back to the synagogue. Not just virtually, but in person, too.

Sauer wants his new rabbi to offer young parents the democratic and transparent qualities that younger generations value. He said they have to feel not just like part of the synagogue, but like part of the process of building social and educational programming, too.

"The growth of the synagogue is dependent on young families coming in," he said.

While that's true, both Beth Hillel-Beth El and Beth El are in good shape at the moment. Beth Hillel-Beth El has about 700 families in its congregation; Beth El has roughly 825.

The synagogue leaders hope to complete their searches by February and begin the transition process that will culminate in the summer.

"We're optimistic," Sauer said. •

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0740

Cantor, Musician Paul Frimark Dies at 69

OBITUARY

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

FORMER OHEV SHALOM of Bucks County cantor and Jewish musician Paul Frimark died at his Langhorne home on Dec. 24. He was 69.

Frimark died from large B-cell lymphoma.

The Bucks County resident served as cantor of Ohev Shalom for 18 years but played in Jewish bands for longer than that. His groups, N'shamah and Shir Chadash, performed thousands of times between 1971 and 1998, according to a bandmate.

Frimark also was a devoted family man, leaving behind a wife of 39 years, Arlene Frimark, and two daughters, stepdaughter Kim Whitman and Bara Frimark. People who knew Frimark repeated the same theme about him. When someone dies, it's easy to forget all of their negative characteristics. But with Frimark, there truly weren't any to harp on.

"He was a first-class mensch. What you saw was what you got," Ohev Shalom Rabbi Elliott Perlstein said. "He liked people."

In the 1970s and '80s, Frimark worked day jobs as an accountant, including as a controller for the Jewish Exponent at one point. But at night, he would lead his band around the region for gigs.

Frimark was a singer and keyboard player. He could both hear music and then play it back and read music.

The future cantor, though, didn't just focus on the tunes. He served as band manager, booking agent and, as his friend and bandmate David Seltzer put it, "schlepper," meaning he lugged the equipment around, too.

Through hustle and energy, N'shamah and then Shir Chadash grew into "the preeminent Jewish simcha band" in the Philadelphia area, according to drummer Fred Z. Poritsky.

The group played annually

at the Soviet Jewry Rally at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and at the Israel Independence Day parade on Independence Mall. It also performed at weddings, b'nai mitzvahs and other Jewish celebrations.

By the end of its run, the band was traveling as far north as Massachusetts and as far south as Virginia.

Yet through it all, despite the extra work he did, Frimark insisted that band members take the same cut for their gigs.

"He was just completely selfless," said Seltzer, who lives in Huntingdon Valley. "He could handle a multitude of tasks and personalities with a great deal of grace."

Despite his band's success, though, Frimark suffered from a midlife crisis about not fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a cantor.

Already an Ohev Shalom member in the early 1990s, he was a regular part of a men's group meeting with Perlstein. One night, the rabbi asked the men what dreams they had.

"Paul said to become a cantor," Perlstein recalled.

At the time, Frimark's musical ability made him qualified enough to fill in as cantor whenever Ohev Shalom needed someone. But Perlstein never knew the desire ran so deep.

"We had never had a conversation where he told me he wanted to become a synagogue cantor," the rabbi said.

Just months later, Ohev Shalom's cantor left, and Perlstein asked Frimark to fill in on an interim basis. He already knew all the Shabbat, holiday and High Holy Day melodies and thrived in the new role.

After a few months, Ohev brass made the no-brainer decision to bring Frimark on full-time.

From 1993 to 2011, he helped Perlstein lead services; he helped kids become bar or



▲ Cantor Paul Frimark helps a bat mitzvah girl.

Courtesy of Ohev Shalom of Bucks County

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Elihu Katz, Penn Media Scholar, Dies at 95

OBITUARY

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

ELIHU KATZ, the University of Pennsylvania professor who brought television to Israel, died on Dec. 31.

He was 95.

Born in Brooklyn in 1926 to Jewish parents of Eastern European descent, Katz became a sociologist and media scholar whose insights shaped his field. According to colleagues, his biggest one was arguably about “the social context of communication,” as Penn professor Joseph Turow put it.

Katz theorized that “a lot of information people get from the media they get from people who have heard or listened to the media,” Turow explained.

After communication issues during the Six-Day War, “Israeli officials decided in 1967 to expand the nation’s broadcast presence beyond radio,” said an obituary to Katz on Penn’s website. Katz left two academic appointments to head up the effort. Today, Israel has a wide-ranging television ecosystem.

The professor served in a variety of academic appointments before arriving at Penn’s Annenberg School for Communication in 1993. He remained in Philadelphia until he retired in 2014.

“He was very much responsible for positioning the field of communication as something that could be studied in the university arena,” said Barbie Zelizer, Penn’s Raymond



▲ Elihu Katz
Courtesy of the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Williams Professor of Communication.

Before Katz, Zelizer explained, “communication was run by the idea that the media had large effects.” Katz, though, argued that those effects weren’t so large after all.

The popular notion that the mass media had a pacifying impact on people was not quite right. There was an activating element, too, according to Zelizer.

People consumed the media and then talked to each other about it. A person’s social circle had perhaps as much influence as the content itself.

“That set in place a new paradigm for thinking about how the media works,” Zelizer said.

Katz applied the same concept to studying physicians and how they chose their medicines for patients. And he came to a similar finding: Doctors’ “peer network



▲ Elihu Katz at a 2018 Penn reception awarding him an honorary degree
Courtesy of the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

relationships with their communities” had quite a bit of influence, said Damon Centola, Penn’s Elihu Katz Professor in the Annenberg School.

The scholar also pioneered other media theories, like one about how the media created events, including inaugurations, royal weddings and Olympic competitions, for people to partake in from far-flung locations.

“This is a big legacy,” Turow said.

Katz graduated from Midwood High School in 1944 and then served in the Army for three years. He earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University in Manhattan in 1948 and ’50, respectively.

The scholar published “Personal Influence: The Part Played by People in the Flow of Mass Communication,” about his seminal theory, five years after that. A decade later, he established the

Communications Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He left both that post and a concurrent one at the University of Chicago to help introduce TV in Israel. For three years, he ran Israel Television, the Jewish state’s “nascent television service,” the Penn obit said.

After his groundbreaking work, Katz returned to Hebrew University and later added a post at the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication, where he remained until taking the Penn post in 1993.

Some of his other influential works included “Medical Innovation: A Diffusion Study,” “The Export of Meaning: Cross-Cultural Readings of Dallas” and “Media Events: The Live Broadcasting of History.”

Katz’s research had a particular influence on Centola, who uses the foundation that his predecessor established

to study how social media networks influence actual social networks.

“Now that we understand the role of influence, we look at the patterns of connections,” Centola said. “How movements take off and whether they succeed or fail. How social networks shape that.”

Katz, though, was more than just a great scholar. He was a friend and active listener, according to colleagues.

His curiosity never waned through all his decades in academia.

“I just enjoyed talking with the guy,” Turow said. “We never worked on the same research.”

Zelizer described Katz as interested in “whatever you were doing.” She also said his curiosity was a big part of his success.

“When you lose your curiosity, you lose your ability to reinvent,” Zelizer added.

Katz was conversing with people right up until the end.

Earlier in his 90s, the scholar emailed Centola at 2 a.m. with a series of questions on a paper that the younger man had published.

“He was completely attentive,” Centola said.

On the morning of Dec. 31, around 10:30, he sent Zelizer a concise and lucid email. Then he died around lunchtime.

Katz is survived by his wife, Ruth Katz, a musicologist and professor emerita at Hebrew University, and two sons. ●

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0740

Pathologist Still Challenges Warren Commission

NATIONAL

ADAM REINHERZ | JE FEATURE

IN THE 58 YEARS since President John F. Kennedy’s assassination, Dr. Cyril Wecht has grown even more convinced

that the Warren Commission, and its finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, is grossly incorrect.

Wecht said his theories have been reinforced by radiological studies, pathological exams and acoustic inspections conducted

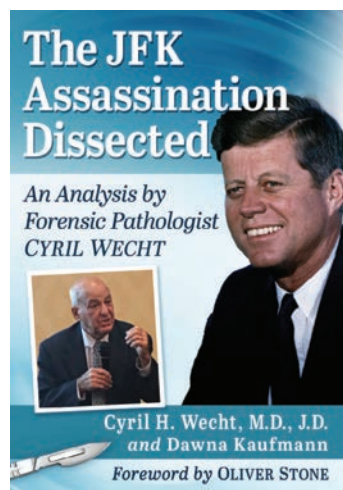
by others, as well as his own research, document reviews and visits to the National Archives — where he discovered that not only was Kennedy’s brain never examined, but that it was missing.

“More and more evidence

that has been examined by highly qualified experts shows clearly that the single-bullet theory is an absurdity and that there had to have been two shooters, and one of the shots was fired from the front, behind the picket fence on the grassy

knoll,” Wecht said.

For decades, Wecht, a forensic pathologist, attorney and medical legal consultant, has shared his findings on national television, within the pages of The New York Times, in articles and books, and at



▲ “The JFK Assassination Detected: An Analysis by Forensic Pathologist Cyril Wecht”
Courtesy of Exposit Books

conferences.

Having presented his views on the JFK assassination almost 1,000 times, and reaching myriad listeners, Wecht, 90, is now reiterating his position to a new audience.

In November, Exposit Books published “The JFK Assassination Detected: An Analysis by Forensic Pathologist Cyril Wecht.” The 307-page work, co-authored by Dawna Kaufmann, describes everything from Kennedy’s autopsy and the eventual disappearance of the president’s brain to Wecht’s experiences having lunch with Marina Oswald (the late wife of Lee Harvey Oswald) and consulting on Oliver Stone’s Oscar-winning 1991 film “JFK.”

Wecht said he spent almost six years writing the text and considers the book the most important work he’s authored, followed closely by his autobiography, “The Life and Deaths of Cyril Wecht: Memoirs of America’s Most Controversial Forensic Pathologist,” which was published in September, also by Exposit Books.

Functioning as both a report on the president’s assassination and a catalog of Wecht’s travels throughout the decades, “The JFK Assassination Detected” shares insights into the mind of one of the United States’ leading forensic pathologists.

Having received his medical degree from the University

More and more evidence that has been examined by highly qualified experts shows clearly that the single-bullet theory is an absurdity and that there had to have been two shooters, and one of the shots was fired from the front, behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll.”

DR. CYRIL WECHT

of Pittsburgh and a law degree from the University of Maryland, Wecht served as county commissioner and Allegheny County coroner and medical examiner, as well as president of the American College of Legal Medicine, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, chairman of the board of trustees of the American Board of Legal Medicine and the American College of Legal Medicine Foundation.

During almost a half-century of work, Wecht performed more than 21,000 autopsies and “reviewed, consulted on and signed off on another 41,000 death cases,” including those of Martin Luther King Jr., Elvis Presley, JonBenét Ramsey and Kurt Cobain. He has held academic appointments at the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health, and the Duquesne University School of Law, School of Pharmacy and School of Health Sciences.

Wecht said he remains vexed by those who subscribe to the Warren Commission findings.

“More and more with each passing year, my frustration and my anger grow because of the fact that the government continues to get away with this,” Wecht said.

There was a brief moment of hope that the government might change course, Wecht said.

In April 1992, following the release of Oliver Stone’s “JFK,” the filmmaker addressed the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Legislation and National

Affairs regarding classified files relating to JFK’s assassination. Wecht said Stone’s efforts were instrumental in Congress passing the “President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.”

According to the act, “all Government records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure, and all records should be eventually disclosed to enable the public to become fully informed about the history surrounding the assassination.”

Despite the legislation, however, the government still has not released all of the relevant materials, Wecht said.

President Donald Trump seemed poised to release the documents when he tweeted on Oct. 21, 2017: “Subject to the receipt of further information, I will be allowing, as President, the long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened.” Nevertheless, Trump reversed course, citing national security concerns.

On Dec. 15, a trove of almost 1,500 documents was released by the National Archives. Researchers, however, described the materials as “underwhelming,” according to CNN.

Wecht likewise called the documents “utterly worthless.”

President Joe Biden said the more-than-10,000 unreleased or partially redacted documents could be declassified as early as December, but Wecht isn’t holding his breath.

