



# JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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#### Security Officials Reassure Public

No direct threats noted prior to upcoming election.

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Street offers plenty of Jewish heritage.

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There's no stopping the cherished tradition.

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Volume 133  
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## Restaurants Brace for Long, Cold Winter

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

WINTER IS COMING, and while the past seven months of shutdowns and quarantines have been no picnic for small business owners and their patrons, colder weather could make things even more difficult.

The warning signs are already flashing. According to the National Restaurant Association, nearly 100,000 restaurants have closed either permanently or long-term as a result of the pandemic.

"Businesses that have made it this far could start closing in droves," business reporter Erica Pandey wrote for Axios.

Still, using outdoor dining aids like heat lamps and boosting takeout sales can help. Local Jewish restaurant owners are aware of the upcoming pressures and are preparing to pivot yet again.

Chef Ari Miller has run his South Philly restaurant as the takeout sandwich spot Frizwit by day and locally sourced dining experience Musi by night. Before the pandemic hit, he ran Frizwit as a pop-up on the first Monday of every month. Now,

See Restaurants, Page 20



▲ Israel "Sasha" Eisenberg and Ruth Brandspiegel reunite in a sukkah.

Photo by Debra Marks

## Long-Lost Friends From Displaced Persons Camp Reunite After 71 Years

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

CANTOR LARRY BRANDSPIEGEL believes everything happens for a reason.

It certainly seemed that way when his mother, Philadelphia resident Ruth Brandspiegel, was reunited with a long-lost

friend during the High Holidays this year. That friend, Israel "Sasha" Eisenberg, turned out to be one of his congregants at East Brunswick Jewish Center in New Jersey.

"It's *bashert*. Everything had to fall into place," he said.

Eisenberg, 79, and Ruth Brandspiegel, 84,

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Miriam's Advice Well

DEAR MIRIAM | PLANNING FOR DEATH PROVES PROBLEMATIC

What will happen if I outlive my non-Jewish spouse? That's the question before Miriam this week. As is usually the case, there is not one simple answer, but Miriam suggests broaching the subject with the spouse to see if there's a conversation to be had; bringing a spiritual leader into the conversation can be beneficial, too. For further explanation, read Miriam's Advice Well online. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to [news@jewishexponent.com](mailto:news@jewishexponent.com) and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line. [jewishexponent.com/2020/10/12/dear-miriam-planning-for-death-proves-problematic/](http://jewishexponent.com/2020/10/12/dear-miriam-planning-for-death-proves-problematic/)

Philacatessen

'SMASHED' CARROTS

Food columnist Keri White found that her recipe for "smashed" potatoes was a big hit, so she's using the same premise on carrots. Although carrots have a higher water content than potatoes and won't become as crispy, the technique she uses imparts a significant amount of flavor without deep-frying. Read Philacatessen, her online blog, for the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, including other recipes, gift ideas, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley. [jewishexponent.com/2020/10/12/smashed-carrots/](http://jewishexponent.com/2020/10/12/smashed-carrots/)

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## SNAPSHOT: JULY 28, 1989

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### Israeli court decisions draw mixed reviews from leaders

Two decisions Monday by Israel's highest court — including a ruling that addresses the volatile issue of “Who is a Jew?” — brought mixed reviews from religious leaders in the United States and Israel.

The court ordered the Interior Ministry to register all converts as Jews, regardless of the denomination of the rabbi who performed their conversions. In another ruling, the judges rejected

the right of Reform rabbis in Israel to perform marriages.

Reform and Conservative leaders hailed the ruling on converts, calling it a major victory for pluralism and religious liberty. But they lamented the court's decision on Reform rabbis, and pledged to seek legislation granting equal rights to all denominations in Israel.

Orthodox leaders, on the other hand, condemned the

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# Security Officials Reassure Nervous Public Ahead of Election Day 2020

LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**BRAD ORSINI WANTED** to make one thing clear above all during a recent Zoom town hall about security concerns hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia: “We have no direct threats to anybody in the Jewish community.”

Orsini, the senior national security adviser of the Secure Community Network and the former community security director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, was making a point that was echoed by Jewish Federation’s director of security, Frank Riehl.

Despite such reassurances,

it was obvious that there remains plenty of anxiety about communal safety ahead of the Nov. 3 election; a substantial portion of the questions asked by virtual participants focused on the dangers they fear could come that day.

“Is there any concern about, or expectation of, attempts regarding voter intimidation, either of individual Jews or organizations, either as Jews or supporters of Israel?” one participant asked.

“If we observe verbal or physical voter intimidation at the polls on Election Day, do we call 911, or a local police phone number or the FBI or someone else?” another wanted to know.

Laura Frank, director of



▲ Brad Orsini of the Secure Community Network addresses an anxious audience during a recent Zoom town hall held by Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Screenshot via Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

public relations for the Jewish Federation and interim director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, led the town hall, and summarized several

other participant questions that came in regarding staying safe from extremist groups like the Proud Boys and antifa. Orsini and Riehl were joined

by Dan Tantino, a supervisory special agent with the FBI, and Mike McGrath, superintendent of the Lower Merion Police Department. They spent about

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## The 6 Ws of Judaism

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Nationally renowned educator Rav Shai Cherry of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park presents the first semester of “The 6 Ws of Judaism,” Tuesday evenings from 7:45 PM to 9:15 PM, via Zoom starting October 20, 2020 and running through January 26, 2021. This 12-class foundational course will address why and how to infuse your life with Jewish practice that’s meaningful to you. See a preview at <https://tinyurl.com/ShaiCherry6Ws>. Register at [www.CongregationAJ.org/form/6Ws](http://www.CongregationAJ.org/form/6Ws). Cost is \$120 per household, including links to readings (AJ congregants free).

Shai Cherry, Ph.D. is rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, PA. Formerly on the faculties of Vanderbilt University and the University of San Diego, he is the featured lecturer for The Great Courses’ “Introduction to Judaism” and author of *Torah through Time: Understanding Bible Commentary from the Rabbinic Period to Modern Times*. His forthcoming book, *Coherent Judaism*, will be available this November.

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE  
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## JEWISH EXPONENT



## HEADLINES

30 minutes explaining the ways that their individual security teams were working with the Jewish Federation, detailing the ways that they share information, track any would-be threats, counter disinformation and work to ensure that Election Day is, above all else, boring.

Or, as Orsini called it: “A big nothing burger.”

What will create that particular burger, Orsini said, is a high level of preparedness. He said organizations like the Jewish Federation should be relying on the practices that have helped them to build a “conscious security culture.”

directed at Jewish nonprofits has not abated, Orsini added, these are part of normal procedure at this point.

“We probably get at least 10 to 15 incidents related to the Jewish community across the country every single day,” Orsini said. “I’ve not seen one related to the election.”

Tantino suggested that attendees who want to learn more about the extremist groups that they fear attempt to find news sources without a political slant — sources that won’t muddy the waters in their descriptions of those groups.

McGrath repeated the asser-

■ The last thing we want to have happen is on Nov. 3, we just don’t have a plan and we’re overreacting, or we’re underreacting to an event. We just want to know how we’re going to handle that.”

BRAD ORSINI

That means reviewing crisis communications procedures, coordinating those with other interfaith institutions in the surrounding area, reviewing access control to the facility itself and practicing “cyber hygiene” — Orsini’s phrase to describe the way that organizations should review their social media interactions.

Emphasizing that no specific threats had yet been identified and, reading from a list of 10 daily security practices, Orsini said that cooperation and opens lines of communication between Jewish institutions and their partners in law enforcement is key.

“The last thing we want to have happen is on Nov. 3, we just don’t have a plan and we’re overreacting, or we’re underreacting to an event,” Orsini said. “We just want to know how we’re going to handle that.”

Though phishing emails, Zoom-bombing and hate mail

tion that no specific threats relating to Election Day, made against Jewish people, have been identified. Like the others, he noted that communication and collaboration between community organizations and law enforcement, as well as between law enforcement agencies, is a win for safety.

Riehl echoed Orsini’s pleas.

“The biggest thing that we can preach to you folks is just to reach out to us. No question’s a silly question, no observation’s a silly observation,” he said, describing the town hall as part of a broader effort toward anxiety reduction and “rumor management.”

“Trust me,” he added, “if you reach out to me, or to the local police department, someone will get back to you and we’ll try to track that down the best we can.” •

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# Student Hopes to Repair World With Data

## LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**IF YOU'RE NOT** careful, you'll lose the battleground states pretty quickly.

Georgia is more up for grabs than you realize, but if you spend too much time fighting what feels like a lost cause in Florida, you'll probably let the Peach State and North Carolina slip away. Thirty-three days to go until the election, and you realize that you haven't done any fundraising in a few days, either. Rallies take a lot of energy out of you, and whether they move the needle is an open question.

There's just so much to juggle; you have to take a whole day to pander, and even specify which ideological key you want

to pander in.

It isn't Zach Schapiro's intention to stress you out with his presidential election simulation game, Election Accomplice, which is based on a forecast model he designed. In fact, the 16-year-old junior at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy hopes that his game, available for free in the Apple App Store, spurs people his age to a greater interest in politics.

"Being able to help teach people about politics in a way I'm able to, with all of the numbers, is something that is pretty cool," Schapiro said. "And I'm hoping people are able to learn a lot about that so that they can become more educated voters."

Vincent Day, program director of Computer Science & Interactive Technologies

at SCH, has known Schapiro since he was in elementary school. Back then, Schapiro's warp speed advancement in math, computer science and whatever other subject he put his mind to was already well known throughout the school. Day began working with him in a one-on-one capacity, and he's ready to present his conclusions. Schapiro, he said, "was the first genius that I have ever worked with."

"He's one of the kindest, and empathetic, and helpful young men I've worked with," Day said. "In all of the classes that I taught, he was well advanced, so he could do things in a week that would take a lot of the other students an entire semester to do. So Zach took it upon himself to become a very thoughtful student leader."

Schapiro's early aptitude in computer science was noticed by Day, as well as by Edward Glassman, executive director of the Sands Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at SCH. Both men see their jobs at SCH as "unlocking the passions of our students," according to Glassman, and for this particular student, that's meant years of tutoring, making sure Schapiro had all the resources he needed. Day has even had to learn right alongside Schapiro, in some cases, given the advanced nature of his pursuits.

Schapiro is a devotee of FiveThirtyEight.com, the website created by the banner-carrier for data-based political analysis in the United States, Nate Silver. But his interest in coding and data actually precedes his interest in politics; his first major coding project was called Mahjong Accomplice. Schapiro learned the game by watching his bubbe play and, like any good grandson, translated that knowledge into an app that teaches people how to play the game, alongside data-based



▲ Zach Schapiro, alongside the code that makes up Election Accomplice  
Photo by Edward Glassman

suggestions on the correct move to make in a given situation.

Another project, hoping to beat the Las Vegas NFL spreads, was "somewhat successful." "Not amazing," he said, "but better than 50/50."

The furor of the 2016 election drew Schapiro's interest, and the work he's done since then — on Election Accomplice, but also on Fantasy Politics, a project undertaken alongside fellow SCH student Elizabeth Shoup — reflects that his interest in data preceded that of his interest in politics. Assumptions that are baked into Election Accomplice, as well as into Fantasy Politics, come from probabilities divined from the data, rather than gut-feeling punditry.

