



JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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OF NOTE

OBITUARY

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Survivor often spoke out about wartime experiences.

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LOCAL

Group for Grandchildren of Survivors Forms

3G Philly already counts 70 members.

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Volume 134
Number 11

Published Weekly Since 1887



Local Community Optimistic About Naftali Bennett

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

PHILADELPHIA'S CONNECTION to Israel reaches far beyond Benjamin Netanyahu's short-lived stint as a member of Cheltenham High School's soccer team or his family's attendance of Temple Judea of Philadelphia.

Jewish and Israeli organizations alike in Philadelphia have built longstanding connections with Israel, and as Israel faces a change in government and its first new prime minister in 12 years, these organizations, some more than others, must reckon with the potential for change.

For the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Naftali Bennett's term as prime minister presents an opportunity to affirm its mission of not only creating a vibrant Jewish community in the area, but connecting the community to Israel.

"We have extended our congratulations to Bennett and President [Isaac] Herzog," said Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's CEO and President Michael

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▲ Milton & Betty Katz Jewish Community Center swim instructor Jackie Litchenberger works with Allison Norris in Margate.

Photo by Alicia Paccione

Summer Down the Shore Brings Opportunities, Challenges

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

MAY 28 MARKED the end of many COVID-19 restrictions in New Jersey, and June 20 marked the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

With hotter days here and more freedom to travel and explore than most people have seen in 18 months, folks are flocking to the shores of Jewish-heavy Longport, Margate and Ventnor, as well as the other beach towns. And, for the most

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Miriam’s Advice Well

FOOD ALLERGIES NOTHING TO SNEEZE ABOUT

A parent whose child has food allergies has a conundrum when her son is playing with other kids and someone brings out a snack. Although her son knows not to take the shared snacks, he feels left out. What to do? Read Miriam’s Advice Well for her answer, which does note that this phase of shared snacking isn’t likely to last long. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to news@jewishexponent.com and put “Advice Well Question” in the subject line. jewishexponent.com/2021/06/21/dear-miriam-food-allergies-nothing-to-sneeze-about/



Philacatessen

MUSTARD-DILL POTATO SALAD

Seemingly everyone loves potatoes, but food columnist Keri White looks to transition away from heavier potato dishes during the summer months. Lately, she’s been serving a mustard-dill potato salad — it’s flavorful, light, easy to make and keeps well for several days. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for food content not normally found in the printed edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. jewishexponent.com/2021/06/21/mustard-dill-potato-salad/



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Cantor, Survivor David Wisnia Dies at 94

OBITUARY

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR

David S. Wisnia, who served as cantor at two area synagogues and also spoke about his wartime experiences, died June 15 at a senior facility in Langhorne. He was 94.

"It's so hard to sum him up because he was such a big personality, such a large character. It made him such a joy to be around," his grandson, Avi Wisnia, told *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "It was like there was some kind of magic around him and it made people fall in love with him and, in turn, he loved everyone that he met. Most of all, though, when I think about his life, the thing that runs through it is music."

Wisnia was born Aug. 31, 1926, in Sochaczew, Poland, west of Warsaw. He attended the Yavneh-Tarbut Hebrew School System, learning multiple languages and gaining vocal training from renowned cantors. Wisnia sang in synagogues, theaters and on Polish radio after his family moved to Warsaw.

Wisnia spent three years in Auschwitz-Birkenau after Germany invaded Poland in 1939 — a day after he turned 13; three years later, his parents and brother were murdered, and another brother was never seen again.

He told the *Jewish Exponent* in 2015 that his first job there was to clear out the bodies in the ditches of those who were gunned down for trying to run away, a job he did for the first two or three weeks — until, he said,

"they found out I could sing."

One of the cell block leaders, a Christian Pole, came into their barracks and said he wanted some entertainment.

"He yelled out, 'Who can sing here?'" Wisnia told the *Exponent*, and the men in his barracks responded, "Wisnia sings!" and pushed him forward.

"I didn't care what I was singing, I know German songs, French songs, Yiddish songs ... If I had to continue doing what I was doing the first two weeks at Auschwitz, I would have never made it," he said.

After his first performance, Wisnia became a "privileged prisoner," which allowed him extra rations. He wrote two songs while he was there, one in Yiddish and one in Polish, which are now housed at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

"Singing was my life, and that's how I survived," Wisnia said then.

He later was transferred to Dachau in late 1944, but escaped a few months later — a first attempt failed — and was rescued by the American 101st Airborne Division.

"One fine morning, I found a column of tanks," he remembered. "Believe me, if I ever prayed, I prayed, 'Don't let there be a swastika on there.' Instead, I saw a star." Scared at first that it was a Russian star, he went up to the soldiers manning the 15 or so tanks to find out more, Wisnia said. The man he met was Capt. James L. Walker from South Carolina.

He later joined the 506th Parachute Infantry, serving as an interpreter — he spoke Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Polish, French and Russian — and engaging in combat.

He remained in touch with the 101st, however, even performing the National Anthem for them in Tampa, Florida, at a 2015 reunion.

Wisnia returned to



David Wisnia speaks at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in 2019.

Photo by David Prusky

It's so hard to sum him up because he was such a big personality, such a large character."

AVI WISNIA

Auschwitz several times later in life, singing at the 70th and 75th anniversaries of the camp liberation. Both times, he sang with his grandson Avi.

His story was chronicled in 2015 in a memoir entitled, "One Voice, Two Lives: From Auschwitz Prisoner to 101st Airborne Trooper."

In the first-person narrative, Wisnia details his transformation from a young prisoner in Auschwitz to an American G.I.

"That's what makes this book so different," Wisnia said then. "They all tell you how tough it was; we know it was tough. I talk about better things."

Upon arriving in the United States in 1946, he worked as an encyclopedia salesman.

He and his late wife, Hope, moved to Bucks County and, taking advantage of his voice, served as cantor of Temple Shalom in Levittown for 28 years, then cantor at Har Sinai Hebrew Congregation of Pennington, New Jersey for 23 more years.

It took a while for Wisnia to get comfortable telling his story, he said in 2015.

"I threw away my whole past," he said. "It's the only way I figured I was going to be able to survive."

He got his tattooed numbers removed in 1946 when he got to New York, though a "6" was still slightly visible on his forearm. People asked him about his numbers when he first moved to the city. He would tell people it was his telephone number instead of explaining where it was from.

But ultimately his story was so different, and his experience was too important to keep quiet.

"There are many Holocaust stories, but none of them — I ended up as a G.I. in the American Army!" he exclaimed then, adding, "I became very proficient with a machine gun."

Wisnia is survived by his two sons and daughters-in-law, Rabbi Eric and Judith Wisnia, Michael and Misa Wisnia; two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen Wisnia and Kirk Wattles, and Jana and Lee Dickstein; and five grandchildren. •

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The level of COVID-19 community spread and the efficacy of the vaccine(s) will dictate the structure of the evening and the level of enforcement of face covering and social distancing. Further updates will be provided closer to date of the event.

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New Ambler Synagogue Darchei Noam Makes Debut

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

RENEE STRAUSBERG was 17 when her grandfather died. When she went to attend a shiva minyan, Strausberg was informed by her grandmother that she couldn't be there, as her grandfather believed that women didn't count toward the 10-person prayer quorum, or minyan.

As a consolation, Strausberg's uncle and father created a space for two minyans: one abiding by her family's traditions, the other inclusive of Strausberg so she could say kaddish for her grandfather. The gesture, though small, was, to her, transformative.

"From that point, I knew that A) I wanted to work in the Jewish community," Strausberg said. "And B) I wanted to make

sure that everybody was seen and heard and part of that community."

Fast-forwarding from the 1990s to today, Strausberg, along with a small team of clergy and administrators, is pioneering inclusion in the Jewish community through the debut of Darchei Noam, a new, nondenominational synagogue opening in Ambler on July 1.

The shul is the brainchild of Rabbi Danielle Parmenter and de facto Darchei Noam President Brandi Lerner. Hazzan Arlyne Unger will serve as Darchei Noam's cantor, and Strausberg will be the executive director.

For the team, the idea for a new synagogue came from the joint desire to think outside the box to meet the needs — both spiritual and physical — of community members.

As COVID-19 forced some

synagogues to close and others to rethink their programming or become entirely virtual, for some, finding a congregation has become more than just searching for other Jewish within the neighborhood. An influx is looking for a spiritual home that is meaningful, not just convenient.

The reason for joining a congregation "shouldn't be because it geographically makes sense," Lerner said. "It should be because it's a good fit for you and your family."

Darchei Noam is guided by a clear set of principles to make meaning for its budding congregation.

"We're based on four pillars, alphabetically: community, justice, kindness and Torah," Unger said. "We're going to do everything we can to make sure that all these pillars are always visible."



▲ Hazzan Arlyne Unger (left) and Rabbi Danielle Parmenter
Courtesy of Danielle Parmenter

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To accommodate the diverse needs of their new congregation, already numbering around 100, the Darchei Noam team has committed to making membership dues voluntary and becoming Keshet-listed as an LGBT-friendly synagogue, in addition to providing sensitivity training for staff and leadership.

Their building will include both a wheelchair-accessible entrance and bimah, and virtual programming will continue to be offered alongside in-person events.

In addition to "Teen Chayim," elective-style classes and workshops for teenage congregants, b'nai mitzvah tutoring, and Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services, Darchei Noam will incorporate social action into its programming, working with local organizations to build community engagement.

For Parmenter, integrating social justice into spiritual practices presents a challenge she is still working through, but willing to take on.

"I really see myself as rabbi-as-pastor rather than rabbi-as-prophet," Parmenter said.

She's not planning on preaching about politics on the bimah. However, she also recognizes that members may want her to, as being politically involved may be a congregant's way of putting their Jewish values into practice.

Parmenter wants to "validate activism as a spiritual practice" for her congregants: "I want to be able to create safe space for them to dialogue with each other that's rooted in kindness."

The words "Darchei noam" come from a phrase in the book of Proverbs that is used in the Torah service when returning the Torah to the ark. According to Unger, it translates to "pathways of pleasantness," which the team believed encapsulated their core value: that all Jewish people should find the Judaism that feels most authentic to them. •

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Group Forms for Grandchildren of Survivors

LOCAL

ELEANOR LINAFAELT | JE STAFF

AS THE LAST LIVING links to the Holocaust, the grandchildren of survivors play a crucial role in preserving and sharing their family’s stories.

The recently-formed 3G Philly organization brings together members of the third generation since the Holocaust to support one another, share their family stories and educate others in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley on the dangers of intolerance.

Stacy Seltzer, the grandchild of two survivors who just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, started 3G Philly in April.

“Our mission is to educate diverse communities about the perils of intolerance and



◀ The first WEDU program Screenshot

to provide a supportive forum for the descendants of survivors,” Seltzer said. “We feel a deep commitment to know and tell our family stories and to place them within the greater

context of the Holocaust.” There are 3G groups in cities across the world that work together. The first, 3GNY, was founded in New York City in 2005. Seltzer was involved

in 3GNY when she lived in New York and, after moving to Boston in 2009, co-founded Boston 3G with her husband. Now living in Philadelphia, Seltzer started 3G Philly to

bring together local grandchildren of survivors. There are about 70 members in the fast-growing Philadelphia group.

So far, 3G Philly has run a We Educate (WEDU) program to train the grandchildren of survivors to share their family’s stories. In weekly online trainings, participants learn how to teach others about the Holocaust through personal storytelling. Ultimately, the goal is to have trainees present at local schools and organizations.

WEDU was developed under the guidance of the educational

See Survivor, Page 20

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A NOTICE TO OUR READERS

There will be no print edition of the Jewish Exponent
the weeks of **July 1** and **July 29**.

These weeks, please visit us online at jewishexponent.com,
where the paper will be available in digital form.

JEWISH EXPONENT

HEADLINES

NEWSBRIEFS

Supreme Court Decision Allowing Catholic Agency to Discriminate Splits Jews

A SUPREME COURT DECISION on religious freedoms, stemming from a situation in Philadelphia, earned praise from Orthodox Jewish groups, while more liberal groups were relieved that its scope was narrow, JTA reported.