“They’ll still play the same game,” he said. “I don’t think

that they’re going to disclose everything that is there.”

In his quest to refute the Warren Commission’s findings, Wecht has been called a conspiracy theorist and regarded as a rejecter of government truths — in his new book he includes a related chapter on debating the late Sen. Arlen Specter, who, after serving as assistant counsel for the Warren Commission, continuously promoted the “single-bullet theory.”

Wecht doesn’t mind being described as a conspiracy theorist. Apart from the scientific evidence supporting his beliefs about the JFK assassination, he said that Americans have come to learn much about the government’s clandestine affairs, including those during World War II, Vietnam and the Korean War.

It’s no longer inconceivable that elected representatives are capable of acting nefariously, Wecht said. “Government officials can get away with things.”

“I want people to lose their naivete, their belief that these kinds of things can never happen in America, to be aware of this,” he said. ●

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

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Orthodox Activists in Israel Push for a Stronger Response to Sexual Abuse Incidents

ISRAEL

SHIRA HANAU | JTA.ORG

ON THE MORNING of Dec. 31, most of the people bustling through Beit Shemesh, a town in central Israel with a large haredi Orthodox population, were getting ready for Shabbat. Shoshanna Keats-Jaskoll had a different mission.

Keats-Jaskoll was handing out flyers with messages of support for victims of sexual abuse, in a public display of solidarity at the end of a wrenching week in many Orthodox communities.

At the beginning of the week, Chaim Walder, a celebrated haredi Orthodox children's book author in Israel, died by suicide after being accused by numerous children and young women of sexual abuse. The Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel visited Walder's family. Then, on Dec. 30, one of Walder's alleged victims, Shifra Horovitz, also died by suicide, her friends saying she had been distraught by the response to his death.

For Keats-Jaskoll, a co-founder of the Israeli advocacy organization Chochmat Nashim, which fights extremism and sexism in the Orthodox community, and for many other Orthodox women, the litany called for a coordinated, public response. So she, who is Orthodox but not haredi, and a network of haredi activists and volunteers printed 350,000 flyers and passed them out in haredi areas before Shabbat.

Most of the reactions she got were from mothers thanking her for sharing her message, she said. But one man told her he didn't know anyone who had been hurt and questioned why she was giving out the flyers — keeping up the conversation for far longer than she expected.

"This is really hard for

haredim, when you're told to trust leadership and there's a real cognitive dissonance: something is wrong, the leadership should be saying something, if they're not saying something maybe it's not true, but if it's not true what does that mean?" Keats-Jaskoll said. "So I think they're going through a real crisis of faith in a lot of places."

The flyers that Keats-Jaskoll and others handed out spoke directly to that crisis of faith, and to the religious values of those whose confidence in their leaders might be teetering. They offered information about the rabbinic court that heard testimony against Walder, quoted rabbinic sources about the seriousness of sexual abuse and answered questions about why allegations first reported in secular media should be trusted in religious communities.

Since the allegations against Walder first appeared in November, the case has taken an unusual trajectory in the Orthodox world. After Eichler's, a Jewish bookstore in Brooklyn, announced that it would stop selling Walder's books in response to the Haaretz investigation, many other repudiations of Walder followed, in a flood that advocates for survivors of sexual abuse said seemed to represent a watershed moment for the community.

But after Walder's suicide, it became immediately clear that any shift extended only so far. In a number of haredi schools, teachers reportedly spoke to students about Walder's suicide as an example of the dangerous effects of "lashon hara," or speaking negatively about another person, and parents were counseled not to discuss the issue in detail with their children.

At Walder's funeral, Dov Weinroth, a lawyer and friend of

Walder, called out the journalists at Haaretz who first published the allegations against Walder as "murderers." And in the days after Walder's death, multiple haredi Orthodox publications published obituaries of Walder that ended with the phrase "may his memory be a blessing" while failing to mention the allegations against him.

Yet social media has given rise to a different kind of reaction: photos of Walder's books in the trash and poignant accounts of difficult conversations between parents and children about abuse and what constitutes inappropriate touching. A social media campaign Monday generated a flood of complaints to haredi magazines about their coverage. And the crowdfunding campaign to print a second run of flyers has raised nearly \$70,000 in just a few days.

"There's a dissonance between how people are responding in their homes and the way the institutions are responding," Keats-Jaskoll said.

There are signs that the dissonance is having an effect on traditional institutions. After being criticized for visiting Walder's family, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau called for victims of sexual abuse to come forward. Weinroth, too, made an about-face, apologizing for criticizing the reporters who broke the story in a Facebook post on Dec. 30 that urged readers to "believe the complainants."

"I picked up the phone and called Aaron Rabinowitz," Weinroth wrote, referring to one of the Haaretz reporters who broke the story about Walder. "Truthfully this was the first time, and for a simple reason: to apologize. At the end of the day, I had never spoken with him but I got up at the funeral and demeaned him."

Rabbi Natan Slifkin, author



▲ Nearly 350,000 flyers expressing support for victims of sexual abuse were distributed in Orthodox communities across Israel by a group of volunteers on Dec. 31. Courtesy of Shoshanna Keats-Jaskoll

and director of the Biblical Museum of Natural History in Beit Shemesh who writes the blog Rationalist Judaism, compared the reaction to the Walder story to the haredi community's reaction to the stampede at Mount Meron in April last year where 45 men were killed during an annual religious gathering.

"The fact that Walder, clearly emerging as a horrific predator, was glorified after his death by important charedi rabbis and politicians and newspapers, while those who attempted to scream about the dangers are being branded as evil gossips who drove him to his death, is just too much for many people in the charedi community," Slifkin wrote.

While calling out those who blamed the victims for Walder's death and those who encouraged silence rather than shaming abusers, Slifkin noted the signs of change, including an editorial in Mishpacha magazine's Hebrew edition, which, in an unusual move, spoke directly about the topic of sexual abuse.

"They [the victims] are not the guilty ones. They are not the abusers," the magazine wrote. "To them we say in the name of the entire haredi community: our hearts are with you. We support you and we believe you,

unconditionally. And we will do everything in our power as a community to build a safer and purer world for you."

For Keats-Jaskoll and other activists in the haredi Orthodox community, the fallout from the Walder case is indeed a watershed moment — and one that has to do with a broader phenomenon of people taking matters into their own hands after questioning their religious leaders.

"I see more, more and more and more people come to that realization of we have to do this, we can't wait around," Keats-Jaskoll said.

"COVID helped with that. I think seeing what happened with COVID with leadership denying what was happening with COVID and watching people get sick and die, it kind of took a lot of people and shook them up and say maybe our leadership doesn't know everything," she said.

She's doing everything she can to help activists within haredi communities speed the change — while fearing that it won't come fast enough for victims of sexual abuse.

"We just can't wait for the next suicide," Keats-Jaskoll said. "We just can't wait for more people to kill themselves to know that this is a massive crisis." ●

NEWSBRIEFS

Poway Shooter Gets Second Lifetime Sentence

THE CALIFORNIA MAN who killed a woman and wounded three at a Poway synagogue in 2019 was sentenced to a second life sentence in federal court on Dec. 28, JTA reported.

John Earnest was previously sentenced to a life sentence in California state court earlier in 2021. While the second life sentence doesn't change the prison sentence length, the two life terms signify the gravity of the crimes committed.

"Obviously, this is as serious as it gets," U.S. District Judge Anthony Battaglia said.

Earnest, a white supremacist, carried out his attack on the Chabad synagogue in Poway, California, on April 27, 2019, just six months after the Tree of Life synagogue complex shooting in Pittsburgh that left 11 people dead. He cited that attack, as well as the March 2019 mosque shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, as inspirations in a manifesto he posted online.

Jewish Community Ruins Found in Morocco

Israeli, Moroccan and French researchers discovered remnants of a small Jewish community in the mountains of Morocco, JTA reported, citing Haaretz.

Synagogue ruins in the small village of Tamanart — on the outskirts of the Sahara desert — were found while conducting a preliminary survey of area Jewish sites. They also spoke to locals who remembered their Jewish neighbors leaving the area 70 years ago.

Researchers said Jews lived there from the 16th century until the early 19th century. They found scriptures, documents and Kabbalist amulets from the synagogue's *genizah*, or hiding place for unusable texts.

British Jews Angry with BBC Coverage

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, which represents the interests of Jews in the United Kingdom, accused the BBC of falsely alleging that victims of a recent antisemitic incident in London provoked their attackers with an anti-Muslim slur, JTA reported.

Board President Marie van der Zyl published an op-ed on Dec. 30 in the Jewish Chronicle of London saying the BBC had made a "colossal error" in its coverage

of the Nov. 29 incident. The broadcaster reported that several young men caught on video harassing a Chabad-affiliated bus of Jews celebrating Chanukah were reacting to an anti-Muslim slur from a Jew on the bus; the board's own analysis of the video said otherwise.

A BBC spokesman said via email: "There was a brief reference to a slur, captured in a video recording, that appeared to come from the bus. We consulted a number of Hebrew speakers in determining that the slur was spoken in English. The brief reference to this was included so the fullest account of the incident was reported."

Soccer Fans Filmed Singing About Killing Jews

Dozens of soccer fans in Antwerp, Belgium, were filmed giving Nazi salutes while chanting about Hamas and gassing and burning Jews, JTA reported.

Police are investigating the videos, which appeared on social media. The incident appeared to have taken place at or outside Café Stadion, near a soccer stadium.

Such soccer chants occur regularly in Europe ahead of matches between teams that fans of rival soccer clubs label as "Jewish." •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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Mandate

Continued from Page 1

Despite the challenge it presents to business, the vaccine mandate is still a “good thing,” he added.

“If everybody were to get vaccinated, we could try to squash this virus,” he said.

Sam Uelkokhan, the general manager of the Jewish-owned Shish-Kabob Palace in Northeast Philadelphia, agrees with that statement but not the mandate.

Shish-Kabob Palace just became profitable again after a difficult stretch during the pandemic. In Uelkokhan’s year working there, it’s gotten busier each week, he said.

To stay profitable, the Middle Eastern eatery needs its regulars, Uelkokhan said. A vaccine mandate may turn some of them away.

“I was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia. I know these people,” he said. “They believe what they believe.”

The manager thinks those customers will choose another establishment.

“If they have to avoid coming here, they will,” he said. “Especially when you can drive for 15 minutes and be in a county (Bucks) that does not have this mandate.”

Uelkokhan believes in the vaccine himself. As he put it, “I’m not an anti-vaxxer.”

He has also enforced the city’s mask mandate, which requires patrons to wear one inside until they sit down to eat. The manager enforces this even though, sometimes, it’s only for a 5-foot walk.

When people are unwilling to wear the cover while waiting for takeout, Uelkokhan even asks them to wait outside.

But the mask requirement does not restrict business since it doesn’t ask people to wear one during the meal. A vaccine mandate would prevent unvaccinated patrons from even getting to the table.

“A lot of people are going

to look at us,” Uelkokhan said. “Like it’s us that are not allowing them to come in.”

“I don’t see what limiting my business is going to do,” he added.

According to the city, it will motivate more residents to get vaccinated, lower case counts and limit hospitalizations.

Due to the omicron variant, in the final week of 2021 Philadelphia saw record highs for case rates for the almost two-year pandemic. In Pennsylvania, COVID hospitalizations crossed 5,000 for the first time since last winter.

“Philly hospitals are very stressed,” said Jim Garrow, a spokesperson for the city’s Public Health Department.

Owners and managers of Jewish restaurants in Philly understand that concern. And even if they are worried about the mandate’s impact on business, they said they just want to know what they have to do to comply.

Garrow said the city is putting the word out through business associations and media outlets. But several restaurant owners have not heard about specific protocols for the mandate.

“We understand those avenues aren’t always the best for all restaurant owners in the city,” Garrow said.

Even the city’s initial mandate announcement on its website, though, did not specify the definition of fully vaccinated.

“Completing vaccinations means that they have completed the series of any vaccine that has been approved or authorized by either the Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization to prevent COVID-19,” read the announcement.

Garrow said that the city would follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s determination, too. At the moment, the CDC definition



▲ The Shish-Kabob Palace in Northeast Philadelphia
Courtesy of the Shish-Kabob Palace

is two shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one shot of the Johnson & Johnson product. So, for now, that is the city’s definition as well.