The project of Election Accomplice, Schapiro said, which involves an interactive election modeling tool alongside the game itself, is his method of *tikkun olam*.

The rabbi at his synagogue, Congregation Beth Or's Gregory Marx, talks quite a bit about leaving the world better than one found it, and educating people in the way he's capable of doing, Schapiro said, is his way of living that.

Though predictive analysis may be a mostly sound method of thinking about politics, it doesn't function in the same way when you're deciding what you want to do with your life. Schapiro is fortunate to have the problem of many interests — robotics, history, sports and economics are also subjects of frequent inquiry and practice — and he isn't yet sure what he will pursue.

"Whatever field I'm in, I'd like to be using all the different things I'm passionate about in my work, so that I can really enjoy my career," he said. "Whatever it is." •

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# Joel Spivak Wants Your Old South Street Menus

**LOCAL**  
**JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF**

ANY STORY ABOUT Joel Spivak is necessarily a story about the stories he’s collected. You can’t quite understand Spivak without knowing that he was involved in the South Street Renaissance, helping to stymie the city’s plans for the potentially South Street-killing Crosstown Expressway back in 1970. Nor can Spivak really be understood without your knowing that even within the small world of non-academic archivists and historians of South Philadelphia, and specifically of Jewish South Philadelphia, he’s considered to be especially devoted to the cause of preservation. He’s written books — plural — about the trolley cars and subway system. Above all, Spivak, 81, is a man whose excitement can be sparked and kept aflame by a horseradish grinding machine owned by a curbside vendor named Abie Kravitz, dead since 1976. Spivak, founder of the not-quite-a-museum that is the South Street Museum, is

celebrating the 50th anniversary of the South Street Renaissance and the defeat of the Crosstown Expressway this month with a new project. Though he’d hoped to celebrate in person as he and his friends have done in the past, that was out of the question this year; instead, he’s embarked on a targeted project, collecting stories and ephemera belonging to the Jewish families and Jewish businesses that populated the South Street area in the ’30s, ’40s and ’50s. One day, he hopes to have a small storefront to display the old menus, business cards, photos and whatever else you might have in your attic, but for now, he’ll present what he can find on his website, alongside the stories he hopes to collect. “There’s a whole lot of interest in the history of things,” Spivak said. “But I really wanted the personal stories from family members, because they could actually talk to me about the guy who owned the deli at the corner of Sixth and South in 1947.” Spivak was an architect and



▲ A typical Joel Spivak find: a photo of South Street in 1974, with trees planted by members of the South Street Renaissance  
Photos courtesy of Joel Spivak

builder around South Street for decades, which helped to develop his interest in digging deeper into the area’s history. And more than a spur to his spirit of inquiry, it was a way to collect the debris of yesterday, a practice he began almost immediately after he began building. In the stores he renovated, he found a gold mine of photos, newspapers, phone books, business cards, playbills, advertisements and much more. As part of the South Street Renaissance, he had a lot invested in the idea that South Street was a place that needed to be preserved, in one way or another; in the ’70s, that spurred him to create the South Street Museum, “which is technically a museum I made up in my mind, that I’ve had in a few

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▲ Joel Spivak is collecting stories of Jewish South Street.

places,” Spivak explained. It’s been displayed in public intermittently over the years, and online for a while. Its papers are now owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Through the subsequent decades, Spivak never left South Street, as the fortunes and character of the street changed, changed and changed again. Since the beginning, Spivak has noted the neighborhood’s Jewish element, even after the Abie Kravitzes of the world went the way of the dinosaur. Thus, this new project was born, out of interest and necessity. If you’re interested in sharing your story, visit [joelspivak.com](http://joelspivak.com).

David Mink, who knows Spivak through their mutual association with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, said that it was clear from the first time he met Spivak that he was a “pretty singular guy.”

“He’s a lot older than you think he is,” Mink said, “and incredibly knowledgeable

and dedicated to this town, dedicated to Philadelphia, and also to the old Jewish community.” Mink himself is part of that old Jewish community; as the former owner of the Sansom Street Oyster House (now just The Oyster House), he’s the bridge between the original owner (his father Sam Mink) and the current owner (his son, also named Sam Mink).

Harry Boonin, a local retiree and author interested in many of the same subjects as Spivak, appreciates that Spivak has “boots on the ground,” talking to living, breathing people, and not just collecting objects.

“He really wants to preserve the area, and he’s doing it from the street,” Boonin said. “And instead of being appointed by the mayor or some committee to be on the committee and help out the committee and go to meeting rooms, he’s more of an outside guy.” •

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# Couple Connects to Community, One Loaf at a Time

## LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

**RAN BETITE AND** Yael Cooperman's first year in Philadelphia was full of surprises.

The couple moved to Queen Village from Tel Aviv in September of 2019. Cooperman planned to take a medical residency and Betite wanted to continue his mechanical engineering career. The couple was also planning for the birth of their second child and wanted to be near Cooperman's parents in Maryland.

The coronavirus pandemic didn't stop baby Rafael from arriving in April, but the crisis stalled most other aspects of the family's life, including Cooperman's medical licensing exam and Betite's green card hearing. Cooperman took a job writing content for a health care company while waiting for her exam to be rescheduled, and her husband turned to a popular quarantine pastime: baking sourdough.

Betite was not a total bread-making novice; he had made bread for friends in college and once took a baking class while on vacation in Paris. In

Philadelphia, he began making sourdough for his family.

"We really couldn't find bread we were looking for in the neighborhood. So, I just started to make the bread we eat," he said. "If you're already eating bread, why don't you make it the best bread you can find?"

Betite's sourdough is made from whole wheat flour, spelt, rye and other grains, which makes it more nutritious than typical white bread. Once the pandemic hit, he spent his extra time watching baking videos on YouTube to hone his craft.

He was baking so much and so often the couple started giving away his loaves on the Buy Nothing Project, a Facebook group for neighbors looking to exchange groceries, furniture and more.

"All of a sudden, people sort of reached out and were like, 'Oh, my God, can we get some of this please?'" Cooperman said.

This fall, the couple launched the bakery pop-up Metuka Freshly Baked. Metuka, which means "sweetie" in Hebrew, was also the given name of a long-deceased woman who lived in the couple's Tel Aviv apartment before they rented it. During an intensive renovation

process, they discovered photographs and documents with information about her life.

Betite bakes around 120 loaves per day in a commercial kitchen on North Broad Street, where he rents space. The kitchen features a steam oven designed for baking sourdough.

The project has been an opportunity for the couple to connect with Philadelphia, particularly the Jewish community, at a time when opportunities to meet new people in person are limited. Betite and Cooperman sell bread, babka, muffins and other baked goods at local farmers markets and online, where they get to chat with customers. They are searching for retail space in Queen Village to expand further.

It took Betite a while to get his challah recipe right, but he managed to perfect it before the High Holidays after tasting his in-laws' loaf. The morning before Yom Kippur, the couple set up shop outside Cohen & Co. Hardware and Home Goods on Passyunk Avenue.

"That's when we really got a chance to connect with Jewish members of the community because it was Rosh Hashanah, and so everybody was super

excited about getting a challah. And that's when we really got to connect with people. We got a million messages, people wishing us a happy new year, and it was really nice to sort of get connected with people that way," Cooperman said.

Betite also makes *basbousa*, a semolina cake, using his Iraqi Jewish grandmother's recipe.

"It comes from an Arabic kitchen, which is part of my culture," he said. "I try to bring some of my culture into the things that I do and into the kitchen — things that are not necessarily an American staple — because I feel like that's showing my identity in the food that I make."

Although Betite and Cooperman are not religious, maintaining a connection to Judaism after leaving Israel was important to them. They attended events at Society Hill Synagogue, South Philadelphia Shtiebel and Chabad before the pandemic.

To Cooperman, the feeling of preparing for Shabbat was especially important.

"When you're in Tel Aviv, when you're in Israel in general on Fridays, everything shuts down and people are all getting ready for Shabbat,



▲ Ran Betite holds a challah loaf.  
Photo by Yael Cooperman

and there's like this sort of last-minute rush to get everything in place so you can go your family's house for dinner, and people run out and buy challah, flowers and whatever they need. There's a feeling in the air," she said.

Betite said the community has helped his family feel settled in their new home while also supporting his baking ventures.

"I feel a lot of love from Jewish community in Philadelphia, and I want to say thank you. It's a beautiful thing" he said. ●

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## Kosher Bakery, Soft Pretzel Maker to Merge

## LOCAL

ANDY GOTTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

**BENJAMIN TEHRANI** and Hakeem Moore already shared an unusual business pairing culturally, so adding another element to the stew certainly doesn't seem out of place.

Starting Oct. 18, the I Want Moore Bakery owned by Tehrani (an Iranian Jew) and Moore (who grew up in a Muslim and Christian family in

Philadelphia and Virginia) will merge with Tasty Twisters, a longtime pretzel bakery owned by the Greek Loucas Louca at 5002 Umbria St. in Manayunk.

About three years ago, Tehrani and Moore opened I Want Moore Bakery, at 220 Krams Ave. in Manayunk, where they sell bread, tarts and cakes, among other baked goods. The bakery, supervised by Keystone K, doesn't have a storefront, but it does have an online store at



## HEADLINES



▲ The revamped interior of Tasty Twisters, which merges on Oct. 18 with I Want Moore Bakery.

► Hakeem Moore and Benjamin Tehrani

Photos courtesy of I Want Moore Bakery



iwantmoorebakery.com.

Moore said business was really picking up earlier this year, and then the pandemic hit. The bakery lost as much as 80% of its wholesale business.

“Synagogues and schools were our primary clients, and they weren’t open or having events,” he said.

I Want Moore Bakery needed a change in plans. And before he retired to Israel, Rabbi Naftoli Eisemann, who served as the kashrus administrator for Community Kashrus of Philadelphia (Keystone-K), put the bakery in touch with Tasty Twisters, which is also certified by Keystone-K.

“We didn’t know they were this close to us,” Moore said. “They were just minutes from us.”

Aside from pretzels and a few other items, the store will carry I Want Moore’s nondairy/pareve and dairy pastries, as well as coffee, with delivery available through Uber Eats and GrubHub.

“We’re going to start slowly just to see how it goes,” Louca said, noting that customer feedback will determine how the merged bakeries evolve.

If the partnership goes well, the product mix might be expanded and the small shop remodeled.

“It seems like people are very interested and very

excited,” Louca said. “I get a lot of positive comments.”

Tasty Twisters’ web site said the business is family-owned and operated, with “roots tracing back to the early 1900s both in the United States and Europe.”

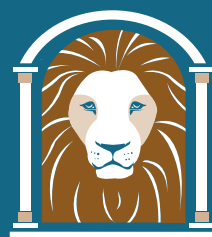
Tehrani and Moore’s partnership developed in a roundabout way.

After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Tehrani moved to Pennsylvania, where a brother lived. Eventually, he and two brothers started a rug business. After more than 40 years of running Tehrani Brothers Oriental Rugs, Tehrani wanted a change, so he became a *mashgiach*.

Moore, meanwhile, graduated from the Art Institute of Philadelphia in 2010, then worked for a series of bakeries, becoming interested in the idea of one day having his own establishment. He had his first experience making kosher baked goods at Six Points Kosher Events in King of Prussia.