The court issued a unanimous decision on June 17 overturning Philadelphia's policy of refusing to work with Catholic Social Services, an agency that won't place foster children with same-sex parents. Jewish groups filed friend-of-the-court briefs on both sides of the case.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that because screening criteria vary among Philadelphia's fostering agencies — and the city allowed policy exemptions — singling out the Catholic agency for specific criteria was discriminatory.

Orthodox groups, driven by concerns about religious liberty, sided with CSS. Many cheered the ruling.

Meantime, liberal and civil rights Jewish groups were disappointed, but relieved, that the court's decision was narrow and unlikely to impinge on other church-state separations.

Tom Nides Named Ambassador to Israel

President Joe Biden nominated banker Tom Nides to be his ambassador to Israel, JTA reported.

Nides was the deputy secretary of state for management and resources from 2011 to 2013 in the Obama administration. He had good relations with Israeli diplomats, although he was less involved in substantive diplomacy.

Nides, who is Jewish and a Minnesota native, ran former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman's vice presidential campaign in 2000.

Michael Oren, the former Israeli ambassador to Washington, D.C., in his book "Ally" described Nides as "irreverent, hard-working, highly intelligent, and warm."

Marjorie Taylor Greene Tours Holocaust Museum, Apologizes

Controversial U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 14 and apologized for comparing coronavirus protections to the Holocaust, JTA reported.

"I have made a mistake and it's really bothered me for a couple of weeks now, and so I definitely want to own it. The horrors of the Holocaust are something that some people don't even believe happened, and some people deny, but there is no comparison to the Holocaust," Greene said outside the Capitol after completing a private tour.

In May, Greene's comparison of a supermarket adding a logo to the badges of vaccinated workers to the yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe drew numerous complaints.

Ukraine Annoys Putin by Honoring Sects with Jewish Roots

Two tiny sects with Jewish roots are front and center in a diplomatic fight between Russia and Ukraine, JTA reported.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is Jewish, unveiled a bill in May that he said was designed to help preserve the heritage of Kairites and Krymchaks, plus the Tatars, a Muslim people.

A few hundred Karaites remain in Ukraine and are remnants of a sect that broke off from mainstream Judaism in eighth-century Iraq. The Krymchaks, who are nearly extinct, are related to the Karaites but likely more heavily descended from Georgian Jews.

None of this sits well with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said the bill's perceived implication that ethnic Russians — who comprise about a third of Ukraine's population — and other groups are somehow not indigenous to it. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

HEADLINES

ISRAEL BRIEFS

IDF Ends Intelligence Gathering Nighttime Home Raids of Palestinian Homes

ISRAEL'S ARMY WILL END its longstanding practice of middle-of-the-night raids on Palestinian homes to gather intelligence, JTA reported.

The policy has been criticized by human rights groups that contend the raids inflict psychological damage. In 2020, three Israeli groups published a report that said there were about 250 raids a month.

The practice has been in place for more than 50 years during Israel's West Bank administration. Israel will continue to raid homes to make arrests and search for weapons.

The decision comes as Israel's new government, led by pro-settlement Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, seeks to calm the tensions that led to last month's conflict with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli human rights groups have protested the raids — referred to in Israel as "mapping" — for years.

Airline to Offer Tel Aviv-Paris-Newark Flights

La Compagnie, a boutique French airline, said it will launch flights from Tel Aviv to Paris (Orly Airport) to Newark Liberty International Airport starting July 22, Globes reported.

The 76-seat planes will fly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Plane seats, all of which are business class, open into double beds and have individual video screens and free Wi-Fi.

Maman Aviation represents La Compagnie in Israel. Since 2014, the airline has offered business class-only flights between the United States, France and Italy.

Tel Aviv Ranks as 55th Least-Stressful City

Tel Aviv placed 55th out of the 100 cities German-based Care Vaay researched in terms of stress levels, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Care Vaay created an index by analyzing more than 500 cities according to governance, structural and environmental factors, financial elements and the overall health of city residents. A final lineup of 100 cities was chosen for global comparability.

Tel Aviv scored well for weather, social security, unemployment rates and health care access, but was dinged for population density, traffic congestion, noise and air pollution, and the mental health of its residents.

Neither Jerusalem nor Philadelphia was included in the survey.

Reykjavík, Iceland, ranked as the least-stressful city, followed by Bern, Switzerland, and Helsinki, Finland, while Mumbai, India, placed last, behind Lagos, Nigeria and Manila, Philippines.

Tel Aviv finished just behind Budapest, Hungary, and just ahead of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The top-rated city in the United States was Houston, at 25.

Israel to Reopen Border Crossing with Jordan

The Wadi Araba Crossing between Israel and Jordan — known as the Yitzhak Rabin terminal in Israel — will reopen on July 4, The Times of Israel reported, citing downward trends in infection rates on both sides of the border.

The border was closed in March 2020 because of the pandemic.

The Foreign Ministry statement didn't say if another crossing that connects Aqaba, Jordan, and Eilat would also open.

Israelis entering Jordan will need to present a vaccination certificate or proof of recovery from COVID-19 — and those staying for more than 72 hours must present a negative polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test result upon returning. •

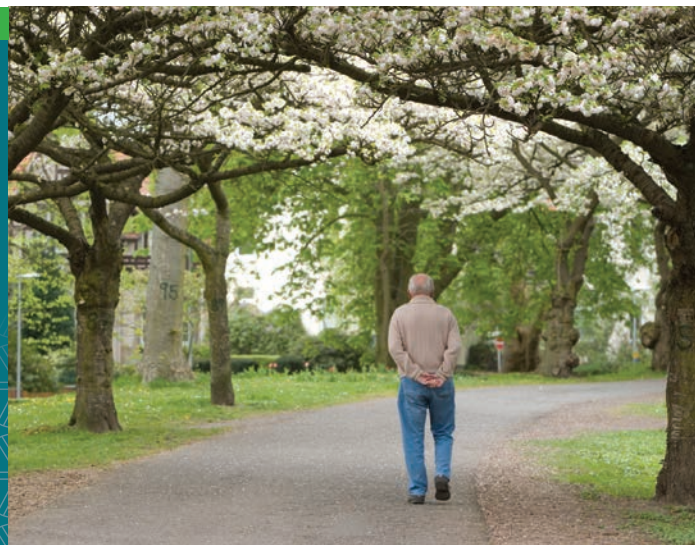
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Portland, Oregon: Worthwhile, Wonderful and Weird

TRAVEL

JEFF AND VIRGINIA ORENSTEIN |
JE FEATURE

Note: For the latest on Portland's COVID-19 status, visit travelportland.com/attractions/reopening/. Check with specific venues before you go for the latest news.

PORTLAND, OREGON, officially nicknamed the Rose City and often called the bridge city, is one of North America's truly unique urban areas.

Located on the Willamette River where it flows into the Columbia River, it is Oregon's largest city and a center for architecture and culture that is known for its livability and diversity. Because it is a friendly and well-run city with a pleasant climate, it is a pleasure to visit.

Portland is a busy inland seaport that is about 80 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is justly renowned for being bicycle and pedestrian-friendly. It abounds with public art and boasts many museums and parks. There are also many microbreweries and distilleries.

Even though it has an unofficial slogan of "Keep Portland Weird," there is nothing to fear for visitors such as yours truly who are "unweird." It boasts "unweird" upscale shopping, great restaurants, lush gardens, amazing public transportation and a deserved reputation for being progressive, green, well-planned and tolerant.

While the city's tolerant population and government celebrate the eclectic and even the weird, they also celebrate and embrace tourism and civic virtue. The town's weirdness is mostly a good and entertaining diversion.

Before You Go: Do Some Pre-trip Research at:

- travelportland.com/
- portlandoregon.gov/
- [youtube.com/watch?v=oNsEezSXG_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNsEezSXG_w)



▲ Portland is a city of many bridges which carry public transportation, pedestrians, bikes and cars across its rivers. Courtesy of Travel Portland



▲ Mount Hood dominates the Portland horizon on clear days and nights. Courtesy of travelportland.com

Getting There:

Portland is well-served by highway, train and air.

- By air, Portland International Airport (PDX) is 10 miles from downtown. It is served by 17 airlines and the city's light rail.
- By train, arrive at Portland's Union Station on Amtrak's Cascades from Seattle, Vancouver or Eugene, or the Coast Starlight from Los Angeles or Seattle, or the Empire Builder from Chicago and points west.
- By ship, the nearest ocean-going cruise port is Astoria, Oregon, 90 miles away. River cruises depart from Portland's Embassy Suites Airport Hotel.
- By highway, the city is on Interstate 5 and Interstate 84.

Must-Sees For a Short Trip:

- Downtown shopping and dining
- The Pearl and Waterfront Districts
- Powell's City of Books
- Portland Farmers Market
- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Portland Japanese Garden

If You Have Several Days:

- Explore nearby Vancouver, Washington, just across the river.
- Visit Mount Hood and/or the Columbia River Gorge.



▲ Portland's popular and historic Union Station is a long distance and local transportation hub heavily used by residents and visitors alike. Streetcars and light rail connect incoming Amtrak passengers to the city. Photo by Jeff Orenstein

- Visit wine country in the Willamette River Valley. Yummy pinot noirs!
- Visit the Oregon Rail Heritage Center, home of the only municipally owned operating steam locomotives in the U.S. It's located across from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Ginny O's Tips for Dressing the Simply Smart Travel Way:

Anything goes, especially tees, flannel shirts and jeans. Portland's reputation for being eclectic is accurate. Business dress to unkempt



▲ One of Portland's two operating steam locomotives, Southern Pacific 4449, frequently pulls passenger trains on local and regional excursions. Here it is seen at its downtown home at the Oregon Rail Heritage Center. Photo by Jeff Orenstein

and everything in between is common around the city. Be comfortable.

This Destination at a Glance:

Mobility Level: Low. The public transportation system is accessible and the city is walkable.

When to Go: Year-round. Rainy winters, summer crowds. Best is spring and fall.

Where to Stay: The Embassy Suites Downtown Portland. Not a typical Embassy Suites, this one is a refurbished luxury hotel dating to 1912. Great location and the only Embassy Suites that is a member of The Historic Hotels of America.

Amazing happy hour.

Getting Around: Portland has fantastic public transportation. Use buses, streetcars, the aerial tram and/or Max light rail and forget the car. Downtown is also walkable.

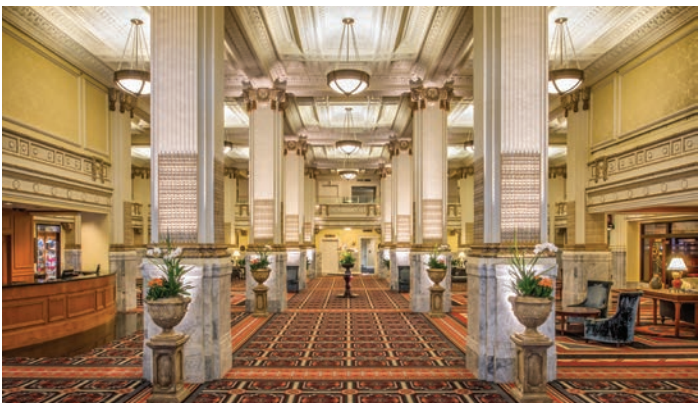
Senior Advantage: Ease of mobility and superb museums. The pandemic quarantine and political demonstrations are history. Portland is a welcoming and fascinating place to visit now.

Special Travel Interests: Gardens, bridges and public transportation that works. •

Jeffrey and Virginia Orenstein are husband and wife travel writers from Sarasota, Florida.



▲ A typical downtown Portland scene includes the ubiquitous MAX light rail system. Portlanders love it, and visitors should use it.
Courtesy of Jamies-Francis and Travel Portland



▲ The downtown Embassy Suites hotel is very different from most chain hotels and has a gorgeous lobby that shows its historic character.
Courtesy of EmbassySuitesPortland

Jewish Portland

PORTLAND IS THE center of Judaism in the Willamette Valley and the entire state of Oregon.

