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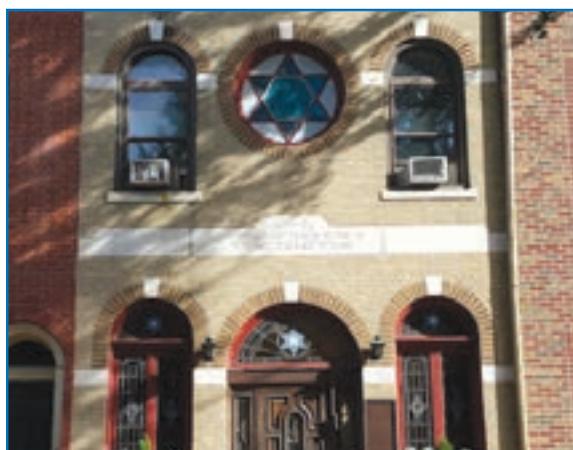


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17 Jewish film festival finds its footing

Weekly Kibbitz

Bruce Pearl, Auburn follow up 'Birthright for College Basketball' trip by hosting 150 high school students

Auburn University's men's basketball team hosted more than 150 Jewish high school students from across the country for a weekend of volunteering and basketball.

Pegged as a follow-up to the university's "Birthright for College Basketball" Israel trip over the summer, the Nov. 4-6 gathering was a joint program put on by NCSY, the Orthodox movement's youth arm, and Athletes for Israel, a nonprofit that brings athletes to Israel.

"The weekend is about showing appreciation to Auburn," AFI founder Daniel Posner said, citing the success of the team's Israel trip.

During the visit to Auburn, students participated in a basketball clinic with Auburn coach Bruce Pearl; celebrated Shabbat with Pearl and the Auburn basketball team; and volunteered at a local food bank and farm for troubled teens. They also attended the Tigers' season opener on Nov. 7 against George Mason University.

The day before, the students competed in a coed basketball tournament at a local high school, featuring players from Jewish day schools from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas and Florida.

"It's not just a basketball tournament," said Posner, touting the unique opportunity for students to meet with Pearl, whom Posner called "a true leader of the Jewish people."

"I owe a great debt to Athletes for Israel and Daniel Posner," Pearl said. "They helped me live a dream — that is to take my basketball team and my student athletes and my staff to the Holy Land."

Pearl added that bringing the teens to Auburn is "an opportunity for us to say thanks."

Auburn's Israel trip, which was likely the first of its kind for a full Division I college or profes-



Members of the Auburn University men's basketball team prepare to celebrate Shabbat in Israel on July 31. Courtesy of Auburn Athletics

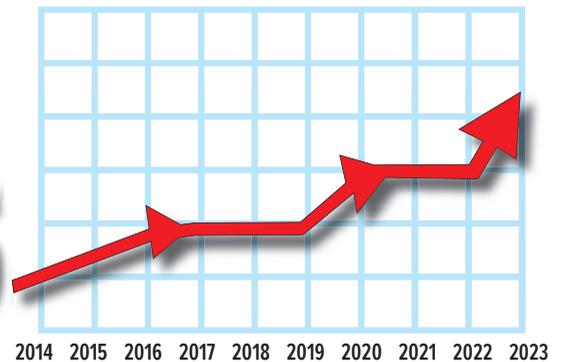
sional team, featured stops at some of the country's most famous historical and tourist sites, an interfaith basketball clinic hosted by former NBA player and activist Enes Kanter Freedom and exhibition games against Israel's top national basketball teams.

Pearl is one of the more outspokenly Jewish and pro-Israel coaches in college sports. He co-founded the Jewish Coaches Association, which hosts an annual breakfast for Jewish NCAA basketball coaches at March Madness. He also coached in the 2009 Maccabiah Games, which he has called a career highlight.

— Jacob Gurvis

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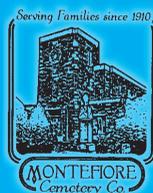
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Vilna Congregation Now a Mikvah, But It's Always Represented Change

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Since its founding in 1904, Vilna Congregation in Society Hill has experienced its fair share of changes.

Most recently, on Oct. 2, the community dedicated its ritual bath Mikvah Mei Shalva, marking the space's transition from a century-old synagogue to a full-time mikvah. Though the building's upstairs space at 509 Pine St. will remain an education and prayer space for sporadic minyanim, it will primarily serve as Center City's only community mikvah, according to Vilna Rabbi Menachem Schmidt.

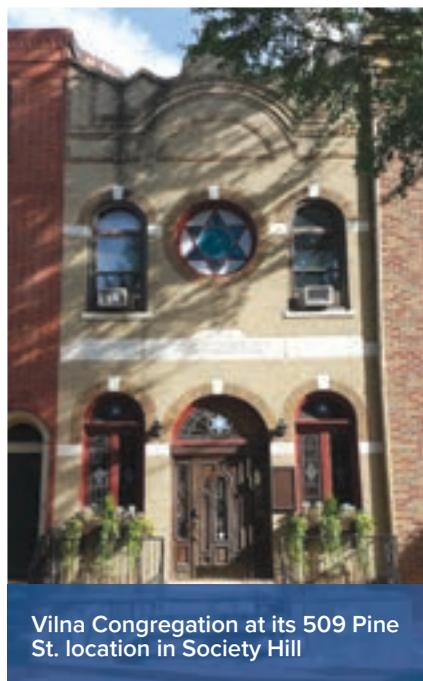
The transition of the historic space represents the changing Jewish landscape in Center City: both a celebrated past and a glimpse of the future.

"For me, it's sad not to have that shul. It's something that I miss," Schmidt said. "For the handful of people that really appreciate the services that the community needs, and especially when it comes to this whole idea of understanding *taharat hamishpacha* (family purity laws) and what the mikvah represents, it's a very important thing."

According to some, including Chava Schmidt, Menachem Schmidt's wife who helps run the mikvah, operating a mikvah supersedes the mitzvah of operating a synagogue, as it is considered an essential service to Jewish families who abide by the rituals of *taharat hamishpacha*. In this tradition, Jewish women are required to use the mikvah after menstruating, a time when sexual contact is also forbidden.

"As much as there's *kedushah*, there's holiness, in a shul, in a synagogue, that doesn't compare to the holiness of the parents' bedroom," Chava Schmidt said. "You can daven in a kitchen, a living room."

For the Schmidts, the transition of the space is still bittersweet. While leading the community since 1989, Menachem Schmidt has seen hundreds of people



Vilna Congregation at its 509 Pine St. location in Society Hill

filter through the shul.

Beyond hosting minyanim and services, the rabbi most fondly remembers the kiddushes and meals Vilna hosted. For one year on Simchat Torah, a phrase circulated in the Vilna community: "Skip shul, come to kiddush."

"It was singing; there was l'chaim; it was a whole *farbrengen* (joyous gathering)," he said. "It was a gathering of all kinds of people together."

Holly Cohen, a member of Vilna Congregation since the mid-1990s, remembers the synagogue's gatherings fondly. She met her husband and started a young family at Vilna.

"We would sit there for hours, these young people, these young professional people," she said. "And instead of going out to bars on Friday night, we were going to Vilna on Friday nights."

With the buzz of the synagogue in the 1990s and early '00s, it's hard to imagine that the decade prior, the synagogue was struggling to attract membership. This was a trend in Jewish life in Center City, which had waned substantially.

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In "The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia," Jewish historian Harry Boonin writes that by 1994, Vilna was the only rowhouse synagogue remaining in the Jewish quarter of the city.

The Schmidt's revival of the synagogue 30 years ago was hardly its only transformation. Founded in 1904 by Abraham Aba Ben Yehuda Shapiro in a rented building on Parkside Avenue, Vilna was a sanctuary for Lithuanian immigrants.

The synagogue, which changed locations several times in its early days, had trouble attracting congregants, and Shapiro created an interest-free loan program through the synagogue and advertised it in the newspaper to attract working-class immigrants, according to Boonin.

By 1922, Shapiro's son Bernard Shapiro took over after his father's death in 1917, moving the congregation to its current Pine Street location and expanding the building and installing 12 stained-glass windows and a bimah on the main room's north wall, the only place the pulpit would fit.

An April 27, 1990 article in the Jewish Exponent referred to the space, vibrantly decorated, as "a little jewel."

Vilna now transitions once more to serve the changing needs of Center City's

Jewish population, continuing to represent a microcosm of Jewish community.

Cohen's daughter Emunah Wirberg, who spent her early childhood at Vilna, now helps operate the Old City Jewish Arts Center with her husband Rabbi Zalman Wirberg. The arts center also has a Young Professionals Network to grow the young Jewish community in the city.

"People live in a city when they're young and they're single and then they're starting to date and getting married, and they have one child, eventually, and then maybe a second child," Wirberg said.

While some decide to move to the suburbs to grow their family, Wirberg and her husband are mostly concerned with building community among 20- and 30-something Jews already in the city, as well as attracting young couples and families to live there.

Vilna's mikvah is representative of a foundational need of the Jewish community, according to Wirberg, aiding in the effort to support the flourishing community in Center City.

"Having a mikvah," Wirberg said, "may have people stay longer. It might have a positive effect in that area." JE

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What's It Like to Run for State Rep? On the Trail with Two Jewish Candidates

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

When we think of political campaigns, we tend to paint a specific picture in our minds: an inspiring candidate firing up supporters about the issues facing the nation.

That's what Jewish Democrat Josh Shapiro's race for Pennsylvania governor looks like. It is also what his Republican opponent Doug Mastriano's campaign looks like. Both men are capable of mobilizing hundreds of supporters around their messages in a matter of days.

Running for state representative is nothing like that.

It's not about the candidates or the issues. It's not even about the country as a whole. Instead, it pretty much comes down to this: Are you willing to walk neighborhoods in your district, hour after hour, day after day, through spring, summer and fall? And can you get enough busy residents to give you two minutes on their front porches?

Two Jewish Democrats, Ilya Breyman and Gwen Stoltz, are walking their Bucks County neighborhoods and trying to convince people that they care, yes, but also that they exist.

Breyman is running to represent Pennsylvania's 178th House district, covering lower Bucks County towns like Northampton. Stoltz is campaigning for

the House seat in the 143rd district, which includes central and upper Bucks towns like Perkasio. Bucks County is known as a purple territory on the political map, meaning it combines both red Republican voters and blue Democratic voters.

Breyman has to beat Republican Kristin Marcell for a seat held by an outgoing Republican in Wendi Thomas. Stoltz must topple the incumbent Republican Shelby Labs.

Both Democrats have done enough fundraising to top \$100,000, with Stoltz accumulating more than \$300,000. Both have advertised on social media and even, in Stoltz's case, on television. But John Fetterman versus Mehmet Oz this is not.

Unlike that campaign for Pennsylvania's open seat in the U.S. Senate, Breyman and Stoltz cannot win by creating over-the-air caricatures of their opponents. Instead, they must execute stronger ground games than their rivals.

"You just keep going," Breyman said. "Trying to talk to as many people as possible."

On Nov. 3 and 4, just days before Election Day, that's what both Jewish candidates did. Breyman walked around neighborhoods in Northampton Township. Stoltz did a loop around the hill in the borough of Perkasio leading down to Kulp Park.

At door after door, nobody answered.



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Gwen Stoltz

Photos by Jarrad Saffren

That is common during weekday afternoons, both candidates said. Yet both Jews, who are proud of their identities but who do not have Jewish-specific issues to campaign on, kept the faith and continued knocking.

Sometimes a man or woman in athleisure clothes would answer the door and say they couldn't talk for long; they had to get back inside for a Zoom meeting. One Northampton resident had his headset on when he came to the door. He said he wasn't sure if he was voting yet and went back inside.

The walking, the knocking, that split second you get to convince someone that you matter more than a solicitor; it all felt tiring. But Breyman and Stoltz had been at this for months, starting when they announced their campaigns in April. During his summer laps, Breyman was offered water by some constituents.

"Today, I feel energized," Stoltz said. "Yesterday, I was tired."

It is always energizing, though, when a resident steps out of their home and onto the front porch. Breyman and Stoltz start racing through their names, hometowns and most important issues. (For Breyman, it's ending the red-blue divide; for Stoltz, it's maintaining the right to an abortion and supporting

small businesses.)

Then they start asking questions. Are you voting? What matters to you? Can I count on your support? Some voters already know who they are supporting. But others are not so sure. And to them, a good conversation can be convincing.

"All right man," said one Republican-leaning voter to Breyman. "I appreciate you showing up here."

Breyman, Stoltz and their campaigns have knocked on tens of thousands of doors. And to do that day after day, they have made sacrifices. Breyman no longer devotes as much time to his educational tech company Coursalytics. Stoltz needs her mom to handle dinner for her three children once a week.

Neither campaign has done much polling, so they are unsure if they will win. That makes it essential to leave everything on the field, they explained. Stoltz said she was looking forward to election night because she would be able to relax at home with her family. They plan to order pizza.

"They are excited and look up to the fact that I'm running for office," Stoltz said. "But they are looking forward to being beyond Election Day." **JE**

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Ilya Breyman

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State Extends Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Jewish Spaces to Benefit

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law on Nov. 3 an amendment to extend the Nonprofit Security Grant Program until 2029.

The grant program, created to give funding to nonprofit organizations looking to bolster the security of their facilities, serves many Jewish faith-based organizations. Administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the grant was created in 2019 as part of Act 83 in response to the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue shooting the year prior and was approved to last five years total.