Moore and Tehrani met at the since-closed Dairy Express in Merion Station, where Tehrani worked as a *mashgiach*. That’s where the two met, starting an improbable chain of events, with Moore handling the baking and Tehrani overseeing the business side. ●

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# Facebook Will Now Ban Holocaust Denial

## NATIONAL

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FACEBOOK ANNOUNCED that it will now ban any posts that deny or distort the Holocaust, a landmark change from its previous policy.

For years, Facebook and its

CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, had defended Holocaust denial as a misguided but legitimate form of expression. In 2018, regarding Holocaust denial, he said, "I don't believe that our platform should take that down because I think there are things that different people get wrong."

That approach garnered widespread outcry from scholars and anti-Semitism watchdogs.

On Oct. 12, Zuckerberg wrote in a Facebook post that he now believes banning Holocaust denial "is the right balance."

"I've struggled with the

This summer, the Anti-Defamation League, NAACP and other civil rights groups organized a boycott of Facebook in which 1,000 companies, including major corporations, paused advertising on the site for at least one month in protest of its lack of action against hate speech, including

10% of respondents believed Jews caused the Holocaust, while half of respondents said they had seen Holocaust denial online.

The World Jewish Congress has been speaking with Facebook about how to combat anti-Semitism since 2016, and has held daily meetings leading

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▲ Mark Zuckerberg at the Breakthrough Prize awards ceremony at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, on Nov. 3, 2019.  
Josh Edelson/AFP via Getty Images via JTA.org

tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust," he wrote. "My own thinking has evolved as I've seen data showing an increase in anti-Semitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech."

The change comes after months of activism by anti-discrimination groups pushing Facebook to change its policies on hate speech in general and Holocaust denial in particular. It also comes amid rising anti-Semitism in the United States and Europe, and weeks ahead of a presidential election that analysts and government agencies fear will spark violence from white supremacist groups.

Holocaust denial. The Claims Conference, which coordinates restitution and reparations payments for Holocaust survivors, organized a campaign called #NoDenyingIt in which Holocaust survivors appealed directly to Zuckerberg via video to take action against Holocaust denial.

Other Jewish organizations worked in consultation with Facebook to persuade the site to ban Holocaust denial. Facebook's statement credited the World Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee with advising on the new policy.

It also cited a recent poll showing a lack of knowledge regarding the Holocaust among Americans younger than 40. The poll found that more than

up to this policy change, said Yfat Barak-Cheney, the group's director of international affairs.

She said her organization preferred engagement with Facebook rather than external activism because, through her meetings, she saw the social media giant gradually move toward banning Holocaust denial.

"We have flagged to them Holocaust denial, over and over, as an issue on the platform, as an issue in principle that needs to be recognized as anti-Semitism and hate speech," Barak-Cheney said. "Holocaust denial is not a studying and discussion about historical facts. It's a tool to spread hatred against Jews."

She added, "They've adapted and they've come to understand



## HEADLINES

that by allowing Holocaust denial on their platform, and Holocaust distortion, they're actually allowing the spread of hatred."

In a statement, the Anti-Defamation League said it was "relieved" to see the ban on Holocaust denial and called for the company to issue public reports about enforcing the policy.

"While we are relieved to learn this news, we also would note that platform decisions of this nature are only as good as the companies' enforcement," read the statement by ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. "Facebook now needs to reassure the global community that it is taking meaningful and comprehensive steps to ensure that Holocaust deniers are no longer able to take advantage of Facebook's various platforms to spread antisemitism and hate."

Facebook's announcement of the new policy did not define what constitutes "content that denies or distorts the Holocaust." And the company said it "will take some time to train our reviewers and systems on enforcement," and that deletion of Holocaust denial "cannot happen overnight." The company told Bloomberg News that the policy applied only to Holocaust denial, not to denial of other genocides, like the Armenian or Rwandan genocides.

"Normally this process would be the other way around," with Facebook spelling out rules before announcing a new policy, Barak-Cheney said. "Here, because of the importance of the issue and how prevalent it has been, they really decided to make the announcement, but they have a lot of hard work ahead of them on making those boundaries."

The new policy comes after Facebook tightened its restrictions on other forms of anti-Semitism and hate

speech. Last week, Facebook announced that it was banning all groups and pages promoting QAnon, the anti-Semitic conspiracy theory. In August, Facebook banned posts about Jews controlling the world as well as other forms of hate speech.

The changes on Holocaust denial and other forms of discrimination reflect a larger shift in Facebook regarding how it deals with freedom of expression and combating hate speech. Zuckerberg, invoking the First Amendment, has consistently said that he favors allowing a broad array of speech regarding politics and other issues, even as a chorus of voices has asked him to do more to prohibit bigotry and disinformation.

In a speech last year at Georgetown University, Zuckerberg said, "I'm proud that our values at Facebook are inspired by the American tradition, which is more supportive of free expression than anywhere else." During the George Floyd protests this year, Facebook allowed a post by President Donald Trump, who has personally courted Zuckerberg, that said, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter flagged the post as glorifying violence.

"I know many people are upset that we've left the President's posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies," Zuckerberg wrote in a post defending the decision.

Reacting to the new policy, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum addressed the issue of freedom of expression, saying in a statement, "Freedom of speech is vital to our democracy, but it does not require any organization to host antisemitic speech that can potentially foment violence." •

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### JFNA, Orthodox Groups Ask for Increased Security Funding of \$360M

THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS of North America and two Orthodox umbrella groups joined a faith groups' letter to congressional appropriators that calls for a quadrupling of security funds to \$360 million for vulnerable nonprofits, JTA reported.

The letter, which also was signed by Christian, Sikh and Muslim groups, said the \$90 million available has run out.

"At a time of increasing extremism and antagonism towards different religious groups and religion in general, we believe significant increased funding for this important government program in fiscal year 2021 is imperative," said the letter, which was signed by the JFNA, Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America.

The grant funding was initiated in 2005 with \$15 million in funding and has increased to \$90 million. The program helps pay for security measures and, for many years, was mostly used by Jewish organizations. In recent years, other denominations have asked for grants.

### New US Sanctions Cut Iranian Banks from World Finance System

New U.S. sanctions on Iran — which target 18 Iranian financial institutions and penalize non-Iranian

institutions that deal with them — effectively cut the country off from the world finance system, JTA reported.

The sanctions deprive "the Islamic Republic of Iran of funds to carry out its support for terrorist activities and nuclear extortion that threatens the world," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

Because the U.S. dollar is preeminent worldwide, the sanctions effectively cut off Iran from world markets.

There are humanitarian assistance exemptions, Pompeo's statement said, but critics say that non-Iranian companies will be wary of the sanctions.

Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, said on Twitter that the sanctions will "blow up our remaining channels" to get medicine at a time when Iran has been especially hard hit by the pandemic, and said "culprits and enablers" will face justice.

### Louise Glück Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

Louise Glück, the American granddaughter of Hungarian Jews, won the Nobel Prize in Literature on Oct. 8, JTA reported.

Glück, 77, was awarded "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal," the Nobel committee wrote. She is the first American and first Jewish writer to win the

award since Bob Dylan in 2016.

Her poetry collections — which explore topics such as family life, trauma and aging — include the books "The Wild Iris," "Meadowlands," "The Triumph of Achilles" and "Ararat." She was awarded the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for "The Wild Iris."

The New York native became the United States' poet laureate in 2003 and received a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2015.

### Diego Schwartzman Makes French Open Semifinal, Enters Top 10 for First Time

Argentine Diego Schwartzman made it to the French Open semifinals before losing to eventual champion Rafael Nadal on Oct. 9, but he left Roland Garros ranked eighth in the world, his highest ranking ever. JTA reported.

Schwartzman, 28, who many believe is shorter than his listed height of 5-feet-7-inches, is immensely popular in his hometown Jewish community.

Schwartzman beat Nadal for the first time ever at the recent Italian Open, a clay court precursor to the French Open.

"I know against Diego, it's very difficult until the end. He's one of the players who makes more breaks on the tour without a doubt," Nadal said. •

— Compiled by Andy Gottlieb

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## ISRAEL BRIEFS

### Israel to Ban Most Sales of Animal Furs

**ISRAELI ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Minister Gila Gamliel said the country will ban the buying and selling of furs, JTA reported, citing a BBC report.

Gamliel called the use of animal skin and fur as clothing immoral.

Israel would become the first country to ban the sale of all furs, although São Paulo, Brazil, and a few cities in the United States also ban furs.

Exceptions would be allowed for “scientific research, education or for instruction and for religious purposes or tradition” — likely allowing haredi Orthodox men to still buy *shtreimels*, the fur hats traditionally worn on Shabbat and holidays.

Fur bans have been under consideration by Israeli lawmakers for more than a decade.

The announcement drew praise from Israeli animal rights groups.

“The minister’s important decision will save countless animals,” the group Animals Now said in a statement, according to The Jerusalem Post.

### Israeli Cycling Team Wins First-Ever Stage at Major European Event

An Israeli professional cycling team won a stage of the Giro d’Italia — one of the three major international

races — for the first time ever on Oct. 10, JTA reported.

Alex Dowsett won Stage 8 for Team Israel Start-Up Nation; the team was founded in 2015 and joined the professional cycling’s highest level in 2019.

The Giro d’Italia, the Tour de France and the Vuelta a Espana comprise cycling’s three prestigious Grand Tour races.

Dowsett cried after winning the stage.

“All the excitement demonstrates that our project has significance beyond sport, it’s showing the true heart of Israel to hundreds of millions of fans around the world. I could not be more proud,” team co-owner Sylvan Adams said in a statement.

### Four-Month Plan to Exit Coronavirus Lockdown Suggested by Israel’s Health Ministry

Israel’s health ministry is recommending to government officials a four-month plan to exit the current COVID-19 lockdown, JTA reported.

The exit strategy will involve nine stages that might last into February, Israel’s Channel 12 reported.

Each stage would be triggered by a specific drop in the daily number of infections.

Israel’s second nationwide lockdown began in mid-September after a sharp spike in new cases that many are calling the world’s worst second wave of infections.

The first stage, which would begin in a week, wouldn’t progress until there were less than 2,000 daily infections. Preschools and kindergartens would be allowed to reopen, the under-a-mile limit that people can travel from their homes would end, family visits would be allowed and Ben Gurion Airport would reopen.

The second stage would be triggered when there are less than 1,000 daily infections.