It boasts 17 congregations (about half of the entire state’s Jewish congregations). Among its prominent Jewish institutions are two Jewish day schools, a Jewish Community Center, a Jewish Federation, a Jewish home for the elderly and the Oregon Jewish Museum. The Jewish Federation’s website, jewishportland.org, is a good resource for local Jewish resources and culture.

Although the Public Religion Research Institute noted that Portland is the least religious city in the country because 42% of city respondents identified as religiously unaffiliated, 2% of the city’s residents are Jews. It is estimated that there are more than 45,000 Jews in the greater Portland area, including a resurgent Orthodox community.

In the 19th century, its first Jewish immigrants came mostly from Eastern

Europe and Germany. Later waves of Jewish immigration came from Turkey and Rhodes, in the early 20th century. The first synagogue building was built in the 1880s and burned down in 1923.

During the last century, Greater Portland’s Jews have become well-integrated into the community and most have achieved solid middle-class respectability and become part of the city’s social, commercial and political fabric.

Aaron and Jeanette Meier and Emil Frank, of the Meier and Frank department stores; “Soda Pop King” Louis Albert; and Sam Schnitzer of Schnitzer Steel are historical figures. Bernard Goldsmith became the first of the city’s five Jewish mayors, serving from 1869-’71, and the city’s most recent Jewish mayor was Vera Katz, who was in office from 1992 to 2004.

For more information, check travelportland.com/culture/jewish-community/. •

— Jeff and Virginia Orenstein

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Bennett

Continued from Page 1

Balaban. “And have made clear we will continue to do our part to garner support and build new relationships with Israel here in Greater Philadelphia.”

The Jewish Federation has long “maintained strong ties with Israel since its founding,” offering workshops on Israeli art and popular culture and grants to local organizations looking to build ties with Israel, as well as visits to Netivot and the Sdot Negev region of Israel,

which have been in partnership with the Jewish Federation for more than 24 years.

In May, the Jewish Federation’s leadership team hosted Herzog, then Jewish Agency for Israel’s chairman of the executive, over Zoom. Herzog is now Israel’s president-elect, and Balaban is confident in his ability to “strengthen diasporic relations,” given the [Jewish] Federation’s strong relationship with Herzog.

Because of the longevity of the Jewish Federation’s ties with these Israeli communities and

leaders, a change in the prime minister’s incumbency, or any change in government office, is unlikely to make these relationships waver.

“Our communities’ deep love and support for Israel has never been dependent on which political leaders are in office, and we don’t expect that to change now or in the future,” Balaban said.

Though the Jewish Federation enjoys the benefits of its steadfast connection to Israel, for other Philadelphia organizations, the stakes are higher.



▲ **Michael Balaban**
Courtesy of Michael Balaban



▲ **Vered Nohi**
Courtesy of Vered Nohi

The Philadelphia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, which serves as the liaison between Philadelphia and Israeli companies, innovators and organizations, is hoping that Bennett’s tech-savvy background will propel Israel’s tech sector forward, granting new opportunities for PICC to grow.

“This is fantastic to have a prime minister who understands the innovation sector in Israel, the competitiveness, the need to invest in education to sustain Israel’s leadership and innovation,” said Vered Nohi, executive director of PICC.

Bennett, who was inaugurated as Israel’s prime minister on June 13, was a software entrepreneur after serving in the Israel Defense Forces, becoming the CEO of anti-fraud software company Cyota in 1999 and the eventual CEO of tech company Solutio.

Running businesses in New York in the late-1990s and early 2000s, Bennett is adept in English, making him even friendlier to U.S.-based companies, according to Nohi.

Like Balaban, Nohi is not concerned that the government transition will negatively impact day-to-day activities of PICC.

“The institutes are solid,” she said. “And it doesn’t matter that Israel went through so many elections in the past three years.”

However, Nohi is wondering if Bennett will prioritize the competitiveness of Israel’s tech sector through the increase of Israel’s education budget.

“Israel is in a position now where if it will not support the tech sector with a continued

educated workforce, it will not be able to sustain its position as a leader in the world in tech,” Nohi said.

Large multinational companies, such as Amazon, Facebook and Google, look to hire Israeli workers. If skilled workers are not available, Israel misses opportunities to expand its grasp in the world of innovation.

Nohi also hopes that Bennett’s allyship with U.S. organizations will mean a resuscitation of the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia, which closed five years ago. In addition to providing consular services to diplomatic agents and visitors in the Philadelphia area, the Israeli Consulate acted “to broaden [companies’] understanding of what Israel has to offer, in a personal manner, in an accessible manner, because still, there are many people who have really never seen Jews in their lives,” Nohi said.

With fewer consulates responsible for larger swaths of geography in the Mid-Atlantic, Northern and Midwestern regions of the U.S., they are spread too thin to really build meaningful relationships with those interested in Israeli business and diplomacy.

These changes are massive and require sustained effort, but Nohi is optimistic that Bennett’s background will mean good things for PICC.

“So far, so good,” Nohi said. “We’re getting a lot of collaborations, but there’s always an opportunity for more.” ●

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This endeavor has been ongoing for the past 30 years, celebrated every five years by Young Jewish Leadership Concepts (YJLC) and Rabbi Albert Gabbai of Congregation Mikveh Israel. In 2016 with the lead role of Steven L. Friedman, Esq., who now serves as the national Chair for American Foundation Creating Leadership for Israel (AFCLI), this truly became a national commemoration.

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Shore

Continued from Page 1

part, things are back to normal — or at least, a new normal.

“Here at the shore, it’s full steam ahead,” said Jacki Menaker, cantor and Reform spiritual leader at Shirat Hayam Synagogue in Ventnor.

She said the synagogue has received calls recently from those visiting for a few weeks or for the summer, asking if they are able to attend services.

“The door’s wide open,” Menaker said.

The Milton & Betty Katz Jewish Community Center in Margate began its Camp By the Sea program near full capacity on June 21, its fitness center is open at 100% capacity and they are partnering with Star Fitchclub to rebuild programming opportunities, according to Genia Bittner, Katz JCC director of marketing and special events.

For restaurants at the shore, dining is beginning to look similar to how it has in summers before 2020.

“Older women who are in card groups get together, and they can finally sit down and eat a sandwich with each other without worrying about getting sick,” said Buddy Della Fave, owner of Margate hangout spot Downbeach Deli.

At Jewish-owned Water Dog Smokehouse in Ventnor, General Manager John Connor explained that customers can finally step into the restaurant and, due to its open-kitchen concept, see how their food is being prepared.

The optimism and feeling of possibility this summer brings are in stark contrast to last summer, which Connor described as, at times, “apocalyptic.”

“I didn’t see that joyfulness in people’s eyes when they were coming in,” Della Fave said. “A lot of people were scared. And they were just coming in, getting their food and then running out.”

But COVID-related fears



▲ Buddy Della Fave (left) and Jessie Della Fave, prepare to make a delivery from Downbeach Deli in Margate to a local hospital

Courtesy of Jessie Della Fave

weren’t just felt by visitors. Those working at the shore had concerns about what COVID would mean for their businesses.

“Our staff was certainly nervous about how long things would remain closed,” Bittner said. “We rely heavily on our membership and our programs and services that we provide to be able to service the community.”

When vaccines became widely available, people were receptive. According to Connor, people saw the vaccine as “a badge of honor that they’re doing their part in helping reopen society.”

With many people vaccinated, Della Fave said he could sense the return of normalcy. But that doesn’t mean businesses are now without challenges, and labor shortages are common in the food service industry.

“It has been very hard right now, down the shore, to find help,” Della Fave said.

Many restaurants, including Water Dog, were used to accommodating high volumes of takeout orders and were able

to quickly adapt to becoming takeout-only.

However, exclusively offering takeout requires a lot from staff: many more orders, and less time to fulfill those orders, compared to the more reasonable pace of dining in.

Della Fave relied on the help of family members and students at Atlantic City High School when he was in a pinch last year, and some of the same students are returning this summer — students, he said, weren’t as afraid to work as older employees were during the pandemic.

For Connor, finding staff for Water Dog is still an issue. Some workers needed to stay home to accommodate children being homeschooled, while others didn’t want to return to work at all. And because of the booming real estate market, construction jobs were in abundance, and some cooks left the restaurant industry for construction jobs. Some stayed home and found that unemployment checks were a steadier source of income than a job outside the home.

To make due, Water Dog hired less qualified workers, hoping to train them on the job. They offered \$500 incentives to new employees after 90 days of employment, and \$250 to staffers who successfully recruited a new employee.

Though restrictions have loosened, some vestiges of pandemic-safety measures remain: Hand sanitizer stations still stand at Downbeach Deli, along with a plethora of outside seating options. Campers at Camp By The Sea were instructed to stay within their own group this year, and there are fewer activities with other groups of campers.

They are reminders that things are better than they were a year ago, but not quite the same.

While difficulties and reminders from a year-and-a-half of a pandemic linger, so, too, do lessons learned.

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“We’ll never, ever forget the importance of the interpersonal connection, and the presence that we feel when we are physically together,” Menaker said. “And that is a very deep learning, I believe.” •

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The Holiness of Returning to Summer Camp

BY EVA GROSSMAN

I AM A CAMP PERSON through and through. Camp has always been my happy place. For a long time, it was the only place I felt genuinely Jewish.

I grew up being the only Jew most people in my hometown knew and switched synagogues several times. I never felt attached to any Jewish community during the year, so my one month at camp had to provide all of my connection for the year. To steal from an Instagram caption I wrote after my last summer as a camper: “If you aren’t a camp person and you’re wondering why I always talk about camp, here’s why: The people that will always be there for me are those I’ve met at camp.”

Camp shaped me, as it allowed me to be wholeheartedly Jewish and explore hobbies I would never get to at home. Daily services were annoying as a kid, but I also learned every *Shacharit* (morning service) prayer through experience

rather than tedious studying. I learned every Lecha Dodi tune from weekly camp-wide Kabbalat Shabbat services. I got to learn how to make earrings in jewelry, paint with watercolor in art and bake challah in cooking. I even got out of my comfort zone and climbed the ropes course every year.

I always connected more with people at camp than school because I felt like they just got it. Many of them could relate to being one of few people with their traditions in their school. Camp gives opportunities for structured learning and activities and free time. Living together capitalizes on the in-between moments and unstructured time that school doesn’t really have.

So naturally, when the time came, I transitioned pretty seamlessly from camper to staff. I had always known that I wanted to work at camp, so the decision to apply was easy.

And then last summer happened. Due to the

pandemic, camp had to move from in-person to virtual. During a summer of mourning and loss, camp was still able to provide some distraction from the real world, albeit in a much different way. We ran two weeks of online programming including teaching *edah* (units divided by grade) songs, bunk bonding activities and maccabiah (color war). Every summer, counselors would remind campers that camp is not a physical space, but rather, it’s a mindset. They were right, but something was missing.

Knowing that I will be back at camp this summer is the only thing that got me through the semester. I took the hardest classes I have since starting college, dealt with my parents’ divorce and moved across the country after a semester at home. I’ve been incredibly lucky to get through a global pandemic without losing anyone I know personally. Even so, a huge part of my life has been missing.

In a normal year, camp is

the most abnormal part of my life. But this year, camp will mark a much-needed return to normalcy. Calls with my camp planning for this summer are the only Zoom calls I don’t dread anymore. Filling out tedious forms doesn’t feel like a chore, it feels like a reward for the year we’ve been through.

I only lost a year of camp as a staffer. I feel immensely for my kids who lost a whole year of being campers, and the connection and kehilla that comes with it. My childhood is intertwined with camp, and I would not have come to love camp as a young adult, had I not been able to go as a child. I would not have come to love and want to explore Judaism in the same way.

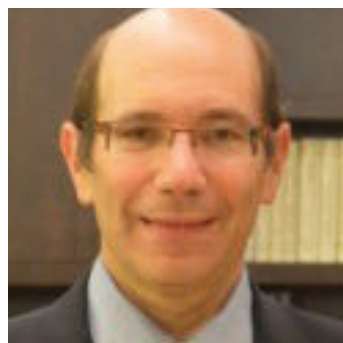
Of course, the pandemic has changed how camp will operate this summer. All staff members are required to be fully vaccinated before first session starts. Everyone will be getting tested often, and camp will operate as a bubble. Within the bubble, we’ll have pods, and maybe by the

end of the session we’ll be able to come together as larger groups. But even though we’ll be in pods, wearing masks and getting COVID tests often, we’ll be back at camp. We won’t feel the same isolation we’ve felt over the past year. Instead we’ll be within our community surrounded by those we love. The optimism of this summer is incredible compared to the despair of last.