In other words, you don’t need the booster to be considered fully vaccinated — and to eat in a city restaurant. You just need to show your card or a picture of your card, marked with two shots, or one for J&J, at the door.

Garrow confirmed that the city would continue to follow the CDC’s definition moving forward.

“We’ve followed them throughout the pandemic and, as we learn more, guidance changes,” he said.

Only about a third of fully



vaccinated American adults have gotten the booster, per the CDC.

City officials are not sure how long they will continue the mandate. Restaurant owners and managers are considering it alongside their other plans during the winter surge of cases.

“I believe we’ll continue to do indoor dining,” said Pieter Michalis, a shift leader at Merkaz, an Israeli establishment in Center City. “The only difference is we’ll be asking for the COVID vaccination card.” •

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0740

Yiddish

Continued from Page 1

being Jewish was expressed in that language that they had grown up with in the home.”

Peltz authored “From Immigrant to Ethnic Culture: American Yiddish in South Philadelphia,” an ethnography of children of immigrants conducted in the 1980s. He found, overwhelmingly, that these Yiddish-speakers were preserving their language to preserve their Ashkenazi Jewish roots.

“What kept Judaism going was not the shared religion,” Peltz said. “It was, on one hand, the sharing of religion, but secondly, the adaptation to local life: through the family and through the neighborhood.”

Today, nearly 40 years after Peltz conducted his ethnography, young Yiddish-speakers are still trying to hold onto the language and Ashkenazi culture at its foundation, either learning the language in adulthood or preserving it through klezmer music. While interest in the language has remained steady, Peltz said, a community for Yiddishists is severely lacking.

Sunday schools for learning Yiddish no longer exist, and the Philadelphia Sholom Aleichem House, a space for secular Jews to discuss Jewish culture — including Yiddish — disbanded after 50 years of operation in 2014.

For the next generation of Yiddish-learners, finding fellow speakers to practice with is challenging. It’s a problem West Philadelphia resident Estelle Lysell has had for several months since she completed a Yiddish intensive course with the Workers Circle.

“My friends were interested in Yiddish; I have friends who learned some Yiddish, but I don’t have anyone who was actually speaking,” she said. “And when you’re learning a language in a vacuum for your



▲ Founder Susan Hoffman Watts is looking to bring back programming at the Community Klezmer Initiative, which has been dormant since the beginning of COVID. Courtesy of Alan Lankin

When you’re learning a language in a vacuum for your own sake, that’s demoralizing.”

ESTELLE LYSSELL

own sake, that’s demoralizing.”

Lysell began learning Yiddish in January 2021, when she bought a textbook for herself with which to study. But she wasn’t a fan of many of the resources available.

Duolingo, which launched its Yiddish course in April 2021, helps in teaching phrases and bolstering prior knowledge of a language, but isn’t a worthwhile tool for someone starting at square one, she said. Textbooks and online courses are expensive for 20-somethings.

“For other languages, the revival projects are teaching children and elementary schools for free how to speak the language,” Lysell said. “With Yiddish, it’s just college students paying for it themselves.”

But just as Lysell is looking for communities with which to learn the language, pre-existing Yiddish institutions are having trouble attracting a younger crowd.

More than 20 years ago, Haverford College professors Seth Brody, Dan Gillis and Mel Santer — all of whom have

died — founded the Yiddish Culture Festival, a convening of Yiddish-speakers for programming, such as poetry readings, film screenings and klezmer performances. The festival’s attendance has held steady at 20-30 attendees, many of whom are older community members.

“There were very few students on Haverford’s campus who, in fact, were enticed by this,” said Jeffrey Tocosky-Feldman, a Haverford mathematics professor and organizer of the Yiddish Culture Festival.

Two decades after the group’s founding, the demographics haven’t changed, he said. Recently, a few younger community members have attended programs, but no more students. Because the festival is organized by professors, organizers don’t have as much time to invest in publicizing events or drawing in newcomers, something Tocosky-Feldman wants to do.

“Pretty much every year, I go on the Haverford website, and I look up the Jewish student organizations and try

and contact whoever’s the head of them,” he said. “And many times, the person listed there has graduated.”

Susan Hoffman Watts, a fourth-generation klezmer musician, has had similar problems attracting an audience to the Community Klezmer Initiative, particularly after COVID.

In December 2019, after years of trying to organize events with a critical mass audience, Watts finally had success with a “Yiddish Cocktails” event, packing 80 people into the Philadelphia Folksong Society building on Ridge Avenue.

“Was [the Yiddish] terrible and awful and not great? I mean, it was; it was crazy,” Watts said. “But people heard Yiddish.”

After COVID, however, the Community Klezmer Initiative has mostly laid dormant. Watts is hoping to resurrect programming there but is having trouble gaining momentum again. It’s a particular shame, she said, because of the welcoming environment of klezmer spaces.

“One of the things about

the klezmer scene is that it’s very open-arms, accepting and loving ... and no matter what ... you are welcomed with open arms, loved and respected,” Watts said. “I think that people really respond to that openness.”

As Yiddish institutions work to get the word out to interested parties, individuals are dreaming up their own spaces to practice the language in community with others.

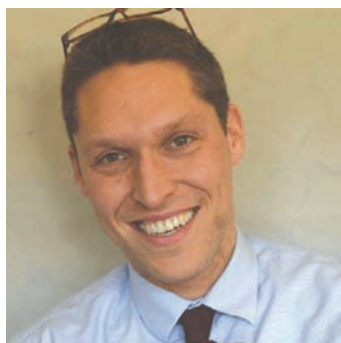
Lysell is inspired by a community garden she volunteers at, where many of the other volunteers speak Spanish. By immersing herself in an environment where the language was spoken, she’s begun to pick it up herself.

She believes the same could be done with Yiddish, inviting a group to garden or to make Shabbat dinner together, to “limp through sentences” of English and Yiddish, “slowly growing our vocabulary.”

“It’d be really cool to see something like that — active community organizing,” Lysell said. ●

srogelberg@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0741

On Jews Turning to Science



BY RABBI DR. SHMULY YANKLOWITZ

AS THE COVID-19 pandemic rages on to do untold damage and send society back into petrifying uncertainty, the role of science in our lives is about to be, perhaps, even more important than ever.

And while some seek comfort right now in ignoring what science has to say about how we ought to move forward in defending the dignity and safety of all people, we know that the Jewish tradition gives us not only the obligation to do what the science tells us is right, but also a long history of science as a key element in our understanding of the world.

Our great sage Moses Maimonides, in addition to writing the “Mishneh Torah” and “The Guide for

the Perplexed,” was a highly accomplished scientist and physician. And the medieval rabbis Abraham Ibn Ezra and Levi ben Gershon were so well remembered for their contributions to mathematics and astronomy that they both now have craters on the moon named after them.

For far too long, the spoken relationship between science and religion has been one of clash; either one must be right or the other. But Judaism is pro-science, and thus we need to shift that discourse to one of synergy and constructive relationship.

“If science is about the world that is, and religion is about the world that ought to be, then religion needs science,” Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, wrote in his 2011 book “The Great Partnership: God, Science and the Search for Meaning,” “because we cannot apply God’s will to the world if we do not understand the world.”

In April, I had the opportunity to interview the public intellectual and Harvard professor Steven Pinker as part of the “Scientists in Synagogues” project of the

national Sinai and Synapses program. In that discussion Pinker noted that, in a world in which we all took science more seriously, we’d be much better equipped to identify where our justice work is most needed, and to know specifically the best ways for us to protect the lives of all people.

“We’d be perhaps less whipsawed by the headline of the morning, by the anecdote, by the outrage, by the vivid narrative, and more cognizant of trends that affect millions ... billions of people,” he said. “We would track things like extreme poverty worldwide ... deaths in warfare, different categories of violence, like homicide and police shootings and terrorism and war and genocide — and allocate our effort, our resources, our moral energy to where the most people get hurt and where the most people can get helped.”

Pinker pointed out that our engagement in science and technology plays a pivotal role in our work to repair the world, perhaps even more important than our political and social action.

“Progress doesn’t happen by itself,” he said. “It is only the

result of human agency ... That doesn’t always mean protest activism. Sometimes it does, but sometimes it means science and technology, developing artificial fertilizers, developing antibiotics and vaccines and public health measures.”

In recent years, our Scottsdale, Arizona-based organization, Valley Beit Midrash, has adopted a robust learning approach on science and Judaism that has invited scientists to present their findings and for us to consider those ideas in a Jewish context. Selected as a partner of the Sinai and Synapses initiative, in the past year or so we’ve hosted scientist-led learning events on topics such as cosmology, psychology and extraterrestrial life.

More generally, our integration of science into our Jewish learning has several purposes.

One goal is to lift up the voices of Jewish scientists in the Jewish community. The Jewish community is often willing to listen to rabbis and theologians, and we want to bring scientists into the communal discourse as well. Scientists provide immense value to us, and we want to value them in return.

A second objective is to

bring in unengaged Jews who have a particular interest in science. It’s no secret that a significant percentage of Jews are not involved in Jewish religious life. However, many of them find intellectual, if not spiritual, fulfillment in science, which of course is a part of the Jewish project. Science can be their way into Judaism.

Also, we need to enhance the whole communal learning experience by adding science to the offerings provided, thus expanding the Torah’s reach. Now, thanks to a micro-grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, we are continuing that work. We hope that you’ll join us in our upcoming science and Judaism learning programs.

It’s only by recognizing religion and science, not as opposing forces, but as related facets in an all-encompassing pursuit of truth, that we can bring both endeavors to their full potential. •

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz is the president and dean of Valley Beit Midrash of Scottsdale, Arizona and the author of more than 20 books on Jewish ethics.

‘Licorice Pizza’ Captures the Moment When Pop Culture Finally Started to See Jewish Women as Beautiful

BY STEPHEN SILVER

THIS YEAR, everyone seemed to have an opinion about how the entertainment industry views Jewish women.

The comedian Sarah Silverman and others openly inveighed against what she deemed “Jewface,” or the trend of casting non-Jewish actresses as (Ashkenazi) Jewish women; a plotline on this year’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm” season mocked a similar idea by having Larry David cast

a Latina actress as a Jewish character on a show about his childhood.

Whether you agree with Silverman or not, it’s hard to hear a term like “Jewface” and not think about the way Jewish characters have historically looked onscreen. For much of the 20th century, show business and popular culture considered stereotypical “Jewish” traits — curly hair, olive skin, a prominent nose — either “exotic,” comic or worse, inspiring countless Jewish

women to undergo rhinoplasty. It wasn’t until Barbra Streisand flaunted her “Jewish” looks beginning in the late 1960s — as Bette Midler would a few years later — that the culture began to shift. Streisand, writes her biographer Neal Gabler, “had somehow managed to change the entire definition of beauty.”

Now, at the end of 2021, along comes a film set in the 1970s with a female Jewish protagonist who is not only played by a Jewish actress,

but is also portrayed as a sex symbol.

The film is “Licorice Pizza,” the latest from acclaimed writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, and it opened wide in theaters on Christmas after several weeks of limited release. And the character is Alana Kane, played by singer Alana Haim of the band Haim, making her screen debut.

In the film, Alana is an aimless, guileless San Fernando Valley 20-something who gains maturity and an

entrepreneurial spirit after befriending Gary Valentine, an overconfident child actor (Cooper Hoffman, son of Philip Seymour Hoffman) who enlists her in various business schemes and convinces her to make a go at acting. The two of them enter a teasy, flirty codependency — Gary, not even 16, makes his attraction to Alana known early and often, especially when the two open a waterbed business together and he instructs her to “act sexy” when selling the kitschy

relics over the phone.

But it's not just Gary. Seemingly everyone in the movie, from lecherous older industry veterans to upstart young politicians, is obsessed with Alana — not in spite of her obviously Jewish appearance, but because of it. Anderson plays up Haim's physical parallels to the Jewish beauties of the era: a casting director (Harriet Sansom Harris) gushes over her "Jewish nose," which she notes is a very in-demand look, while real-life producer Jon Peters (played by Bradley Cooper as a manic, sex-crazed lunatic), gets very handsy with Alana — after pointedly bragging that Streisand is his girlfriend.

