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ISRAEL

Landmark Ruling from Israel's Supreme Court Non-Orthodox can become citizens.

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Volume 133
Number 47

Published Weekly Since 1887



Philly's Israeli Film Fest Opts for Free 'Theater' Model

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

THOUGH THIS YEAR is technically the 25th anniversary edition of the Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia, this spring's version will take a different tack.

Rather than spoil the chance to celebrate a quarter-century of bringing Israeli film to Philadelphia, festival organizers are treating this edition as a one-off. They hope to have a proper celebration of 25 years in March 2022.

On top of that, admission to this year's festival, which will screen online, will be free.

"We decided that, given the miserable state of people's lives, because of COVID, we wanted to kind of pay it forward, for lack of a better word," IFF founder and Artistic Director Mindy Chriqui said.

It wasn't an easy decision, but it appears to have paid dividends. Requests for tickets have been high enough that "if we

See Fest, Page 12



▲ The Pennsylvania state Capitol building, the site of an ongoing legislative tussle over hate crime laws
pabradypphoto / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Frankel Reintroduces Hate Crime Legislation

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

FOR YEARS, Pennsylvania state Rep. Dan Frankel has been trying expand the protections offered by the Ethnic Intimidation Act, the Pennsylvania law that effectively created "hate crimes" as a category of crime in the Commonwealth.

In January, Frankel reintroduced a

package of bills that are intended to impose stiffer penalties on those convicted of hate crimes, offer new educational opportunities to offenders and police officers, and allow students to report hate crimes anonymously.

Could 2021 be the year? Could Frankel's efforts finally bear fruit?

At the very least, the idea that hate

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Miriam's Advice Well

DEAR MIRIAM | WHAT'S THE ETIQUETTE FOR A ZOOM SHIVA?

A reader is uncertain about Zoom shiva etiquette, so Miriam explains the differences with in-person mourning rituals. She suggests logging on, muting yourself, getting a feel for the "room," then deciding how to participate. 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/2021/03/01/dear-miriam-whats-the-etiquette-for-a-zoom-shiva



Philacatessen

GINGER-GARLIC-SESAME BOK CHOY

Food columnist Keri White likes simple recipes, and ginger-garlic-sesame bok choy is a great example of a quick and easy side dish. All you really have to do is heat the aforementioned spices in oil, then add the bok choy (other greens will work, too) and stir for a few minutes. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for food content not normally found in the printed edition. jewishexponent.com/2021/03/01/ginger-garlic-sesame-bok-choy



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Medical Center Plan Outlined by Gutman



JACOB C. GUTMAN

oldest health institution in the Federation, has been the first hospital to indicate formally that it is willing to join in the plan. Mr. Gutman pointed out. The hospital's Board of Directors, at a special meeting Wednesday night, expressed its readiness to take steps necessary for the institution's participation in the medical center.

Praises Action
Mr. Gutman voiced gratification with the hospital's action, and hopes that the other health agencies will also move ahead toward taking part in the program. These agencies, in addition to Jewish Hospital, are Mount Sinai and Northern Liberties Hospitals, both general hospitals; Eagleville Sanatorium, for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis; Philadelphia Psychiatric

The medical center project as described by Mr. Gutman is designed to coordinate the existing services and future development of the seven Federation hospitals and health agencies in order to provide a complete program of up-to-date medical care, research and medical education.

Voluntary Choice
Entry into the medical center plan is a matter of voluntary choice on the part of each of the seven institutions, Mr. Gutman emphasized. All of them are studying the matter in consultation with the Federation, he said. Jewish Hospital, largest and

Hospital; Winnow Crest for Convalescents; and the Community Health Center. They provide health care for tens of thousands of patients of every race and creed each year. Their work is supported by the Federation with funds from the Community Chest.

The Board of Directors of the Community Health Center had already declared its willingness to join the medical center.

Jewish Hospital's move paved the way for use of its 23-acre grounds at Old York and Taber Rds., with about 20 existing buildings and a capacity of 469 (Continued on Page 15)

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Panel Gets Pragmatic About Racial Injustice

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

RABBI DAVID Saperstein thinks the deaths of African Americans due to COVID-19 and police brutality in 2020 acted like a shofar blast to the nation.

"We are at a moment, in terms of race issues in America, where there is a sense of immediacy, a sense of urgency, a sense of moral compulsion, that we have accepted structural forms of racism for far too long," he said. "And it's been a wake-up call."

The director emeritus of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism spoke about racial justice on Feb. 24 during "Global Connections: Navigating the

New Abnormal," a monthly leadership panel organized by American Friends of Rabin Medical Center. Robert Siegel, host of NPR's "All Things Considered" from 1987 to 2018, served as moderator.

For this month's topic, "America's Race Crisis: What to Do About It," Siegel asked his guests about concrete actions Americans could take to heal the harm caused by systemic racism and white supremacy.

Professor Eddie Glaude, chair of the department of African American Studies at Princeton University, responded with questions of his own.

"What is your conception of justice? What is your idea of a just society?" he asked.

He argued that true equality would only be possible if those in positions of power moved

away from a model of racial justice as a philanthropic enterprise or charitable gesture and toward a reimagining of society. Siegel pressed him for examples.

"It could involve a range of actions around criminal justice reform and police reform, supporting the repeal of qualified immunity," he said. "What I think we need broadly, Robert, is a public infrastructure of care, but that's a discussion for another time."

Annette Gordon-Reed, a professor of history at Harvard University and a Pulitzer Prize winner, said white people who wanted to fight racism could support people of color by engaging in conversations about race and inequality with their loved ones.

"It's a very tough thing

■ We are at a moment, in terms of race issues in America, where there is a sense of immediacy, a sense of urgency, a sense of moral compulsion, that we have accepted structural forms of racism for far too long."

RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN



▲ Clockwise from top left: Rabbi David Saperstein, Robert Siegel, Eddie Glaude and Annette Gordon-Reed
Screenshot by Sophie Panzer

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to confront family members and friends, people who you love and who you depend upon, when they say things or do things that are racially problematic," she said.

She said that although it's not an easy task, the conversations are critical, since people are more likely to take these ideas seriously if they come from those they already know and trust.

Saperstein, who is the former United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, said fighting against gerrymandering and other threats to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a crucial step in achieving true equality. He invoked Genesis as a repudiation of racism.

"A whole range of interpretations of the Bible asked, 'Why would we all be descended from one couple? Why was Adam made from the dust of the four corners of the earth?' So that none of us can claim that the merit of our ancestors was greater than anyone else's," he said.

He expressed concern about the breakdown of bipartisan in the United States and the threat it posed to the racial justice movement, calling it one of the most dangerous aspects of American political life.

"As you look back, Robert, over the last century, in the 20th century, almost every

single achievement of social justice in America happened because of a bipartisan coalition of decency on Capitol Hill, and multiracial, multi-ethnic, multireligious, nonpartisan coalitions in communities across America," he said.

Siegel also asked the panelists if they believed universal social programs to combat economic inequality, such as public health care, or targeted programs based on the injustices experienced by individual minority groups would be more effective in creating change.

Glaude advocated for a targeted approach in response to the fact that racial inequality was the result of policies that specifically targeted people of color for exclusion and harm. One example was the exclusion of Black people from G.I. Bill benefits that helped build a largely white middle class in the late '40s and '50s.

Gordon-Reed argued that both forms of intervention are necessary.

"The advantage of universal [programs] is that you don't stir people up, and you know everybody gets something, and that's when you begin the process of knitting the country together, by people sharing something. That's critical," she said. •

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Super Sunday Revamps, Adds Interaction

LOCAL

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

THERE MAY NOT BE any in-person socializing, but the organizers of this year's Super Sunday expect the signature event to be as rewarding as its predecessors.

In 2020, 600 volunteers at five locations across the region made calls, wrote letters, sent texts and posted to social media to friends, neighbors and their local kehillot, exceeding the \$500,000 goal for Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's largest annual community fundraiser.

Volunteers spoke positively about the camaraderie and sense of community fostered by the event. But call centers are out of the question this year, so Super Sunday will be spread



▲ Melissa Greenberg
Courtesy of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



▲ Danielle Weiss
Courtesy of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



▲ Volunteers from Congregations of Shaare Shamayim write letters to potential donors at the 2020 Super Sunday, a couple weeks before the pandemic took hold.
Photo by Matt Silver

three ways on March 6 and 7.

"This reimagined event is what our community needs to come together," said Danielle Weiss, a Super Sunday co-chair, who is teaming with Mitch Sterling.

The weekend kicks off from

7:30-8:30 p.m. on March 6 with a virtual Havdalah featuring Joey Weisenberg of Hadar's Rising Song Institute.

After that, participants are urged to stay online and participate in one of 36 "Schmooze & Share Rooms" hosted by

leaders of area synagogues, day schools, camps and nonprofits. Participants will be able to move from room to room.

"The team has done an amazing job of finding ways to engage the community," Jewish Federation Executive Vice President Melissa Greenberg said.

Super Sunday itself will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with several dozen campaign members, Jewish Federation employees and a hired professional marketing company making donation calls, Greenberg said. The professional marketers are expected to make 6,000 calls. The goal is again \$500,000.

Would-be donors may donate online at jewishphilly.org/donate-super-sunday or call 215-832-0899.

Also on Super Sunday, there's an opportunity to "Do a Mitzvah." Participants may drop off a bag of food curbside between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at one of the five area Mitzvah Food Pantries or Shir Ami Congregation in Newtown.

Requested items include Passover foods such as gefilte fish, grape juice, horseradish, matzah meal, matzah and kosher for Passover cereals, crackers and snacks, as well as diapers and women's feminine

hygiene products.

"No matter who is participating, they can probably find something that speaks to them," Weiss said of Super Sunday participation.

Neither Greenberg nor Weiss is concerned about donor fatigue, despite other Jewish Federation-led charitable drives seeking to assist those struggling because of the pandemic.

"We understand that a lot is being asked of people philanthropically," Weiss said. "As far as I know, the community has truly stepped up and rallied around each other. ... We really have been so moved by the generosity of the community."

"I am continually inspired by the generosity of the members of our community," Greenberg said, adding that the new format "presents an opportunity to be creative." Jewish Federation will keep offering virtual options even after the pandemic ends, as they break down barriers and allow people in Florida, the Jersey shore and the Poconos, among other places, to participate.

"There are lots of different ways for people to connect, and we've really learned that this year," Greenberg said. •

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KleinLife and Philabundance Partner to Fight Food Insecurity Among Seniors

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

WHEN KLEINLIFE SHUT down congregate programs at the start of the pandemic, the organization's clients were told to stay home for their own safety.

Unfortunately, those who relied on meal programs didn't know where their next dinner would come from.

"We got completely inundated by the phone calls from the seniors that we usually serve," said Andre Krug, president and CEO of KleinLife.

He knows exactly how severe the food insecurity crisis has become. Before last March, 309 seniors depended on his organization's meal support program. At the height of the pandemic, that number grew to more than 800.

"It was a huge, huge undertaking. Basically, we went from delivering about 1,000 meals a week to delivering about 3,500 meals a week," he said.

To make matters worse, he added, the volunteer pool that usually stepped up to cook meals at KleinLife's facilities, synagogues and community centers was no longer able to prepare and distribute the food due to social distancing requirements. Many volunteers were more than 60 years old and considered especially vulnerable to the coronavirus.

That meant the organization made up the difference by buying meals, which put a strain on resources and required significant fundraising.

To meet the growing need, KleinLife announced on Feb. 16 that it will partner with regional hunger relief organization Philabundance, which will be preparing food for deliveries in the Philabundance



▲ Philabundance Community Kitchen students prepare food for KleinLife deliveries. Photo by Jonathan Gonzalez

■ We went from delivering about 1,000 meals a week to delivering about 3,500 meals a week."

ANDRE KRUG

Community Kitchen facility. The PCK program provides a 16-week course in culinary training to adults with little or no income.