Since its implementation three years ago, the grant has given \$20 million to different nonprofit organizations, including synagogues, Jewish commu-

nity centers, mosques and churches. In 2021, 30 of the grant recipients, receiving \$1,293,401 in combined grant allocations, were Jewish organizations in the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's five-county perimeter.

"The need is clearly there," said Robin Schatz, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia director, government affairs. "Especially as antisemitic incidents increase."

Jewish leaders felt the extension of the grant program by another five years was necessary to meet its high demand. Last year, about 20% of applicants received funding, according to Hank Butler, executive director of the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition. In 2019, 17% of applicants received funding. In 2020, the number was 30-35%.

"The argument is simple — that peo-



House Bill 397 will amend Act 83 and extend the Non-Profit Security Grant Program until 2029.

ple who are applying are not getting [funding]," Butler said. "This whole thing started because instead of being reactive to hate crimes and violence, we wanted to be proactive in protecting our communities, our communal facilities, our JCCs, our sanctuaries, our synagogues, mosques, colleges. This was a way of doing it."

In addition to extending the Nonprofit Security Grant Program for the next five years, the bill will give the grant program a line on the budget, making it easier to allocate funds in advance. Money for the program will be set aside to be allocated during the passing of the budget. Jewish leaders hope for a budget allocation of \$5-10 million annually.

The commonwealth's Senate and House of Representatives passed the bill with bipartisan support.

"In the days since 9/11, security and heightened security has resonated more with everybody," Schatz said.

When Butler advocated for the passing of the bill and met with local caucuses, the rhetoric of his arguments remained the same, he said. Most politicians recognize growing security concerns as an issue they need to address.

Antisemitic attacks continue to loom. On Nov. 3, the FBI office in Newark, New Jersey, issued a warning about "credible threats" to area synagogues.

According to Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia Regional Director Andrew Goretsky, 21 Jewish institutions reported antisemitic activity in the Philadelphia area in 2021, and 22 reported the same in 2020 — more than twice the number reported in years prior.

"The five-year extension of the grant program demonstrates that

Pennsylvania's leaders understand the urgency of antisemitism and the necessity to secure religious and communal spaces," Goretsky said.

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Community Security Director Scott Kerns — who was appointed at the end of September as part of the Jewish Federation's partnership with Secure Community Network — recently toured several Jewish community spaces and consulted with leaders on how they can best enhance campus security. In many cases, this includes installing new security cameras, lights in the parking lot or doors that require key cards to open.

"One of my biggest jobs is to take a look at each facility, because every facility is different, and look to do what we can to harden that facility, so that it is less of a soft target for some kind of attack," Kerns said.

At the same time, Kerns understands that Jewish community spaces are not "Fort Knox," he said. Balancing increased security while maintaining a welcoming culture will be a growing challenge for synagogues and JCCs.

While some people may feel safer attending events knowing that there will be increased security, the same precautions can make others nervous. Kerns said it's his job to tell people that these security measures are a necessity that allow for the continuation of everyday life in Jewish spaces.

"We want openness. That is very important," he said. "But we also need security." JE

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Jewish Federation Brings on Law Enforcement Veteran Scott Kerns from SCN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia launched an expanded community security initiative in partnership with the Secure Community Network in late September.

SCN is the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America.

Designed to significantly increase safety and security, this concerted effort is for all those who participate in synagogues, day schools, community centers, service organizations and other centers of Jewish life throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

Serving as Greater Philadelphia's full-time security executive is public safety expert and law enforcement veteran Scott Kerns, who assumed the role of community security director on Sept. 28. Leveraging the national resources and tools of SCN, Kerns is focused on the development and administration of a comprehensive program that provides risk mitigation, security consultations, assessments and training to Jewish institutions throughout the region. In addition, Kerns serves as the Jewish community's main liaison to local, state and federal law enforcement in the region.

An integral part of this community-based role, Kerns leads education and awareness training through SCN's flagship training courses, such as "Be Aware: Introduction to Situational Awareness," "Countering Active Threat Training" and "Stop the Bleed."

"As America faces dramatic increases in antisemitic threats and incidents, Jewish communal security has never been more important," said Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia President and CEO Michael Balaban. "Through this new partnership, we will enhance our commitment to security and ensure we are applying a comprehensive, best-practice approach. Scott's extensive experience makes him a tremendous asset for this effort."

Philadelphia joins the growing network of Federations and communities that have partnered with SCN to launch community-wide security programs to ensure the safety, security and resilience of the Jewish people. Each program is connected to SCN's national operations, providing direct access to SCN's National Jewish Security Operations Command Center and Duty Desk, as well as best-practice security resources and support related to physical security, facility assessments, life-saving training, critical policies and incident response.

The Philadelphia security program was made possible through professional support from the Jewish Federation and SCN, funding from collaborative efforts of the Jewish Federation and other local donors, and national donor support from SCN and LiveSecure. LiveSecure is the partnership between The Jewish Federations of North America and SCN to fund and create a collective security framework.

"SCN strives to ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the Jewish people by creating a security shield over the Jewish community in North America," said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. "The heart of this effort is the establishment of a comprehensive security program in each Jewish population center, led by a full-time security professional. We are honored to partner with the Federation and thrilled that in Scott we have a seasoned professional to lead



Community Security Director Scott Kerns from Secure Community Network joined the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia on Sept. 28. Courtesy of Scott Kerns

the local effort."

Before joining SCN, Kerns served as a special agent in the New York and Philadelphia Divisions of the FBI from 1998 to 2022. He worked in a variety of programs, including white-collar crime, technical operations, organized crime, international terrorism, crisis management and recruiting.

Among his many assignments, Kerns helped direct security efforts for major events, such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City Marathon, New Year's Eve in Times Square, United Nations General Assembly, Super Bowl XLVIII and the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia. Most recently, he served as a supervisor in the Joint Terrorism Task Force squad and the Crisis Management program in Philadelphia.

Among his extensive experience, Kerns served in the Marine Corps from 1992 to 1997, attaining the rank of captain.

Kerns has been recognized with the FBI Medal of Excellence, the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation Investigator of the Year award and the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service.

"It's an honor for me to continue working in Philadelphia and to contribute to the safety and security of the Jewish community," said Kerns, who holds a bachelor's degree in accountancy from Villanova University and a master's degree in telecommunications management from the Stevens Institute of Technology. "I look forward to leveraging my professional experience and community relationships to help everyone become more prepared and resilient against all forms of threat."

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

Zeke Winitsky



SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Zeke Winitsky was never supposed to travel to Berlin, let alone shoot a short film there.

The Pennsylvania State University student and South Philadelphia resident was planning to spend his summer semester in Japan, but when the program was canceled due to COVID, Winitsky decided to instead travel to Berlin, a city his Holocaust survivor grandfather refused to visit after World War II.

“Before going, my grandfather, a survivor, was a little wary,” Winitsky said. “We thought it was a good idea for me to go and travel. ... I have a lot of interesting feelings about it, but I honestly think I didn’t really understand those things until I got there.”

Surrounded by memorials of the Shoah and feeling the pressure of his grandfather’s survivor status to make the most of the semester as a Jew in Germany, Winitsky, 21, felt he “had the ghost of the Holocaust on my shoulder,” he said.

Winitsky’s tug-of-war desire to explore the city while also honoring the legacy of the Holocaust resulted in a six-minute short film entitled “Coming to Berlin.” The film, investigating the significance of public memory of the Holocaust, won the grand prize at the Institute for the International Education of Students Study Abroad Film Festival in Chicago on Oct. 13.

“There’s pictures of my grandfather and references to my grandfather in that film,” Winitsky said in his acceptance speech. “We actually lost my grandfather two weeks ago, and he inspired me so much in so many different ways specially to make this film. One piece of advice that he always gave me, and I think I can relate to everyone here, is that love is easier than hate, and I think that was a lot of the

conclusions I came to when making this movie.”

“Coming to Berlin” mirrors the internal dialogue Winitsky found himself having over the summer semester through the IES Abroad program, a nonprofit offering internships and study abroad programs for college students.

Attending Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel and growing up lighting the Shabbat candles every night, Winitsky was instilled with deep Jewish pride, but as part of a generation more removed from the Holocaust, he has had to find his own ways to honor his family’s Jewish history.

In the film, the audience sees two Winitskys: one in a slouched Grateful Dead baseball cap and beaten Reebok sneakers, and the other in a white dress shirt tucked into his trousers, a wide-brimmed hat donning his head. The modern-day Winitsky meets the version of himself from a universe where the Shoah never happened.

The two travel across the city, to the Berlin Wall and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, debating the impact of the structures and the best

way to mark or move forward from the Holocaust.

Winitsky’s complicated feelings toward Holocaust memorials are reflected in his greater philosophy around Jewish history, memory and film.

“I’m just more interested in Jewish life than Jewish death,” he said. “And seeing how many movies are so concerned with Jewish death and the minutiae of how they were killed and the tragedy of how they’re killed — of course, that’s important to remember. But I think that there are times that actually warrant us to look at what was lost. What was there that was taken?”

Winitsky’s grandfather, known to the family as “Jewish Forrest Gump,” showed Winitsky a prime example of a rich Jewish life. Born in Hungary, the patriarch was taken to a labor prison and later Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as a child but avoided dying there because his well-educated mother spoke German and served as the de facto translator between the Nazi guards and their Jewish prisoners.

After the war, the survivor went to Israel with his mother and siblings but was separated from his mother and sent to an orphanage until he was old enough to go to yeshiva. He later served as a paratrooper in the Israel Defense Forces and was a bodyguard to Moshe Dayan.

When he settled in Pittsburgh in the later years of his life and became a jeweler, he survived the Tree of Life synagogue shooting. He found it important to speak to schoolchildren about his experience surviving the Holocaust.

Beyond being an inspiration to his grandson, Winitsky’s grandfather also encouraged Winitsky to pursue film.

“My grandfather considered art to be the highest of the high, the holiest of professions,” Winitsky said.

Becoming an artist was a way to make the biggest mark on society. Both of Winitsky’s parents are artists, and as Winitsky gains experience and influence as a filmmaker, he draws on the Talmudic teaching that his grandfather believed in: “You could create something from something, and that is good. But it’s holier to create something from nothing.” **JE**

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Courtesy of IES Abroad

Patriots Owner Funds NFL TV Ad About Standing Up ‘Against Jewish Hate’

Robert Kraft, the New England Patriots owner who donates heavily to Jewish causes, funded an advertisement that ran during Oct. 30’s NFL game between the Patriots and the New York Jets urging NFL fans to “stand up against Jewish hate,” JTA.org reported.

The ad aired during a weekend in which NBA star Kyrie Irving shared a link to an antisemitic movie online and the message “Kanye is right about the jews” was projected at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Florida, during a college football game between the University of Florida and the University of Georgia.

“There are less than 8 million Jewish people in this country. Fewer than are watching this game,” read Kraft’s 30-second ad, which featured simple white text on a black background, set to ambient music. “They need you to add your voice.” It was produced jointly by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism and Kraft’s foundation.

Evangelical GOP House Candidate in Texas Wrote a Novel About Anne Frank Finding Jesus

The Republican nominee for Congress in Texas’ 7th district is a self-proclaimed history buff, but his take on Anne Frank is not one that most historians would endorse, JTA.org reported.

Johnny Teague, an evangelical pastor and business owner who won the district’s primary in March, in 2020 published “The Lost Diary of Anne Frank,” a novel imagining the famous Jewish Holocaust victim’s final days in the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps as she might have written them in her diary.

The kicker: In Teague’s telling, Frank seems to embrace Christianity just before she is murdered by the Nazis.

Published by Las Vegas-based publisher Histria Books, the speculative book attempts to faithfully extend the writing style of Frank’s “original” diary entries into her experiences in the camps: it “picks up where her original journey left off,” according to the promotional summary.

Teague claims to have interviewed Holocaust survivors and visited the Anne Frank House, multiple concentration camps and the major Holocaust museums in Washington, D.C., and Israel as part of his research.

“I would love to learn more about Jesus and all He faced in His dear life as a Jewish teacher,” Teague’s Anne Frank character muses at one point, saying that her dad had tried to get her a copy of the New Testament.

Reform Rabbi to be Knighted by Pope Francis

A. James Rudin, a leading Reform rabbi and educator and the longtime director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee, will be knighted under the Papal Order of St. Gregory for his work on Catholic-Jewish relations, JTA.org reported.

He will become the ninth Jewish person to receive the honor in the Order’s nearly 200-year history. Other Jews so knighted include Walter Annenberg, the philanthropist and creator of TV Guide; the prominent Conservative rabbi Mordecai Waxman; Argentine interfaith advocate Rabbi León Klenicki; Rabbi David Rosen of the AJC; and various philanthropists, businesspeople and musicians with Jewish ancestry.

The honor recognizes people whose work has supported the Catholic Church, which can include Jews focused on interfaith projects.

Voter Turnout Surpasses 70% in Israeli Election

Some 4,843,023 people, or 71.3% of eligible voters, cast ballots in Nov. 1’s elections for the 25th Knesset, according to the Israeli Central Elections Committee, the highest turnout on Election Day since 2015, JNS.org reported.

A total of 6,788,804 people were eligible to vote at more than 12,000 stations set up across the country.

