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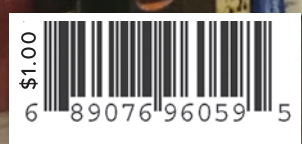
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Zev Eleff

continues Gratz College's
move into the online era.

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Zev Eleff continues Gratz College’s move into the online era.

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Ben Platt to Play Jewish Lynching Victim Leo Frank in a Revival of Broadway Musical 'Parade'

Broadway's Jewish golden boy is set to play one of the most infamous victims of antisemitism in American history.

"Dear Evan Hansen" star Ben Platt will star as Leo Frank in a new revival of the 1998 Broadway musical "Parade," a dramatization of Frank's 1915 lynching at the hands of a gang of white Southerners. The show will have a limited run Nov. 1-6 at the New York City Center as its annual gala presentation.

Frank was a pencil factory manager in Atlanta who was tried and sentenced to death, on specious evidence, of assaulting and murdering a teenaged factory worker in 1913. The case of "Little Mary Phagan" became national tabloid fodder as, unusually for the time, an all-white jury accepted the testimony of a Black man who identified Frank as the perpetrator and portrayed him as a sexual pervert. Numerous elements of the trial had antisemitic connotations, including the fact that one jury member was overheard saying, "I'll hang that Jew for sure."

The story had many dramatic twists and turns. Frank made numerous appeals to higher courts, all of which were rejected, but the governor

of Georgia unexpectedly commuted his sentence to life in prison. Then a mob of men, several of whom would go on to become prominent politicians in the state, broke into the prison hospital where Frank was held and lynched him in Marietta, Georgia — Phagan's hometown.

Frank's case was cited in 1913, the year of his trial, in the formation of the Anti-Defamation League.

An effort to posthumously pardon Frank in the 1980s based on new evidence ultimately proved unsuccessful, but in 2019 the local district attorney announced he would formally reopen the case in an effort to clear his name. Some followers of the case, including descendants of Phagan, continue to believe in Frank's guilt. His story is also chronicled in author Steve Oney's 2003 book "And The Dead Shall Rise: The Murder of Mary Phagan and the Lynching of Leo Frank."

The new production of "Parade" promises it will be "a true-crime version" of the musical, which was originally written by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry (whose great-uncle owned the pencil factory where Frank worked). Director



Ben Platt attends an event at 92Y in New York City, May 9, 2022.

Michael Arden, who was raised Southern Baptist and attended an Episcopal school, also helmed an acclaimed 2016 revival of "Spring Awakening" performed simultaneously by deaf and hearing actors. The new production will incorporate real-life photographs from the Frank trial.

— Andrew Lapin

Jamie McCarthy/Getty Images via JTA





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Gratz Refocuses, Ahead of the Curve with Online Classes

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

Gratz College in Cheltenham Township was going online long before it was common.

The Jewish school offered its first digital course shortly after the dot-com bubble burst in 2001 — back when the internet was less a dynamic dimension and more of a cornucopia of static websites.

That class at Gratz was Essential Rabbinic Beliefs, according to Ruth Sandberg, its professor. It had five students and no video component. Sandberg assigned readings and students posted comments on a discussion board.

Today at Gratz, which dates to 1895, there are video lectures, PowerPoint slides and yes, still readings. And there are all of these elements in most of the classes that the school offers to its 5,000-plus adult education students in “36 states and six countries,” according to the college’s website.

Gratz, which serves “educators and communal professionals,” per its site, is not a fully online college. It still offers plenty of programs at its Melrose Park campus. But it is about as close as a school can be to a digital-first institution.

“That really was a visionary pivot,” said Naomi Housman, the school’s director of institutional advancement, of the decision to offer an online class in 2001.

Gratz offers two flagship programs, according to President Zev Eleff: a master’s degree in education and a master’s and Ph.D. distinction in Holocaust and genocide studies.

Pennsylvania public school teachers make up most of the student base for the education program; while 75% of students in the Holocaust and genocide studies program live outside the state. Both areas of study were offered mostly online before the pandemic broke out. Today, both are entirely online.

Despite the pandemic era shift to hybrid education, most U.S. colleges and universities are still more in-person than on the internet. But for Gratz, the digital approach works because its students are often adults with lives who seek advanced credentials.

“We are right now figuring out how

to best support a broad student base,” Eleff said.

At Gratz, the COVID-era transition was less tectonic than gradual. The school did not have to embrace a new dimension and approach to education overnight. It just had to offer a little more of what it was already doing.

Eleff credits Sandberg for that. The professor, now an academic adviser in the Holocaust and genocide studies program, started teaching at the school almost 40 years ago. She believed in online education not because she was some technologist or futurist but for a moral reason.

“I believed in the possibility of online learning reaching many more students who could not otherwise receive a Jewish education,” Sandberg said.

So, she lobbied school officials to adopt the approach and her Essential Rabbinic Beliefs class within it. While the course only attracted five students, it opened Sandberg’s eyes to digital education’s Jewish qualities, she said.

A page of the Talmud often has comments from rabbis who lived in different centuries, Sandberg explained. There could be one from the second century, one from the fifth and another from the 12th.

While a class discussion board does not quite have the same scope, it does feature student comments from different times. One may add something early in the evening, another later and another the next day. It’s an ongoing conversation that becomes a sort of historical record.

“I saw that the internet had the capability of producing its own version of that type of Jewish discussion over time,” Sandberg said.

This is also a fundamental difference between online and in-person education. In person, students must offer insights and analysis within a short time window.

Anyone who has ever been in a college class knows that, in many instances, most students do not get to speak during a single session. But in a digital class, everyone expounds on everything.

It’s a very Jewish quality.

Sandberg compared it to a Yeshiva where students have debating partners.

“All the students have access to each other’s thoughts,” she said. “Everybody is walking around and debating and dis-

cussing. It’s a very active form of education.”

This quality plus the practicality of attracting more students from outside the state convinced Gratz that Sandberg was right.

Over time, the school added more and more online classes and more and more students who wanted to take them. Eventually, it reached a point where many more students were online than on campus, according to Sandberg.

So around 2015 and ’16, officials recognized that the future of education, at least at Gratz, was online, she said.

“We’re a 19th-century institution from Philadelphia and, at the same time, we are embracing an opportunity to be a national leader in Holocaust education, in educational studies,” Eleff said.

Sandberg expects the new approach to

only grow. Modern tools allow students to learn in a variety of ways. As she explained, digital education is ideal for visual, audial and text-based learners.

Plus it’s a great way to attract students. “We have students from all over the world now,” she said. **JE**

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Gratz College President Zev Eleff

Courtesy of Gratz College



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JRA Struggles with Supply Chain, Finding Summer Volunteers

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

As skyrocketing gas prices and grocery cost inflation have impacted those most financially disadvantaged, the same factors also affect the organizations that serve them.

Philadelphia-based Jewish Relief Agency, a volunteer-led hunger-relief nonprofit, has felt its share of pandemic- and war-induced economic hardships, forcing the organization to adapt to changing circumstances. As summer approaches, small volunteer numbers are making monthly food packing and distribution efforts even harder.

JRA has struggled with sourcing

food to distribute to clients since 2020, when the pandemic rendered some food staples unavailable.

The organization serves 3,400 households in 90 zip codes around Philadelphia. Around 65% of clients are Jewish, and 73% are 65 years old or older.

According to JRA Executive Director Jodi Roth-Saks, JRA added more clients in 2020 due to the financial difficulties of the pandemic. While 300 of the organization's older clients died in the pandemic, JRA began to serve young families with growing financial needs, Chief of Operations Julie Roat added.

"Not only did we have so many more households asking for food, we also had a challenging time accessing all of

the food we needed to feed everyone," Roth-Saks said.

Since the pandemic began, JRA has fitted more food in boxes, going from 12-13 pounds to about 15 pounds. But the cost to fill a box also has increased. This year, the Passover box — one of four holiday boxes JRA produces — cost \$4 more to fill than last year.

JRA receives food from Philabundance and Share Food Program. It also receives funding from FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program grant, government support, corporate and family foundations and private donors to work with regional vendors to source food.

Though the organization is not in financial trouble, it feels the impact of its vendors' supply chain problems.

"What we're dealing with, our price changes or price increases, it's astronomical," said Andrew Lansman, president and owner of Baltimore-based A&L Foods, one of JRA's vendors. "I've been in the business 40 years, and I've never seen increases that we are experiencing now."

The prices of eggs have doubled, and the company can only source 20-30% of its usual supply of some foods. Freight costs are the company's biggest expenditure, Lansman said.

Sourcing kosher food at a good price is even more challenging than sourcing conventional goods. Many kosher products are not made by their kosher brands but rather outsourced to manufacturers, adding one more step to transportation. The smaller volume of

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The JRA warehouse in July 2020, when JRA reintroduced small-group volunteering
Photo by Elvera Gurevich

kosher goods means they are less of a priority to those larger manufacturers. And early in the pandemic, rabbis were unable to travel to food production sites to provide the mandatory supervision needed for kosher goods.

On JRA's end, this looks like more expensive goods coming into the warehouse at inopportune times. Roat often has to balance receiving deliveries for boxes months in advance with packing and delivering boxes for the current month.

Before the pandemic, JRA would host volunteer packing days and food distribution days on one Sunday a month. Now, packing days are on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and volunteers distribute the boxes on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. It's the same amount, if not more boxes than before the pandemic, with only a fraction of the volunteer hands available.

Summer volunteer shortages are a national phenomena, Roth-Saks said, as is volunteering overall. A December 2021 Gallup survey reported a 56% decline in volunteering in 2021.

Some of the decline is predictable; Philadelphians go down the shore on the weekend and travel over the summer. But with pandemic restrictions waning, people have better things to do than volunteer, Roth-Saks fears.

"People are finally out and about. With COVID, many people had not been traveling as much," she said. "It is going to be especially hard to recruit volunteers this summer."

Chris Levin has volunteered with JRA for more than four years, including at the beginning of the pandemic, when only a handful of volunteers

came into the warehouse to pack boxes.

Before the pandemic, Levin remembered hundreds of volunteers packing on a Sunday. Roat said that before March 2020, about 1,000 volunteers would participate in food packing and delivery. During the pandemic, a good turnout was 300-500 people.

"I don't know why people aren't coming," Levin said. "But from my perspective, there's a job to be done, and I'm just going to do whatever I can do to fulfill that need because it's a need that should not exist."

Roth-Saks and Roat hope that workplaces will return to the JRA warehouses for corporate volunteer opportunities. With the return of summer camps at full capacity, campers can help buoy volunteer efforts.

Pam Malter, director of Camp Canadensis in Monroe, said campers volunteering at JRA is a symbiotic relationship; recipients enjoy speaking with young people, and campers return to camp with stories about the interesting people they met volunteering. Camp Canadensis will have campers volunteer with JRA after a two-year absence.

"[Campers] love learning about the organization. Many of them want to return in the future because they had such a good experience," Malter said. "And they really love being able to bring boxes to people who are in need."

JRA will host volunteer days on June 9, 10 and 12-15; July 7, 8 and 10-12; and Aug. 11, 12 and 14-16. More information is available at jewishrelief.org/volunteer-1. **JE**

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Jewish Candidates Largely Thrive in Pennsylvania Primary

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

No matter what year it is or which crisis of legitimacy we're shouting through, politicians are going to politician. This is true for candidates on both sides and from all backgrounds. It's both party and identity neutral.

But since we are the Jewish Exponent

and the Greater Philadelphia area's source for Jewish news, we will focus on Jewish politicians.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro was the most prominent Jewish candidate on the primary ballot on May 17. And even in a Democratic primary for the gubernatorial nomination in which he did not have an opponent, Shapiro managed to be a total politician.



Ben Waxman and his wife Julie Wertheimer

Photo by Arielle Cohen



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His campaign paid for and ran a television ad promoting Doug Mastriano as the Republican candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. Mastriano is a QAnon supporter and Jan. 6 insurrectionist who in April spoke at a conference that promoted conspiracy theories. One alleged that Adolf Hitler faked his death, according to a Philadelphia Inquirer story from that month.

Shapiro wants to run against Mastriano. So, like a true politician, the attorney general promoted Mastriano's primary campaign and perhaps helped him win. Then, in a campaign email to supporters, the AG called Mastriano a "dangerous extremist who wants to take away our freedoms" and "restrict the right to vote."

It is surely not lost on Shapiro that, thanks in part to his own ad, this "dangerous extremist" now has a much better chance, about 50-50, to impose his agenda on Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth.

Politicians. They will always politician.

Now let's get to the rest of the results involving local Jewish candidates.

The Republican Primary for PA's Open U.S. Senate Seat

Incumbent U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania Pat Toomey, a Republican, is retiring from his seat after two terms. Toomey, who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection, is on the record as an enemy of the GOP's kingmaker.

In this battle to replace Toomey as the Republican nominee, Jewish Montgomery County resident Jeff Bartos joined the crowded field. While the race may be headed for a recount, Bartos is not a competitor for the top spot.

Mehmet Oz, Dave McCormick and Kathy Barnette all got more than 300,000 votes in the first count, with Oz, Trump's preferred candidate, ahead by a small margin. Bartos received fewer than 70,000 votes.

The Democratic Primary for Pennsylvania's 182nd State House Seat

This very blue district's representative, Brian Sims, is running for lieutenant governor, leaving his seat open. Four candidates, Ben Waxman, Jonathan Lovitz, Will Gross and Deja Alvarez, vied to replace him. Three, Waxman, Lovitz and Gross, are Jewish.

But it was Waxman who came out on top with more than 5,000 votes and 40% of the total. The Center City

resident had party support and the endorsement of Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner.

Lovitz finished second with more than 2,700 votes and 20% support. Gross placed fourth, five votes behind Alvarez.

"It just feels good to have your friends and neighbors support you," Waxman said.

Waxman, who used to work for Krasner as a communications staffer, acknowledged that he is likely to win the general election this fall. But he still hopes to increase turnout on the Democratic side and help Shapiro beat Mastriano.

The longtime political activist said he's given more money to Shapiro than "I've given any politician ever."

"I am petrified of Mastriano," Waxman added. "He represents a clear and present danger, and he is mobilizing the far right."

The Democratic primaries for PA House seats in two Bucks County districts

Plumstead Township resident Gwen Stoltz, 47, and Holland resident Ilya Breyman, 37, ran unopposed in Democratic primaries for Pennsylvania House seats in districts 143 and 178, respectively.

Stoltz will run against Republican incumbent Shelby Labs in the fall, who she claims is not responsive to constituents in her Central and Upper Bucks County territory. Breyman will face Republican Kristin Marcell in November. The GOP incumbent in Breyman's district, Wendi Thomas, is not running for reelection.

Both Jewish candidates are seeking their first terms in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Democratic and Republican primaries for nominations in PA's 7th Congressional District

Jewish Democrat Susan Wild holds the seat representing the Lehigh Valley in the U.S. House. She ran unopposed in the primary and will seek her third term in November.

Jewish Republican Lisa Scheller, the chair and president of her family's Silberline Manufacturing Co., is now running against Wild for the second consecutive cycle. Scheller defeated fellow Republican Kevin Dellicker by less than 2,000 votes in the May 17 election. She lost to Wild by about 14,000 votes in 2020. **JE**

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Community CONNECTIONS

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia builds community by bringing people together to learn, inspire, give back and celebrate. See how the Jewish Federation has connected like-minded community members through events in the past month.



Alumni of the NextGen's Leadership Development Program paid it forward on May 15 by helping pack and distribute food at Jewish Relief Agency.