### Battle Plans Being Formulated Against Formosa Subterranean Termites

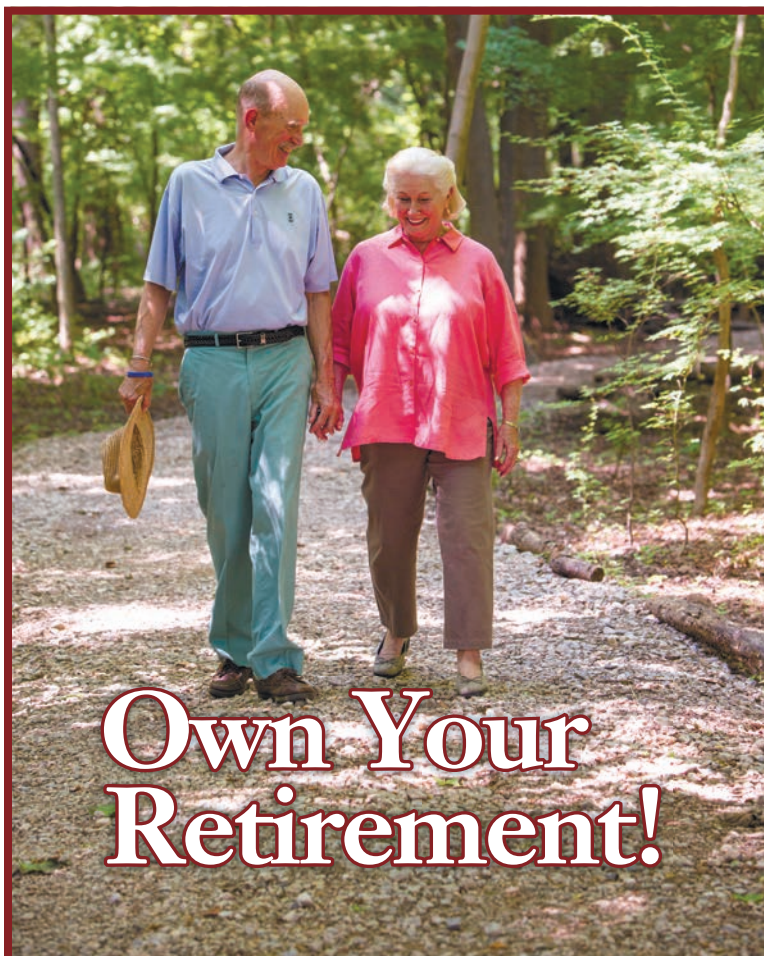
Petah Tikva municipality and several government agencies met recently to discuss plans for combating the arrival of highly destructive Formosa subterranean termites, Globes reported.

A colony of the termites, which are native to southern China and Taiwan, was found in Petah Tikva, where several buildings are infested.

“The entry of all types of invasive insects to Israel will increase in frequency in the coming years as the climate crisis becomes more severe and trade increases,” Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel said.

More than 200 monitoring points were established around the area. ●

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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# Former Philly Duo Creates ‘Sephardic Treasures’

## MUSIC

ELLEN O'BRIEN |  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**WHEN A SPANISH** soprano met a Jewish jazz bassist in 2013, neither of them imagined where their creative partnership would lead.

“I don’t know why this works but somehow it does,” said Alan Lewine, the bassist, composer and producer behind the duo Soprano Meets Bass.

Lewine and Ana María Ruimonte, the soprano half of the duo, moved from Philadelphia to Phoenix, Arizona, in June, just before the release of their latest album, “Sephardic Treasures.” Moving during the COVID-19 pandemic was never going to be ideal, but Lewine and

Ruimonte arrived just as cases were starting to rise in Phoenix, which made the cross-country road trip something of an adventure.

“It was pretty crazy, as you can imagine,” Lewine said.

It was ultimately a desire to be closer to his mother that took Lewine and Ruimonte away from Philadelphia. Lewine’s parents retired to Scottsdale, Arizona, two decades ago, and while he lived in other parts of the south-west and visited Arizona a few times over the years, he was happy to go there permanently to be close to his mother.

“My mother’s a healthy, strong, very well 89-year-old woman, but I got to thinking she deserved to have some family around,” Lewine said. “And besides, we were ready to change things. I guess we’re a



▲ Ana María Ruimonte and Alan Lewine, the unlikely duo of Soprano Meets Bass, in Havana

Photo by Pedro Abascal

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little restless by nature.”

That restless nature is reflected in “Sephardic Treasures,” a genre-defying anthology of Sephardic songs and stories that features musicians from across the globe. The album was released in July, just one month after Lewine and Ruimonte arrived in Phoenix. Since then, Ruimonte said, the pair has been busy promoting the album with Zoom events and one small, socially distanced performance.

The project was years in the making. Since starting Soprano Met Bass, the pair worked on a project that focused on the history of Jews who were expelled from Spain in the 15th century.

“My background is Ashkenazi Jewish, not Sephardic, and Ana María grew up in Spain where, of course, your background is Catholic, but basically we’re both devout musicians,” Lewine said. “And I said, ‘Well, between us, she’s Spanish, I’m Jewish — we’re Sephardic, sort of.’”

Lewine and Ruimonte

began performing Sephardic songs that would eventually make their way onto “Sephardic Treasures” as early as 2016, when they performed with flamenco musicians at Palacio de Los Olvidados, or the Palace of the Forgotten, in Granada.

For Ruimonte, learning the history of Sephardic Jews gave her insight into the multi-cultural heritage of her own country.

“It has been very interesting to realize that I am a mix of different cultures, from the music to the songs to the stories,” Ruimonte said.

Several of the songs and stories that appear on the album were part of the professional repertoire that Ruimonte performed with choirs and orchestras in Spain, and one song, “Señor Don Gato,” was something that her mother sang with her as a child.

Ruimonte was also struck by the significance of performing the music that was kept alive by generations of mothers passing songs down to their daughters.



That tradition was one reason that it was important to both Lewine and Ruimonte to feature a female voice on the album.

"These were stories that women said to their daughters, and their daughters to their daughters," Ruimonte said.

The songs were drawn from the Sephardic Romancero, the body of Sephardic music from around the Mediterranean that has been collected and studied by researchers since the early 20th century.

"There's so many fascinating stories and it's amazing how much it shows that human nature is constant across cultures and epochs," Lewine said. "A lot of it resonates with things that we see going on today."

Many of the songs tell stories that offer snapshots of life in

medieval Spain or present fables complete with witches, warriors and talking heads. The wide range of characters that appear on the album challenged Ruimonte to bring the music to life with her voice. Whether she was performing as a queen admiring herself in the mirror or as a daughter going to war and falling in love, Ruimonte tried to capture the truth of the character in her performance.

"I tried to give some kind of theatrical expression to the characters, because many of these songs are romantic," Ruimonte said. "And these are people talking, so one will talk and the other respond, and then they can accuse her or the boy talks, so what I try to do is to imitate voices."

Guest musicians appear on almost every song in the

album, from world-famous flamenco musicians and a popular klezmer violinist to Israeli percussionists and even a shofar blower. The result, Lewine said, was a sort of fusion of world music that incorporated styles ranging from flamenco and jazz to classical and country.

"Duane Eubanks, who's an old friend of mine and a great jazz trumpeter who came and did this with us, said 'Yeah, I've never done anything like that before,'" Lewine said. "That's good. We like that idea."

Alicia Svigals, founder of the popular klezmer band the Klezmatics, is featured in two songs on the album, "Señor Don Gato" and "La Infanticida," but fans of her work won't hear any klezmer music on the album.

"I said, 'I'm going to get

you out of your comfort zone here,'" Lewine said.

Another song, "El Rey Cuando Amadrugaba," includes a shofar call. While the sound doesn't tie into the lyrics of the story, the idea for the shofar came from the setting in medieval Spain, where Lewine imagined an army would be approaching the city gates accompanied by drums and trumpets.

"Everybody knows the story of Jericho, when the walls came tumbling down," Lewine said. "This is a king in ancient Israel or Judea that the story is about ... and of course the trumpets of that day were the shofar. So at the beginning of the song you can hear the army marching in from the distance, led by the shofar."

The search for the right shofar player led Lewine and

Ruimonte to Yonnie Dror, who recorded the riff on the shofar from his home in Israel and sent it to Lewine and Ruimonte in the U.S.

All in all, the collaborative recording process took a couple of years, Lewine said, followed by another year of mixing the tracks and getting the sound of each of the songs was to keep the lyrics and the melodies, but to give them a modern feel.

"When this was a living music, the musicians who played it wanted to be cool, they wanted to be hip. They didn't want to sound like musicians from five hundred years before," Lewine said. "And I thought the best way to honor them was if we kept the melodies, we kept the lyrics, but we set them in settings that I thought were cool and hip." •

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*As of October 11, 2020*  
*\*z”l (of blessed memory)*

## Restaurants

Continued from Page 1

the shop's takeout-friendly hummus and falafel are available at his restaurant on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Frizwit will return as an offsite pop-up once a month.

Musi is offering the "Jew-ish Dinner," a multi-course meal inspired by the Jewish holidays that is available until the end of November in both takeout and dine-in iterations. Menu items include chopped liver croquettes, Jerusalem artichokes and pretzel ball soup.

The restaurant only started offering outdoor seating in September.

"We just felt completely unsafe in trying anything before we felt comfortable that, you know, we could handle it and do it safely and with intention," Miller said.

There is also a chef's counter menu option, Ari's Two Top, which allows two people to dine inside with the whole restaurant to themselves. This can only happen once an evening.

Miller plans to extend outdoor dining options into the fall by providing diners with laundered blankets and outdoor heaters. Even so, he doesn't expect to offer it



▲ Cheu Fishtown is not seating guests inside. Photo by GraceD Photography

past November, when the business will return to offering primarily takeout. He said he may continue to offer Ari's Two Top as an indoor option depending on safety.

"We're working to be as safe as possible. We're not looking to be aggressive or trying to pack people in or doing anything more than just serving food with as minimal interaction possible," he said.

A lack of outdoor seating won't change much for Espresso Cafe & Sushi Bar, owner Sharon Abergel's kosher eatery in Rhawnhurst. Although outdoor seating has been allowed for several months and indoor seating at limited capacity has been allowed since September, many of Espresso Cafe & Sushi Bar's customers still seem to

prefer to order in.

Before the pandemic, the business relied on catering Jewish events, but new restrictions led them to turn to takeout.

"Catering is not really there like it was before. There's a little bit here or there with brises or small parties that are starting to open up, but not a lot," waiter Yoram Beniflah said. He estimated that 90% of sales were takeout orders, which means business could remain stable into the winter months.

He also said the restaurant has been relying more on social media, particularly Facebook groups, to post advertisements for takeout and delivery options.

Ben Puchowitz, chef and co-owner of Asian fusion restaurants Cheu Noodle Bar, Cheu Fishtown, Nunu and Bing Bing Dim Sum, said his restaurants streamlined their menus to cut down on prep time and lower labor costs in the spring. Over the summer, they slowly added items back, and now they are taking them away again in anticipation of decreased business.

He said his restaurants will continue to seat patrons outside as long as possible with the help of the outdoor heaters he bought.

"The saving grace of all this happening is we wouldn't have been able to survive without doing outdoor seating," he said.

Cheu Noodle Bar and Cheu Fishtown's main menu items are soups, including brisket and matzah ball ramen. As a result, these restaurants see a dip in business every summer,



▲ Musi chefs and co-owners Nicole Suanlarm and Ari Miller prep food in their kitchen. Photo by Mike Prince



▲ Brisket ramen from Cheu Noodle Bar Photo by Jessica Kourkounis

when a hot bowl of noodles and broth may not appeal as much as a refreshing salad. This could be a potential advantage during fall and winter, however, as diners who still want a restaurant experience might prefer heartier dishes.

Bing Bing Dim Sum, which serves dumplings, small plates and other Chinese dishes with a Jewish twist, typically performs well in the summer and continued to do so this year as a result of ample outdoor seating.

"Bing Bing does even better in the summer because we add on 42 outdoor seats in addition to the 55 we normally have. So you're almost doubling your potential revenue," Puchowitz said.

However, he foresees a huge dip in business once outdoor seating declines. Even if indoor dining is allowed and customers decide to go for it, seating at 50% capacity is a significant loss.