The high turnout reflects the electorate’s trust in the Jewish state’s democratic system, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said. **JE**

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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A Clear Victory for Israel's Right

After last week's decisive election in Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu is on his way to forming a ruling coalition and returning to the prime minister's office. The election results point the way to a governing majority that is conservative, nationalistic and religious. And potentially problematic.

In addition to his Likud party, which won 32 seats, Netanyahu's likely coalition will include the Religious Zionists party, an extreme right-wing party led by Bezalel Smotrich and Kahanist lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir, which won 14 seats; and Haredi, non-Zionist parties Shas and United Torah Judaism, which won 11 and seven seats, respectively. The most moderate leadership voice in the anticipated coalition may be Netanyahu himself. And management of his coalition partners will likely present a challenge to Netanyahu's legendary political deal-making skills.

All in all, last week's vote was a devastating defeat for the anti-Netanyahu parties that forged a government over the last year. Outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party garnered 24 seats; the center-right National Unity party of Defense Minister Benny Gantz won 12 seats; and the right-wing Israel Beiteinu led by

Avigdor Lieberman won six.

Significantly, this election saw the almost complete disappearance of Israel's shrinking left — with the Labor party barely crossing the 3.25% election threshold with four seats — and the disappearance of left-wing Meretz. In addition, neither Ayelet Shaked's right-wing Habayit Hayehudi nor the Arab nationalist party Balad was able to attract enough votes to cross the election threshold.

The irony is that if the center-right parties were willing to join the coalition, they could balance or even replace the far-right parties. But each of the center-right leaders has been burned by Netanyahu before and has pledged not to join him now.

U.S. Jewry is overall more liberal than the steadily more conservative Israeli public. Some Jewish groups expressed distress over the election results, while others merely congratulated Israel on the election and kept silent about concerns regarding the far-right elements of the likely coalition.

On the eve of the election, Israeli President Isaac Herzog told the Jewish Federations of North

America's General Assembly, "The results may or may not be to your liking, but the vote of the Israeli people should be respected."

We agree. We need to respect and accept the will of the Israeli people. This is so even if the likely direction of several government policies could be uncomfortable for a significant segment of Diaspora Jewry. For example, no one from Netanyahu rightward supports a two-state solution. And the restoration of full control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Rabbinate to Haredi leadership is not likely to support religious pluralism in Israel or LGBTQ+ rights.

But this is the government Israel's electorate wants. As such, when it comes to the makeup of the government and the policies it pursues, the decisions aren't ours to make. We don't have to agree with every policy and decision. And we certainly don't have to support decisions with which we disagree. But we shouldn't prejudge things based upon what we think will happen. Instead, let's see what they decide to do. Let's see which ministries are given to far-right leaders. And let's see what policies are pursued.

They may surprise us. **JE**

China's Xi and Taiwan

Late last month, a somber Xi Jinping walked across the stage of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing flanked by his hand-picked, seven-member standing committee of top leadership, and was proclaimed China's uncontested leader for the next five years — and likely more. Xi's rise to power in the Chinese Communist Party has been methodical, deliberate and all-encompassing.

When Xi came to power in 2012, most viewed him as a pragmatist. There was hope that he would bring reforms to China and a more inviting interaction with other nations of the world and, particularly, the West. But that was not to be. Instead, Xi moved forcefully in the other direction. Under his instructions, authorities expanded state surveillance, imposed mass detention in Xinjiang, cracked down on Chinese civil society and imposed national security restrictions in Hong Kong to stop anti-Beijing protests.

After serving a decade as general secretary and head of the Central Military Commission, the party's two most important positions, Xi refused to transfer control, as his predecessors had done. Rather, he made clear his intent to continue in power and ignored the plan of previous party

leaders who hoped to regularize peaceful leadership transitions and protect against a return to one-man rule.

And now, as the 69-year-old leader enters his third term in office, he is intent on staying in power under his terms and his rules, with absolute loyalty from his top leaders and government personnel. Going forward, Xi is expected to further consolidate power with a focus on national security, the upgrade of the Chinese technology sector, efforts to establish a state-dominated and self-reliant Chinese economy and a further push to establish China at the top of the world order. He will be doing so notwithstanding existing challenges in relations with the United States and a slowdown in the Chinese economy.

And then there's Taiwan. Taiwan has been governed autonomously of mainland China since 1949, but Beijing views the island as part of "one China" and has vowed to "unify" Taiwan with the mainland, using force, if necessary. Indeed, Xi amended the party constitution to say that China "will resolutely oppose and contain Taiwan independence." And that makes the 23 million residents of Taiwan very nervous.

In 1979, the United States established formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China on the mainland. At the same time, it severed formal ties with Taiwan, known as the Republic of China, whose leaders had ruled the mainland until they were ousted by Mao Zedong's Communist forces in 1949. After 1979, the United States continued an active unofficial relationship with the island, including the supply of military defense equipment, notwithstanding China's objections. But it isn't at all clear what the U.S. will do in the event China attacks Taiwan and seeks to take control. President Joe Biden's comments on the issue have vacillated between commitments to intervene and statements that reflect "strategic ambiguity."

For now, Taiwan prepares to defend itself, as it watches Western reaction in response to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Taiwan knows if China attacks, Western allies may or may not join in active defense. Xi knows of that uncertainty, as well. And with his mounting power and commitment to expanding his rule, a move against Taiwan is entirely possible.

This is a problem that isn't going away. **JE**



My Brethren on the Left, Give Me a Chance

BY ITAMAR BEN-GVIR

Despite our differences, despite four rounds of elections that have led to a polarized public discourse and an accentuation of our divisions, despite the demonization, despite everything, we are brothers.

No, the country hasn't come to an end. You and us together, we are the country, and we have no intention of changing that.

I hear the fear of "religious coercion," but ask myself, whom will I coerce? My brother, who doesn't wear a kippah, or Zvika Fogel and Almog Cohen, "secular" candidates I brought into my Otzma Yehudit Knesset list?

I hear the fear of "thought police" or prohibition of demonstrations, and remind you that we are the ones who have fought more than all the "civil rights" organizations for freedom of expression and the right to protest.

What saddens me the most is to hear journalists ask whether if, when I take up a position of influence, the Pride Parade will still receive police protection — are you insane? Would I like to see the loathsome murder of a girl attending a parade? Of course not; even if I don't like the parade, I will still ensure all the marchers are kept safe.

I hear all those who bring up the subjects of the emblem on Yitzhak Rabin's car (27 years ago!) and the poster of Baruch Goldstein. But let me remind you of the long path I have taken since then, and how I have changed: I have matured, moderated and come to the understanding that life is complex.

Today, I don't see all leftists in the same way. I certainly make a distinction between [Hadash Knesset member] Ofer Cassif and the Zionist pro-Israel left.

Don't get me wrong: We will do everything in our power to establish a nationalist right-wing government, a government that will restore personal security, that will restore governability to the Negev and the Galilee and hold its head up high and not bow before threats.

I don't plan to apologize for who I am, but I think that if you get to know me, you will change your views about me and my positions. For too long, too many Israelis have been afraid of enemies from within and without. No more!

The reality in which Jews flee from mobs in the heart of Jerusalem is a self-defeating and ghetto-like reality. Mothers in Beersheva should not be afraid to let their teenage girls go to the

mall or walk the city's streets; a soldier on leave in Akko shouldn't have to take off his uniform when he comes home. The Start-Up Nation has lost its staying power to deal with threats from within. Running away, apologizing and giving in have become the norm. That's what the election was about, and that's why we won it.

Our Jewish identity is not sectorial or political, it is the rock of our being and our very essence. In the Diaspora, we suffered persecution and we united, yet here in our own country we have built our Jewish heart beats fainter. Reconnecting to it cannot be accomplished through coercion — such an attempt would be doomed to failure — but we must become reacquainted, we must refresh our memories and bring ourselves closer to our heritage.

towns of the periphery, on Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv, and in Sderot and Beersheva. We must restore for everyone — for Religious Zionist Party and Otzma Yehudit voters and for Labor and Meretz voters — the governability we have lost in the Negev and the Galilee.

Israel's Arab citizens, too, are entitled to protection and a feeling of security. The problem of crime in the Arab sector has swelled to dangerous proportions. We cannot accept this shocking reality in which innocent people are murdered in broad daylight without the issue topping the public agenda and without us being required to provide safety and protection to Israel's Arab citizens as well. The truth must be stated, even if it is painful: The complacency that the state of Israel shows toward murder and crime in the Arab

If you will let us get closer, if you will listen to what we have to say, you will discover that we are all brothers. You will discover that we agree on 90% of the issues and that the message that we bring and the things that we will do are for you just as much as they are for us.

There are many of you who feel frustrated, and those feelings often lead to fear, which can manifest as hatred. But these are feelings that come from being distant and unfamiliar.

If you will let us get closer, if you will listen to what we have to say, you will discover that we are all brothers. You will discover that we agree on 90% of the issues and that the message that we bring and the things that we will do are for you just as much as they are for us.

The ax raised against a mother in Haifa or the knife drawn against a young man in Ashkelon don't have electoral considerations. The same goes for our national security, which we so desperately need: It is not there to defend a particular sector or political affiliation. We all need personal security — in the kibbutzim of the left, in the

sector is immoral, unacceptable and harms us all.

In the coming days, with God's help, a national government will be formed. There will be many disputes and controversies, and there is plenty to argue about; the 10% that keeps us apart could fill countless television broadcasts and newspaper editions. But there is no reason for fear or hatred — we are brothers! **JE**

Itamar Ben-Gvir is a Knesset member and the head of the Otzma Yehudit Party. This op-ed first appeared in Israel Hayom.

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



We Need to Debunk Longstanding Jewish-Black Zero-sum Assumptions

BY ZEV ELEFF

Last weekend, I had a troubling encounter with American sport, apart from the Phillies' unfortunate defeat in the World Series.

On Sunday morning, Hall of Fame football player Ed Reed tweeted his support of embattled basketball star Kyrie Irving: "These boys making business decisions, not worried about the people! I STAND WITH #KyrieIrving we are Harmed everyday! Stop acting as if BLACK folk are not treated worse than any. All the attn (apologies) PROVES it #CarryOn."

Irving was suspended last week for posting a link to an antisemitic movie, "Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America." The propagandist film is chock full of anti-Jewish tropes and, among its most egregious claims, denies the historical Holocaust. Owing to the other recent firestorm over Kanye West's antisemitic banter, the news of Irving's misdeeds has received ample media attention.

Why did Reed's Twitter post catch my attention? Reed played defense for the Baltimore Ravens, my favorite football team. During his All-Pro career, I spent many hours cheering Reed in front of my television screen, and on a few occasions in person.

His comments frazzled my fandom and shook my sensibilities. I didn't have another way to reach Reed, so I tweeted back: "Hate isn't a scarce resource. It's not a zero sum game as you make it out to be." Reed responded less than an hour later: "No hate here playa, just standing with my brother not on hate bc that's not what he [Irving] is about."

Reed and I exchanged a few more tweets before I closed my phone in preparation for a Holocaust education event at Gratz College. At the program, fortuitously, Elisha Wiesel shared how his father, the humanitarian Elie Wiesel, had urged Jews and non-Jews to learn "from" and "about" the Holocaust.

During the program intermission, I checked Twitter, curious to learn whether Reed extended our discussion. Reed didn't. His only Twitter activity in the interim was a post to an antisemitic video clip.

I figured, then, that it would be of no help to share Wiesel's wisdom on Twitter; to suggest that the study of genocide and hate is an opportu-

nity to learn narrowly "about" those persecuted groups and to draw broader lessons "from" those experiences.

Others, however, weighed in on our exchange.

Some tweets took up my cause, explaining to the retired football legend that the movie Irving had endorsed was unredeemable. Someone of Irving's public stature should not spread lies and hate.

Other commenters took Reed's side, suggesting that Irving's post was benign and, in response to a Jewish college president raising the issue, suggested that the "Jewish Holocaust already dominates the curriculum in our American schools."

The Twitter encounter challenged my assumptions about Black-Jewish relations. What we require, I had shared at a recent program held by

them to work apart.

Reed has alerted me that learning "about" hate is insufficient so long as Jews, African Americans or any other group believes that remedying injustice is a zero-sum game; that, somehow, too much of a curricular emphasis about one group will detract from the available time and energy available for the other.

Reaching further back into history, this was Isaac Leeser's fear in the 1860s. Leeser, one of Philadelphia's ranking Jewish leaders, worried that abolitionists' success on behalf of Black slaves might sink Jews to the bottom of the societal totem pole. We need to debunk this longstanding zero-sum assumption and consider how groups can learn "from" one another to cultivate

(Ed) Reed has alerted me that learning "about" hate is insufficient so long as Jews, African Americans or any other group believes that remedying injustice is a zero-sum game; that, somehow, too much of a curricular emphasis about one group will detract from the available time and energy available for the other.

the Anti-Defamation League's Philadelphia-based Black-Jewish Alliance was increased literacy of the Jewish and African American experiences in the U.S. As an American historian, I stressed that the Black and Jewish communities need to obtain a better handle on the important histories of these two minority groups and how each was, in relative terms, kept on the fringes of American life.

Of course, the extent of antisemitism in the U.S. has never reached the horrors of racism. Yet, a nuanced view has much to offer about the complexities of "whiteness" in determining access to the American mainstream. There's also much to say about how Jews and African Americans worked together, and how civil rights issues such as affirmative action compelled

mutual support.