On Apr. 24, many generations of community members participated in the 58th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate the six million Jews who perished in the *Shoah*.



The Kehillah of Bucks County's Jewish Festival on May 15 brought together hundreds of community members for a day of fun, thanks to the many sponsors, volunteers, local organizations and synagogues, and vendors that participated.



Women of Vision held their annual Spring Event on May 19 at the French Creek Golf Club. The event featured Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Megan Twohey.



The Jewish Federation Real Estate (JFRE) Members Only Dinner celebrated the groups' accomplishments and learned about future opportunities to network and support the Jewish community. Held on Apr. 25, the event was sponsored by Steak 48.



On May 23, Women's Philanthropy celebrated their Pomegranate Society while enjoying a mural arts tour of Center City.



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

Find out how you can get involved in the various affinity groups of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia by visiting jewishphilly.org/affinity or contacting Director of Affinities and Volunteer Engagement Marni Davis at mdavis@jewishphilly.org

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

Rabbi Megan GoldMarche



SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Rabbi Megan GoldMarche is like many of the young Philadelphia Jews she hopes to serve as Tribe 12's new executive director: She's a Philadelphia transplant with a love of craft beer.

But the similarities run deeper than that. GoldMarche, 37, like so many other Jewish millennials, has had to forge her Jewish path, drawing from a patchwork of rituals, family history and lived experience. She developed a feminist seder for Shemini Atzeret and adopted new lines from the Torah to include in her lesbian wedding ceremony.

GoldMarche is interested in the second wave of coming-of-age that

Jewish 20- and 30-somethings experience in college and beyond, when young Jews choose their Jewish adventure. It's what she believes makes her a good fit at Tribe 12.

"There's something about the stage of life where you're deciding who you want to be independent of your family," GoldMarche said. "I just loved that in college, people for the first time were choosing to be Jewish and figuring out what it meant to be their own Jewish individual."

GoldMarche's Jewish journey at Tribe 12 began on Feb. 1, and she moved with her wife Paige and two daughters to begin working full time in Philadelphia on May 9. But it won't be the first time GoldMarche has looked to the Jewish community for a warm welcome.

Growing up in the Chicago suburbs, GoldMarche was raised culturally, but not particularly religiously, Jewish.

When both her parents' respective mothers died when GoldMarche was 2, they looked to a local synagogue for support.

"The synagogue became sort of the center of my family's life because my parents were so young — they were in their early 30s — and they both went through these major losses," GoldMarche said. "The synagogue really ended up being what held them. And so I think I was raised with the sense that the Jewish community takes care of us."

Though she attended synagogue services, Hebrew school and summer camp, becoming a rabbi wasn't always in the cards for GoldMarche. Her family didn't keep kosher; they didn't associate with a strong denomination of Judaism.

GoldMarche planned on attending the University of Pennsylvania, where she could study psychology, expecting to one day get a doctorate in clinical psychology.

But as one of her priorities on campus, GoldMarche joined Hillel, where she spent more time than in her dorm room, she joked.

"I spent all my time at the Hillel," she said. "I mean, Steinhardt Hall at Penn, which opened my sophomore year, was basically, like, the place I lived."

At Hillel, GoldMarche found company with whom to explore the more halachic and ritual elements of Judaism she didn't explore as a younger person: learning prayers and how to observe Shabbat and keep kosher. She was confident she could balance her evolving Jewish identity with a professional pursuit of psychology.

When GoldMarche graduated, she spent time as a Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow at Yale University and realized she'd rather spend time with Jewish young adults than pursue a doctorate.

"I had this 'aha moment' the summer between my first and second year working for Hillel ... Even though I had already become more religious, I hadn't quite become spiritual yet," GoldMarche said. "I had a very strong spiritual awakening, and also a realization that building community and helping young people find meaning through Judaism was really what I wanted to do."

After a summer in Israel, GoldMarche matriculated at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where she became a rabbi, always intending to return to working with younger Jews. She moved back to Chicago and started her family.

GoldMarche's move back to the East Coast is an opportunity to once more find a smaller Jewish community and work to augment the bonds formed there.

Tribe 12 is particularly good at this because it creates "microcommunities," GoldMarche explained, such as providing opportunities for LGBTQ Jews to connect.

Before the pandemic, GoldMarche and her family held weekly Shabbat dinners with 30-50 guests. After a long period of isolation, it takes time to rebuild lost connections.

"A big part of what I hope we'll do is help get people into those real relationships with people who will take care of them when things are hard, who will show up, maybe be lifelong friends, potentially partners ... but really just helping people be less alone," GoldMarche said. [JE](#)

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The Squad Unveiled

It is not unusual for bystanders to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to make pronouncements that are more focused on “scoring points” than on bringing Israelis and Palestinians together.

A recent example of such agenda-driven sophistry occurred last week, on the 74th anniversary of what Palestinians call the “Nakba” — their very real losses during Israel’s War of Independence — when Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) introduced what is believed to be the first congressional resolution seeking to advance “the Palestinian narrative.”

The resolution — in which Tlaib was joined by fellow congressional Squad members Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Jamaal Bowman, Cori Bush, Betty McCollum and Marie Newman — recognizes the Palestinians as Israel’s indigenous people and, among other things, calls for the right of 7 million “refugees” to return to that land, in contrast to the 750,000 refugees who left in 1949.

The resolution has absolutely no

chance of success. But that wasn’t the point. Instead, proponents are seeking to advance the Palestinian narrative that portrays Israel as the aggressor, the Palestinians as passive victims and the United States as a silent partner to Israel’s ethnic cleansing and, in later decades, apartheid.

No longer do Squad members seek to hide behind the veneer of reform or reasoned debate.

What’s missing, of course, is any recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist objective of returning Jews to Eretz Yisrael based on Jewish descent from the ancient Israelites. Rather, the resolution presents Jews as U.S.-backed aggressors and does not recognize the Jewish presence in the land before the Zionist settlement. Similarly, when the resolution speaks of the United Nations,

it points to Palestinian opposition to the 1947 Partition plan but ignores the U.N.’s recognition of the new state of Israel.

And there is much more. But facts and actual history are not allowed to interfere with the Squad’s preferred narrative to delegitimize the Jewish state.

The resolution signals a turning point. Until now, the Squad has been tinkering around the edges: supporting BDS, questioning military aid to Israel, criticizing Israel’s settlement regime and otherwise searching for ways to challenge the rock-solid U.S.-Israel relationship. Even as we disagreed with the Squad’s anti-Israel rants, we understood that reasonable minds could disagree on

some of the issues they raised.

But the new resolution changes everything. No longer do Squad members seek to hide behind the veneer of reform or reasoned debate. Now, they have made clear their intent to reject Israel and its right to exist, and to erase Jews from their connection to the land and history.

We reject the lie. And we invite others to do so. But we urge caution in the framing of that opposition. The Tlaib resolution is dishonest, biased and offensive. Its failure to recognize the state of Israel even as it argues for a more sympathetic approach toward the Palestinian population exposes its fundamental flaw. And while there may be elements of antisemitism baked into the anti-Israel narrative, there is more to it than that.

As such, there is little to gain by attacking the resolution as antisemitic. Instead, focus on the facts, on verifiable history and on the legitimacy of the Zionist enterprise. The Squad can’t deal with that. [JE](#)

New Partners in NATO

For decades, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seemed like a relic of the Cold War era. Created in 1949 by the United States, Canada and several Western European nations, NATO was designed to provide collective security to member countries against the perceived threat of the Soviet Union.

Over the years, NATO membership has grown from an initial 12 countries to a current list of 30. Until a couple of weeks ago, many assumed that Finland and Sweden were part of NATO. But they aren’t. At least not yet.

Historically, Finland and Sweden have pursued neutral policies toward the West and Russia. Finland shares a long border with Russia, and the two countries have a history of conflict. Russia conquered Finland in a war against Sweden

in 1808, and it wasn’t until 1917 that Finland won its independence. Most Finns did not want to join NATO for fear it would provoke Russia. Meanwhile, Sweden has a long history of not joining any military alliance, and hasn’t fought a war since 1814 — even managing to remain neutral in World Wars I and II.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine changed all that. As a result of the insecurity and instability created by Russia’s unprovoked attack on Ukraine, and the frightening unpredictability of the Putin regime, a majority in both Finland and Sweden now want to join NATO. Both countries have applied to join the alliance, and both appear to be a good fit for NATO. They each have strong, modern militaries, and Finland already meets NATO’s 2%

military spending target.

But there is a problem. Turkey — which became a member of NATO three years after it was founded — has expressed opposition to the two countries joining. And since NATO members must unanimously agree on new members, Turkey’s opposition is a concern. According to reports, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan opposes the new members because he says they are harboring members of the Kurdistan Worker’s Party, a militant Kurdish group recognized by the State Department as a terrorist organization. PKK has been involved in an armed struggle against Turkey.

Sweden has a large Kurdish minority, and Turkey believes Sweden doesn’t do enough about PKK and other Kurdish groups with ties to PKK. Turkey has also

demanding that Sweden and Finland lift arms embargoes they placed on Turkey in 2019, following Turkey’s military actions in Syria.

Most observers agree that Turkey’s opposition to Finland and Sweden is largely political, and that the concerns can be worked out. That is good news, since the expansion of NATO will be good for the alliance and each of its members, including Turkey.

We look forward to welcoming Finland and Sweden to NATO, even as we wonder what took them so long to recognize the threat of Putin’s Russia. And, in that regard, since member countries can resign from NATO at any time, we can’t help but wonder whether whatever it is that kept Finland and Sweden from joining NATO until now will cause them to resign once the current Russian threat subsides. [JE](#)



We Must Speak Out to Overcome the Antisemitism in Our Backyard

BY RABBI DR. SHMULY YANKLOWITZ

We all know that antisemitism is on the rise in this country, and the politicians in Arizona are among the worst offenders and instigators.

Last month, Arizona U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar tweeted a “Dark Maga” meme commonly associated with neo-Nazi online culture. Attached to the picture were the following terrifying words:

“Remember when our government sent planes to Afghanistan and brought more than 100,000 Afghans in less than a week? We have in the range of up to 40 million illegal aliens in our country. They can be deported by planes, trains and buses. We could easily deport 6 million each year.”

Six million, of course, is the number of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

This is, sadly, nothing new in this state, where Arizona Sen. Wendy Rogers routinely spreads antisemitic statements, and she posted a photoshopped image of herself on her Gab and Telegram accounts with a dead rhino branded with the letters CPAC, where the letter “a” contained a Star of David. Tammy Gillies, Anti-Defamation League regional director, told NBC affiliate 12 News, “We’ve just released an analysis of extremist rhetoric in the elections this year, and Wendy Rogers is at the top of that list.” Of course, online hate is something we must take extremely

seriously. As a community, though, our response cannot be one of fear.

Such offenses in Arizona and across the U.S. are too numerous to list in full and are on the rise. And dangerous conspiracy theories have real effects in the real world. The ADL found that, in 2020, there were 327 antisemitic incidents at Jewish institutions. In 2021, that number went up to 525, a 61% increase.

But my point is not the antisemitic messages but the response it should bring forth from us. As Jews, we should be alarmed by the rhetoric. Whatever Jewish denomination we are, whatever political party we are, we should condemn hate wherever we see it and never tolerate antisemitism. Many Jews live in fear of being targeted by the far right and the far left and make this out to be a source of Jewish unity, not of blindly only pointing in one direction.

Keeping people educated about Jewish issues is not an easy task. We make up only about 2% of the American population and just 1.5% of Arizonans. Compare that with the number of conspiracy theorists out there — and those willing to use anti-Jewish conspiracy theories to score political points — and it is easy to see why dangerous information about Jews gets spread faster than we can correct it.

The shooter who killed 10 in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, was motivated by antisemitic conspiracy theories. Antisemitism is a danger

both to ourselves and to our neighbors. For white supremacists, as we saw here and in many other cases, hatred of people of color is deeply connected with hatred of Jews. The Jews are viewed by such antisemites as the worst of all. To them, we deceptively often hide in white skin and white social circles while we are actually more aligned with minority groups and not with the white supremacists.

Despite this, we cannot be placed in paralyzing fear. We must call out this hateful rhetoric loudly. However, that is not enough. Identifying the problem won’t eliminate it. We need to drown it out by educating the public on who Jews are. We do this by deepening allyship and bridge-building that promote mutual understanding. We also do this by living our lives and living out our cherished Jewish values open and proudly.

When the public comes across hateful speech about Jews, saying Jews are making the country and the world worse, everyone should know, despite our small numbers that we are a compassionate people. They should see this by the example we set in the moral clarity we have and the good we do in the community. That way, when someone comes across a crazy conspiracy theory about Jews, they’ll know from experience who we really are. **JE**

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz is the president and dean of Valley Beit Midrash in Scottsdale, Arizona.

letters/

Tobin Overlooked the Real Enemy

The opinion piece by Jonathan Tobin (“Should Everyone Be Afraid of Elon Musk Buying Twitter?”, May 4) is a remarkable piece of sophistry.

He eludes to the notion of online hate speech being of concern, but that’s not what troubles him the most. He describes the censoring of Nazis (which is not the decision to refuse to publish their poison) as a slippery slope to something worse. That is, the censoring of speech of anyone we disagree with. He accuses the Anti-Defamation League and others with threatening democracy.

And yes, for sure, there are real, serious, concerns about “cancel culture” as practiced by the far left. I will acknowledge that antisemitic attacks, particularly it seems in New York City, do not appear to be coming from the right. The liberal left needs to address it.

However, anyone with their eyes open, anyone who is honest, knows that the main political threat to our democracy and peace is emanating from another source.

Online purveyors of racist, antisemitic hate speech consisting of the ideology of “replacement ideology” and other choice philosophies, fellow

travelers in the Republican Party, et cetera, are the threat in our faces right now. There have been, in recent years, examples of the violent consequences of this online poison, most recently, the massacre in Buffalo.

Edward Moses, Philadelphia

BDS a Definite Campus Threat

Thank you for publishing Richard L. Cravatts’ opinion piece (“An Open Letter to the Editorial Board of The Harvard Crimson,” May 5). Finally, a journalist willing to confront and combat the lies spread on our college campuses.

I’d love a list of those schools, colleges and corporations that have caved in to supporting BDS. We need to rethink where our financial contributions are going and eliminate our support from those that further these lies. **JE**

Ronna Newman Rutstein, Delray Beach, Florida

Letters should be related to articles that have run in the print or online editions of the JE, and may be edited for space and clarity prior to publication. Please include your first and last name, as well your town/neighborhood of residence. Send letters to letters@jewisheponent.com.



Antisemitism Isn't a Strong Enough Word

BY MITCHELL BARD

Supporters of the BDS movement against Israel claim they are not antisemitic. I have concluded that they are correct in the sense that the word “antisemitism” is too weak to capture their depravity.

It is not necessary to go into the myriad examples of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to define “antisemitism,” the word means hatred of Jews. Lots of individuals and groups hate Jews and have for centuries. More recently, a new form of antisemitism emerged in which “Israel” or “Zionist” is used as a euphemism for “Jews.” BDSers certainly do this but referring to them as antisemites is inadequate because it makes them indistinguishable from other antisemites who, for example, don’t care about Israel.

Anyone who has spent any time listening to the BDS proponents or reading their propaganda can see that they have no interest in peace, a two-state solution or changing Israeli policy. They are not to be confused with legitimate critics who question the wisdom of the Israeli government’s policies towards the disputed territories and the Palestinians, but not its right to exist.