"Licorice Pizza" is in line with ideas espoused in Henry Bial's 2005 book "Acting Jewish: Negotiating Ethnicity on the American Stage and Screen," particularly its chapter on the '70s, which Bial described as the period when "Jews became sexy." Streisand, at the time of her Broadway debut in the early '60s, was described in reviews as a "homely frump" and "a sloe-eyed creature with folding ankles." But by the '70s, bolstered by her immense charisma and no-apologies attitude toward her own stardom, she was one of popular culture's greatest sex

symbols, even appearing on the cover of Playboy in 1977 — the year after starring in and producing her own "A Star is Born" remake. Her physical appearance didn't change in the intervening time; only the public's reactions to it did.

Anderson himself was born in 1970, so the teenaged adventures in the film aren't his memories specifically — they're mostly those of his friend Gary Goetzman, a former child actor who lived through many of the episodes depicted in the movie. And Anderson himself is not Jewish, though his longtime partner Maya Rudolph, who has a small part in the film, is. Yet perhaps by virtue of being born into a world in which Jewish women were suddenly being considered sexy, Anderson seems to innately understand the period-specific sexual, cultural and spiritual dynamics that would lead to someone like Alana being celebrated for her looks.

Anderson wasn't immune to those dynamics. As a child he had a crush on Alana Haim's mother, Donna Rose, who was his art teacher: "I was in love with her as a young boy, absolutely smitten," he told The New York Times, waxing rhapsodic about her "long, beautiful, flowing brown hair."

For much of the film, Alana

is unsure whether or how to leverage her sex appeal, as she also tries to figure out what she wants to do with her life. An attempt to respect the wishes of her traditional family (the other Haims, including their real parents, play the Kane clan) by dating a nice, successful, age-appropriate Jewish guy ends in disaster at a Shabbat dinner when the guy himself, Lance (Skyler Gisondo), refuses to say the "hamotzi" prayer.

The scene also touches on the debate over "religious" vs. "cultural" Judaism that has been raging in American Jewish circles since at least the time period when the film is set. While acknowledging he was "raised in the Jewish tradition," Lance cites "Vietnam" as the reason why he now identifies as an atheist and can't bring himself to recite a blessing. In response, Alana gets him to admit he's circumcised before declaring, "Then you're a f-king Jew!"

The moral of the scene might be the movie's biggest lesson to impart about Judaism: It's not just a belief system. It's an innate part of you, affecting everything from your hair to your nose to your genitals. It can make you be perceived as ugly in one decade, and a bombshell in the next. •

Stephen Silver writes for JTA.

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

Article Overlooked Past Leaders

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY GRONER on her retirement and her many accomplishments at PJDS ("Perelman Day School Leader to Retire," Dec. 23).

It is unfortunate that the article failed to acknowledge the many achievements of previous administrations and the dedicated faculty who laid the foundation that enabled Perelman to continue growing. Much work and many devoted people made Perelman the institution it is today.

Rita Ross | Wynnewood

Student Debt and the American Dream

In Rabbi Emily Cohen's op-ed about student debt relief ("We're in a Shmita Year. So Why Aren't American Jews Talking More About Student Debt Relief?," Dec. 23), she describes herself as "unbelievably lucky" that her parents paid her undergraduate education costs "due to generational wealth resulting from many Jews being coded as white after World War II."

As a parent who paid the undergraduate costs of my children, I would be extremely offended if they felt the same. Luck has nothing to do with it and neither does being "coded as white." Parents set priorities, and in Jewish families, education is at the top of the list. We worked hard, eschewed fancy cars and extravagant vacations and put away money for our children's education from the day they were born.

My family didn't automatically accrue "generational wealth," and I would be quite surprised if Rabbi Cohen's family somehow did. There is no shame coming from a family that works hard to realize the American dream.

Neil Shapiro | Blue Bell

Loans Are Meant to be Repaid

Rabbi Cohen's op-ed ("We're in a Shmita Year. So Why Aren't American Jews Talking More About Student Debt Relief?," Dec. 23) points out that she has been lucky with her student debt and many are not as fortunate. But there are several points she does not address.

The first is simple. If you take out a loan you are expected, legally and morally, to repay it. Rights come with responsibilities, and usually the latter is not mentioned. Secondly, the lender has debts to pay that are contingent upon the borrower living up to their end of the bargain. Thirdly, there are many ways to offset debt, including employer repayment plans (as part of a compensation packet); and joining the military to get GI Bill-type subsidies (which paid for my graduate degree).

Another option is skipping college and learning a trade, which is much cheaper and often pays better. And if one decides to go to college, get a degree with some value to potential employers, thus broadening future employment prospects.

A good lesson in life is to pay your way, not allowing yourself to be a victim. It would make for a much better life down the line in most cases. Before looking for student loan relief, look at the many options available before you decide to assume it but do not make someone else pay for your questionable decision. As a society, we would all be better for it. •

Matt Segal | Cary, North Carolina

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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A Resolution, Culinarily Speaking

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

I AM NOT A great one for New Year's resolutions. I still recall with a wry smile the past patterns of early January days when the gym would be crowded and, by MLK Day, it was back to normal.

But turning a new food page is acceptable and, to that end, I hope to do the following this year: break tradition.

By that, I mean that I plan to mix up typical flavor combinations and ingredients. I've attempted this with the salmon *beurre rouge* below.

It was inspired by a recipe from a chef I met years ago, who soaked and baked the salmon in a cup of heavy cream, and then made the sauce with a pound of butter. I felt like I would need an EKG after eating that, so I knew I had to make some adjustments. His dish was far too rich for my blood, but his tradition-breaking approach using red wine with fish tempted me.

I changed his recipe, lightened it up, and it was delicious. I hope to devise some other examples of this approach — maybe a hummus that integrates Chinese or Indian spices, a scalloped “potato” dish that uses turnips or butternut squash instead of spuds, a slaw that uses kale instead of cabbage ... you get the picture.

We served this with brown rice, which was lovely as a bed for the delicious sauce, and put a simple green salad on the table. Bread, quinoa, white rice or even mashed potatoes would be a nice addition to sop up the surplus sauce.

The sauce is pretty rich, so we skipped dessert. But if you have a sweet tooth, go for something light and contrasting — lime sorbet or lemon souffle, some spiced cookies, a small nibble

▲ Salmon *beurre rouge*

Photos by Keri White

of dark chocolate. I would steer clear of creamy or dairy-laden desserts to avoid conflicting with the sauce.

SALMON BEURRE ROUGE

Serves 2

This recipe uses both the white and green parts of the scallions. The white forms the base and aromatic for the sauce, while the green serves as an insulator and flavor infuser for the fish as it cooks.

Because of the butter, kosher and kosher-style diners would only use this sauce with fish. It is a fairly robust and hearty sauce, so matches best with a sturdy fish like the salmon used here.

If salmon is not your jam, you can use another meaty fish like halibut, mackerel, mahi mahi or arctic char.

Just avoid delicate types like flounder or sole, which can be overwhelmed by the sauce.

- 1 teaspoon canola or vegetable oil
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1½ cups dry red wine
- ½ stick butter
- 2 salmon fillets, about 5 ounces each
- Juice of ½ lemon
- Salt and pepper

Heat your oven to 300 degrees F.

Line a small pan with a piece of parchment that is large enough to fold over the fish into a lightly sealed packet. Place the salmon fillets in the pan, and sprinkle them with salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Chop the white part of the scallions, and leave the green part in long strands. Place the

green strands over the fish, covering it on the top and sides, then fold the parchment over the fish loosely, and crimp it into a packet. Bake it in the oven for 25 minutes until done.

While the fish cooks, make the sauce. Heat the oil in a skillet, and sauté the white parts of the scallions until they are fragrant and a bit soft. Add the wine and bring it to a boil. Lower the heat, and simmer the wine until it reduces to a thick syrup, about 20 minutes.

Turn off the heat.

When the fish is done, remove it from the oven, and set it aside. Heat the sauce again, and add the butter, whisking it to form a silky sauce. Taste for seasoning, and add salt and pepper, if needed.

Open the fish packets, and place the fillets in the sauce, spooning it over to coat the fish.

Garnish the fish with fresh parsley, chives or raw scallions, if desired. Serve and enjoy. ●



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JEWISH EXPONENT

In 'Passport to Freedom,' History is Dramatized

TELEVISION

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

DESCRIBED AS “O Anjo de Hamburgo,” or “the angel of Hamburg,” Aracy de Carvalho was credited by Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem as a driving force in saving German Jews on the eve of the Holocaust.

As an employee of the Brazilian consulate in Hamburg from 1935-1938, she helped Jews secure visas to flee to Brazil, against the stacked odds of growing Nazi animosity toward Jews and Brazilian President Getulio Vargas’ restrictions against entry of Jews into the country.

Though honored by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations in 1982 and becoming a face on a Brazilian mail stamp in 2019, de Carvalho had her pop culture debut on Dec. 22, serving as the protagonist in streaming service Globo and Sony Pictures’ eight-part miniseries “Passport to Freedom.”

A soapy, but satisfying fictional adaptation of de Carvalho’s story, “Passport to Freedom” brings the Brazilian consulate employee to the foreground of 1938 Hamburg, when the assassination of Nazi German diplomat Ernst Eduard vom Rath by Polish Jew Herschel Grynszpan incites Kristallnacht and a wave of relentless violence against European Jews.

Aracy (played by German-Brazilian actor Sophie Charlotte) suddenly has her work cut out for her: growing restrictions from the German and Brazilian governments and higher demand for visas. Making matters more complicated is the introduction of the newly-transferred Brazilian deputy consul João Guimarães Rosa (Rodrigo Lombardi) and growing suspicions of S.S. Officer Thomas



▲ Rodrigo Lombardi as João Guimarães Rosa and Sophie Charlotte as Aracy de Carvalho
Courtesy of IMDb/Globo

“Passport to Freedom” creators Mário Teixeira and Rachel Anthony bundle the story of the angel of Hamburg neatly into a seven-hour package, adding drama to the story of a woman working a desk job.

Zumkle, who keeps tracing Aracy’s every move.

The benevolent João, who periodically intervenes between a Nazi assault against bullied Jews, eventually joins Aracy in her pursuit to assist Jewish refugees, and the two quickly, and predictably, fall in love.

“Passport to Freedom” creators Mário Teixeira and Rachel Anthony bundle the story of the angel of Hamburg neatly into a seven-hour package, adding drama to the story of a woman working a desk job.

The writing is clear, the period dress and setting are compelling, and the director cleverly integrates historical footage of 1930s Europe into the fictional universe, weaving it nearly seamlessly into the newly shot frames.

Watching the small successes and massive adversities of the Jewish characters in the show is sure to pull at the heartstrings of audience members. “Passport to Freedom” pulls no punches in its depiction of Nazi violence against Jews.

The clear picture “Passport to Freedom” paints makes for good television. In the early Nazi landscape of fraught politics and individual decision-making of non-Jewish onlookers of the systemic oppression of Jews, Teixeira and Anthony make the audience’s job easy. Though good does not always vanquish evil, the audience will likely come away from the show knowing, at the very least, who was good and who was evil.

The reality in which the show is based was maybe not so clear-cut. Leading up to the show’s release, Brazilian historians Fábio Koifman and Rui Afonso questioned some of the veracity of de Carvalho’s story in their book “Jews in Brazil: History and Historiography,” according to a JTA report.

The historians claimed that de Carvalho was simply following the orders of the consulate, “incurring little to no personal risk in issuing standard visas to German Jews who escaped,” JTA reported.

Though Koifman and Afonso’s arguments have not



▲ Brazilian-German actor Sophie Charlotte plays Brazilian consulate employee Aracy de Carvalho in “Passport to Freedom.”
Courtesy of IMDb/Globo

been addressed by Yad Vashem or verified in their own right, the claims beg the question: In a portrayal of historic events — especially those with the profound weight and import of the Holocaust — what is the responsibility of the creator to their audience?

In all the show’s attempts to elicit an emotional response from the audience, tell a compelling love story and give a competent account of 1938 Hamburg, there’s a nagging feeling that the truth has been stretched in some scenes. This is a point of a historical drama, sure, but in the case of depicting the Holocaust, extra care should be taken.

For casual television viewers or non-Jews just learning about

the Holocaust, “Passport to Freedom” may be a friendly introduction into a little-known story. To Jews familiar with the horrors of the Shoah, the show can, at times, feel like more of a spectacle than a promise to “Never Forget.”

