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inside this issue

Local

- 6 Colleyville, Texas, rabbi visits Philadelphia, shares impact
- 7 Famous chef headlines Taste of Israel festival
- 8 Reconstructionist Rabbinical College completes project on Jews and race

Opinion

- 11 Editorials
- 12 Letters
- 12 Opinions

Special Section

- 17 Senior Lifestyle

Feature Story

- 18 What will Israel look like in 2048?

Community

- 22 Obituaries
- 23 Synagogue Spotlight
- 25 Calendar


In every issue


- 4 Weekly Kibbitz
- 9 Federation
- 10 You Should Know
- 16 National Briefs
- 20 Food & Dining
- 21 Arts & Culture
- 28 Around Town
- 24 D'var Torah
- 27 Last Word
- 28 Classifieds

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6 Colleyville, Texas, rabbi visits Philadelphia, shares impact



7 Famous chef headlines Taste of Israel festival



18 What will Israel look like in 2048?



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Charlie Cytron-Walker, Rabbi From 2022 Texas Hostage Situation, Visits Philadelphia

Stephen Silver

Most Jews in Philadelphia, and the United States, remember where they were on Jan. 15, 2022, when a gunman held four people hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

After the 11-hour ordeal, the synagogue's rabbi, Charlie Cytron-Walker, threw a chair at the gunman, leading himself and the other hostages out the door before the FBI Hostage Rescue Team entered the synagogue and shot the gunman.

Just over a year ago, two artifacts from that day — the chair the rabbi threw, and the cup of tea he offered



From left: Jane Eisner, the director of academic affairs at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia

to the gunman — were donated to the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History. And on April

27, Cytron-Walker visited Philadelphia and was reunited with those items for the first time.

"If this exhibit, if its presence here can help raise awareness, and bring attention, and call attention to the antisemitism that exists with our world, it's very much a positive and hopefully, we're going to start to see reductions of hate," Cytron-Walker told the Jewish Exponent in an interview.

The museum approached Congregation Beth Israel shortly after the hostage situation about the items, and Josh Perelman, the museum's chief curator, revealed that the FBI had to clear the chair before it was approved for donation to the museum.

Cytron-Walker has since switched pulpits, taking over last summer at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He explained how the experience has changed how he views his work.

"It hasn't really changed my approach to how I am a rabbi and who I am as a rabbi. It's given me an opportunity to raise awareness about issues of security, raise awareness about issues of antisemitism ... but in terms of my approach to the congregation, and the community, the importance of relationships, the importance of supporting one another, in every moment of life,

the importance of being welcoming to all members of my community — that incident hasn't impacted me in that respect."

The incident has caused the rabbi to think about the balance between the Jewish commandment to welcome the stranger and concerns about security.

"It's just affirmed the importance of No. 1, making sure that security protocols, emergency procedures, that these are things that a congregation or a community has thought about in advance- and that's not just a Jewish thing, that's an everybody thing," he said. "We need to know what the emergency procedures ... what happens in a community when everything doesn't go right ... and if you know that, and you're prepared for those moments, then the welcome that you can give and the hospitality that can be offered, should come naturally, and should come wholeheartedly."

The rabbi, who has family in the area, was in Philadelphia to see the artifacts, to meet with the local board of the Anti-Defamation League, and to participate in an event that evening at the Weitzman called "Faith in the Face of Hate." Cytron-Walker and Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

See **Cytron-Walker**, page 22

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Michael Solomonov Headlines Jewish Federation's Taste of Israel Festival

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

James Beard Foundation award-winning chef Michael Solomonov didn't set out in his career to depoliticize Israel. The Israeli just wanted to connect with his home country by cooking its food — and then sharing that food with others.

But in Philadelphia, at least, his popular restaurants Zahav, Abe Fisher and others have transformed the Jewish state from a political position to a culture, and one with five-star dishes at that.

Now, on May 7 at the Kaiserman JCC campus in Wynnewood, Solomonov and the Philadelphia area Jewish community will celebrate those dishes. The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is hosting a Taste of Israel Festival from 1-5 p.m. as part of its month-long celebration of the Jewish state's 75th birthday. Solomonov is headlining a "tasting area and cooking demonstrations," according to israel75.jewishphilly.org.

The Federation's birthday party for Israel has already included a community mitzvah day and Shabbat gatherings around the area. Doing mitzvahs and using the Sabbath to reflect are very much in line with Jewish and Israeli values. But it would not be a Jewish celebration if it did not culminate with food, as the Taste of Israel Festival is the last U.S. event on the Federation's Israel 75 calendar. (A trip to Israel for those who are interested and can pay is also a part of the month.)

"It's a celebration. It's a big party.



Michael Solomonov

Kosher food. Regardless of your practice, you'll feel welcomed," said Jeffrey Lasday, the Federation's senior chief of external affairs, of the food festival. "It's an opportunity to taste all the different tastes of Israel."

Solomonov's story has been told before, but it's worth reiterating: Born in Israel and raised in Pittsburgh, it was the Jewish state that inspired his career choices. At 18, he moved back to Israel and got a job in a bakery because he couldn't speak Hebrew. The job made him realize that he wanted to be a chef, so he attended culinary school in Florida, moved to Philadelphia and worked in upscale Italian and American restaurants, including one owned by future partner Steve Cook. Solomonov and Cook opened a Mexican restaurant, Xochitl, before they started focusing on Israeli cuisine.

But in 2003, Solomonov's brother David, an Israel Defense Forces volunteer, was killed by enemy snipers on

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the border of Lebanon. Solomonov and Cook decided to open their first Israeli restaurant, Zahav, five years later.

Today, their restaurant group, CookNSolo, has a lineup of Israeli, Philadelphia-based eateries focusing on falafel (Goldie), hummus (Dizengoff) and other Israeli delicacies. Cooking, of course, is not a political act, as Solomonov explains. But it can present a different side of Israel to American Jews and non-Jews.

"Oftentimes, Israel gets sort of a bad rap, and I feel like being able to celebrate or promote things that are often not seen in mainstream media, things that are cultural, is an opportunity for us," Solomonov said.

The chef believes that Jewish food has a "weird reputation" in America. It's deli or it's blintzes, or it's ... whatever, as Solomonov put it. But Jewish food in the old country was more complex than that, according to Solomonov. The range just hasn't emigrated to the United States.

The restaurateur's career mission, stated or not, is to ensure that the diversity of Israeli cuisine does emigrate to the rest of the Diaspora.

"I'm proud of what we've done," he

said. "We just felt like we'd open Zahav, and then things sort of took off from there."

Now, Israelis and Jews are represented in the American dining scene.

"In certain ways, there's a truth to it. Food represents humanity. I try to be as non-political as I can about this, which is challenging because everybody wants to make Israel a talking point," Solomonov said. "If you make really good food and promote inclusion, I think people are chill."

"I'm not going to say that making challah is going to create peace in the Middle East. But opening a door to a conversation increases productivity among people," he added.

Tickets for the Taste of Israel Festival are \$18 for adults, \$7 for children and free for kids 3 and under. You can register and pay at israel75.jewishphilly.org.

Solomonov hopes to see you there.

"The easiest way to connect with where I'm from is by making Israeli food. The easiest thing to give me satisfaction is sharing it with other people," he said. "That's what this event is for." ■

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Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Completes Project on Jews and Race

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

The Center for Jewish Ethics, part of the Wyncote-based Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, completed its Race, Religion and American Jews project last month. The project was designed to increase scholarship on the relationship between Jewish peoples, race and racism and disseminate curricula to Jewish educators and adults.

Race, Religion and American Jews was launched in 2021 thanks to a \$199,850 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its American Rescue Plan. That \$87.8 million grant program assists 300 cultural institutions in maintaining or expanding programming and staffing that may have been impacted by the pandemic.

"The ultimate goal is to use the

resources of Jewish history, Jewish tradition and Jewish community to combat racism," said Rabbi Mira Wasserman, director of the Center for Jewish Ethics and a senior adviser of the project.

Research from the 11 fellows can be found at Jewsandrace.com and covers topics from "Countering White Nationalism and Antisemitism" to "Responding to Racial Microaggressions." Each topic contains a lesson plan, curricula for adult and youth education programs and video lessons from the topic's scholar.

"Our first goal was just to gain a better understanding of all of the ways that race and Jewishness inform each other," Wasserman said. "The second goal, though, was to not leave that new research that we were sparking in academic spaces, but to bring it into Jewish communal spaces that we can all learn from."



Members of Reconstructing Judaism, including Rabbi Sandra Lawson (left), at Reckoning Together: A Reconstructionist Pilgrimage for Racial Justice

RRC's next step with the project is connecting with Jewish organizations interested in using the online materials.

Though the impetus for the program was the 2020 murder of George Floyd, rising white supremacy and censorship of Black history in schools have made educating on race even more important, according to Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Reconstructing Judaism's inaugural director of racial diversity, equity and inclusion and a senior adviser for Race, Religion and American Jews.

"I don't think anyone, when we started this project, thought that we'd be at a stage in our country where politicians would be trying to remove books and courses and AP courses on queer issues or race issues or anything that gives a more nuanced, rounded perspective of our history," Lawson said.

Though racism pervades Jewish spaces, there's been a cultural shift in Jews wanting to learn more about race and racism. There have been more conversations about Jews of color in predominantly white Jewish spaces. White Jews are beginning to understand the different experiences that Jews of color face. Providing an accessible curriculum to curious Jews is an important step in efforts to combat racism, Lawson argued.

Conversations about the intersections of Judaism and race go beyond American history and racism.

Devin Naar, an associate professor of history and Jewish studies at

the University of Washington, studied how Ashkenazi Judaism became the dominant Jewish culture in America and the negative implications this has on Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews from non-Eastern European backgrounds.

"I'm trying to reimagine how we understand the American Jewish history and think through American Jewish history beyond the kinds of geographies and cultures that we generally associated with American Jewishness — beyond Eastern Europe, beyond Yiddish, beyond gefilte fish — to think about what other aspects or expressions of Jewish culture, identity, language, religious practices have been part of the American Jewish experience," Naar said.

While in American spaces, Sephardic or Mizrahi Jews, hailing from the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa, respectively, may be considered white, in Jewish spaces, those same people may be racialized differently. Naar hopes to open up broader conversations about what race is, in and out of the American context.

Race, Religion and American Jews is one piece of Reconstructing Judaism's undertaking to fight racism. In January, the Reconstructionist movement passed a resolution committing to reparations for Black and Indigenous people. In March, Reconstructing Judaism completed a second pilgrimage to the American South to learn about anti-Black racism. ■

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A TASTE OF ISRAEL

Connecting to Jewish Heritage

As May begins, so does Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). This is a time when Jews across the country can honor their unique connections to their culture: from music to traditions and, of course, food.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia will pay homage to all of these expressions of heritage as well as the Jewish people's collective connection to the State of Israel at the A Taste of Israel Festival on Sunday, May 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Saligman Campus in Wynnewood.

During this family-friendly afternoon, there will be an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to experience the creations by five-time James Beard Foundation Award-Winning Chef Michael Solomonov along with other top local chefs. The cultural festival will also feature activities, crafts and performances by the renowned a cappella group Six13.

The festival is a culmination of the Jewish Federation's Israel 75 events this spring to celebrate this milestone achievement as well as the beauty and diversity of the people who live there.

Here's a taste of how some of our A Taste of Israel Festival leadership connect to their Jewish heritage:



"I connect to my Jewish heritage through my children. Seeing our sons, Max and Ari, being actively involved in Hillel and at Chabad in college, and then being accepted into the Onward Israel program this summer shows me that our Jewish identity and legacy will continue on through the next generation."

Alan Lasdon

"I connect with my Jewish heritage daily by trying to live and practice the three moral principles of justice, healing the world and acts of loving-kindness. As I go about my day, I'm cognizant of these principles, try to live by them, and act as a role model for my two college-age sons so that they, too, will live by these Jewish values and pass them on to the next generation."

Cari Lasdon

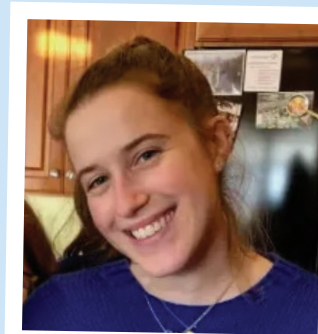


"I connect with my Jewish heritage in many ways, including, celebrating the Jewish holidays and Shabbat every week, going on our recent family trip to Israel, sending my children to Jewish schools, or being involved with Jewish nonprofit organizations that ground me in Jewish communal work."

Shelby Zitelman

"I connect with my Jewish heritage through spending time with my family. Judaism and tradition are incredibly important, and some of my favorite memories are at cousins' b'nei mitzvot, Passover Seders at my grandparents, Chanukkah at my Great Aunt's, amongst countless other occasions."

Alex Freedman



Ready to enjoy A Taste of Israel? Join the Jewish Federation's festival on May 7 at israel75.jewishphilly.org/festival



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

Jessica and Dan Roomberg



Top: Dan, Jessica, Liam and Meadow Roomberg

Right: Mila Gray Roomberg



Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

There are 20-25 pediatric conditions that can predispose a young child to high blood pressure. When a kid with one of them comes into a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia location, an alert goes off in the network's digital chart.

It says, essentially, that "this child is at high risk for hypertension," said Dr. Rachel Hachen of CHOP's Division of General Pediatrics.

Given the risk, Hachen continued, "This is what you need to do: Get the child's blood pressure."

This only happened with 2% of high-risk children under 3 before Jessica and Dan Roomberg, a Jewish couple from suburban Philadelphia, helped convince CHOP leaders that it needed to happen more often.

It was the 2019 death of their 17-month-old daughter, Mila Gray Roomberg, that spurred them to action. Mila died from a rare vascular manifestation of a genetic disorder, Neurofibromatosis Type 1. Months later, her parents started the Magical Mila Foundation, which has raised more than \$400,000 for equipment, tests and educational

materials that have helped CHOP take the blood pressure of high-risk children.

CHOP now goes through its testing process with about 40% of the high-risk children in its network.

"It was because of the Roombergs that our eyes were opened," Hachen said.

Jessica Roomberg, now 35, and Dan Roomberg, 37, could barely open their eyes in the weeks after Mila's passing.

"We went from having the greatest 17 months of our life, with an amazing little girl. Mila was super special. She was so happy and joyous and wonderful and beautiful and strong," Jessica Roomberg said. "Every day revolved around her schedule, her needs, her wants."