Camp gave me my best friends, college roommate and love for Judaism. I would not be the person I am today without it. In geography, we discuss the concepts of space and place. While space is just a matter of measurements, place is a matter of meaning. People ascribe meaning to spaces, making them important places. Going back to that place always feels like returning somewhere holy, and I can only hope that this summer will be the same. ●

Eva Grossman is a rising junior at George Washington University, majoring in geography.

When it Comes to Anti-Israel Attacks on Jews, it’s Time to Name the Enemy



BY GIL TROY

THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC proves you cannot just treat a plague’s symptoms — you must root it out. Yet as incidents of Jew-bullying in the U.S. more than doubled in May compared to the same time period in 2020, too many American Jews complained

about the symptoms while obscuring the cause. In a polarized polity, too many in the overwhelmingly liberal American-Jewish community either ignore or cover up left-wing complicity in the New Antisemitism, meaning anti-Zionist Jew-hatred.

Call it Zio-washing: bleaching the anti-Zionism out of modern antisemitism.

Consider the Jewish Theological Seminary’s “Statement on Antisemitic Crimes” condemning this “spate of brutal acts,” issued during last month’s military conflict between Israel and Hamas. JTS lamented this “latest manifestation” of the “centuries-long phenomenon” of Jew-hatred. And it claimed

that “What is happening to Jews in North America shares much with other hate crimes perpetrated in our society.”

But something’s missing: The statement ignored Israel, Zionism and the New Antisemitism.

The antisemitic attacks and rhetoric during the latest conflict was largely fueled by the anti-Zionist left’s sweeping denunciations of Israel and Zionism. Wrapping their cause in Black Lives Matters rhetoric and righteousness, pro-Palestinian and pro-Islamist goons have committed many of the most recent anti-Jewish street crimes.

Claiming that the Jew-bashing “shares much with other hate crimes perpetrated

in our society,” the JTS statement masks this far-left anti-Zionist hooliganism with a phrase that usually points to haters on the right.

President Joe Biden’s May 28 statement also Zio-washed. He condemned this mysterious, coming-from-nowhere Jew-hating surge “in the last weeks.” Biden mentioned six incidents, from “a brick thrown through the window of a Jewish-owned business in Manhattan” to “families threatened outside a restaurant in Los Angeles,” without mentioning Israel, Zionism or pro-Palestinian thuggery.

Not naming the distinctly left-wing roots of this hatred suggests that those doing the condemning do not want to

alienate supposed allies.

Liberals were much more eager to name antisemitism’s perpetrators when they emerged from the Trumpian right or from the white supremacists that attached themselves to his agenda. Similarly, conservatives only see antisemitism when it comes out of the campus or anti-Israel left — to the delight of Jew-haters everywhere. Yes, antisemitism is “the latest manifestation of a centuries-long phenomenon of hatred and violence against Jews,” as JTS put it. But the “longest hatred” is also the most plastic hatred — pliable, artificial and occasionally lethal. No one should fall for

See Troy, Page 23

Gay Jews Shouldn't Have to Choose Between Their Pride and Their Zionism



BY ETHAN FELSON

TO EVERYTHING THERE is a season. June is Pride season, one where LGBTQ people proudly refuse to choose between our identities and our demand for the freedom to live equally and without fear.

A Wider Bridge, which builds meaningful relationships between LGBTQ people in North America and Israel, has always stood for our ability to celebrate all our identities without being forced into boxes. And this year it's especially personal to me.

Just last week I was saddened to see vile antisemitic hate against Manny's, a cherished establishment in San Francisco, when it was vandalized with "Zionist Pigz" to intimidate the owner and like-minded Jews for their Zionism. We stand with Manny, a Wider Bridge trip alum, as he refuses to choose between his LGBTQ identity and his Zionism.

Another friend of mine and A Wider Bridge recently saw her synagogue vandalized with swastikas. A non-Jewish member of our Wider Bridge family has been verbally attacked just for saying that he likes traveling to Israel.

On campus, Jewish students including LGBTQ activists are being bullied and feel forced to take a side in a conflict taking place on the other side of the world.

In Israel, we've seen bigots

run for — and win — seats in the Knesset on anti-LGBTQ platforms, calling themselves "proud homophobes."

With all the progress made by the LGBTQ community over the past few decades, it is easy to forget that most of Pride's history has been a season of protest. It began in 1969 with the Stonewall riots, where brave individuals — including trans, Black and brown heroes — stood up to police brutality. It continued with our communities demanding an end to discrimination in the workplace and in housing, and forcing our leaders to face the AIDS crisis head-on.

That spirit of protest and courage must stay alive today. We must refuse to choose one identity over another, stay in solidarity with those who feel forced to choose between their LGBTQ identity and their Zionism and refuse to live in fear. Nobody should have to choose between their activism and their safety.

We are proud to support Israel not in spite of, but because of, our progressive values.

This month, together with our allies, we will experience pride both virtually and in the streets with joyful scenes celebrating our identity, our lives, our successes and the long road we have traveled in just a few decades. We will pay tribute to those brave people who fought for the right to choose marriage and raise our families, and to those still fighting against discrimination, bullying and even the ability to choose our own pronouns.

Politicians, who once ran on platforms to take away rights and marginalize the LGBTQ community for electoral gain, will court us as a critical interest group whose support is essential to their political futures. America's largest corporations, which once fired their employees just for being who they are, will

sponsor pride events and run commercials and sell products expressing their solidarity. Baseball teams will host Pride Nights at their stadiums.

This has been amazing progress, so we really do have much to celebrate.

But there is much unfinished business. The problem facing LGBTQ Jews is not just a collection of anecdotes. It's a systemic issue that our community feels on all sides.

In the organized Jewish community, many feel forced to check part of their identity when they seek to get involved. While there has been progress in LGBTQ representation in politics and on corporate boards, leadership is sadly lacking in American-Jewish life. As aspiring LGBTQ leaders work to explore and celebrate their Jewish faith, some feel forced to hide in the closet — and to check their LGBTQ identity when they walk through the door.

This Pride, we are standing up to celebrate all our identities. The late trailblazer Harvey Milk once said: "Once you have dialogue starting, you know you can break down prejudice." We will force that dialogue this Pride Month — no matter how uncomfortable it may be for some.

We will let people know how we feel when we're told that Israel, the world's only Jewish state, should not even exist. And we will prove that we can stand up for racial justice and equality and support Israel at the same time.

When we go to synagogue, we will do so proudly. We will educate, we will be leaders and we will break down barriers.

We will be our full selves everywhere: on the streets, on campus, at work and in our synagogues. Because we refuse to choose. •

Ethan Felson is executive director of A Wider Bridge.

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

Israel Will Not Be Canceled

IN "WHY DO PEOPLE Call Israel an Apartheid State?" (June 17), much valuable information is given, but this question is not answered succinctly.

The answer to this question is straight forward: An apartheid country is an illegitimate entity and has no right to exist. It must be totally canceled, as if it never had existed. Why now?

Israel has shown that it will respond appropriately when more than 4,000 rockets are fired at it. It will not go gently into the night. Therefore the Jew-haters call upon the world to cancel the Israel that will not be defeated on the battlefield.

The consequence of this hatred of the mere existence of Israel as the state of the Jewish people is documented in the NewsBriefs column. The lead article describes the cancellation of the words, "like Anne Frank" in a new novel, and the simple mention of the name of the state of Israel in another novel. The cancellation of the name of Anne Frank is obvious Holocaust denial, and the cancellation of the name "Israel" is the denial of the existence of the nation of the Jews.

So where are the responses of all our Jewish organizations, including rabbinical seminaries and synagogues, in this war waged by Jew haters?

Steve Feldman, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia chapter of the Zionist Organization of America, in this same issue of the Exponent ("Don't Wait for War to Defend Israel") provides one Jewish organization's shining answer for all of us, and especially for our children. It should be required reading, especially in all Jewish educational programs and institutions.

David Romanoff | Penn Valley

Debate Rather than Define

Instead of debating whether Israel's specific actions and policies fit the precise definition of apartheid ("Why Do People Call Israel an Apartheid State?", June 17), we should spend more time debating whether Israel's specific actions and policies are right or wrong. •

Steve Mendelsohn | Penn Valley

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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The Sights and Sounds of Summer

Jewish Federation Helps Jewish Camps Get Back in Session

KIDS SPLASHING IN POOLS, running on open fields, playing tag and licking dripping Popsicles on blazing hot days — these are the sights and sounds of summer!

After a year of kids learning behind a screen and being isolated from peers, experiential programs, like camp, are more important than ever. This summer, Jewish camps will provide the same exciting, educational and meaningful opportunities as usual, but with enhanced COVID-19 safety protocols for campers and staff.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is committed to helping camps succeed after losing a summer of revenue during the pandemic. Studies have shown that Jewish summer camp is one of the most meaningful ways to strengthen Jewish values and foster lifelong connections to the community.

"While my parents raised me to be Jewish, camp awakened me to understand and value the importance of Jewish peoplehood," said Michael Balaban, Jewish Federation president and CEO. "I credit much of my love for Israel, Jewish learning, the importance of *tzedakah* and my commitment to the Jewish community to having attended Jewish summer camp."

In order to make camp a viable option for families, the Jewish Federation provides day and overnight camp scholarships, as well as the One Happy Camper Grant for up to \$1,000 for first-time participants at Jewish overnight camps. Compared to pre-pandemic summers, the Jewish Federation experienced a 20% increase in the number of day camp scholarships awarded.

"Jewish camping instills in children the excitement and beauty of Judaism and the importance of our commitment to its continuance," said Hershel Richman,

co-chair of the Jewish Federation's Committee for Jewish Life and Learning. "As a past camper and counselor, I can attest that Jewish camping is one of the most meaningful and long-lasting life experiences one can have."

Knowing the positive impact of Jewish summer camps on the community, the Jewish Federation invested more than \$840,000 to date in scholarships and grants to 870 campers for the 2021 season. In response to the impact of the pandemic on families, the average scholarship amount for overnight scholarships was increased, and no eligible families were turned away.

Additionally, the Jewish Federation raised \$300,000 in emergency funding and leveraged an additional \$150,000 through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) Matching Grant for Jewish camps over the last year.

With higher operating expenses to keep kids safe and many families facing ongoing financial challenges from the pandemic, funding is still necessary. This summer, the Jewish Federation is once again leveraging a matching grant opportunity through HGF to raise an additional \$300,000 as part of the All Together Now 2021: A Matching Grant for Jewish Overnight Camp for a total investment of \$450,000 for local camps.

"Showing kids that Judaism is fun and being part of a Jewish community is meaningful is exactly what our committee aims to provide our children," said Marc Prine, co-chair of the Jewish Federation's Committee for Jewish Life and Learning.

For more information about Jewish educational opportunities, contact Rachel Berger, the Jewish Federation's director of Kehillot and Jewish Life, at rberger@jewishphilly.org.



▲ Maya, 9, can't wait for pizza slumber parties at camp.
Courtesy of Maya



▲ Zach, 10, can't wait to jump off of the diving board and watch the pie-eating contest.
Courtesy of Zach

Halibut Dinner Ideal for Summer Nights

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE of visiting my sister-in-law at her coastal Massachusetts home recently. Living where she does affords her the benefit of high-quality, uber-fresh fish, and we enjoyed a delicious halibut dinner courtesy of her local suppliers.

The fishermen in the area previously catered primarily to restaurants and markets in the wholesale realm, but when the pandemic closed most of those establishments or severely limited the amounts they were ordering, these innovative chaps converted their business model to retail, selling out of a truck directly to the customers.

Esther drives to the wharf when she has a hankering for fresh fish and procures the best the North Atlantic can offer.