Still, takeout may help keep the falafel steamed buns and matzah meal turnover coming.

"We're going to have to either get lucky and sell a lot of takeout food, and luckily that place does sell a lot of takeout, or shrink our labor model, shrink costs, shrink everything," he said.

Puchowitz thinks many restaurants are going to close by the end of February. His business has already suffered one casualty: Cheu Noodle Bar's last day of service was Oct. 11. The business model of serving a large number of customers in a short period of time was not pandemic-friendly, and the owners decided it was time to close.

The other three restaurants are still performing well.

"One out of four ain't bad," Puchowitz said. ●

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## Reunite

Continued from Page 1

met as children in the displaced persons camp of Hallein, Austria, after WWII. Their families shared living quarters and soon realized they both hailed from the town of Ciechanów, Poland. Brandspiegel's family fled to Ukraine when the Germans took over in 1939. Both families were transported to labor camps in Siberia during the war, but did not cross paths while they were there.

Brandspiegel, who was then known by her Polish and maiden names, Regina Puter, went back to Poland briefly with her parents, where they learned of the horrific fate of the Jews who had not been able to escape from Europe. They were forced to flee anti-Semitic violence after only a few months and ended up in Austria in 1946.

The families met when Brandspiegel was 12 and Eisenberg was eight. Brandspiegel's father took the boy and his little brother, Motek Eisenberg, under his wing after their father died in a car accident.

"When my father died, her father, who was a very religious Jewish man, he was the one who took me to the little synagogue that the refugees in Hallein established. And he would take me there to say Kaddish, which is a prayer for the orphan," Israel Eisenberg said.

Their families would often have Shabbat dinner together and reminisce about their old home in Poland. Brandspiegel and the Eisenberg brothers also attended school together.

"They formed a school where we were learning whatever we could. Some people spoke Hebrew, and this is where I learned to speak Hebrew. Some people taught us geography, some people taught us math," she said. "It didn't matter how old you were."

The Eisenbergs eventually left the camp to move to Israel in 1949. Brandspiegel remained with her parents until 1952, when they moved to Philadelphia to be with her



▲ Ruth Brandspiegel as a child  
Courtesy of Ruth Brandspiegel

mother's family.

Eisenberg left Israel in 1964 to go to college in New York. He met and married his wife Marsha Eisenberg in 1967 and settled in Monroe Township, New Jersey.

He had no idea that his old friend was living about an hour away in Philadelphia. He and his wife joined East Brunswick Jewish Center in the 1990s, and Larry Brandspiegel joined the staff in 2018.

The chain of events that led to the friends' reunion began on Yom Kippur. Due to the pandemic, the Jewish center decided to make the virtual services free and asked attendees for donations. If congregants donated, they would receive a dedication, or shout-out, during an ark opening or Torah portion.

Marsha Eisenberg decided to make a donation even though she and her husband did not attend services very frequently. Instead of writing her husband's given first name, Israel Eisenberg, she submitted his Russian nickname, Sasha, which is how he is known to friends and family, and how Brandspiegel knew him all those years ago.

Larry Brandspiegel helped Ruth Brandspiegel use Zoom to attend the virtual services. As she watched her son daven from her home, she was stunned to hear Rabbi Jeff Pivo call a name she hadn't heard for many decades.

"All of a sudden, he called 'Sasha Eisenberg,'" she said. "And this got into my mind, because how many Sasha Eisenbergs



▲ Israel "Sasha" Eisenberg as a child  
Courtesy of Israel Eisenberg

are there? There are a lot of Eisenbergs, but not Sashas!"

After the service, she asked her son to find out if Eisenberg was a member of his synagogue, and if so to get his phone number and give him a call.

Larry Brandspiegel got Eisenberg on the phone.

"He said, 'Did you know a man, Puter, from the displaced persons camp? And he said,

'Oh, my God, of course I know.' And then my son said, 'Well, I am Puter's daughter's son.'

"Sasha called me and both of us were crying on the phone. Seventy-one years since, I haven't seen him or talked to him," she continued.

Larry Brandspiegel hosted his mother and sisters for lunch on Oct. 3 and invited the Eisenbergs over to join them for a masked meeting in a sukkah. When they arrived, the old friends couldn't recognize each other, but Eisenberg joked that Brandspiegel looked exactly the same.

"We were so excited, both of us. I was crying. And if I would have seen him on the street, I would never recognize him, of course not. He's an older man now. And I remember him being so cute," she said. "I mean, it's so unreal. My son is more excited than anything that it happened in his synagogue."

They shared stories about their

lives and photos of themselves and their families. Eisenberg told Brandspiegel the story of her father taking him to say kaddish in the little camp synagogue.

"She didn't remember that event. And when I told her that we both had tears in our eyes, it was so emotional," he said.

They were overjoyed to see each other, but fear of coronavirus prevented them from embracing. Larry Brandspiegel said they look forward to the day they could give each other a hug, and that he hopes to host a special service in their honor after the pandemic.

"It's a testament to the survivors. That's what it really comes down to. No matter how long it's been, no matter what you go through, with perseverance, love, all these things, miracles can happen," he said. ●

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# We Need to Build Compassion and Understanding



BY AMANDA BERMAN

IN BROOKLYN ON the sixth night of Sukkot, an anti-mask populist convinced members of the Orthodox Jewish community in Borough Park to turn what is an annual celebration of forthcoming rainfall, called Simchat Beit HaShoeva, into a violent and hateful display of ignorance.

The physical violence, including the brutal beating of two men, and burning of masks that occurred is nauseating, reprehensible and dangerous. Those responsible absolutely must be held accountable. Our hearts are with our friend Jacob Kornbluh, a widely respected journalist with Jewish Insider, who was assaulted in his own community for doing his job while supporting mask-wearing as an urgent public health mandate. And we are deeply concerned that on Monday, after the arrest of the agitator responsible for this heinous violence and misinformation, Jacob was again targeted.

Enforcement of social

distancing and other lifesaving precautions in the Orthodox community is not anti-Semitism. Stigmatizing all Orthodox Jews based on the actions of a few, however, is.

Most Orthodox Jews have taken and continue to take the pandemic seriously. L.A.'s Orthodox leaders quickly mobilized to contain the spread of coronavirus, arguably saving countless lives. The Orthodox Jews who contracted the disease early and survived then donated blood plasma by the thousands in an effort to save the lives of people of all faiths and creeds, who were struggling to recover.

We need to ask ourselves: Why are we — especially those of us who call ourselves progressive Jews — so complacent about and comfortable with the singling out and generalizing of the entire Orthodox Jewish community? This community isn't monolithic; it's heterogeneous, nuanced, multifaceted and complicated.

Parts of it experience high rates of poverty, low rates of health literacy, language barriers and deep, multigenerational mistrust of government, stemming from centuries of persecution and medical abuse at the hands of public health authorities. This isn't the first time public health officials have done a poor job conducting outreach to Orthodox communities. Mistranslating Yiddish,

acting slowly and failing to use well-known communication channels to give Orthodox Jewish communities the information they needed to combat a measles outbreak last year is one example. This knowledge is essential background information to this conversation.

Outreach to these specific Orthodox communities has been uneven at best and irresponsible at worst. Guidelines for social distancing have not taken into account the challenges that specifically impact many members of these Jewish communities, which often don't have internet access. As of mid-September 2020, there were no Yiddish-speaking contact tracers employed by the city. In neighborhoods where most Jews speak English, Hebrew or Russian — not Yiddish — loudspeakers twice blasted information in Yiddish despite criticism. Some of the outreach has been appropriate and sensitive — but some has not.

We must call out the bad behavior of the loud but few who act poorly, while also elevating and uplifting the voices of the many who act as good neighbors and good citizens. Jews have a duty to hold ourselves and our siblings in the Orthodox community to the highest standards in protecting human life, understanding our commitment to *pikuach nefesh* — that the preservation

of human life takes precedence over all other commandments.

At the same time, each one of us must also demonstrate compassion and a willingness to listen to those whose traditions, experiences, languages and religious observances are different from ours. Only through this balance will we grow together as a broad and diverse Jewish people.

The behavior we witnessed this past week is unconscionable, inexplicable and shameful. But the definition of bigotry is allowing the bad behavior of the few to define the whole — a New York Orthodox Jewish community of more than half a million people. The Anti-Defamation League reported months ago that discussion of Orthodox Jews on social media, especially on Facebook, has become deeply troubling, including "comparisons of religious leaders to Adolf Hitler and positive affirmations about the Jewish community being 'wiped off the planet.'" This happened before these protests. And it is dangerous beyond words.

Anti-Semitism has been rising at a troubling rate — affecting all American Jews — but the most frequent targets of violence are often attacks on those who are most visibly Jewish, like our Orthodox siblings. From the terrifying shooting at the only kosher

supermarket in Jersey City to the Chanukah stabbing in Monsey last year, to growing numbers of violent hate crimes, Jewish people faced more than half of NYC's hate crimes last year, and these crimes were concentrated in Orthodox neighborhoods.

At a time of rapidly rising and violent anti-Semitism, we all have an absolute obligation to push back on that narrative by anyone who perpetuates it. This includes elected leaders like New York Mayor Bill De Blasio and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who must continue to demand enforcement of the mask-wearing and social distancing rules, while also refusing to allow or perpetuate the wholesale vilification of any select group of people. They need to improve their engagement with this community, and they need to do it immediately.

When it comes down to it, we as Jews urgently must remember: It isn't "us" and "them." We are all one people, and we must protect one another. •

Amanda Berman is the founder and executive director of Zioness, a national organization that fights for the inclusion of Zionists in social justice spaces. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Berman was listed by the *Algemeiner* as one of the top "100 people positively contributing to Jewish life" in 2018.

# Effecting Change Through Interfaith Interconnectedness



BY MARCIA BRONSTEIN

RELATIONSHIPS REQUIRE forging ties with others and bridging differences. Relationship building is the most challenging part of advocacy, the work I cherish the most. It requires communication, trust and the ability to work together on each other's issues. And advocacy work also requires compassion.

With the beginning of each New Year, Jews start reading

the Torah from the beginning with the book of Genesis. This is the biblical story of creation and it is marked with sin and mistakes. Just after God finishes creating the Earth and everything in it, God makes humans. Adam and Eve were given one rule — eat whatever you like from this world, except for one tree. But they eat from that tree and fail. The next generation fails even worse

when one of their sons murders the other. The world seems to have a depressing start, as we appear doomed to harm one another and disappoint our creator.

Our ancient sages taught before creating the world, God created repentance. It was a corrective to the shortcomings, missteps, sins and offenses that are integral being human. Repentance, growth, change

and forgiveness were built into the very fabric of the universe.

So, we learn from biblical stories that the idea of compassion, change and growth makes all things possible. The way things are today is not the way they always have to be. The idea that radical change is possible is also built into the fabric of my organization's DNA.

See Bronstein, Page 24



# Unity Is the Answer for My Haredi Israeli Town



BY CAROL UNGAR

**LATELY, THE MEDIA** has been flooded with stories of Orthodox Jews who are derelict in following pandemic protocols. This sort of behavior runs contrary to the Torah values which command us to protect life above all else.

In my home community of Kiryat Yearim, a small haredi Orthodox town of 6,000 just 15 minutes outside of Jerusalem, we take COVID-19 seriously.