We must teach "about" hate and draw lessons "from" history that support agency and allyship. The classroom discussions examining Elie Wiesel's or Toni Morrison's works should elicit provocative and applicable conversations about the people represented in those books and make meaning for the young people grappling with those challenging texts.

Bigots and racists load their weapons of hate speech with limitless ammunition. We, on defense, ought to recognize that our tools to educate and engender understanding need not be so limited like some zero-sum totem pole. **JE**

Zev Eleff is president of Gratz College.



Ye's Hate Speech Awakens My 'Triple Consciousness' of Being Black, Jewish and American

BY KENDALL PINKNEY

When I read the news about Kanye West, I didn't know whether to turn off my phone, or throw it.

I knew it would only be a matter of time before the emails and texts began rolling in: What do you think about Kanye? What's to be done about antisemitism in the Black community? You must agree that Ye is challenging systems of power, not being antisemitic! Have you read this article by Black person X? Have you read this thought-piece by Jewish person Y? You know Heschel and other Jews walked with King at Selma; what would it take to get back to that!?

Here's the reality: I am Black, I am a rabbi and I am a theater artist who frequently makes work that probes the intersections of Black and Jewish identity. So yes, I get why any number of people reached out to get my "take." But to be honest, I find the Kanye saturation of this moment to be more exhausting than instructive, as harmful as his incessant flow of antisemitic bile is.

The reason for my exhaustion is that moments like this more often result in stale public rehearsals of facts-and-figures, rhetorical whataboutism and, in my case, private requests for explanations or defenses. In cases where there's a public apology, we might get a heavily staged meeting between a symbolic Black person and a symbolic Jew, but no one really thinks that such a "coming together" does the real work of forging understanding.

In short, events like these tend to result in panic and punishment, not in introspection.

Lest I be misunderstood, let me state a few points clearly:

Kanye is antisemitic, and, like his equally egregious anti-Black and misogynist statements, his statements about Jews are appalling and deeply harmful.

Despite the number of books on such topics, Black antisemitism is not a thing, just like Jewish anti-Blackness is not a thing. Rather, antisemitism and anti-Blackness are longstanding structures of social prejudice that all peoples and societies fall prey to.

Regarding Black-Jewish civil rights solidarity, while it is worthwhile remembering the intrepid Jewish leaders who walked with Dr. King and other Black civil rights leaders in Selma, that act of righteous resistance from nearly 60 years ago will only take Black and Jewish communities so far

into their shared futures.

Inhabiting a Black and Jewish identity in contemporary America can be maddening. It is like navigating a rhetorical funhouse: You know that your lived experience is fully coherent, but the reflections you encounter along the path distort, disfigure and "invisibilize" your reality. More precisely, as a Black Jew you are forced to consider your identities from the perspectives of others, very few of whom have given any thought to your particular existence. If this idea sounds familiar, well, it is. It's actually quite old.

In his seminal 20th century masterpiece, "The Souls of Black Folk," the eminent Black polymath W.E.B. Du Bois addressed the conundrum of living in a society where the structures of racism force Black people into a split consciousness. "It is a peculiar sensation," Du Bois writes, "this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of [white] others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his twoness, — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings ..."

While I have reservations about aspects of Du Bois' broader worldview (e.g. his intra-Black elitism, his romantic view of nations and peoplehood) I find deep resonance in his observations on "double consciousness." I have been in countless situations where I have simply sought to follow my interests, only for my Blackness to be the cause for minor and major slights. I have also endured antisemitic aggression and witnessed anti-Jewish religious sentiment up close. What is more, I have experienced the above in Jewish communities and Black communities, respectively. I am not alone in this. Many Black Jews can attest to the same.

To live as a Black Jew in America means to live with an awareness of just how precarious group belonging can be. In the case of hate speech, it also means an unfortunate familiarity with the frequent intersections between anti-Blackness and antisemitism. Such experience would lead me to believe that Black Jews might have something unique to say in this moment. And yet, predictably, what has happened since Kanye's recent spate of antisemitic tweets is that Black Jews have been functionally overlooked in the public discourse — our voices relegated to small or parochial news outlets, niche podcasts, newsletters or Twitter feeds.

To me, this phenomenon places Du Bois's observations in greater relief. Namely, being

Black and Jewish in America is more than an act of "double-consciousness," it is an act of "triple-consciousness." In this configuration, I know by virtue of my Black, Jewish and American identities that I am an integrated being who embodies a way forward for our society, but I am often made to contend with the fact that my communities, and society in general, can only grasp my identity in its discrete parts, not as a whole.

In case you think this "triple consciousness" is theoretical, let me give a few concrete examples.

To live with "triple consciousness" is to notice that there were relatively few calls beyond those of Black individuals to condemn and boycott Kanye when he trafficked in white supremacist, anti-Black ideology.

To live with "triple consciousness" is to argue with non-Jewish acquaintances that pointing out the number of Jews in finance and media does not a keen observation make, nor does it provide evidence of a powerful cabal.

To live with "triple consciousness" is to carry the distinct, lived histories of two peoples in your heart and mind at all times. To live with "triple consciousness" is to know in the most intimate way that anti-Black rhetoric hurts Jews, and antisemitic rhetoric hurts Black people, because there are many of us who carry both identities and cannot disentangle them one from the other.

Finally, and most personally, to live with "triple consciousness" is to wonder whether my mixed Jewish child will grow up in an America where she feels compelled to closet aspects of her identity because society cannot hold the wonder of her complexity.

I cannot solve the issue of "triple consciousness" — after all, I did not create the strange reality underpinning it. Such a feat calls for a tremendous amount of work, honesty and humility. It also requires a critical willingness to interrogate how multiple oppressions are interlinked, rather than to dismiss such language as performative and overly "woke."

I am not interested in virtue-signaling, much less ideological purity. Rather, I want what everyone wants, what Du Bois wanted: the simple dignity to be myself — Black, Jewish and American, "without being cursed and spit upon." **JE**

Kendall Pinkney is a New York-based theater artist, producer and rabbi. He is the rabbinical educator at Reboot and the founding artistic director of The Workshop, an arts and culture fellowship for BIPOC-Jewish artists.



US Panic Surrounding Israel's Next Government Is About Politics, Not Values

BY JONATHAN S. TOBIN

As far as many American Jews are concerned, this time the Israelis have gone too far.

After more than four decades of tolerating, with decreasing patience and growing disdain, Israeli governments that were led by the Likud Party, the results of this week's Knesset election go beyond the pale for a lot of liberals.

Their angst is not so much focused on the return to power of Benjamin Netanyahu for his third stint as the Jewish state's prime minister, even though he is widely viewed by many Jewish Democrats as the moral equivalent of a red-state Republican. The panic about the election results is caused by the fact that the Religious Zionist Party and its leaders, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, will play a leading role in the next governing coalition. The party won 14 seats, making it the third-largest in the Knesset and an indispensable part of the majority that Netanyahu is about to assemble.

The prospect of Smotrich, and especially Ben-Gvir, sitting in Netanyahu's Cabinet has not just set off a bout of pearl-clutching on the part of liberal Jewish groups. It's also led to the sort of ominous rhetoric describing a crack-up of the relationship between American and Israeli Jews that goes beyond the usual rumblings about the growing distance between the two communities.

There are legitimate questions to be posed about Smotrich and Ben-Gvir. Time will tell whether they are up to the challenge of their new responsibilities and act in a manner that helps, rather than hurts, Netanyahu's efforts to consolidate support for his government at home and abroad. But what no one seems to be considering is whether the rush to judgment about them says more about Diaspora Jewry's obsessions than it does about the embrace of nationalist and religious parties by Israel's voters.

The pair is the embodiment of everything that most American Jews don't like about the Jewish state. Their unapologetic nationalism and perceived hostility to Arabs, gays and non-Orthodox Judaism are anathema to liberal Americans.

But the interesting thing about the statements coming out of groups like the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and more unabashedly leftist organizations is the way they highlight their worries about the new Israeli government by pointing to the supposed threat that the Religious Zionist Party poses to Israeli democracy.

The talk about democracy is a red flag that there's

The root cause of American-Jewish alienation from Israel has little to do with politics. It is a function of the decline in a sense of Jewish peoplehood.

something going on in this discussion above and beyond the real issues that do separate American and Israeli Jews.

Whatever one may think of Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, they are not agitating for abandoning a system through which Israel's government is chosen by democratic elections or pushing for one in which the rule of law does not prevail.

The plank of their platform that has generated the most heat from critics — judicial reform — is actually a defense of democracy, not an attempt to overturn it. It would bring a degree of democratic accountability to a system in which judges have arrogated to themselves the right to overturn laws passed by the Knesset without reference to any legal principles but their personal ideas about what they think is good for the country.

In his youth, Ben-Gvir was a supporter of Rabbi Meir Kahane and his belief in expelling Arabs from the Jewish state. His defense of Jewish rights and emphasis on the threat from Arab terrorist violence is not to the taste of those who prize rhetoric about promoting coexistence. Yet that doesn't make him a foe of democracy.

Nor is the opposition on the part of many, if not most, Israelis to the effort by the left to make the country an essentially non-sectarian state, rather than an avowedly Jewish one. This sense — that Israel should prioritize the mission of promoting Jewish peoplehood — has fueled support for all of the parties in Netanyahu's coalition.

Zionism and Jewish nationalism are not antithetical to democracy. On the contrary, they are an expression of a basic democratic value that prizes the right

to self-determination by all peoples, including Jews.

The root cause of American-Jewish alienation from Israel has little to do with politics. It is a function of the decline in a sense of Jewish peoplehood among a rapidly assimilating population, with the largest-growing sector labeled by demographers as "Jews of no religion."

And if Jews don't care about being Jewish, then they aren't going to be inclined to support Israel, no matter who is in its government.

What, then, is behind the talk about democracy being threatened, or the use of the terms "Jewish supremacist" and "fascist" to describe Ben-Gvir and the voters who have made his party a kingmaker in Israeli politics?

Within Israel, there is a long tradition on the left, dating back to the pre-state era, of demonizing right-wing opponents. But the alarm bells being rung by American Jews about Israeli democracy has little or nothing to do with the never-ending laments from leftist former ruling elites about the right-wing, religious and Mizrahi Jews who have largely dominated the country's politics since Menachem Begin and the Likud first defeated the Labor Party in 1977.

The anger about Netanyahu and his allies is driven by a growing belief on the part of many liberals that Israelis are on the other side of the great political divide that is tearing apart the United States. What they miss is that the facile comparisons between the GOP and the Likud/Religious Zionists tell us little about the very different issues that both countries face.

At a moment in history when politics plays the same role that religion used to occupy in the lives of most Americans, it's hardly surprising that liberal Jews view Israel's electoral strife as an extension of what is happening in the United States. But their use of the "war on democracy" battle cry to delegitimize Israelis in the same way that they do Republicans is both wrongheaded and can undermine the already frayed ties between the two nations.

The outrage that Smotrich and Ben-Gvir are generating in the United States has as much, if not more, to do with American issues than it does with those that divide Israelis. Those who wish to bring the Americans and Israelis together need to focus every bit as much on getting the former to view the latter's leaders without the distortions of red-blue antagonisms as they are on the actual points of contention between two different Jewish tribes. **JE**

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS.

Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media

FINDS ITS FILM FESTIVAL FOOTING

SASHA ROGELBERG | STAFF WRITER

Forty-two isn't a number that's often celebrated. It's not a multiple of five that's easily memorable, nor is it a multiple of 18, giving it significance in Jewish numerology.

But for Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media, the organization behind the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, 42 is still a number to salute.

The 42nd Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, taking place from Nov. 12-19, marks one year of the organization rebranding itself from the Gershman Philadelphia Film Festival to PJFM to embrace the evolution of film and art to multimedia platforms.

This year's film fest will spotlight seven international feature-length movies, a shorts program, a FilmShul course on Hollywood's Jewish New Wave of the '60s and '70s, and a brunch screening of "Funny Girl" in honor of the musical movie's 55th anniversary next year. Most of the films will premiere at the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History.

"One thing that was really important for all the films that we do — not just in the festival but throughout the year, throughout our annual programming — is I really want the films that we select to be diverse, and to really create a sense of hope at the end," PJFM Program Director Matthew Bussy said.

Receiving hundreds of film submissions for the festival each year, PJFM's screening committee must not only find films that are unique and represent a wide swath of Jewish life but also factor in ways to remain relevant in an era where in-home film streaming has taken a bite out of cinema's popularity.

Before the festival, some of the featured filmmakers shared their thoughts on their films and the changing film industry.

Antisemitism Beyond the Holocaust

On Nov. 13 and 14, documentarian Steven Pressman will have the Philadelphia premiere of his film "The Levys of Monticello" — the story of a Jewish family who came to own and preserve the Charlottesville, Virginia, estate of Thomas Jefferson.

Pressman's documentary positions itself precariously in the conversation around discrimination

and oppression.

"Beyond simply telling the story of this family in Monticello, it allowed me to tell this broader story about basically the history of antisemitism throughout American history," Pressman said.

Some Virginia residents in the 19th century were opposed to a Jewish family caring for Jefferson's estate. While there were few Jews in the country during the Revolutionary War, the population swelled from 15,000 to 150,000 by the Civil War. By the early 20th century, 3-4 million Jews were living in the U.S.