The dinner here is a pretty classic sheet pan recipe with a fabulous green olive and herb topping. Esther served it with roasted baby new potatoes and a bottle of rosé. Lucky us!

A note on the timing: To ensure that the new potatoes roast thoroughly, start them cooking at 400 degrees F about an hour before you plan to serve the meal. Then, about 30 minutes into roasting, reduce the heat as directed to cook the halibut but leave the potatoes in the oven. They will finish cooking in synchronicity with the fish, and dinner will be spectacular.

As far as dessert, we brought some homemade chocolate chip cookies, and Esther had picked up some chocolates from a sweet shop nearby. This made for a relaxed end of the meal, but it could easily have been followed by something more elaborate — a seasonal fruit pie or tart would be particularly nice, as this dish highlights seasonal ingredients with the asparagus and parsley.

ESTHER'S HALIBUT

Serves 4

- 1 large bunch thin-stalked asparagus, tough ends removed
- 8 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 bunch scallions, sliced
- ¾ cup pitted green olives,

- coarsely chopped
- ¼ cup chopped chives
- Juice of 1½ lemons, divided
- 1 small handful parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper

Heat your oven to 325 degrees F.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment. Place the fish on the parchment, spritz it with the juice of ½ lemon, and sprinkle it generously with salt and pepper. Strew the asparagus and scallions around the fish in a single layer. In a small measuring cup, mix the paprika, cayenne and 4 tablespoons of olive oil. Drizzle this oil evenly over the fish and the vegetables on the sheet pan, and toss the vegetables to coat. Roast the fish in the oven for about 20 minutes, depending on thickness, until it is opaque throughout.

While the fish roasts, mix

the remaining olive oil, chives, olives, juice of the remaining lemon, chopped parsley and a sprinkle of salt and pepper in a small bowl. When the fish and vegetables are done, plate them, and top them with olive mixture.

ROASTED BABY NEW POTATOES

Serves 4

This simple and classic preparation is a crowd pleaser and a breeze for the cook. Buying baby new potatoes means minimal effort — not even cutting them!

These are about the size of a walnut or a strawberry and require no work beyond a rinse and a quick toss in olive oil, salt and pepper. If you can't find these little beauties, fingerlings are a good substitute.

And if you can't get your hands on these little ones,

simply use your favorite varietal. Just cut them into bite-sized pieces and follow the recipe below.

You can't really overcook these — they will crisp up beautifully if left in the oven. And they are dreamy leftover — either heated and served just like this, or tossed in a salad.

- 1½ pounds baby new potatoes, rinsed well
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 scant teaspoon kosher salt
- Generous grinding of fresh cracked pepper

Heat your oven to 400 degrees F.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment. Spread the potatoes onto the baking sheet, and toss them with the olive oil, salt and pepper to coat. Roast the potatoes in the oven for 45-60 minutes. •



Photos by Keri White

Chai.

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

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‘Sublet’ Charms But Doesn’t Dazzle

FILM

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

IF DIRECTOR EYTAN FOX wanted his film “Sublet” to be an easy summer watch, he succeeded; if he wanted the film to deliver a story with depth, originality and indisputable chemistry between its characters, he fell short.

Co-written by Fox and Itay Segal, “Sublet” premiered at the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival in November 2020 and is now in wider release. The film follows the fictional New York Times travel writer Michael Green (John Benjamin Hickey) during his five-day jaunt in Tel Aviv, as he stays in scruffy film student Tomer’s (Niv Nissim) one-bedroom apartment.

Tomer’s messy and juvenile apartment is in staunch contrast to Michael: a graying 50-something in glasses, a button-up and blazer, his necessities packed effectively into two small bags.

As soon as Michael gingerly places his five blue button-up shirts into Tomer’s closet, half-filled with balled-up T-shirts, he cements himself as not only a fish out of water, but as the outsider — a middle-aged

journalist in a neighborhood of artists, an American among Israelis, a romantic monogamist among free-spirited youth.

Tomer, critical of Michael’s stale approach to seeing the city, quickly invites himself to become Michael’s tour guide, and they ditch the art museums in favor of the beach, local hole-in-the-wall cuisine and a risqué, underattended dance performance.

As Michael fills his days with sightseeing to write about in his column “The Intrepid Traveler,” it becomes clear that he is all but intrepid: He’s reluctant to go out and enjoy Tomer’s hedonistic lifestyle, opting instead to try to nurse his ailing relationship with his husband over FaceTime.

Throughout the film, Michael’s emotional baggage and Tomer’s carefree nature are never directly at odds with one another, but we see them meet and contend with each other in Michael’s head.

Michael struggles to figure out what he wants in his life, his marriage and his family, especially after witnessing the triumphs and tribulations of his foil — an eccentric gay man of a younger generation, untouched by profound strife.

It’s this internal battle within Michael — seen only through his shifting eyes, tightly pursed lips and visible discomfort — that is the film’s greatest strength. The messages are salient, but never hit you over the head.

With its balanced and symmetrical shots, “Sublet” is beautiful to watch. As Michael walks through the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the corners of the frame perfectly align with the corners of the prints on the wall. When Tomer takes Michael to the beach and the market, pops of color delight the eyes.

Nissim’s charm brings Tomer to life, his wit a natural complement to Michael, bewildered and apprehensive, scene after scene. Though a seasoned actor (Hickey) working alongside a film newbie (Nissim) played well to Michael and Tomer’s dynamic, the film’s writing undermines the actors’ chops.

Though the film attempts to depict Tomer as the immature, naive-at-times, boyish post-adolescent, Tomer sometimes feels like he’s too good to be true: noble and generous, conscientious, curious (and, of course, handsome).

As Michael and Tomer’s relationship develops, it feels as



▲ Tomer (Niv Nissim) and Michael (John Benjamin Hickey) on the beach in Tel Aviv
Photo by Daniel Miller

though the film trades Tomer’s depth for likability. As a result, the unspoken complexities of their relationship are never fully understood by the audience.

Opposite to Nissim, Hickey embodied discomfort so fully in Michael, that at times, it was challenging to differentiate when Michael was truly uncomfortable and when he was simply uncomfortable to look at on the screen.

In some scenes, particularly at the beginning of the film, Michael speaks mechanically, giving mini monologues here and there that serve to expedite the plot, at the expense of natural dialogue between Michael and Tomer,

and Michael and his husband.

Given that the film clocks in at under 90 minutes, some plot expediting can be forgiven.

Still, despite its solid pacing and clear character development, “Sublet” fails to pack a punch.

The meeting and mingling of two different worlds is not new in cinema. Although Nissim’s fresh acting in his film debut and Tel Aviv’s charming locale help give the film vibrancy, they were not enough to set this film apart from others in this genre.

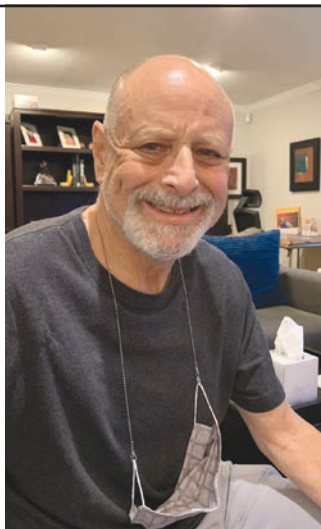
At one point, Tomer sits Michael down to watch one of his “artistic horror” films, a couple of strewn-together scenes of naked actors, reptilian masks and haunting silhouettes. Tomer, though he didn’t craft something award-winning, clearly understands what makes a quality film: good lighting, angles, strong characterization and eliciting a response from an audience.

When the film ends, Michael sits in silence for a while before saying, straight-faced, “It’s good.”

After finishing “Sublet,” it’s easy to feel a little bit like Michael in that moment: Seeing a film that, albeit competent and satisfying to the eye, was a little watery; but, if you managed your expectations, it was good. ●

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215-832-0741

Steven Rice is currently on the National Kidney Registry (NKR) but the average wait is 5 years or longer. The only way to shorten the wait time is for him to get a transplant from a Living Donor. Even though most of us are born with 2 kidneys, we only need 1 healthy kidney to live. That means you, or someone you know, could save a life by choosing to be a donor. Kidneys from living donors can last twice as long as kidneys from deceased donors.



To learn more about the living donor process for Steven Rice, please contact us at jassr4@comcast.net

You can also contact our transplant center at <https://penntransplant.donorscreen.org/register/now>



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Gladwyne Teen Wins JEWQ Championship

LOCAL
ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

YOSEF VESSAL JUST finished seventh grade at Welsh Valley Middle School in Lower Merion and has big goals in life, but recently exceeded his own expectations.

The 13-year-old student at Chabad of the Main Line in Merion Station won the JEWQ International Torah Competition’s seventh-grade division on June 6. More than 2,500 contestants worldwide spread over third- through-seventh-grade divisions competed in the event.

“I thought I would score high, but I didn’t think I’d win,” Yosef said.

JEWQ, which debuted in 2018, is organized by Chabad’s international office as a way

for Jewish children to gain an appreciation for their heritage, said Rabbi Mendy Cohen, the co-director of Chabad’s Family Community at Chabad of the Main Line.

“Hebrew school has its limitations ... but for the student looking for a little more, this is ideal,” Cohen said.

Cohen knows from experience how competition can spark an interest in Judaism: His father grew up in a nonreligious household in England and won a Jewish trivia contest. The prize was a stay at a Jewish summer camp.

“That started his journey to be connected to Judaism,” he said.

For JEWQ, participants the topics of Jewish prayer, holidays, heroes and traditions.



▲ From left: Josh, Yosef and Mikhyela Vessal
Courtesy of Michele Vessal

Three tests are administered at local Chabads and the top three scorers at each school compete in the international competition, said Cohen.

This year’s championships were held in Bushnell, a community in the Pocono Mountains, although most of the participants competed over Zoom.

When the dust cleared, Yosef was on top and the owner of an impressive trophy.

“It’s very cool for him and very cool for us,” Cohen said, noting that Yosef was the school’s top scorer in previous years. “He worked hard on it. He’s a bright kid, but he had to study, too.”

Yosef said his main trick for

learning material is to make up songs in his head.

He wasn’t the only member of his family doing well at JEWQ: His 11-year-old sister Mikhyela, who just completed fifth grade, competed in the championship round and took home a silver medal, and his younger brother Josh plans to compete next year when he’s in third grade.

Unless JEWQ is expanded into eighth grade next year, Yosef’s competitive career in Jewish knowledge is over for now, although he’ll be volunteering as a Hebrew school tutor. And there’s already that big career goal he has in mind: “I want to own a company called Tornado and build a resort,” he said. ●

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BY RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN

Parshat Balak

“MY NATION, remember what Balak the king of Moab advised and what Bil’am the son of Be’or ... answered him in order that you may know the compassionate righteousness of the Lord” [Micha. 6:5].

Who, or what, defines Israel, and why does it matter? If deeply concerning trends continue in the United States, research and ample anecdotal evidence indicate that those succeeding in affecting views toward Israel are the very people who attack it as a racist, discriminatory occupier lacking any moral or political legitimacy. Noble attempts to brand Israel as a high-tech haven (“start-up nation”) notwithstanding, Israel is increasingly being effectively defined by foes, not friends. What, if anything, can be done to reverse these deeply troubling developments?

In our weekly biblical portion, Balak, we read that efforts by enemies to define the Jewish people have ancient antecedents. King Balak of Moab, frightened by the “Biblical Israelis,” vastly overestimates their global designs as well as their military

might: “This multitude will lick up all that is round about us as the ox licks up the grass of the field” (Num. 22:4). He therefore turns to Bil’am, a magician and a soothsayer, an accomplished poet and master of the spoken word, to curse the Israelis in order to vanquish them (ibid., v.6).

Bil’am represents the giant media corporations and social media platforms that play a dominant role in shaping public opinion. Is it not true that these manipulators of minds have the power to destroy a world with a word? And indeed, Bil’am sets out to curse the Israelites.

Nevertheless, the Torah goes on to say that the prophet ultimately blesses the Israelites. At first, he is struck by his donkey’s refusal to take him where he wanted to go. Apparently even a donkey can be amazed by the miraculous events that contributed to the preservation and preeminence of Israel from abject slaves to recipients of God’s presence at Sinai, despite their smallness in number and scarcity of power.