The Congregation Or Ami members felt like they had to find a way to keep parenting Mila. They also needed something to occupy their minds.

The Magical Mila Foundation was born.

Three weeks later, they met with the CHOP doctors who had cared for their daughter. Jessica Roomberg explained how, during Mila's medical care, it was hard to get a doctor or nurse to take her blood pressure. The American Academy of Pediatrics did not require the test for children under 3 unless they were high-risk and, even though Mila was, "It either wasn't getting done or when it was, it wasn't taken correctly," the mother said. It would be done on her leg, when the only way to get it for a child would be on her right arm. Or they would squeeze too tightly, and Mila would scream, leading to an inaccurate reading.

Mila's blood pressure was not taken correctly until she was 14 months old, according to her mother. It was 240 over 110.

"She was going through her whole life with high blood pressure," Jessica Roomberg said. "How many kids are walking around with high blood pressure?"

"At that point, it shifted from being selfish to carrying on her legacy to impact other people's lives," Dan Roomberg said.

The Roombergs started planning the foundation's first event, building the website and meeting with a marketing agency. The parents set the initial fundraiser for that summer at Maynard's in Margate, New Jersey. In the months leading to the event, the couple was "hiding from the world," Jessica Roomberg said. They were worried that people would say, "Oh, there goes Jess and Dan," the mother added.

Five hundred people came. At its coming-out party, the Magical Mila Foundation raised \$110,000.

"It was like the whole community embraced us at once. They were going to be there for us," Dan Roomberg said.

After that event, the Roombergs had weekly meetings with their CHOP doctors. They funded a clinical trial to find a better blood pressure device and created educational materials for medical staff, like "little cheat sheets" about the testing process, as Dan Roomberg called them, for nurses to wear next to their IDs.

Within two years, "We saw a 200% increase in blood pressure measurements in children under 3," he said.

CHOP leaders are spreading the process to their primary care locations in the Philadelphia area. And in April, Drs. Hachen and Kevin Meyers made presented it to the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"They've helped us put it on the agenda. Everybody's starting to look at it," Hachen said.

But for the Roombergs, every morning is still hard. The parents often think, "Why us?" But then they get up to keep parenting Mila, as well as their other two children, 3-year-old son, Liam, and 1-year-old daughter, Meadow.

"I'm proud of us. But I know we have more work to do," Jessica Roomberg said.

"They are long days," Dan Roomberg said. "But it's all worth it at the end."

To donate to the Magical Mila Foundation and to learn about its upcoming events, visit magicalmilafoundation.org. ■

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Judicial Reform at the Supreme Court

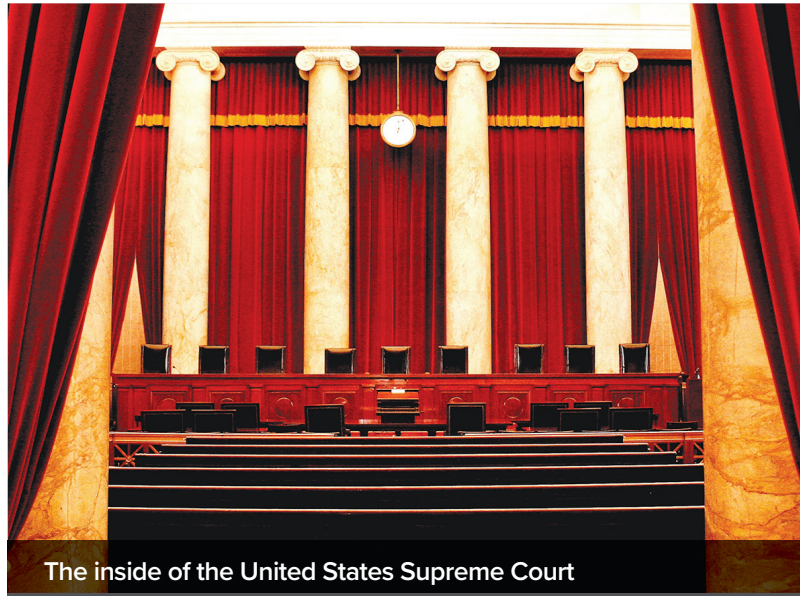
Over the past several months, when the topic of judicial reform comes up in discussion, many of us think of the disturbing drama playing out in the Knesset and in the streets of Israel over the controversial “judicial reform” package being promoted by Israel’s governing coalition.

But here at home, there is another judicial reform debate – this one relating to the absence of a formal code of ethics for the justices of the Supreme Court.

In theory, Supreme Court justices are subject to the same financial disclosure rules as other high-level federal officials. But no one other than the justices themselves is empowered to enforce those rules against members of the court. As a result, each justice decides independently how to comply with disclosure rules. Similarly, justices decide how to handle case recusals and the extent to which they may engage in political and other activities.

Based upon several reports of Supreme Court justices either obscuring or omitting key financial details in their disclosure forms, along with overall discomfort with the justices engaging in unaccountable self-regulation on ethical issues, questions have been raised about the wisdom of maintaining the status quo and the need for a formal code of ethics for the Supreme Court.

A few months ago, the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates recommended that the Supreme



The inside of the United States Supreme Court

Court adopt a binding code of ethics for justices similar to the one developed by the Judicial Conference of the United States for other federal judges. And now, Congress is getting involved. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) recently invited Chief Justice John Roberts or a justice of his choice to testify before the Judiciary Committee on the “steady stream of revelations regarding justices falling short of the ethical standards expected of other federal judges and, indeed, of public servants generally.”

Roberts “respectfully” declined the Durbin invitation,

citing separation of powers and judicial independence concerns, but noted in his response that there is “a Statement of Ethics Principles and Practices to which all of the current Members of the Supreme Court subscribe.” Durbin’s follow-up questions regarding the Statement of Ethics and other issues have not been answered.

For now, it appears that the Judiciary Committee is reluctant to issue subpoenas to compel testimony from members of the Supreme Court, since such a move would trigger a constitutional confrontation over the separation of powers between the legislature and the judiciary and raise concerns about the independence of the judiciary. But the issue is not going away. It needs to be addressed.

Roberts can avoid a constitutional crisis, protect the independence of the court and take steps to enhance respect and confidence in the Supreme Court by using his position as chair of the Judicial Conference to create a committee, consisting of respected judges, lawyers, academics and ethics experts charged with the establishment of a formal code of conduct for the high court that specifies how the rules will be enforced and by whom.

Such a result would respond to mounting concerns about the Supreme Court and obviate the need for congressional involvement. ■

Jewish American Heritage Month

The month of May is Jewish American Heritage Month. This year’s formal launch was announced by President Joe Biden last Friday. In his remarks, Biden praised “Jewish Americans, whose values, culture and contributions have shaped our character as a Nation,” even as he noted the “dark side” of the American Jewish experience and “the record rise of antisemitism today.”

We can’t help but focus on that “dark side,” as rising antisemitism impacts so much of our daily lives. The statistics are chilling. The American Jewish community is estimated to number 7.5 million people – a miniscule 2% of the U.S. population – and yet, the Jewish community is the target of close to 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes in America.

Although Biden didn’t review those numbers, his remarks recognized them, and he listed steps his administration is taking to combat antisemitism and to address the disturbing culture of hate that festers beneath the antisemitism surface.

While we welcome the administration’s caring responses, we remain uncertain of the efficacy of the

efforts. As we have observed before, the problem of antisemitism has nothing to do with Jews. It has everything to do with antisemites. As such, the number of Jews in America is irrelevant. What matters is the number of antisemites and what is being done to address their irrational hate.

We have been puzzled by the selection of May for the celebration of Jewish American Heritage ever since President George W. Bush inaugurated the practice in 2006 after both houses of Congress passed resolutions urging him to do so. The period around May is when we commemorate the Holocaust and celebrate the anniversary of Israel’s independence. No one seems terribly focused on American Jewish Heritage.

Perhaps as part of efforts to address antisemitism, some meaningful opportunities will be developed to discuss Jewish contributions to the rich history of America. And hopefully that discussion will go beyond the tired clichés of bagels, Jewish mothers and matzah ball soup.

In that regard, we note the impressive and expanding

number of websites that seek to tell the Jewish story in America focused on substance and historical information.

We applaud the Library of Congress, the National Archives and other institutions in Washington, D.C., including the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington; the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore for offering resources to a national audience. Together, they are telling the proud story of Jewish American Heritage all year round.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the public celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, much of that substance is lost. Rather, just like St. Patrick’s Day is forever linked to the consumption of green beer, Jewish American Heritage Month will be marked by bagels and lox – the featured offering at a congressional breakfast last month to mark the coming Jewish American Heritage Month.

On balance, we appreciate the communal recognition. We just wish there was something meaningful to go along with it. ■



Douglas Altabef

An Amazing and Impactful Night

The demonstration held in the heart of Jerusalem on April 27 carried many abiding lessons for our leaders and for ourselves.

Whether attended by 200,000 or 600,000 people (and the true number was most likely somewhere in between), the “Million March,” as it was called, was a virtual love-in for the state of Israel, for Israel as a Jewish state, for Israel as the Jewish state.

It was also a show of resolve and determination: We will not be treated as second-class citizens, we are not giving up, were themes that echoed throughout the night.

Of course, there was chafing at the Supreme Court’s juristocracy and the stranglehold that unaccountable legal advisers and the attorney general have on the government, and therefore on public governance and policy. But demonstrators also sent the clear message to the government that their constituency, those who made the coalition of 64 mandates possible, expected the elected leadership to persevere and follow through and implement the judicial reform plan.

Unlike the anti-reform protests, the Million March was not a cover for advancing a variety of agendas. For its participants, the judiciary’s stranglehold on the country is the issue, one that needs to be faced head-on. There was little subtext involving prevailing social animosities or conflicts, no problem with the existence of secular, left-wing citizens.

The message was not about the need to pull any group down but rather a call to elevate those who, as part of the majority often ignored or dismissed by the Supreme Court, insist on sovereignty being exercised by the elected government of Israel.

There was considerable disbelief and satirization of the accusations, often made by the opposition, that the reforms represent a threat to democracy. Several speakers, Knesset member Simcha Rothman most especially, contrasted what is actually democratic with what is not.

This taking of the argument directly back to the other side was a smart way of defanging the absurd, yet widely prevalent claim, that would-be dictators are set to dismantle a freedom-loving Israeli democracy in favor of a theocratic, hateful regime.

The demonstration made clear that there are two distinct points of view regarding the true source of the threat to Israeli society. This was perhaps the major takeaway from the event.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid expressed incredulity at the event; somehow, to him, protest is the sole province of those not in power. But last night was not a protest so much as it was a demonstration. A demonstration of engagement, of caring and of insistence that the issues that people voted for be addressed and acted on.

Of course, there was a protest against the self-sustaining Supreme Court, which is seen to be opposed to the will of the people. But the thrust of the evening was the personification of Middle Israel, the heretofore mostly silent majority, saying loud and clear that they are not unaware, that they will not be passive and that they have expectations for the performance and follow through of Israel’s elected leaders.

“The people demand judicial reform” was the mantra of the evening. Not a zero-sum fear of the opposition, not resentment regarding how our larger society works; rather, this was a focused insistence that the system of justice so crucial to our societal well-being be fair, balanced and somehow reflective of the will of the people.

One interesting aspect of the event was that it represented the successful cooperation of several grassroots Zionist organizations, who were able to effectively join forces and work for a common cause.

This could have important and pervasive implications for our society and our government.

Years ago I attended a dinner with the leaders of many of Israel’s leading Zionist organizations. Naftali Bennett, then a member of a right-wing coalition, expressed his appreciation for the birth and growth of

both right-wing advocates and think tanks, phenomena that he said were recent developments in Israel.

The April 27 event was a coming of age for that emergence, and there is ample reason to believe that these groups can cohere to be a powerful third wheel or adjunct to a National Zionist Camp-type of government.

Bottom line, the Million March will not be a blip, a two-day news story quickly forgotten. It represented the spirit of the majority of our nation. That spirit was optimistic, hopeful and not seeking to be divisive, dictatorial nor exclusionary.

For those concerned that we are doomed, that we are courting social division and upheaval, this event was a needed antidote. The unmistakable message was one of responsibility, engagement and love of country.

May the word go out, and the message be conveyed, that not only is democracy alive and well in Israel, but that the core of the nation is strong, loving, hopeful and tolerant.

Our future is bright, not grim. Israel can and will address its problems while still preserving the social fabric of an amazing tapestry of people. ■

Douglas Altabef is the chairman of the board of Im Tirtzu, Israel’s largest grassroots Zionist organization, and a director of B’yadenu and the Israel Independence Fund.

letters /

Biography Lacking

Elliott Abrams’ op-ed (“Israeli Sovereignty and American Intervention,” April 13) took to task the Democratic Party and Biden administration over the issue of the United States government and some American Jewish opposition to Netanyahu’s proposed judiciary changes in Israel, but nowhere in Abrams’ credentials at the end of the piece is there mention that he served in three Republican administrations (Reagan, George W. Bush and Trump).

Identifying his party might let readers know who is writing. ■

David Broida, Lower Merion/Narberth
Democratic Committeeperson

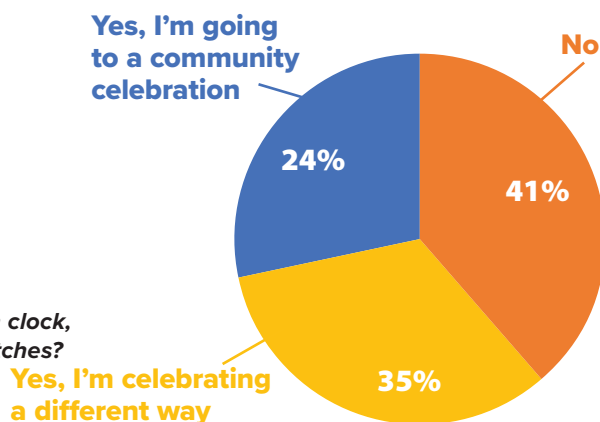
April 27 Poll Results

Are you celebrating Israel’s 75th birthday (Yom Ha’atzmaut)?

Next Week’s Poll

How do you feel about Major League Baseball’s new pitch clock, which limits the amount of time that can pass between pitches?

To vote, visit: jewishexponent.com



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Rabbi Jill Jacobs

As Israel Turns 75, We Should Celebrate by Fighting for it to Live Up to its Ideals

I spent July 4, 2017, at Trump Tower protesting the ban on travel from Muslim countries, enacted earlier that year. For me, standing side by side with Muslim, Christian and other faith leaders to fight discrimination was the best possible way to celebrate America's independence.