"A big part of that is learning about the science of food, learning about how to handle food safely so they can then get a safe food handling certificate, learning about how to lead and follow management in a working kitchen," Philabundance CEO Loree Jones said. "It's also about the life skills that you need to be able to hold to be gainfully employed."

PCK had to pause operations and switch to virtual learning at the height of the pandemic last year, but Philabundance has been able to return students to the kitchen using masks and social distancing.

When Brian Gralnick, director of social responsibility at Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, took a tour of the PCK facility, he realized it could provide an opportunity to tackle rising food insecurity

in the community. Jewish Federation identified a lead funder to support the partnership: Tony Schneider, a founder of the Mitzvah Food Program.

"Many of our community members are fighting to make ends meet, including our most vulnerable seniors," Schneider said in a statement. "I'm moved by the devastating effect that the pandemic has had and was anxious to invest in a new concept that could have an immediate and meaningful impact on those most in need. The Jewish Federation's plan for a collaboration between KleinLife and Philabundance connected multiple elements — helping vulnerable seniors while also investing in the long-term success and resiliency of our community."

Jones said the partnership will give KleinLife clients access to a variety of healthy meals that cater to diverse diets, rather than relying on a single option. Menus will include vegetarian and pescatarian meals along with beef

and poultry.

She is painfully aware that the pandemic has exacerbated hunger in the Philadelphia area and throughout the country. She said COVID-19 has increased food insecurity by up to 60%, and her organization serves approximately 135,000 people each week. In the last year, it has distributed more than 50 million pounds of food through a network of 350 partners, including food pantries, houses of worship, community centers and hospitals.

Jones added that seniors are especially vulnerable due to preexisting health conditions, and many have had to choose whether to use their limited money to buy food, buy medications or heat their homes.

She said Philabundance and KleinLife have collaborated on other projects before, but the pandemic made the need for strong partnerships in times of crisis clearer than ever.

"This notion of partnership and collaboration to solve these really big problems is part of our work every day, and definitely is evidenced by this partnership," she said. •

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Philly Faces: Rabbi Akiva Pollack

PHILLY FACES

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING quite like the organization Russian American Jewish Experience in Philadelphia before Rabbi Akiva Pollack showed up.

Pollack, 45, learned about RAJE in 2009, having just come to Philadelphia to work at CBS Community Center, home to Congregation Beth Solomon in Somerton. Soon after he arrived, he met a rabbi who worked with RAJE in New York, which was the only place at the time to get involved with the organization.

"And he told us all about programming, and he told us all about how they literally have hundreds of young



▲ Rabbi Akiva Pollack speaks at Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva in Poland during a RAJE trip. Photo by Paul Minkovsky

Russian Jews sitting in their center, learning about Judaism, going on trips. And I fell in love with the program when he told us that," Pollack said. He contacted the New York office and told them he'd love to bring RAJE to Philly.

Today, Pollack is the CEO of RAJE Philly, teaching and traveling with young local Jews to Israel, Poland and elsewhere in Europe. Participants who complete the Leadership Fellowship are eligible for those free trips.

"We're really trying hard to help create more Jewish leaders," Pollack said. And name aside, they don't discriminate: Around 75% of their participants are Russian-American Jews.

since 2009. Are you still attracted to the organization's mission for the same reasons?

I'll tell you the truth, maybe you shouldn't put this in print, but I do it for the free trip [laughs]. I do love going from place to place, I love traveling. So that's always very exciting, which actually makes it a little bit hard now, because everything's closed, you can't really get around.

But I love teaching about Judaism, teach about Israel, and then actually going and seeing it in practice.

That's what really gets me excited, to be able to teach that and give it over to everybody and show how real Judaism is, how ancient Judaism is.

You've been a part of RAJE What's the most significant change you've seen in the

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HEADLINES

population that RAJE serves?

It's a little bit more difficult to get people interested in a free trip to Israel — it just doesn't mean as much as it did 10 years ago. So you need to add some things to it — our European option, the Poland trip and things like that. But in general, people are still very interested.

Is there anything you've done differently during the pandemic that you want to continue doing?

We've really worked hard on making Zoom as exciting and as accessible as possible. We have very few in-person classes.

So what we've done is have branches of RAJE all joined together and done our Leadership Fellowship, instead of it just being to Philadelphia, coming to one community center, we have all of the branches coming together on

one Zoom or two Zooms. And we'll have 50, 60 people at each Zoom session from all over the country. And I see that's exciting to people because they get to meet people from all over the place.

In many ways, it's actually better for us because we're able to have educators from all over the country that're able to speak.

Another thing that we did recently — we're actually starting tonight, so I don't know how it's going to go, but I'm really excited about it — we did something called the Olami Pro Series, which is really focused not on Jewish education and Israel, but on professional development. And we have major CEOs, we have Hollywood stars coming in, and teaching students how to really be successful in the fields that they are in. •

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Non-Orthodox Converts to Gain Israeli Citizenship

ISRAEL

BY BEN SALES | JTA.ORG

ISRAEL MUST GRANT citizenship to Jews who converted to Judaism in Israel under non-Orthodox auspices, its Supreme Court ruled on March 1, possibly igniting another round in the long-running government battle over who the state should recognize as Jewish.

The decision, written by Chief Justice Esther Hayut, comes less than a month before national elections.

Israel's Law of Return offers automatic citizenship to

anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent. The state also generally recognizes those who converted to Judaism under Orthodox standards.

Past Supreme Court decisions have mandated that the state also recognize Jews who converted outside of Israel under non-Orthodox authority, provided they live in a recognized Jewish community. Non-Orthodox converts, such as Conservative or Reform Jews, however, still often face hurdles in obtaining Israeli citizenship and are sometimes denied.

The March 1 decision extends the right to citizenship to those who converted to

See Citizenship, Page 10

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Citizenship

Continued from Page 9

Judaism under non-Orthodox auspices in Israel itself. The petition that spurred the court ruling was filed in 2005 but was postponed for more than a decade because the court wanted to give the government time to resolve the matter through legislation.

“The petitioners came to Israel and went through a conversion process in the framework of a recognized Jewish

community and asked to join the Jewish nation,” Hayut wrote in her ruling, according to Haaretz.

Rabbi Gilad Kariv, a leading Reform rabbi in Israel and a Labor Party candidate for the Knesset, or parliament, called the ruling a “foundational decision of the High Court” in a Facebook post.

Aryeh Deri, the head of the Sephardi haredi Shas party, wrote on Facebook that the

“Today Israel’s Supreme Court decided that Israel should be a national home for all types of Jews. It is a day to celebrate, even as the road towards equality for all — especially those who are not Jewish — remains long.”

MICKEY GITZIN

decision was “misguided, very troubling, and will cause arguing and a difficult rupture among the people.”

Successive government coalitions, based on their political leanings, have attempted to either liberalize or narrow

Israel’s conversion standards. But such efforts at reform usually fall flat.

Haredi Orthodox politicians object to laws that would broaden the range of recognized conversions, while attempts to make requirements stricter have provoked backlash from organizations representing American Jews, the vast majority of whom are not Orthodox. That has effectively meant that any change in conversion regulations comes from court decisions.

Once they become citizens of Israel, non-Orthodox converts still face restrictions. Several issues of personal status in Israel, including marriage and divorce, are controlled by the country’s haredi Chief Rabbinate. Because the Chief Rabbinate does not recognize non-Orthodox converts as Jews, they have no way to marry legally in Israel.

Others who obtain Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return but are not considered Jewish by Orthodox standards — such as immigrants with only one Jewish grandparent — similarly cannot marry legally in Israel. Legislation to address that issue has been stymied as well by haredi opposition in parliament.

“Today Israel’s Supreme Court decided that Israel should be a national home for all types of Jews,” said Mickey Gitzin, the Israel director of the New Israel Fund and a longtime Israeli activist for religious freedom. “It is a day to celebrate, even as the road towards equality for all — especially those who are not Jewish — remains long.” •



Thank You...

It has been a time of sadness for our family. We gratefully appreciate the outpouring of love, support, generosity, and your kind expression with the untimely passing of Susan Love. Susan was a wonderful and loving daughter, mother, sister, aunt and life partner and a remarkable caring human being.

Each family member has been comforted by the tremendous acts of generosity and compassion that family, friends, and the community has shared with us. We have loved listening to stories about Susan’s professional interactions at Lions Gate and around the South Jersey community. She loved intermingling and meeting everyone on both a professional and personal level. It is heartening to know that we are surrounded by so many kind, caring, loving and supportive people.

We would be remiss if we did not give our deepest and most sincere thanks to Lions Gate — especially the employees for having a beautiful memorial service in honor of Susan as well as the abundance of substantial donations provided to Lions Gate in her memory.

Most importantly, each of us would also like to express our deepest gratitude for all your expressions of sympathy, words of comfort, and for keeping Susan in your thoughts and prayers these past few months.

With love,

Judy Love,
Ashley Freedman, David Farber and Drew Farber
Sylvia, Michael and Rebecca Miller
Roberta and Abby Budman

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Fest

Continued from Page 1

had to actually accommodate everybody in the theater, we probably would not have been able to," she said.

Though it's not the version of the festival that Chriqui her team would like to be putting on, this year's slate of films reflects an enduring commitment to the core mission.

"We cannot do the festival, but we are committed to bringing to our audience and our supporters the latest and the newest Israeli releases," said Hava Grunwald, the festival coordinator.

The 2020 edition of the festival was cut short, just one weekend into its March run. Chriqui and the IFF agonized over the movies that their audiences would never get to see; finally, last fall, they were able to send out links for online viewing.

It was good practice for this spring. The organizers have opted for a "theater" model, whereby viewers watch movies at the same time as others, rather than at their convenience.

"We wanted them to feel part of this whole festival,"

Chriqui said.

The festival began on Feb. 25 and continues for eight weeks. The IFF sends emails each Thursday at noon with links to contemporary Israeli films. Interested viewers should visit iffphila.com and sign up for emails under "Join" to receive links to each movie.

Several movies will feature options to sign up for Zoom discussions with the creators and subjects (six out of the eight movies are documentaries). However, that schedule hasn't been finalized.

Here is just a taste of the festival's programming.

'A Lullaby for the Valley,' directed by Ben Shani, April 1

At the beginning of the documentary "A Lullaby for the Valley," the painter Eli Shamir seems perfectly suited to his primary subject, the Jezreel Valley: He's unceasingly warm, slyly magnetic and generally amused at the prospect of his own existence. It's as if he's saying, with an air of disbelief, "I, Eli Shamir, son of a farmer, have my paintings sold at unthinkable rates to dealers the world over? What can you

do but laugh at such fortune?"

It's a good thing he starts out that way, because Shamir, in his late 50s when filming began in 2011, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2014. Over the next several years, as director Ben Shani chronicles, Shamir confronts his declining physical abilities each day. For someone who describes his work as an attempt to "capture the world" with the movement of his wrist, it begs the question: What if he can't move his wrist the right way?

Shani followed Shamir the artist and Shamir the man, bridging any distance between the two. Shani has an eye for Shamir's tiny dignities, from the respect he gives to his models to his desire to paint approachable, idyllic scenes. When Shamir's physical decline worsens, Shani is with him in hospital scenes that are darkly funny.

Shani declares his admiration for Shamir's work in one of the movie's first scenes, but it would be apparent even if he didn't say it. The shots of life on Shamir's farm seem to be cinematic companions



▲ Eli Shamir, the subject of Ben Shani's "A Lullaby for the Valley" Courtesy of Go2Films

to Shamir's art; the painter is lucky to have someone convey the way he sees the world with such fidelity.

The official premiere of this film is in April; this screening represents a sneak preview.

'Marry Me However,' directed by Mordechai Vardi, March 18

Rabbi Mordechai Vardi's film about the lives of LGBT Israelis who entered heterosexual marriages for religious reasons is a tale of both confusion and

clarity. The problem for many of the documentary's subjects is that there are legions of people around them who seek to muddle what is clear and simplify what cannot be.

For those who stay with a partner they're not attracted to or who decide on divorce, there are few they can approach for advice. Conversely, when it comes to sexual attraction — the one subject they're certain about — there are more than enough conversion "therapists" hawking dubious medical and moral claims.