And then Bil’am sees for himself — to the extent that at least he attempted to record the truth as he composes his tweets and Facebook posts. He

may have come to curse, but he stays to praise. He evokes Jewish destiny in glowing terms, extolling the uniqueness of Israel (ibid., 23:9) and evoking our ultimate messianic victory (ibid., 24:17–19). He affirms unmistakably that “no black magic can be effective against Jacob and no occult powers against Israel” (ibid., 23:23) — evil words spoken by evil people are impotent before the modesty and integrity expressed by the Israelites in their daily lives.

Ultimately, however, it is not the speaking donkey that will succeed in changing the minds of the many Bil’ams around us; rather, it is the deeds of the Jewish people itself that will evoke change: “Your deeds will bring you close, your deeds will distance you” [Mishna, Eduyot 5:7].

First of all, Bil’am takes note of the military success of this fledgling nation against every one of her enemies — Israel had just emerged from a great military victory against the terrorizing Amorites. And, more importantly, the chaste and sanctified lifestyle of the Israelites and their commitment to their traditions and

ideals made an even greater impact on Bil’am.

“How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your Sanctuaries, O Israel” [Num. 24:5]. Bil’am was amazed as to how the Israelite encampment (*ohel*) was constructed to respect everyone’s privacy, so that no one could see into his neighbor’s home. He was moved by the sensitivity toward interpersonal relationships, the love and respect displayed toward one another by family members and the harmony with which neighbors lived together.

And when Bil’am saw the commitment the Israelites had to their study halls and synagogues (*mishkan*) — their fealty to traditional values and teachings and their faith in Divine providence — he understood and proclaimed the invincibility of this Divinely-elected people.

Alas, what a person might — and words could not — do to the Israelites, the Israelites managed to do to themselves. Bil’am and Balak returned to their homes to leave Israel in peace — but the Israelites themselves self-destructed. They chased after the hedonistic blandishments of the pagan

societies of Bil’am and Balak. The very next chapter opened with, “And the people began to commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab ... and Israel joined himself to the [idolatry of] Ba’al Peor [Bil’am ben Beor]” (ibid., 25:1–3).

We failed in the desert not because of what our enemies did or said, but rather because of our own moral weakness and rejection of the birthright that had initially formed our nation’s definition and mission. Indeed, we are “a people who dwells alone, not subject to the machinations of other nations” (ibid., 23:9).

In this generation, in which detractors and haters attacking the Jewish people and Israel are on the ascent in capturing public opinion, we must remember to ignore the noise and to focus on our national mission.

To rephrase Ben Gurion, indeed it is not what the nations say that matters, but rather it is what we do or what we do not do, especially in the spheres of ethics and morality, which is of supreme significance. ●

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is the founding chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel.

Survivor

Continued from Page 7

organization Facing History and Ourselves and is supported by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Seltzer explained that, as a relatively new organization, 3G Philly will continue to develop its initiatives according to the interests of members.

“We want to see what the community feels it needs and wants, and try out different programs to see what sticks,” she said.

Cindy Silverman Chronister

was excited to join 3G Philly and participate in WEDU to share the story of her grandparents, her family’s sole survivors during the Holocaust. Her grandfather was an electrician whose store in Vienna, Austria, was destroyed during Kristallnacht. After her grandparents fled to the United States, they talked little of their life in Austria, and Chronister did her own research to piece together their story.

“It has been inspiring to meet and connect with other 3Gs and to hear their families’ stories of survival,” Chronister said. “It has taught me not only how to educate others by using

historical facts along with capturing the personal nature of my family’s story, but to tell it in such a way that is moving, powerful and educational.”

As survivors age, their grandchildren feel an urgency to preserve their stories.

“3Gs are the last living link to survivors and we feel a deep commitment to know and tell our family stories, and to place them within the great context of the Holocaust,” Chronister said. “These personal stories serve as a pathway to educate diverse communities about the perils of intolerance.”

3G Philly has a variety of

upcoming events planned this summer.

Their first in-person event, a family-friendly gathering, is scheduled for June 27. It will include a celebration of the newest 3G Philly WEDU trainees and a talk from Sophie Don, a grandchild of survivors and the administrative and operations manager of the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation. Those interested in attending are encouraged to email 3GPhilly@gmail.com for location details.

The organization will also continue to hold virtual gatherings. 3G Philly’s Holocaust

Education Committee will have its first meeting on June 30 on Zoom, and at the beginning of July, 3G Philly is launching a monthly peer support group for the grandchildren of survivors to discuss everything from generational trauma to antisemitism to talking about the Holocaust with children.

Later in September, 3G Philly will host a reading and Q&A with Rachael Cerrotti, a podcaster and author of the forthcoming book “We Share the Same Sky.” The memoir tracks her experience learning about the story of her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor. ●

ENGAGEMENT

KRUEGER-GOLDIN

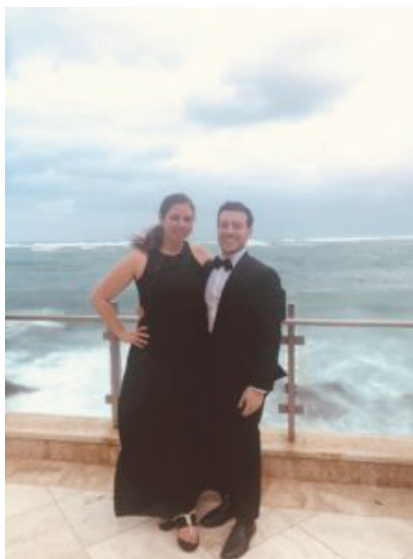
Helaine Zwanger of Montgomery Township and Amy and Martin Goldin of Gulfport, Mississippi announce the engagement of their children Brett Jason to Jodi Heather.

Brett is a graduate of LeBow College of Business, Drexel University. Jodi is a graduate of Indiana University and Parsons, The New School of Design. Brett works in finance and Jodi is in fashion. The couple reside in Manhattan.

Sharing in the couple's happiness are Brett's sister, Elyse; Jodi's siblings, Betsy, Melissa and Ryan; Brett's grandparents, Shirley and Bennett Zwanger; Jodi's grandmother, Florence Goldin; and several nieces and nephews.

Jodi is the granddaughter of the late Jack Goldin and Janice and Max Adlestein.

Courtesy of the Goldin family



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMAJH Names Chief Advancement and Strategy Officer

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM of American Jewish History announced the appointment of Carole Zawatsky as its new chief advancement and strategy officer.

NMAJH said Zawatsky has served Jewish organizations and cultural institutions for three decades in a variety of leadership roles, from educator to CEO. Zawatsky is known for creating partnerships between the funding community and the institutions she represents and has raised nearly \$100 million, including multiple multimillion-dollar gifts.

Chief advancement and strategy officer is a new position for the museum. Zawatsky will be responsible for all development activity, overseeing major gifts, membership, donor stewardship and fundraising events, as well as future NMAJH strategy.

Zawatsky previously led the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, D.C., where she oversaw a \$21 million capital campaign to renovate an historic building. Prior to that, she managed a team of 60 as chief program officer for arts, culture and Jewish life at the JCC of San Francisco.

She also launched The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland, serving as its founding



◀ **Carole Zawatsky**
Courtesy of the National
Museum of American
Jewish History

executive director. Early in her career, she served as director of education at The Jewish Museum in New York City, director of public programs of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and as a museum educator at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Skirball Museum.

Boy Needs Funds for Bone Marrow Transplant

A 5-year-old Cherry Hill, New Jersey, boy diagnosed with a rare, possibly life-threatening genetic disorder, is getting a bone marrow transplant, but his family is struggling to raise the funds needed to cover the costs of his medical care.

Rafi Meles was diagnosed with X-linked Lymphoproliferative Syndrome, or XLP. It causes his immune system to respond abnormally to some viral infections, his father, Dovi Meles, said.

One of Rafi's brothers, who is 10 months old, is a match, and his bone marrow will be used in the transplant at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The family has set up a fundraising campaign via The Chesed Fund to raise \$100,000 to cover treatment costs not covered by insurance, including tutoring and physical therapy, as Rafi will miss an entire school year. As of noon on June 21, about \$61,000 was pledged.

The fund for Rafi Meles can be found at thechesedfund.com/melesfamily/melesfamily.

Einstein Doctor Honored by Gold Foundation

Dr. Eric Sachinwalla, medical director of infection prevention and control for Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, was recognized as a Champion of Humanistic Care by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation "for his courage and compassion in caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic," Einstein announced.

Aside from his duties as a frontline physician, Sachinwalla plays a pivotal role on Einstein's Incident

▶ **Eric Sachinwalla**
Courtesy of Einstein
Healthcare Network



Command Center, which is a network-wide initiative created to handle the pandemic. He monitors regulations and protocols from the City of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Health Departments, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sharing the information with the command center team and Einstein's more than 8,000 employees.

Sachinwalla also helps reduce the social isolation patients with COVID-19 experience by collaborating with Einstein's chaplaincy program so chaplains can visit patients, and makes iPads available so family members can communicate with their loved ones.

KleinLife Receives Grant from Subaru

KleinLife received a grant of \$6,638 from the 2020-2021 Subaru Share the Love Event as a member of Meals On Wheels America, KleinLife President and CEO Andre Krug announced.

This is the eighth year KleinLife has received a grant from Subaru.

"Because of the additional help provided by Subaru of America, we have been able to continue our efforts to prepare, package and deliver 70,000 nutritious meals annually to seniors in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery counties who cannot shop or cook for themselves," Krug said. •

DEATH NOTICES



BRATMAN

Arnold Norman Paul Bratman, 88, June 12, 2021, of Plymouth Meeting, PA. Beloved husband of Joan (nee Pasternack) Bratman; loving father of Marcy (Rick) Corradetti, Michael (Marcie) Bratman and Lisa Kimmel; cherished grandfather of Cara, Dani, Jessica, Joshua and Reis. Contributions in his memory may be made to Magen David Adom, the first responders in Israel (afmda.org) JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS
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BRAUFMAN

Estelle Braufman (nee Shertz), age 86, passed away on June 10, 2021 after a long battle with COPD. Estelle was raised in Wilkes-Barre, PA and graduated from Penn State Univ. In 1958 she married her life long partner Mervin. While raising 3 sons she returned to school in 1974 for her Masters Degree in social work. She then began a 30 year career in the field, working first for Jewish Community Centers and then for Federation Senior Housing. Estelle enjoyed traveling, collecting artwork, and family gatherings. She had a lifetime commitment to the value of reading and education, and to helping others. She will be greatly missed. Estelle was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Mervin. She is survived by sons Gary, Adam (Sue), and Kirk (Lisa) Braufman, and adoring grandchildren Dustin, Mia, and Sam. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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BRENNER

Paul J. Brenner, June 4, 2021, age 83, originally from Wilkes-Barre, PA. Devoted husband of Ellen (nee Teitelbaum); loving father of Sherri Tucker, Jeffrey (Elysa) Brenner; adored grandfather of Haley (Alex) Fleisher, Troy Tucker, Zachary Brenner and Jordan Brenner. Funeral Services were held Sunday, June 6th, 2021. Contributions in Paul's name may be made to the Congregations of Shaare Shamayim, 9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115 or Temple Sinai, 1401 N. Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA 19025.

FOX

Norman Fox, June 3, 2021, of Elkins Park, formerly of Lower Merion. Husband of Barbara (nee Werner) and the late Gertrude "Gert" (nee Zemle), father of Bruce (Darilyn) Fox and Jon (Beth) Fox, brother of Barbara Kardon, grandfather of Andrew (Zoe) Fox, Jamie (Jason) Blackman, Brandon (Kellie) Fox and Josh (Melissa) Fox, great grandfather of Brianna, Brynn, Liliana and Ember. Contributions in his memory may be made to Masonic Charities of Pennsylvania.