As the Jewish population increased, so, too, did

antisemitism. In the late 19th century, Virginia residents condemned the Jewish ownership of Monticello.

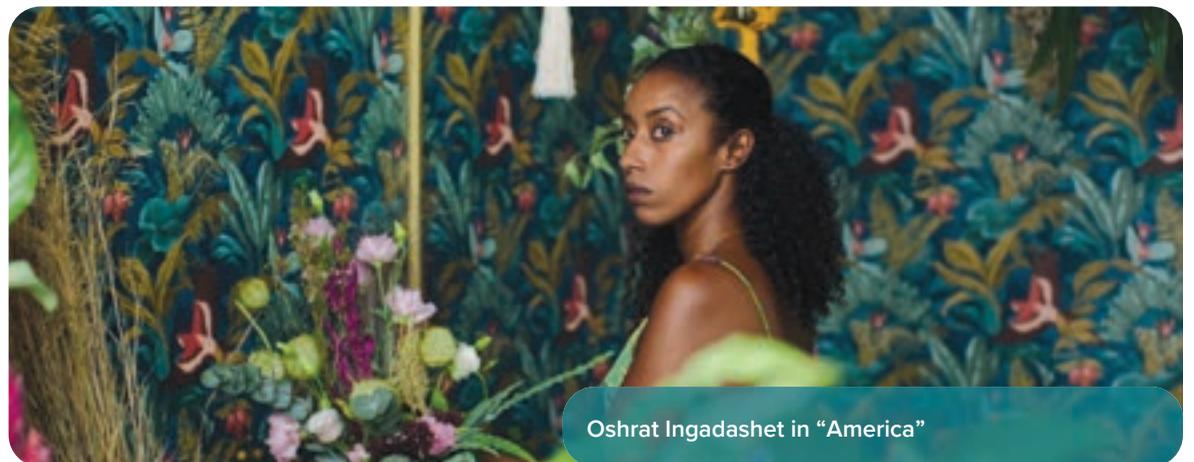
"It's the old story," Pressman said. "People just don't like Jews."

While the victims of antisemitism, the Levy family continued Jefferson's legacy of slavery, keeping the enslaved people who had for generations worked on the estate.

"How do you reconcile that with a Jewish family, with a Jewish owner that has enslaved people? And you can't," Pressman said. "I mean, no more than you can reconcile Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, with the paradox of



Ofri Biterman and Michael Moshonov in "America"



Oshrat Ingadashet in "America"

the guy who, over the course of his life — Jefferson's lifetime — owned 607 human beings.”

Pressman, a journalist before becoming a filmmaker 12 years ago, is drawn to little-known stories about Jewish life, which inspired him to learn more about the Levy family.

When he broke into the film industry about a decade ago, he was surprised by the desire for movies beyond Holocaust narratives.

“We still see a fair amount of Holocaust movies at a lot of Jewish film festivals,” he said. “And a lot of Jewish filmmakers are still telling Holocaust stories. Those are essential stories to be told. But I think my own experience goes to this: There’s so many other stories to tell in the Jewish world outside of the Holocaust.”

Jewish filmmakers today are interested in looking at issues with “moral ambiguity,” such as American Jews complicit in enslaving people, Pressman believes. There’s centuries of Jewish history, both American and international, worth exploring.

“A lot of Jewish filmmakers are looking for those issues that just challenge us to think about the world around us,” he said.

Finding a Sense of Belonging

While Pressman is interested in looking at uniquely American experiences of Judaism, Israeli filmmaker Ofir Raul Graizer is making films about what America is like for outsiders.

His feature film “America,” premiering at the festival on Nov. 18, follows Eli, an Israeli swim coach living in the U.S., who returns to Tel Aviv after 10 years away, after his father’s death. When Eli visits his childhood friend and florist, Yotam, he meets his fiancée, who, like Eli, has a complicated relationship with her family.

“America” is inspired by Graizer’s visit to Chicago a few years ago, his first trip to the U.S.

Graizer was always fascinated with America, having grown up with American film, music and media woven into Israeli popular culture.

“I always thought it was big and impressive, but also scary, and complex and fascinating — always fascinating,” Graizer said of his childhood perception of America. “It was mostly distant. It was mostly very, very far away from my life, from where I grew up in.”

For the past 12 years, Graizer has been living in Germany, so the themes of relocation and immigration explored in his film come from a personal place.

“I really identify [with] the character Eli,” he said. “He kind of reinvented himself. He went to the U.S., and he changed his name and basically became another person, but his connection to his homeland is still something that he could never let go of.”

Admittedly, Graizer said, his relationship with Israel is complicated, and though he doesn’t address it directly in the film, he believes that everyone’s connection to their home country is “complex and messed up.” Throughout the canon of Israeli films, from the 1930s to now, filmmakers have explored this complexity.

Rather than the sensibilities of the filmmaker changing, Graizer believes the audience has been the changing force in film. Increased streaming of international films has given wide audiences the ability to view Jewish issues in unique ways, for better or for worse.

“The outside world is interested in the exotic things; it’s interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and interested in Orthodoxy because it’s interesting, it’s fascinating, it’s different,” he said.

Greater access to diverse stories can come at a cost to the quality of future films and television, Graizer said. Complex stories can become oversimplified, and nuances can be lost in translation when streaming services and filmmakers are looking to make a buck from complicated, culturally specific topics.

Film festivals are one of the few platforms that can combat trendy simplifications of personal stories.

“This is one of the most amazing platforms there are,” he said. “Where an audience can be exposed the same day — even on the same week — to four or five different representations and stories that often speak about the same thing, but from an entirely different angle.”

The Future of Film Festivals

PJFM Executive Director Kristen Arter makes a similar argument to Graizer about the necessity of film festivals for the film industry.

When COVID lockdowns caused many theaters to shutter and for film studios to instead release movies onto streaming platforms, PJFM also had to adapt. This year, the film festival is one week instead of two. Audience feedback from last year’s film festival indicated that there were too many good films premiering, and not enough audience endurance to watch them all.

Combined with audience input, film festival survival is predicated on playing unique films.

“If you have a choice between sitting in your home and watching Netflix, Amazon and all these things, you still are not going to tap into the same types of films that we’re presenting at the festival,” Arter said.

Audience members increasingly want to be challenged by films, Bussy said. Arter added that film festivals, where films are often accompanied by discussions or additional contexts to films, provide a space where audiences feel comfortable feeling uncomfortable.

“As challenging as they are, as upsetting as they may be, when the movie ends, they want to sit down and have a talk about it,” Bussy said.

According to Arter and Bussy, the success of a film festival comes down to the ability to cast a wide net, selecting films that will resonate with audiences across age groups and religion, while also highlighting the unique and specific stories of lesser-known filmmakers.

“A slogan that we have is, ‘future of Jewish storytelling,’” Arter said. “And that’s bringing in both our past, our history, our legacy and looking to the future, and also being able to celebrate and come together in ways in an environment that feels safer for multiple generations to participate in.”

For more information about the film festival, visit phillyjfm.org. **JE**

srogelberg@midatlanticmedia.com



The Jewish Levy family at Monticello, the old estate of Thomas Jefferson



“The Levys of Monticello” explores the complexities of antisemitism and slavery during the Jewish family’s ownership of the Monticello estate.

Diabetes-Friendly Foods for Thanksgiving

LINDA MOREL | SPECIAL TO THE JE

Two weeks before Thanksgiving last year, my husband's endocrinologist said his blood sugar was dangerously high. David needed to bring it down — immediately.

But traditional Thanksgiving foods can cause anyone's blood sugar to spike. Think of stuffing, sweet potatoes with melted marshmallows, cranberry sauce (my recipe calls for two cups of sugar) and pumpkin pie with whipped cream!

On top of everything, our 30-year-old niece, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 10, was joining us. Recently, she'd worked hard to eat right and exercise more. She became prediabetic for the first time in 20 years.

I always knew Thanksgiving food is carb-heavy and far too sweet, yet I figured, what could it hurt once a year? But now that it was clear this menu was harmful to two family members, I didn't want Thanksgiving dinner to catapult their health backward.

Our family is not alone. In the United States, 34.2 million people suffer from diabetes, and another 88 million live with prediabetes.

I decided to tweak ingredients in Thanksgiving foods, lowering carbohydrate culprits, such as flour and sugar. But in the process, I refused to sacrifice flavor. Here is what I did.

- I skipped cranberries, which require excessive sugar. Instead, I used raw cranberries to garnish the platter of sliced turkey.
- In the stuffing, I upped the veggies and lowered the amount of bread.
- I nixed candied sweet potatoes with marshmallows. As an alternative, I served a sweet potato casserole with a pecan topping.
- I substituted a couple of veggie sides for mashed potatoes.

On Thanksgiving, everyone raved about my enlightened recipes. My family didn't bemoan what we were missing, but rather we were thankful to be together, sharing a delicious meal in good health.

Jerusalem Artichoke Stuffing | Pareve

Serves 8

- Nonstick vegetable spray
- 6-8 Jerusalem artichokes (sometimes called sunchokes)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, plus 3 tablespoons
- Kosher salt to taste
- 10-12 ounces of peasant bread or sourdough, presliced (about 1/2-2/3 of a large bakery loaf)
- 5 stalks of celery
- 4 large carrots
- 1 onion
- 3-4 cloves garlic
- 1 1/2 inches ginger root
- 8 ounces mushrooms, presliced
- 1/4 teaspoon sage
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 3 cups chicken broth

Place a shelf in the middle of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a small roasting pan with nonstick spray.

Dice the Jerusalem artichokes. Move the artichokes to the prepared

roasting pan. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon of olive oil (or more if needed). Sprinkle with salt, tossing to coat evenly.

Roast for 35 minutes, or until the artichokes are golden and fragrant. Cool to room temperature and reserve.

The recipe can be made to this point up to two days in advance, if covered and refrigerated. Bring the artichokes to room temperature before proceeding.

Tear slices of bread into bite-sized pieces. Reserve.

Peel and dice finely the celery, carrots and onion. Peel the ginger and garlic. Dice them and then chop them finely.

In a large pot, heat 3 tablespoons of olive oil on a medium flame. Add the mushrooms, celery, carrots, onion and ginger. Sprinkle them with the salt, sage and thyme. Stir to combine. Sauté until the vegetables soften,



about 8 minutes. Add the garlic and Jerusalem artichokes, and sauté for 1-2 minutes.

Add the bread, and stir to combine. Slowly pour in the chicken broth a little at a time, stirring after each addition. When the bread is wet and sticking together (but

See Food, Page 23

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- Grilled Vegetable Strudel add \$1 p.p.
- Boneless Stuffed Capon, or Apricot Glazed Cornish Hen stuffed with Wild Rice, add \$2
- Grilled Teriyaki or Poached 8 oz. Salmon Filet add \$3 p.p.

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- String Bean Amouline, Glazed Baby Belgian Carrots, or Broccoli Cauliflower & Carrots
- Herb Roasted Bliss Potatoes, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Kasha & Bowties, or Kugel (Sweet Apple, Potato, or Spinach)

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- Pesto Crusted Salmon over Wilted Spinach
- Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb
- Apricot Glazed Cornish Hen with Portobello & Apple Stuffing
- Half Roast Long Island Duck A La Orange
- Tenderloin of Prime Rib with Roasted Shallot & Port Wine Sauce

Choice Of 2 Vegetables

- Oven Roasted Butternut Squash with Marsala, Asparagus with Sesame Soy Sauce, or Wilted Spinach with Garlic
- Baked Sweet Potato Casserole with Crunchy Pecan Topping, Crispy Garlic Yukon Gold Potatoes with Mushrooms and Onions, or Sautéed Spinach with Garlic and Roasted Red Peppers

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'The Office' Star B.J. Novak Coming to Katz JCC

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

B.J. Novak, best known for co-writing “The Office” and playing its hilarious and depraved con man character Ryan Howard, will culminate the Katz JCC’s Festival of Arts, Books and Culture with a talk on Nov. 13.

Novak’s appearance will begin at 7 p.m. in the Lahn Social Hall at the Cherry Hill, New Jersey facility. Tickets are \$75 for JCC members and \$95 for guests. You can buy them on the JCC’s website or at this link: howclix.com/event/novak.

“The Office” co-star grew up in a Jewish family in the Boston area and attended the Solomon Schechter Day School and Camp Ramah. His talk will conclude a week’s worth of events that feature an illusionist and several authors.

But Novak is the biggest name on the list. The co-writer of the classic NBC

sitcom has been busy in recent years, too. Over the past two years, he has written and starred in a black comedy movie, “Vengeance,” and created and produced a Hulu series, “The Premise.”

A JCC email about the event called Novak a “multi-talented pioneer” and “authority on turning raw creativity into bona fide success.” The writer, actor and producer did not agree to be interviewed for this story or to make himself available at the talk.

“He’s an intellectual. He’s a smart person. I like that,” said Roberta Abramowitz, one of the festival’s co-chairs. “Smartness appeals to a lot of people.”

The Jewish kid from Boston “began his career as a stand-up comedian” in the early 2000s, the event email said. He landed his “Office” job when the show’s executive producer, Greg Daniels, enjoyed his routine at a comedy club, according to

a Boston Globe article from 2009.

The sitcom’s nine-year, 201-episode run ended in 2013, and its co-writer went on to sign a seven-figure book deal with Alfred A. Knopf. In 2014, he published a book of short stories, “One More Thing: Stories and Other Stories,” and a children’s title called “The Book with No Pictures.” Both spent weeks on The New York Times bestseller list.