BDSers persecute Jews who don’t live in Israel but merely have an affinity for Israel and its institutions. They have one overriding objective — the destruction of the homeland of the Jewish people. This is not mere bigotry; it is a campaign for genocide.

So how can we uniquely describe this level of malevolence?

I considered referring to them as the “New Nazis” but that would confuse them with neo-Nazis who, like Klansmen and other white supremacists, have a whole menu of hatreds. BDSers are single-minded; it’s all about the Jews. They could be called “Holocausters.” But whenever you make comparisons to Hitler, Nazis or the Holocaust, you end up in arguments about the uniqueness of the Final Solution, and it becomes a distraction.

A few years ago, I suggested a more appropriate description would be “Israel Deniers.” Cary Nelson has since written a book, “Israel Denial: Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism & the Faculty Campaign Against the Jewish State,” which captures the idea.

The BDSers deny that Jews are a people and therefore have no right to self-determination in Israel, which they also reject as the homeland of the Jews because the land belongs to the indigenous Palestinians. I hoped the term would catch



on so that Israel Deniers would be treated with the same contempt as Holocaust Deniers. Alas, it did not, and now I see that term is also inadequate because BDSers not only deny that Jews have a claim to their homeland; they want to destroy it.

BDSers are sometimes referred to as delegitimizers, but that also fails to capture their larger goal of the annihilation of the Jews. The word also doesn’t roll off the tongue.

UCLA Professor Judea Pearl has suggested we refer to their malignancy as “Zionophobia.” A phobia is an irrational fear. One might argue that their demonization of Jews and the double-standard of treating Jews differently than any other people are irrational, but BDSers don’t fear Jews; their hatred is based on an assertive desire to eliminate the Jewish people as punishment for their crimes.

There are some “Judeophobes,” but they are mostly conspiracy theorists. While some BDSers may subscribe to some of these fictions, they are not driven by them. BDS is not an extension of QAnon.

An apt term would be “ethnic cleansers,” but that’s a bit awkward. Run-of-the-mill antisemites are again distinguishable from the BDSers since they don’t insist on ethnically cleansing the state of Israel. Ironically, it is also two-state proponents who want to ethnically cleanse a future Palestinian state of Jews.

As it is, their attitude toward settlements is essentially antisemitic because they insist that

there is one place on earth where Jews should not be allowed to live despite the fact it is part of their homeland. Imagine the reaction if anyone agreed there should be two states and that Palestinians should not be permitted to reside in one of them.

BDSers and other like-minded folks, like Islamists, belong in the same category as reprobates who have sought to exterminate a particular group of people. We could call them “liquidators,” but that sounds too conventional — like a store going out of business. “Exterminators” fits but is too associated with pest control. BDSers also generally don’t have the Hitlerian view of Jews as vermin, at least not that they would admit. “Terminators” makes you think of Arnold Schwarzenegger, but while their goals are frightening the BDSers themselves aren’t the least bit scary (Schwarzenegger, incidentally, is an avid supporter of Israel).

Better terms would be either “genocidists” or “genocidaires.” Still, we need to distinguish them from Pol Pot, Stalin, Rwandans or other mass murderers who did not specifically target Jews.

Referring to BDSers as “antisemites” is too good for them. They are Judeocidists. **JE**

Mitchell Bard is a foreign-policy analyst and an authority on U.S.-Israel relations who has written and edited 22 books, including “The Arab Lobby, Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam’s War Against the Jews” and “After Anatevka: Tevye in Palestine.”



Where Do Jews Fit Into Critical Race Theory?

BY FRED L. PINCUS

In the midst of the continuing national controversy, Jews have debated whether critical race theory is “good for the Jews.” Opinions are wide-ranging, from those who think critical race theory is antisemitic to those who are developing a Jewish version of critical race theory.

A central tenet of critical race theory is that racism/white supremacy has been an integral part of American institutions since our nation’s founding. Rather than being a problem of individual white attitudes, critical race theory proponents argue that racism is structural or systemic. White people are the dominant/oppressor group with power while Black people and other people of color are the subordinate/oppressed groups.

This, of course, brings up important questions: Are Jews white? If so, are they oppressors with white privilege? Must Jews fit into this oppressor/oppressed binary?

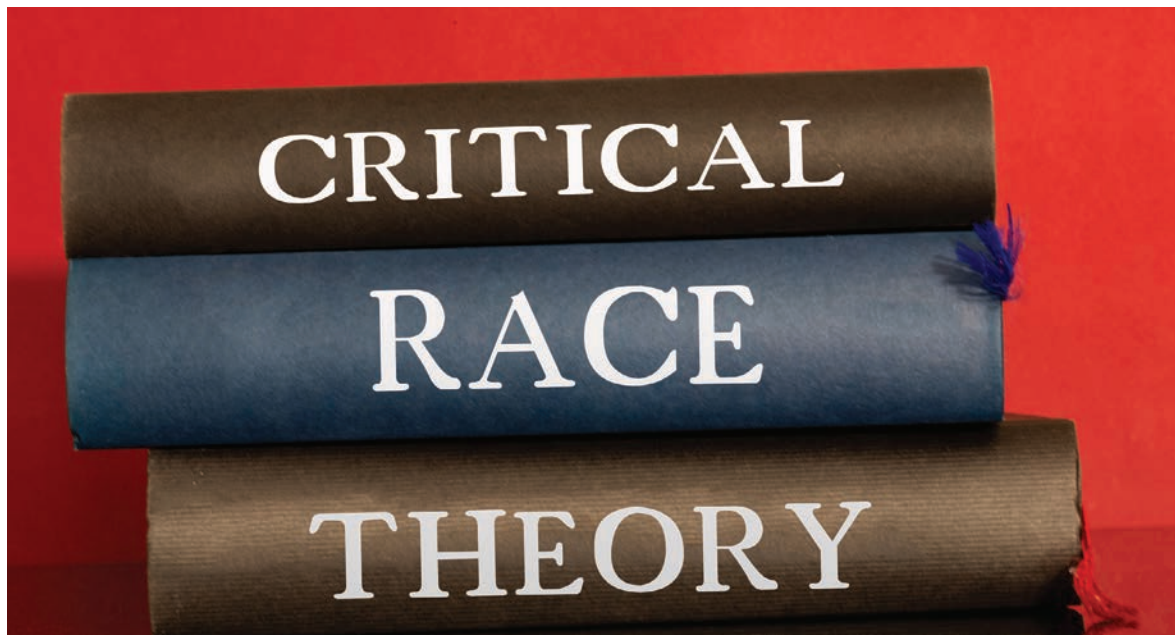
Jewish critical race theory critics answer all these questions with a resounding “No.” For example, Commentary carried an article titled “No, Jews Aren’t White: We’re Our Own Thing, and Whatever Privilege We Possess is Conditional.” Author Liel Leibovitz wrote, “Jews are just Jews, a difficult realization that has driven haters to distraction throughout the generations.”

Several Jewish writers have argued that critical race theory can be extended and used to better understand the Jewish experience. They have proposed developing a Jewish critical race theory just as Latinos and Asians have.

In the 2020 issue of Social Identities, for example, Daniel Ian Rubin argues that Jews occupy a “space between” whites and people of color. Although Jews have been largely recognized as white since the end of World War II, “they found themselves further separated from other minority groups in the U.S. even though they still were not fully accepted by White society (nor are they fully accepted today).”

Sociologists have described Jews as a “middleman minority” group that lacks power over the non-Jewish elite above them but that has power over the people of color below them. Jews are both oppressors and oppressed. This is not something that is unique to Jews since, for example, Asian people, many of whom currently own businesses in Black communities, can also be described as a middleman minority.

There are other issues raised by Jewish critics of critical race theory as evidenced by an opinion



piece by David Bernstein, founder of the Jewish Institute for Liberal Values, in The Daily Phil newsletter. According to Bernstein, critical race theory promotes antisemitism through its promotion of the Jewish privilege trope, its failure to give Jews credit for being successful in higher education, its promotion of “equity” rather than “equality,” its attempts to limit discussion about the nature of racial conflict in the U.S. and its critique of the Israel/Palestine conflict.

It’s certainly true that the powerful, privileged Jew has been part of a worldwide antisemitic trope for centuries, and it’s also true that antisemitism continues in the Trump years and beyond. Jewish critical race theory scholars like Rubin would agree with that. None of this is inconsistent with the fact that Jews have privileges that people of color lack.

The critical race theory emphasis on equity rather than equality is also important to understand. The term “equality” usually refers to a competition where everyone lines up at the starting line and the “best” people cross the finish line first. The term “equity” emphasizes a competition where the winners are representative of the race/ethnic/gender distribution in the population.

For a variety of reasons, Jews have been quite successful using meritocratic criteria for college admission, once discriminatory quotas were gradually removed in the first half of the 20th century. They are overrepresented among the winners in the higher education race.

Unfortunately, these same meritocratic standards have not worked well for Black and Hispanic

people because of a variety of discriminatory factors including segregated housing, underfunded schools, discrimination in the labor market, etc. Meritocratic standards yielded unequal results. That’s why critical race theory scholars emphasize equity rather than just equality.

In terms of the criticism that critical race theory limits discussion of American racism, it’s not the supporters who are banning books from schools, passing laws restricting how schools can teach about racism and calling for a two-sided discussion of slavery.

Jonathan Greenblatt, head of the Anti-Defamation League, has warned Jewish educators that insisting on a more “balanced” treatment of slavery could also result in demands for teaching a “balanced” view of the Holocaust. Greenblatt said, “Put simply, you can’t teach the Holocaust without understanding its origins in unchecked bias and how such hatred then can be implanted in a society.”

Finally, since the issue of “legitimate” criticism of Israel vs. antisemitic criticism has been broadly discussed elsewhere, I’ll not deal with it here. Suffice it to say that exactly where the line should be drawn continues to be contentious.

Critical race theory, and its Jewish variations, are a useful way to understand the continuing racial conflict in the United States and the role Jews play in the “space between” as a middleman minority. **JE**

Fred L. Pincus is emeritus professor of sociology at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a founding member of the Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah.



Jewish Tradition ‘Permits’ Abortion. If You Believe in Bodily Autonomy, That’s Not Enough

BY MICHAL RAUCHER

Earlier this month, Israeli Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz responded to the draft U.S. Supreme Court opinion that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, “A woman’s rights over her own body are hers alone.”

It might seem odd that the Israeli health minister was commenting on American abortion law, but his response, contained in a tweet, addresses a theme common to the abortion discussion in Israel and America that I research as an ethicist and scholar of reproduction among Jews.

In the 1970s, the Israeli Knesset debated the legalization of abortion. After several years of discussions, it ultimately passed a law that permitted abortion in certain circumstances: 1) If a woman is younger than 17 or older than 40; 2) when pregnancy results from rape, incest or extramarital relations; 3) under the possibility that the baby will be born with a physical or mental deformity; and 4) when the continuation of the pregnancy could endanger a woman’s life or mental health. This law allows for certain abortions to be performed until the 39th week of pregnancy.

When I teach Americans about abortion law in Israel, they often express shock that Israel seems much more progressive than America. That’s because their frame of reference for religion and abortion is a particular strain of American anti-abortion Christianity. My students — college-aged and adult, Jewish or not — are surprised to see a country so strongly influenced by religion that is not opposed to abortion.

Yet in one important way the Israeli and American attitudes toward abortion are similar. They both reflect the fundamental assumption that abortion is wrong, and one must have a “good enough” reason to do something that is otherwise wrong. This is called the justification approach to abortion. Certain abortions are justified, while others are not. The justification approach to abortion also assumes that women were meant to be mothers. As a result, not wanting to be pregnant for nine months, give birth or raise a child are not considered good enough reasons to get an abortion.

In order to qualify for an abortion that is legal and paid for by the state, Israeli women have to sit in front of a committee and tell them why they are requesting an abortion. Although 98% of abortion requests are approved, the law reflects the belief

that women cannot or should not make this decision on their own.

Consider the case of a pregnant 24-year-old married woman who is pregnant from consensual sex but does not want to be pregnant because of the potential harm to her career. Or a 35-year-old married haredi (ultra-Orthodox) woman who has eight children and who simply cannot care for one more. In Israel, both of these women must lie or otherwise mislead the committee to get their abortions.

Horowitz opposes these committees and has been advocating to get rid of them, at least through the first trimester. He says that women should not need to give any reason for their request, and that nobody should have to determine whether their request is valid.

There’s a temptation right now to say that restrictions on abortion rights in the United States violate the religious freedom of Jews.

While we don’t have these committees in America, we have heard a lot this month about the legislation that many states have developed, each providing different circumstances under which they would permit abortion. Some say that abortions will only be permitted if the woman’s life is in danger. Others allow abortion after rape or incest. And of course one’s ability to terminate a pregnancy is already limited by where one lives, how far along one is in pregnancy and the financial resources one has available.

Well-meaning Jewish groups often draw on rabbinic sources to claim that Judaism is supportive of abortion rights. Unfortunately here, too, we see the justification approach. Last week, in a statement, the Orthodox Union explained that it cannot support an “absolute ban” on abortion because Jewish law requires abortion when “carrying the pregnancy to term poses real risk to the life of the mother.” This popular argument is commonly also heard among more progressive Jewish groups.

But when you hear that “Jewish law permits and sometimes requires abortion,” you must also listen to the assumption underlying this statement: Women do not have the bodily autonomy to make that decision on their own. Jewish law must permit it — and sometimes demands it, regardless of what a woman prefers. These statements, often used to express support for abortion rights, are ultimately stymied by the assumptions of rabbinic law, a system that does not support bodily autonomy or the ability to make decisions about one’s own body.

The statement by the Orthodox Union goes even further. It also explicitly prohibits what the group and others call “abortion on demand,” or abortion because someone doesn’t want to be pregnant.

By contrast, the Reform movement’s Religious Action Center bases its position on reproductive rights on “the core belief that each person should have agency and autonomy over their own bodies.” Other progressive Jewish groups, including the National Council of Jewish Women, have gone on record highlighting the value of bodily autonomy over reproduction, but too few. Some non-Orthodox rabbis even expressly forbid it.

Unless you support a person’s right to bodily autonomy, then you are supporting a system wherein someone else determines what you or anyone else can do with their bodies. It does not matter whether that person is a lawmaker, a judge, a contemporary rabbi or one from 2,000 years ago. It does not matter whether that person would permit most abortions or even require some.

There’s a temptation right now to say that restrictions on abortion rights in the United States violate the religious freedom of Jews. That’s true, to an extent. But a religious argument based on Jewish law and rabbinic texts only goes so far. Those of us who support reproductive health, rights and justice ought to be honest about the connection between that and our rabbinic tradition. I believe in the same bodily autonomy argument that Nitzan Horowitz makes. It may not be an argument rooted in Jewish law, but it is a Jewish argument — and it’s time to make it. **JE**

Michal Raucher is an associate professor of Jewish studies at Rutgers University and author of “Conceiving Agency: Reproductive Authority Among Haredi Women” (Indiana University Press).

Jewish Groups Fail to Stop Arizona from Gas Chamber Executions

An unusual scenario played out in Arizona recently: The son of a Jewish woman who fled the Nazis was asked if he wanted to be executed by the same gas the Nazis once used, JTA reported.

Frank Atwood, who was convicted of murdering an 8-year-old girl in 1984, has been on death row for decades. For his method of execution he was given the choice between lethal injection, Arizona's default method, or a gas chamber — which the state refurbished last year in preparation for possibly killing Atwood and one other death row inmate.

Arizona's intent to restart gas executions, and the state's purchase of materials to make hydrogen cyanide — a version of which, Zyklon B, was used by the Nazis to murder Jews in Auschwitz — is strongly opposed by its Jewish community.