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DEATH NOTICES



FRIEDMAN

Florence "Flossie" "Faye" Friedman, 96, of Lancaster, passed away at the Mennonite Home on June 8, 2021 (her daughter Andi's birthday) with her son Rich at her side after a 21-year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. Faye was born in Philadelphia in 1924 to the late Samuel and Amelia (Koff) Wachtel. A natural athlete, she played basketball and was a cheerleader in high school. Her family moved to Harrisburg her senior year; and after graduating, she worked as a bookkeeper in an apparel shop where she spent most of her earnings. She was involved in planning USO activities during WWII, and after the war, her uncle introduced her to his friend Stanley Friedman, a returning Veteran from Lancaster. They married in 1946 and celebrated 58 years of glorious marriage magic until his death in 2004. Faye was an amazing homemaker, volunteer and athlete. She golfed, played tennis, and loved canasta and mahjong as well. She was an active member of the JCC and the Temple Beth El Sisterhood. She cooked for Town Fair, modeled in fashion shows, acted in plays, and answered the call wherever she was needed. She attended every event in which her children participated. In later years, she and Stan spent their winters in Florida, but continued to travel "north" if their grandchildren were in an activity or special event. In the summer, she loved visiting the Jersey Shore and going to the beach. Devoting her entire life to her family, Faye is survived by her daughter Andrea Shiroff, wife of Herb, of Pompano Beach, FL, son Richard Friedman, husband of Susan, of Lancaster, grandchildren Seth Wolkov, husband of Tia, Joe Friedman, Lauren Fogel, wife of Raphael, Glenn Shiroff, husband of Lisa, Andrew Shiroff, Mandy Meyer, wife of Matthew; and her 6 great grandchildren Weston and Remy Wolkov, Sayde Shiroff, Pisay and Addie Meyer, Liam and Amalia Fogel. She was preceded in death by a brother Gerald Wachtel. She is also loved by many friends, extended family, and those who cared for her at the Mennonite Home in Lancaster. Faye spread her love and generosity to all who came her way, and will always be remembered for her smile, her warmth, her generosity and unconditional love and hugs. May her memory always be a blessing. Graveside Services were held at Temple Beth El Cemetery, 295 E. Newport Road, Lititz, PA 17543 on Thursday, June 10, 2021 with Rabbi Jack Paskoff. Memorial contributions in Faye's honor may be made to Temple Beth El 1836 Rohrerstown Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

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GERSHMAN

Ethel S. Gershman (nee Schwartz), June 17, 2021 of Elkins Park PA; beloved wife of the late Stanley; loving mother of Howard (Nina and the late Marion) Gershman, Robert (Mary) Gershman, Nancy (the late Stephen) Hamovitz and Frederick (Elizabeth) Gershman; also survived by 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Contributions in her memory may be made to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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DEATH NOTICES



GRAY

Donald Gray, the most remarkable Zayda, devoted father and adoring husband, died on Tuesday at his home in East Norriton, surrounded by the love of his family after a long and fulfilled life. He was 92. Born on Jan. 6, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the late Jack and Anna Gray, Don was one of four siblings. He was predeceased by his brother, Seymour, and is survived by his younger sisters, Lillian Garbus of Philadelphia, and Beatrice Steponate of Chicago, and by many cousins, nieces and nephews. Don was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Bettyanne Gray (Abramson), with whom he enjoyed a storybook romance throughout their marriage. He is survived by his children: son, Ellis Gray (Donna) of Holland, Pa.; daughter, Heidi Gray-Devita (Angelo) of Lower Gwynedd, Pa.; and daughter, Debi Gray of Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; and his seven grandchildren: Charles Devita (Heather), Aaron Gray, Jacob Gray, Elizabeth Phillips (Evan), and Mason Gray. Don lived simply and fully, always content with his lot in life. He needed little for himself, yet gave so much to his wife, his children, and his community. His life was defined by love of family, tireless hard work and service to others. A proud Marine, who also served as a cook in the U.S. Army, Don was a familiar sight sporting his red "Once a Marine" baseball cap. For Don, work wasn't just his livelihood, it was his vocation. He owned Northeast Sales and Service, a heating and air-conditioning company serving the Philadelphia area for over 50 years. He was the first contractor to bring air-conditioning to the residential market in Philadelphia. He earned the loyalty and affection of all of his customers, who would tell stories of his character and commitment: the time he ducked out of High Holiday services to repair the synagogue's AC system; the Sunday morning when he fixed the neighbor's AC unit to keep the shiva house cool; how he provided services to dozens of Russian Jewish immigrants without ever sending a bill. He served as a Vice President of Adath Tikvah Synagogue, formerly Rhawnhurst Jewish Community Center. He volunteered with his wife to help recent Russian immigrants learn English and adapt to life in the US for over a decade. Don continued serving others later in life, as he delivered food to the homebound for the JRA. A member of the SAR Fraternity, he cherished his lifelong friendships with "the guys." For more than 70 years, the SAR brothers met regularly to play cards, grab lunch at a deli, and celebrate happy occasions. "Zayda" Don was also affectionately known as "The Latka Man," as he loved to make his famous latkes for family, friends and scores of students over the years. He enjoyed music and singing through his final days. He was a man of few words who modeled the values by which he lived: self-sufficiency, industriousness, honesty and generosity. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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KACHER

Evelyn Kacher, of Chestertown, MD, passed away at Heron Point retirement community on June 16, 2021, at the age of 101. She is survived by her children, Paula Kacher, Donald Kacher, and Phyllis Kacher, and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister Rita. She was born in 1919, in Philadelphia, PA, to Jacob and Sophie Frankl. She attended Temple University, obtaining a degree in business education and English in 1941. She met her future husband, Daniel Kacher, at Wildwood, NJ, in 1938. They married in 1941 and had a long and very happy marriage until Daniel's death in 1999. They greatly enjoyed travelling together, to many destinations in Europe and South America. They also enjoyed sailing in the Chesapeake Bay for many years. Evelyn greatly enjoyed playing bridge, poker and Scrabble. She was an active member of ORT and the American Jewish Congress. She loved literature, classical music, including opera, and playing piano. Her daughters remember, all these years later, what a fabulous seamstress and knitter she was. Throughout her life, she thrived on being with people. She loved making new friends, and maintaining old friendships. As she aged, she sadly lost many of her old friends to death, but continued to make new ones through her final years. She attributed her longevity to an active life of walking and swimming.

KLINE

Mildred Kline (nee Diamond), on June 18, 2021. Beloved wife of the late George Kline. Devoted mother of Nina Surden (Michael) and Howard Kline (Marsha). Dear Sister of Bernice Saft. Loving grandmother of Lindsay Kline, Scott Kline (Colleen), Brian Surden (Debra), and Todd Surden (Lauren). Loving great grandmother of Gavi and Noah. Contributions in her memory may be made to Ohev Shalom of Bucks County (for Cook for a Friend), 944 2nd Street Pike, Richboro, PA 18954.

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KUSHNER

Dr. Maxwell Kushner, Ed.D. served as a teacher, principal, assistant to the District Superintendent, and Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools for the School District of Philadelphia. He concurrently was the co-founder of Sesame Day Camp and the Wonderkey Pre-School Learning Center in addition to being a part-time instructor at Pennsylvania State University. After his retirement to Boca Raton, Florida he was recruited by Florida Atlantic University to be an adjunct professor in the College of Education for a period of eight years teaching Educational Administration and Curriculum. Max and his wife Maxene were inseparable. He always described her as loving, caring and supportive. Their son, Brian, residing in Delray Beach, is devoted and the delight of their lives. Max credits Brian with bringing them into the technology of the computer age and enriching their experiences. The three Kushners were world-wide travelers. Nepal, the Galapagos, the Taj Mahal and The Great Wall of China were just a few of their journeys. They always shared their memorable experiences. In addition, political activities, social and educational happenings were always topics of discussion. Not only was Dr. Kushner passionate about his family, but he was also vehement about the significant involvement of the public schools in American society. He deplored the ongoing attempts to destroy the role of public schools in our diverse society. In his teachings and lectures Dr. Kushner always insisted that the public schools were the unifying agent for the establishment of national purpose and cohesion. As the essential structure of the public school is regularly shredded, the more ghettoized our nation becomes. Dr. Kushner is survived by his wife Maxene, son Brian, sister Marlene (Max) Wald, and numerous nieces and nephews. Contributions in his memory should be made to any reputable cause.

GUTTERMAN WARHEIT
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

MARMON

Rabbi Elliott Marmon, age 79, died at his home in Jerusalem, Israel, on June 9, 2021. He is survived by his wife Ilana, daughter Dr. Naomi Marmon-Grumet of Jerusalem, Israel, son Rabbi Boaz Marmon of Saratoga Springs, New York, son Nathaniel Marmon (Talia) of Bergenfield, NJ, seven grandchildren and a brother Allan L. (Vivian) Marmon. Rabbi Marmon grew up in Philadelphia and was a proud graduate of Central High School, 213th Class, Temple University, Gratz College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He was a military chaplain, the rank of Captain in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force and served several years as the rabbi of the Tokyo, Japan Jewish Community Center. Contributions in his memory may be made to causematch.com/en/tikvah-for-Parkinson's-donate or mevakshei.org/eng. Funeral and burial took place in Israel.

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RUBIN

Irving L. Rubin on June 14, 2021. Dear brother of Flossy (Bill) Clyman; Devoted uncle of Melanie (Anthony) and Rona (Michael); Adoring great uncle of Lauren, A.J., Rebecca, Brianna and Charlotte. Funeral services were private. Irv was the most empathetic, warm, caring brother to his little sister, Flossy. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed fishing, and working out in the gym. He had a strong work ethic and was just a nice guy to know.

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SCHOR

Paul S. Schor, June 13, 2021; of Warminster, PA. Beloved Husband of Doris (nee Schuster); Father of Ilisa Smukler, the late Holly Walter (James Walter) and Joanne Borochaner (James England); Grandfather of Ethan, Robert and Jason. Paul was a Korean War veteran and a coach for the Middle Atlantic Blind Golfers Association after retirement from the Philadelphia School District. The family respectfully requests contributions in lieu of flowers be made to Gilda's Club Cancer Support Community. (<https://gildasclub.org>)

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STECKER

Deirdre Stecker, on June 12, 2021. Beloved wife of Harold Stecker; mother of Sarah (Jason Lieberman) Stecker and Rachel Stecker. Grandmother of Rebecca, Benjamin & Wesley. Contributions in her memory can be made to Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia 2100 Arch St., 8th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103 <https://jewishphilly.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/>

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WEILER

Sheila Weiler (nee Kessler) June 6, 2021 of Philadelphia, PA; a retired teacher and musician, Sheila was a devoted daughter to her late parents, Harry and Hester Kessler. Graveside services were held June 11, at Har Zion Cemetery in Collingdale, PA. Contributions in her memory may be made to Deborah Heart and Lung Center, 200 Trenton Road, Browns Mills, NJ. 08015 www.deand-deborah.org

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UFBERG

Michael H. Ufberg, 79, of Allentown, PA, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, June 12, 2021. Known lovingly as 'Mickey' to friends and family, he leaves behind his beloved wife, Eileen, of 54 years. Born in Shamokin, PA, Mickey is the son of the late Helen and David Ufberg, and brother to Nancian and Carol. He is survived by his children, David, Jacob, Larry, Bonnie & Matthew, and his 16 grandchildren. Mickey graduated with honors from Temple University Medical School and practiced Gastroenterology for over 40 years. He selflessly served the Lehigh Valley community with distinction, earning numerous awards for his clinical expertise, exemplary teaching, and compassionate care. He was particularly proud to serve as Chief of Gastroenterology at Lehigh Valley Hospital, and served as President of the Health Care Council of Eastern Pennsylvania. He lived a life of service, always readily available to patients, and generously willing to donate his medical care to those in need. He was a pillar of the Jewish Community. Locally, he was an active member of Congregation Sons of Israel, served as President and 16 year Board member of the Jewish Day School, was President of the Jewish Federation, and served as Campaign Chairman, on multiple occasions. He was a founder and President of the Maimonides Society of Allentown, coordinating Jewish Physicians to help those in need, and helped establish the Gastroenterology wing at the Western Galilee Hospital in Israel. His family and his friends were the center of his life. He strongly instilled in his children the importance of family. Mickey's wisdom and kindness were only exceeded by his selflessness and humility. He was a true patriarch, admired and respected, and a role model to all who were lucky enough to know him. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of Allentown, 702 N. 22nd St., Allentown, PA 18104.