When making a historical canon more available to the audience, “Passport to Freedom” succeeds in spotlighting the narrative of those few individuals who heroically defied Nazi powers. But in the show’s attempt to make the story appealing to audiences, one can’t help but wonder what gets lost in the process. •

srogelberg@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0741

Philly Faces: Tyler Weiss

PHILLY FACES

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

TYLER WEISS LED the Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School boys' soccer team to its first-ever Public League championship on Oct. 27 in his first year of coaching the team.

The 26-year-old Aussie coach has two decades of soccer experience under his belt, including coaching Team Israel in the Philadelphia International Unity Cup in fall 2021 and competing in the 2011 JCC Maccabi Games, where he was selected as one of the 18 players to be part of the U.S. contingent for the international games held in Israel. Team USA made it to the finals, but lost to Team Israel. (Weiss joked that the referees were clearly biased.)

Since November, Weiss, now a Fishtown resident, has coached the United Philly Soccer Club, where many of his Masterman players compete. The club is one of the few in the country that isn't pay-to-play, eliminating the cost barrier for young students to play in a competitive league year-round.

For Weiss, coaching for the club not only allows him to do what he loves during the Public League's off season, but it also helps out the underdog — something Weiss has been keen to do throughout his coaching career.

What's the Jewish community like in Australia?

My family has a really interesting background. My grandmother was actually born [in Austria] on the run during the Holocaust. Her parents were in line to be shot, and they ran. My grandmother was born literally in the forest.

They ended up in a boat and ended up in northern Australia — Darwin, Australia — and

worked their way from Darwin to the outskirts of Melbourne.

Are there a lot of Jewish Holocaust refugees in Australia?

Yeah, there really are. In Australia, it's a much closer-knit Jewish community than in America. Most Jews know each other. I think there's actually a similarly sized Jewish community in Philadelphia.

What are some Jewish traditions in Australia that do not exist at all in the U.S. or vice versa?

Every Jewish holiday [in Australia], you're home with your family, and you'll have 100 people at a Passover seder, at break-fast. I wouldn't say that's common here because people move away, or they marry someone on the other side of the country; they keep splitting, keep splintering.

We have services; we sit down and do the prayers. For them, they'll sit down and do the prayers and then go outside and dance. We're a lot more traditional here. We really try to connect to the old traditions. In Australia, it's a different mindset.

In Australia, do they call it soccer or football?

They call it soccer! They have their own football called Aussie rules football. It's not rugby — I'll just say that now.

How did you become interested in soccer?

Honestly, just like most children: their parents put them into 10 different sports and see what they enjoyed. Soccer was always something I was good at and enjoyed.

I also got fortunate; I got really good coaches for soccer. Maybe that was it — out of the 10 coaches I had, the soccer coach was the one I connected with most. I still talk to him. His name is Coach Bill.

I started to watch soccer a little bit more, and I think my passion went from not just playing the sport, but to the actual sport, the ins and outs, the tactics, the players, the teams. And I think that was a real eye-opener to make me fall in love with the sport — not just to play the sport, but to actually have this intrinsic love of the sport.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as a coach so far?

It's winning the Public League championship. That was my first major coaching trophy.

I think imposter syndrome is real. This was the first, real time that I thought, maybe ... I'm not just here saying things into the void. Maybe I have some actual ability to change and improve and to grow as a coach.

Where does your interest in helping out the underdog come from?

As a Jewish athlete, you hear all the time, the stereotypical 'Jews can't be athletes.'



▲ Tyler Weiss after coaching the Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School boys' soccer team to its first-ever Public Championship on Oct. 27
Courtesy of Tyler Weiss

Growing up, I came from Central Pennsylvania, where it's hard to be a top academic, but then I went to a top academic school and won a business scholarship. I've always been the underdog, always played for the underdog.

Who's a Jewish athlete whom you look up to?

Obviously, he's a soccer player. His name is Yossi Benayoun. He was the Israeli

captain for the national team. But he was the first Israeli to play high-level soccer in the Premier League, first at Liverpool [Football Club] and then for my favorite team, Chelsea [F.C].

Just watching him growing up, I was like, 'Oh my God, he's breaking all the boundaries, breaking all these barriers.' •

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BY RABBI BARRY DOV LERNER

Parshat Bo

OUR WEEKLY TORAH portion, Bo (Exodus 10:1–13:16), is packed with drama, bursting with the roots for Jewish observance. It begins with the familiar conclusion of the Ten Plagues, even if we know the end of the Passover plot.

However, one “quiet” verse, which is almost overlooked in importance, interrupts the story; the words are not dramatic, nor does it fill us with spiritual awe. But it may well be the most important verse in this *sedra*.

But first, let’s look at the “big picture” of the Exodus from slavery. We begin with yet another round of negotiation between Moses and Pharaoh and the next plague of locusts. The Egyptian courtiers now urge Pharaoh to permit Israel to go to worship their God. He refuses, and the locust swarms all agriculture that survived the hailstorm. Once again, Pharaoh relents, and, when the locusts leave, he reneges yet again.

Moses is then instructed by God to bring unannounced the ninth plague of total darkness, causing Egyptians to stay at home — “national lockdown.” Pharaoh summons Moses to admit defeat and the darkness is lifted. But once the plague

is removed, it is the same old story: Pharaoh refuses to let them go.

Meanwhile, the Israelites are instructed how to prepare to leave. Firstly, they are to request objects of silver and gold from their Egyptian neighbors. Secondly, they are to dedicate and then roast a lamb to eat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, while painting their house doorframe with the lamb’s blood.

The portion continues with instructions for the future celebration of the seder and Passover, the basis for three of the four famous Mah Nishtanah.

Moses warns Pharaoh that the firstborn of Egypt, from the highest to the lowest, peasant to Pharaoh, human and animal, will die about midnight. Now, “everyone gets the message” in the contest between Pharaoh and Israel’s God “let my people go.”

Our *sedra* concludes with the importance of memorializing our redemption from Egyptian bondage with *pidyon haben* for redeeming the human and animal firstborn of Israel, the feast of unleavened bread *Hag HaMatzot*, and concluding with tefillin containing memories of the Exodus.

Which, then, is the “sleeper verse?”

“This month shall mark for you the beginning of the months; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you.” (Ex. 12:1-2)

According to many traditional commentaries, this verse is the first commandment given to the Children of Israel just before their exodus from bondage and before the “Aseret Hadibrot” (Ten Commandments). It was, as Professor Gerson Cohen taught: (z”l, my teacher and past chancellor of JTSA): The most significant legacy of this Torah portion is the proclamation of the foundation of the Hebrew calendar.”

Why? The present Jewish calendar is lunisolar, the months being reckoned according to the moon and the years according to the sun. A month is the time between one conjunction of the moon with the sun and the next. As Cohen wrote: “What is important is that this calendar which became the foundation of the Jewish calendar that is still followed and observed, gave the children of Israel an autonomous way of keeping time.”

In the words of Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808–1888), the founder of contemporary modern Orthodoxy: “The Jewish calendar is the Jewish catechism, for it is the most concise summary of what we remember

and what we stand for.”

In short, the newly freed are now in charge of their own time and the labor of their hands. They will observe both our agricultural celebrations and also our historical events.

As they assume control for their own lives living in freedom, they accept responsibility for their own decisions and their opinions. The calendar required human understanding of sun, moon and stars but not as divinities. Literally, we — not God — determine when Shabbat, the festivals and holy days occur.

Let me conclude with a wonderful rabbinic Aggadah about Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus, who disagreed vigorously with Rabbi Joshua and all his colleagues in the Academy.

Eliezer calls up one miracle after another, to prove him correct. Finally, Eliezer calls upon God for support, and a “Bat Kol,” spoke to the Academy: “Why are you disagreeing with Rabbi Eliezer? You know the law is always in accord with him!” Rabbi Yehoshua then stood up and defied the Bat Kol on his feet and said: It is written: “It is not in heaven” (Deuteronomy 30:12).

When the Talmud asks, “What do these words mean, ‘It is not in heaven?’” Rabbi Yirmeya says: “Since Sinai, we

don’t obey a Divine Voice, as the Torah teaches: ‘majority rules.’” Because a majority of rabbis disagreed with Rabbi Eliezer and the heavenly voice, Jewish law follows the rabbis — for millennia to come.

Our Torah begins in Genesis with the creation as a universal history. The origin of the Jewish people is in the Book of Exodus. Genesis relates the mythology of our ancestors journeying to Egypt to survive, but there we were enslaved by a Pharaoh who recognized no authority greater than himself. Passover and the telling of the Exodus surround this one verse, on either side.

Nisan becomes the first month in the new Jewish calendar in our *sedra*, and Passover celebrates the beginning of the Jewish people. •

Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner is the president of Traditional Kosher Supervision, Inc. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



Frimark

Continued from Page 7

bat mitzvahs; and he helped run Ohev’s preschool.

According to the rabbi, the cantor handled between 60 and 70 b’nai mitzvah students per year. He was also “one of their best memories of preschool at Ohev Shalom,” Perlstein said.

“People had a world of respect for him as the cantor,” the rabbi added. “Nobody ever came to me and said, ‘I’m having a hard time with the cantor.’”

Frimark was a well-liked figure in both a leadership and performance role. Yet, according to Perlstein, he never sought the spotlight.

During Shabbat services, he sang and played the guitar and piano. But he always motioned for the congregation to start singing, too.

“It was never his goal to be the star,” Perlstein said. “He was more the leader of the congregation singing.”

Upon retiring in 2011, Frimark unretired.

Temple Judea in Doylestown lost its rabbi and needed a spiritual leader, so Frimark took over. He served in that role for three or four years before the synagogue hired a new rabbi.

“People will tell you he kept that synagogue alive,” Perlstein said.

At home, the cantor and band leader became the father and husband.

Bara Frimark said he tucked her in each night and the two would talk about their days. As an adult, whenever she had a

question about money or taxes, she called her former accountant of a pop.

In August, he helped her refinance her house.

“I was definitely a daddy’s girl,” Bara Frimark said. “He was my go-to person whenever I needed help with anything.”

Arlene Frimark described her husband as a man who she just felt comfortable being around. The couple loved to travel to places like Lancaster, Nashville and New Orleans, among other locations.

Frimark also always helped his wife around the house, folding laundry and emptying the dishwasher. He did, however, have one character flaw after all.

Frimark didn’t cook, though he did make eggs.

Before his death, Frimark was homebound from the middle of October through Dec. 24.

“I’ll just miss him being there,” Arlene Frimark said. •

jsaffren@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0740

BIRTH

► ALANA SARI ABRAMS

Jason and Erica Abrams announce the birth of their daughter, Alana Sari Abrams, on Sept. 22. Alana Sari is named in loving memory of her maternal great-grandmother Anne Soltoff and her paternal great-grandfather Solomon Perez.

Her grandparents are Rich and Mindy Soltoff, Robert Abrams and Bonnie Abrams. In addition, Alana Sari is the great-granddaughter of Bert and Harriet Soltoff, Jean Snyder and the late Jack Snyder. Sharing in the joy are aunt Ariel Abrams and uncle Scott, aunt Amanda and cousin Sawyer Soltoff and her extended family.



Photo by Staged Kids Photography

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JLV Names Chief Development Officer

JEWISH LEARNING VENTURE named Rhona Gerber as its chief development officer.

“JLV inspires and empowers individuals and families to make Jewish life, learning, and community relevant and meaningful,” according to a news release.



▲ Rhona Gerber

Courtesy of Jewish Learning Venture

Gerber brings more than two decades of nonprofit and political fundraising expertise to her role, recently spending six years as development director of CeaseFirePA, a statewide gun-violence prevention organization.

Gerber was the founding chair of the Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel preschool and was active on many

committees at Kohélet Yeshiva, Perelman Jewish Day School, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy and Mekor Habracha. She is chair of the Center City Kehillah.

“As an active and committed member of the dynamic Philadelphia Jewish community, I sought to synthesize my personal and professional passion. Jewish Learning Venture gives me the opportunity to do that,” Gerber said. “My son was also the first generation of PJ Library kids; it’s like coming full circle.”

KleinLife to Offer New Touring Options

KleinLife announced the start of a new venture called “Starr Tours at KleinLife” that will offer a schedule of escorted one-day and overnight excursions to popular destinations throughout the United States and Canada.