In February, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix and two members of the Jewish community partnered with the local American Civil Liberties Union chapter to sue the state over its planned use of the gas, calling the punishment "cruel and inhumane."

A superior court judge threw out the suit in April, saying that the Jewish community had failed to sufficiently challenge the law's constitutionality, and that the state's constitution permits execution by gas in some cases.

Chad Restores Full Diplomatic Relations with Israel

Israel has an ambassador to Chad for the first time in 50 years, adding to Israel's growing ties to African countries, JTA reported.

Ben Bourgel, who serves as a nonresident ambassador to several African countries, added Chad to his list on May 17 when he presented his credentials to Chad's president, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno.

Several African nations whose leaders had friendly relations with Israel severed those ties in the 1970s, following pressure by Arab nations. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prioritized restoring diplomatic ties with many of them, and he met with Chad's former president, Idriss Déby Itno, in 2018.

The Israeli ambassador and his team "will work to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in areas of common interest such as climate change, agriculture, water management and health," the Israeli embassy in Dakar, Senegal, wrote on Twitter about Bourgel's accreditation.

Boris Johnson Vows to Solve Northern Ireland's Kosher Food Shortages

During a visit to a synagogue in Belfast, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised to fix bureaucratic complications connected to Brexit that have caused kosher food shortages in Northern Ireland, JTA reported.

There is no need for "laborious checks on products uniquely important to the Jewish community being moved from Great Britain into Northern Ireland," Johnson said. "We will see this situation resolved."

Northern Ireland has remained in the European Union's single market even though the United Kingdom, of which Northern Ireland is a part, pulled out of the bloc in 2020. This fact has complicated shipments of food and other products from the United Kingdom to Northern Ireland, resulting in kosher food shortages, among other issues.

The Jewish community of Manchester in England is the main kosher food supplier for the Belfast Jewish Community Synagogue, which services that community of a few hundred people.

90-year-old Jewish Man Allegedly Pushed to His Death in Lyon, France

A dispute between neighbors in France ended with the death of a 90-year-old Jewish man, according to police, who do not suspect an antisemitic motive, JTA reported.

Police arrested a 51-year-old neighbor of the deceased, René Hadjaj, sometime after Hadjaj's death on May 17 outside his home in Lyon in eastern France, the Tribune Juive Jewish newspaper reported. The suspect pushed Hadjaj to his death from an elevated story of their residential building, prosecutors told Le Progrès.

That paper reported that police first investigated a possible antisemitic motive but have now excluded it. French media have not reported the suspect's identity. **JE**

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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Albert Belmont was one of about 450 Jewish soldiers buried under a cross in World Wars I and II.

His story aligns with many of his Jewish American compatriots who fought overseas, particularly in WWII: When he enlisted, he wrote a “P” by his name instead of an “H,” denoting he was Protestant, not Hebrew.

His eschewed Jewish identity wasn’t from lack of pride; it was a precautionary measure. If he were to be captured by Nazis, his status as a Christian man would spare him being sent to the Berga concentration camp, where many American GIs were prisoners of war.

But for his family, particularly his daughter Barbara Belmont, the Christian cross over Albert Belmont’s head no longer served a purpose. When she took her daughters to her father’s Normandy grave at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in 1992, Barbara Belmont could only show them the cross he bore above his name on the gravestone. She wanted to show them that their grandfather was a proud Jew.

This April, Belmont, an Alexandria, Virginia, resident, fulfilled that hope, as she watched the cemetery maintenance staff pull the old gravestone at its base and replace it with a granite Star of David, a uniformed U.S. military officer performing a slow salute as she recited the Mourner’s Kaddish.

Belmont didn’t orchestrate the operation by herself — in January, she was contacted by Shalom Lamm, the CEO and co-founder of Operation Benjamin, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing Jewish gravestones for soldiers buried under a cross.

On a three-day trip from April 24-28, Belmont, along with the families of six other dead soldiers, traveled with Operation Benjamin to France, Luxembourg and Belgium, where grave by grave, they honored their loved ones with Jewish gravestones and burial rituals.

For Belmont, the trip allowed her to do something she thought she’d never be able to do: connect with her father, of whom she had no memories.

“It far exceeded my expectations,” she said. “I wanted to feel, standing near my father’s grave and participating in this transition, I wanted to feel that I had touched my father, that I had done something for him. That was really a driving force.”

According to Lamm, that is the crux of Operation Benjamin’s work: “We not only have the soldier, who we’re honoring by getting his story right by identifying him for who he was in life, but we’re doing something with the families as well ... You get the sense that you’re making it right; you’re doing something fundamentally right.”

“It Was Just a Curiosity”

Operation Benjamin is relatively young, founded in 2016 by Lamm, Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter and Steve Lamar, largely by coincidence.

“It was an accident,” Lamm said. “It was just a curiosity.”

Schacter, a Jewish historian, was leading a tour of medieval France near Normandy in 2014, when he, on a whim, visited the Normandy American Cemetery. In the sea of crosses, Schacter saw few Jewish stars.

Three months later, when Lamm, a longtime friend of Schacter’s, approached him at a party, Schacter shared his findings but didn’t think much of it. Lamm, a military historian, however, became fixated.

“I ran home that night — it was a Saturday night — and I just was obsessed with this idea,” he said. “I don’t know why, but I was obsessed with this idea that something was wrong.”

Lamm counted 149 Jewish stars at the cemetery but calculated a discrepancy: “There are about 9,500 U.S. GIs buried in Normandy, and Jews are about 2.7% of the casualties.”

Instead of 149 Jews buried at the military cemetery, there should have been, statistically, closer to 250.

Lamm and his colleagues experimented. They picked a random, Jewish-sounding name of a soldier buried under a cross — Pvt. Benjamin Garadetsky — and did extensive research, only to find out the soldier was “fully Jewish.”

“His family was from Zhytomyr [Ukraine], and

Righting Historical Wrongs

Operation Benjamin Honors Jewish Soldiers Buried Under Crosses

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER



Barbara Belmont at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in France, where she visited her father's grave in April.

they settled in the Bronx in the early 1900s," Lamm said. "And his parents were buried about 10 minutes from my house in Long Island. It was the craziest coincidence."

Garadetsky became the first soldier to have his grave marker changed by Operation Benjamin. So far, the organization has changed 16 headstones, with three more pending, over five trips.

The process of finding Jewish soldiers is complicated. Operation Benjamin, in collaboration with the American Battle Monuments Commission and a team of genealogists, spends months looking for documents that confirm an individual as Jewish: bar mitzvah or wedding photos, U.S. Census documents, connections to a rabbi or papers in Yiddish. Many times, a soldier would have been too young to get married. Instead, Operation Benjamin would search for materials from a relative.

"At the end of the day, we're trying to prove that somebody was born a Jew, lived as a Jew and they fought as a Jew," Lamar said.

Before ABMC can complete the paperwork for a gravestone marker change, however, a family member must provide consent. Finding a relative — sometimes a distant one if the soldier had no wife or children — takes time.

Lamm has to almost instantaneously convince the person on the other end of a phone call or email — who may not even know about their deceased relative — that he isn't a solicitor or spammer.

"We've had to figure out how to gain people's trust on the first email, and we worked very hard on that," Lamm said.

When Lamm reached out to Belmont, she was happy to pick up the phone and talk.

"I Have No Memories of My Father"

Barbara Belmont was only 3 when her father died. The Belmont family was in the photography business in Kansas City, and Albert Belmont was a young

Jewish philanthropist.

He enlisted at age 32, and despite coming from a wealthy family, Albert Belmont insisted on receiving no preferential treatment.

"He wanted to be just one of the soldiers," Barbara Belmont said.

Albert Belmont arrived in France on Nov. 1, 1944, as part of a division of reinforcements to Gen. George Smith Patton. He spent the month traversing the country to its northeastern region by Metz, where the German forces had doubled down on forces and artillery. He was killed on Nov. 30, just two weeks before the Battle of the Bulge.

The Belmont family received a telegram on Dec. 11 informing them of Albert Belmont's death. Belmont had just turned 3, and her sister was 7.

"I have no memories of my father. It was a very difficult time," Belmont said.

Belmont, whose mother remarried, was adopted by her stepfather. Though she knew her stepfather was not her biological father, Belmont only started to gain a connection with her father a decade after his death.

When Belmont was 13, her sister pulled her into her bedroom and shut the door, taking out a picture frame and revealing a picture of their father hidden behind another photograph.

"That was the first time I'd ever seen him or had any idea what he looked like," she said.

In 1992, when Belmont took her daughters to her father's grave for the first time, something felt like it was missing.

"We visited his grave ... I don't know what I expected," Belmont said. "I felt I had done something, but it wasn't nearly enough."

In the 30 years since Belmont visited her father's grave, she had gotten in touch with various cousins and learned more about Albert Belmont. As Belmont spent time over her life putting together the pieces of her father's life and her relationship with him, the connection was still not seamless. Life changes prevented Belmont from prioritizing ways to honor her father.

"Life happens," Belmont said. "But he was never out of my mind."

"They Never Had a Kaddish Said"

Just like in 1992, Belmont brought daughters Erin McCahill and Jennifer Soloway with her on the trip to her father's grave in April.

The family was accompanied by 15 other family members, as well as a whole host of ambassadors, veterans and military officers there to pay their respects to the soldiers.

On an overcast day with the sun only occasionally peeking through the clouds, Belmont and her daughters said the Mourner's Kaddish for each of the graves they had passed, for soldiers who had never had a Kaddish said for them, Belmont said.

Colonels and lieutenant colonels did slow salutes as the gravestones were changed, an act of respect often done during retirements, and a rarity for officers with seniority to do for privates and soldiers of lower rank.

As Belmont's family approached Albert Belmont's grave, where they and dozens of guests paid their respects, Barbara Belmont noticed something she hadn't seen her daughter do in years: cry.

"She was so amazed of the emotions that started to erupt inside of her about this grandfather she didn't know," Belmont said.

The trip changed the dynamic of Belmont's family, she said.

"I've never seen us so tight. I mean, I couldn't turn around and I didn't have one of them on one side or the other," she said. "But I could not have done anything more wonderful for our family than this."

"Our Goal is To Go Out of Business"

Operation Benjamin recognizes its work is finite, Lamm insists. Though at the rate they're going at (about 25 graves a year), Lamm will be more than 400 years old by the time all the gravestones are replaced.

"Our goal is to go out of business," he said. "Our goal is to shut the lights and quietly fade into the darkness."

Lamm said Operation Benjamin is not an education center or Jewish genealogy specialist. The organization serves a specific purpose, which Lamm's co-founder Lamar believes has a more profound impact on the participating families.

"We're not just righting historical wrongs," Lamar said. "We are refreshing the memories of the soldiers."

This was the case for Dr. Ira La Voe, a Philadelphia-based physician, who, through Operation Benjamin, found out that his grandmother's youngest brother died in Manila, Philippines during WWII.

La Voe would likely have never met his great-uncle, but the experience made him think about his family connections: his childhood home, memories with his grandparents, aunts and uncles of generations past that he hadn't stopped to think about for a while.

"We just came full circle ... doing the right thing for a generation that was forgotten for many of us because we just didn't have a connection," he said. **JE**

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Col. D. Gottrich salutes Pvt. Albert Belmont after Belmont's old gravestone was replaced with a Star of David.

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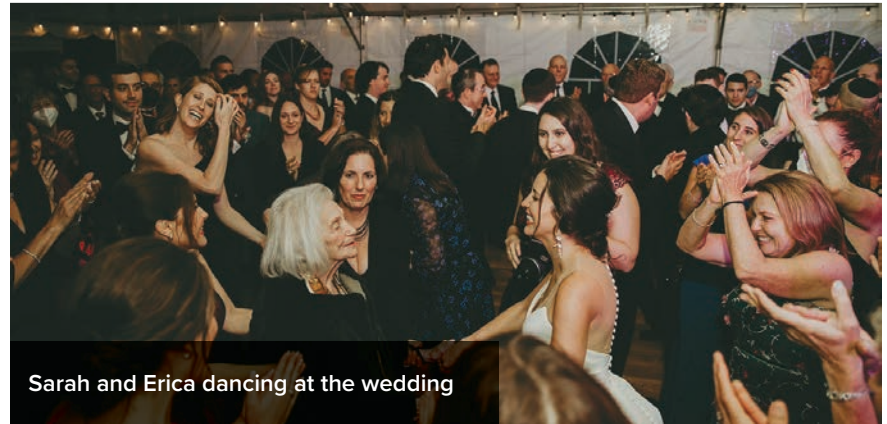
Alma Brookstein

These Jewish Grandmas Narrated Their Grandchildren's Wedding video

EVELYN FRICK | HEY ALMA VIA JTA

Weddings should be a time to celebrate love, life and the commitment of two individuals to each other. Aside from the occasional “The Graduate”-level hijinks, they usually are.

However, weddings are also a time when people don't often express everything they're feeling. For example, the happy couple might be enjoying the party, but inwardly they're also probably stressed, exhausted and hungry. Or family members might be excited to celebrate the marriage of their beloved relatives, but the drama of family politics are at play under the surface.



Sarah and Erica dancing at the wedding

Recently, newlyweds Erica Rabner and David Gorvy got some of their family to say what they really thought of their wedding, sans filter. More specifically, the couple asked their Jewish

grandmothers to provide commentary on their wedding video. Luckily for us, they filmed the whole thing.

See [Weddings](#), Page 23

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Pantry Dinners

KERI WHITE | SPECIAL TO THE JE

Last week I came home from a work trip after eating mediocre hotel food for two days. It was late, I was tired and the last thing I wanted was to go out to eat.

The cupboard seemed bare, but I was loathe to head to the store, so necessity became the mother of invention. I scoured the pantry and found an onion, some garlic, a can of chickpeas and some dry pasta. Then I checked the fridge and, lo and behold, found a half jar of sundried tomatoes in oil, a small amount of Parmesan cheese and a bit of white wine.

OK, I thought: I can work with this. And the dinner was delicious.

Now, I grant you, many people will not have a half jar of sundried tomatoes in the fridge as a random item that made a lovely addition to my simple pasta recipe, but I bet you have something offbeat that can jazz up this type of dish. Olives? Artichokes? Some frozen spinach? And if all else fails, go with the chickpea/onion/garlic combo, which is simple and delicious.

The second dish below is another pantry meal — rice, lentils, onions and a few spices. Mujadara is a typical Levantine dish that varies from family to family, region to region in terms of spices and slight variations, but the basic preparation is the same. It's simple, economical, filling, vegan, pareve and gluten-free and can be a meal or a side depending on personal preference.

In my house, we call these types of dinners "Stone Soup" after the classic children's tale where the whole town claims to have no food to prepare a proper meal, and a stranger offers a recipe for "stone soup," which encourages each villager to contribute a little something. A carrot here, an onion there, some rice, some beans and, suddenly, the whole community is enjoying a bowl of goodness.

"Stone Soup" Pasta

Serves 4

As noted above, you can swap out ingredients you have on hand — white beans for the chickpeas, a can of tomato paste or artichokes for the



sundried tomatoes, some vegetables, olives, capers, et cetera.

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes in oil
- 1 15-ounce can chickpeas, drained
- ½ cup white wine, broth or water
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 pound pasta, cooked al dente

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

In a large skillet, heat the oil and saute the onion and garlic until fragrant. Add the spices, tomatoes and chickpeas, then add the wine and simmer to reduce for about 8 minutes while the pasta water comes to a boil.