Our local government dispatched a hazmat-suited crew to clean our streets and parks. They set up testing and contact tracing. They also embarked on a public relations drive to urge us to take this seriously.

People listened. It wasn't long before the media hailed our triumph.

While there have been some close calls since, including several confirmed cases in the past week, my only explanation for how we have been largely able to beat back this virus when others have not is unity. Here, our rabbis, doctors and local government officials are all on the same page.

Now, the virus is back in our country with a vengeance. Like most Israelis, we are tired of living this way, but we realize that we have no choice. The Torah, which informs all areas

shade. They now have Torah scrolls, borrowed from the shuttered indoor congregations, and improvised arks to store them in.

We have adapted, limiting the number of men called to the Torah in the name of social distancing. This Sukkot, our synagogues will pare down the *hakafot*, the ritual circling ceremony, to the bare basics, transforming the usually festive parade into a socially distanced procession of worshipers. A few congregations will skip the whole thing, having the men recite the verses that accompany the ceremony while standing still. We received a robocall informing us that on Simchat Torah, there should be no dancing and no kissing Torah scrolls. And of course, we must wear masks and keep social distance.

Simchat Torah is just

In my home community of Kiryat Yearim, a small haredi Orthodox town of 6,000 just 15 minutes outside of Jerusalem, we take COVID-19 seriously.

Come for a walk. You will see men, women, even small children wearing masks over their noses and mouths.

In our town, COVID-19 hit us early and hard.

Back in March, we experienced an outbreak after a Purim party attended by an overseas guest who had the virus. A few dozen residents got sick and thousands went into quarantine. No one died, but one woman, a much-beloved old timer, nearly lost her life. Thank G-d, after many months, she's almost completely recovered. For a brief moment, our sleepy town achieved public notoriety as the COVID capital of the Jewish state.

of our existence instructs us to take great care in preserving our lives. "We err on the side of strictness," says our Mayor Rabbi Yitzhak Ravitz.

Now we have been forced to increase our vigilance.

Even though we are in the middle of the Sukkot holiday, every synagogue in town is shuttered. Worship services have moved to parks, parking lots and backyards.

Because this is our second town-wide lockdown, the outdoor shuls are now well organized. Some of them even have names (Ginat HaBitan, or the Garden Lean-to, and Ginat Esther, Esther's Garden). They also have erected awnings for

a day away, and it will look very different. Plans aren't yet complete, but one local rabbi I spoke to floated the idea of no procession, just one man carrying the Torah scroll. One thing is for sure — the traditional kiddush, the after services collective snack of cake and Schnapps, is canceled.

All of this puts a damper on this holiday, which is meant to be a time of joy. With inter-city visits banned due to the lockdown, not much socializing is going on for many of us. The only guests in our Sukkot are the metaphysical *ushpizin*, our Jewish matriarchs and

See Ungar, Page 29

## KVETCH 'N' KVELL

### RBG Chose Burial

**MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID** about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and much more will be said in the days — indeed, years — to come ("Jewish Philadelphia Remembers Iconic Jurist Ruth Bader Ginsburg," Sept. 24). She has earned her place as a political and cultural icon.

For Jews, she was the very face of Jewish liberalism. For that reason, it is noteworthy that Ginsburg, with all her progressive ideals, chose to be buried, rather than cremated.

Although it is a biblical mitzvah to be buried, we find that growing numbers of Jews, particularly liberal Jews, choose cremation, believing it to be somehow more "progressive" than traditional burial. But there is a difference between true liberalism and mere fashion, and we can be certain that a mind as reasoned as Ginsburg's discerned that difference.

The decisions she authored impact every American, but it is Ginsburg's final decision that Jews — across the political spectrum — should take to heart when considering their own plans.

Ginsburg was a liberal icon, but she was also Yita Rochel bat Tzirel Leah. She was born a Jew, she died a Jew, and she chose burial, because that's what Jews do.

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn | National Association of Chevra Kadisha

### Not a Good Comparison

In discussing some people's discomfort with Ruth Bader Ginsburg z"l lying in state and in repose before her burial, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein ("There's No Singular Jewish Way to Mourn or Grieve," Oct. 1) points to the halachic precedent, places in Jewish law, where delayed burial is permitted. I do not believe there is similar leniency for cremation and, therefore, she made an unfair comparison.

Shiva rituals may differ depending on one's custom, but it's simply not at all the Jewish way to cremate. Instead of holding onto years-old guilt when she persuaded a family to bury rather than cremate their loved one, I hope Silverstein will consider that she did a good thing.

While it is sad and emotional, shoveling scoops of earth on top of our loved ones in the cemetery is one of the most Jewish things a person can do. To deny that to any Jew is a tremendous loss and disconnect from our peoplehood. May we know no more sorrow and live *biz hundred un tzvantzik* (until 120). •

Rachel Steiner | Bala Cynwyd

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# Bronstein

Continued from Page 22

A prime example is the American Jewish Committee's relationship with Germany after World War II. When others in the Jewish community wished to abandon Germany, AJC engaged, seeing the beginnings of change, and wanting to be a part of the process of growth after the tragedy of the Holocaust. AJC rejected the idea of collective German guilt, choosing instead to emphasize policies that encouraged democracy. In 1945, AJC became the first American Jewish organization to begin working in Germany, and AJC has remained resolute to strive for a better future, while never forgetting or minimizing the crimes of the past. In 1988, AJC opened its

Berlin office.

Another example is when the Catholic Church began to consider profound new teachings about Jews and other faith traditions in the Second Vatican Council. Many Jews were skeptical. How could a document make up for a millennium of anti-Jewish teaching? But that is what "Nostra Aetate" did, and AJC engaged with church leadership at every level. Our director of interreligious relations at the time, Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, was the only rabbi to attend the Second Vatican Council. AJC was criticized by some factions of American Jews, who wished to wait and see before engaging. AJC saw the

signs of a genuine desire to change and we engaged, we wanted to be a part of the shift. It takes hard work and courage to fix relationships. Our beliefs call us to do better and be better.

The final example of forging ahead came in January 2020. To mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, AJC partnered with the Muslim World League to bring a delegation of 60 Muslim and Jewish leaders from 28 countries together in Poland, to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust in that Nazi death camp and to honor Jewish life with the Jewish community in Warsaw.

Until relatively recently, the Muslim World League,

based in Mecca, promoted an ultra-conservative vision of Islam that fed into negative views about Jews, Christians and even about other Muslims with differing views. However, here too, we have seen change and a genuine desire to reach out in recent years. Again, AJC refuses to sit on the sidelines; we want to be a part of effecting change.

This is not simple. It is not without politics, risks and even acceptance of deep disagreement, but our belief that the world can evolve compels us to take risks to help shape the world for the better.

Our tradition teaches that in the fall holiday season God plans the fate of the world for the year ahead. The period is

built on the notion of repentance, growth and change. It means we are not free to simply accept our own shortcomings, but we need to do our best to overcome them. And it also means that we must accept with compassion the shortcomings of others when they have demonstrated their own growth and change.

My wish for us as individuals and as religious communities is that we demonstrate the courage to move relationships ahead and compassion to heal divides with others, even when we feel they have wronged us. This is a sign of leadership and an act of service to our creator. ●

Marcia Bronstein is the regional director AJC Philadelphia/SNJ.



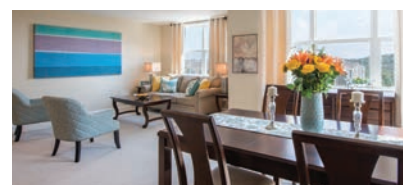
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# Farewell to Summer Barbecued Chicken

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

**THIS TIME OF YEAR** is always bittersweet — summer is a time of relaxation, warm weather, vacation travel and family reunions; in other words, fun, and that is ending. But fall has a lot going for it — crisp, cool air, the High Holidays, back to school, football. This year, of course, everything is different, but one constant, in my world anyway, is food.

This dinner came together as a bit of an ode to summer: Barbecued chicken is such a crowd-pleasing classic. I used boneless breasts, but any cut works here, as long as you adjust the cooking time. The oniony string beans added color and flavor and addressed my husband's ongoing complaint that string beans are the most boring vegetable. And the truffle-salted grilled corn was a worthy farewell to that seasonal summer treat.

**BARBECUED CHICKEN**  
*Serves 4*

If you don't feel inclined to make your own sauce/marinade, just use your favorite bottled barbecue sauce — if

it's too thick as a marinade, add beer, wine, juice, water or broth.

The key to keeping the chicken moist and preventing it from drying out is to cook it properly. For medium-sized boneless breasts, this means about 20 minutes over a combination of hot and medium/low temperatures. Searing the chicken first seals in the juices, and cooking over a lower flame keeps the meat tender.

Note: Large, bone-in breasts, thighs and legs can take up to 40 minutes on the grill, so be sure to time it right.

- 4 boneless chicken breasts (or your favorite cut)
- ¾ cup ketchup
- ½ cup dark beer (such as Guinness)
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- Hot sauce to taste (such as Tabasco)
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

Mix the ketchup, beer, vinegar, hot sauce and Worcestershire sauce in a small bowl. Set aside half the sauce in a sealable container to serve with the chicken later. Place the chicken with the remaining sauce in a sealable container,

toss it to coat and let it marinate for 2-12 hours. Bring the chicken to room temperature and heat an oiled grill.

Sear the chicken over a medium-high flame for about 2 minutes per side. The chicken will be ready to flip when it no longer sticks to the grill. Once the chicken is seared, lower the flame and/or move the chicken to an outer edge or higher rack to decrease the intensity of heat. Lower the lid, and cook the chicken for about 8 minutes more per side. Remove it from the heat, cover it tightly with foil and let it rest for about 5 minutes.

**RED ONION STRING BEANS**  
*Serves 4*

The color combo in this dish is quite pretty, but if you don't have red onions, yellow or white onions work fine. Just avoid sweet or Vidalia onions as they don't pack much flavor when cooked. We served this hot, but it would be fine at room temperature or even cold as a salad.

- 1 pound string beans, stems removed
- ½ medium-sized onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the oil, salt, pepper and onions over medium heat in a large skillet. When the onions begin to sizzle, lower the heat and continue cooking until they are soft and beginning to brown, about 15 minutes.

While the onions cook, bring a large pot of water to a boil and immerse the beans. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the beans are just cooked to crisp-tender. Drain the beans, and add them to the skillet with the onions. Cook the beans with the onions a few more minutes until the flavors blend. Add more salt and pepper, if needed, and serve.

**GRILLED CORN WITH TRUFFLE SALT**  
*Serves 4*

This is an indulgence, to be

sure; truffle salt is a rare and expensive treat. But as we bid farewell to fresh corn on the cob for the season, this seemed a worthy tribute. If you don't have, or don't like, truffle salt, any seasoned or plain salt is fine to use in its place.

- 4 ears corn, husked
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½-1 teaspoon truffle salt, or your favorite specialty salt

Place the corn on the grill over medium-high heat. Turn the ears frequently, allowing the kernels to cook and begin to char. This takes about 8 minutes.

Remove the corn from the grill and spread it with butter, then sprinkle it with salt. Cover it with foil for about 2 minutes to allow the salt to melt into the corn. ●



Photos by Keri White

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# A Happy Ending for 'Schitt's Creek'

## TELEVISION

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

AT THIS POINT in 2020, TV audiences have settled on their preferred forms of escapism.