Some of the film's subjects are supported by their families, but many are not. The opening scene of a gay man's wedding to his wife — in which the melancholy of the groom contrasts with the merriment of the revelers — plays like a man being led to his execution.

What the subjects of "Marry Me However" are often left with, then, is each other, and the growing ranks of psychologists and rabbis who try to facilitate their acceptance in Israeli society. Vardi's movie doesn't have to work hard to make the case that it will be a long road. But the instances of reconciliation we see make it clear that it will be worth it. •

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Hate

Continued from Page 1

crime legislation might be worth a closer look is on people's minds.

"It's been timely, for a lot of reasons," Frankel said.

Frankel, who is Jewish, represents a district that includes Squirrel Hill, the Pittsburgh neighborhood where a gunman murdered 11 congregants at the Tree of Life synagogue building in 2018. His hate crime bills were originally introduced in 2019, but his efforts to expand and strengthen hate crime law began much earlier.

In 2002, the state legislature passed an amendment to the Ethnic Intimidation Act, adding LGBT people as a protected class. Challenges to the amendment came quickly, according to The Philadelphia Inquirer, after five people protesting a gay rights festival were charged with hate crimes in 2004.

In 2007, the Commonwealth Court struck down the expansion, and the state Supreme Court upheld the decision the following year. Since then,



▲ State Rep. Dan Frankel represents a district that includes Squirrel Hill, the Pittsburgh neighborhood where a gunman murdered 11 congregants at the Tree of Life building in 2018. Courtesy of PA House of Representatives

Frankel has been a part of a group of legislators trying to get LGBT people back under state protection.

The 2018 mass shooting at Tree of Life "reinvigorated this effort," Frankel said. "In addition to that, we looked at

some other areas with respect to hate crimes that we thought needed to be strengthened and addressed. So this package went beyond just the amendments to the Pennsylvania Ethnic Intimidation Act, and went further."

In 2019, Frankel was one of the co-sponsors of a hate crime package — House Bills 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 — that sought to:

- Impose stiffer penalties for those convicted of hate crimes, including those targeted because of their sexual orientation, gender or gender identity;
- Mandate educational courses for those on probation or parole for ethnic intimidation;
- Provide more training for police officers to properly identify hate crimes;
- Require postsecondary institutions to offer anonymous online reporting options for students and employees.

Frankel was the primary sponsor for 2010, 2011 and 2013, while state Rep. Ed Gainey, of

Allegheny County, sponsored 2012. In the Pennsylvania Senate, similar bills have also stalled.

Stiffer penalties for hate crimes, Frankel said, would make it clear that such crimes are committed not only against an individual, but against whole groups.

"For instance, somebody who just put some graffiti on a stop sign at an intersection, versus somebody who spray-paints a swastika on a mosque or a synagogue, that needs to be differentiated very, very clearly in terms of the penalties," Frankel said.

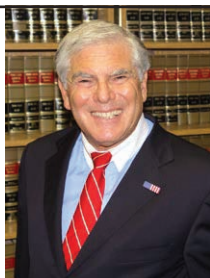
Though the bills had support from then-Pennsylvania House Speaker Mike Turzai, the COVID-19 pandemic rearranged the priorities of the legislature. Frankel's bills were not among them.

He gave it another roll in the fall of 2020, but his push was unsuccessful.

"Hateful actions continue to be perpetrated against our neighbors simply because of who they are," Frankel told the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle in

See Hate, Page 26

LEGAL DIRECTORY



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Three DNA Bombshells Upended My Life



BY SAMUEL BURKE

CONFUSION. DISBELIEF. Denial.

Those were the emotions cutting through me as I looked at my dad's DNA results. We come from a small Phoenix Jewish family, but this at-home test was showing a big discovery none of us could explain.

"Dad, it says you're Mormon." Words I never thought I'd utter. My father's response shocked me even more.

"I know," he said as my eyes widened. "I saw that when the results came in. But it's so preposterous that I just ignored it."

You can ignore DNA results, but that doesn't make them go away. The test classifies my

dad (and by extension me) as "Mountain West Mormon Pioneers." We had no idea a scientific test could tell if someone comes from a relatively-new proselytizing religion like the Church of Latter Day Saints.

I was determined to solve this mystery, but the deeper I dove into it the more I realized our lives would never be the same again. When I finally untangled the web, my heart broke as I watched the DNA test steal a part of my dad and his identity. We're still Jewish, but my father's paternal lineage was not at all who or what he'd always believed.

"It changed my whole perspective on who I was," my dad admitted, referring to his identity in the past tense.

At-home DNA testing has become commonplace in the United States and this nearly \$10 billion market is now taking off around the world. But there's a secret side to these kits which the DNA industry doesn't like to talk about.

Experts find that as many as 11% of people who take a DNA test discover that one of their

parents is not their biological parent, according to the American Journal of Physical Anthropology. This sounded ridiculous to me — until it happened twice in my very own family.

The advertising for DNA testing focuses on positive stories of people who were seeking out answers about their ethnic backgrounds. They don't spotlight families like mine whose lives are turned upside down by a simple swab of the cheek.

For my family, the DNA test wasn't just adding a new chapter in our lives. It seemed as though it was rewriting our life story. After my mom sent in her sample, we received a cryptic email from a woman whose family also attended Congregation Beth Israel. As I read the stranger's email, I realized the woman was insinuating she and my mom are sisters. When I found a picture of the woman, my jaw literally dropped. My mom took one look at the photo and made a blunt proclamation.

"Well, we don't need a DNA test. She's obviously my sister,"

she said as she stared at her new younger sister in amazement.

A third DNA shock brought my family closure to the case of a missing cousin who disappeared in the late '80s. We believed he had died from AIDS, but learned he had met a different fate.

The DNA test began adding and subtracting the people I called "family" so quickly that I started questioning the very meaning of the word. Are family the people who you are raised with? Or the people you're related to?

I began documenting my family's own journey as well as a dozen other families around the world whose lives were torn apart and put back together by DNA testing. Two years of listening in on these families' roller-coaster journeys is now a podcast called "Suddenly Family."

Infidelity. Blackmail. Murder mysteries. Kidnapping. Clandestine artificial insemination. These families have experienced it all. Their DNA plots sound more like blockbuster thrillers, but behind that are the emotional firsthand

accounts of people who've had to pick up the pieces of their lives and start all over again.

What type of relationship do you owe a relative stranger you had never met before the DNA test? What happens to the close family you no longer share a bloodline with?

These were the questions I needed answered and the families who let me listen in on their most intimate DNA moments truly provided them.

I learned more about what the family I've had all my life means to me after developing relationships with my newly-discovered family.

Now that the dust has settled, my dad summarizes what this gut-wrenching DNA experience has meant to him: "It's now just a matter of fact," he said. "It's not good. It's not bad. It just is." •

Samuel Burke is a three-time Emmy Award-winning news correspondent, Arizona State University graduate and Phoenix native. He now lives in London and is the host of the podcast "Suddenly Family."

What Jewish Comedians Thought of SNL's Israel Dig



BY ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL

AT THE TIME of this writing, it's almost Purim, which means I am busy writing jokes that poke fun at the stuff we do and obsess about as Jews without offending too many people. Not always easy, and that's when I am writing for an audience that

I know extremely well.

Now imagine writing Jewish jokes outside the bubble. "Saturday Night Live" found out the hard way after a joke about Israel went viral for the wrong reasons. Here's the joke Michael Che told on the Feb. 20 show: "Israel is reporting that they've vaccinated half of their population, and I'm going to guess it's the Jewish half."

David Harris of the American Jewish Committee said the joke "accuses Israel of vaccinating only Jews" and "spreading an anti-Semitic lie." The Reform movement's Rabbi Rick Jacobs said that the joke "was in poor taste" and that "Israel is a world leader in COVID vaccinations, protecting Jewish and Arab citizens alike." Gilad Erdan,

Israel's ambassador to the U.S., demanded an apology, tweeting that "perpetuating anti-Semitism is just not funny."

I heard the joke as a comic riff on the idea that any ethnic state would of course take care of its own before others. But clannishness can be seen as an anti-Semitic trope: When the Anti-Defamation League surveys anti-Semitic attitudes, it includes "Jews stick together more than other Americans" as an anti-Jewish stereotype. I don't know if Che or whoever wrote the joke was aware of this trope, but that doesn't absolve them.

The other possibility is that the joke is about an actual controversy: accusations that Israel hasn't done enough to

get vaccines to Palestinian non-citizens living in the West Bank or Gaza. In which case the joke may be harsh and inaccurate criticism of Israel, but is it anti-Semitic? A lot of Israelis have criticized Israel for not getting more vaccines to the Palestinian Authority.

Che's defender's say the joke is fair criticism of a country that recently passed a nation-state law that privileges its Jewish population over other groups; a Haaretz columnist writes the joke was "a humorous exaggeration of Israel's open and systemic discrimination against non-Jews." Ilana Glazer, the co-star and co-creator of "Broad City," praised Che, retweeting activists who said the joke told

the truth about the "separate and unequal treatment" of Palestinians under occupation.

My hunch is that "SNL" wasn't aware of any of this discourse, and Jews are attaching their own agendas to a throwaway joke. To me it sounds like a one-liner written by a roomful of writers who live and work in a city with the world's largest population of Jews outside Israel. It is a joke Jews and even Israelis might tell each other, but which becomes uncomfortable and even anti-Jewish when released into the wild.

But that is just me. For a gut check, I reached out to comedians and entertainers who specialize in Jewish material or

See Silow-Carroll, Page 19

Inclusion Is Urgent Matter



BY EFRAT STERN AND ORLY FRUCHTER

IN FEBRUARY, Jewish communities across North America and Israel marked Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion Month. It was heartening that JDAIM gave voice to millions of Jews with disabilities and highlighted disabilities inclusion achievements, but it was not enough. Now that February has come and gone, we must continue to work urgently to ensure our communities are welcoming and empowering throughout the year.

Today there are around 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. They're part of our families and circles of loved ones, members of our day schools, summer camps, synagogues and social networks. Despite this, they often live on the margins and live even more precariously during times of crises.

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected people with disabilities, upending the support, services and efforts at accessibility and community integration that have been key to their progress. The significant gains made on disabilities issues over the years are in danger of being lost.

People with disabilities have once again been largely absent from public discourse on pandemic needs. This absence, and the media's reliance on old stereotypes, made it that much harder for them to retain their hard-fought place in society.

People with disabilities have faced outsized pandemic-related challenges. They have

higher rates of unemployment and loneliness and isolation. The suspension of in-person gatherings is further exacerbated by the lower rates of digital literacy in this population, cutting them off from vitally important activities and medical information.

For many years, we have worked with people with disabilities to strengthen and promote their broader participation in society. There are three important objectives that can help Jewish leaders and institutions mitigate losses and advance self-empowerment.

First, to be inclusive, people with disabilities need to lead, be seen and be heard. People with disabilities must be central to discussions about needs and creation of services. They must have lead roles in setting community agendas. Truly inclusive communities are shaped by people with disabilities.

Second, embrace independent living. It's a cost effective, safe and rewarding path to inclusive societies. People with disabilities having homes of their own is an important step toward achieving full acceptance. As a society, we need to re-envision self-management skills, social connections, support networks, civic responsibility and create person-centered services that are financially sustainable.

Israel Unlimited, JDC's strategic partnership with the Israeli government and the Ruderman Family Foundation, initiated a supported housing program with support from the Azrieli Foundation to empower people with disabilities to live in their own apartments, be involved in the community and receive support and guidance from a care coordinator and mentor. The program assisted 400 people with disabilities in 37 cities across Israel. Research shows that living in the

community is 30% more cost effective than an institution.

Third, people with disabilities need increased resources for better living as they age. Although the pandemic shone a spotlight on the outsized risks faced by the elderly, there has been little focus on the growing demographic of people with disabilities who are living longer now. On average, people with disabilities start aging 10 to 15 years earlier than those without earlier diagnosed disabilities. With life expectancy rising, we must engage in research, policy and programs to address the needs of older adults with disabilities.