Last month, Israel marked the monumental occasion of its 75th anniversary. There is much to celebrate: The establishment of the state of Israel is, without doubt, one of the greatest accomplishments of the Jewish people in the last century. The country has provided safety for millions of Jews fleeing oppression, helped revive the Hebrew language and culture and allowed Jews access to our most sacred historical sites.

And there is much to mourn and protest, beginning with the 56-year-old occupation that violates the human rights of Palestinians every single day; the ongoing discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel, Mizrahi and Ethiopian Jews, asylum seekers and foreign workers; and, this year, the all-out attack on democracy perpetuated by the current government.

For the last four months, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been in the street every week protesting the efforts by the current government to eliminate the power of the High Court to serve as a check on legislation that violates Israel's Basic Laws, the closest thing the country has to a constitution.

And yet the response by too much of the American Jewish community has been more or less business as usual. While many legacy organizations have issued tepid statements criticizing attempts to destroy the judiciary, these groups have not rallied American Jews to actively oppose this coup or taken actions that would put direct pressure on the Israeli government.

Following President Donald Trump's inauguration, millions of Americans took to the street — many for the first time — to protest his administration's attacks on democratic institutions and on immigrants and minorities. We did so not out of hatred for the United States, but rather out of love, and out of a commitment to build a multiracial, multifait, multiethnic democracy for the future.

Those of us who care about the future of Israel, and who dream of a state rooted in democracy and human rights, must mark this 75th anniversary by fighting for that vision.

This anniversary came at an inflection point for the country's democracy. What happens this year will determine whether Israel has a chance at living up to the values enshrined in its declaration of independence,

or whether it becomes a fascist theocracy that codifies discrimination against women, LGBTQ people, Palestinian citizens and other minorities and that permanently occupies another people.

Many Jewish communities announced Yom Haatzmaut plans that pretend that nothing is amiss — falafel, Israeli music and dancing, and celebratory visits to Israel. And in June, the Celebrate Israel parade — which bans any political signs — will proceed down New York City's Fifth Avenue as though nothing is amiss.

I also love a good falafel, but this moment calls for much more.

Since the new Israeli government took power, I have stood on the street in New York and Washington, D.C., with hundreds of Israeli Americans and American Jews who came out to protest Finance Minister Betzalel Smotrich speaking at an Israel Bonds dinner, the (temporary, as it turns out) firing of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and the ongoing attacks on the High Court. As someone who has worked for human rights in Israel for decades, I am thrilled to see more and more American and Israeli Jews join these protests.

But we have not yet seen a call to the streets from most of our legacy organizations or synagogues. Nor did JFNA alter its regular General Assembly programming to instead take 3,000 American Jews into the streets of Tel Aviv — or even host protest organizers or civil society leaders, rather than the leaders of the coup.

Why are American Jews so terrified to protest Israeli actions, even when the country is being taken over by people whose values are anathema to most of ours?

Yeshayahu Leibowitz, an influential and prophetic 20th-century Jewish thinker, warned of the danger that the nascent state of Israel would become an object of worship. "The state fulfills an essential need of the individual and the national community," he wrote, "but it does not thereby acquire intrinsic value — except for a fascist who regards sovereignty, governmental authority, and power as supreme values." In a 1991 lecture, he went so far as to call any religious Jews who supported occupation and settlement "descendants of the worshippers of the Golden Calf, who proclaimed 'this is your God, Israel.' A calf doesn't necessarily



March protest

need to be golden; it can also be a people, a land, or a state."

In Israel, the religious settler movement that Leibowitz disparaged three decades ago now runs the state, and — as he warned — its agenda puts the occupation of land first, and the treatment of people second.

Many Jews in the United States find it hard to see that reality because the state of Israel has become an object of worship, rather than a real country where real people live, and where fascist-leaning politicians are working to fundamentally change its government and culture into something unrecognizable and dangerous. American Jewish conversations about Israel too often become conversations about Jewish identity, a slippery slope that makes it easy for criticisms of the state of Israel — a political entity subject to international human rights standards — to be misinterpreted as attacks on Jews more generally. It is easier to celebrate a fantasy with no hard edges than deal with the reality of a beloved, but flawed state.

According to the Torah, Abraham was 75 when he left his parents' house and set out on his own. At 75, Israel is a strong, modern country, more than able to stand on its own on the international stage and healthy enough for vibrant debate about its future. A real celebration of Israel demands fighting for it to live up to the highest ideals of democracy, dignity and human rights for all. ■

Rabbi Jill Jacobs is the CEO of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.



Jonathan Feldstein

Russia is Not Healthy for Jews and Other Living Things

When I read about the arrest of American Jewish Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, in Russia on March 29, my mind went back to the 1980s.

In July 1985, I went to visit Abe Stolar. Stolar was well into his 70s. We bonded immediately, two American Jews, me listening to his stories intently, in his native Chicago accent. The strange thing is that I was not visiting Stolar and his wife, Gita, in Chicago, the place of his birth, or in New Jersey, the place of my birth. I was visiting Stolar in Moscow, the Soviet Union.

Like many Russian Jews, Stolar's parents fled Czarist Russia. They arrived in Chicago, a year before Stolar was born. In 1931, with the U.S. still suffering from the Depression, exacerbating a degree of communist revolutionary fervor, Stolar's parents decided to go back to the USSR. Within five years, Stolar's father was taken from their home by Stalin's police (NKVD) during the infamous purges in which many Jews became victims. Stolar's father was never seen again. Despite being an American citizen, Stolar saw no way back to Chicago.

In 1975, Stolar, his wife and their son applied for exit visas. They received permission to leave, and sold all their belongings. On July 19, 1975, their permission was revoked. The Stolars were detained just before boarding the plane, forced to return to their empty Moscow apartment, hopeless.

I met Stolar a decade later, almost to the day. He was clearly frustrated and desperate to leave, but he was jovial, friendly and welcoming. Two years later, I went back to Moscow and visited Stolar again. He was more hopeful as he saw signs that things in the USSR were changing, but he was still an American citizen forcibly detained in Moscow.

As soon as I heard of Gershkovich's arrest, I thought of Stolar. Gershkovich was arrested on charges of espionage by Russia's Federal Security Bureau, the successor to the KGB, and Stalin's NKVD. It's the first time Russia has accused a foreign journalist of espionage since the Cold War.

There are many parallels between Abe Stolar and Evan Gershkovich. Both are American Jews, both detained in Russia, both children of Russian-born Jews who emigrated to the U.S., and both went back to Russia as young men, albeit Gershkovich went of his own accord in a professional capacity.

He probably didn't know about Stolar, and that there was a precedent for Russia detaining American-born Jews.

Shortly after Gershkovich's arrest, Jews around the world were asked to set an extra seat for him symbolically at their Passover seder table. Leaving seats empty at the seder table was done at the height of the movement to free Soviet Jews, the time when Stolar first tried to leave and when Gershkovich's parents actually left the USSR.

Setting empty seats at a seder table is meaningful because Passover is the holiday during which we celebrate our freedom. Jews detained, arrested, imprisoned as Jews (on trumped-up charges) is evocative of the enslavement of Jews in Egypt. This creates awareness, and is meaningful especially when the person for whom that seat is set is a Jew being forcefully detained. It builds solidarity, but is unlikely to do anything on its own to effect a change in Russian policies, or free someone who has been arrested.

It's clear that Russia is using Gershkovich to retaliate or as leverage against the U.S., or both. Gershkovich's arrest will intimidate other Western journalists still reporting in Russia, making a black hole of already limited information coming out of Russia even deeper and darker. Perhaps Gershkovich was not targeted as a Jew, but it's now no longer unusual for Jews in Russia to be in the Kremlin's crosshairs.

Stolar's case became very personal to me. Especially after my adopted Soviet Jewish family was permitted to leave in 1987, I stepped up my activism on his behalf, one of many doing so. When I read about Gershkovich, something additional and personal struck me. Albeit some years after I graduated, Gershkovich also graduated from Princeton High School, in the suburban New Jersey community in which I grew up and where my Soviet Jewry activities began.

Espionage was one of the trumped-up charges the Soviets used against Jews. It seems that



it's in Russia's playbook as well under Putin, a former KGB agent.

As much as things have changed in the past decades, it's astounding to see how much they have stayed the same. The pin and bumper sticker I still have from my Soviet Jewry activism days, "Russia is Not Healthy for Jews and Other Living Things," are more than just nostalgic collectors' items, but still a sad truth.

The Soviets then, and Russia today, need motivation to change. Optics matter. In the 1980s, I initiated protests at the Russian Embassy in Washington, participated in other massive protests and called Soviet embassies all over the world to make my protest heard in their offices, to frustrate and embarrass them, and make it no longer worthwhile to use Jews or others as pawns. The Russian Embassy can be reached at 202-298-5700. ■

Jonathan Feldstein is president of the Genesis 123 Foundation and RunforZion.com, building bridges between Jews and Christians. He is host of the "Inspiration from Zion" podcast. He and his family made aliyah in 2004.



Can Israel Defy History — Again?

Mijal Bitton and Masua Sagiv

Last week marked Yom Haatzmaut, our beloved Israel's 75th birthday — the day on the Hebrew calendar when David Ben-Gurion proclaimed “the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate” by establishing a Jewish state in the land of Israel.

Together with countless Jews around the world, we express our gratitude to be alive at this moment in history when the Jewish people have sovereignty and a nation to call their own.

But on this anniversary, Yom Haatzmaut's special prayers and festive afternoon barbecues failed to capture the fraught feelings many of us are experiencing. Jews across the globe in all our different peculiarities and particularities — from all political orientations, religious and secular, progressive and conservative, for and against the judicial overhaul being proposed by the current government — are reeling.

The past few months of terrible turmoil in Israel surrounding the judicial overhaul proposal have shown us how fragile our singular and precious Jewish state is. While Israel's history is replete with instances when external forces threatened its people, this moment is unique in revealing internal threats to its democracy and social cohesion. We have seen toxic hatred rising among Israeli Jews, with fears of a civil war at an all-time high.

How, then, are we supposed to celebrate Israel on its 75th birthday?

The answer to this question lies at the heart of Jewish history and reveals that now is the moment for a new Zionist revolution led by both Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

Zionism was never just about establishing a Jewish state. It was about defying Jewish history. In 1948, when Ben-Gurion and his fellow Zionist leaders declared Israeli independence, it was nothing less than a radical assault on diasporic Jewish history. It defied the thousands of years of Jews being a minority in other countries, subject to the whims and caprice of other rulers. It defied the image of the weak and defenseless Jew. It even defied Jewish tradition itself, which for centuries was understood by many of its adherents



A coin minted during the rule of Mattathias Antigonus (40-37 B.C.E.) toward the end of the last period of Jewish independence in the land of Israel

to demand passivity by Jews as they waited for divine deliverance.

For two millennia, Jewish existence was one of vulnerability and victimhood — most often either hiding who we are or suffering for it. The Zionism of 1948 defied diasporic Jewish history by giving Jews power, self-determination and sovereignty to respond to external threats and establish a Jewish state.

Understandably, most of the work of early Zionism was focused on mere survival — establishing a state, providing safe refuge to the millions of Jews fleeing inhospitable lands and contending with enemy countries sworn to destroy the new nation. It succeeded beyond any of the wildest imaginations of its founders. The first 75 years of Israel, in which it has become a powerful and thriving state, are a testament to the success of Zionism in defying diasporic Jewish history.

But the next 75 years of Zionism present and impose on us a different task: To be Zionists today means we must defy a different chapter of Jewish history — one that might be called sovereign Jewish history.

Historians and educators have pointed out a critically important pattern in the history of Jewish self-rule. There are two pre-modern eras in which the Jewish nation enjoyed sovereignty in the land of Israel: at the end of the 11th century BCE with the Davidic Kingdom and the first Temple in Jerusalem, and in 140 BCE when the Hasmonean dynasty reestablished Jewish independence in Judea. But as each approached its 75th year of existence, each started to disintegrate because of internal strife and infighting. The Davidic reign over a united Israel

effectively ended when it was split into the two competing kingdoms of Judea and Israel. The Hasmonean kingdom began to fall apart due to infighting between the sons of Alexander and Shlomtzion, the rulers of Judea in the first century BCE.

Sovereign Jewish history tells us that at around the 75th year, experiments in Jewish self-determination faced the most dangerous threat of all: self-destruction.

On its 75th birthday, Israel and its supporters face the internal tensions of sovereignty: What does it mean for Israel to be both a Jewish and democratic state and a home to all its citizens? How can Israel be both at home in the Middle

East while modeled on Western democracies? How should its leaders balance majority Jewish culture with minority rights?

The concerns of the old Zionism certainly still exist: how to pursue peace even as Jewish vulnerability and safety continue to be threatened. But they take on a new character in this day and age, forcing us to ask how we can manage and embrace conflicting visions of Jewishness and Israeliness while nurturing social solidarity and cooperation across deep and painful divides.

This Yom Haatzmaut came at a moment of rupture. But the current crisis in Israel represents an opportunity — a moment for our generation to ensure this rupture defies the pattern of sovereign Jewish history. The generations before us proved that we can rewrite diasporic history, turning a tale of vulnerability and weakness into one of strength and power. Our generation and those that follow must likewise defy sovereign Jewish history and prove that we can protect our Jewish state from the internal threats it faces. Our generation's task is to overcome our divisions and not let fraternal hatred destroy our shared home.

On this 75th birthday, then, let us learn from our past and look forward toward a new future. Let us continue to celebrate the incredible success by writing a new chapter in the magnificent story of Israel and Zionism. ■

Mijal Bitton is the rosh kehillah of the Downtown Minyan and a sociologist of American Jews. Masua Sagiv is the Koret visiting assistant professor of Jewish law and Israel studies at UC Berkeley School of Law.



New England Patriots owner and philanthropist Robert Kraft and rapper Meek Mill at the March of the Living walk in Poland on April 18

Robert Kraft and Meek Mill Walk March of Living Together

An unusual duo made the two-mile-plus walk from Auschwitz to Birkenau last week during the annual March of the Living in Poland: Robert Kraft, Jewish billionaire New England Patriots owner and philanthropist who launched a campaign last month opposing antisemitism, and Meek Mill, a prominent rapper from Philadelphia, JNS.org reported.

“It’s important for me to learn humanity’s history,” Mill said. “It’s also important for me to support Robert, all my Jewish friends, everyone that always supported me.”