He has also created an app and maintained an on-again, off-again relationship with fellow comedian and “Office” star Mindy Kaling. He has even advised corporations on how to apply the “collaborative, improvisational spirit of The Office’s writing room to their teams,” according to the event email. In other words, not unlike his “Office” character, who created a website and got promoted to corporate, among other ventures, Novak has done a lot. Ryan Howard even had an on-again,



B.J. Novak

off-again relationship with Kaling’s character, Kelly Kapoor, in the show.

“He encourages listeners of all ages and backgrounds to embrace the unknown by breaking out of established formats and modes of thinking, while emphasizing the inherent importance of approaching every endeavor with a sense of humor,” said the email.

In a summer interview with JewishBoston to promote “Vengeance,” Novak discussed how his Jewish upbringing shaped him. Perhaps not surprisingly, he said Jewish humor influenced him

See Arts, Page 31

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Responding to Ye and Other Antisemites

BY RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN

Parshat Vayera

The Irish statesman Conor Cruise O'Brien once remarked, "Antisemitism is a light sleeper." Unfortunately, in recent years, antisemitism woke up in America.

It's not, as O'Brien suggests, that antisemitism disappeared; rather, "the oldest hatred" has come roaring back from Charlottesville to Tree of Life to the pronouncements of Ye, who has changed his name from Kanye West. One important question is how to respond to the spiking of anti-Jewish animus in America.

A close reading of this week's Torah portion, Vayera, helps explain one historical response. At the end of the portion, Abraham is commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. When Abraham "reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son," the text does not state that Isaac resisted.

Although in the Torah an angel intervenes, stops the slaughter and points out that a ram is available as a substitute for Isaac, some medieval Jewish commentaries maintain that Isaac was actually slain. This viewpoint was explored by Professor Shalom Spiegel of the Jewish Theological Seminary in his 1967 book on "the binding of Isaac," "The Last Trial."

The paradigm of Isaac passively walking to his death has reverberated throughout Jewish history. It helps explain the images of tens of thousands of Jews walking to their deaths in Nazi concentration camps. As unarmed citizens herded into cattle cars, there was little possibility of physical resistance.

Instead, they went to their deaths with dignity, itself a powerful statement of spiritual resistance. Others, including the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto and partisans, took up arms against the Nazis. Whatever their form of resistance, we hold all of them dear in our hearts.

Today, we must ask, "What should be our form of resistance to antisemitism?" We need to find our own path to protest the growing hate in our midst.

What can we do? I have six suggestions:

First, it is essential that the Jewish community support its traditional defense organizations beginning with groups like the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee, as well as general anti-hate initiatives like the Southern Poverty Law Center. Jewish Federations sponsor agencies that respond to antisemitic incidents, as do major Jewish religious denominations. However, none of these groups can be effective without strong financial support from the Jewish community.

Second, leaders of all stripes need to be firm in their condemnation of antisemitism. Silence is complicity. Condemning antisemitism needs to be directed to both ends of the political spectrum and not cherry picked for political expedience. United States Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism Deborah Lipstadt can help set a national standard for our leaders to follow.

Third, as was recently demonstrated in the case of Ye, economic action can be taken both by businesses and by consumers to fight antisemitism. Although delayed, even Adidas broke its ties with Ye, as did several other major business entities.

Fourth, Holocaust education is urgent and needs to be mandated by state governments. Holocaust denial, trivialization and ignorance play a major role in empowering antisemites to spread their nefarious message.

Fifth, Jewish holidays such as Chanukah and Purim can be refocused to include major efforts to advance anti-hate messages. Yom HaShoah, once broadly supported in the Jewish community, needs to be reinvigorated. Perhaps the shofar can be adopted as an instrument and symbol of warning.

Finally, Jewish education and outreach needs to strengthen Jewish identity and engagement. Too many in our community are distancing themselves from our tradition. Grassroots Jewish pride not only guarantees Jewish continuity, but it also conveys a strong message to the larger society about the beauty of Jewish life in America.

There is much we can learn from our heritage about how to respond to contemporary antisemitism. We can be the angel in the story of the binding of Isaac and the shofar sounded to warn everyone that hate has no place in America. It's not enough to just talk about antisemitism. It's time to act. **JE**

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman is rabbi emeritus of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel and the past chair of the board of governors of Gratz College. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is proud to provide diverse perspectives on Torah commentary for the Jewish Exponent. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Board of Rabbis.



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SEVERAL-LEONARD

Robin and Jay Several of Gladwyne and Jill and Larry Leonard of Richboro announce the engagement of their children, Ariel Bree Several and Eric Benjamin Leonard.

Ariel is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University with degrees in political science and entrepreneurship and management. She is a senior commercial strategy consultant at Veeva Systems.

Eric is a graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in economics. He is a senior merchant success manager at ShipBob.

An October 2023 wedding is planned in Philadelphia.

Photo by Michele Corbman



BARISH

RAPHAEL MORDECAI, 87, of Plymouth Meeting, died November 1, 2022, after a brief illness. Raphael is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rosalie Schwartz Barish, and his daughter, Lauri Barish. He was predeceased by his son, Marc Barish. He is also survived by his brother, Joseph Barish. He was the son of the late Marie and Benjamin Barish. Raphael was blessed with a beautiful tenor voice and enjoyed a lifelong love of music and the arts. He and his family traveled extensively, most notably nearly twenty trips to Israel, where he frequently led group tours for Philadelphians. He served as president of the Independence Lodge #2992 of B'nai B'rith. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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COBEN

RHODA M., 88, co-founder of Creative Alternative for Women and Executive Placement Consultant for Center for Career Services at Jewish Employment and Vocational Services (JEVS) passed away at her home last Wednesday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Rhoda was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey and was the first woman in her family to graduate from College from New York University in 1955. In the last 1970's, she co-founded a non-profit organization Creative Alternatives for Women. This concept was well ahead of its time and relevant in today's world. The program provided women who had been out of the job market or needed a career change find new career paths, internships and high-level jobs. After their sixth year, over 200 women had completed the program with a 70% job placement rate. Years later, the organization counseled men too stating, "To ignore men was discriminatory". In addition to her husband the late Dr. S. Eugene Coben, Rhoda is survived by her sons Robert (Ronnie), Michael (Debbie), daughter Amy (Donald) and grandchildren Emily, Andrew, Julie, Benna, Jimmy, Madeline, Anna, great-grandson Dylan and her brother Sander. Contributions

can be made in Rhoda's to charities of the donor's choice.

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GILEVITZ

SHIRLEY, age 79, passed away November 3, 2022. Beloved daughter of the late Frank and Lillian Gilevitz. Loving sister of Ruth Perlin (Joel). Dear aunt of Matthew Grossman (Alyssa), Micah Perlin (Sarah), and Ari Perlin (Meredith) and was also a great-aunt. Shirley was known for her warm personality and kindness to all. She will certainly be missed by her many friends. Contributions in her memory may be made to Hadassah or Philabundance.

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GOHEN

Passed away on November 4, 2022. Beloved husband of Marcy Lyons Gohen (nee Smolen). Loving father of Jeremy Gohen and Hilary Gohen (Dan Velazquez). Stepfather of Andi Lyons and Seth (Allison) Lyons. Brother of Dr. Gregg Gohen and Nancy (Steve) Wolf. Adored Pop-pop of Talia, Noah and Gabriel Velazquez, Tyler Gohen, and Julia, Jamie, Layla and Dani Lyons. Contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Sinai, 1401 N. Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA 19025, www.tsinai.com, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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GOLDSMITH-LUBINSKI

October 28, 2022. Marjorie ("Margie") Lubinski (nee Bartwink) of Upper Gwynedd, PA and Fort Myers, FL. Beloved wife of the late Steven; loving mother to Stephen Goldsmith (Karen) and Lauren Molish (Jeremy); stepmother to Daniel Lubinski (Melisa); adoring and devoted Mom-mom to Brooke, Matthew, Jane, David, Andrew, Max, and Morgen. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Marjorie may be made to Jefferson Office of Institutional Advancement - Medical Oncology (<https://giving.jefferson.edu/>)

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GORDON

Blanche Gordon (nee Vall) passed away on November 1, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Bernard Gordon. Devoted mother of Dr. Barry Gordon (Renee), Dr. Richard Gordon (Judy), Dr. Robert Gordon

(Jay Segal), and Dr. Gregory Gordon (Roberta). Loving grandmother of Brett (Amanda), Alex, Shoshana, Daniel, Joshua, Samuel (Andrea), Steven (Karen), Heather, and Jonathan (Jenny). Loving great grandmother of Graham, Theodore, Chana, Sholom Dovber, Sarah, Levi, Baruch, and Yisroel. Generous donations in Blanche's memory may be made to The League for People with Disabilities. Blanche's grandson, Alex Gordon is a participant in the League's Day Habitation program. Through the program, Alex and others are given the opportunity to build independence, increase self-sufficiency, and gain quality of life. To make your contribution, you may visit www.leagueforpeople.org/ways-to-give or by mailing a check to The League for People with Disabilities, Attn: Development 1111 E. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21239. Please include "Day Habitation" on the check memo line or in the comments section of your online donation form to indicate that you wish for your gift to be designated to the Day Habitation Program.

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KELLAR

EDGAR "Eddy", October 26, 2022 of Wynnwood, PA. Beloved husband of Elizabeth "Beth" (nee Wagman) Kellar; loving father of Marci (Alan) Catlett and Neil Kellar; cherished grandfather of Emily and Daniel; devoted brother of the late Lois Goldberg. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Edgar's memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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MALIS

PHYLLIS RUTH WASSERMAN (99, August 25, 1923 - November 2, 2022) of Elkins Park, PA., wife of the late Robert H. Malis, Esq., mother of Susan Malis Yoskin (Bruce) of Pembroke Pines FL, and Charles David Malis, M.D. (Nancy, dec'd) of Arlington MA; grandmother of Mindy Yoskin Kubs, J.D. (John) of Parkland FL and Geoffrey Scott Yoskin (Leslie) of Garnet Valley PA, Jacquelyn Leigh Malis of Brookline MA and Stephanie Paige Malis of Manhattan NY; great grandmother of Paige Olivia Yoskin and Jack Aaron Yoskin of Garnet Valley PA, and Haley Elizabeth Kubs and Ashley Renee Kubs of Parkland FL. She will be greatly missed.

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PARMET

HARRIET ABBEY, age 94, of Allentown died Monday, October 24, 2022 in her home. She was the beloved wife of Dr. Sidney Parmet for over 72 years, loving mother of Dr. Howard Parmet (Marilyn) and Dr. Jonathan Parmet (Dena), devoted Safta to Andrew, Daniel and Tamar. Born in Philadelphia in 1928 during the Great Depression, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Belle (Popolow) Leibowitz. Harriet was named after her great grandfather Rabbi Avraham Abba Rabinowitz, of Tavig, Lithuania. She derived much pride from this lineage - and often spoke of her Rabbonim's Yichus. Harriet spent her early childhood and adult years living in Strawberry Mansion, and despite being raised in poverty, she always reflected fondly upon that time. As a teenager Harriet participated in Zionist activities and youth groups, and demonstrated a strong commitment to the establishment of the state of Israel. Although she visited Israel many times, her first visit to the Jewish State in 1967, months before the Six Day War, remained a highlight throughout her life. A graduate of Girls High School, Harriet continued her education at Temple University where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1947 and a Masters in Education in 1962. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Hebrew Literature in 1979 from Gratz College and was recognized on the Gratz College Centennial as one of its outstanding graduates. She received her PhD in English Literature in 1998 from Lehigh University at the age of 70. She published "The Terror of Our Days, Four American Poets Respond to the Holocaust", which she wrote as a kaddish for the lives lost in the Shoah. Harriet was a professor at Lehigh University for 20 years before retiring in 1996. Previously, she taught Hebrew at Temple Beth El, Allentown. In her 50+ years of teaching, she touched hundreds of students lives. At Lehigh, she was fondly known by her students as Giveret Parmet and Ima (Hebrew for Mother). While at Lehigh Harriet was instrumental in establishing a Jewish Studies curriculum and pioneered the introduction of Hebrew as a modern Foreign Language. Along with Roger Simon, she

helped secure funding to create a Hillel House. Harriet attended weekly Shabbat Services throughout her life and was an active member of Temple Beth El in Allentown and Congregation Brith Sholom, Bethlehem. Contributions in Harriet's memory may be made to: Yad Sarah 445 Park Ave., #1702, New York, NY 10022 ; or Jewish Relief Agency 225 E. City Ave, Suite 210 · Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004



SCHLEIN

Harry Phillip Schlein passed on the afternoon of November 1, 2022, at the age of 75. Beloved husband to Linda (nee Ginsberg) Schlein, father to Amy Schlein-Kaufman and Scott Kaufman, Bret Schlein and Jacob Hayes, Lora (nee Schlein) Grasso and Michael Grasso; brother of Sheryl Berman; grandfather to Madeline and Bree Kaufman and Jude and Leni Grasso. Harry was the patriarch of the family, and they were everything to him. He lived to make his grandchildren happy. Hailing from Cheltenham, he was a diehard Philadelphia Phillies, Eagles, and 76ers fan. He was dedicated to helping disabled children as a part of the Variety Club charity where he met his wife. Harry owned and operated Nationwide Alarm Systems for almost 40 years, succeeding his father, Bertram Schlein. The company will now be succeeded by his son-in-law Michael. He loved spending his summers at the beach in Margate City, NJ with his family. He also enjoyed yearly vacations spent with his family in St. Maarten. He will be greatly missed by countless friends and relatives. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gift Of Life Donor Program, 401 N 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 or at www.donors1.org/give-to-gift-of-life/.