Jewish philanthropists and government bodies in Israel and North America can be leaders in this space and build on their successful history of creating and supporting services for seniors. JDC has launched a comprehensive study in Israel aiming to build a strategic map and practical options for support. We hope this will become a model.

The current crisis provides new opportunities to realize the dream of people with disabilities to be fully valued members of our communities. It's not just a matter of basic human justice, but an essential condition for socioeconomic advancement and a strong and resilient social fabric. When Jewish communities and Israel partner with people with disabilities to fulfill this promise, we give new meaning to an old and much-cherished Jewish concept of self-actualization: "If you will it, it is no dream." •

Efrat Stern is the director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Israel Unlimited and Orly Fruchter is the manager of Neurodiverse Initiatives for the Azrieli Foundation Canada. This piece was originally published by eJewishPhilanthropy.com.

KVETCH 'N' KVELL

Thank You From Schoolteacher

AS A RETIRED EDUCATOR from the Philadelphia public schools who is also a member of the Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools (grassroots organization dedicated to preserving public schools), I was interested in reading Sophie Panzer's article on "Jewish Teachers Express Concern about Schools District's Reopening Plans" (Feb. 18).

I was so appreciative of her research on the environmental issues in the buildings, the teachers interviewed for the article and the history of the labor movement including the importance of teacher labor leader Karen Lewis who recently died. It was one of the most in-depth articles on the current problems of teaching and reopening during the pandemic that I've read. Thank you so much for your coverage of a topic I deeply care about.

Ilene Blitzstein Poses | Philadelphia

Student Is Right to Be Concerned

Thank you, Sophia Rodney ("I'm a Student and I'm Afraid of Where My Party Is Headed," Jan. 28). Being concerned about anti-Semitism on campuses across the country and by certain congresswomen promoting anti-Israel BDS is commendable and should be supported by your fellow classmates, not criticized as "Trumpianism."

These congresswomen — Omar, Tlaib, Ocasio-Cortez — should be ostracized for their blatant anti-Semitism.

Kathleen M. Levin | Philadelphia

Overcoming Willful Blindness

When Donald Trump began his run for president in 2015, he was characterized by Sen. Ted Cruz as a pathological liar. Soon Cruz and millions of others ignored the lies and Trump won the election. Needless, the endless lying continued throughout his presidency. Rabbi Janine Jankovitz is right in condemning those who turned a blind eye to his behavior ("The Question of Unity," Jan. 28).

Over the years, the SPLC and the ADL have provided our security services with data that has supplemented their own noting that the biggest threat to our democracy is from white supremacy. Yet Trump invoked his Orwellian mantra about the election (*I won, it was stolen*) in spite of the evidence against it. The result was the riotous insurrection led by white supremacists.

As of this writing, there are many in the media and in Congress who are downplaying the seriousness of the revolt and the part white supremacists played. Lest we forget, white supremacists hate Jews as much as any other race, color or creed. Once again, willful blindness plagues our body politic. Though anti-Semitism may not end in our lifetime, parading and preaching it ought to be a hate crime punishable by law or we will continue to see T-shirts emblazoned 'Camp Auschwitz' and worse. •

Nathan Farbman | Philadelphia

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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Thirty Years: A Match Made by the Exponent

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

"IT WAS BASHERT!" said Sherri Leon, co-proprietor of Noshes by Sherri, describing the journey to find her husband Michael.

While a student at pharmacy school, Leon placed a personal ad in the Jewish Exponent.

"My roommate and I just did it for the heck of it — we literally said, '2 SJFs seeking 2 SJMs.' We got, like, 50 replies through the P.O. box — remember this was 30-some years ago — we went on a ton of dates. Michael's letter stood out because he was a pharmacist, and he loved skiing and tennis, just like me, but it took months to meet just because of scheduling conflicts."

Sometime in those two

months, Leon went to her travel agent's house to pick up airline tickets and destiny loomed.

"She was a yenta so, of course, she asked me who I was dating. I told her about the personal ad thing and that there was one guy who I hadn't met yet but seemed really promising," she said. "She asked his name, I said, 'Michael Leon' and she shrieked. She ran out of the room, popped a video into her VCR and showed me Michael. He was the best man at her nephew's wedding."

Leon liked what she saw, so she called her future husband, then later went on a date to Bennigan's.

"It was an instant connection. We talked nonstop, ended up closing the place down; they asked us to leave," she said. "We

kept talking in the parking lot, and we are still talking!"

Michael Leon proposed sometime later.

"We were going skiing up to Killington. He insisted on stopping at a hardware store on the way. I was, like, why? We finally got there. It was a foggy, gray day, and Michael raced off the lift and whizzed down the hill. I was yelling, 'Where are you?' He yelled to come down, and when I got there he had written in blue contractor's tape, 'Sherri, will you marry me?' That's why he stopped at the hardware store. It was beautiful from day one."

Thirty years, three kids and two successful pharmacy careers later, the two launched a food business. Michael Leon is retired now, but Sherri Leon still works full time behind the pharmacy counter. The kids help with the business — although they are all professionals in their own right.

The business grew out of a social media quest. A woman was searching for Jewish apple cake for her brother's birthday. She was referred to Sherri Leon, whose apple cake was legendary. She made the cake, was informed that the birthday boy, a renowned foodie and apple cake aficionado, deemed it the best he'd ever had, and pretty soon a business was born.

Their motto is "Love at first bite."

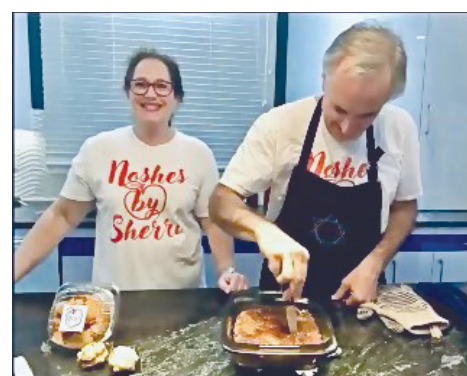
"The first time we served up a knish to a customer, he took a bite and said, 'This is love!' so it kind of stuck," Michael Leon said. "Everyone wants more, they're addictive. Our knishes are lighter and smaller than the typical ones you might see in a deli, which, to me, can sometimes be like lead."

Many of the recipes are passed down from the family. Michael's mother, "Bubbe," was known for the best matzah balls, sponge cake and all sorts of traditional Jewish fare. His



▲ Sherri and Michael Leon

Photos by Rebecca and Alexis Leon



grandmother lived in Israel, and he fondly recalls enjoying her poppy seed cookies on the family's annual visits. The cookies are now on the menu, along with a variety of other sweet and savory items that vary with the season and holidays.

The couple uses local produce whenever possible and even picks their own at nearby orchards and farms during harvest time.

Noshes by Sherri is a regular fixture at many local farmers markets and recently joined the Sisterly Love Food Fair, a consortium of women-owned food businesses that banded together to sell their wares collectively around the region. The baked goods also are available to order via their website noshesbysherri.com.

The following recipe is Bubbe's kugel and is still kept on a 3-by-5 card in the metal file card box with the other

recipe cards from their mothers and grandmothers. This one was typed by Bubbe herself on her manual typewriter.

BUBBE'S NOODLE KUGEL

Serves 8-10

- 6 eggs
- 1 pound thin egg noodles
- 8 ounces Philadelphia cream cheese
- 16 ounces Breakstone cottage cheese
- 16 ounces Breakstone sour cream
- 1 ½ cups of sugar
- ¼ cup cinnamon/sugar mix

Cook the noodles and drain them.

Combine the eggs, sugar, sour cream, cottage cheese and cream cheese in a mixer.

Add that into the noodles and top it with the cinnamon sugar mix.

Bake at 350 F for 1½ hours. ●

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Hand Warmers and Hamentaschen at Chabad

PURIM

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

I WAS AMONG a group of about 30 people who gathered for a Megillah reading on Feb. 25 at Chabad Young Philly at Broad and Catharine streets.

Billed as “COVID-friendly (unfriendly to the virus!),” the evening did indeed bear the indelible marks of the pandemic: masks, hand sanitizers, individually wrapped food and spaced seating. We were outside on a breezy night under a nearly full moon. Hot cider and hand warmers abounded, which created jugglers of us all, as the desire to warm oneself conflicted with the duty to follow along as the Megillah was read and to grogger away when appropriate. Soft yellow lights lined the backyard fence.

Aside from the story of Chanukah, the Book of Esther might be the Jewish story with the greatest distance between the text and its commentaries and the version taught to children.

Ahasuerus, in my Jewish day school education, was nothing more than a bumbler who loved two Jews, and then his Jewish subjects; Vashti's head was simply separated from her crown, rather than from her entire body; and I can't say I recall too much discussion of the Jews doing a preemptive strike on the goyim in each of the 127 provinces.

As I watched costumed children preparing to make all the sanctioned noise they could, I wondered if the last year had registered for them in the way that approaching the text of Esther as an adult did for me. Were stories about the competence and goodwill of the adults in charge revealed to be for children?

The Megillah reading was done with great speed, and the groggering was equally competent; rare was the

premature grog. We heard about Haman, the wicked son of Hammedatha the Agagite himself, and we heard about the brave and beautiful Esther. We joined voices to read a few verses aloud together, and sang together when the reading was completed. We filed out of the backyard slowly at the conclusion, dropping off our Esther texts for sanitation and pocketing hamentaschen for the road. We were even sent on our way with *mishloach manot*, each in a bright purple box.

The whole affair was less than 40 minutes; there was some cleaning to be done, and two more shifts would be coming to hear the Megillah read that evening.

It feels good to write “we” when “we” refers to a group of people who were gathered together in person. It's not



▲ The Megillah is read at Chabad Young Philly on Feb. 25.

Photo by Jesse Bernstein

something I've often had the privilege to do in the last year. It's a “we” with depth because it is a “we” with roots in the real world. For an evening, “we” could think of ourselves as a group of people brought together by intention, rather than as a herd to be immunized, a voting bloc to be courted, camps to be unified or a data point in a spiking graph.

The writer Gabriel Winant

posed some scary questions in an essay last December: Has the last year of savagely rendered isolation and violence revealed that we do not, as Margaret Thatcher once said, live in a society? Has the pandemic hastened the decline of our mutual sense of responsibility?

Impossible to answer. But at Chabad that night, I saw a group of people who answered

in the negative, who seemed to say, in one voice, that “society” might not be something one can opt in or out of. It might just be an ecstatic state, one that requires lots of people to do small things together every day, until the feeling is as real as the hamentaschen in your hand. •

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Documentary ‘Til Kingdom Come’ Investigates Evangelical Support for Israel

FILM

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

IT TAKES Yael Eckstein three days to get from her home in Israel to Middlesboro, Kentucky, but it's a journey she is happy to make.

That's because the city's residents are staunch supporters of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, one of the largest organizations supporting humanitarian projects in Israel. At the time of filming, Christians had donated \$1.4 billions to Israel through the fellowship. It was created by Yael Eckstein's father, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, who named her as his successor.

Middlesboro's residents are not wealthy. Their community is blighted by the decline of coal, economic recession and addiction. Yet they pool their small-dollar donations to the fellowship at their church under the guidance of the Bingham family, a local dynasty of pastors who preach that God will bless the nations who support the nation of Israel.

Director Maya Zinshtein zooms in on this relationship between evangelicals and Israel in her documentary “Til Kingdom Come,” which screened online at the Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival last month. In the film, Yael Eckstein explains that the fellowship supports programs that offer aid to Israel's most vulnerable populations, including minorities and Holocaust survivors, but Zinshtein probes the darkness behind the fervor of its donors.

Evangelicals, Pastor Boyd Bingham III says in the film, believe the return of Jews to the biblical land of Israel is crucial to bringing about the rapture, the second coming of Jesus Christ. It's a period that will be marked by great “tribulations” in the region, including armed conflict, disease and natural disasters, which will culminate in the battle of Armageddon. Two-thirds of Jews will perish, and the other third will be forced to accept Christ as their savior.