Mill credited Kraft with learning about his culture and background and supporting him “at a very high level” when he was jailed on gun and drug charges at 19.

“He’s a man who’s very caring, and it’s very important to him to build bridges between people of the Jewish

faith and people of color in America,” Kraft said about Mill.

“I always stand on anything that condemns racism,” Mill told CNN. “Now that I had an education, I’ll definitely spread the word to people in my culture about what I’ve seen and what I felt at that concentration camp.”

Yeshiva U Restores Women’s Talmud Classes Whose Cancellation Incited an Uproar

Beginner and intermediate Talmud courses are back on the course schedule for undergraduate students at Yeshiva University’s Stern College for Women, after an uproar over their cancellation, JTA.org reported.

Stern College administrators had said the school would not offer beginning and intermediate Talmud — courses about a foundational Jewish text for women at the country’s flagship Modern Orthodox university — because of low enrollment in those classes. That prompted more than 1,400 students, graduates and others to sign a petition urging the school to reinstate the classes and to endow a full-time chair of Talmud studies.

Now, Stern College says it is adding several Talmud classes to next semester’s schedule, citing increased interest among students.

“It was heartwarming to see the outpouring of interest revolving around women’s Talmud learning on the Beren campus,” Shoshana Schechter, Stern’s associate

dean of Torah and spiritual life, and Deena Rabinovich, chair of the Jewish studies department, said in a letter distributed to students by email and WhatsApp.

Frankfurt Can’t Cancel Roger Waters Concert Over His Antisemitism Record, Court Rules

Frankfurt’s administrative court ruled that the city can’t cancel a Roger Waters concert after calling him “one of the most widely known antisemites in the world,” JTA.org reported.

Waters, the former frontman of the band Pink Floyd, took legal action and prevailed on April 25 after Frankfurt officials said in February they would cancel his concert in May. The city can appeal the ruling.

The Frankfurt court ruled that because Waters “did not glorify or relativise the crimes of the Nazis or identify with Nazi racist ideology” in past concerts, it was not appropriate to cancel the upcoming one.

Waters’ full-throated anti-Israel activism has frequently been accused of veering into antisemitism. In addition to being a leader of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, Waters has flown a pig-shaped balloon bearing a Star of David at his concerts and spoken about the alleged power of a nefarious Jewish lobby in the United States, among other things. ■

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

Twitter/#StandUpToJewishHate via JNS.org



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**SCAN TO
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What Will Israel Look Like in 2048?



NG-Spacetime / AdobeStock

Rachel Avraham | JNS.org

Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and member of Knesset Michael Oren discussed his vision for the Jewish state's future at a recent event in Jerusalem launching his new book, "2048: The Rejuvenated State."

Oren, a historian who fought in the Second Lebanon War, said, during his remarks at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem, that the book began as a conversation between himself and Benjamin Netanyahu five or six years ago.

"We used to schmooze at 3 a.m. in the morning during our Knesset debates. I told him once that we never have a chance to think about Israel's future. We are so bogged down with our current crises that we never think of what kind of state we want to build for our children and grandchildren," Oren said at the Begin Center.

"Now, the 50th anniversary [of Israel's independence] does not feel like that long ago, so leaping forward 25 years is not beyond the canon. For young people, 25 years may be a long time, but not for older people," he said.

Oren noted that when Israel was established, intense discussions were held regarding what kind of state it should become.

"Should it be a socialist state or a capitalist state? Pro-Western or pro-Eastern [Bloc]? As much as by the power of the sword, this country was created by the power of the word."

But somewhere along the way, Israel stopped holding these discussions, he said. A state

commission was once established to delve into these issues, but its mandate was sabotaged by the collapse of the government, he added.

At that point, Oren told former Jewish Agency leader Natan Sharansky that these discussions were too important to abandon, so they were moved to the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, but then COVID-19 hit.

It was during the pandemic that Oren decided to sit down and actually write the book.

"Afterward, we had Zoom talks on Israel-Diaspora relations, Israel's foreign policy, and some extraordinary things caused me to establish an NGO, Israel 2048," he said.

In the book, which is printed in English, Hebrew and Arabic in one volume, Oren delves into many issues that affect Israeli society today. For example, he criticizes the state for not recognizing Reform Judaism, which is the main Judaism practiced in the Diaspora.

"The absurdity, indeed the obscenity, of the situation was underscored by the aftermath of the massacre of Jewish worshippers in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue on October 27, 2018," he said. "While expressing solidarity with the victims, several Israeli ministers and the Chief Rabbinate refused to call Tree of Life a synagogue. The place where Jews were killed while praying as Jews had in the words of the Jewish nation-state merely a 'profoundly Jewish flavor.'"

Oren accused Israel of being ungrateful for the fact that Diaspora Jews account for some 6.5% of its GDP, which is roughly equivalent to its defense budget, and have "contributed massively to building Israel's educational, medical, cultural and financial

infrastructure."

He said that by 2048, "Israeli and Diaspora Jews must share a sense of common identity and destiny, an awareness of the fact that regardless of where we live, we belong to a single people."

Haredim

In the book, Oren describes haredim as an "existential threat" to the state of Israel because they "produced nothing materially but only drained the state, shared none of its liberal and democratic values and denied children even the most basic modern education."

If these issues are not remedied, it will "cause Israel's collapse," he wrote.

Oren said the state of Israel must force all haredi schools to teach English, math, science and civics, but to achieve this via persuasion and not coercion.

"Proposed legislation for penalizing haredim and their schools for draft dodging will only backfire and result in large-scale unrest and incarceration. Instead, the state must make a historic effort to engage ultra-Orthodox leaders in a dialogue."

Polygamy

Oren also described the polygamy practiced by the Bedouin in the Negev as a threat to Israel's long-term security.

"The tradition is radically anti-feminist and frequently cruel, with many wives purchased like chattel, forced to conduct hard labor and bear seven children or more. With four wives, a Bedouin male need never work but only collect child subsidies from the government. For this reason, in 1977, the Knesset

passed a bill outlawing polygamy, and then for the next 45 years it ignored it.”

According to Oren, “By failing to apply its laws, Israel has not only eroded a once overwhelming Jewish majority in the Negev but created an unbroken swath between Gaza and the Hebron Hills, essentially bisecting the Negev. Taking advantage of Israeli indifference, both Hamas and the PLO have constructed mosques and madrassas throughout the Bedouin communities and provided the teachers, many of them Israeli Arabs from the North who radicalized the Bedouin. It is scarcely surprising that Bedouin involvement in terror attacks such as that which killed four Israelis in Beersheva in March 2022 is rising.”

In response to this threat, Oren called upon Israeli society to make a “new deal” with Israeli Arabs, where the state will declare war on any form of discrimination, promote Arabic-language education in Jewish schools and Hebrew-language education in Arabic schools, and enforce the law in Arab-populated areas of the country, so that polygamy, unauthorized construction and smuggling will be clamped down upon.

“In contrast to the past, when Israeli Arabs protested against the presence of the police in their villages, now they protest in favor of greater police presence. And as the recent elections showed, Arab politicians are harnessing their newfound power not to delegitimize the system but to influence it. These trends offer opportunities that must not be missed and which, if catalyzed by policy, can make Israel 2048 a truly cohesive state,” he said.

Women’s rights

In his book, Oren discusses the difference between how outsiders perceive Israel and how Israel is in reality.

“Growing up in America in the 1960s and 1970s, Israel looked to me like the paragon of women’s rights. There were photographs of short-skirted women soldiers marching proudly with their Uzis, the kibbutz women in their *kova tembel* [hats] working the fields, and women who appeared to be self-confident to the point of brashness. There was Golda Meir. Israel looked like a feminist forerunner. Only when I came here did I begin to see the deep discrepancy between the myth surrounding Israeli women and their far less-than-egalitarian reality.

“Though the IDF was one of the only armies in the world to draft women, it strictly limited them to noncombat roles, many of them clerical. Sexual exploitation by male superiors was commonplace. Similarly, on the kibbutz, relatively few women worked in the fields but rather [most] remained in the communal kitchens and children’s houses,” Oren wrote.

“And if the Israeli women were outspoken, their candor did not translate into equal career opportunities. Golda might have been prime minister, but she was only one of three women in her 56-seat party. Beneath these disparities lurked even darker injustices such as polygamy, female sex trafficking and honor killings.”

Oren said that Israel has progressed much since



Young Jewish men holding Israeli flags dance at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City, during Jerusalem Day celebrations on May 29, 2022.

then, but still women earn 70% of what men do.

“Between college-educated men and women, the gap is even wider. Though women have traditionally dominated the banking sector, the percentage of women on boards of major banks is under 20%. The percentage of women in the Knesset falls far behind that of the Swedish, Norwegian and Rwandan parliaments. There has yet to be a woman head of the Mossad or Shabak [the Shin Bet] or a woman minister of defense. Women cannot serve as Knesset members for any of the ultra-Orthodox parties,” he said.

Furthermore, “Women in Israel are afflicted by a scourge of societal evils such as family violence, female sex trafficking, genital mutilation and the marriage of minors. Each year sees the recurrence of the so-called honor killings in which an Arab woman accused of sexual improprieties is murdered by a male family member. Honor killers have traditionally received relatively light sentences,” Oren said.

“Israeli women seeking a divorce must work through the Chief Rabbinate, which reserves the right to grant a divorce only to the husband. Refused by their spouses, hundreds of Israeli women become *agunot*, unable to remarry and receive alimony and child support. In religious sectors, women are increasingly excluded from public spaces and events. Their images on billboards are defaced.”

He continued, “Such discrimination is outlawed by a list of Knesset bills and Supreme Court decisions, all of which are flagrantly ignored. Israel must be a state that relentlessly fights sexual harassment and public exclusion, and that eliminates the scourges of *agunot* and genitally mutilated women. It must treat the killing of women to preserve their family ‘honor’ as exactly what it is, premeditated murder, punishable by life imprisonment.”

Oren hopes that Israel in 2048 will be a far more egalitarian society not only for Diaspora Jews and

minorities but also for women.

“I am not a prophet,” he proclaimed in his talk. “My vision is not in any way sacrosanct. This [book] is my vision. It is 22 chapters that cover every field of Israel’s future, educational policy, social policy, foreign policy, Israel as a state for Jews, Israel for the Palestinians, Israel for the Arabs, gender issues, environmental issues, etc. It is all there.

“The idea is to get people here and, in the Diaspora, to engage with my vision. You can get angry with it. You can throw my book at the wall. But still engage with it and facilitate a discussion on what kind of future we want for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I look at the issues Israel is facing now and it did not take a prophet to see these issues coming. If we thought about them 10 years before, we might be in a different situation. Here is your opportunity to think about the future,” Oren said.

Gil Troy

Historian Gil Troy also spoke at the book launch.

He said it was not really Jewish to think about the future. In all their holidays, Jews like to time travel throughout different periods of history, but they never visit the future.

“Nevertheless, Zionists do not just live in the present and do not just root ourselves in the past, but we also think about the future, roll up our sleeves and make it better.”

Therefore, even though it goes against his Jewish instincts, Troy said the book makes him excited as a Zionist, for Theodor Herzl always thought about the future and worked to make what he aspired to happen.

“This is not just a book launch,” Troy said. “It is a conversation launch. It asks what Israel should look like and what we will do to make it happen.” ■

Risotto Times Two

Keri White

Risotto is one of those special occasion dishes that requires a lot of time standing over a hot stove stirring. I love it, but I don't love making it.

I had a hankering for it the other day and did some research about how to avoid the hard labor. I came across several recipes that swore by the oven technique, and I gave it a try. It was shockingly good with minimal effort and, best of all, I had a lot left over, so I made risotto balls for dinner a few nights later.

Those were a bit more effortful, but since the risotto was no muss, no fuss, I felt I was still ahead of the game. If you prefer to avoid wine in cooking or don't have it on hand, you can simply use additional vegetable broth.

This is a basic recipe, but it can be jazzed up with lemon zest and juice, fresh herbs, additional spices, tomato paste, olives, etc.

Oven Risotto | Dairy

Makes about 6 servings, or serves 2 with enough left to make the risotto balls described below

It is best to use a dish or pan with a lid to cook this, but in a pinch, you can cover it with foil. The key is not to use too large a pan or the liquid won't distribute properly; an 8-inch pan is ideal.

For the risotto:

- ½ onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1½ cups arborio rice
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cups vegetable broth



- 1 cup dry white wine
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

To finish:

- ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons butter

Heat your oven to 350 degrees F.

In a 2½-quart casserole dish or ovenproof pan with a cover, place all the risotto ingredients and stir. Cover and bake it for about 45 minutes.

Check for doneness; the rice should be cooked through but have a slight bite in the very center. If it is not done, add a bit more broth or water and return it to the oven for about 10 minutes. If it is done, but the risotto is too thick, add a bit more liquid but do not continue cooking it. Stir well and add the butter and Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

Risotto Balls

Makes about 12 balls

These delicious orbs are things that I generally order in restaurants but never make.

For one thing, it is rare to have leftover risotto in my house and, until discovering the oven recipe detailed above, there was no way I was going to the trouble to make risotto only to use it as an ingredient in another dish. But in this case, it worked out brilliantly.

I used a small skillet to fry these in batches of 3 or 4 and kept a lid handy to prevent splatter. This saved using a huge amount of oil and ensured

that the balls are cooked evenly and thoroughly.

- 3 cups leftover risotto, chilled
- 1 egg
- ¾ cup Italian-style breadcrumbs
- ½ cup panko
- 1 cup canola oil for frying (approximately)

Marinara sauce, Parmesan cheese and chopped fresh herbs, if desired, for serving.

In a shallow bowl, lightly beat the egg. In another shallow bowl, mix the breadcrumbs and panko.

Heat your oven to 250 degrees F, and place a baking dish nearby to hold the cooked risotto balls.

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-high heat.

Using a tablespoon and wet hands, scoop enough risotto to form a golf-ball-sized sphere; pack it firmly. Roll the ball in the egg, then the breadcrumb mixture and place it in the hot oil. (The oil is ready when a piece of breadcrumb dropped in sizzles.) Repeat this process, frying balls 3 or 4 at a time, turning them carefully with tongs as they brown and turn crispy.

When the balls are done on all sides, remove them from the pan and place them in the baking dish. Place the baking dish in the oven to keep the balls warm and serve as desired with the marinara sauce, Parmesan cheese and/or chopped fresh parsley/basil. ■

Keri White is a Philadelphia-based freelance food writer.