Cook the pasta to al dente (one minute less than the package instructs), reserve ½ cup of cooking water, then drain and pour it into the skillet with the chickpea mixture. Toss well, add the pasta water to spread the sauce around and add the cheese before serving. **JE**

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Haim Sisters Have Philadelphia Roots

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

The Haim sisters are hot right now.

In 2021, their album “Women in Music Pt. III” was nominated for Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards. Later that year, the youngest sister, Alana, starred in a Paul Thomas Anderson movie, “Licorice Pizza,” which earned a Best Picture nomination at the Academy Awards in March.

Flash forward a couple of months, and the Jewish sisters, Este Haim, 36, Danielle Haim, 33, and Alana Haim, 30, are in the midst of a North American and United Kingdom tour in which they are selling out venues like the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Madison Square Garden in New York City.

On May 28, they will perform at The Mann Center in Philadelphia.

The show before a potential audience of about 14,000 will be a homecoming of sorts for the girls, as their mother, Donna Haim, grew up in the Northeast and Huntington Valley. Though she moved to California at 19 and later met the girls’ father, Mordechai “Moti” Haim, there, Donna would not be a true Philadelphian unless she imbued the identity into her daughters.

In 2000, Donna Haim’s parents bought a shore house in Margate, New Jersey, and Donna and Moti Haim started bringing the girls down every summer. For the kids, it was time to enjoy the beach and boardwalk. For Donna, it was a way to stay connected to old friends and family members.

The family also ate plenty of sticky buns during those excursions.

“So they know what down the shore meant,” Donna Haim said of her daughters.

But that was about the extent of the girls’ Philadelphia upbringing. Donna Haim, on the other hand, has an entire history in the region.

Her grandparents and extended family settled in the area after immigrating from Russia, Poland and Lithuania, she said. Growing up in the Northeast, Donna Haim would visit her grandparents, celebrate Jewish holidays and grow

to understand her Jewish identity.

“They brought a lot of the old country to us,” she said.

When her brother grew old enough to become a bar mitzvah, the family moved to Huntington Valley and joined Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park. Donna Haim got confirmed there.

“It was a beautiful, beautiful temple,” she said.

The Haim matriarch graduated high school in 1973, attended Penn State Ogontz (now Abington) for a year, then moved to California with her parents. Moti Haim, a former professional soccer player, moved from Israel to the United States in 1980 and met his future wife a couple of years later.

Este, Danielle and Alana Haim were born between 1986 and ’91 and then the Haim origin story — now well-known — began. Moti Haim had been a professional drummer and Donna Haim sang and played guitar as a kid. So when the girls were young, Moti Haim woke up one day with a crazy, Richard Williams-like idea.

The family should start a band!

“I said, ‘That’s interesting because Alanna’s only 4 and doesn’t play anything,’” Donna Haim recalled, laughing.

Yet they started playing anyway as a family band called Rockinhaim that covered Eagles, Billy Joel and Santana songs, among others, at churches, synagogues, elementary schools and street fairs.

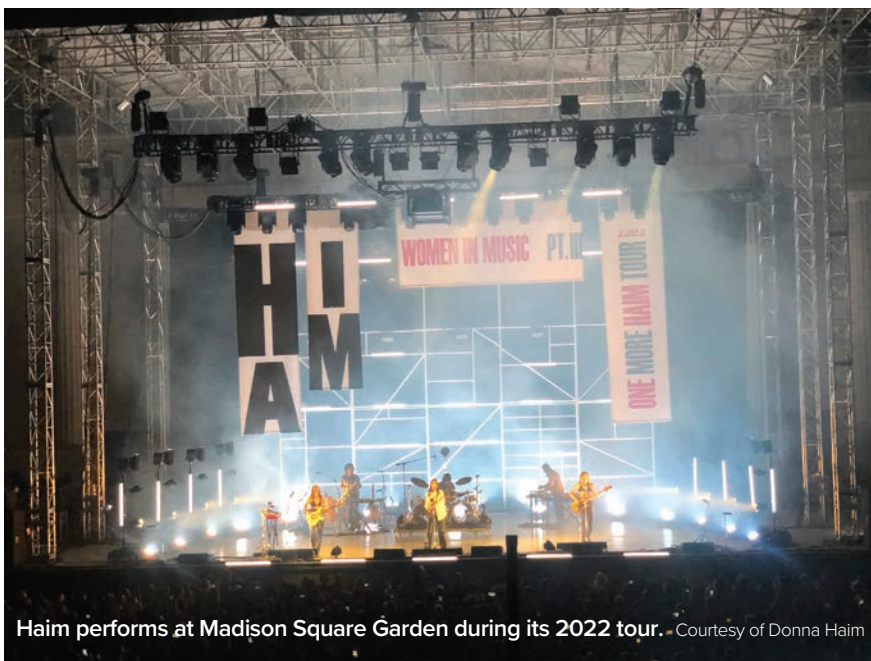
The girls did not think anything of it, according to Donna Haim. When their friends asked them to go to the mall, they would respond by asking, “Don’t you have to practice, too?”

“We had to practice because we didn’t want to embarrass ourselves on stage,” Donna Haim said.

Eventually, though, the girls got so good that they, as the mother put it, kicked their parents out of the band. One summer when Este Haim was in high school, they started writing songs in the living room and decided to try playing music full time.

As they kept playing, the Haim sisters grew from an opening act to a second act to a headliner. They got their first record deal in the UK in 2012.

“It was like 100,000 hours,” Donna



Haim performs at Madison Square Garden during its 2022 tour. — Courtesy of Donna Haim

Haim said of the girls’ dedication. “They’ve never shied away from working hard.”

It’s been well-documented that the girls have never shied away from their Jewish image. As a March 2018 Hey Alma post explained, the Haim sisters have talked about everything from eating latkes to appreciating Barbra Streisand.

This, too, goes back to their roots. Each Friday when the girls were growing up, the family would sit down for Shabbat dinner. In “Licorice Pizza,” with Moti, Donna, Este and Danielle Haim play-

ing Alana’s fictional family, Anderson depicts the family eating Shabbat dinner together.

“They’re definitely proud of their Jewish roots,” Donna Haim said.

And on stage, they represent the tribe with gusto.

“They never want it to be like women who are dancing around, prancing around and not being themselves,” she said. “They’re a rock and roll band. They rock out.” **JE**

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Weddings

Continued from **Page 20**

What resulted was a nearly eight-minute video of pure, unfiltered Jewish grandma sass.

In the video, we first meet Gorvy’s granny, Annette, who offers commentary on a variety of subjects: Erica’s dress (“A little bit of boobs showing ...”), the Jewish wedding ceremony (“This is quite religious, what you’re doing”).

Then we are introduced to Rabner’s Baba Sarah, who responds “Eh” when asked if her dress was too revealing.

Additionally, in classic Jewish grandma fashion, Rabner’s Baba becomes much more focused on making sure the film crew has had enough to eat than on watching the wedding video.

According to Rabner, Gorvy came up with the idea to make the video early in wedding planning when he learned that his 93-year-old granny would not be able to attend the ceremony.

As remarkable as the video is, these Jewish grandmas are also remarkable in their own right.

Annette has lived on three continents; she was born in South Africa, moved to London with her late husband Harold and then relocated to Atlanta 15 years ago. “Annette really is exactly the woman you see in the video,” Rabner said. “She loves the royal family (she used to have printed pictures of ‘Georgie’ taped all over her kitchen pantry door) and high tea, and she’s still as sharp-witted as she ever was.”

Sarah is a Holocaust survivor who was born in Poland and spent the war hiding in an underground bunker for over two years with her immediate family. In addition, Sarah is a talented chef, fashionista and world-class bridge player. “She earned her ‘Emerald Life Master’ status, played against the likes of Bill Gates (‘not good’) and Warren Buffett (‘he’s good’) and was even paid to play internationally,” Rabner said.

Despite their familial bond, Annette and Sarah have never actually met. “It’s actually a running joke in our families that if Granny and Baba ever met, they’d either be instant best friends or mortal enemies since they both have such strong personalities,” Rabner said. **JE**



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Entrepreneur, Shark Expert Paul Weintraub Dies at 86

BY HEATHER M. ROSS | STAFF WRITER

Entrepreneur and shark expert Paul Weintraub died on May 1 at VITAS Inpatient Hospice Unit in Delray Beach, Florida. He was 86.

Weintraub owned and co-founded Martin's Aquarium in Jenkintown. He also founded and maintained several successful businesses such as a bike shop, kerosene heaters and a cactus business. He and his brother, Robert, who died in 2014, also were two of the four partners at

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals.

Martin's Aquarium began in the basement of the Weintraub brothers' childhood home. The business went from being a small operation to a fish and reptile store and eventually to the aquarium it is today.

Weintraub was born in Philadelphia on Dec. 29, 1935, to Martin and Rose Weintraub. He was bar mitzvahed at the Germantown Jewish Centre and was a founding member of Temple Sinai in Dresher. He later attended Old York Road Temple-Beth Am in Abington.

Weintraub graduated from Temple University and was a member of Class 200 at Central High School.

Weintraub met his wife, Marilyn, at a Jewish singles weekend at Tamiment Resort in the Poconos. She was from Brooklyn, and he was from Philadelphia, but Paul Weintraub was determined to see her again. To court her, he followed her back to New York and slept on friend's couches while they got to know each other. The couple married on Oct. 22, 1960, at the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

According to his son, Ross Weintraub, what made his father most memorable was how he treated people.

"He had a real interest in people. When I was young, a teenager, I was watching him work once, and [I noticed] he had a stack of index cards, and when he would talk to people he would take notes on what they were interested in," Ross Weintraub said.

"The store was a great place to work because of how he treated us. He educated us about the different animals and taught us how to treat the customers," said Steven Weston, who began working at the fish store in 1970, when he was 13. He worked there for 16 years.

Weston shared a story from when he worked with Paul Weintraub about a time when a homeless man was caught trying to steal something from the store. Instead of calling the police, Paul Weintraub and the other partners agreed to give the man a job.



Paul Weintraub

Photos courtesy of Greg Pitkoff and the Weintraub family

Ross Weintraub believes the interest in people was inspired by his grandmother, Rose Weintraub.

"My grandmother was a very warm person as well, for everyone in the family, who was part of my dad's generation and older, she was the heart of the family. [My father] passed away on the same day she did, 51 years apart," Ross Weintraub said.

Paul Weintraub's curiosity was a family trait, shared by his father and brother, as well as his children. He was interested in fish, fossils and science. Ross Weintraub credits his father with inspiring his decision to become a science teacher.

"One time, he made me hold a snake, and I had never been so scared in my life," Ross Weintraub said.

Paul Weintraub had a unique way of sharing his love of science with his family. When his children were growing up, he often took them on fossil-hunting trips as far away as Utah and Wyoming. When Ross Weintraub was 8, they found a starfish, which was sent to England to be identified. This was evidence for the continental drift theory since the starfish fossil was highly unusual for the area.

The memories from those trips live on in his children. Ross Weintraub uses photos of the fossils found in teaching.

Paul Weintraub also made a reputation for himself on television, with appearances on local programs such as "Captain Noah" and "The Gene London Show," as well as the nationally syndicated "The Mike Douglas Show."

Weintraub is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his children, Ross (Shawn), Daniel (Beth) and Alan Weintraub; and four grandchildren. **JE**

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ABRAMS

There is a little less laughter in the world. Raymond Leonard Abrams (Ray), age 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 12, 2022 surrounded by his family. Ray was born on July 17, 1938 in Philadelphia, PA, to parents, Samuel and Ethel Abrams. He graduated from Central High School in 1956. He continued his education at Penn State University, where he was a member of ZBT Fraternity. After college, Ray moved to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, where he had a career in pharmaceutical sales. Ray returned to Philadelphia after meeting the love of his life, Joan, and finished out his career in the furniture business. After he retired, he remained by Joan's side helping to run her clothing business. Ray was an avid golf player. Growing up in Philadelphia, Ray loved all Philly sports teams, especially the Eagles. But his greatest accomplishment and joy was his family. Those who knew him, knew he could talk endlessly about them. Ray is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Joan Abrams. His daughter Jennifer Abrams Waxler and son-in-law Todd, son Barry, and daughter Nancy Abrams Leibovitz and husband Dan. He also leaves behind five grandchildren who knew him as Ray-Ray: Teddie Waxler, Billie Waxler, Kaiya Leibovitz, Noah Leibovitz, and Nash Leibovitz. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ray's honor to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, RSDS.org. WE WILL MISS YOU RAY-RAY!

LAMB FUNERAL HOME INC.

AXLER

BERNICE AXLER (nee SORKIN) died on April 29, 2022, of Northeast Philadelphia and long-time employee of the Naval Publication and Forms Center. Devoted wife of the late HERBERT AXLER, loving mother of NEIL (MARSHA) AXLER and the late JUDITH GOLDENBERG; mother-in-law of RICHARD (ADRIENNE) GOLDENBERG; proud grandmother of BRETT and MICHAEL AXLER and MATTHEW and RYAN GOLDENBERG; sister of DOROTHY (ROBERT) MILLER. Contributions in her memory may be made to Mitzvah Circle, 2562 Boulevard of the Generals, Suite 100, Norristown, PA 19403.

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CHARLESTEIN

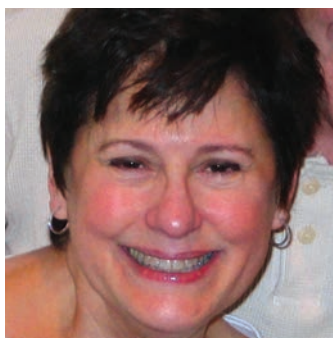
Ritasue Charlestein-Dedicating her life to the State of Israel, Charlestein spent most of her time singing for and lifting the spirits of IDF soldiers in hospitals across the country. Beloved by all, she was a compassionate friend, a loving mother and an ever-spoiling "Bubba." She is survived by her brothers David (Melissa) Birnbach and Steven (Randi) Birnbach; her daughters Julie (Darryl) Charlestein Benjamin and Elysa (Nir) Fertig; her son Ari (Sarah) Charlestein; and her grandchildren Ruby, Maccabi, Mia, Yair, Eliana and Lior. Donations in her memory may be made to the Michael Levine Lone Soldier Center in Israel.