“Tribulations” are key. Since the coming of Christ is supposedly heralded by upheaval



▲ An evangelical congregation prays in “Til Kingdom Come.”

Photo by Abraham Troen

in Israel, many of the film's evangelical subjects react to news of violence in the region with eerie excitement.

“As I listen to news reports from Israel, I heard about the bombings and they were bombings even near children. When we see all of these things happening to the nation of Israel, it should give us all hope, that when we hear of these wars, we can look at and say that our redemption will begin,” an evangelical radio host says in an early scene.

The paradox of providing financial support for Israel while preaching the eventual downfall of the Jews clearly makes Zinshtein squirm, and she succeeds in making her audience just as uncomfortable as she is.

Zinshtein interviews Jewish leaders, many of them secular and progressive, who are alarmed by the role of Christianity in Middle East policy and see it as an erosion of the boundary between church and state.

She also speaks with Israeli correspondent Barak Rand, who says with the election of President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence in

2016 and the appointment of prominent evangelicals like Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, evangelicals had the power to combine prophecy and politics. They advocated to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, he says, because they believed it was a step toward the rapture.

“This is political Christianity in which politics is a continuation of a prophetic vision,” Rand tells Zinshtein.

Evangelical involvement in the region also alarms some Palestinian Christians.

“When they look at the future, honestly, they see a horror movie, wars and Armageddon and battles. Their scenario is not one that will help us Palestinians and Israelis coexist,” said Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, who leads a congregation in Bethlehem.

Even Eckstein acknowledges the elephant in the room.

“When the Christian community speaks about what they think is going to happen and what they envision, I agree with 99% of it. But the end is different. Only one of us can be right,” she said.

Zinshtein's research is exhaustive, and the sheer

number of perspectives she obtains on the relationship between evangelicals and Jews is both overwhelming and necessary in such a multifaceted story. Keeping track of the major players' various political and religious motives and anecdotes makes for a dense viewing experience in a 76-minute film.

The director's greatest strength is her ability to balance tough questions with the humanity of her subjects. From Pastor Boyd Bingham IV's story of how faith helped him overcome a deadly illness to Eckstein's close relationship with her father and Rev. Isaac's fear of increasing violence in his region, Zinshtein's interviews convey that the personal is inseparable from the political, and every dollar donated extracts a hidden cost.

In addition to the Gershman screening, the documentary will be available to view through other theaters' online offerings, including the Acme Screening Room in Lambertville, New Jersey, on March 4 and 5. ●

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Full Meaning of a Half-Shekel

BY RABBI ROBYN FRISCH

Parshat Ki Tisa

KI TISA BEGINS with God instructing Moses that when he is taking a census of the Israelite people, everyone 20 or older shall pay a half-shekel. God says: “The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than half a shekel” (Exodus 30:15).

This seemingly simple idea, that each Israelite, regardless of their personal wealth, is required to pay a half-shekel for purposes of the census, has much to teach us. For one thing, there’s the essential lesson that everyone is equal in the eyes of God. Of course, the fact that each person is to give the same amount for purposes of the census doesn’t mean that those who *have* more aren’t at times expected to *give* more.

In fact, the Torah has a system of tithing (discussed in Numbers 18:21-26), according to which a tenth of one’s produce was to be presented to a Levite, who was to then give a 10th of the first tithe to a *kohen* (Numbers

18:26). In later times, there were some rabbis who referred to not just a tithe of produce, but also a tithe of money. And to this day, there are many Jews who donate a tenth of their annual income to charity.

But what the law of the half-shekel teaches us is that, while we all have different amounts that we can — and should — contribute to the community, when it comes to being *counted*, to determining who matters — in the eyes of God, no less — that rich and poor are totally equal. We all *count* the same.

Another important lesson the command to give half a shekel teaches us is that nobody is fully complete on their own. Rather than being instructed to give a *whole* shekel, each person is instructed to give a *half*-shekel. Each person’s half-shekel needs somebody else’s half-shekel to be complete. We’re all dependent on each other. That’s what it means to be part of a community — we’re connected to and dependent upon each other. We all have to give and participate for the community to be fully complete.

Interestingly, these verses

from the beginning of our Torah portion were also read as part of the synagogue service just a few weeks ago on Shabbat Shekalim. Shabbat Shekalim is one of the Arba Parshiyot — four special Torah readings instituted by the Sages on four different Shabbats leading up to Purim and Passover. Shabbat Shekalim occurs on the Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh (the new month) of Adar — or in years like this year it falls *on* Rosh Hodesh Adar. Adar is, of course, the month in which we celebrate Purim.

This means that we read about the requirement to give a half-shekel a couple of weeks before Purim, and we’re reading it again now, just a little over a week after Purim. The idea of the requirement to give a half-shekel teaching us about what it means to be part of a community connects perfectly with the Purim story.

In the Book of Esther, when Mordechai told Esther to go before the king, to “remove her mask,” and reveal to the king her identity as a Jew and ask for her people to be saved,

Esther was hesitant at first. She responded to Mordechai that the king hadn’t summoned her for the past 30 days, and anyone who goes before the king without being called will be killed if the king doesn’t hold out his golden scepter to them. Finally, Esther was convinced to go before the king, but she told Mordechai to first: “Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast in my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day” (Esther 4:16).

Just as Haman planned to kill *all* of the Jews of Shushan, Esther wanted *all* of the Jews in Shushan, rich and poor, to join with her in solidarity before she risked her own life, and the chance to save all of her people by appearing before the king. She recognized that the Jews were stronger when they all banded together. And ultimately, she was successful. Not only did the king extend his golden scepter when Esther appeared before him, but the Jews of Persia were given the right to assemble and fight for their lives.

Queen Esther inherently

knew what our Torah portion Ki Tisa teaches us. Each of us as Jews matter equally, regardless of our wealth. And together, each Jew is part of something much larger than our individual self. We’re part of a community (and I would argue that this also applies to spouses and partners of Jews who may not themselves be Jewish, but who have chosen to include their lot with ours) and each of us, like Queen Esther, must do our part to help the Jewish community not just survive, but to thrive. ●

Rabbi Robyn Frisch is the director of the 18Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship and the spiritual leader of Temple Menorah Keneseth Chai in Northeast Philadelphia. The Board of Rabbis is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



Silow-Carroll

Continued from Page 14

often work Jewish events. I asked if the critics are overreacting, and whether these comedians tell jokes in front of Jewish audiences that they wouldn’t share with a wider public.

“I don’t think the writers were thinking about it nearly as much as we think they were,” said Benji Lovitt, a U.S.-born, Israel-based comedian. “The most obvious interpretation is by far the most likely to me and the only reasonable one: that [Che] thinks Israel oppresses Palestinians and that if you’re not Jewish, you’re ‘less than.’ Do I think this joke was a fair and logical expression of that? No, because the premise is flawed. There’s a lot to criticize with Israel

but its distribution of vaccinations isn’t one of those things.

“And on top of that, even if the joke was a smart, biting critique on Israeli policy regarding settlement growth, let’s say ... what’s it doing on ‘SNL?’”

Joel Chasnoff, a comedian and creator/host of the forthcoming podcast “Interesting Jews,” says the joke may or may not be anti-Semitic — but it’s certainly anti-comedic.

“Ultimately, I think it is anti-Semitic ... but I’m on the fence,” said Chasnoff, who recently moved to Israel. “What bugs me most about the joke is that it’s not creative. It’s just so freakin’ easy to put Israel down, make Israel seem like colonialist oppressors, and feed into that whole narrative. So not only is

it not true, it’s not artistically inventive. ‘Israel isn’t nice to Palestinians’ — there’s absolutely nothing brave or exploratory in that.”

Talia Reese, once dubbed “the raunchiest Orthodox mom doing stand-up,” thought the joke felt lazy.

“Do I think Michael Che is anti-Semitic? No. I think what he did was irresponsible and to be honest, I didn’t even get the joke at first,” Reese said. “When I heard it, I scratched my head like, ‘The vaccine is available to every Israeli citizen, don’t they know that?’ Then on a second listen, I thought, ‘Oh, they’re trying to make it like the Jews in Israel are hoarding the vaccine for themselves.’ That’s crazy!”

As far as apologizing, “I’m

against comedians apologizing for jokes. It’s awkward and absurd,” she said. “The backlash speaks for itself, and bravo to watchdog groups. That’s a job I wouldn’t want. That said, I don’t care if ‘SNL’ apologizes. I do think they should joke responsibly in the future.”

Rami Even-Esh, who leans hard into his Jewish identity as the rapper Kosha Dillz, thought Che’s joke failed because it lacked context. “People can do anti-Semitic things and not inherently be anti-Semitic just as people can uphold white supremacy/racism and not be white supremacists/racist. We need to educate people like Michael. That is our job. We should never cancel.”

Dani Zoldan, who owns

the Stand Up NY comedy club, defended the joke.

“I believe that funny is funny no matter how uncomfortable or offensive. We need to be able to laugh at ourselves,” said Zoldan.

But Chasnoff says the “SNL” joke failed because it violated a cardinal rule: It wasn’t true.

“That’s the point of smart comedy — to challenge the common wisdom by presenting truth, even if it’s uncomfortable to hear. If it makes you squirm but it’s true, then good! But this ‘SNL’ joke isn’t opening our eyes to some unspoken truth we’re afraid to discuss. It’s just lazy.” ●

Andrew Silow-Carroll is the editor-in-chief of the Jewish Week in New York. This piece was originally published by JTA.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mobilizes financial and volunteer resources to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, in Israel and around the world.

The Jewish Federation Helps JCHAI Serve Disability Population During Pandemic

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN at an all-time high during the pandemic. Many of those impacted include people with disabilities, like Jordyn Dannenbaum.

Dannenbaum, who has Down syndrome, had to resign from her job in a nursing home due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, and left her second job when the office closed down around the same time. Fortunately, Dannenbaum has Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence, an organization that serves people with disabilities by providing them with transitional housing, socialization opportunities, life skills training and more.

"Some clients lost their jobs, our in-person programs went virtual, getting groceries delivered to people in apartments became impossible, because those platforms were inundated by the general population. Plus, the cost of food skyrocketed," said Stacy Levitan, JCHAI's executive director. "Locating PPE was a nightmare, and since many of our clients who kept their jobs were essential workers, we also had to worry about keeping our staff safe."

A few weeks into the pandemic, JCHAI received close to \$50,000 from the Jewish Federation's Emergency Relief Fund. Those dollars offset the increasing price of food and supported programs through their transition to virtual platforms. JCHAI also received PPE, including clear masks for those with hearing impairments to read lips and those on the autism spectrum to better interpret social cues relayed through facial expressions.

"During those early days, we had so many problems competing for our attention and fundraising was difficult for individual agencies," Levitan said. "The Jewish Federation has become very sophisticated when it comes to figuring out where to direct dollars on an emergency basis, and they do a really good job working closely with those of us in the community to shepherd funding where it's needed most."

In the earliest days of the pandemic, JCHAI received a toilet paper donation from the Jewish Federation — a precious commodity at the time. Levitan and her staff also participated in webinars with health experts, hosted by Jewish Federations of North America and the local Jewish Federation, and relied on the Jewish Federation to guide them through emergency loan applications.

When Levitan reflects on 2020, she speaks of JCHAI clients who have worked through the pandemic. Many are essential workers, employed by grocery stores, hospitals, schools and other businesses.

"It's been really heartening to see that people with disabilities have been just as integral to keeping our communities going as any other essential worker," said Levitan, beaming with pride.

Cristy Hollin, whose son Matthew has Fragile X syndrome and is a JCHAI client, could not agree more. Matthew works in the linen room at Lankenau Medical Center and has remained employed throughout the pandemic.

"We're just beyond proud of how he's handled the pandemic," said Hollin, who is the co-chair of the Jewish Federation's Committee for Social Responsibility. "We hope he continues to maintain a full-time job and keeps learning and growing and building friendships because that's just as good as it gets."