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Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, Mural Arts Announce Plaza Mural

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

Mural Arts Philadelphia founder and Executive Director Jane Golden considers herself a “wall hunter,” roaming the streets of Philadelphia for blank concrete canvases.

For years, she’s visited the wall framing the Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, reflecting on the site and hoping to one day transform the 2,000-square-foot panel behind it into a piece of public art.

“I would often pass by here, I would sit down, I would reflect on the space and all that it means: the context of 6 million Jews lost, the weight of their absence on generations of survivors and what the Holocaust means to us today as a multiracial, multicultural Philadelphia and Americans,” Golden, who is Jewish, said.

Soon, Golden’s hope will come to fruition.

The Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, in partnership with public arts nonprofit Mural Arts, announced on May 2 plans to bring a mural to the Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza in 2024. The mural will be the first on the parkway and the first large-scale, publicly commissioned Holocaust mural in the United States, according to Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation Executive Director Eszter Kutas.

“At a pivotal time when the community of Holocaust survivors can no longer lead the work of educating future generations ... How do we reach young people who do not have a connection to this piece of history? How do we make sure that the lessons of the Holocaust stay in our public conscience?” Kutas said. “These are the questions that we grapple with as we program and advance this Holocaust memorial. So, in a way, adding a mural to the memorial to serve as a backdrop to this historical place seems like a natural evolution.”

Over the next 18 months, the organizations will facilitate a multistep artist



Mural Arts Philadelphia Executive Director Jane Golden speaks at a May 2 press conference announcing a mural for the Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza.

selection process with community input and unveil the mural outside of the plaza next fall. The partnering organizations are looking for artists who have experience with large-scale projects such as murals, with personal, communal or cultural connections to the Holocaust.

The idea for the mural came from Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation board Co-chair Jacob Reiter.

“Art can be therapeutic and instructive to artists and viewers, and public art is one of the most powerful tools society has to educate and inspire communities while beautifying public spaces,” he said.

Golden called the mural a challenging project that has to tackle a sensitive topic while also complementing the plaza’s other symbolic sites.

At the May 2 press conference, the Holocaust foundation and Mural Arts invited students from Friends Select School to decorate rocks with symbols of hope to adorn the base of the “Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs” sculpture by artist and Holocaust survivor Nathan Rapoport.

The plaza is home to a sapling from a cutting of a tree found in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, a set of original train tracks from the Treblinka extermination camp and six pillars with inscriptions of American ideals to frame the experience of visiting the plaza. The University of Southern California’s Shoah Foundation developed an “iWalk” app to accompany the plaza’s components, which were added to the site in a 2018 update.

A mural is a natural next step for the

1998 before spending 10 years at the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network, which was founded in 1984, when the city encouraged the creation of murals as an alternative to graffiti.

“In the early years, murals were seen as a sign that people cared and that things could change,” Golden said. “And they became beacons and focal points around which people felt like they could create other changes.”

Mural Arts previously worked with the Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia on public art campaigns.

“It’s about beautification and lifting our spirits and challenging us to think differently,” she said. “It does all those things.” ■

Golden founded Mural Arts in srogelberg@midatlanticmedia.com

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MAY 12

11AM - 7PM

MAY 13

11AM - 7PM

MAY 14

11AM - 5PM

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BALL

JOSEPH H.-April 6, 2023 of Penn Valley, PA. Beloved husband of Sandra (nee Cohan); loving father of Robert Ball (Keilla Schmidt), Yelane Rosenbaum, and Nanelle Meyers (the late Robert Meyers); adoring grandfather of Eric, Emylie, Eriya, Madison, Griffin, Maxwell, Jessica, and Benjamin; devoted brother of Jayne Flaxman and late sisters Barbara Myers and Dana Meyers. Memorial services were held Monday April 10. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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KRANICH

PERLA S. (Schultz), 95 of York, PA died peacefully, surrounded by family both near and far, on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. She was predeceased by her eldest daughter Clarabeth (Hirsch) Grossman and her husband of 55 years, Ivan "Ike" Kranich. She is survived by her brother M. Barry Schultz of Doylestown, PA, three children, Fritz S. Hirsch and his wife Nancy of Lake Forest, IL, Sally K. Eisenberg and her husband Stewart of Philadelphia, PA, David S. Kranich of New York, NY, and her son-in-law Mitchell Grossman of York, PA. She is also survived by 2 step-children, Marge Gorkin of New York, NY, Nancy Kranich and her husband Jorge Schement of Highland Park, NJ and by 9 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. Perla was born in Philadelphia, PA on October 17, 1927, the daughter of the late Bertha and Gustave Schultz. She relocated from Philadelphia, PA to York, PA in 1962, after meeting and marrying her beloved Ike. Perla graduated from West Philadelphia High School and received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Temple University. She worked as a Business Secretarial Skills instructor at York College and proudly managed the books for Tioga Mill Outlet Stores in York, PA, a family-owned textile business. She was actively involved

in the Temple Beth Israel Sisterhood, the United Jewish Appeal and the York JCC. She loved music, painting with oils, reading, practicing T'ai Chi, playing bridge, doing the crossword, and learning. More than anything else, Perla loved her family and all being together. Donations in Perla's memory can be made to: The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, (NOCC) - 4950 York Road, #631, Holicon, PA 18928 or Temple Beth Israel, 2090 Hollywood Drive, York, PA 17403 or to a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made at www.geiple.com.

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SHAPERO

Lois Shapero, daughter of Blanch Leifer Plank and William Plank, died peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on April 20th, 2023. Born in Muncie, Indiana, Lois lived most of her life in Louisville, Kentucky. She is survived by her husband, Julian Shapero, her children Vicki Lurie (Ronnie), Leslie Trager, Amy Manuel (Gerald); and her grandchildren, Nathan Lurie, Alyssa Lurie, Samantha Trager, Carly Trager, Megan Manuel, and Leah Manuel. Lois was the definition of kindness and a gift to all who knew her. She was warm-hearted, loving, selfless, and

she lit up a room. She put everyone before herself. Lois was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all who knew her. She was a passionate woman with many talents. She was an accomplished artist, pianist, competitive tennis player, and bridge player. She was an active member of The Temple. She was a vibrant and creative person and will leave a lasting legacy to everyone who knew her. Services were held in Louisville, KY, with burial in The Temple Cemetery. Contributions can be made to The Temple, 5101 US-42, Louisville, KY, 40241, in Lois Shapero's honor. Arrangements entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

HERMAN MEYER & SON, INC.
meyerfuneral.com



SPECTOR

CINDY (nee Rawitt)-April 27, 2023 of Bala Cynwyd, PA. Wife of Martin Spector; mother of Steven (Sheri) Spector and Michael (Alison) Spector; grandmother of Megan, Harrison, Cole, and Evan; sister of Susan Schwartz and Leslie Rawitt. Cindy was an entrepreneur who started and ran several small businesses, the most successful of which was named Beautiful Treats, a candy confection business catering for special occasions. She was active in many charitable organizations, with

a long-time dedication to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, for which she served many years as a board member. She was also an ardent supporter of groups seeking a cure for ALS. But her true love, passion and devotion was to family. She was an incredible spouse, an even better mother, and an absolutely extraordinary grandmother. Her outgoing telephone recording perhaps said it best: "You have reached Cindy Spector, grandmother to four delicious grandchildren." She mentored, encouraged, and loved her family - to the moon and stars and back. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to make a contribution in her memory may donate to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of Philadelphia, 2 Bala Plaza, Suite 526, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

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www.levinefuneral.com

VOGEL, ESQ.

WARREN, Esq. on April 25, 2023. Beloved husband of Gayle (nee Katz); cherished father of Jeffrey (Sarah) Vogel and Michael (Fernanda) Vogel; devoted brother of Ruth (Jay) Silberg, Esq.; absolutely adored Zayde of Ruby, Siena, Josie, Max and Emilia. Warren practiced law for 49 years. He was a board member and general counsel for Beth Shalom Congregation. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund at Beth Shalom Congregation, 8231 Old York Rd, Elkins Park PA 19027 or the American Heart Assoc, www.heart.org

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Cytron-Walker

Continued from page 6

in Philadelphia, were interviewed on stage by Jane Eisner, the director of academic affairs at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

"It is really, really hard to love the stranger," Cytron-Walker added during the event. "But if we did a little bit more of loving the stranger, instead of demonizing, instead of casting aside, then we'd have a lot less people feeling estranged."

Tyler's church is a sister institution to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where the white supremacist-inspired shooting in June 2015 killed nine worshippers; the two

churches have been intertwined since early in the 19th century.

During the event, the rabbi and reverend both discussed the question of forgiveness, with Tyler noting that families of those lost in the Charleston shooting have taken different approaches, and that he respects the different reactions.

Cytron-Walker said he doesn't speak the name of the man who took him hostage, and that while he feels compassion for the gunman's family, "I have absolutely no emotion, for better or for worse, about the fact that he died." He added that while Jewish people are "all over the map" on the death penalty, struggling with such questions is "what we're supposed to do."

The rabbi has testified before

Congress three times, seeking greater security funding for nonprofit institutions, which led to a significant increase in such funding. He has also become a special adviser on security to the ADL.

"It's important to know that it doesn't matter where it happens," Cytron-Walker said of antisemitism, citing Colleyville as an example. "It can happen anywhere, and we all feel it, the entirety of the Jewish people, the entirety of the Jewish community, feels it." He added that, "We shouldn't be afraid to talk about it, and also, what's really important is not only that we ask others to stand up for us, but also to make sure that we stand up for others." ■

Stephen Silver is a Philadelphia area freelance writer.

After Surviving COVID, the South Philadelphia Shtiebel Looks Ahead

Jarrad Saffren | Staff Writer

After becoming one of the first female rabbis in the Orthodox denomination, Dasi Fruchter chose South Philadelphia as the place to build her congregation. She met with Jewish residents of the area for a year before opening the South Philadelphia Shtiebel, with backing from Start-Up Shul and Hillel International, in July 2019.

Rabbanit Fruchter, as she likes to call herself, welcomed “80 or so worshippers” into the synagogue’s storefront home on East Passyunk Avenue for the community’s first Shabbat service, according to a Jewish Exponent article. The same article described the evening as a “joyous, foot-stomping service.” But the moment ended less than a year later with the arrival of COVID-19.

Fruchter got COVID herself and the Shtiebel, like other shuls, had to find creative ways to survive. But survive it did.

The rabbanit, who came to Philadelphia from Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah in Maryland, remains in South Philadelphia, and now she’s married and a homeowner. Her synagogue remains here, too, only in a rented row home instead of a storefront. But with more than 100 Shabbat worshippers each week, it has grown since that inaugural Sabbath.

“It’s going great,” Fruchter said.

When COVID hit, Shtiebel regulars could no longer gather on Shabbat. Halachic rules do not allow for an online gathering on the Sabbath. Fruchter and her congregants had to wait out those early weeks apart until they could assemble again in a field at a six-foot distance while wearing masks.

As time marched on though, members got closer. They gathered in a theater, a Catholic school parking lot and a bocce court. Eventually, they took their masks off and stood together. By the High Holidays in 2021, almost 150 Shtiebel regulars congregated on that bocce court. They said their prayers and the noise floated “up to the heavens,” Fruchter said.

But even while synagogue members could not convene for Shabbat, the shul was “never closed,” Fruchter said. She taught a daily Talmud class online. She hosted Kaddish services for congregants or family members of congregants. She delivered packages and made phone calls.

“I was trying to support people who were treading water,” the rabbi said.



Rabbanit Dasi Fruchter

Courtesy of Rabbanit Dasi Fruchter

During the pandemic, some people left South Philadelphia Shtiebel. But many of those original members stayed. And many more, who were “hungry for something,” as Fruchter put it, arrived. The Shtiebel dropped to about 30 regulars during the initial stage of COVID before growing back to 50-75 members. After securing the new space on Juniper Street, the Shtiebel grew again.

“I believe very strongly in physical space and what that does for our sense of rootedness and community,” Fruchter said. “There is something about having a place.”

The 33-year-old, female, Orthodox rabbi has her place, and it is allowing her to give members theirs. As a result, the base is now big enough to help support the organization. But it remains “too fiscally young, probably, to own,” the rabbi said.

The South Philadelphia Shtiebel receives one-third of its funding from local support, with the rest coming from outside grants and major gifts, according to Fruchter. Her goal for year five is to “shift more to local support,” she said.

This past Shabbat, there was a room for kids 0-3, and another room for kids 5-7 to have a parsha discussion. During the Kiddush lunch, a group of congregants older than 50 was having an “intense parsha discussion,” as Fruchter described it, with a group of members “in the younger professional part of their lives.”

Most of the members, as is customary in Orthodox communities, live within a mile of the synagogue so they can walk. But people also come from Fairmount, the Main Line and Wilmington, Delaware. There are no schools in the synagogue yet, but Fruchter is now thinking about a 30-year plan. For the first time since March 2020, she feels like she has time to plan.

“The most interesting thing is that in the last month or so, I decided that we need one,” she said.

Fruchter met her husband, Daniel Krupka, a software engineer, at a Center City Kehillah event during COVID. They got married and bought a house in the past year.

“This is my place. I love it,” she said. ■

jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com



Rabbi Beth Janus

Recognizing Animal Lives

Parshat Emor

My son argued that we should eat fewer animal products. While being a vegan was better for the world, people's health and the animals, he said it was unrealistic that more than a fraction of people would make such a major change.

Instead, if large quantities of people reduced their meat, dairy, fish and egg consumption, even by a little, the cumulative effect would be substantial.

For his bar mitzvah project, he and his sister developed an app that tracks what people eat and helps them lower their animal consumption. My kids have continually challenged me on the

downsides of eating animal products and, in recent years, we have moved dramatically closer to veganism. My children understand that taking the life of an animal or using the animal for our own pleasure should not be taken lightly.

In parshat Emor, God also instructs us about the significance and sacredness of an animal's life. Our priests are to be "scrupulous" about animal sacrifices to avoid profaning God's Name. (Leviticus 22:2) Furthermore, a person who sacrifices must be in a "pure state." (Leviticus 22:3-7)

God says that animals can be eaten but wants us to eat them in a way that is cognizant of the gravity of ending a life. God seeks for us to honor the animal's *neshama*, or life force, by restricting how we make and eat

the sacrifice. The Temple, where we performed sacrifices, no longer stands. Because of that, many of these laws appear to be irrelevant. But as we consider the effects of industrialized meat production on the animals' lives and on climate change, Emor's teachings are deeply relevant and vital.

What does it mean to be "scrupulous" about the eating of animals today? We would ensure that animals live humanely by residing in spaces where they have freedom to move, to socialize and to eat.