In addition to an assortment of Starr trips accessible from the KleinLife parking lot, Starr Tours of Hamilton, New Jersey, and KleinLife will offer exclusive trips for the KleinLife community escorted by Andrea Kimelheim, KleinLife’s travel coordinator.

The monthly excursions will include day trips to Broadway, Washington, D.C.’s United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Harriet Tubman’s Underground Railroad in Cambridge, Maryland, as well as a three-night getaway to see castles in New York state. A travel education program is in the works.

Buses will depart from KleinLife at 10100 Jamison Ave. in Northeast Philadelphia.

For specific excursion dates and details, visit starr-tours.com/kleinlife or call 800-782-7703.

Several Jews Named Feasterville Business Association Officers

Ron Hyman, the owner of the Insurance Shops in



▲ Ron Hyman

Courtesy of the Feasterville Business Association

Feasterville, was elected president of the Feasterville Business Association.

Other Jewish officers include Dennis Markowitz, a private tax and business consultant in Langhorne named treasurer, and Stu Coren, president of Rosen Coren public relations and marketing agency in Langhorne, as recording/corresponding secretary.

Directors include Susan Harrison, co-owner of the Greater Philadelphia Abstract Co. in Feasterville-Treose; Ray Greenberg, president of Financial Expertise in Feasterville; and Ted Hauptman of the Law Offices of Ted Hauptman in Feasterville, who is serving as the organization’s legal counsel.

The association is now in its 73rd year. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb


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DEATH NOTICES



AIN

FLORENCE S. AIN (nee. Halpern) on December 24, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Theodore J. Ain. Devoted mother of Dr. Kenneth (Sara Rosenthal) Ain, Nanci (David) Goldenberg, and Rochelle (Michael) Nemrow. Loving grandmother of Maxwell Ain, Jacob Ain, Rachel Goldenberg, Joshua (Jessica) Goldenberg, Michael (Helene) Goldenberg, Allison Nemrow, and Gregory Nemrow. Loving great-grandmother of Eliza Goldenberg. Florence (aka the Good Weather Witch) brought people together and made friends wherever she went. She shared a 65-year marriage with the love of her life and excelled at everything she did from piano to golf to needlepoint. Florence loved music and travel and telling stories, and nothing made her happier and prouder than her family. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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ASCHINSKI

Goldie Aschinski (nee Genter), on December 22, 2021, of Miami, FL, formerly of Cheltenham, PA. Beloved wife of 66 years to the late Alvin P. Aschinski. Loving mother of David Ashe (Milagros), Amy Shargel (Jason) and Fredric Ashe (Lorri); devoted grandmother of Benjamin (Miki), Daniel (Adina), Michael (Charlotte), Emily and Rachel (Michael) and great-grandfather of Adam, Oren, Isaak, Ilan, Louisa and Levi. Services Private.

JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS
www.levinefuneral.com

BERNSTEIN

Lee Darin Bernstein on Dec. 20, 2021. Son of Steven and Janice Bernstein; brother of Ryan (Christie) Bernstein; uncle of Asher and Isaac. Relatives and friends are invited to Funeral Services Sunday, Dec. 26, 1:30 PM precisely at Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael Sacks Suburban North, 310 2nd Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966. Int. Roosevelt Memorial Park. Shiva will be private. Contributions in his memory may be made to any animal shelter of your choice.

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BESSER

Gilbert M. Besser, on December 22, 2021; of Havertown, PA; beloved husband of the late Eleanore (nee Graw); loving father of Marcus P. Besser (Amy), Janet Gail Besser (Daniel Seibert) and the late David C. Besser; devoted brother of Dr. William F. Besser; cherished grandfather of Rachael Besser (Rafi Spitzer), Joseph Besser (Bailey), Aaron Besser, Raymond Seibert and Pauline Seibert; adored great-grandfather of Ellie and Jonah Spitzer. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Gilbert's memory may be made to Adath Israel Synagogue (adathisrael.org) or The Metropolitan Opera, NY, NY (https://www.met-opera.org).

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BUSTER

Arlene Buster, 85, loving wife & mother of 3, Dec. 20, 2021. A resident of Rydal, PA, formerly of Brooklyn and Long Island, NY, Arlene was known for her beauty & grace, & will always be remembered for her dignified, gracious demeanor. Passionate about poodles, bridge and golf; she & her late husband, Leonard, were longtime members of Meadowlands Country Club. Survived by loving family: brother Dr. Arthur Segal, daughters Lisa Buster, Stefani Weiss, Michele Buster & grandsons Eric & Robert Weiss.

JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS
www.levinefuneral.com

COREN

Ellen R. Coren (nee Rosen), died on December 26, 2021. Wife of Stuart; mother of Lori (Tim) Hartigan and Brad Coren, Esq.; and grandmother of Alex. Service and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to KleinLife, 10100 Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

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DEATH NOTICES

DESOUZA

Jean (nee Shaffer), died Tuesday, December 28, 2021. Jean is survived by her husband, Norman; children, Candace Dobro (Jeff Dobro) and Marc (Willia); grandchildren: Sarah Dobro, Dolyn Chasin (Zach Chasin), Eric and Theo; and sister, Eileen Brown (Bernie Brown).

WEST LAUREL HILL FUNERAL HOME
www.westlaurelhill.com



EIZEN

Peter Jonathan Eizen, 43, died peacefully at home on Saturday, December 18, 2021, surrounded by his wife and family. He is survived by his wife, Susan; children, Jared and Ariana; parents, Lisa and Steven Eizen; brother, Douglas Eizen; and dozens of loving family members and countless friends. He was predeceased by his grandparents Daniel and Elaine Ellick, grandparents Albert and Mildred Eizen, and father-in-law James Gorelick. Peter led a full and happy life. He was an excellent student and avid Philadelphia sports fan. He played and coached baseball and most recently coached his son Jared's team which won the league championship. He was a lifelong Philadelphian and was deeply involved in his children's educational and sports activities. From baseball to hockey to musical theater performances and everything in between, he was always there, proudly cheering on and encouraging his children. Peter loved traveling with his wife and children and spending time at the Jersey Shore with his parents and brother. Peter had a successful career in real estate, working alongside his father in the family business. He was a man who showed resilience and strength of character in every aspect of his life, especially in his long and courageous battle against cancer. Peter was loved for his wonderfully dry humor, fierce devotion to his family, and loyalty and support to his friends. His memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of his family and all who knew him.

WEST LAUREL HILL FUNERAL HOME
www.westlaurelhill.com

FRIMARK

Cantor Paul Frimark on December 24, 2021. Cantor Frimark was the Cantor of Ohev Shalom of Bucks County for 18 years. He is survived by his beloved wife Arlene (nee Alexander), his loving children Bara Frimark and Kim Whitman, and his sister Gail Thompkins (William). He is also survived by his dear nephew, Michael Thompkins. Contributions in his memory may be made to Ohev Shalom of Bucks County for the Cantor Paul Memorial Fund, 944 2nd Street Pike, Richboro, PA 18954.

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DEATH NOTICES

GILMAN

Esther S. (nee Orenstein). December 25, 2021 of Wynnwood, Pa. Beloved wife of the late John Selarnick and the late Martin Gilman. Devoted mother of Stuart (Nancy) Selarnick and Hope Selarnick. Cherished sister of Sharon Benveneste, the late Pearl Meisner and the late Samuel Orenstein. Proud grandmother of John (Paige), Alex (Dana) Michael (Sydney), Haley and Samuel. Great-grandmother of Mason and Blake. Services and interment will be private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Har Zion Temple.

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GOLDSTEIN

Mary (nee Stein) Goldstein, Esq. on December 24, 2021. Beloved wife of Dr. Irwin Goldstein. Devoted mother of Rabbi Jason Goldstein and Jessica Goldstein (fiancé Andrew Samitz). Dear sister of Dr. Hermine Stein (Dr. Larry Shusterman). Loving aunt of Alexander Shusterman (Jaclyn), Jennifer Shusterman, Joshua Shusterman, and great aunt of Samuel Shusterman. Contributions in her memory may be made to JEVS (Philadelphia Independence Network Program), Alzheimer's Association, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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GOODMAN



Malka Goodman (nee Schapiro), of Westminster, Maryland passed away on Friday, December 24th, 2021, at the age of 78. She is survived by children, Rebecca "Rifka" (Philip "Flip") Eckard and Zev Goodman; brother, Saul Schapiro (Bella Rosner); and granddaughters, Sarah Danielle Eckard and Julia Rose Eckard. Malka was predeceased by her beloved husband, Rabbi Philip Goodman; and parents, Fagel and Nobart Schapiro. In addition to her favorite role as "Bubby" to Sarah and Julia, Malka loved being both an educator and a student. She was a lifelong fan of the New York Mets, and could be heard cheering her heart out whether it be in person or from her living room couch. Services at Montefiore Cemetery, 600 Church Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046 on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. Please omit flowers. Contributions in her memory may be sent to Germantown Jewish Centre, 400 West Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119, or P'nai Or Philadelphia, 6757 Greene Street #110, Philadelphia, PA 19119. SOL LEVINSON & BROS.

DEATH NOTICES



GREENBERG

Gloria Louise Greenberg (Gold), born November 24, 1939, in West Philadelphia. Proceeded in death by her loving and devoted parents, Philip Gold and Etta Gold (born Schectman) and younger brother Steven. She was an extraordinary human being, wife, mother, and grandmother. Survived by husband Sydney, daughters Stephanie and sons-in-law Lou (Duarte) and Rosalind and Joseph (Karlín), grandchildren Isabella and Phillip (Duarte), and Madison, Kennedy, Grant and Tyler (Karlín). Gloria was a proponent of animal rights, prisoner rights, and the economically disadvantaged. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice that exemplifies Gloria's ideals and character. Due to Covid, shiva will be observed virtually through Adath Jeshurun synagogue.

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GREENWALD

Dianne Yvonne (née Weinberg), December 22, 2021, of Apollo Beach FL; Beloved wife of the late Norman Greenwald; loving mother of Wendy (Steve) Jennings and Bruce (Heidi) Greenwald; cherished grandmother of Lynne (Adam) Danoff, Andrea (Arthur) Lawrie, Michael (Mary) Jennings and Brad Jennings and great grandmother of Charlie Danoff, Louis Danoff, Nora Jennings and Jonathan Jennings; devoted sister of Stuart (Blanche) Weinberg and the late Larry Weinberg. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her name may be made to the American Heart Association (www.heart.org)

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KRAMAROFF

Lorraine Kramaroff (1921 - 2021), nee Davis, 100, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Aaron Pliskin and Sigmund Kramaroff. Loving mother of Mark (Lillian) Kramaroff and Vera Kramaroff. Cherished grandmother of Chad (Lauren) Kramaroff, Ryan (Dana) Kramaroff and Adam Kramaroff. Adoring great-grandmother to Tyler, Livi, Sasha, Chase and Gabby. Sister of the late Herbie and Syd Davis. The family respectfully requests contributions to be made to Pancreatic Cancer Research, 1275 York Ave. New York, NY 10065.