While the pandemic has added another layer of difficulty on a population that already faces countless challenges, the JCHAI community takes comfort knowing that the Jewish Federation is there for them. JCHAI continued to feel that support from a recent grant of \$100,000 through the Jewish Federation's health and human services initiative with JFNA.

"Psychologically, it's just wonderful knowing we're not alone," Levitan said. "We have those who support us, like the Jewish Federation. The reality is no matter how tough it gets, we never have to go through it by ourselves."



▲ Matthew Hollin outside of Lankenau Medical Center, where he has worked throughout the pandemic
Courtesy of Cristy Hollin



▲ Jordyn Dannenbaum at the beach

Courtesy of Cindy Dannenbaum

BIRTHS

► CLEMENTINE GRACE BOTEL

Katie Botel of Los Angeles announces the birth of her daughter, Clementine Grace, born Sept. 28, 2020.

Sharing in her joy are grandparents Nina and Max Botel of Bryn Mawr and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and aunts, uncles and cousins in Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles and Tucson, Arizona.

Clementine is named in loving memory of her great-grandmothers, Ceil Cherry Botel and Gertrude Bobman Bennett.

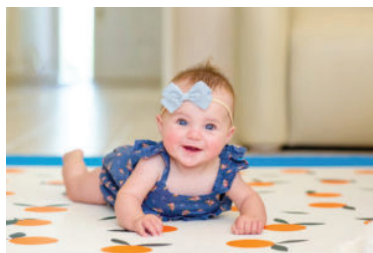


Photo by Katie Botel

► MEARA GRACE ZUK

Susan and Harve Strouse announce the birth of their granddaughter, Meara Grace Zuk (Miriam Gitel), born on Jan. 26.

Meara is the daughter of Alissa and Peter Zuk and the sister of Max Finn of Alexandria, Virginia.

Meara is named for her maternal great-grandmother Miriam (Mitzi) Zucker and her paternal great-grandmother Grace Strouse.

Photo by Susan B. Strouse



► EVIE DRESNER HEINZ

Aliza Richman and Paul Heinz of West Chester announce the birth of their daughter Evie Dresner Heinz on Nov. 24, 2020.

Sharing in their happiness are grandparents Wendy and Jeffrey Richman of Elkins Park, and Dorothy and Sam Heinz of West Chester, along with great-grandparents Tobe Dresner and Pearl and Edward Richman.

Joining in the celebration are aunt Jamie and uncle Jesse Richman, aunt Ellen and uncle Roger Carman, and uncle John Heinz.

Evie Dresner is named in loving memory of her maternal great-grandfather, Arnold Dresner.

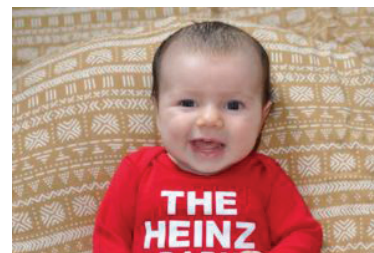


Photo by Ava Richman

ANNIVERSARY

► ABRAMS

Beth and George Abrams, formerly of Wyncote, Rydal and Longport, New Jersey, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 26 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, at their home in Ballen Isles.

Their loving family shared their joy with a surprise brunch delivery and Zoom gathering with their children, Brad and Suzanne, JD and Suzi, and grandchildren Scott, Melissa, Jordyn, Max and Lily. The festivities included a montage of wishes from friends and family near and far.



Photo by Norman Levinson

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rabbi Sussman to Host Zoom Talk with Yiddish Forverts Editor

SENIOR RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel will host a Zoom talk at 7:30 p.m. on March 10 with Rukhl Schaechter, the editor of Yiddish Forverts, which is described as the only remaining Yiddish newspaper outside the Chasidic Jewish world.

Bronx-raised Schaechter is the first woman as well as the first person born in the United States to hold the position of editor; she is likely also the first Sabbath-observant Jew to edit the paper, which dates to 1897. She is the daughter of Yiddish linguist Mordkhe Schaechter, and her aunt was Yiddish poet and songwriter Beryle Schaechter-Gottesman.

During the talk with Sussman, she will discuss how she started working at Yiddish Forverts as a reporter in 1998, among other topics. She was named editor in 2016 and has been credited for increasing the publication's online outreach.

For more information about the event and a link to attend, email: contact@kenesethisrael.org.

Einstein's 'Capturing Hope' Exhibit Opens

"Capturing Hope," a photography exhibit depicting the civil rights movement, is on display at Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, features photos on loan from the African American Museum in Philadelphia that were taken by Jack T. Franklin. The noted photographer donated his collection of more than 500,000 negatives to the museum in 1986.

The collection comprises photos of the civil rights movement and numerous, cultural and political events in Philadelphia's African American community during his lifetime.

"Capturing Hope" is divided into three themes: "Freedom Isn't Free," which features the civil rights movement; "Martin Luther King Remembered"; and "From Philadelphia to D.C., the March to Washington."

The exhibit, which opened in February to commemorate Black History Month, is located in the Community Corridor in the Tower Building — the main building on the Einstein Medical Center

Philadelphia campus at 5501 Old York Road. Visitors are required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



▲ A protest in Philadelphia in the 1960s photographed by Jack T. Franklin
Photo by Jack T. Franklin

DEATH NOTICES

BADER

Terry Bader, (nee Weisberg) of Philadelphia, formerly of Elkins Park, died on February 11, 2021 after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Samuel, she is survived by her loving children, Linda Taxin (Joel), Janis Bader (Michael) O'Connor, and Mark Bader, grandchildren Ellyn Burger (Shaun), Scott Taxin (Arielle) and great grandchildren, Maysen Taxin and Sloan Burger. Due to covid-19 precautions, services were private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the SPCA or any animal organization.

COHEN

Gilbert S. Cohen, CPA, passed away peacefully on January 25, 2021. Husband of Rhoda (Block) for over 65 years. Loving father of Amy (Rabbi Barry Blum), Marian (Evjatar Cohen) and David (Mindy Saifer). Poppy to Ira Blum, Risa Waldoks, Shoshana Blum, Leonie Cohen, Rebecca Cohen, Julie Cohen, Emmy Cohen and Molly Cohen. He was born and raised in Phila. and Upper Darby. He was a Corporal in the U.S. Army during The Korean War, stationed in Louisville Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Certified Public Accountant and taught for many years first at Peirce Jr. College and then at Montgomery County Community College. Services are private due to Covid restrictions. Contributions in his memory can be made payable to Montgomery County Community College referencing The Gilbert S. Cohen, CPA Scholarship Fund at Montgomery County Community College, 340 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

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CORNFIELD

Barbara "Bobbi" Cornfield, Feb. 14, 2021. Beloved wife of Martin Strongin. Loving mother of Lori Zdanio and Denise Strongin. Devoted grandmother of Nicholas Zdanio. She was a beautiful woman that was loved by everyone she touched.

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FEIGENBERG

Evelyn Feigenberg (nee Beer) on February 18, 2021 at the age of 84. Wife of the late Dr. Marvin E. Feigenberg; mother of Andrew (Barbara) Feigenberg, Sheri (Gregg) Hensel and Dr. Steven (Khue) Feigenberg; grandmother of Jacob, Matthew and Isabelle Feigenberg, Bobby (Laurie) Feigenberg and Staci (fiancé David Steen) Feigenberg. Born in 1936 in Vienna, Austria to Lillian and Lina Beer where they escaped to Switzerland in 1938 due to the Nazi's imminent invasion of Austria. The family lived in Schaffhausen until 1941 when they immigrated to the United States sailing from Portugal. Evelyn was a graduate of Girls High and Temple University and taught elementary school and special education for the Philadelphia School System until she retired in 1993. Contributions in her memory may be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington DC 20024-2126.

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DEATH NOTICES

FREEMARK

Morton Freemark on February 23, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Molly (nee Blumberg); Loving father of Stuart (Terry) Freemark, Michael (Anne) Freemark and Wendy (Daniel) Criden; Devoted grandfather of Emanuel (Luzzi), Avi (Katherine), Matan (Jasmine), Galit (Alon), Yoni, Samara (Ben) and Yonnie (Daniel); Adoring great-grandfather of Lupo, Caio, Maya, Gabriella, Joshua, Julien, Theo and Emma. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation, www.clfoundation.org
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FRIEDMAN

Reba Friedman (nee Lieberman) Feb. 23, 2021. Wife of the late Paul, mother of Dr. Alan (Patti) Friedman, sister of Sol Lieberman, grandmother of Lee (Erica) Friedman, Scott Friedman and Jessica (Eric) Shoemaker, great grandmother of Dylan, Lexie, Jack and Tanner. Graveside Services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 1818 Market Street, Suite 2820, Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.cancer.org

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GRAVES

Frieda Graves (nee Kimmelman) February 20, 2021. Mother of Laurie Bronstein, Jo Ann O'Donnell and the late Betsy Barth Bronstein. Also survived by three grandchildren Abbigayl (nee Bunnell) Flores, Sylvia Bunnell and Hannah Bunnell, two great grandchildren and many other loving family and friends. Frieda was a celebrated ceramic artist, floral artist and culinary master, where everything she touched was transformed by her love and unique perspective. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Cheltenham Center for the Arts.

JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS
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HECKLIN

It is with tremendous sadness and grief that we announce the passing of Lawrence "Larry" E. Hecklin of Buckingham, PA, at the age of 55, on February 17, 2021. Larry was a graduate of Cheltenham High School and Hartford University, where he earned his undergraduate degree. He spent most of his career as VP of Sales in Live Events. Larry loved what he did for a living and was great at it. He is survived by his beloved wife Mindi Hecklin (nee Zavodnick). Loving father to Jacob and Joshua Hecklin. Cherished son of Shirley Hecklin (nee Goldberg) and the late Dr. Oscar B. "O.B." Hecklin. Dear brother of Brenda Hecklin. Larry also leaves behind close relatives and many loving devoted friends whom he cherished. If you wish to honor his memory contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation 555 Croton Rd. Suite 111, King of Prussia PA 19406 www.jdrf.org or to a charity of the donor's choice. Funeral Services are private due to Covid restrictions.

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KORNBERG

Fredric Kornberg on February 17, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Annise (nee Boles); Loving father of Eric Kornberg, Kevin (Lorelie) Greber, Steven Greber and the late Jason Kornberg; Adoring grandfather of Ian and Caroline; Devoted uncle of Dr. Bruce (Merle) Kornberg; Dear friend of Garth Weldon. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Federation of Greater Phila., 2100 Arch St., Phila., PA 19103.

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LESSACK

It is with tremendous sadness and grief that we announce the death of Amy Lessack of Blue Bell, PA, who passed on February 20, 2021, after a long battle with breast cancer at the age of 55. Amy was a graduate of Upper Dublin High School and Penn State University, where she earned both undergraduate and masters degrees. Her 30-year career was spent in the financial and health care sectors, during which she was a Vice President at First Union and a Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo. Most recently, at Ameri-sourceBergen, she was a Director in its corporate university. Throughout her life, Amy was a passionate advocate, serving on the boards of Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC) and YMCA Camp Tockwogh. She was proud of the mission of LBBC and the assistance it provided. She was, however, happiest at Camp Tockwogh. She looked forward to attending its family camp every August so that she could spend time with her fabulous friends — playing tennis, waterskiing and hanging out at the Tiki, laughing and telling stories along the way. Diagnosed with breast cancer at 36, Amy fought an inspiring 19-year battle while supporting — and finding support in — others refusing to be defined by the disease. Regardless of the obstacle, she fought with grace and dignity, even in her final moments. Not once did she bemoan the diagnosis; instead, it inspired her to live life to its fullest. Amy was predeceased by her beloved father, Jordan Lessack. She is survived by her mother, Arlene Lessack, and her sister, Abby Lessack (Michael Grendzynski). Amy also leaves behind many loving relatives and devoted friends, whom she cherished. The family is grateful for their unwavering support over the years. We feel lucky to have had Amy in our lives, and only wish we had more time with her. May her memory be a blessing. We will miss her dearly. If you would like to honor Amy, please consider contributing to Living Beyond Breast Cancer (https://www.lbbs.org) or Female Hebrew Benevolent Society of Philadelphia (https://www.fhbs.org).