Poultry farming, slaughterhouses and dairy farms are typically designed to maximize profit without regard to the well-being of the animal. These places could be reimaged to center the fact that the animals are sentient beings whose existence is holy. We

the animal who was "sacrificed" for us to be able to eat a particular meal? Are we mindful of what the animal gave up so that we could enjoy this dairy? Are we filled with gratitude for this sustenance?

If we view eating animal products with the sacredness that the Holy One insists on, then it would follow that our consumption would decrease. We would be scrupulous about our eating habits, and we would try as rigorously as we could to be in a pure state as we ate. Meat and dairy products would rise in cost as conditions become more considerate of the animals.

Recognizing each life would remind us of the specialness of the sacrifice the animals make for our benefit, and we would naturally make eating animal products more rare.

Ideally, whenever we consume any food, we should be conscious about what we are doing.

must recognize that animals do not exist exclusively as a source of enjoyment for humans.

After our parshah examines how we treat the animals, we are commanded to examine ourselves. How can we put ourselves in a "pure state"? Being in the right frame of mind when consuming animal products can elevate the experience (and further honor the animal).

Ideally, whenever we consume any food, we should be conscious about what we are doing. Saying a *bracha* (blessing) makes us pause and think about what we are eating. This is the opposite of just stuffing our mouths mindlessly.

We should be particularly aware when we are eating meat or other animal products. Are we conscious of

For the sake of the planet, our health, and the animals, may we integrate these teachings from Emor into our lives. ■

Rabbi Beth Janus is a chaplain at Lafayette Redeemer and performs life cycle rituals throughout the Philadelphia community. 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 necessarily reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



MAY 5–11

FRIDAY, MAY 5

KOL ZIMRAH

“Kol Zimrah” means “the sound of singing.” This musical service, offered online at 6 p.m., is led by Germantown Jewish Centre Rabbi Adam Zeff and Executive Director Nina Peskin and features original melodies and *kavanot* (short spiritual reflections). venue.streamspot.com/a79c0def.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

Join the Melrose B’nai Israel Emanu-El Sisterhood for our Sisterhood Shabbat Program, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact office@mbiee.org or 215-635-1505. 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park.

BOOMERS: SYMPHONY IN C

The Boomers at Congregation Kol Ami invite you to enjoy a beautiful evening of music with Symphony in C, one of the leading young professional orchestras in the U.S., starting at 8 p.m. **For more information, contact** dlisker4@gmail.com or 856-963-6683. 314 Linden St., Camden, New Jersey.

THEATRE ARIEL PERFORMANCE

In a world where family is everything, Yehudis and her husband struggle to have a baby. “To Reach Across a River,” performed by Theatre Ariel at 8 p.m. at the Green Hill Condominiums and again on Sunday at 2 p.m., tells a story as timeless as Sarah’s and as potent as

**MONNDAY,
MAY 8**

LAG B’OMER BBQ
Congregations of Shaare Shamayim invite you to join us for a Lag B’Omer BBQ at 6 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person, and reservations are a must. **For more information, contact the synagogue office at 215-677-1600. 9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia.**



the rescue of Moses from the Nile. **For more information, contact** info@theatreariel.org or 610-667-9230. 1001 City Ave., Wynnewood.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

TASTE OF ISRAEL

Celebrate the culture, people and food of Israel with an afternoon of fun for all ages, including a cooking demonstrations by five-time James Beard Foundation Award-winning chef Michael Solomonov. This event is part of the Jewish Federation’s Israel 75

celebrations. **For more information, contact** israel75@jewishphilly.org or 215-832-0547. 45 Haverford Road, Wynnewood.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELI MEMOIRIST

Ilana Blumberg is author of “Houses of Study: A Jewish Woman Among Books”; “Victorian Sacrifice: Ethics and Economics in Mid-Century Novels”; and “Open Your Hand: Teaching as a Jew, Teaching as an American.” She will speak at Drexel University at 12:30 p.m. **For more information, contact** hpi22@drexel.edu or 267-278-9541. 3300 Market St., Philadelphia.

WRITING WORKSHOP

Molly Antopol’s first book, “The UnAmericans” (W.W. Norton), won the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award, a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award and the Berlin Prize, among others. She will give a reading and writing workshop at Drexel University at 3:30 p.m. **For more information, contact** hpi22@drexel.edu or 267-278-9541. 3300 Market St., Philadelphia.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

UKRAINIAN POET TALK

The war in Ukraine has been raging for a long time, and Lyudmyla Khersonska, a poet from Odesa, has been chronicling it fiercely in her poems. Drexel University will host a reading with Khersonska at 2 p.m. **For more information, contact** hpi22@drexel.edu or 267-278-9541. 3300 Market St., Philadelphia.

NETFLIX AT KLEINLIFE

Join KleinLife Rhawnhurst in the Tabas Community Room from 2-3 p.m. for a showing of Netflix’s “Breaking Bad.” There will be popcorn. **For more information, contact** kleinliferhawnhurst@gmail.com or 215-745-1201. 2101 Strahle St., Philadelphia.

JEWISH SPEED DATING

Join Be Single No More for a night of speed dating with Jewish singles in their 20s and 30s at the Infusion Lounge from 7-9 p.m. **Contact** besinglenomore@gmail.com or message us at facebook.com/besinglenomore with any questions. 16 S. Second St., 2nd floor, Philadelphia.

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



- 1 Abrams Hebrew Academy students observed Yom HaShoah.
- 2 Federation Housing residents danced at a jazz event.
- 3 KleinLife's Jewish Children's Sunday School planted flowers in the mitzvah garden on Community Mitzvah Day.
- 4 American Jewish Committee Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey and Circle of Friends, Philadelphia's chapter of the national Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council, participated in the "Stronger than Hate" press conference and rally in Harrisburg on April 24 in support of a package of strengthened hate crimes legislation.
- 5 Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties staff members Ryan Somaroo and Jeff Willson received commendations from the Atlantic City Police for their hard work, professionalism, leadership and attention to detail when working with the police.

Alison Freed

TAKES DEVELOPMENT MANTLE AT AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Sasha Rogelberg | Staff Writer

Alison Freed may be new to her position at American Friends of the Hebrew University, based in its Philadelphia regional office, but she's long been familiar with the Philadelphia Jewish community.

Having taken the mantle of chief development officer of AFHU last month, Freed, 46, is charged with leading the organization's fundraising efforts for Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Her interest in fundraising began at a young age during her upbringing in Penn Valley, where she lives today.

"I fondly remember volunteering at Super Sunday when I was 8 years old, going on missions through the [Jewish] Federation system," she said.

"My parents were very involved in the community, and I saw how much that offered to them, socially, just with a moral compass and being part of the community. They really ingrained that in my house," she added. "They were involved with the Federation and with Golden Slipper [Club & Charities], and I just always saw how meaningful that was to them."

Freed has the chance to follow her parents' legacy. A national nonprofit, AFHU is dedicated to supporting Hebrew University, co-founded in Israel in 1918 by Albert Einstein and Chaim Weizmann. Hebrew U was the launching point of the careers and scholarship of numerous scientists, including Nobel Prize winner Roger Kornberg and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Léo Apotheker.

In 2025, the university will celebrate its 100th anniversary since its opening as a public university.

AFHU engages with alumni living in the U.S. by bringing in Hebrew U professors for talks, hosting an annual board meeting in Jerusalem and taking donors to Israel on missions. The key to strong fundraising is relationship building,



Freed said.

"It's all about the relationship and connecting where the donor is. ... We don't try and fit a round hole into a square peg, or vice versa," Freed said. "We can really get to know what the donor wants to do with their investment and what kind of impact they want to have."

Building personal relationships with donors is what intrigued Freed about development from the start. Having studied psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and gotten a master's degree in social administration from

Columbia University, Freed was always interested in what connects and motivates people.

"When people are reflecting on what is most important to them, it's family, and then it's often their philanthropic and community involvement," she said. "So the combination of getting to know people and furthering nonprofits through fundraising is what led me to really focus on a career in fundraising."

Freed began her career in development as the recruitment coordinator for Project OTZMA, an Israel experience for young adults, for United Jewish

Communities, a precursor to the Jewish Federations of North America. While in New York, she was also senior director for fund development at the Westchester Medical Center.

Her career took her back to Philadelphia seven years ago when she accepted a position as Penn Medicine's executive director of development.

"There's a strong magnetic pole back to Philadelphia," she said.

"It's a close-knit community. It's amazing how many options there are for Jewish engagement in a small place with a number of synagogues and social action groups and volunteer opportunities," she added.

Connecting back to the Jewish community was the easy part of Freed's return to the city, and her family joined Adath Israel on the Main Line shortly after moving. At Penn Medicine, she navigated fundraising during the pandemic.

But despite the economic turmoil COVID caused, fundraising at Penn was strong because of the necessity of medical care.

"I was lucky to be raising money for health over the pandemic," she said. "That was pretty top of mind for many people, so that sort of counterbalanced any economic challenges."

As Freed adjusts to her new position as CDO, she sees challenges on the horizon. Nonprofits often experience economic hardships months after individuals do. While fundraising hasn't yet been affected, she expects to navigate some choppy waters.

"A lot of people in our field are talking a lot about that, and it's unpredictable for sure," she said of recent economic woes. "But the challenge will just be to continue to make the case for the relevance of supporting Hebrew U. The work is not stopping; the research is not stopping." ■

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LEGALS

Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 11, 2023 for **Everstream Mortgage** at 555 East North Lane Building C STE 6125, Conshohocken, PA 19428 Montgomery County. The entity interested in such business is Filo Mortgage, L.L.C., in care of the Registered Office provider Registered Agent Solutions, Inc. in the county of Delaware. This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa C.S. 311.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **CPRS Holdings, Inc.**, a business corporation incorporated under the Laws of the Delaware withdrew from doing business in Pennsylvania. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation is c/o The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801 and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System. The statement of Withdrawal of Foreign Registration shall take effect upon filing in the Department of State.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **Cruzan's Truck Service Inc.**, a business corporation incorporated under the Laws of the New Jersey withdrew from doing business in Pennsylvania. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation is 489 Stow Creek Road, Bridgeton NJ 08302, and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System. The statement of Withdrawal of Foreign Registration shall take effect upon filing in the Department of State.

The Jefferson Owners Association, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Orphanides & Toner, LLP 1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 800 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF ADA C. BELLO a/k/a ADA BELLO, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JOHN CUNNINGHAM, JR., EXECUTOR, c/o Roy Yaffe, Esq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ROY YAFFE ZARWIN BAUM 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ADRIENNE WILLIAMS, DECEASED Late of Philadelphia County LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, 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 CHRISTINE WILLIAMS, Administratrix c/o DENNIS A. POMO, ESQUIRE 121 S. Broad St., Ste. 1200 Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-665-1900

ESTATE OF ALICE ELIZABETH FAY, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Eileen A. McCarthy, Executrix, c/o Hope Bosniak, Esq., Dessen, Moses & Rossitto, 600 Easton Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090.

ESTATE OF ANNE K. COLLINS, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MICHELE GOEKE-PELSZYNSKI, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Jay E. Kivitz, Esq., 7901 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19150, Or to her Attorney: JAY E. KIVITZ KIVITZ & KIVITZ, P.C. 7901 Ogontz Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19150

ESTATE OF BRIAN DIU, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CONNIE DIU, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: KRISTEN L. BEHRENS DILWORTH PAXSON LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE E. DEARIE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ARDELL PERFETTI, DIANE PERFETTI, 14020 Erwin St., Philadelphia 19116 and JENNIFER DEARIE, 526 Arnold St., 2nd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19111, EXECUTORS, Or to their Attorney: GREGORY M. LANE LAW OFFICE OF GREGORY M. LANE 2617 N. 2nd St. Harrisburg, PA 17110

ESTATE OF CYNTHIA B. BLYNN, DECEASED. Late of Pennsylvania LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who bequest 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 Judith A. Zone and Ian J. Blynn, Co-Executors, c/o their attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF DIANE J. MEZEJEWSKI, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110, Or to his Attorney: CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III The Land Title Bldg. 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

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ESTATE OF EDWARD W. PACZKOWSKI, JR., DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LINDA F. MALINOWSKI, ADMINISTRATRIX, 1415 Grant Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094, Or to her Attorney: DANIEL BALTUCH 104.5 Forrest Ave., Ste. 10 Narberth, PA 19072

ESTATE OF ELAINE L. KIRSCHKE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MICHAEL H. VanBUSKIRK, ADMINISTRATOR DBN, 6510 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128, Or to his Attorney: MICHAEL H. VanBUSKIRK 6510 Ridge Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19128

ESTATE OF EMIL COHN a/k/a EMIL COHN, III and EMIL COHN, 3RD, DECEASED. Late of Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ANDREW STARR and JUDITH H. COHN, EXECUTORS, c/o Robert J. Stern, Esq., Two Bala Plaza, Ste. 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004, Or to their Attorney: ROBERT J. STERN ROBERT J. STERN LAW, LLC Two Bala Plaza, Ste. 300 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

ESTATE OF EVA BUNN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to GINA MARIE DiPRINZIO, EXECUTRIX, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF GERALD SHOVLIN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ADAM BERNICK, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR DBNCTA, 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK

LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF GINO ARAMIS AURELI, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JANINE SHAHINIAN, EXECUTRIX, c/o Daniella A. Horn, Esq., 2202 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: DANIELLA A. HORN KLENK LAW, LLC 2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF INGRID T. NUNEZ, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CRISTIAN EDUARDO NUNEZ, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Marc Vugin, Esq., 1608 Walnut St., Ste. 1703, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: MARC VOGIN KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD 1608 Walnut St., Ste. 1703 Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF JAMES E. KNOTWELL, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JOSEPH J. KNOTWELL,

ADMINISTRATOR, 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 JAMES J. DOLAN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110, Or to his Attorney: CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III THE LAND TITLE BLDG. 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF JAMES JOSEPH DOLAN, JR., DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III, ADMINISTRATOR, The Land Title Bldg., 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830, Philadelphia, PA 19110, Or to his Attorney: CHARLES A. J. HALPIN, III The Land Title Bldg. 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1830 Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF JER'MYA THOMAS, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons

Izenberg

Continued from page 17

1930s in Newark,” the memoir centers on Izenberg’s relationship with his father Harry, a World War I veteran and former minor league baseball player.

Izenberg’s father emigrated to the United States as a child, leaving Lithuania with his family to escape anti-Jewish pogroms. As his sportswriter son recounts it, Harry discovered baseball even before he could speak English.