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HERST

Arnold Herst 85 of Warwick ,Pa. sadly, passed away on December 23rd in Boynton Beach FL- Born on January 6th 1936 in Philadelphia to Yetta and Harry Herst who preceded him in death. Arnold spent most of his life in Philadelphia and had a second home in Boynton Beach where he eventually spent the winters playing countless rounds of golf and enjoying time with his wife Ricky of 62 years. He enjoyed spending time with his many friends from childhood, all the many close friends he met along the way and loved animals. Arnold had a knack for speaking his mind which left many people with an "Arnie" memory.Arnold proudly served the US Army as a member of the military police in Germany from 1954 through 1956. Arnie worked his entire career in the moving and storage industry and became one of the largest bookers in the tristate area for office and industrial relocations. Later in his career, along with Ricky, he started his own moving company until he retired in 1998.Arnold is survived by his loving wife Ricky (Goldstin), daughters Jill (Kevin), Suzanne and grandchildren Samantha (Jon), Jordan and great-grandson Jack. The family requests that any donations be made to Feeding America <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

KRENGEL

Floyd (Kris) Krengel of Tinton Falls, NJ, formerly of Philadelphia, died on October 10, 2021, at 90 years old. Husband of Joan (nee Margulis), father of Sharon and Maxine, graduate of Central High School, Lehigh University, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

DEATH NOTICES

LEVY

Linda G., 88, of Bryn Mawr, PA passed away of natural causes on December 24, 2021 at the Quadrangle in Havertown, PA. Linda was born Linda Nancy Goldman on May 2, 1933 to parents Frank and Rosalyn Goldman of Philadelphia, PA. Linda often spoke of her fond memories of growing up in West Philadelphia in a close-knit family and playing with her sister, Malika Moore and her cousins of the Sidewater family. Linda was a proud graduate of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, class of 1950. Linda's first marriage was to Paul A. Levy in Philadelphia, and the two raised their family of three children, Karen Levy, Jan Levy Durlacher and Matthew Levy, on Arbutus Street in the Mt. Airy section of the city. During these years Linda was very active in local social causes. After they moved to Allens Lane in 1969, Linda's husband passed away suddenly in 1973. Ever strong, Linda continued on, and in 1979 she found the love of her life, Dr. Henry Friedman, who had been her neighbor back on Arbutus Street. Linda and Henry married in 1984 in the garden of their home on Allens Lane. Linda worked diligently as a medical secretary for several years for Dr. Theodore Weiss. Linda and Henry discovered a joint passion for Italy, traveling there 28 times to explore their favorite country. They also developed a shared passion for the arts, especially in Philadelphia, and were frequently seen at the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Opera Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Ballet and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. They included these institutions and many others in their annual charitable donations. Linda is survived by her loving husband, Henry; her children, Karen Levy, Jan Levy Durlacher and Matthew Levy, and Matthew's spouse, Heidi Pottgen; her grandchildren, Caroline and Peter Durlacher and Kate and Kyle Levy; her sister, Malika Moore; her nephews, Mukhtar Sanders, Salihah Moore Kirby, Farid Sanders and Farid's spouse, Tina; and her step-children, Sari Marsilio, Judith Wiseman and Deborah Friedman Sellitto and Deborah's spouse, Joseph Vidich; and her step-grandchildren, Joshua Marsilio, Phillip Wiseman, Phillip's spouse, Ashley, and Benjamin and Jessica Sellitto. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Philadelphia Orchestra Association 1 South Broad Street, 14th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107

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MAZIE

Loretta Lee Mazie (Newman) 1934-2021, of Boynton Beach Florida, formerly of Cinnaminson New Jersey, left this world on December 25th, she was 87 years old. She is the beloved wife of Martin Mazie, beloved mother of her four daughters, Shellie Dickstein (Philip), Dani Segal (Dan), Jody Ludwig (Marc), Kim Novick (Steve), beloved grandmother to Tal, (Jaimie), Yadin (Sophie), Shira (Elan), Noah (Tziporah), Ilana (Mike), Ashlee, Molly, Seth, beloved great grandmother to Jordana, Sierra, Salome, Leor, Gedaliyah, Ezzy, Yishai, Yehuda, Odin, Mazie, and friend to many. Loretta worked much of her life as a social worker, having obtained her BS in Psychology from Rutgers University and her MSW from Hahnemann University. Of the many jobs she had, her longest was director of The Mental Health Clinic of Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach Florida. She even held a therapy workshop at her independent living facility into her mid eighties, called Hope to Cope. She was extremely passionate about her career! She was also very active in developing programs in her independent living, creating Friday night services, running the chorus and the main theater shows. Loretta was known for her unique style, class, poise, demeanor and wit which made her stand out! She was definitely one of a kind! Loretta will be greatly missed and in our hearts forever! May her memory be a blessing! Donations can be made to The Alzheimer's Association, The National Kidney Foundation, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Vitas Healthcare (Hospice) SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPELS

DEATH NOTICES



PEARLSTEIN

Irwin Robert Pearlstein aka "Sonny", passed away on November 2nd, 2021 following a bout with pancreatic cancer. Just like he dealt with all experiences in life, Sonny managed his illness with strength and grace, and wanted to spend as much time with his loved ones as possible. On his final days, he was surrounded by family in his son's home near San Francisco, California. While Sonny passed away on the West Coast, you could not take the Philly out of him. Sonny was born December 29, 1941 in Philadelphia and lived his formative years in West Philadelphia where he graduated from West Philadelphia High School, Class of 1959. Sonny had a voracious appetite for sports. He was a fierce competitor, and an accomplished football/baseball player. He was known amongst his peers to leave everything on the field, to be a lover of Philly cheese steaks and always to be found with a smile on his face. He was described as a loyal warrior and man amongst boys. Services took place on November 10, 2021 at Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks Funeral Home and Forest Hills/Shalom Memorial Park.



PLATT

Carolyn Platt (nee Goldhammer), December 21, 2021, of Jenkintown, PA; beloved wife of Frank, loving mother of Heather Platt and Marlene (Vince) Schultz, cherished grandmother of Jake Schultz and Ryan Schultz. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorial gifts in Carolyn's memory be made to Jewish Relief Agency (jewishrelief.org) or Congregation Adath Jeshurun (adathjeshurun.info) or a charity of the donor's choice.

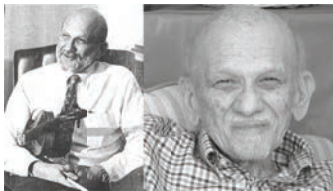
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RUDNICK

FAY (nee Hessian) on December 25, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Joseph; Loving mother of Marsha Wilson and David (Renee) Rudnick; Dear sister of Lillian Berman; Devoted grandmother of Rebecka, Kevin, Julianna, Gabriella, and Ethan. Contributions in her memory may be made to Woodmere Art Museum, www.woodmereartmuseum.org/donate Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

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DEATH NOTICES



SCHWARTZ

Milton A. Schwartz, MD, beloved husband of Phyllis D. Schwartz (nee Rudolph), the loving father of Randall (& Abby) Schwartz and Erica (& Nicholas Hall) Schwartz, the adoring Pop of Kyle, Sophie, Isaiah, Raphael and Elijah, passed away Saturday, December 25, at Capital Regional Medical Center with his loved ones at his side. Milton had a passion for life and a diversity of interests from music to medicine, from umpiring little league to working on community boards, from collecting fine wine to cheering on his favorite Philadelphia sports teams. He grew up in the Feltonville section of Philadelphia and graduated from Olney High School in 1955. He did his undergraduate and medical studies at Temple University where he met the love of his life, Phyllis Rudolph, in a calculus class. After completing an internship at Lower Bucks Hospital, Bristol, Dr. Schwartz served as a Flight Surgeon with the U.S. Air Force at the Rhein-Main Air Base outside of Frankfurt, Germany from 1964-1967. He then returned to the US and joined his childhood friend, Robert Weisberg, in private practice in Morrisville, PA. Together they practiced medicine for over 40 years until Dr. Weisberg retired. Dr. Schwartz continued practicing medicine until 2017, when he retired after 60 years, at the ripe old age of 80. Dr. Schwartz was a compassionate physician with a welcoming sense of humor and a calming bedside manner. He was a man of integrity both in the public sphere as a doctor and in his private life as a family man and friend. Milton's first love (other than his wife) was music. He began his musical career at the age of five when his father put a violin in his hands. His musical aptitude quickly became apparent. He attended the acclaimed Settlement Music School and then the New School of Music in Philadelphia, PA, from which he graduated at the age of 17. Later, as an adult, Milton played with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic for over 30 years (concertmaster for over a decade) and performed with the Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra as a violinist for 10 years, all while serving on both orchestra boards. In 1990, Milton and his wife, Phyllis, along with Russell Hoffman and others, founded the Newtown Chamber Orchestra, serving on the Board of the orchestra, often as board President, and playing as Concertmaster for over two decades. He enjoyed sharing his musical gift, and for years, he and Dr. Russel Bechtloff gave benefit violin and piano duet performances for many organizations, including the Human Growth Center (now the Counseling Center of Bucks County) and the Bucks County Youth Orchestra. Milton was a survivor with a strong will. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, becoming cancer-free after a year-long battle and remaining that way thereafter. He and his beloved wife had a storybook love affair, marrying at 22 and 19 respectively. After 62 years, he was heartbroken by her death earlier this year. Dad, we are grateful to you for teaching us how to survive in the world, respect ourselves and stand up for our principles. You were loved and respected by family, friends and colleagues. You will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered. Funeral services will be private due to Covid-19 restrictions. If you would like to pay your respects to the family, you may do so at the following email address, raks@comcast.net Donations in his memory may be made to the Newtown Chamber Orchestra, PO Box 716, Newtown, PA 18940, <https://www.newtown-chamberorchestra.org/> or The Counseling Center of Bucks County, 82 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966, 215-322-2586. GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

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TOLZ

NORMA (nee Sacks) on December 22, 2021. Beloved mother of Alan (Deborah) Tolz and Ronald (Lisa) Tolz; Dear sister of Daniel (Pam) Sacks and the late Pearl Levi, Vivan Brantz, and Marvin Sacks; Sister-in-law of Sol Brantz and the late Sidney Levi; Loving grandmother of Jessica, Elanna, Cody and Brianna; Adoring great-grandmother of Brinley and Saoirse. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. Norma was a secretary for Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks since 1992 and prior to that worked for Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks since 1976. Contributions in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks www.goldsteinsfuneral.com



WOLF

Phyllis R. Wolf (nee Spiegle), Springfield, PA passed away on December 21, 2021. Phyllis was born July 19, 1950 in Youngstown, OH to Walter and Mary Ann Spiegle. She was a graduate of Ohio University and moved to Philadelphia, PA to start her career shortly after. Phyllis and her husband Leon Wolf had been married for 13 years and enjoyed the beach, traveling and spending time with their grandchildren. In addition to her husband Phyllis is survived by her children Lee Berger (Kim Linarte), Robyn Berger (Dorian Korzeniowski), Eric (Megan) Berger and Cara (Chad) Fisher. Stepson Simon (Sandra) Wolf. Grandchildren Sadie and Avery Berger, Charlotte and Cole Fisher, AnnaLucia, Chloe and Sophie Wolf. Brother Jeffery Spiegle (Doreen) and niece Marissa Spiegle. She was preceded in death by her stepson David Wolf. Contributions in her memory may be made to Heritage Manor, 517 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504

ZEITLIN

Richard Zeitlin, December 21, 2021, of Elkins Park, PA; beloved husband of Violet (nee Polack) loving father of Brenda Zeitlin and Andreea (Steven) Kessler, devoted brother of Paul Zeitlin and the late George Zeitlin, cherished grandfather of four granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. Services were held on December 23 at Joseph Levine & Sons in Trevose, PA and interment took place at Beth David Cemetery in Elmont NY. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Richard's memory may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun of Elkins Park (adathjeshurun.info), Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old in Jerusalem (lifeline.org.il) or a charity of the donor's choice.

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OAK HILL TOWER

OAK HILL ESTATES



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LEGAL NOTICES

DISSOLUTION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the shareholders and Directors of BLL Enterprises, Inc., a PA corp., with a registered address at 2 Snyder Ave., Phila., PA 19148, have approved a proposal that the corp. voluntarily dissolve, and that the Board of Directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corp. under the provisions of Section 1975 of the PA Business Corp. Law of 1988, as amended.

Brave Light has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.

Djerassi Foundation, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.