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DEATH NOTICES

LISKER

Dr. Sheldon Alan Lisker of Lafayette Hill, PA, died peacefully in his home on February 21, 2021 at the age of 88. Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1933 to Dr. Samuel Lisker and Dorothy (nee Amsterdam) Lisker, he graduated from Central High School (Class of 1950), the University of Pennsylvania (Class of 1954) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (Class of 1958). After completing his one-year medical internship, he served as a physician in the U.S. Air Force from 1959-61 before returning to Philadelphia, where he completed his medical residency and fellowship in 1965. He was an attending physician in Internal Medicine with a specialty in Hematology and Oncology at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia from 1965-1997. He served as the long-time Chief of Hematology-Oncology and the Co-Director of the Graduate Hospital Cancer Center. In addition, he was a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine for over 25 years, where he received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching in 1990. At the end of his career, he served as a Medical Director of VITAS Hospice from 1995-2009. He was a wonderful and caring physician and mentor who made a lasting impact on his patients, colleagues and students. Sheldon was a lifelong learner who believed in the value of education and passed that on to his four children. He had a passion for classical literature, studying U.S. and European history and listening to classical music and opera. And he was a long-suffering Philadelphia sports fan who was thrilled to see the Eagles finally win the Super Bowl in 2018. In his retirement, he enjoyed reading, traveling and spending quality time with his family and lifelong friends. He is survived by his wife Karen (nee Knapp) of nearly 63 years; his brother Joel (Lena) Lisker of McLean, VA; his four children Gary (Mariam) Lisker of Alexandria, VA, Dr. Susan (Ken) Powell of Olympia, WA, Dr. Donna (Peter) Lisker of Tiverton, RI and Marc (Caroline) Lisker of Greenwich, CT; and his eight grandchildren Chandini, Manisha, Vitthal, Malati, Charlotte, Luke, Olivia and Ethan. Private family service. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his memory to Doctors Without Borders, Partners In Health or the Lisker Family Scholarship Fund at William Penn Charter School.

MITTIN

Toby Mittin (nee Silberman) on February 18, 2021. Wife of the late Annie Mittin, devoted mother of Mark (Hannah Bar-Giora) Mittin and the late David Mittin. Service and interment private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 30 S. 17th St., Suite 800, Phila., PA 19103.

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RAEFSKY

Manuel "Manny" Raefsky, born April 1934 in Philadelphia. Passed away February 22, 2021. Lover of music, travel, photography and airplanes. Husband, father and Zayde. Preceded in death by his wife Bobbe. Survived by daughters Jessica Raefsky and Lisa (Bill) Yates, sister Estelle Alexander and grandsons Noah and Oliver Yates. May his memory be a blessing for us all. In lieu of flowers donation can be made to Chabad of the West Valley, 7942 W Bell Rd. C5, #101 Glendale AZ 85308.

SINAI MORTUARY of ARIZONA
www.sinaimortuary.net

DEATH NOTICES

ROTHKOPF

Celia Nires Rothkopf, age 73, died suddenly on February 18, 2021. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Brad Rothkopf. Beloved mother of Jay (Debbie) Rothkopf and Lauren (Daniel Rubin) Rothkopf. Wildly adored Bubby of Michael, Matthew, Maxwell and Emily Rothkopf and Benjamin and Spencer Rubin. Cherished friend of so many. Celia was born in Russia, moved to the United States as a teenager and graduated at the top of her class from Temple University. Her legacy is her family and incredible generosity towards both those close to her and strangers. She will be forever missed. Internment was private. A virtual memorial was held for family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation or Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard.

SCOTT

Suzanne F. Scott (nee Fink), February 20th, 2021 of Lafayette Hill, PA. Wife of the late David Gerald Scott. Mother of Kathy Weaver (Scott), Craig Scott (Kim), Patricia Scott (Ralph Picard), and the late Pamela Scott. Grandmother of Travis Weaver, Luken Weaver (Daphne), Johanna Weaver (Ben Chen), Kyle Scott (Elizabeth) and Cara Scott. Step Grandmother of Julia Reusch (Jonathan) and Mattie Diveglia (Anthony). Great-Grandmother of Madelyn Scott and Step Great-Grandmother of Henry Reusch, Charlie Reusch, Jack Diveglia and Elliot Diveglia. Services were private. The family respectfully requests that contributions in her memory be made to the Philadelphia Foundation (Pamela Scott Fund), United Way, or Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

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SILVER

Sandra Silver (nee Pepper). February 24, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Herman. Loving mother of Bobbi Smith (Steve) and the late Joni, Marcia, and Sherry. Devoted grandmother of Michael, Beth, Joey, and Sean. Dear great-grandmother of Darren, Kaitlyn, Joey, Jake, and Brett. Contributions in her memory may be made to Jewish Federation, www.jewishphilly.org

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DEATH NOTICES

TUCKER

Barbara Jane (nee Brown), February 23, 2021, age 79, of Oreland, PA. She was a retired executive and officer of The Mifflin, McCambridge Company of Riverdale, MD, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company, and Domestic Distributors, a pharmaceutical brokerage firm of Feasterville, PA and Jupiter, FL, both owned by her father, Leonard Brown. Barb was an avid lover of the cat fancy and was herself an owner and breeder of Siamese show cats. She showed and championed her cats and supported many animal welfare organizations over the years. She was also active in The Final Exit Network (previously The Hemlock Society of Delaware Valley), for which she was the recording secretary, and a supporter of many national Right to Die organizations. Barb endured many years of Peripheral Neuropathy and, unfortunately, did not see a cure in her lifetime. She is survived by her niece Sara Montoya of Camp Hill, PA, nephew Ted Brown of Pennsville, NJ, and cousin Jerome Brown of Houston, TX. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Final Exit Network, PO Box 10071, Tallahassee, FL 32302 or The Neuropathy Association, 60 E. 62nd Street, Suite 942, New York, NY 10165.

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WEINER

Samuel Henry Weiner of Yardley, PA, died at his home on February 20, 2021 at the age of 94 from complications of myelofibrosis, a type of blood cancer. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1944 despite being a terrible student. He then enlisted in the Army and served in the Pacific Theater in World War II, where he spent time as a Prisoner of War and earned a Bronze Star. After his discharge in 1946 he attended Penn State University with assistance from the GI Bill, graduating in 1950 with a B.S. in Physics. He then worked at ITE Circuit Breaker in Philadelphia while completing requirements and earning an M.S. in Physics from Penn State. He was discovered to have talent for writing patents and was hired by a New York based patent law firm, now known as Ostrolenk Faber LLP. He earned a J.D. from Temple University Law School in 1961, and stayed at Ostrolenk through his retirement as the firm's Senior Partner at the age of 84. During his remarkable 60-year career he wrote and litigated patents for solar batteries, rectifiers, microchips, light dimmers and MRI medical technology that revolutionized modern life. He enjoyed travel, great food, reading, the Saturday New York Times Crossword puzzle, opera, sports, a good joke, a cold glass of gin and lousy cigars. Most of all, he cherished his family. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Bella (1929-1992) and is survived by his loving partner Alina Groblicka, sons, Louis (Harriet) Weiner and Stephen (Ryta) Weiner, grandchildren, Kenneth Weiner (Sarah), Elana Fertig (Benjamin), Marla Mindelle, Lisa Westermarck (Kai), David Weiner (Kelly), Olivia Weiner, and seven great-grandchildren. Even in death he remains his family's North Star, guiding us to our better selves. To celebrate his extraordinary life, please direct contributions to Fox Chase Cancer Center, the US Memorial Holocaust Museum, or the charity of your choice.

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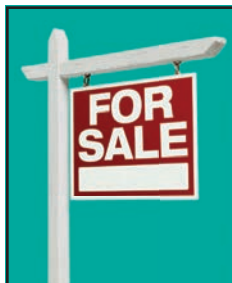
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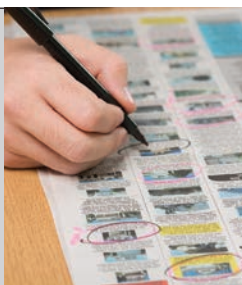
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DISSOLUTION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all creditors and claimants of FROF, Inc., a PA corp., that the corp. is voluntarily dissolving and its Board of Directors is engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corp. so that its corporate existence shall be ended pursuant to the provisions of the PA Business Corp. Law of 1988. FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP, Solicitors, 2000 Market St., 20th Fl., Phila., PA 19103

Friends of Hallahan has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Cheshire Law Group Clarkson-Watson House 5275 Germantown Ave. First Floor Philadelphia, PA 19144

NONPROFIT CORPORATION - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the PA Dept. of State to incorporate The Archimedes Society under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corp. Law of 1988. The corporation is formed exclusively as a social and recreation club for the pleasure and recreation of its members and other nonprofit purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. TROUTMAN PEPPER HAMILTON SANDERS LLP, Solicitors, 100 Market St., Ste. 200, Harrisburg, PA 17101

REVOCABLE TRUST OF ESTHER BARG DATED MARCH 22, 2011 AS AMENDED

ESTHER BARG DECEASED, LATE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. THIS TRUST IS IN EXISTENCE AND ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST ESTHER BARG TO MAKE KNOWN THE SAME AND ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO THE DECEDENT TO MAKE PAYMENT WITHOUT DELAY TO ANDREW GREEN, TRUSTEE OR TO HIS ATTORNEY ALLEN S. KELLERMAN.

ALLEN S. KELLERMAN, ESQUIRE. 255 S. 17TH STREET SUITE 2609 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Act of Assembly No. 295, effective March 16, 1983, of the filing in the office of the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, an application for the conduct of a business in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania under the assumed or fictitious name, style or designation of Name: Vantage Foods PA, Inc., with its principal place of business at: 825 East Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67202.. The names and addresses of all persons or entities owning or interested in said business are Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation, 825 East Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67202. The application was filed on 2/23/2021.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF HENRY C. WILSON, 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 AZALEE BELLAMY, EXECUTRIX, c/o Marc Vogin, Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Or to her Attorney: MARC VOGIN KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF AGNES G. BOND, 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 BRENDA STANFORD, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Danielle M. Yacono, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: DANIELLE M. YACONO THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

ESTATE OF FLORENCE W. KIRN, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JOHN A. KIRN, EXECUTOR, c/o Andrew J. Barron, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ANDREW J. BARRON LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ISABELLA POSCH HELLER, 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 Yael JEKOGIAN, EXECUTOR, c/o Andrew J. Barron, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ANDREW J. BARRON THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of JOANN T. MAPP; MAPP, JOANN T., Deceased Late of Philadelphia, PA
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Raheem Mapp, c/o John Richey, Esq., The Tannenbaum Law Group, 600 West Germantown Pike, Suite 400, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, Administrator.
The Tannenbaum Law Group 600 West Germantown Pike Suite 400 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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



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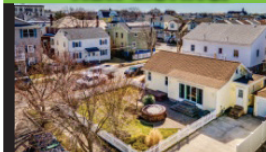
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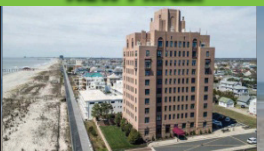
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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE of Nicholas R. D'Annunzio aka Nicholas D'Annunzio; D'Annunzio, Nicholas R. aka D'Annunzio, Nicholas, Deceased
Late of Philadelphia, PA
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Donna Schmidt, c/o Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq., Perpiglia & Assocs., 1332 Jackson St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, Administratrix.
Paul J. Perpiglia, Esq., Perpiglia & Assocs., 1332 Jackson St., Philadelphia, PA 19148

ESTATE of RALPH DUBROFF; DUBROFF, RALPH, 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: Stanley Dubroff, c/o Edward Benoff, Esq., Benoff Law Firm, 5 Neshaminy Interplex, Suite 205, Trevose, PA 19053, Executor.
Benoff Law Firm
5 Neshaminy Interplex
Suite 205
Trevose, PA 19053

ESTATE of SEYMOUR LEINER, 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 JESSICA LEIGH BROOKSTEIN, EXECUTRIX, 2005 Poplar St., Philadelphia, PA 19130

www.JewishExponent.com

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE of VIOLA REDMOND; REDMOND, VIOLA, Deceased
Late of Philadelphia, PA
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Elvira Jones, c/o David W. Crosson, Esq., Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC, 609 W. Hamilton St., Suite 210, Allentown, PA 18101, Administratrix.
Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC
609 W. Hamilton St.
Suite 210
Allentown, PA 18101

ESTATE of WILLIAM LEONARD GOLDSTEIN, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to STUART GOLDSTEIN, ADMINISTRATOR, 316 Inman Terrace, Willow Grove, PA 19090.
Or to his Attorney:
MARYBETH O. LAURIA
THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL S. CONNOR, LLC
644 Germantown Pike, Ste. 2-C
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 10, 2020 for **Alterprox** at 169 Roselyn St. Philadelphia, PA 19120. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Ricardo Scutt at 169 Roselyn St. Philadelphia, PA 19120. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S. 311.