The Izenbergs’ love of baseball transcended all. When Jerry got his first baseball glove at 10 years old, it was a milestone that in his father’s eyes surpassed even his bar mitzvah.

“He had given me a lifetime gift — a simple game and a simple shared love for it,” Izenberg writes in the memoir. “It remains there, bright and shining in memory eighty-three years later.”

The pair’s passion for baseball was closely intertwined with their Judaism. Growing up in Newark in the 1930s and ‘40s, Izenberg was a fan of the New York Giants baseball team. They featured a

lineup filled with Jewish players: Harry Danning, Harry Feldman and Sid Gordon.

But in the pantheon of Jewish baseball during Izenberg’s childhood, there was a clear king, and — much to the chagrin of Izenberg’s father — he played in Detroit. Hank Greenberg, the greatest Jewish hitter in baseball history, was at the peak of his Tigers career from 1935-1940, winning two most valuable player awards on his way to the Hall of Fame.

At the Izenbergs’ dinner table, there were only a few select topics discussed: baseball and the Nazis.

In 1938, Greenberg was chasing Babe Ruth’s single-season record of 60 home runs, which Ruth had set in 1927 with the Yankees. Greenberg would ultimately reach 58 homers, while drawing several walks in the season’s final games.

“My dad was convinced that was antisemitism,” Izenberg said. “And I said to him, later on when I got into the business and I knew people, ‘Did it ever occur to you that the guys who pitched against him didn’t want to be the guy who threw his 60th home run ball? They’d be linked to him forever.’ My

father said, ‘That’s an interesting theory, but you’re full of crap.’”

Of all the anecdotes Izenberg shares about his father, one non-sports-related scene stands out.

One Saturday in 1939, Izenberg and his father went to the Newsreel Theatre in Newark, where audiences gathered to watch news and sports highlights of the week. That day, the theater showed footage of the infamous Madison Square Garden rally held by the German-American Bund, the American Nazi organization.

Izenberg remembers leaving the theater with his visibly angry father. His father talked about how the Nazis — or, as he called them, *mamzers*, Yiddish slang for “bastards” — had to be stopped.

“I’m an 8-year-old kid, and I say, ‘But dad, they’re in Germany,’” Izenberg recalled. “And he looks at me, he says, ‘They’re not in Germany, they’re here.’ And he was right.”

Despite the anti-Jewish sentiment that was ever-present in his youth, Izenberg said he has not faced antisemitism in his journalism career. As a columnist

who has covered just about every sport, Izenberg has received his fair share of criticism — most notably having his car windows smashed by two men who did not approve of Izenberg’s defense of Muhammad Ali when the boxer stirred controversy by supporting the Nation of Islam and refusing to enlist in the military.

Izenberg has written about social issues often throughout his career — especially race relations — a tendency that he said is inspired by the value of tikkun olam. It’s an idea he learned from Rabbi Joachim Prinz, the activist leader who spoke just before Martin Luther King Jr. at the 1963 March on Washington.

After leaving Nazi Germany, Prinz settled in Newark, on the same block as the Izenbergs. He would become a close family friend and even offered to help Izenberg prepare for his bar mitzvah, even though his family belonged to a different synagogue.

Izenberg said he is guided by tikkun olam, “because I know [Prinz would] want me to keep it in the back of my mind, and my father would, too.” ■

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 WANITA JENKINS, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: KRISTEN L. BEHRENS DILWORTH PAXSON LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JOHANNA O. AURINO Late of Philadelphia LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who requests all persons as having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to: Leslie V. Aurino or to their attorney: Michael Wolinsky, Esquire 1015 Chestnut Street, Ste: 414 Philadelphia, PA 19107

ESTATE OF JOHN V. BARBALIOS, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Mary B. Kitsios and Christos J. Barbalios, Executors, c/o Anthony J. Beldecos, Esq., Lundy Beldecos & Milby, PC, 450 N. Narbarth Ave., Suite 200, Narberth, PA 19072.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH FRANCIS ALTOMARE a/k/a JOSEPH F. ALTOMARE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION CTA on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to RACHEL MALESKI, ADMINISTRATRIX CTA, 709 7th Ave., Elizabeth, PA 15037, Or to her Attorney: DANIEL BALTUCH 104.5 Forrest Ave., Ste. 10 Narberth, PA 19072

ESTATE OF JOSEPH ROBERT GENTILE, DECEASED Late of Chester Springs, 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 Gary A. DeVito, Esq., Executor, Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC, One Commerce Sq., 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or to their attorneys, Gary A. DeVito, Esq. Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer & Toddy, PC One Commerce Sq. 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF KELLY A. CREAMER, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Melissa Creamer, Administratrix, 2801 Bridge St., Philadelphia, PA 19137 or to their attorney Mark Feinman, Esquire, 8171 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19152.

ESTATE OF KIMBERLY JANE SURKAN a/k/a KIMBERLY J. SURKAN, KARL SURKAN, KJ SURKAN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons

having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Patricia Melzer, Executrix, c/o Benjamin L. Jerner, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144, Or to her Attorney: BENJAMIN L. JERNER JERNER LAW GROUP, P.C. 5401 Wissahickon Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144

ESTATE OF LINDA S. FINKLE, DECEASED. Late of MIDDLETOWNSHIP, 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 Arthur L. Finkle, Executor 209 Shady Brook Dr. Langhome, PA 19047

ESTATE OF LOUIS STARKMAN, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LORI B. SHAPIRO, EXECUTRIX, c/o Robert S. Levy, Esq., 1204 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026, Or to her Attorney: ROBERT S. LEVY COOPER, SCHALL & LEVY, P.C. 1204 Township Line Rd. Drexel Hill, PA 19026

ESTATE OF MARLON MEYER, Deceased. Late of Bucks County, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to MARSHA MEYER, Executor.

ESTATE OF MARY HOM a/k/a MARY LEE HOM, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to RUTH HOM, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Harry Metka, Esq., 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9, Bensalem, PA 19020, Or to her Attorney: HARRY METKA 4802 Neshaminy Blvd., Ste. 9 Bensalem, PA 19020

ESTATE OF MICHAEL E. PARKHILL, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MEGAN CRESCIMONE, ADMINISTRATRIX, 2217 Oakwyn Rd., Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, Or to her Attorney: MARYBETH O. LAURIA LAURIA LAW LLC 3031 Walton Rd., Ste. C310 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

ESTATE OF MICHAEL TSOKAS, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Katherine Maria Korovessi, Executrix, c/o Alfred Rauch, III, Esq., Black & Gerngross, PC, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1575, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

ESTATE OF MUNA J. FREEMAN , DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to VANESSA FREEMAN, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: KRISTEN L. BEHRENS DILWORTH PAXSON LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF OLIVIA IANTHA WARD a/k/a OLIVIA I. WARD, OLIVIA WARD, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MARIA L. BELL, EXECUTRIX, c/o Benjamin L. Jerner, Esq., 5401 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144, Or to her Attorney: BENJAMIN L. JERNER JERNER LAW GROUP, P.C. 5401 Wissahickon Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144

ESTATE OF PAUL GIORDANO a/k/a PAUL P. GIORDANO, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to RAYMOND VAGNONI, EXECUTOR, c/o John M. Pelet, III, Esq., 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to his Attorney: JOHN M. PELET, III ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 600 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF PIERRE YVES THELEMAQUE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MARTINE JESSE MELLON THELEMAQUE, ADMINISTRATRIX, 701-2239 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, ON M1K 2N1

ESTATE OF RICHARD SMAKULSKI, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ADAM S. BERNICK, ADMINISTRATOR, 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to his Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF ADAM S. BERNICK 2047 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ROBERT MACK SCOTT, SR. a/k/a ROBERT SCOTT, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment with-

out delay to GAIL MICHELLE SCOTT, EXECUTRIX, c/o Adam S. Bernick, Esq., 2047 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 Or to her Attorney: ADAM S. BERNICK LAW OFFICE OF FAYE RIVA COHEN, PC 2047 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF ROSALIE HAUT a/k/a ROSALIE B. HAUT, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ELLIOTT RICHARD HAUT and WENDY LAURA HAUT, EXECUTORS, c/o Joseph D. Rutala, Esq., 1500 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1203, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to their Attorney: JOSEPH D. RUTALA 1500 JFK Blvd., Ste. 1203 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF RUTH M. KISLOW, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to APRIL POPOLO, ADMINISTRATRIX, 3637 Edgemont St., Philadelphia, PA 19134, Or to her Attorney: MARYBETH O. LAURIA LAURIA LAW LLC 3031 Walton Rd., Ste. C310 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

ESTATE OF SHUI PING CHUNG, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LILIAN WU, EXECUTRIX, 2653 Wentworth Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19131

ESTATE OF THOMAS DEVINE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to ANNIE MAE POTTS, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to her Attorney: KRISTEN L. BEHRENS DILWORTH PAXSON, LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF VINCENT L. FALCONE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to PHILIP VANCE FALCONE, EXECUTOR, 1105 Brennan Dr., Warminster, PA 18974

ESTATE OF VIRGINIA L. KULP, DECEASED Late of Towamencin Twp., 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 per-

sons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to Cynthia Gayle Arcade, Executrix, 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 WILLIAM J. McMENAMIN, DECEASED. Late of Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CAROLE COVERT McMENAMIN, EXECUTRIX, c/o Robert S. Cohen, Esq., 123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201, Jenkintown, PA 19046, Or to her Attorney: ROBERT S. COHEN LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT S. COHEN 123 Old York Rd., Ste. 201 Jenkintown, PA 19046

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Age is Just a Number for Lloyd Remick

Jon Marks

In contrast to the words of Richard Nixon, it looks like we *will* have 85-year-old sports and entertainment lawyer Lloyd Remick to kick around a little longer.

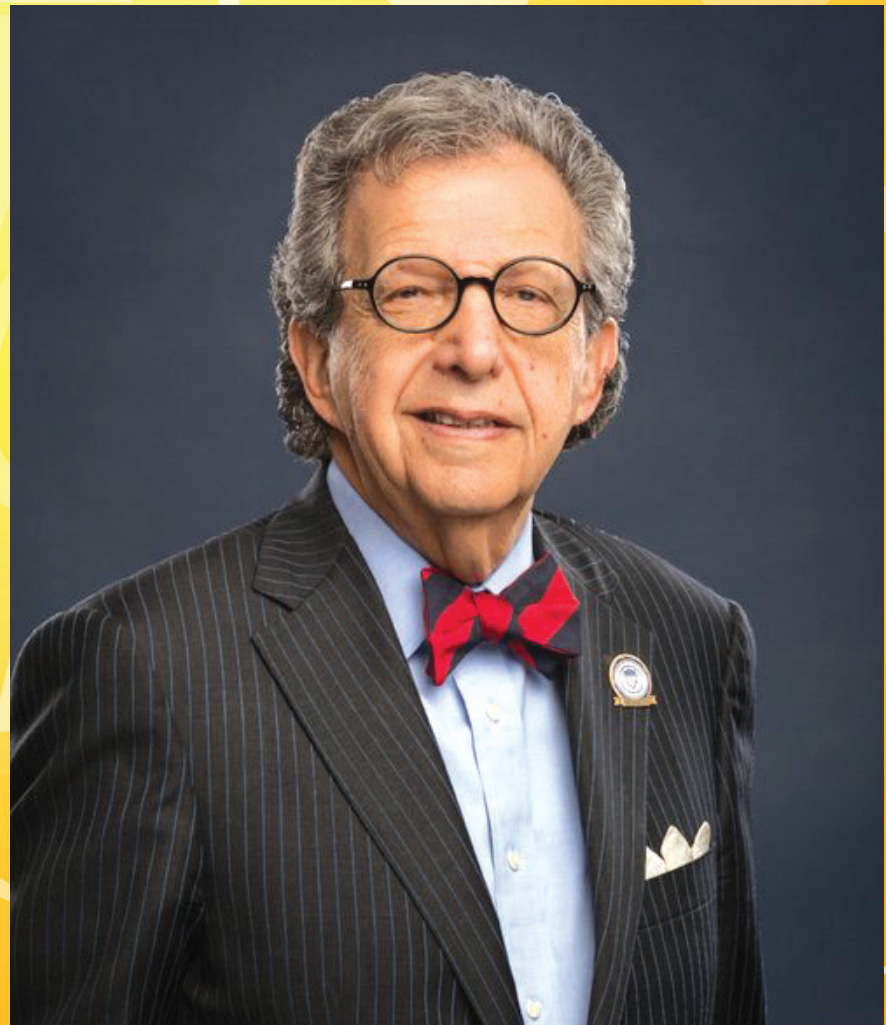
Having seen what retirement can do to people, he's in no hurry to join them.

"I have witnessed many of my contemporaries retire, including a number of celebrities," said the man instrumental in legendary late saxophonist Grover Washington's career and a representative for many athletes and radio and TV personalities. "What I've found is when people retire, they love the first couple of weeks.

"They get to sleep late, but then get into a depression. I have found most people who are totally depressed are not still working. I find having social settings, reading contracts every day and solving people's problems keep you alert. There are those who think for 85 I'm pretty sharp. I still know how to read a contract pretty well."

Remick just can't hobnob with the elite anymore like he did for years. Back then, it was nothing for him to jump on a plane at a moment's notice and fly to Hollywood, Las Vegas or even Europe. Then, on his way back, he'd stop in New York for a show or concert and party at Studio 54 afterward before heading home.

Not a bad life for the kid who grew up in Logan, became



a bar mitzvah at Temple Emmanuel in East Oak Lane, graduated as a still-proud member of Central High School class 204, then went to the University of Pennsylvania on a senatorial and ROTC Army scholarship.

“Believe it or not, my college roommate and I davened during college,” admitted Remick, a longtime member of Congregation Adath Israel in Merion Station who was born of Russian ancestry. “To this day, I still say the Shema. I believe saying prayers is almost a form of meditation. It helps in stressful situations. And the key to longevity is maintaining an even keel.”

No, Remick didn’t start out quite so philosophical. But a series of memorable events — including being part of the strategy teams during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam War — not only helped shape him but eventually steered him to a new career path.

“I found myself a young Army lawyer in the right place at right time,” said Remick, who later founded Zane Management, Inc. in 1978, with Zane being his middle name. “When the Cuban Missile Crisis exploded, I was picked to be on a team headed by Secretary of Defense (Robert) McNamara.