Cheshire Law Group
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5275 Germantown Ave.
First Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Kids at Play Foundation has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.
Cheshire Law Group
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First Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19144

www.JewishExponent.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given by Practical Reasoning, Inc., a Pennsylvania business corporation, that said corporation is winding up its affairs in the manner prescribed by section 1975 of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, so that its corporate existence shall cease upon the filing of Articles of Dissolution in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DISSOLUTION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the shareholders and Directors of S.M.C. Enterprises, Inc., a PA corp., with a registered address at 4310 Roosevelt Blvd., Phila., PA 19124, have approved a proposal that the corp. voluntarily dissolve, and that the Board of Directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corp. under the provisions of Section 1975 of the PA Business Corp. Law of 1988, as amended.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ANNETTE RUBIN, DECEASED.
Late of Upper Merion Township, Montgomery 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 **WENDY RECZEK, EXECUTRIX**, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: **DAVID S. WORKMAN ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP**
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TION HOME IN A WONDERFUL
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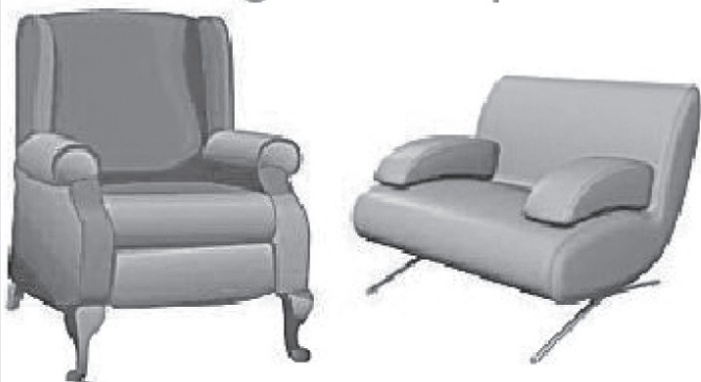
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LEGAL NOTICES

CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - ALACHUA COUNTY, FL -
CASE NO.: 01-2021-DR-3107 - IN RE THE ADOPTION OF: T.M.M., A child -
NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING - To: ALYSSA
MORALES - Physical desc.: 35 yrs. old, Caucasian, brown hair dyed blonde,
hazel eyes, 5' 6", about 120 lbs. - YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION FOR
ADOPTION has been filed regarding T.M.M. (DOB 5/4/15). There will be a
hearing on the Petition, which will terminate parental rights of Alyssa Mor-
ales, on 2/8/22 at 9:00 A.M. before Judge Denise Ferrero. This Hearing will
occur by zoom, the zoom info. is as follows: Join Zoom Meeting:
https://zoom.us/j/96492678096?pwd=bkYwRTB4aUFOTmRWSHA1aDhzN2
1Vdz09 Dial by your location: 786.635.1003 Meeting ID: 964 9267 8096
Passcode:154282 UNDER SECTION 63.089, FL STATUTES (2021), FAIL-
URE TO TIMELY FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE AND THE
PETITION WITH THE COURT AND TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING CONSTITUTES
GROUNDS UPON WHICH THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL
RIGHTS ALYSSA MORALES MAY HAVE OR ASSERT REGARDING THE
CHILD. Should Alyssa Morales wish to contest the adoption, Alyssa Mor-
ales, is required to serve a copy of written defenses, if any, to it on Petition-
ers' atty., Mary K. Wimsett, whose address is 2750 NW 43rd St., #102,
Gainesville, FL 32606 on or before 1/26/22 and file the original with the
clerk of this Court at 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601, before
service on Petitioner or immediately after. If Alyssa Morales fails to do so, a
default may be entered against Alyssa Morales for the relief demanded in
the petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders,
are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. Alyssa Morales may
review these documents upon request. Alyssa Morales must keep the Clerk
of the Circuit Court's office notified of current address. (Alyssa Morales
may file Notice of Current Address, FL Supreme Court Approved Family
Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the ad-
dress on record at the clerk's office. WARNING: Rule 12.285, FL Family
Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of docu-
ments & info. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal
or striking of pleadings. Dated: 12/1/21, J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq., Clerk of The
Circuit Court, Civil Div., 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601. By:
/s/ Michelle Thompson, Deputy Clerk

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ARDELLA DRAUGHON-WALKER a/k/a ARDELLA DRAUGHON, 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 RENIQUA DRAUGHON, EXECUTRIX, c/o Daniel Muklewicz, Esq., 215 S. Broad St., 5th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107,
Or to her Attorney:
DANIEL MUKLEWICZ
AVALONE LAW ASSOCIATES
215 S. Broad St., 5th Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF BESSIE BIRCKETT, 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 RICHARD BIRCKETT, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Jermaine Harris, Esq., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1523, Philadelphia, PA 19110,
Or to his Attorney:
JERMAINE HARRIS
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1523
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF CHHATH CHIP, 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 THA BUN, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Richard L. Vanderslice, Esq., 1445 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19145,
Or to her Attorney:
RICHARD L. VANDERSLICE
RICHARD L. VANDERSLICE, P.C.
1445 Snyder Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19145

ESTATE OF DAVID M. INGBER, DECEASED.
Late of Abington Township, Montgomery 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 ROSALIND INGBER, EXECUTRIX, c/o James M. Orman, Esq., 1600 Market St., Ste. 3305, Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to her Attorney:
JAMES M. ORMAN
1600 Market St., Ste. 3305
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE NOTICES

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

ESTATE OF HORTENSE CHRISTIAN, 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 LISA CHRISTIAN BROWN, ADMINISTRATRIX, 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 ISADORE GOLDBERG, 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 BRUCE GOLDBERG, EXECUTOR, c/o Rachel Fitoussi, Esq., 62 W. Princeton Rd., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004,
Or to his Attorney:
RACHEL FITOUSSI
62 W. Princeton Rd.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

ESTATE OF JOANNE M. POTTER a/k/a JOANNE M. CARLSON, DECEASED.
Late of Pocopson Township, Chester 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 EDWARD T. POTTER, JR., EXECUTOR, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to his Attorney:
ADAM S. BERNICK
LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK
2047 Locust St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE of Josephine M. Ingelido; Ingelido, M Josephine
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: Helen Anderson, c/o Ned Hark, Esq., Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC, 7716 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19152, Administratrix.
Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC
7716 Castor Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

ESTATE OF LUZ N. ROSARIO, 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 DAMARY V. STOKES, ADMINISTRATRIX, 127 Palm Beach Plantation Blvd., Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

ESTATE OF MARGARET CORNELIA AGURS a/k/a MARGARET CORNELIA AGURS TUCKER, CORNELIA A. TUCKER, 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 LESLIE ANN HOLDER, EXECUTRIX, c/o Amy F. Steerman, Esq., 1900 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to her Attorney:
AMY F. STEERMAN
AMY F. STEERMAN, LLC
1900 Spruce St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF MARIA MOLLINEDO a/k/a MARIA TERESA MOLLINEDO, 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 MARTHA BUCCINO, EXECUTRIX, c/o Andrew Gavrin, Esq., 306 Clairemont Rd., Villanova, PA 19085,
Or to her Attorney:
Andrew Gavrin
306 Clairemont Rd.
Villanova, PA 19085

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF NEISER B. DIONGLAY a/k/a NEISER DIONGLAY, 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 NEOVIE DIONGLAY, EXECUTOR, c/o Bradley Newman, Esq., 123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030, Philadelphia, PA 19109,
Or to his Attorney:
BRADLEY NEWMAN
ESTATE & ELDER LAW OFFICE OF
BRADLEY NEWMAN
123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030
Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF ROBERT A. MOREEN, DECEASED.
Late of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery 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 VERA B. MOREEN, EXECUTRIX, c/o Rebecca Rosenberger Smolen, Esq., One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004,
Or to her Attorney:
REBECCA ROSENBERGER
SMOLEN
BALA LAW GROUP, LLC
One Bala Plaza, Ste. 623
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ESTATE of Robert Spolin, 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:
Administratrix: Jane Levy
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, PA 19454

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY WHITE, 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 - SANDER WHITE, EXECUTOR, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103,
Or to his Attorney:
Adam S. Bernick
Law Office of Adam S. Bernick
2047 Locust St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Estate of Walter K. Debes aka Walter Debes, Debes, Walter K. aka Debes, Walter
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: John A. Debes, c/o Henry S. Warszawski, Esq., 413 Johnson St., Ste. 201, Archways Prof. Bldg., Jenkintown, PA 19046, Executor.
Henry S. Warszawski, Esq.
413 Johnson St., Ste. 201
Archways Prof. Bldg.
Jenkintown, PA 19046

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ESTATE NOTICES

Estate of Wanda Marie Carter aka Wanda Carter; Carter, Wanda Marie aka Carter, Wanda
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: Nakia Stevenson, c/o John R. Lundy, Esq., Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC, 450 N. Narberth Ave., Suite 200, Narberth, PA 19072, Administratrix.
Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC
450 N. Narberth Ave.
Suite 200
Narberth, PA 19072

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

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 14, 2021 for **NMT Candles** at 2219 Rubicam Ave. Willow Grove, PA 19090. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Najah Mason-Tran at 2219 Rubicam Ave. Willow Grove, PA 19090. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.417

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NEWSMAKERS

Shir Ami Collects Jackets for Refugees

Shir Ami in Newtown collaborated with Bethany Christian Services on a winter coat drive for Afghan refugees during the holiday season. The organizations gathered enough coats to help hundreds of refugees in the Philadelphia-Allentown area.

► Back row, from left: Rabbi Eric Goldberg, Stan Cohen, Katharine Woodward and Jared Smith
Front row, from left: Shelly Cohen, Essie Cherkin, Barbara Roth, Ellie Short and Rabbi Charles Briskin
Photo by Jodie Levinson



Jewish Family Service Gives Toys to Needy

Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties distributed toys to more than 50 families in need during the holiday season. The toys included stuffed animals, games and books, among others.

► From left: Vanessa Smith and Jeanenne Simon pose with the presents that JFS distributed to local families.
Courtesy of Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties



Jewish Family Service Names New Director

Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties named Caelin McCallum as its new director of healthy community initiatives on Dec. 27.

McCallum will manage The Lynn Kramer Village by the Shore, The Rothenberg Center for Family Life, Volunteer Services and the Food Pantry.



▲ Caelin McCallum
Courtesy of Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties

Israel Bonds Philadelphia Women's Division Hosts Talk

Israel Bonds Philadelphia Women's Division held its in-person Aviva program Nov. 18 at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley. This year's speaker was Jonathan Schanzer, an author and Middle East analyst. Schanzer is senior vice president for research at the nonpartisan think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C.



▲ Jonathan Schanzer speaks at the Aviva program Nov. 18 at Har Zion Temple.



▲ Jonathan Schanzer signs his book.
Courtesy of Philadelphia Women's Division

COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, JAN. 7

Branching Out Exhibit

The **Old City Jewish Arts Center** will host Branching Out: A Celebration of Trees by award-winning artist Diana T. Myers of Elkins Park until Jan. 30. The exhibit commemorates the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat and honors the four seasons. Private showings can also be arranged by contacting dianatmyers@gmail.com. 119 N. Third St., Philadelphia.

▼ SUNDAY, JAN. 9

Writing Course

In the **Briya Project's** "Sh'ma – Hear Your Inner Voice" weekly course of eight, two-hour class sessions from 6-8 p.m., we gather on Zoom for moments of ritual and writing. Contact talia@briyaproject.com

for more information.

▼ MONDAY, JAN. 10

Climate Fest

Participate in the **Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest**, an international Jewish climate festival reflecting a cross-collaboration of hundreds of Jewish organizations committed to making climate action a central priority of the Jewish community, until Jan. 14. For more information, visit jewishclimatefest.org.

▼ TUESDAY, JAN. 11

Sisterhood Meeting

The **Sisterhood of Congregations of Shaare Shamayim** will host a virtual general meeting at 1 p.m. on Zoom: "New Year's Resolutions: Building a Health Plate for You." There is no charge, but we will need your email

address so we can send you the link for the meeting. Contact the synagogue office at 215-677-1600 for further details.

Text Study

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

▼ WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12

Mahjong Class

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

947-2203 for registration. 971 Old York Road, Abington.

Book Talk

Har Zion Temple Sisterhood and Department of Lifelong Learning present the "Open A Book ... Open Your Mind" event series via Zoom. Each event will cost \$18. At 4 p.m., author Meg Waite Clayton will discuss "The Postmistress of Paris." For information and to register, email openabook@harziontemple.org.

Global Connections

Robert Siegel interviews David Ignatius (foreign affairs columnist, Washington Post), Roya Hakakian (author; founding member, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center) and other experts as part of the **Global Connections: Navigating the New Normal** series. 4 p.m. Register for free at rb.gy/Oi8ocv.

Religious Pluralism Lecture

Gratz College presents "Fighting for Religious Pluralism: World War I and American Judaism," a lecture at 7 p.m. by Muhlenberg College Associate Professor of Religious Studies Jessica Cooperman. Free online program with preregistration. For more information, contact mcohen@gratz.edu or 215-635-7300, ext. 155.

▼ THURSDAY, JAN. 13

Bend the Arc Meeting

Join **Bend the Arc: Jewish Action South Jersey** for an evening of focused movement-building in South Jersey. Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. 7:30 p.m. Register by the Tuesday before and sign up for email alerts: bendthearc.us/southjersey_signup. ●

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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