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COHEN

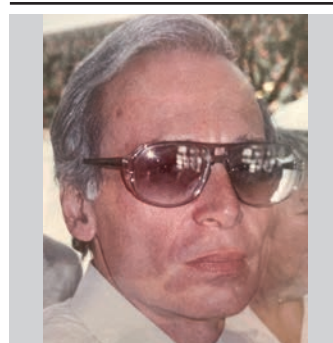
The Cohen family sadly announces the death of Daniel Clifford Cohen on April 28, 2022, aged 94 years young. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he left the area only for college, law school, military service (Navy and JAG Corps), and travel (six different continents). He earned his undergraduate and law degrees in a joint program at Harvard University, graduating in 1951, and serving on the Harvard Law Review. He spent his entire professional career at the distinguished law firm Wolf, Block, Schorr, and Solis-Cohen, primarily in the field of labor law. He also did pro bono legal work on immigration for the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS). His passion, however, was for Judaism and Jewish learning. He was a lifelong member of Kahal Kadosh Mikveh Israel, serving as Parnas (president), Counsel, and Chair of the Ritual Committee for many years. He was a student at Gratz College beginning at age five and continuing until age 93, graduating from the School of Observation and Practice in 1942, earning a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1956, being awarded a Doctorate of Hebrew Letters degree (honoris causa) in 1983, and continuing to take classes right up until he was no longer able to drive. As passionate as he was as a student, he was equally dedicated as a teacher, leading adult education classes for the American Jewish Committee, for Mikveh Israel, Gratz College Netsky Institute, and in many other settings. As a teacher, he welcomed difficult questions and enjoyed learning from his students, since for him being a teacher and being a student were interchangeable parts of the same enterprise. His community work included service on the boards of Mikveh Israel and Gratz College from the 1950's right up until 2020. He also served on the boards of the Jewish Publication Society (for which he helped copy edit the Etz Chaim edition of the Chumash in use today at many congregations), the Federation of Jewish Agencies, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the American Association for Jewish Education, the American Jewish Committee, and many other organizations. He was never afraid to challenge groupthink and stand alone in his opinions, always sticking up for the integrity and mission of whatever group he was involved in. He is predeceased by his parents, Hyman H. and Clara Rosenfeld Cohen, his beloved wife Louise Cohen (nee Dine), and his brother Henry B. Cohen. He is survived by his four children: Jonathan Cohen and wife Victoria, Eve Pasternak and husband Steven, Judith Stolnitz and husband Mark, and Benjamin Cohen and wife Michal Likhovski, as well as a "minyan" of grandchildren and three great-grandchildren (with a fourth on the way). For all his many accomplishments, his family remembers him best as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, and friend. We knew we could always turn to him for his vast knowledge, good-natured jokes, active support, and steadfast love. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish education program of your choice.



COOPER

Linda Morguelan Cooper died Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at her home in Potomac, MD. She was 78 years old. Linda was the wife of Alan Cooper, who also passed away recently. She grew up in Louisville, KY and graduated from Indiana University. She went on to

teach elementary school and also became a paralegal. She raised her family in Yardley, PA before remarrying and moving to Potomac. Linda loved reading, cooking, traveling, and experiencing arts and culture. She was a member of several book clubs and enjoyed entertaining at their home. She especially loved spending a few weeks each summer at the Berkshires, where she and Alan would see plays, attend concerts and enjoy the local art museums. Linda is survived by her sons, Randy and Stuart Klein, daughter-in-law Jamie, granddaughters Margot and Ashley, sister Robin Simon, and brother Dr. Barry Morguelan. Linda was a devoted mother, wife and grandmother and will be missed by all.

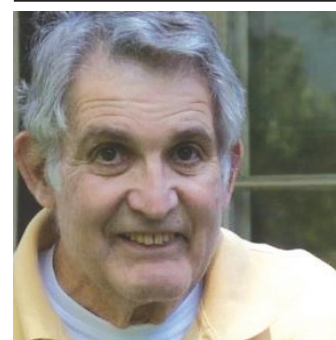


ELKINS

ARMIN M. ELKINS, DDS-Age 88, of Berwyn, PA, passed away peacefully on May 18th, 2022, surrounded by his family. Armin was the beloved husband of Adele (neé Berkowitz), devoted father of Beth Cutler, Wayne Elkins, and Alexis Elkins, and much adored grandfather of Aaron Cutler (Mariana), Samantha Cutler, Jacob and Emma Elkins. He is also survived by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Dov Peretz and Maxine Elkins. He was born on Nov. 11th, 1933 in Philadelphia to the late Bertha and Edward Elkins. He graduated from Central High School, University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University Dental School. Following dental school, he served as a Captain in the US Army and was stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He practiced dentistry in Abington for 45 years until his retirement. He not only knew how to help his patients care for their smile, but he also knew how to make them smile with his kindness. Despite his degree and meticulous skill, he had an insatiable sweet tooth and legendary candy drawer. Armin enjoyed the game of tennis, both as a player and as a spectator. So much so, that he delighted in taking his youngest daughter, Alexis, on annual trips to the US Open. He shared a love of cars and motorcycles with his only son, Wayne and frequented Broadway matinees with his eldest daughter, Beth. He developed a passion for the opera later in life, much to the pleasure of his wife Adele, who is a classically trained pianist. Better late than never. Although Armin had movie star

good looks, he preferred to be in the audience of a dark theater, with his family, watching a great film or taking in a show. He had an abundance of lifelong friends and continued making new ones up until the very end. His sweet and gentle nature was cherished by all who got to know him. Adele was the love of his life and he took great pride in their family. The family respectfully suggests that contributions in his memory be made to the American Friends of Magen David Adom (afmda.org).

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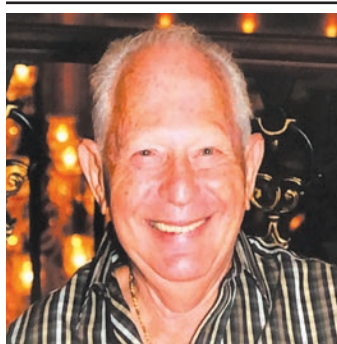
ERVAIS

Ronald Ervais - A loving husband, father, son, brother and grandfather, Ronald Ervais will be best remembered for his kindness, compassion and always having a great "dad" joke ready to share. Ron was the first member of his family to go to college - and that was an accident. He accompanied his good friend to Temple University to take their entrance exam. The counselor suggested Ron take the test as well since he was waiting for his friend anyway, and he passed with flying colors. He entered Temple where he met the love of his life, Beth Joseph, while both were working in the library. They married in 1957 and soon after moved to Germany while Ron served in the US Army. In 1959, they welcomed their first son Richard; Jill, Susan, Debra and Robert joined the family over the next eight years. While raising the first three children and working full time as an accountant at Curtis Publishing, Ron studied at Temple Law School, graduated in 1964, started his career as a clerk of court, and soon after joined the law firm of Becker & Becker, which was known as Becker, Fryman & Ervais by the time he left to become a sole practitioner many years later. During his 55 years of practicing law, Ron became known as a top-rated Philadelphia attorney, always working to support the disadvantaged and those in need. Ron, a resident of Bala Cynwyd for many decades, passed away on April 29th. Besides his children Richard Ervais (Zander), Jill Ervais (Nigel), Susan Ervais-Bohmiller (Kevin), Debra Stella (Jeffrey), Robert Ervais (Meg), Ron is also survived by his grandchildren Erin (Hannes), Adin, Kelvin and Ethan, his sisters Phyllis Ashcraft and Wilma Ervais, his brother Chuck Landherr and his brother-in-law Dr. Jay H. Joseph. He

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was predeceased by his beloved Beth and his parents Pauline Polish and Sam Ervais. Ron will be missed by the many who knew, respected and loved him. A graveside service and burial was held on Monday, May 2nd at Alliance Cemetery, Gershel Avenue, Norma, NJ. Arrangements are under the supervision of Rone Funeral Service, 1110 East Chestnut Avenue, Vineland NJ 08360. Donations in memory of Ron may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research or to the charity of one's choice. To send online condolences please visit our website at www.RONEFUNERALSERVICE.com

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www.ronefuneralservice.com



FRIEDMAN

Marvin M. Friedman, Age 86 of Tamarac, Florida, passed away May 18, 2022. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Son of the late Samuel and Sylvia



GERSHON

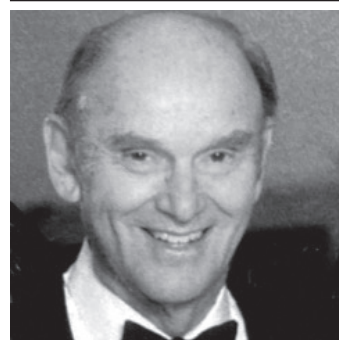
Barry Gershon, 70, of Philadelphia, a loving friend to many, died Tuesday, May 10, 2022, from complications of a stroke. He is survived by his beloved schnoodle Harpo and his sister Janet. He is predeceased by his parents and his brother Adam. Raised in Long Island, Barry earned a BS in Social Welfare and a Masters in Public Administration/Policy from Albany, SUNY; and an MBA from Columbia Business School. After 6 years as a healthcare financial analyst in the New York State senate, Barry created a coalition of hospitals as Assistant to the President of Bronx Lebanon Hospital. This was followed by a long career in the pharmaceutical industry with tenures at Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Wyeth. He started his own

consulting business in 2010. Barry loved children and was a volunteer at the Arthur Philadelphia Public School. He had an uncanny ability to amuse kids – often with a great joke. Barry was also an avid collector of pipes and fountain pens.

GORDON

RHODA 'RICKI' (nee Perlin) on May 16, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Ralph; Loving mother of Mark Gordon (Kathy), Stuart Gordon (Donna), and Kenneth Gordon (Beth); Devoted grandmother of Scott, Amanda (Ben), Lindsay (Eli), Jeffrey, and Jenna (Kenny); Adoring great-grandmother of Reed, Jackson, and Nate. Contributions in her memory may be made to Reform Cong. Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027 or Hadassah, 1518 Walnut St., Ste. 402, Phila., PA 19102.

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ISAACSON

Howard Isaacson, M.D., passed away on May 15 in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, five months short of his 100th birthday, after a long and valiant struggle with multiple cancers. Born in the Bronx, New York, in 1922, he grew up in Freehold, New Jersey, graduated from Rutgers University in 1943, and obtained his professional degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1946, one of just a few Jewish students to be admitted under the then-existing quota system. A year later he married his beloved June Golove, a chemist, who died in 1993. Military service at Maxwell Air Force base in Alabama took his medical career in an unanticipated direction when he arrived at the base and found, at the outset of the postwar baby boom, that new doctors were needed to care for the needs of many women starting families. Returning to Philadelphia to open a practice in obstetrics and gynecology, he pursued this specialty until his retirement nearly half a century later. By his calculation he delivered more than 10,000 babies during his career. A member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the Phil-

adelphia County Medical Society, and the American Society for the Study of Sterility, he was affiliated over the years with a number of Philadelphia-area hospitals, including Philadelphia General Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Jefferson Medical College, the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, Haverford Hospital, and Lankenau Medical Center. He also taught and served as chief of the ob-gyn department at several of these institutions. Dr. Isaacson is survived by his daughter Joan Ockman, wife of the late Robert Slutzky, of Elkins Park; son Bill Isaacson and daughter-in-law Julie Benwitt Kay Isaacson, of Bryn Mawr; grandchildren Zoë Slutzky, Bobby Isaacson and wife Jen Isaacson, and Mark Isaacson; and great-grandchild James Isaacson. His brother, Robert Isaacson of West Long Branch, New Jersey, predeceased him, as did his partner Reta Eisenberg, with whom he enjoyed a happy long-term relationship starting in 1996 and traveled widely. Vigorous well into his nineties, he was also an avid tennis player, gardener, and bridge player. After retirement he continued to consult on medical matters and to assist former patients, some of whom were women whom he had brought into the world a generation or more earlier. The family asks that in lieu of sending flowers those who wish to make a donation in his memory contribute to the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia or another charity of their choice.

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KAMENS

Phyllis Kamens - Age 89 of Yardley, Pa., passed away May 18, 2022. Daughter of the late Pinkus and Mollie (Warowitz) Levinsky. Predeceased by her beloved husband Morris after 69 years of marriage. Phyllis is survived by her children Brenda Kahan (Larry), Michael Kamens (Joan), her sister Lois Rosenwald (Pete), her nephew Richard Rosenwald and grandchildren Jessica Kelch (Paul), Elizabeth Kamens, Ryan Kahan (Monique), Matt Kahan and Lindsey Kamens and great grandchildren Adam and Emma. Philly as she was called by her husband Moishe was a passionate person of great conviction never one to back down from a spirited debate. She had strong values and lived by them. She followed current events closely and loved to read. She always knew what was going on in the world and cared deeply for those less fortunate than herself. What she cared about most was her family and she reveled in her children and grandchildren's success.

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KATZ

Aimee Katz-On Saturday, May 7, 2022 of Bala Cynwyd, PA. A life-long Philadelphian, Aimee was born and raised in the Wynnefield neighborhood and lived there for seven decades. Predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Bernard Aaron Katz and by son, James Louis Katz. Teacher, social worker and womens' clothing designer, Aimee is survived by two children, Samuel Katz (Connie) and Kathrin Katz, grandchildren Lauren Katz Smith (Prentiss), Philip Katz (Leah), Elizabeth Katz (Micah Kaplan), Benjamin Katz, Tara Johnson (Joshua) and Lyle Hall (Alycen) and eleven great grandchildren. Remembrances to support Ukrainian Jews through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (www.jdc.org)

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KENDALL

KENDALL EARL May 18, 2022. Earl Kendall was a true Philadelphian. A lifetime Philly sports fan, he played basketball for Central High and graduated from Wharton. Earl met his one true love, the stunning Bobbie Heisler on the Atlantic City Boardwalk and every day since, described her as being even more beautiful on the inside. They married in 1950 and raised two extraordinary daughters. Earl was a devoted son, taking over his family business Kendall's Home Furnishings, which he ran for 40 years, despite dreams of law school. He worked hard and took great pride in helping his family pursue their passions. He disliked receiving gifts almost as much as he loved giving them. Often requesting an item be returned, as he already had a sweater, a shirt, a pair of gloves, you get the picture. He also had quite the sense of humor. Earl was very proud of his independence, his full head of hair and even more so that he was still able to shovel the snow off his front walk and complete his daily regimen of 25 push ups. His smile lit up a room and nobody made him smile more than his grandchildren and great grandchildren, except, perhaps, his beloved wife. Bobbie was not just his, but their whole family's sun, moon and stars. Earl didn't mind playing second fiddle. In fact, recently he admitted that he missed

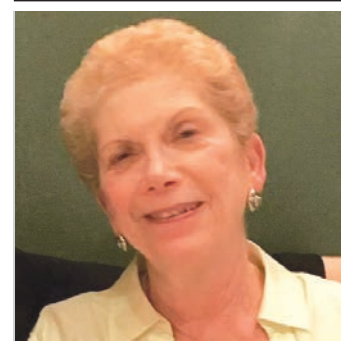
the days when nobody was paying so much attention to him cause they all just wanted Mommom. Earl left this world early Wednesday morning, the same way he lived in it, with little fuss, a great basketball game on the screen and his family all around him. He was adored and will be deeply missed. He is survived by his daughters Sherrie Kendall and Margelle Liss (Shelly), his grandchildren Samantha Feld, Michael Feld (Debra), Ben Liss (Jen) and Jenna Liss (Ethan) and great grandchildren Moshe, Simcha, Bayla and Gali Feld and Mayson, Cameron and Emmy Liss. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Atlantic City Boardwalk Holocaust Memorial www.theacbh.org and Mural Arts Philadelphia www.muralarts.org.