“During that time, I was working on contracts worth millions of dollars for guns, planes, grappling hooks for



From left: Philadelphia Eagles radio color commentator and former wide receiver Mike Quick, Lloyd Remick and Eagles play-by-play announcer Merrill Reese



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battleships, for the purchase of all this armament for Vietnam. So, when I went into the practice of law after having all this government experience, I found the transactional practice a little boring, even though I was a young associate. But a series of events occurred that took me to a field I'd never heard of — entertainment and sports law.”

That was nearly half a century ago — back when the idea of streaming music rather than listening to it over a record player or taping TV shows or a ballgame were mere fantasies. As you can imagine, the legal realm of the

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“I find having social settings, reading contracts every day and solving people’s problems keep you alert”

sports and entertainment fields has gone through drastic changes since then, not necessarily for the better.

But Remick has managed to keep in step with it all. That’s in part because, for 32 years, he’s taught a course on the subject at Temple University, where he received his law degree in 1972. And it’s also because his manner with clients has never changed.

Just ask one longtime client, who happens to be the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles.

“Lloyd’s very comfortable to be around,” said Merrill Reese, who revealed that Remick not only handles his contract negotiations but arranges his personal appearances. “He has



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a wonderful, upbeat disposition and sees the best in people, not the worst. He conducts himself with class and figures out how to make both parties happy without any animosity. A lot of people are nervous about their contracts. I turn it over to Lloyd and don't think about it.

"I have totally no stress since Lloyd's been my representative."

While being an entertainment and sports lawyer is hardly stress-free, Remick's managed to endure and thrive thanks to a reputation for being fair and honest. That goes back to when he was hired on the spot after confessing to Grover Washington's wife, Christine, that he'd never handled a recording artist who'd had a hit in Billboard magazine. From there he shifted to sports law, beginning when he locked in legendary Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon.

Over the years, his clients have

included former Eagles Ray Ellis and Greg Brown, former 76er Hersey Hawkins and Olympic boxers Pernell Whitaker, Tyrell Biggs and Meldrick Taylor. He won't name a load of others.

It's quite a legacy for a man who helped raise six children, three of whom are also lawyers — just not following their father's chosen field.

Besides that, he's been a longtime advocate for veterans and remains an active member of American Legion Post 405, the city's oldest, where he's a first vice commander. He's also been involved with several charities, including serving as a former director of Golden Slipper Charities and as the lawyer for the Welcome America 4th of July celebration and the Marian Anderson Awards.

So, what's the key to his longevity?

"I have learned life takes you. You don't take life," said Remick, who found time to write a book on poetry along

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Lloyd Remick in his Army days



Lloyd Remick in 2018

with a murder mystery, “Two Times Platinum,” a fictional account of greed and corruption in the sports and entertainment law field. “When you’re in this field 60 years and you last ... when you last in any field ... it’s an achievement.

“Certainly to last in entertainment, sports and media, yeah, I feel I’ve had a successful career. Why I enjoy and love doing what I do after all these years is because I have a natural desire to help people. I believe everyone has the right to pursue their dreams.” ■

Jon Marks is a freelance writer.



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Keri White



A self-described “jack of all trades,” Jack Treatman, owner of Old City Coffee, starts his day early. Always with a cup of top-notch coffee, but we’ll get to that later.

Born in 1957 as the oldest of five children, Treatman gravitated toward the kitchen early: “My mother was not a good cook and we all liked to eat, so I emerged as the family cook.”

His mother came from a family of academics, and his father’s family was in the hosiery business, located in what was then called the “Wholesale District” — now Old City. The hosiery business was difficult: The Treatmans started off providing repairs and selling seconds and, eventually, his father designed a line of hosiery sold in area retail stores. Treatman attended what was then called the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science with a plan to join the family business.



Jack Treatman at Old City Coffee

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And, for a time, he did. He graduated from Textile and worked in the hosiery business. But his timing was unfortunate; by the mid-1980s, that type of manufacturing in the city was dying, and small retail was following suit. But he does not look back on the time with regret — quite the opposite.

In addition to the experience he gleaned from working in the family business, Treatman met his future wife.

Ruth Isaac had opened Old City Coffee on Church Street, and Treatman loved coffee. He soon discovered that he loved her, too.

Treatman kvells about Isaac’s courage and spirit in launching the business.

“She was truly a pioneer,” he said. “In those days, there was no infrastructure to source coffee beans. No specialty coffee customer base. People didn’t

even know what a cappuccino was. She roasted the beans in the back of her shop.”

While Treatman became a loyal customer, he also realized that his future didn’t lie in the hosiery business.

He was a self-taught cook who had garnered coffee knowledge through a management internship at Linton’s restaurant, an old Philadelphia institution known for a great cup of coffee. While there, he learned from a waitress that the “secret” to a great cup of coffee was the proportion; the accepted convention was to use a full basket of grounds with four pitchers of water.

The savvy waitress revealed to Treatman that the key was to reduce the water to three pitchers, resulting in a much stronger, more flavorful cup. Treatman soon took his passion for food — “coffee was along

for the ride” — and entered the Culinary Institute of America’s accelerated program.

There, he learned garde manger, a lot of culinary skills and baking techniques and, coming out, he landed a job at the American Diner in Princeton, New Jersey. When the commute became unmanageable, he joined the staff of the White Dog Café.

Around that time, Isaac decided to expand Old City Coffee, adding a location at Reading Terminal Market and needing more hands on deck.

The couple married in 1988 and, a year later, Treatman left White Dog and joined Old City Coffee.

They bought a vintage Probat coffee roaster to roast beans on-site, and the machine still operates today. In 1990, Treatman and Isaac acquired the space adjacent to the original Old City Coffee location on Church Street and expanded into a



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European-style café, which is still going strong.

That year, they also expanded their family with the birth of their first child, Mira, and, three years later, Reuben. When asked if the next generation joined the family business, Treatman laughed, “They worked behind the counter briefly, but they were not interested in coffee!”

Their first grandson, Jerome, arrived recently, bringing the joys of grandparenthood to Treatman and Isaac, a new adventure they’re thoroughly enjoying.

Treatman maintains memberships in two synagogues: Society Hill Synagogue and Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, adding, “It’s a long story.”

The family lives in the Society Hill area and has been members there for years. Their children went through preschool, Hebrew school and bar/bat mitzvah programs there, but when it came time for Hebrew high school, there weren’t sufficient student numbers to sustain the classes. The family joined Congregation Rodeph Shalom so their son could attend a high school program. While there, Isaac became close to the cantor and, when she left to go to Beth Or, the Treatmans followed.

“Judaism guides everything I do. I became much more observant in 1999 after my mother passed. I wanted to do the yahrzeit regularly and, as a result, engaged more fully with the synagogue,” Treatman said.

He served as president of Society Hill Synagogue



Jack Treatman at the Reading Terminal Market location

from 2002-2003, an experience he describes as “a big responsibility, but one I was happy to do for the community. It was an education — my business benefited from the lessons I learned, hopefully not at the expense of the synagogue!” he said.

Treatman described his approach to life: “I’m very hands-on. I’m not a theoretical or academic type — I need to dig into things and keep moving. I go where I’m needed, I try to teach what I know that has proven useful to me, and I try to model good behavior and

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A photograph of two women smiling and posing for a photo. The woman on the left is wearing a red tank top, a leopard-print wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. She is holding a martini glass with a red drink. The woman on the right is wearing a black top with colorful floral embroidery, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. She is holding a glass of water. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting.

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and a business that I love,
what more could you want?"**



Ruth Isaac and
Jack Treatman
circa 1990

Photo by Jim Wasserman

set a good example."

When asked about his typical day, Treatman noted, "When you are a small business owner, there's no such thing. The first few hours might be spent in front of the computer with emails, orders, inventory — but if someone calls out sick, I'm opening the store and serving customers. If a machine breaks, I'm dealing with a repair."

He does start every morning with a cup of coffee — a pour-over, or manual drip, which he describes as "the best method" because it allows you to pour the hot water around the grounds that creep up during the brewing process to ensure that all the coffee is used and its flavor extracted. His other "musts" include the right proportion (6 ounces of water with 2 tablespoons of coffee per cup), sufficient temperature (above 200 degrees F), absolute cleanliness of the equipment, quality of water (filtered) and, of course, the beans.

"An operation like ours doesn't allow

for travel to coffee farms to scout out beans in far-flung places, but we do know some farmers personally, particularly in Hawaii, and we have some direct relationships," he said. "For beans from other locations, we rely on reputable coffee brokers, who bring green, unroasted beans back for us, and we roast them and then assemble our staff for tastings and selection."

When his seven-day workweek affords some leisure time, Treatman heads to nature. A lover of the outdoors, he enjoys long trail rides on his bike but can also be found whizzing around the city on two wheels. He walks five miles a day in his normal routine moving from store to store, making the rounds.

"I am truly blessed. I have a great staff, a wonderful family and a business that I love," he said. "What more could you want?" ■

Keri White is a Philadelphia-based freelance food writer.

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SUSAN WATTS

Energizes Klezmer Music

Ellen Braunstein

SUSAN WATTS comes from a long line of performers of the Jewish genre of klezmer music: The klezmer dynasty dates to 19th century Ukraine and begins with Watts' great-grandfather, the musician, composer, cornet player and poet Joseph Hoffman.

Watts is a trumpeter, composer, singer and arranger. Her repertoire is filled with her family's music created by her great-grandfather and also her grandfather, Jacob Hoffman. The latter left Podolia, Ukraine, in 1905 and settled in West Philadelphia, bringing his music with him. That's where his daughter Elaine was born and

where she first learned how to play the drums.

Being a fourth-generation klezmer musician is something that no other contemporary klezmer player can claim, Watts said. Carrying the mantle of klezmer, keeping it at the forefront of the Jewish cultural experience and keeping it full of life brings her satisfaction, she said.

"It gives me a sense of existential peace to know that I am the result of generations before me and that I have a mantle to carry and that I have a responsibility to speak for them," said Watts, who has added her compositions

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to the family canon.

Watts and her family, most notably her mother, have been featured in several televised documentaries. Before she died in 2017, Elaine Hoffman Watts was a klezmer drummer in the Philadelphia-based group, The Fabulous Shpielkehs. Watts often performed with her mother on stage. The film “Eatala: A Life in Klezmer” shares the Ukrainian-Jewish klezmer sounds of mother and daughter.

“When I was a little girl, you couldn’t get out of my house without being a musician in some way, shape or form,” Watts said. “My mother was a musician, and her whole life was dedicated and devoted to music and raising a musician.” Watts has two musically inclined siblings.

On June 4, Watts launches “The Hoffman Book,” a collection of her great-grandfather’s music. Some are originals, and some are common tunes of the day.

“He wrote this book in 1927 for his children who were musicians,” Watts says.

On a Zoom call, players from all over the world will perform a selection from the book, she said.

Watts, 56, of Ardmore, has had plenty of musical opportunities in the past several years, from performing at concerts with noted klezmer musicians from around the world to



receiving grants and awards from the Pew Foundation and the Leeway Foundation. She also was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and two Leeway Foundation Grants.

She produced “Soul Songs: Inspiring Women of Klezmer.” The project brings together 12 of the top Klezmer instrumentalists in North America to perform new and modern klezmer compositions all penned by women.

Watts began an organization called the Community Klezmer Initiative that offers cultural programs. “We’ve had really awesome programming — jams, dances, a Yiddish cabaret — really nice get-togethers around Yiddish culture and music. We want people to laugh and have fun and learn and enjoy themselves and other people.”

First and foremost, “klezmer is great music,” Watts said. “It connects to our *yichus* (Yiddish for lineage). We feel a connection to the people that have come before us. It’s a connector and an enlivener.”

She is a trumpet player, and what she loves about the instrument is its spirituality.

“It happened the first time I picked it up. I was 8 years old. My father played the trumpet in high school and he kept his trumpet in the closet. When I was a little

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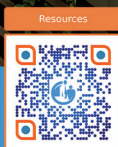
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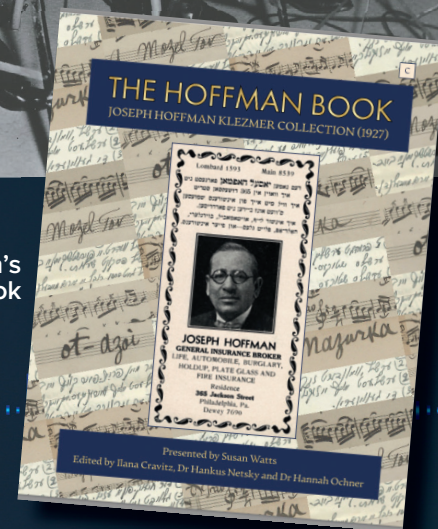


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Elaine Hoffman Watts

Joseph Hoffman's
klezmer book



**“I feel like klezmer music is my language.
I feel comfortable with it.
I feel at home with it.
It spiritually makes me alive.”**

kid, one day I took out my father’s trumpet and I just blew and it was like this revelation. Oh my God, this is my breath, this is my voice. And that was the end of that. I fell in love and have been in love ever since.

“I feel like klezmer music is my language. I feel comfortable with it. I feel at home with it. It spiritually makes me alive.”

Watts grew up in Penn Wynne and went to Saint Louis Conservatory of Music and Temple University School of Music. She returned to school at age 48 and now practices as a clinical social worker.

Watts still belongs to the Conservative synagogue of her youth, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

She is married to Alan Lankin, a

visual artist.

Jews will always feel at home with klezmer music, she said. “It’s the music from our temple. It’s the music from our souls and our experiences and our events. We dance to it. We marry to it. We cry to it. We laugh to it. It’s everybody’s, but it’s ours.”

She sees in her future growing as a “composer, as an artist and a trumpet player and a mensch. I constantly want to be looking forward and looking for opportunities to create a really special place in the community for klezmer.”

For an evening of Jewish Eastern European klezmer music, Watts’ new band “Only Schmaltz” performs at 8 p.m. May 28 at The Rotunda in Philadelphia. ■

Ellen Braunstein is a freelance writer.



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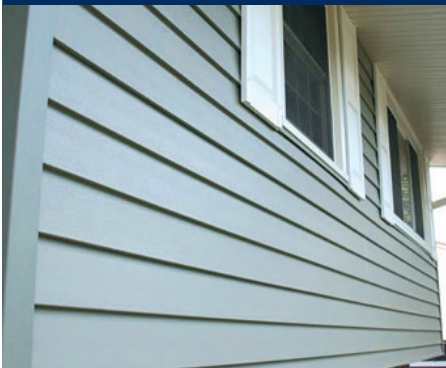
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