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FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 20, 2020 for **Andrea Byard & The GLAD Praise Team** at 5724 Woodcrest Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19131. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Andrea Byard at 5724 Woodcrest Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19131. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 22, 2020 for **Enhanced Property Appearance** at 2526 E. Dauphin St. Philadelphia, PA 19125. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Frank Lee Benton at 2526 E. Dauphin St. Philadelphia, PA 19125. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 03, 2020 for **Flassi** at 2216 N 15th Street Unit 1, Philadelphia, PA 19132. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Anthony Hypolite at 2216 N 15th Street Unit 1, Philadelphia, PA 19132. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 05, 2021 for **High Tea & Happy Hour** at 6241 Morton St. Philadelphia, PA 19144. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Janay Gambel Williams at 6241 Morton St. Philadelphia, PA 19144. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 28, 2020 for **Jeffrey Santos Consulting** at 8716 Autumn Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19115. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Jeffrey Santos at 8716 Autumn Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19115. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 20, 2020 for **KANDL HAUS** at 1720 Fountain Street Philadelphia, PA 19121. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Hasani Mwamba Lynch at 1720 Fountain Street Philadelphia, PA 19121. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 18, 2020 for **Laurel for Websites** at 1011 S. Fairhill St. Philadelphia, PA 19147. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Laurel Walker Natale at 1011 S. Fairhill St. Philadelphia, PA 19147. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

To place a Classified Ad, call 215.832.0749

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 11, 2021 for **Locs and Lipstick** at 521 W. Fisher Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19120. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Shana S. Barnes at 521 W. Fisher Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19120. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 11, 2020 for **Peridot International** at 2551 South Fairhill Street Philadelphia, PA 19148. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Jamil Muhammad at 2551 South Fairhill Street Philadelphia, PA 19148. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 18, 2020 for **SATAV BOUTIQUE** at 705 N. 39th St. Philadelphia, PA 19104. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Samantha Ketchmore at 705 N. 39th St. Philadelphia, PA 19104. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 07, 2021 for **Shirletterly Travels and Things** at 2118 Kensington Walk Philadelphia, PA 19125. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Shirlette Chambers at 2118 Kensington Walk Philadelphia, PA 19125. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 25, 2020 for **Something New Thrift Store** at 5248 Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19139. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Yvonne Stanton at 5248 Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19139. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 10, 2020 for **Taj Consulting GC** at 12002 Ferndale St. Philadelphia, PA 19116. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Fayiz F Mustafa at 12002 Ferndale St. Philadelphia, PA 19116. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 03, 2020 for **The Olney Art Center** at 1342 West Chew St. Philadelphia, PA 19141. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Christopher Murray at 1342 West Chew St. Philadelphia, PA 19141. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

SELL IT IN THE JEWISH EXPONENT 215-832-0749

FICTITIOUS NAME

Fictitious Name Registration Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 15, 2020 for **Vacant Dreams** at 1300 N. 2nd St. Apt. 1206 Philadelphia, PA 19122. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Justin MacDonald at 1300 N. 2nd St. Apt. 1206 Philadelphia, PA 19122. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

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Hate

Continued from Page 13

October. “We know that these types of interactions are increasing, and it is time for our legislature to take action.”

The bills were crafted in concert with the Coalition Against Hate, a multi-ethnic ecumenical group of leaders from across Pennsylvania. The group includes Gainey and state Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa, also of Allegheny County. Before his primary defeat in 2020, former state Sen. Larry Farnese, of Philadelphia, was also a sponsor of the Coalition’s legislation.

Leaders from the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and regional representatives of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League worked with other leading minority groups to iron out the details of how to best protect one another with hate crime legislation.

Crucially, Frankel said, the Coalition Against Hate counts the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference among its stakeholders.

“It was a huge step to get the Catholic Conference to the table, to basically endorse the idea that we ought to be identifying hate crimes against people because

of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression,” Frankel said.

Though the Coalition Against Hate’s work predates ADL Regional Director Shira Goodman’s time with the organization, she emphasized that the effort reflected the organization’s fight against hate.

Though Jewish people are already a protected class in Pennsylvania, “We are not content to have an uninclusive bill in Pennsylvania, because everybody in Pennsylvania should be safe from being targeted that way,” Goodman said.

Whether the bills make it into law this time remains to be seen, though Frankel told the CBS affiliate in Pittsburgh that he expects bipartisan support.

Goodman is cautiously optimistic.

“I think it’s hard to predict in Pennsylvania what will be the thing that moves people. I would have thought after Tree of Life, when these bills were introduced, that they would have had a good shot of getting the hearing and bipartisan support,” Goodman said. “I think that the partisan divides in our legislature make that very difficult. However, we and Rep. Frankel and other partners in the coalition are talking to people on both sides of the aisle.” •

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▼ SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Mentalist David Jaison

Join **Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El** live on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. for a performance by mentalist David Jaison. \$36 per screen. Call 215-635-1505 or visit facebook.com/groups/mbiee.org for more information.

Virtual Havdalah

The **Jewish Federation's** Super Sunday is also on Saturday night, with a virtual Havdalah featuring Joey Weisenberg of Hadar's Rising Song Institute. Following the 7:30 p.m. service, visit "Schmooze & Share Rooms" hosted by community members. To learn more, visit jewishphilly.org/supersunday or register by visiting jewishphilly.org/signup.

▼ SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Do a Mitzvah

Drop off a bag of food to one of the five **Mitzvah Food Pantries** across the community or **Shir Ami Congregation** in Newtown and help ensure that those who are hungry have access to food for Jewish Federation's Super Sunday. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit jewishphilly.org/supersunday to learn more.

Holocaust Teach-In

Gratz College's online biennial Arnold and Esther Tuzman Memorial Holocaust Teach-In features Art Spiegelman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning artist, illustrator and author of "Maus." Spiegelman will discuss his art, comics as a medium and "Maus," the Holocaust narrative that tells the story of his parents' survival and his experience as the child of survivors, at 1 p.m. Cost \$18. Call 215-635-7300 ext 155 or

mcohen@gratz.edu for more information.

Women's Health Forum

During this free virtual forum hosted by the Neighborhood Initiatives of the **Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia**, participants will learn from experts in women's health through guided meditation and yoga. 3 p.m. Email delawarecounty@kehillah.org. jewishphilly.org for more information.

▼ MONDAY, MARCH 8

Women in Hollywood

Join the **Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival** as film critic Elizabeth Weitzman shares unknown stories and rare clips from the last century of pioneering Jewish women in Hollywood. This interactive Zoom discussion will stream at 7 p.m. Email info@pjff.org for more information.

▼ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Virtual Bingo

Old York Road Temple-Beth Am Sisterhood will host virtual bingo at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. Cost: \$18 per person includes three bingo cards and one raffle ticket, \$25 per person includes three bingo cards and five raffle tickets. For further information, contact Cindy Garber at cin.garber@gmail.com. RSVP by March 5.

▼ THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Workshop for Moms

Jewish Family and Children's Service will host Rise Gathering's CEOs Rachel and Tami for a virtual self-care workshop for mothers at 8 p.m. Contact JFCS Family Life Education Associate Sarah Waxman at swaxman@jfcshilly.org or 267-804-5888 to register. ●

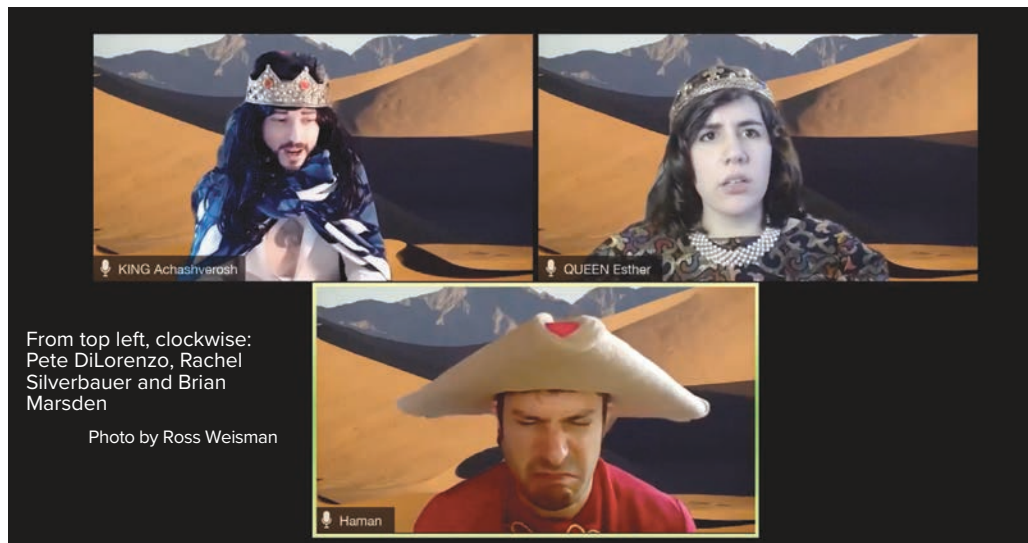
NEWSMAKERS

The Kehillah of Old York Road hosted the "Purim CARNival" at Mandell Education Campus in Elkins Park on Feb. 21. Hundreds of preregistered participants drove through a course of COVID-safe stations, with games, Purim gifts, blow-up animals and more.

Photos by Jordan Cassway



On Feb. 25, Tribe 12 hosted "A Very Pandemic Purim," a Zoom-based humorous retelling of the Purim story, set during a pandemic.



From top left, clockwise: Pete DiLorenzo, Rachel Silverbauer and Brian Marsden

Photo by Ross Weisman

The South Philadelphia Shtiebel and Jesse Breitbart hosted a hamentaschen baking demonstration via Zoom on Feb. 24.

► Jesse Breitbart demonstrates how to bake hamentaschen.

Photo by Rabbanit Dasi Fruchter



What's going on in Jewish Philadelphia?

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

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

JEWISH EXPONENT

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

Be a part of our March 25th holiday edition.
DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH

DESIGN
A
\$95

Best Wishes

to all for a

Happy Passover



YOUR NAME

DESIGN
B
\$75



A SWEET & JOYOUS

Passover

YOUR NAME

DESIGN
D
\$45



HAPPY PASSOVER

YOUR NAME

DESIGN
C
\$45

Warm Passover Greetings From

YOUR NAME



– Personal Greetings Only –

PLEASE RUN MY GREETING IN YOUR HOLIDAY ISSUE.

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

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

The name(s) on the message should read: _____

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

OR email your information and credit card number to: classified@jewishexponent.com.

MAIL TO: **JEWISH EXPONENT CLASSIFIED DEPT., 2100 ARCH ST., 4TH FLOOR, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19103**

If you have any questions, contact the Jewish Exponent at 215.832.0749 or classified@jewishexponent.com.