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SCLAN

HAROLD (Hal) passed away on 10/27/22 at the age of 87. He was a long-time resident of Warminster. He previously lived in Philadelphia, Southampton, Buckingham and Brigantine, NJ. Hal had a long career at Sperry Univac. He started

at their 19th and Allegheny plant in 1957 as a purchasing expeditor. He was employed there until he retired from Unisys in 1991 as a Director of Procurement. In addition, Hal was a dedicated sports fan of Philadelphia, but his favorite team was the Eagles by far and he was grateful to see that magical season back 2017. Mr. Sclan is survived by his loving wife of 66 years Bobbie (nee Kazman), his son Steve and his daughter Wendy (John), as well as three grandsons, Andrew, Collin and Evan.

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TINT

DR. G STEPHEN - October 29, 2022, of Phila.; beloved husband of the late Myra Johnne (nee Goldstein); loving father of Neil Tint, Debbi Feller (Brian) and Marci Kotay; cherished grandfather of Benjamin (Marie), Jordan, Madison (Adam), Nira and Shaina; adored great-grandfather of James. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to welldeserved.org.

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Food

Continued from Page 19

not sopping wet and saturated), you don't need any more chicken broth. If any remains, use it for another purpose.

Coat a deep 2½-quart casserole with nonstick spray. Spoon the stuffing mixture into the casserole. Bake the stuffing for 45-55 minutes, or until the casserole is bubbling. Serve immediately.

Whipped Sweet Potatoes with Pecan Crust | Pareve

Serves 8

- 4 large sweet potatoes or yams
- Nonstick vegetable spray
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup, preferably Grade A Amber
- ⅛ teaspoon granulated salt, plus ⅛ teaspoon
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cinnamon, plus ⅛ teaspoon
- 1 to 1½ cups chopped pecans or walnuts

Peel the sweet potatoes, and cut them into 1-inch chunks. Fill a large pot

with cold water. Add the sweet potatoes, cover the pot with a lid and bring it to a boil.

On a fast simmer, cook the sweet potatoes until soft in the center, about 45-55 minutes. Add more water, if needed. Drain the sweet potatoes in a colander.

While the sweet potatoes simmer, preheat your oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a deep 2½-quart casserole with nonstick spray.

In two batches, move the sweet potatoes to the bowl of a food processor. To the first batch, add 1 tablespoon maple syrup, ⅛ teaspoon salt and ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon.

Cover it with the lid and process until all the lumps are gone and the potatoes look fluffy. Using a spatula, move the sweet potatoes to the prepared casserole. Repeat with the second batch of potatoes, maple syrup, salt, and cinnamon.

The recipe can be made to this point 2 days ahead. Bring the potato casserole to room temperature before proceeding. Scatter the nuts on top.

Move the sweet potatoes to the oven, and heat for 15-20 minutes, until the casserole bubbles at the edges. Serve immediately.

Roasted Parsnips with Rosemary | Pareve

Serves 6

- Nonstick spray
- 3 large parsnips, peeled and cut the size of carrot sticks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Kosher salt to taste
- ⅛ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon rosemary needles, chopped

Place an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat to 375 degrees F. Coat a 7-inch-by-11-inch ovenproof pan, such as Pyrex, with nonstick spray.

Move the parsnips into the prepared ovenproof pan. Drizzle on the olive oil and stir to coat it evenly. Sprinkle on the salt, garlic powder and rosemary. Toss to coat evenly.

Move the pan to the oven, and roast until the parsnips turn golden brown, about 30-35 minutes. Serve immediately.

The recipe can be made a day ahead if cooled, covered and refrigerated.

Bring it to room temperature before placing it in a 375-degree oven until heated through and crisping again. **JE**

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What's happening at ... *Beth Chaim Reform Congregation*

Beth Chaim Reform Congregation Continues to Grow

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

In 1992, “a handful” of Jewish families in Chester County were looking for a spiritual “home,” according to the history section on Beth Chaim Reform Congregation’s website. So, they put an ad in the newspaper about an event they would hold for other like-minded families — and 60 people showed up.

On that day, Beth Chaim Reform Congregation was born, and people kept showing up. For 15 years, they spent their Shabbats in the Church of the Loving Shepherd in West Chester. Beth Chaim Rabbi Michelle Pearlman explained that congregants would “bring the Torah in” on Friday nights, as the church did not need its barn sanctuary until Sunday.

In 2007, the growing congregation moved into its current home on Conestoga Road in Malvern. Over the next 15 years, despite membership declines at many synagogues and the impact of COVID-19, Beth Chaim continued to grow by about 2-3% per year, according to President Alex Scherer.

Today the membership base includes around 220 households.

Scherer said the congregation has two major advantages.

“One is that we’re the only Reform synagogue in Chester County,” he explained. “No. 2, we have the luxury of having the best rabbi on Earth.”

Beth Chaim may attract people by serving as the only Reform option in the Philadelphia area’s westernmost county, but it keeps them coming back with the members already there.

When Beth Chaim congregants used to gather in the church barn, different people had to “schlep stuff in and out,” Pearlman said.

“They had to work hard to create a community. That’s the DNA. That continues now,” she added.

The other day, according to Pearlman, a member just picked up a vacuum cleaner and started cleaning the floor. On the Friday before Rosh Hashanah

this year, the rabbi discovered that the stairs leading down to the creek behind the synagogue building were rotted. There would be no way to hold the Tashlich service on the water.

But over that weekend, a congregant bought wood, drove to the temple and fixed the stairs. He finished the project 15 minutes before Beth Chaim’s Rosh Hashanah under the stars service on the holiday’s first night. They would be ready for Tashlich the next day.

“You lead by example,” Scherer said. “Families help each other out.”

About a dozen founding families remain in Beth Chaim’s congregation, according to Scherer. But the rest of the membership base is younger.

When Pearlman joined the synagogue in 2014, she added adult education classes and organized trips to Israel and Eastern Europe. The new activities attracted “folks who have had their families and want to be part of their community,” she said.

“They join for the opportunity for friendship and spiritual nourishment and adult education,” she added.

But families with younger children have also joined. They like the religious school, according to Pearlman, which has 70 students and a project-based approach to learning.

Beth Chaim’s congregation is balanced across age brackets, according to Scherer. Robin Resnick, the executive administrator, is like Scherer in that she credits Pearlman for that.

“Everybody loves Rabbi Pearlman,” Resnick said. “She is a big attraction.”

Pearlman is, as synagogue leaders like to say, “warm and welcoming” in meetings with prospective congregants and dynamic on stage. As Scherer explained, “Every time someone meets with us and sits for a service and hears her, they want to join.”

The rabbi brushed off this praise and tried to give herself little, if any, credit. She said that she just tries to keep the fun going at synagogue — like on Yom Kippur this year when the temple brought in goats. The idea was that it was hard to admit that you were wrong,



Rabbi Michelle Pearlman started at Beth Chaim Reform Congregation in Malvern in 2014.



Beth Chaim Reform Congregation in Malvern brought in goats this year for a Yom Kippur activity.

but that it would be easier to whisper it into the ear of a goat.

Or on Chanukah during COVID when Beth Chaim transformed the holiday into an outdoor festival of lights. Kids made papier-mache lanterns and hung them around the premises. And each night for every new candle, the community built a bonfire to keep warm.

It’s a tradition that continues today.

“The community loved it,” Resnick said.

Scherer joined Beth Chaim the same year that Pearlman started, in 2014. He

was invited by a neighbor who himself had joined the previous year. When Scherer arrived at his first event, a Sukkot picnic on the synagogue lawn, he felt “very, very comfortable,” he recalled.

Days later, the Scherer family attended their first service. Their three young kids, naturally, were talking and carrying on, but nobody “shushed them,” the father said.

“I learned that the rabbi had instituted a no-shushing role,” he added. **JE**

jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com

NOVEMBER 11–NOVEMBER 16



FRIDAY, NOV. 11 JRA FOOD PACKING

Volunteers will assist with Jewish Relief Agency's predistribution preparation. During this time, volunteers will tape boxes, pack toiletries and assemble family-friendly food bags. **For more information about JRA's volunteer schedule, visit jewishrelief.org/calendar. 10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia.**

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 FEEDING THE HUNGRY

The Brotherhood at Old York Road Temple-Beth Am will buy food for at least 100 families in our area who would not otherwise enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. All donations must be received by Nov. 11. Make checks payable to Brotherhood Old York Road Temple-Beth Am. **For additional information, contact Arthur Davis at 215-205-3027 or Stuart Greenberg at 215-300-4150. 971 Old York Road, Abington.**

KLEZMER MUSIC SHABBAT

Join Beth Sholom Congregation's Rabbi David Glanzberg-Krainin, Cantor Jacob Agar and the band at 6 p.m. for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring klezmer music. The community is welcome to attend. **Call 215-887-1342 for information. 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park.**

VETERANS SHABBAT DINNER

Join us at the Congregations of Shaare Shamayim for a Shabbat dinner honoring our veterans. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. Shabbat services start at 7:45 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. All veterans are encouraged to wear their military caps. **Call the synagogue office at 215-677-1600 for more details and to make a reservation. 9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia.**

SATURDAY, NOV. 12 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, presented by Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media, presents the best in Jewish international cinema from Nov. 12-19, including seven international feature films, one shorts program, an in-depth discussion of Hollywood's Jewish New Wave of the '60s and '70s, and an exclusive brunch screening of "Funny Girl." **More information and tickets available at phillyjfm.org.**

HAMEC ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center is hosting its 61st Annual Anniversary Gala Dinner and Silent Auction from 6-10 p.m. HAMEC is honoring Jacqueline Cherepinsky and Dr. Adam G. Denish. **For reservations, contact info@hamec.org or 215-464-4701. 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevoise.**

SUNDAY, NOV. 13 JRA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Join Jewish Relief Agency from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for junior and all ages food packing, as well as food delivery. Additional delivery opportunities are available on Monday through Wednesday. **For more information about JRA's volunteer**

schedule, visit jewishrelief.org/calendar. 10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia.

AUTHOR EVENT

Having celebrated his bar mitzvah at Folkshul in 2001, author Isaac Blum returns for Folkshul's Fall Author Event for a reading, Q&A and signing of his debut novel "The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen" at 11 a.m. **Register at tinyurl.com/5YN4S7WV. 8000 Cherokee St., Philadelphia.**

SHALOM CHAVERIM BRUNCH

At 11 a.m., join the Chaverim of Congregations of Shaare Shamayim for brunch and a musical program featuring keyboard soloist Jeff Dershin. The cost is \$20. **Call the synagogue office at 215-677-1600 for more details and to make a reservation. 9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia.**

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY BRUNCH

The Philadelphia and Delaware Chapters of Americans for Ben-Gurion University are sponsoring their annual tribute event as a hybrid event, starting at 11:30 a.m. In-person will be at Har Zion Temple, and the one-hour program will be livestreamed. **1500 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley.**

GENEALOGY LECTURE

At 1:30 p.m., Galacia historian Andrew Zalewski presents "The Path to Modernity: The Jews of Galicia" at the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia's meeting. **For more information, call 215-833-3781 or visit jgasgp.org. 410 Montgomery Ave., Wynnewood.**

TIKVAH PERFORMANCE

Join Michael Solomon and cast as they present a play based on his book about his experiences with mental illness at this Tikvah AJMI event, starting at 4 p.m. **45 Haverford Road, Wynnewood.**

TUESDAY, NOV. 15

HOARDING SUPPORT GROUP

Join Jewish Family and Children's Service and participants who have completed a prior hoarding support group program from 4-5 p.m., in a supportive community. **To register or for more information on sliding-scale options, contact Rivka Goldman at 267-256-2250 or rgoldman@jfcsp Philly.org.**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

RUMMAGE SALE

The Temple Judea Rummage Sale is back from 4-8 p.m. with more than 3,000 square feet of great items, including clothing, accessories, shoes, purses, jewelry, toys, games, art, household items and more. Sale continues Nov. 17 from 9 a.m.–8 p.m. **Contact templejudearummagesale@gmail.com with questions. 38 Rogers Road, Furlong.**

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Introduction to Judaism at Congregation Kol Ami is an engaging multi-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life, continuing from Nov. 2. No charge for congregants. \$180 per device for non-congregants. **For more information, contact Ruth Scott, director of community engagement: ruth@kolaminj.org. 1101 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, N.J. [JE](http://www.kolaminj.org)**

Out & About

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



1

Photo by Courtney Goldstein



2

Courtesy of the Penn Emblem Co.



3



4

Courtesy of Davida Chornock



5

Courtesy of Ellen Toplin



6

Courtesy of Michelle Vichnin Edelson

1 During a High Holiday food drive, members of Beth El Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, Shirat Hayam and Temple Beth Shalom collected more than 220 bags to stock the food pantry at the Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties. **2** Ohev Shalom of Bucks County held a Simchat Torah celebration that including singing, dancing and the unrolling of a Torah. **3** The Penn Emblem Co. celebrated its 75th anniversary on Oct. 21 at its corporate office in Trevese. **4** Julia Bokunewicz, Cantor Faryn Rudnick and Cantor Emeritus Marshall Portnoy enjoyed Sukkot in the Sukkah at Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim in Wynnewood. **5** The National Council of Jewish Women held its annual membership luncheon at Philmont Country Club on Oct. 25. **6** Sarah Edelson of Blue Bell took second place in the national Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest with her essay on harmful housing policies.