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KINSTLICK

Carol Kinstlick (nee Epstein), 82, of Merion Station, PA passed away on April 18, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Emanuel Kinstlick MD, daughter of the late Max and Rose Epstein, she is survived by daughter Toby Frank Zachian MD and son Gary Frank and grandchildren Rachel Zachian and Skylar Zachian. Contributions in Carol's memory can be made to Congregation Beth Tovim, Main Line Office, 1504 Von Steuben Drive, West Chester, PA 19380-5511) or The COPD Foundation, Tribute Giving www.copdfoundation.org

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LASSOFF

Marlene Lassoff, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend passed away on May 10, 2022 at the age of 84. Marlene was born on July 12, 1937 in Easton, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her children, Cheryl Doran, Michael (Sarah) Lassoff and Michelle (Michael) Harbold. After lovingly raising her three children, she went on to have a successful career in the insurance industry. Upon retirement, she continued to devote her life to her family. In addition to her children, she is survived by her precious grandchildren, Jennifer (David) DiRusso, Rachel Doran, Jared Harbold, Jes-

sica Harbold and Amelia Lassoff, her darling great-grandchildren, Alexandra DiRusso and David DiRusso, Jr., and her dear brothers, Richard Hadar and Larry Horowitz. She is preceded in death by her parents, Solomon and Sylvia Horowitz, and her brother, Mark Horowitz. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hadassah Medical Organization or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

MARTIN

Eugene M., Jr., age 87, passed away Sunday May 15, 2022. Beloved husband of Martha (nee Seidman); loving father of Susan Stoudt, Peter Martin (Sarah), and Andrew Martin (Melissa) and adoring Pop-pop to Nicole, Oliver, Joshua, Zachary, and Rebecca. He was a proud veteran and retired Navy Lieutenant Commander. Gene loved to fish and in his later years became an accomplished painter. Memorial contributions may be made to jfcsphilly.org. WEST LAUREL HILL FUNERAL HOME www.westlaurelhill.com

OSHEROW

Evelyn Osherow, born March 9, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family on May 14, 2022 in Voorhees, NJ. She is survived by her loving daughters, Sharon (Charles) Goldman, Jackie Osherow and Michele Osherow (Doug Prouty) adoring grandchildren, Marc Goldman and Hillary (Frank) Hopper, Magda, Dora and Mollie Korewa and Olivia and Phoebe Prouty and her great-grandchildren, Drake, Josephine and Alexander Hopper, who gave her much joy. She was the very model of an eishet chayil, an enormous-hearted, exceedingly generous and loving woman, and a very intelligent, hard-working one, who taught elementary school in New York City, Philadelphia and Delran, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in her memory to Hadassah, Mazon and Planned Parenthood.

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RIGG

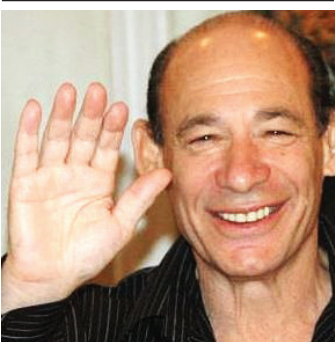
Deana Knebel, age 81, May 15, 2022, of Haverford. Beloved wife of Gary; Mother of Karen Siwik (Keith), Laura Pratt (Doug) and Joseph Rigg (Bridget); Grandmother of Benjamin, Cameron, Zoe, Emmet, Miriam and the late Daniel; Sister of the late Nancy Moskowitz. Deana was a longtime Head Nurse at H.U.P's PACU and a 52 year resident of Haverford Township. Contributions in Deana's memory can be made to Overbrook Alumni Association P.O. Box 2562 Bala Cynwyd PA 19004 (www.ohsaaphilly.org).

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SPERLING

Irma Sperling (Nee Novack) May 16 of Thorofare, NJ; beloved wife of the late Leonard Sperling; loving mother of Warren Sperling (Kathleen Kramer), Karl Sperling and Jill Romoff; devoted sister of Rosalie Liss, Carol Gold and the late Barbara Simon; cherished grandmother of Lindsey, Sarah, Noah and Sydney. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Irma's memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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WALLACE

Edward Jay Wallace, 78, died suddenly at home of natural causes on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Born in Philadelphia, PA, on March 6, 1944, Ed was the oldest of five children of Oscar and Sylvia (Berman) Wallace. He graduated from Overbrook High School in 1962 and became a union electrician, recently honored by

IBEW 98 for 50-plus years of service. Drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, he was posted to Frankfurt, Germany, then returned to his hometown for good...followed by the 911 Porsche he'd bought there. Because besides being a rabid supporter of Philly sports teams, Ed was a car aficionado, and he considered his recent visit to Richard Petty Driving Experience a high point in his life. He was a terrific dancer and master of the kazatske, able to jump up and kick out both legs in the air. Ed was also a loyal companion to his widowed mother until her death in 2011 and thoroughly enjoyed his own last years of life, traveling and finding romance, attending sports and social events, and playing pool and sharing meals with friends. He was a loving and beloved son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend, generous with his time, affection and resources. His nickname was "Bird," and now his spirit has flown. Ed is survived by his siblings Marc Wallace (Gini Kopecky Wallace), Marsha Wallace, MD, and Jayne Wallace (Michael Cohen); sister-in-law Ellen Siegel, PhD (the late Richard Wallace, MD); niece and nephews Amanda Yollin, Ben Siegel-Wallace (Jasmine Zheng, MD), Micah Wallace (Rachel Wallace, PhD) and Samuel Siegel-Wallace; and two new great-nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to National Alliance on Mental Illness.

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What's happening at ... Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek

Orthodox Synagogue Reaches Century Mark

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek in Philadelphia turned 100 on May 22.

Yet the Orthodox synagogue is “a very young shul now,” said Michael Bohm, a member since 1976.

What Bohm means is that, among roughly 125 congregants, about 40 are young families who have joined in recent years. The longtime member estimated that all of the 50 to 60 kids in the synagogue are younger than 8.

At a time when shuls are struggling to retain membership and attract new members, Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek is “vital with young families,” Bohm said.

The longtime member attributed the healthy state of affairs to the synagogue's young rabbi, Yehoshua Yeamans, 36. Since his 2015 hiring, Yeamans has worked hard at reaching young, Jewishly-oriented families and convincing them to join the B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek community.

“He's a man with great drive and vision,” Bohm said. “He's very personable. And to people moving in, he made them feel very much at home.”

Yeamans, a Scarsdale, New York, native, earned his rabbinical ordination in Pikesville, Maryland, then served Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada. But he knew the Philadelphia area because he often visited with his wife, Sarah Yeamans, who grew up in the Northeast and graduated from the Torah Academy Girls High School.

As the rabbi explained, he understood the lay of the land, the nature of the people and the rabbis in the area, and he liked them all. So when he got the chance to come to Philadelphia, he went for it.

Rabbi Aaron Felder, who led B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek for more than 30 years, died in May 2014 at 70, according to a Jewish Exponent obituary that year. The Orthodox shul had a generational congregation of people around Bohm's age. It needed a new, and perhaps younger, leader.

Yeamans became that leader.

“It was a moment of transition for the synagogue,” he said.

At the time, B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek was already an amalgamation of three different Philadelphia synagogues: B'nai Israel, dating to 1922; Ohev Zedek, which opened in 1889; and B'nai Halberstam, founded in 1886.

When Bohm's generation joined, the longtime member explained, older congregants told them they were giving them a gift — and to make the most of it. In the mid and late-2010s when Yeamans started, it was Bohm's generation that got to do the giving.

“It was the same thing,” he said.

But it may not have worked without Yeamans, who started spreading the word among the Philadelphia Jewish community. Except he did not limit himself to the immediate area. He also went up to the Orthodox Union's annual relocation festival in New York City.

At that event, young Jewish families go searching for a community. And for a few years, Yeamans was there to proselytize about his beloved new home.

He talked to people, gave out materials and convinced many to relocate to Philadelphia. Bohm can't say exactly how many families joined from those events, but he attributed at least part of the synagogue's recent growth to them.

“In New York, nobody would know if you died,” Bohm said. “Here, you can get in on the ground level and make an impact.”

Yeamans' pitch worked because of his sincerity, his smile and the twinkle in his eye, Bohm said. The rabbi listened to people and paid attention to their needs. He also shared his vision for the synagogue and made them feel like they could contribute.

Today, they are.

The young shul has a mommy-and-me program as well as programs for children on Shabbat, among other activities for kids. On May 19, the synagogue brought in a moon bounce for the under-8 crew.

“It's more just letting people know what's here,” Yeamans said of his pitch to families. “The community sells itself. It's a community filled with



Rebbetzin Sarah Yeamans and Rabbi Yehoshua Yeamans



Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek has gotten younger in recent years.

Courtesy of Congregation B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek

wholesome, genuine people.”

On May 22, congregants sat for brunch and celebrated the synagogue's 100th birthday with a video tribute to members who have made aliyah over the years — a list that, according to Yeamans, is 45 strong.

“The story of our synagogues which merged into what we have today really shows the unique strength and spirit to perpetuate the community,” the rabbi said.

Moving forward, he wants to do more

of the same.

He said members are starting to see B'nai Israel Ohev Zedek as a place that, even at 100, will continue “to be here for a long time.” The rabbi described the shul as “very centrally located” for Orthodox Jews in New York; Lakewood, New Jersey; and Baltimore, in addition to Philadelphia.

“There's a lot of optimism right now,” he concluded. **JE**

jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com



The Complicated Matter of Reward and Punishment

BY RABBI JASON BONDER

Parshat B'Chukotai

The message of this week's Torah portion, B'chukotai, is straightforward. If you listen to God's laws, you will be rewarded. If you don't keep God's laws, you will be punished.

I've found, as I suspect you have, that the conditional statements in this Torah portion do not match up with the realities of life. As Rabbi Harold Kushner famously put it, "Bad things happen to good people." The reverse is also true. Good things happen to bad people.

Given this incongruity, can we still find meaning in this week's Torah portion? I hope so for the sake of our collective future.

One crucial step toward making meaning out of this Torah portion is to take note of whom God is addressing in this portion. In the paragraph above, I was talking to "you." But in writing this article I am, of course, hoping to address more than one individual. The same is true for this week's portion. The beginning of the portion is translated, "If *you* walk in my laws and keep my commandments ..." But the verbs "walk" and "keep" in the Hebrew are in the plural. God is not addressing individuals in this portion. Rather, God is addressing the people of Israel collectively.

I used to read these promises of divine reward and punishment on the level of the individual, and that seriously hindered my ability to find meaning in them. Yet I don't attribute my mistaken reading to a translation error. I read it this way in the past because I am the product of our time, our place and the culture in which we live. We live in a highly individualistic society. We tend to see the world in terms of "me" instead of "we." This is a

serious problem.

Whenever I read this portion, I always think back to the times of my chaplaincy internship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. All too often, as I went room to room visiting patients in the hospital, I heard the following question from patients. "What could I have possibly done to deserve this?"

It broke my heart to see people unnecessarily harboring guilt in their hearts, especially while they were already suffering so much. Seeing this week's portion through the "me" lens is part of the reason why so many of us think that suffering comes as punishment for breaking God's laws and commandments. Understanding that these punishments and rewards in B'Chukotai are not meant for individuals can help us to break free from this guilt when suffering arises in our lives.

This shift from the individual to the communal view can be helpful, but it does not solve all of the problems in this portion. I can't accept the theology that people are collectively punished for their sins either.

The people of Ukraine are just the latest example in an endless list of nations that have unnecessarily suffered. God is not punishing Ukraine. They are suffering because Putin chose to inflict harm. Similarly, countries that experience drought or famine are not being punished for breaking divine rules. They are suffering from terrible weather patterns or failures of our global community to get supplies to that region.

I do not believe in a God that chooses to punish some individuals and reward others. Nor does the God I believe in punish some nations and lift up others. Nevertheless, the shift from the individual to the collective is a move that we need now more than ever.

Too often in our society, when we encounter arguments with which we disagree, we dismiss it entirely. We

choose the convenience of a "me" worldview over the difficulty of understanding views unlike our own.

For many years, this is exactly what I did while reading this Torah portion. I rejected the theology of B'Chukotai on behalf of all those who unnecessarily suffer. But that is the kind of behavior that has gotten us to where we are in our "me-centered" society right now.

Only three portions ago, back in Kedoshim, we read the famous words from Leviticus 19:17-18, "You shall not hate your kinsfolk in your heart. Reprove your kinsman but incur no guilt because of him." B'chukotai reinforces this commandment by reminding us that our future not only depends on the actions of individuals. We share our future with everyone. We share it even with the people who think differently than we do.

In this moment in American history, this Torah portion presents an opportunity for us to sharpen the skills which can move our society from "me" to "we." Can we read the ancient worldview of B'Chukotai, disagree with it and *still* find meaning within it? I hope we can. The future of our society depends on it.

This week I will let those plural verbs remind me that I am a part of many communities and that all of us who make up this society are in desperate need of a willingness to find meaning in points of view not shared. **JE**

Rabbi Jason Bonder is the associate rabbi of Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



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MAY 27–JUNE 2

FRIDAY, MAY 27

PARSHA FOR LIFE

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

MONDAY, MAY 30

MAHJONG GAME

Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El Sisterhood invites the community to join our weekly mahjong game at 7 p.m. Cost is \$36 per year or free with MBIEE Sisterhood membership. **For more information, call 215-635-1505 or email office@mbiee.org. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.**

TUESDAY, MAY 31

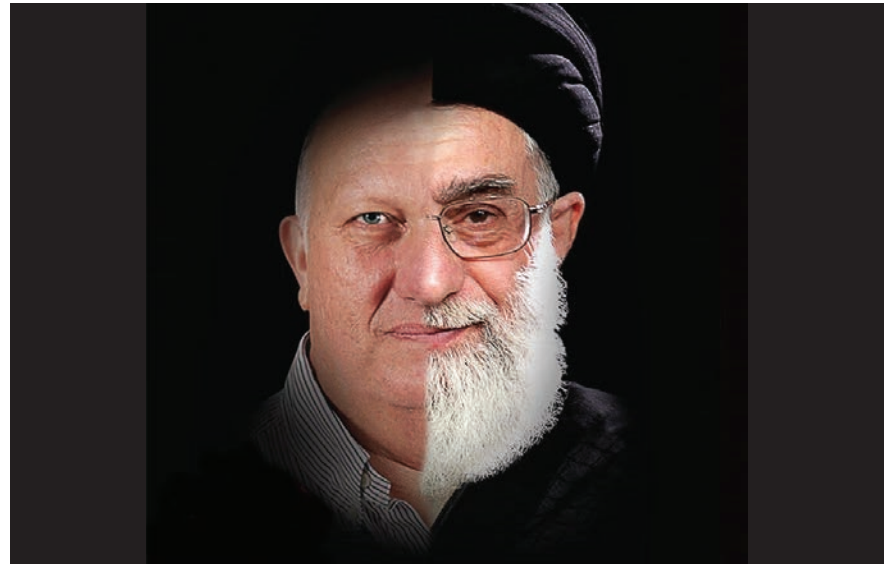
BINGO WITH BARRY

Join Barry at Tabas Kleinlife for an afternoon of bingo from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on May 31 and June 1 and 2. Free parking and free to play with snacks available on June 1. **For more information, call 215-745-3127. 2101 Strahle St., Philadelphia.**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

HOARDING SUPPORT

Join Jewish Family and Children's Service and like-minded individuals from April 13-July 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in a supportive community where you will learn tools to address compulsive acquiring and saving while deepening your understanding of clutter and how you got here. **To register or for more information on sliding-scale options, contact Rivka Goldman at 267-256-2250 or rgoldman@jfcshilly.org.**


THURSDAY, JUNE 2
MIKVEH ISRAEL LECTURE

Congregation Mikveh Israel will welcome David Nissan as a guest lecturer. Join us at 7 p.m. for an in-person presentation at the synagogue. Along with his topic, "Israel in the Mind of Iran's Leader," Nissan will present a visual experience and finish with a question-and-answer period. **For more information, call the synagogue office, 215-922-5446. 44 N. Fourth St., Philadelphia.**


SUNDAY, MAY 29
UKRAINE BENEFIT CONCERT

The Arioso String Quartet, the Beth Israel Music Appreciation Society and other performers will perform a free benefit concert at Congregation Beth Israel of Media to raise relief funds for Ukrainian charities at 3 p.m. **To learn more, visit bethisraelmedia.org. 542 S. New Middletown Road (Route 352), Media.**

social announcements/

BIRTH

Chelsea (née Shull) and Allan Goldshteyn announce the birth of their son, Skylar Blake Goldshteyn, on May 3.