My parents are on what appears to be the 137th season of "The Walking Dead," engrossed in a zombie dystopia even more gruesome and endless than the one we inhabit. One of my friends, comforted by story lines nestled safely in the past, can't get enough of historical dramas like "Downton Abbey."

I gravitate toward lighter fare in my streaming queue. Wholesome reality TV like "Queer Eye," (the latest season takes place in Philadelphia) and hilarious sitcoms like "Parks and Recreation" have graced my laptop screen at some point during the past six months.

At a time when so much is uncertain and negative, any show where people are actually decent to each other and the stakes are lower than the average trip to the grocery store strikes the perfect balance between indulgent fantasy and audacious hope.

Pop TV's beloved comedy "Schitt's Creek" fits nicely into this comforting lineup. Final Season 6 premiered on its home network on Jan. 7 and hit Netflix on Oct. 3, along with "Best Wishes, Warmest Regards: A Schitt's Creek Farewell," a documentary about the making of the show.

The feel-good sitcom follows the Rose family after they lose their fortune and are forced to move into the tiny eponymous rural town Eugene Levy's Johnny Rose once bought as a joke for his on-screen son



▲ From left: Annie Murphy, Dan Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Eugene Levy of "Schitt's Creek"

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Chani Yondorf, MD, counsels a patient, safely, during a telehealth session.

David, who is played by Eugene Levy's real son Dan Levy. The father and son duo are executive producers and star alongside Catherine O'Hara, who plays Rose family diva matriarch Moira, and Annie Murphy, who portrays socialite daughter Alexis.

After five years on the air, the show has garnered critical acclaim for its emotional depth, dry wit, epic one-liners and creative costume design (Moira Rose has a wig for every occasion.) Eugene Levy, Dan Levy and Sarah Levy, who plays local waitress Twyla, headlined Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Main Event before the show won nine Emmys in September.

As far as finales go, Season 6 was exceptionally strong. Each of the Roses got the goodbye they deserved and demonstrated heart-warming emotional growth — particularly regarding their appreciation for family and community — while staying



true to the zany quirks that made them so compelling.

Moirra makes her triumphant return to show business and learns how to be present for her family. Johnny builds a motel franchise fueled by appreciation for small-town communities and the colorful personalities he clashed with for so long. Alexis transforms her narcissism into healthy independence and sets out to pursue a public relations career in New York. Drama king David finds true love with Noah Reid's steadfast Patrick Brewer and settles down in the town he was once desperate to flee.

Judaism is not a central theme of the Roses' story, but the show never lets you forget that David, Alexis and Johnny are Jewish. While Patrick is hopped up on pain meds after his wisdom teeth are removed, he calls David "the Jewish Channing Tatum." Later, he advises David to stop stress-eating bagels. In a desperate attempt to escape a sex party, the couple excuses themselves to go to their car for their wine.

"Don't worry about it, plenty of vino here," host Jake says while David and Patrick exchange panicked glances.

"It's just that ours is, um, kosher," David improvises.

There is even a prayer scene. After Johnny departs for New York with his business partners to pitch their motel franchise to a group of investors, Moira pleads with her children to join her on the floor, join hands and pray for their success.

"To whom it may concern," she begins reverently. Reader, I shrieked.

David and Patrick's relationship has been the show's chief source of cuteness since Patrick serenaded David at an open mic in Season 4, and Season 6 continues that dynamic beautifully. Highlights include Patrick donning his nighttime mouth guard and "nose thing" breathing aid to comfort a humiliated David after he wets the bed, David rallying

his reluctant family to attend Patrick's dream escape room bachelor party and Patrick singing Mariah Carey's "Always Be My Baby" to David during their wedding vows.

Like all final TV seasons, Season 6 faced the pressure of neatly wrapping up plot and character arcs. It rose to the challenge with countless nods to earlier plot threads.

One particularly successful come-full-circle moment was David and Moira's trip to Herb Ertlinger Winery, the site of Moira's glorious drunken train

wreck of a fruit wine commercial in Season 1. The pair arrive for a wine tasting and proceed to get accidentally drunk together, much to the irritation of the beleaguered owner. Come for David's teeth-sucking looks of disgust, stay for Moira tipsily declaring, "Now I'm getting hints of tomato."

That is not to say the season is without its flaws.


The plotline for Emily Hampshire's Stevie, David's best friend and co-owner of Rosebud Motel, felt oddly paced, as she leaves the

motel briefly to explore other career options before rapidly returning. Some of the farewells are a little too sickly sweet, such as when Moira's singing group, the Jazzagals, descend on her for a group hug when she announces she has earned a role on the reboot of her old soap opera.

Some of the gags are more cringeworthy than funny, like Johnny's discomfort when Alexis starts dating a man who is his age after breaking up with her beloved boyfriend, Dustin Milligan's Ted.

In the end, these minor issues did not detract from superb storytelling. Season 6 reminded me of a bowl of matzah ball soup — comforting, satisfying and a cure for many ailments. Moments like David and Patrick's town hall wedding and Johnny's last grateful look at the town he called home for three years are just what the doctor ordered to restore our faith in happy endings. •

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# The Mohel Wore a Mask

## JUDAISM

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

**THE GOOD NEWS:** The ritual known as the *brit milah*, or bris, has not changed because of the pandemic. The aim is the same, and so are the blessings that are recited.

In fact, the improvements that have been made in the millennia since circumcision was described in the Mishnah — certain sanitary practices and numbing agents — remain intact.

Scalpels, forceps and non-woven dressing remain the tools of the trade. A bris is a bris, as permanent as ever. Eight-day-old babies continue to be gently laid upon big pillows.

The only changes are just about everything else.

For a while, according to several mohels serving the Greater Philadelphia area, the rate at which they received work was down significantly. In some sects, fewer mohels are being trained due to the travel and room occupancy restrictions that have arisen in the last several months. Mohels, like everyone else, are wearing masks at work. And perhaps most importantly, what is meant to be a joyous communal occasion has become smaller, quieter and decidedly without a kosher spread to follow.

“A bris does not make the child a Jew. A bris brings the child into the Jewish community. So when you limit the number of people who are present, it’s almost antithetical to the concept of a bris,” said Cantor Mark Kushner. Kushner has been a mohel for decades, accredited in Israel, with an honorary degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a master’s in education from Gratz College. The homepage of his website — with a collage of smiling families tilting their newly convened sons toward the camera — testifies to the number of ceremonies he’s been a part of.



▲ Dr. David Rawdin, a mohel, with parents Jeffrey and Taryn and their newly minted Jewish boy, Zachary

Photo by Dr. David Rawdin

But it wasn’t until the last few months that Kushner led ceremonies that relatives were watching via Zoom, from Israel, South Africa and elsewhere. Virtual attendees with whom he might’ve jostled for position at the bagels and lox table instead watched their newest family member be brought into the global community of Jews in pixels.

In the room itself, the number of people who attend has been limited to 10 or 15, and fewer of the assembled end up holding or touching the baby. When Kushner walks in the house, the first thing he does is cover his shoes, wash his hands and put on a medical-grade gown. Though the atmosphere is dramatically different, Kushner said, families who contact him for help have been “very receptive” to the changes he’s implemented.

“People are frightened. People want safety, and anything that you can do to help them towards that goal ... my experience is that they’re very accepting,” Kushner said.

Dr. David Rawdin, a pediatrician in Merion Station, has been a mohel for 10 years. However many parents feel nervous about bringing people into their home at the moment, they’ll never be as great in number as those that are nervous about the circumcision itself. Skittish parents and relatives

are nothing new for Rawdin.

Rawdin’s approach to *britot milah* during the pandemic has been to fold risk assessment discussions into his typical pre-bris conference with families. Those meetings, once in person, are conducted via Zoom or by phone; the particulars of the service and the simcha are still discussed in detail, with extra time made to discuss pre-screening the reduced number of guests.

What made the profession attractive to Rawdin was the chance to be a part of a family’s simcha, and those pre-bris meetings, even with their new character, are part of what keeps him coming back.

“One reason I became a mohel was to do it the way I wanted to do it,” Rawdin said, explaining that his way means personal connections with the people to whom he provides a service. That element of his job hasn’t changed a bit.

Howard Glantz does double duty; he’s helped families reestablish the everlasting covenant since ’91, and has been a cantor at Adath Jeshurun since 2004.

Glantz learned the trade from an OB-GYN at Jacobi Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the OB-GYN himself being a mohel, and the son of another mohel at that. Between



▲ Cantor Mark Kushner, aka Cantor K, with his now-customary mask, gloves and gown  
Courtesy of Mark Kushner

the three of them, that’s a lot of skin in the game; and yet, it’s safe to say that neither Glantz’s teacher nor his teacher’s father could’ve known to teach Glantz how to deal with, say, a pandemic.

Back in March and April, Glantz found himself in a position he never wanted to find himself in, turning down opportunities to shepherd a family through their child’s bris. Traveling to northern New Jersey and New York during that time felt like entering a conflict zone, he believed, and he did not want to put himself or his family at risk.

Just a few weeks ago, he made the trek to Jersey, and the danger that was in the air back in the spring feels a bit more distant. But still, Glantz, who loves the profession, who wants to sing with a sense of celebration, and regrets that he must put on gloves before he gets out of the car, restricts his services to those that have acted responsibly.

Rabbi Betzalel Katkovsky,

who serves Jewish families in the Northeast, feels the new normal acutely in the way that the memory of the bris is preserved. Professional photographers, begging extended broods to squeeze together a little more, have been done away with; in their place are frequently the mohels themselves, asking fewer people for fewer smiles. And even those smiles, Katkovsky said, are hard to discern behind a mask.

“Part of the beauty of keeping this commandment is the consistency that we, the Jewish people, have had for 4,000 years,” Kushner said, reflecting on the changes he and the families he serves have made since March. “It’s what makes this so intense, and so emotionally gratifying, that you know that you’re reaching back to something that started with Abraham. And there’s not much else that you can do to reach that far back, and connect.” ●

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# A Tale of Two Interpretations

BY RABBI SHAI CHERRY

## Parshat Bereshit

**THE BIG BANG** defies our understanding of the laws of nature. The Bible's big bang, the first three verses of Genesis, intimates the contradiction.

On Christmas Eve of 1968, Apollo 8's Bill Anders read, from outer space, the opening of the Authorized King James translation to a rapt nation: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void."

For those who knew either Hebrew grammar or Rashi, the great 11th-century sage, there was a universal wince. The New Jewish Publication Society translation more faithfully reads: "When God began to create heaven and earth — the earth being unformed and void ... " There's a world of difference between the two translations.

When the curtain rises on the drama of creation, King James' stage is empty. Even the stage is missing. *Then* God creates the heaven and the earth out of nothing.

But on the Jewish stage, when the curtain goes up, it's chaos and confusion. Everything listed in verse two

swirled about: an unformed and void earth with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind/spirit of God sweeping over the waters. In the Jewish Genesis, God had not created those elements; God designs our world by organizing those preexisting elements.

In both translations, however, there's a contradiction: The world was unformed *and* void. Something unformed, by definition, consists of matter. Something void, by definition, lacks matter. The Torah is telling us, right from the start, that creation is a contradiction in terms. Like the Big Bang, it's unfathomable.