BACHMAN, KULIK & REINSMITH
FUNERAL HOME

Troy

Continued from **Page 14**

the haters' false rationales — or supposed other virtues.

Offering clarity, the Anti-Defamation League declared: "Since the start of the May conflict between Israel and Hamas, there have been numerous antisemitic incidents around the world related to the conflict. The perpetrators of these attacks deliberately targeted Jewish institutions in order to express their anger towards Israel. Whenever anti-Israel actions target Jewish institutions "or individual Jews — in other words, holding Jews collectively responsible Israel's actions — ADL considers such incidents as antisemitic."

The ADL activists — non-academics — offered context and causation: These attacks didn't pop up spontaneously. ADL connected the dots, noting that these thugs target Jews to bash the Jewish state. And they taught something others overlooked: that beating on Jews because you object to Israeli policy or Israel is antisemitic.

Still, the ADL's description turned too cautious by not directly confronting the false, facile analogies comparing America's complex

racial dynamics with Israelis' complex national dynamics with regard to Palestinians, Israeli Arabs and Bedouins.

Our Canadian cousins got it right. On June 3, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs defined "antisemitism, especially in its modern guise of anti-Zionism," as anti-Jewish violence compounded by "some of our society's most esteemed institutions — universities, school boards, political parties, unions, the media — ignoring Jew-hatred, and in so doing providing cover for it."

The bold statement detailed five ways that anti-Zionists are not "just" criticizing Israel but committing Jew-hatred, including, "When in the name of criticizing Israel, anti-Zionists pelt Canadians with stones, that is antisemitism."

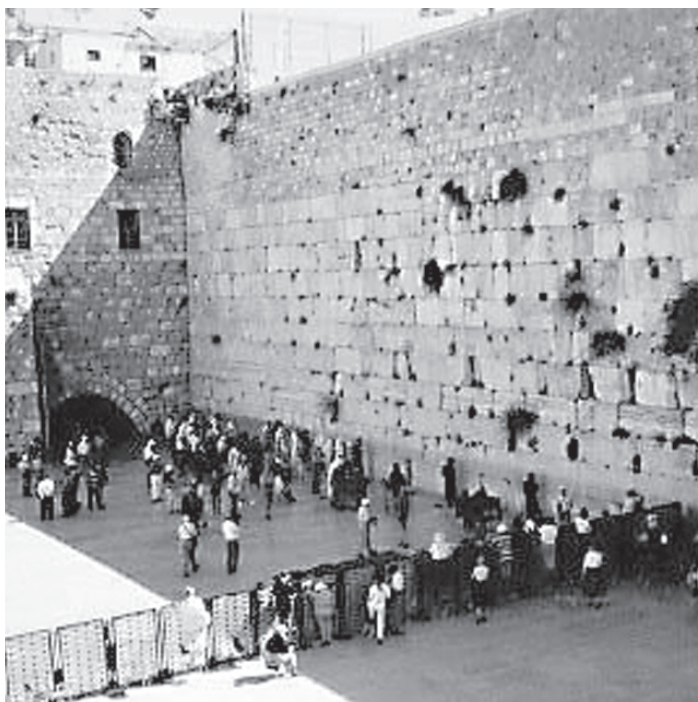
While buoying antisemites, Zio-washing explains how an increasingly loud minority of rabbis and Jewish studies professors feel comfortable bashing Israel and repudiating Zionism. Empty institutional statements suggest that many American-Jewish leaders fear embracing Israel and Zionism too ardently.

Fortunately, Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt and others formed the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition to represent most American Jews: proudly pro-Israel and pro-peoplehood. Still, when I grew up, Zionist rabbis didn't need the adjective — we just called them rabbis.

Sun Tzu taught: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." But "If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Comfortable in their Jewish skins, these rabbis, like most Israelis, are ready to confront the antisemites. Only with such confidence — and true allies ready to diagnose the problem clearly and fight the problem systematically — will we be able to contain this growing, and all-too-often perfumed, Jew-hatred. ●

Gil Troy is a Distinguished Scholar of North American History at McGill University, and the author of nine books on American history and three books on Zionism, including "Never Alone: Prison, Politics and My People," co-authored with Natan Sharansky.



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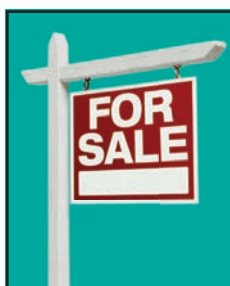
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LEGAL NOTICES

First Publication
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DATED 12/14/1992
as
RESTATED AND AMENDED
08/20/2012**
Cynthia J. Babb, Deceased
Late of Borough of Collegeville,
Montgomery County, PA
This Trust is in existence and all persons having claims or demand against said Trust or decedent are required to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to:
Trustee: James L. Babb
c/o Allen M. Mandelbaum, Esq.
Plymouth Greene Office Campus
1000 Germantown Pike, Suite D3
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Or to his Attorney:
Allen M. Mandelbaum, Esq.
Plymouth Greene Office Campus
1000 Germantown Pike, Suite D3
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

REVOCABLE TRUST OF
JULIUS SPATZ
JULIUS SPATZ DECEASED LATE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. THIS TRUST IS IN EXISTENCE AND ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST JULIUS SPATZ TO MAKE KNOWN THE SAME AND ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO THE DECEDENT TO MAKE PAYMENT WITHOUT DELAY TO PAUL B. SCHWARTZ, EXECUTOR OR TO HIS ATTORNEY ALLEN S. KELLERMAN, ESQUIRE.
ALLEN S. KELLERMAN, ESQ.
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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF BERNICE PAUL, DECEASED
Late of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Susan Schaumburg, Executrix 845 Delmont Drive, Wynnewood, PA 19096

ESTATE OF CLAUDIA CHOU, 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 BILLY CHOU, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Peter L. Klenk, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Or to his Attorney:
PETER L. KLENK
THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L., KLENK & ASSOCIATES
2202 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ELAINE F. WALTER, DECEASED.
Late of Norristown Borough, 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 DAVID E. WALTER, EXECUTOR, c/o Robert S. Cohen, Esq., The Beasley Bldg., 1125 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-4918,
Or to his Attorney:
ROBERT S. COHEN
LAW OFFICE OF
ROBERT S. COHEN
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Or to his Attorney:
MARTIN I. KLEINMAN
MARTIN I. KLEINMAN, P.C.
1835 Market St., Ste. 2626
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF JAMES C. FANG, Deceased
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION CTA 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 Irene Fang, Administratrix, CTA c/o attorney: Allen S. Kellerman
255 S. 17th Street Suite 2609
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ a/k/a JOSE J. RODRIGUEZ, SR., DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CASSANDRA RODRIGUEZ, EXECUTRIX, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 6th Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney:
DAVID S. WORKMAN
ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP
The Bellevue, 6th Fl.
200 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JULIE M. REICH, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to REBECCA SALLEN, EXECUTRIX, 325 Merion Rd., Merion Station, PA 19066,
Or to her Attorney:
REBECCA SALLEN
SALLEN LAW, LLC
325 Merion Rd.
Merion Station, PA 19066

ESTATE OF KATHLEEN Y. ALLEN; ALLEN, KATHLEEN Y., Deceased
Late of Philadelphia, PA
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Angela Wilson, 7732 Cottage St., Philadelphia, PA 19136 and Kathleen Wahl, 3339 Fairdale Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154, Co-Executrices.
Andrew I. Roseman, Esquire
1528 Walnut St.
Suite 1412
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF MARYANN E. BARANEK, DECEASED.
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Or to her Attorney:
MARYBETH O. LAURIA
LAURIA LAW, LLC
3031A Walton Rd., Ste. 320
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

ESTATE OF RENA REMEL MYLES, 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 MELVIN ROACH, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Kenneth R. Pugh, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144,
Or to his Attorney:
KENNETH R. PUGH
JERNER LAW GROUP, P.C.
5401 Wissahickon Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144

ESTATE of ROBERT CORNISH, 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 Donald Cornish, Administrator c/o his attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE of LANETTE J. PURDIE, 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 Lina Morton, Administrator c/o her attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF RUBY SANDERS, 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 REBECCA SALLEN, ADMINISTRATRIX, 325 Merion Rd., Merion Station, PA 19066,
Or to her Attorney:
REBECCA SALLEN
SALLEN LAW, LLC
325 Merion Rd.
Merion Station, PA 19066

ESTATE OF THELMA S. GREEN a/k/a THELMA SHON GREEN, Deceased
Late of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
Letters Testamentary on the estate having been granted to the individual named below, all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims are requested to present the same, without delay, to:
MIRIAM C. KATZ 1142 Ashton Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096, Executrix, or to her attorney:
MARK S. COHEN, ESQ.
Askot, Weiner & Cohen, LLP
326 W. Lancaster Avenue
Suite 230
Ardmore, PA 19003

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF THOMAS F. GRIFFIN, 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 Raymond A. Griffin, Executor c/o his attorney Ellen S. Fischer, Esquire Bloom Peters, LLC 955 Horsham Road Suite 307, Horsham, PA 19044

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COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Parsha for Life

Join Rabbi Alexander Coleman, Jewish educator and psychotherapist at the **Institute for Jewish Ethics**, at 9 a.m. for a weekly journey through the Torah portion of the week with eternal lessons on personal growth and spirituality. Go to ijethics.org/weekly-torah-portion.html to receive the Zoom link and password.

▼ SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Virtual Movie Discussion

Join the **Bucks County Kehillah** for a monthly film and discussion. “Nora’s Will,” which was named Mexico’s Best Picture of the Year, will be screened. Watch “Nora’s Will” at your convenience between June 26-29, then join the Zoom discussion at 8 p.m. on June 29. Register at bit.ly/2THbU7x to receive a “Nora’s Will” film link and a link to join the discussion on June 29.

▼ MONDAY, JUNE 28

Researching LGBTQ+ Relatives

Professional genealogist Janice Sellers will show you how to pursue LGBTQ+ family history research on Zoom at 2 p.m. through the **Center for Jewish History**. In addition, she will discuss ethical concerns you should consider, and why an understanding of gay history is critical to finding and understanding information about your LGBTQ+ forebears. Pay what you wish; register at programs.cjh.org/tickets/

family-history-today-2021-06-28 for a Zoom link.

▼ TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Cultural Judaism a Myth?

Gratz@home will explore the development of Jewish law over the centuries, as well as the implications of the intersection between Jewish law and culture for 21st century American Judaism at 7:30 p.m. with Roberta Rosenthal Kwall, the Raymond P. Niro Professor at DePaul University College of Law. For more information, contact mcohen@gratz.edu or call 215-635-7300, ext. 155.

▼ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

Bereavement Group

For the post-bereaved, held at **Northeast NORC**, 8546B Bustleton Ave. in Philadelphia from 1-2:30 p.m. No charge, Email rivkapowers@gmail.com or call 215-320-0351 to register.

LGBTQ Support Group

This **Jewish Family and Children’s Service** support group at 6:30 p.m. is for anyone who is a relative of an LGBTQ individual — grandparent, child, cousin, parent — and is looking for a space to process. This group is a safe place to ask questions, express emotions and learn from other folks in similar places. RSVP at jfcsp Philly.org/supportgroups. A Zoom link is provided upon registration. For more information, contact Galia Godel at ggodel@jfcsp Philly.org or call 267-273-6006. ●

NEWSMAKERS

Cantor Jacob Agar performed in concert on June 16 in support of the music fund at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park. The concert included a fun mix of Italian and Russian arias, Broadway, Bocelli, a French chanson, and his rendition of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Accompanying him was his longtime teacher pianist Emily Olin.

Photo by Elliot Miller



OROT announced the hiring of Jaime Katz Alter as its education director. Alter has worked with OROT, which helps to educate children whose learning differences are outside the scope of Jewish day schools, for more than 12 years as a special education teacher at Perelman Jewish Day School.

Courtesy of OROT



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