Sharing in their happiness is sister Lexie, grandparents Dean and Lisa Shull of Holland and Yefim Goldshteyn and Irene Mazor of Huntingdon Valley, along with Uncle Zac, Aunt Jessica, Uncle Colby and great-grandparents Susan and Edward Landa.

Skylar is named in loving memory of his paternal great-grandfather Boris Goldshteyn. **JE**



Courtesy of Chelsea and Allan Goldshteyn

Out & About

Courtesy of the Abrams Hebrew Academy



1

Courtesy of Ohav Shalom of Bucks County



2

Courtesy of Beth Shalom Congregation



3

Courtesy of the American Friends of Magen David Adom



4

Courtesy of the Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties



5

1 Abrams Hebrew Academy students visited Israel earlier in May. 2 Ohav Shalom of Bucks County held its spring fling marking the end of the Hebrew school year on May 15. 3 Beth Shalom Congregation's Israel Engagement Committee hosted a brunch with Alon Tal, a member of the Knesset in Israel, on May 15. 4 The Trimpol family of Southampton made a donation to the \$135 million effort to build the world's first subterranean blood bank in Israel. 5 On May 16, the Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties announced a partnership with two Somers Point School District schools to offer counseling and therapy sessions to students.

Philip Korshak

SERVES UP BAGELS, POETRY IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA SHOP

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

On the one morning each week when Philip Korshak was not running his bar on the East Side of New York, and his wife had a day away from her CNN editing bay, they spent their mornings the same way: Korshak would stop at Bergen Bagels in Flatbush and pick up two bagel sandwiches, a coffee and a copy of the Sunday paper.

When job burnout prompted a move to Austin, Texas — a bagel desert — Korshak needed to find a way to revive his and his wife's tradition.

"I'm a romantic human, and I was unwilling to give up the thing that was important to us," Korshak said. "And so I looked at her and I said, 'OK, so, I'll learn how to make bagels.'"

A long stint as a pizzaiolo at a New York-style pizza place in Austin gave Korshak his baking chops, and a new home in South Philadelphia three years ago gave him a clean slate and bedrock for Korshak Bagels, where he could purvey bagels to far more folks than just his wife. The shop celebrated its first birthday earlier this month.

Through his bagel shop, Korshak's goal is to "manifest joy" through a fresh take on a humble Eastern European bread, using sourdough starter "Helen Mirren" and locally sourced ingredients.

Though born to a Jewish father (and parents married by a rabbi), the 49-year-old does not consider himself religious. Yet he abides by a dogma that can't be considered anything less than spiritual: "Every bagel is a love story."

Korshak's temple is the shop at 10th and Morris streets in South Philadelphia, where he slings tried-and-true schmear-and-lox bagel sandwiches and reinvents the wheel with cheesy Cooper Sharp long hot bagels and homemade jams, including a clementine jam made with dates and Sichuan peppercorns.

A self-proclaimed "recovering academic," Korshak posts poems for his



Philip Korshak opened his eponymous bagel shop in South Philly in May 2021. Korshak bagels features traditional bagels, but also eccentric alternatives, such as blue cheese and French toast bagels.

customers, who loyally wait in a blocks-long queue outside the shop, to see. He scrawls verses about the summer heat and city sounds on bakery paper with a Sharpie.

Korshak's mother taught her son at an early age the importance of poetry. Long before Korshak was pursuing a master's in poetry at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, he learned the power of poetry to express universal truths in a neatly wrapped package, where the negative spaces in the prose have just as much meaning as the words around it.

After years of crafting a similar phys-

ical product — a ring of substance with a signature hole in the center — Korshak came to view poetry and bagels as similar.

"With poetry, what you're trying to do is express something that is very, very large in an incredibly limited way," he said. "That the amount of control that you have has to be given up almost completely, in the idea of how it's going to affect the human being who's reading it."

Those familiar with working with yeast, particularly the wild yeast found in sourdough starters, understand the importance of relinquishing control

over their product. Even if a baker measures each ingredient to a gram and follows their own recipe, the yeast may respond differently to different weather or bacteria in the air.

"The nice thing about dough — and, more importantly, wild yeast — is that it doesn't move on the same time frame as us," Korshak said. "It moves on its own, and therefore, when you start putting your feelings around what an hour is, or what a day is, or what three days are, or what a beginning is, or what an end is — that's all very fine and great, but it really has no resonance."

Korshak's experience in embracing change and unpredictability extends beyond his product. Last summer, the shop's 14 workers unionized, a decision Korshak supported.

"I hired 14 people a little over a year ago. They were all strangers and, within the space of three months, because they wanted to see a world that was different ... organized themselves to become a union, and that's beautiful," he said.

The baker's romantic sensibilities connect his support of his workers to his core belief that every bagel is a love letter.

Korshak believes that one day, the next generation of workers, in and out of his bagel shop, will work to make the world a better place, but he is at peace knowing he won't be alive to see that day.

After he finishes a bagel — taking it out of the oven, slicing it open and filling it with schmear and jam or sizzling egg and cheese — Korshak comes to the same conclusion: When he hands over the bagel to the customer, he'll never know the bagel's true impact on the customer.

"The best thing about a love letter is ... you're putting that on paper, and you're putting it out there, and you will never, ever be there when the person reads it," Korshak said. "And you will never ever really know what happens with it. In fact, you'll only ever know that your intention of love was pure. That's the point." **JE**

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Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation for a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation for **Weavers Way Community Fund, Inc.** were filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The address of the corporation's registered office is 559 Carpenter Lane, Philadelphia PA 19119 in Philadelphia County. This Corporation is incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation for a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation were filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for **Guyanese Diaspora Charity**. This Corporation is Incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

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CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, May Term, 2022, No. 001121. Notice is hereby given that on May 17th, 2022 the petition was filed, praying for a decree to change his name from Ibrahim Esmayale Ahmed to Osman Ibrahim Esmayel. The Court has fixed June 30th, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. in Courtroom 691, 34 So. 11th St., Phila., PA for the hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.
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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 WILLIE A. SPANN, SR., EXECUTOR, 5536 W. Thompson, St., Philadelphia, PA 19131, Or to his Attorney: Francis X. Redding 1414 Bywood Ave. Upper Darby, PA 19082

ESTATE OF DAVID ELLIS JONES Jones, David Ellis late of Philadelphia, PA. Andrew Robinson, 216 N. Hobart St., Philadelphia, PA 19139, Administrator. Andrew I. Roseman, Esquire 1528 Walnut St. Suite 1412 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF DEBORAH L. SKINNER AKA DEBORAH LYNN HARRIS SKINNER
Skinner, Deborah L. aka Skinner, Deborah Lynn Harris late of Philadelphia, PA. Keenan James Skinner, c/o Joshua D. Headley, Esq., Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, Union Trust Building, 501 Grant Street, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, Executor. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Union Trust Building 501 Grant Street Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ESTATE OF DELORES E. GREEN, Late of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania
Letters of Administration on the above Estate have been granted to Andrea L. Knight, who requests 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: Andrea L. Knight, Administratrix C/O Miles B. Rittmaster, Esq. 1495 Alan Wood Rd., Suite 4 Conshohocken, PA 19428 OR to her Attorney, Miles B. Rittmaster, Esq. 1495 Alan Wood Rd., Suite 4 Conshohocken, PA 19428

ESTATE OF DONALD SHARPE WEIGHTMAN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DAVID WEIGHTMAN, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Stephanie A. Henrick, Esq., 1001 Conshohocken State Rd., Ste. 1-625, West Conshohocken, PA 19428, Or to is Attorney: STEPHANIE A. HENRICK OBERMAYER REBMANN MAXWELL & HIPPEL LLP 1001 Conshohocken State Rd., Ste. 1-625 West Conshohocken, PA 19428

ESTATE OF DOROTHY A. SOMERS, 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 JAMES SOMERS, EXECUTOR, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: DANIELLA A. HORN KLENK LAW, LLC 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF DOROTHY ANDERSON Anderson, Dorothy late of Philadelphia, PA. Shereimba Anderson, 15 E. Wynnewood Rd., Apt. 10C, Wynnewood, PA 19096, Administratrix. Mark Feinman, Esquire 8171 Castor Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19152

ESTATE OF EDWARD OMIETANSKI, 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 Executor, Susan Okomski, Beneficiaries Susan Okomski, Joanne DiPietro, and Stanley Omiotanski, The Law Offices of Jon Taylor, Esquire, PC, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1888, Philadelphia, PA19103 also the attorney.

ESTATE OF ELEANOR P. LERNER Lerner, Eleanor P. late of Philadelphia, PA. Sandra Stein and Michelle Neri, c/o Hope Bosniak, Esq., Dessen, Moses & Rossitto, 600 Easton Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090, Executrices. Dessen, Moses & Rossitto 600 Easton Rd. Willow Grove, PA 19090

ESTATE OF ELSIE SHEPSMAN, DECEASED. Late of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent

to make payment without delay to LYNNE SHEPSMAN and STEVEN SHEPSMAN, EXECUTORS, c/o Robert S. Cohen, Esq., 123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201, Jenkintown, PA 19046, Or to their Attorney: ROBERT S. COHEN LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT S. COHEN 123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201 Jenkintown, PA 19046

ESTATE OF FLORENCE M. ROSENTHAL a/k/a FLORENCE MARY ROSENTHAL and FLORENCE ROSENTHAL, 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 DANIEL S. ROSENTHAL and DONNA M. STUKOWSKI, EXECUTORS, c/o Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020, Or to their Attorney: HARRY METKA 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9 Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF FRANCIS GALATI, 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 Gary Zlotnick, Esq., Administrator, Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 also the attorney.

ESTATE OF HARRIET KOMAR, 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 Executor, Jacek Podgorny, Beneficiaries Jacek Podgorny, Maria Iwona Krzysztofiak a/k/a Maria Iwona Chrzastowska, Alicia Podajna a/k/a Alicja Podhajna, St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, and Radio Maryja. The Law Offices of Jon Taylor, Esquire, PC, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1888, Philadelphia, PA19103 also the attorney.

ESTATE OF HAZEL ALPHONSO McCLEAN a/k/a H. Alphonso McClean, 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 LIONEL E. BROOME, EXECUTOR, c/o Paul L. Feldman, Esq., 820 Homestead Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046, Or to his Attorney: PAUL L. FELDMAN FELDMAN & FELDMAN 820 Homestead Rd. Jenkintown, PA 19046

ESTATE OF HENRIETTA SLAP, 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 Eve Slap and Alison Tress, Executrices, c/o Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or to their attorneys, Gary A. Zlotnick, Esq. Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC One Commerce Sq. 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF JAMES LEWIS TURNER Turner, James Lewis late of Philadelphia, PA. James C. Harris, c/o David W. Crosson, Esq., Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC, 609 W. Hamilton St., Suite 210, Allentown, PA 18101, Administrator. Crosson Richetti & Daigle, LLC 609 W. Hamilton St. Suite 210 Allentown, PA 18101

ESTATE OF JOEL T. VERNILE a/k/a JOEL VERNILE, 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 CHRISTINE VERNILE, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: DAVID S. WORKMAN ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JORDAN A. KATZ, DECEASED. Late of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CYNTHIA KATZ and SCOTT ISDANER, EXECUTORS, c/o Lawrence S. Chane, Esq., One Logan Square, 130 N. 18th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-6998, Or to their Attorney: LAWRENCE S. CHANE BLANK ROME LLP One Logan Square 130 N. 18th St. Philadelphia, PA 19103-6998

ESTATE OF JOSEPH F. TOLAND, JR., 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 REGINA MARIA AGRO, EXECUTRIX, 2259 NE 9 Ave., Wilton Manors, FL, 33305

ESTATE OF JOSHLYN F. OTEY, 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 MARSHALL CONWAY and CASSANDRA CONWAY, ADMINISTRATORS, 7345 Shelbourne St., Philadelphia, PA 19111

ESTATE OF KIMBERLY E. LONG-JONES Long-Jones, Kimberly E. late of Philadelphia, PA. Jasmine 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 LINDAALICIA WILLIAMS, 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 TINA WILLIAMS, EXECUTRIX, 13818 Ella Lee Lane, Houston, TX 77077, Or to her Attorney: HENRY A. JEFFERSON JEFFERSON LAW, LLC 1700 Market St., Ste. 1005 Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF LOUISE I GILLETTE, DECEASED. 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 JOSEPH ERIC CHIP CLOFINE, EXECUTOR, 614 S 4TH #243, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147.

ESTATE OF MAGARICK, BARRY J. 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 Valerie Ferris, c/o Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq., 1234 Bridgetown Pike, Suite 110, Feasterville, PA 19053, Executrix. Jeffrey S. Michels, Esq. 1234 Bridgetown Pike Suite 110 Feasterville, PA 19053

ESTATE OF MARY ANN GEIER, 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 MARGARET GEIER HARRIS, EXECUTRIX, c/o Nathan Snyder, Esq., 3070 Bristol Pike, Bldg. 2, Ste. 204, Bensalem, PA 19020, Or to her Attorney: NATHAN SNYDER LAW OFFICE OF NATHAN

SNYDER 3070 Bristol Pike, Bldg. 2, Ste. 204 Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MELVILLE L. BARNES, 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 CATHIE A. MANIGLY and MARIA CODDINGTON, ADMINISTRATRICES, c/o Michael S. Bloom, Esq., 712 W. MacDade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA 19033, Or to their Attorney: MICHAEL S. BLOOM PRESSMAN & DOYLE, LLC 712 W. MacDade Blvd. Milmont Park, PA 19033

ESTATE OF MICHAEL GRADESS, III, 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 STEVEN GRADESS, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Scott H. Brandt, Esq., 1101 Market St., Ste. 2820, Philadelphia, PA 19107, Or to his Attorney: SCOTT H. BRANDT LIPSKY AND BRANDT 1101 Market St., Ste. 2820 Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF PATRICIA A. THORNTON, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTER 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 RONELLE WEST and JALEEL THORNTON, ADMINISTRATORS, 138 E. Walnut Park Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19120, Or to their Attorney: MARYBETH O. LAURIA LAURIA LAW LLC 3031 Walton Rd., Ste. A320 Plymouth Meeting, PA

ESTATE OF PELLUM COAXUM, a/k/a PELLUM COAXUM, JR., DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to BARBARA COAXUM, EXECUTRIX, 2 Claudia Circle, Media, PA 19063

ESTATE OF ROBERT SCOTT OBERHOLTZER, 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 DONNA RAE LENTZ, EXECUTRIX, c/o Dillon L. Ross, IV, Esq., 3801 Skippack Pike, #1403, Skippack, PA 19474-1403, Or to her Attorney: DILLON L. ROSS, IV ROSS LAW OFFICES 3801 Skippack Pike, #1403 Skippack, PA 19474-1403

ESTATE OF THEODORE BOTTOS, 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 ALEXANDRIA BOTTOS, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Charles A. J. Halpin, III, Esq., The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110, Or to her Attorney: Charles A. J. Halpin, III The Land Title Bldg. 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF WILLIAM P. FEDULLO, 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 - ROCHELLE FEDULLO, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Angela D. Giampolo, Esq., 1221 Locust St., Ste. 202, Philadelphia, PA 19107, Or to her Attorney: ANGELA D. GIAMPOLO GIAMPOLO LAW GROUP, LLC 1221 Locust St., Ste. 202 Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF WILLIAM P. McLEAN, 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 WILLIAM PAUL McLEAN, JR., EXECUTOR, 905 S. 28th St., Camp Hill, PA 17011

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