David Lee Preston

CONTRIBUTES TO HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

JARRAD SAFFREN | STAFF WRITER

On April 30, 1981, two years after Congress declared April 28 and 29 to be the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust, Halina Wind Preston, a Holocaust survivor, was interviewed by Elma Andrews of WHYY-TV in Delaware.

They were at the Holocaust monument in Freedom Plaza in downtown Wilmington, where two years earlier Wind Preston had addressed a crowd of 150 people at the monument's dedication.

During a news report, Andrews asked Wind Preston if the Shoah could happen again. Her answer, according to her son, David Lee Preston, was "chilling."

"Absolutely," she said.

"And what we are afraid about (is) that while there is still the blueprint for the old genocide, someone might very well use it and plan a second genocide," she added.

"And, as I mentioned, the victims may be just about anybody," the survivor concluded.

Wind Preston died the year after that interview. But her warning continues to motivate her son today.

David Lee Preston, a Philadelphia resident and B'nai Abraham Chabad member, spent his career at The Philadelphia Inquirer, CNN.com and other news outlets, writing and editing the first draft of history. But it is his personal story that has led to perhaps his best and most important work.

He wrote three cover stories for the Inquirer's Sunday Magazine about his parents' Holocaust experiences. His father, George Preston, was also a survivor, of Auschwitz and Buchenwald. And Lee Preston continues to organize a lecture series, The Halina Wind Preston Memorial Lecture on the Holocaust, which adds other Holocaust experiences to our historical memory.

The next lecture will be the first one



David Lee Preston holds up his father's Buchenwald uniform.

in five years and take place on Nov. 13 at the Siegel JCC in Wilmington. Brothers David and Oscar Speace will discuss their book and play, respectively, on their mother Janka Festinger Speace's survival story. Festinger Speace survived Auschwitz and married an American GI, Robert Speace, "whom she met in postwar Germany," according to an event poster.

Festinger Speace did not go into detail about her story to her sons. But in 1998 after she died, Oscar Speace found a 60-page letter she had sent "from Germany to an uncle in Cleveland," the poster added. It was all in there. The letter inspired David Speace's book, "Janka Festinger's Moments of Happiness: Her

Holocaust Letter and More." The book is self-published, but Lee Preston wants to illuminate it anyway.

"It resonated with me because they only learned the full story when they got hold of a letter she had written to an uncle in Cleveland letting him know that she survived and the whole rest of the family did not," the journalist said.

The brothers' experience was similar to one that Lee Preston had in recent years, too. In 2015, he was cleaning out his childhood home when he discovered four notebooks that his mother filled when she was hiding in the sewers of Lviv, a town in Ukraine, for 14 months between 1943 and '44.

Lee Preston had the diary translated

by a Polish-American who lives in Elkins Park, and he learned "a number of things I hadn't learned before," he said. The notebooks revealed "intimate details" of how "10 Jews who were strangers to her before she found herself in the sewer interacted with each other under the most horrific conditions imaginable." Somehow, Lee Preston said, they found a way to have "a day-to-day existence."

Each person had different responsibilities, according to the son. They also found ways to entertain each other. And they especially looked forward to visits from the Polish Catholic sewer workers who brought them food.

Halina Wind Preston started speaking about her experience in 1949. She was one of the first survivors to do so, according to her son. Yet she never spoke about any of this.

"All these years later, we're still able to find artifacts of this type that illuminate what happened," Lee Preston said. "And they illuminate what could still happen."

More recently, Lee Preston found a letter his father wrote to an uncle in Boston. It was sent four months after George Preston's liberation from Buchenwald, and it detailed one experience in particular. A man the father considered his best friend was killed right in front of him.

Unlike his wife, George Preston was reticent about his Holocaust story, but he started doing events after her death. Yet he never spoke about losing the man he called his best friend. Lee Preston had never heard that man's name until he read the letter.

"That underscores why it's essential to preserve these materials," the son said.

To learn about Lee Preston's work, visit his website at davidleepreston.com and subscribe to his free monthly newsletter. [JE](mailto:jsaffren@midatlanticmedia.com)

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Court of Common Pleas - Phila. County, Orphans' Court Div. - Estate of Anthony Edward Meyer, Decd., OC NO. 00359 DE 2022 - Control #221563 - Notice is hereby given that on 3/30/22, a Petition for Determination of Title to Decedent's Interest in Real Estate Pursuant to 20 Pa. C.S. §3546 was filed to adjudicate title to the interest of Sepviva, LLC, the Estate of Joan Muckelson, Decd., the Estate of Matthew Meyer, Decd., the Estate of Francis Meyer, Decd., the Estate of Daniel Meyer, Decd., and to said Decedents' Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and All Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest from or under said Respondents in the real estate located at 2461 Sepviva Street, Philadelphia, PA 19125. Petitioner seeks to partition said real estate and sell same per terms set forth in the Petition and proposed Decrees. Citation issued on 10/26/22 with a response date of 11/28/22. If you wish to defend, you must enter a written appearance personally or by attorney and file your defenses or objections in writing with the Court, your response to be filed with the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Div. of the Court of Common Pleas of Phila. County, PA, due to be filed no later than 11/28/22. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and the relief requested in the Petition as proposed in the proposed Decrees may be granted without further notice. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE. Lawyer Referral Service & Info. Service, Phila. Bar Assn., 1101 Market St., 11th Fl., Phila., PA 19107, 215.238.6300. Adam S. Bernick, Atty for Petitioner, Law Office of Faye Riva Cohen, PC, 2047 Locust St., Phila., PA 19103

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, September Term, 2022, No. 001777 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 27, 2022, the petition of Aaron Roberts was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Aaron Scott. The Court has fixed November 10, 2022 at 10:00 A.M., in Room No. 691, City Hall, Phila., Pa. for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all creditors and claimants of Hamburg & Golden, P.C. a business corporation, that the shareholders have approved a proposal that the corporation dissolve voluntarily and that the board of directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corporation under the provisions of Section 1975 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

ESTATE OF ANDREA LEMARRA HOUSE, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County 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 DEREK HOUSE, ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to his Attorney: Kristen L. Behrens Dilworth Paxson LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF ANGELINA PIACENTINI, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County 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 FRANK PIACENTINI and SOFIA ANGELINA CEDRONE, ADMINISTRATORS, c/o Kristen L. Behrens, Esq., 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Or to their Attorney: KRISTEN L. BEHRENS DILWORTH PAXSON LLP 1500 Market St., Ste. 3500E Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF ANTHONY R. FIDURA, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County 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 KEITH ANTHONY FIDURA, EXECUTOR, c/o Harvey Abramson, Esq., 7 Neshaminy Interplex, Ste. 400, Trevose, PA 19053, Or to his Attorney: HARVEY ABRAMSON LAW OFFICES OF HARVEY ABRAMSON, P.C. 7 Neshaminy Interplex, Ste. 400 Trevose, PA 19053

ESTATE OF BARBARA ANNE GOLAS a/k/a BARBARAA. GOLAS, BARBARA GOLAS, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia County 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



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OAK HILL ESTATES: RARELY AVAILABLE!!!
New Listing: walk-up, sunny, top floor townhouse flat, 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath renovated modern townhome, open kitchen w/new granite countertops, custom closets, lots of closet space, ceiling fans, wood paneling, sunny balcony. New heating & a/c, parking near your front door. Electric grill allowed on balcony. Pool, gym, tennis courts, pickle ball, picnic & BBQ area, health club included. Small pets allowed
Asking Price: \$259,900!

TOWER AT OAK HILL: Under Contract
Special 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new kitchen, new bathroom, new floors, new carpeting, air conditioning, storage, 24 hour doorman, laundry room on site. No pets. Great View! **\$1,400.00 per month**

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Top floor, sunny, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, lots of closets.
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY: \$1,750.00

TOWER - NEW LISTING Estate Sale
2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, modern open kitchen, new appliances, updated bathrooms, new floors, custom closets, updated lighting, new windows, sunny corner balcony. Included: heat, air conditioning, pool, gym, storage, washer/dryer hook-up plus laundry room on site, 24 hr doorman, trash and snow removal. **\$199,900!**

OAK HILL ESTATES: Under Renovation
Spacious, 2 bedroom/2bath modern, open kitchen w/breakfast bar, open to dining room & living room, custom lighting, wood burning fireplace, heat included, separate heating & a/c thermostat, washer/dryer. Middle Level w/ covered balcony facing woods. Electric grills allowed on patio. Pool, gym, tennis courts, pickle ball, picnic & BBQ area, health club included. No pets. **Available December**

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Arts

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more than any other aspect of his religion. Novak's father William Novak helped edit "The Big Book of Jewish Humor," which included contributions from Woody Allen, Lenny Bruce and Joseph Heller.

"I think looking at things with an outsider's eye is very Jewish," Novak told JewishBoston. "I think, 'How can I somehow outsmart this bad hand I've been dealt?' is the root of a lot of Jewish humor, and I think my favorite type of Jewish humor."

The Katz JCC is trying to outsmart the hand of an aging membership base. Novak is seen as a solution ... for one night at least.

Abramowitz said Novak was recommended to her as a possible speaker by a younger JCC staffer. She is hoping his appearance brings in millennials who love "The Office." The JCC is putting out the word on social media to people in nearby towns like Collingswood and Haddonfield.

"I think that every institution wants to see itself survive," Abramowitz said. "We want to bring people into the JCC and maintain it." **JE**

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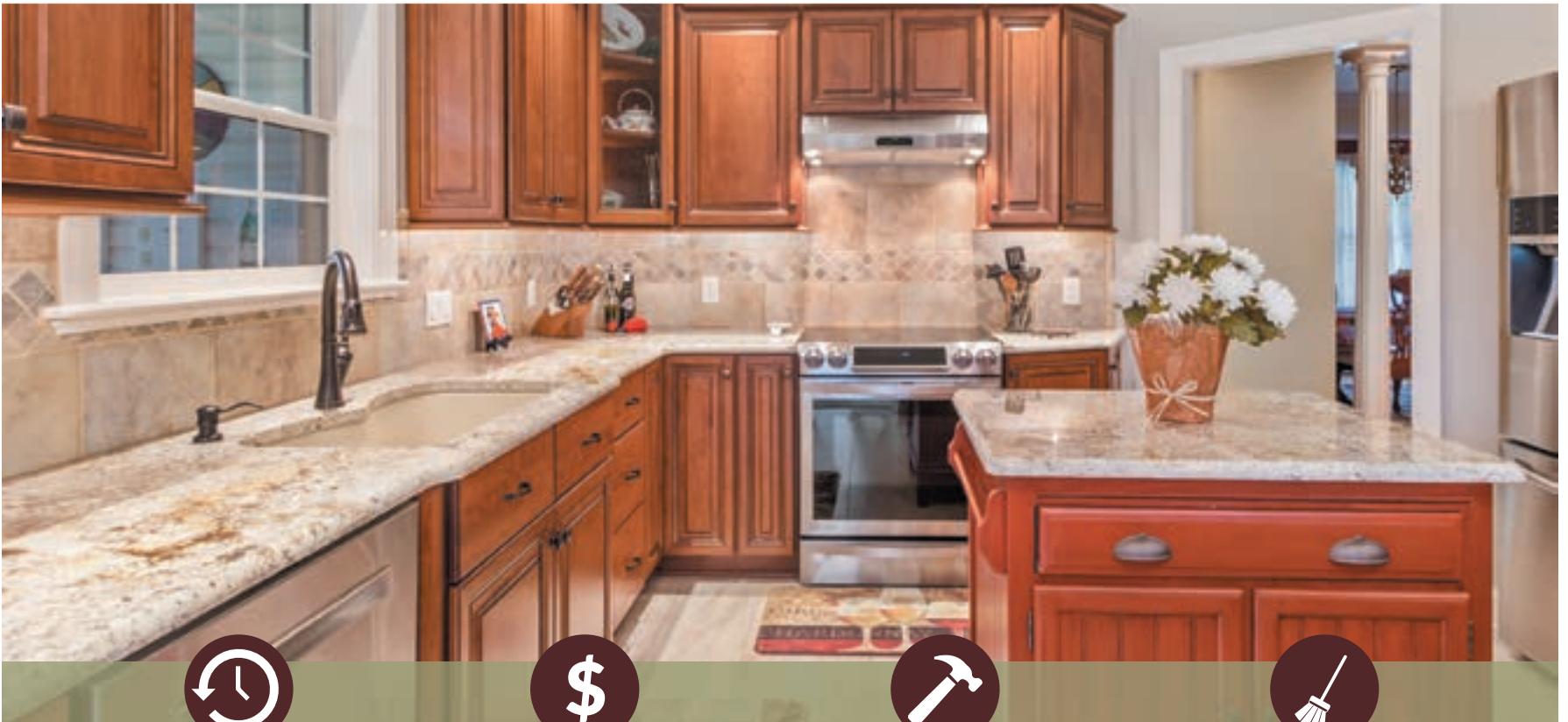
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