Most of us were taught that God created the world from nothing. I'm not arguing that point. I'm simply pointing out that Genesis, *as a text*, offers counterevidence to that later theological claim. The logic of Genesis One, without reading it through the subsequent interpretations of the Talmudic rabbis or the medieval philosophers, reveals a breathtaking insight.

In verse 20, God invites the waters to bring forth swarms of living creatures. In verse 24, God invites the earth to bring forth land animals. Grammatically, God's words are invitations, not commands. Neither the earth nor the waters are God's creations. Thus, the

entire animal kingdom is a co-creation between God and those primordial elements on stage when the curtain rose.

What about us humans? We were created on the same day as land animals, but the Torah's grammar expands: "Let us create humanity in *our* image after *our* likeness." Previous divine invitations were directed to only a single addressee: the waters or the earth.

With humans, God is addressing that which had already been co-created on Day Six, namely, the multiple co-creations of the earth. Humans are the ultimate co-creation. Perhaps if God had created us with better raw material, it would be easier to live a righteous life — without contradiction.

Genesis One was not concerned with what we call science. Its cosmology, its understanding of the cosmos, was like other ancient Near Eastern cosmologies. However, when God creates light, days before God makes the source of light — *that* was a religious polemic against Babylonian religion which saw the sun as a god (shades of Apollo!). For us Israelites, the sun was just another product of Day Four.

We shouldn't look to Judaism for science. Conversely, we shouldn't look to science for values. That's clear. What

requires nuance is to relate to the textual sources of our rich heritage with critical appreciation and wonder for what they do offer.

Genesis offers the radically democratic vision of a world in which every human being, male and female, is created in the divine image. King James might begrudgingly agree, but only if such a claim did not challenge the divine right of kings. In the ancient Near East, too, kings were the sole images of God on earth.

In Genesis One, the goal of humanity goes unstated. We're given assignments, but our purpose is not disclosed until the following chapter. There the King James Bible has that our purpose is to "dress and keep" God's garden. Contemporary Jewish translators have "to work and watch." All of them share the sense of adding value while preserving what's essential. We have succeeded spectacularly in achieving the first goal — adding value — in the form of technological breakthroughs.

But we have failed miserably in the second — keeping God's garden — by our indifference to the preservation of our environment. That's our contradiction.

We need more *Torah*, more

instruction, to curb our earthly nature which demands we feed our yawning appetites. A midrash offers a Jewish dimension to our purpose in God's garden. We're to *work* with words of Torah and to *keep* the Torah's commandments. For our rabbis, the Torah, too, is God's garden.

We Israelites began as an agrarian society. We humans, literally and literarily, are co-creations of God and nature. The Torah's intimations of our origins were prescient. The Torah's legal framework to live long on the land that the Lord our God has given us is equally prescient. Judaism has the resources to restore God's garden. Our soil is rich. •

Rabbi Shai Cherry is the rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park and has just written "Coherent Judaism: Constructive Theology, Creation, and Halakhah." 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.



## Ungar

Continued from Page 23

patriarchs. Wondrous as that is, it doesn't fill the longing to hug a grandchild.

Once again, our local government has stepped in, playing holiday music to lift flagging spirits. We even had a socially distanced version of the Simchat Beit Hashoavah, the nightly revelries, an integral part of this holiday.

Every night of Chol Hamoed, the intermediate days of the

festival, an illuminated flatbed truck carried around a group of musicians who gave concerts in the neighborhoods of our town. There was no dancing; residents watched the show from their cars, bikes and balconies.

This is a Sukkot like no other. But who says it was terrible? Our tradition teaches that this holiday is best spent at home in the sukkah, a three-walled structure built to resemble a heavenly hug.

And our efforts to slow the spread of the virus seem to be

helping. Press reports say that the number of cases in Israel is coming down.

As I write these words, a man with a recording and a loudspeaker is making his way through town. Speaking sternly, he reminds us to stick to the rules. To remain a part of the solution, not part of the problem. I hope we continue to listen. •

Carol Ungar is a prize-winning writer who lives in the Judean Hills with her husband and sons. This piece first appeared in JTA.

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**JEWISH  
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## Carrying the Light through 2020 and Beyond

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION** of Greater Philadelphia recently closed the 2020 Annual Campaign on Aug. 31, rather than Dec. 31, to align with the fiscal year. Although the Annual Campaign period lasted eight months versus the usual twelve, \$14.7 million was raised, 41% and \$5.6 million ahead of the same eight-month period last year.

The generosity of donors enables the Jewish Federation's critical work — caring for vulnerable people, inspiring Jewish life and learning, and building Jewish community for this generation and future generations.

"I am so grateful for the generosity shown by so many who have joined us to support the 2020 Annual Campaign, especially during this time filled with uncertainty," Campaign Chair Sherrie Savett said. "Our [Jewish] Federation is the central resource which supports and evaluates the needs of our Jewish community, and such philanthropy is essential to our work now and for the future."

Money raised through the 2020 Annual Campaign supports the Jewish Community Fund, organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia community and Israel, and the Emergency Fund — the Jewish Federation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jewish Community Fund is the core focus of the Annual Campaign, and the Jewish Federation's main resource to address the most urgent needs and priorities within the community.

Applications for the new three-year grant cycle of the Jewish Community Fund opened in September with letters of intent due by Oct. 30. Grants will be awarded in the spring for programs that align with the following funding priorities: serving vulnerable populations, shaping the Jewish future and connecting with Israel.

In a time of unprecedented need, the COVID Emergency Fund generated \$2.6 million from 909 households. The fund continues to support relief efforts by allowing the Jewish Federation to distribute significant grants that extend the food supply, fund mental and physical health needs, and enable the distribution of 65,000 protective face masks to a wide range of members of the Jewish community.

The Jewish Federation also provided discretionary funds to congregational rabbis at 90 different synagogues and Chabads across Philadelphia, helping them aid congregants who have been drastically impacted by COVID-19. Finally, the Emergency Response Committee created a Jewish Day School Fund that



Photo by Mark Berman

will provide \$500,000 to help schools open safely and create a healthy learning environment for children.

"Our COVID-19 relief efforts have helped more than 280,000 people throughout our community and in Israel," said Holly Nelson, Chair of the Emergency Response Committee. "I am incredibly grateful to each of our generous donors for their participation in this effort."

While past campaign years matched the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31), the Jewish Federation's 2021 Annual Campaign year and all those moving forward will coincide with their fiscal year calendar (Sept. 1 – Aug. 31). Aligning the fiscal and campaign years will help them better communicate with donors, report dollars raised in a more consistent way and be more fluid as they plan allocations each year.

"David [Adelman] and I look forward to building on this year's success and realizing even greater resources so we can continue to create a vibrant Jewish community for the future," Jewish Federation Board Co-Chair Gail Norry said.

The Jewish Federation is a leading safety net funder of Jewish services in the Greater Philadelphia area, and among the top funders of Greater Philadelphia philanthropic organizations.

In addition to the \$14.7 million raised through Annual Campaign contributions, philanthropic revenue during the 2020 fiscal year included \$5.7 million in new endowment funds. The Foundation for Jewish Day Schools (a separate legal entity managed by the Jewish Federation) received \$11.5 million for day school scholarships.



## DEATH NOTICES



### ABRAHAM

Marcia Abraham died peacefully at home on October 5, 2020, at the age of 75. Born in Philadelphia, the daughter of Ned and Kay Swerdlow, Marcia attended Girls' High and Temple University, where she earned a Ph.D. in psychoeducational processes. A lover of language and education, she began her career as a teacher of French and Spanish at Lower Moreland High School, and she returned to teaching at Holland Middle School. With a deep commitment to the Jewish community, Marcia was co-founder of Shir Ami, Newtown, PA, and founder of Rimon Jewish Day School. She loved traveling and seeing Broadway shows with Ronnie, her beloved husband for 52 years. Her favorite moments were at the Margate beach with her family. She was the loving mother of Adam, Shara, and Nina; supportive mother-in-law of Brian, Michael, and Ambika; devoted Bubbe of Kaleb, Ari, Mason, and Logan. Achieving the Jewish mother trifecta, she raised a Ph.D., J.D., and M.D. Marcia is also survived by her brother, Paul Swerdlow, and her in-laws, Barry and Ellen Abraham, Scott and Marcie Kallen. With a crossword puzzle and Boggle, Kandy Kakes and Perrier, singing showtunes in the car ... MSA, we'll be by the sea forever. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Marcia Abraham Fund for Jewish Life, at Shir Ami, or at Temple Beth Shalom, New City, NY.

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### DESMAN

Helen Phyllis Desman (nee Wasserman), passed away on October 4, 2020. Wife of the late Herbert. Mother of Dr. Scott (Elaine) Desman, Jeffrey (Beth) Desman and Dr. Eric (Lisa) Desman. Grandmother of Alexander, Sydney, Arianne, Jaime, Jacob, Mitchell, Delaney, Noah and Braden. Private Graveside services were held. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, 303 N. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, FL, 33004, www.hdec.org

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## DEATH NOTICES

### FEIN

Sonya Esther "Sunny" Fein, 76. Loving and loved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, daughter, cherished friend, educator, family poet and lyricist, died on October 7, 2020, from the cancer she had kept at bay for the past twelve years. She is survived by her husband Maier of 53 years, two sons, their spouses, three grandchildren and sister-in-law: Matthew, Lisa and Corey Fein; Michael Fein, Marjorie Feld, and Isaac and Nathan Feinfeld; and Arlene Ritter Sharkey. She was predeceased by her parents Nathan and Beatrice Ritter and her brother Kenneth Ritter. A native Philadelphian, she moved to Connecticut in 1967. As an elementary school teacher and language arts consultant for over 25 years, she brought the joy of reading to countless children. After a short period teaching in Cheltenham, Penn., and Quaker Hill, Conn., she joined the Ledyard Center School in 1980 and retired from there in 2004. For over fifty years, she was an active member of Congregation Beth El in New London, Conn., where she served on the Board of Directors and several of its committees, while supporting programs such as the Torah Fund, Bikur Cholim and the annual Purim Dinner. She graduated South Philadelphia High School and earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from Temple University and the University of Connecticut, respectively. She volunteered for the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut's Friendly Visitors Program and its Literacy Program in New London Schools. Contributions in Sunny's memory may be made to Congregation Beth El at bethel-nl.org, the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut at jfec.com, the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy at www.jcpcboston.org/literacy, or the Detroit Jewish Coalition for Literacy at jrcalc.org. Please visit www.neilanfuneralhome.com to sign the guestbook or to share a memory.

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### FLEISHMAN

Steven Fleishman passed away too soon on September 19, 2020. Beloved son of Delores "Dolly" and the late Philip Fleishman. Dear brother of Wayne (Rachel) Fleishman and the late David Fleishman. Loving uncle of Don, Lee (Wendy), and Amber. Great uncle of Lucas. Mr. Fleishman designed parts for conveyor systems, was an auto cad draftsman, an architectural draftsman, an assembler, and a site surveyor. He was also an avid stamp collector and a puzzle maker. Graveside services were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society of a charity of the donor's choice.

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### GORDON

Michael Gordon passed on September 7, 2020 before the New Year. He was married to Ruth Gordon. Retired from the auction business, becoming an antique clock restoration expert. He was the Social Director and Technical Authority at Delaware Valley Sporting Goods for many years. Burial was at Roosevelt Cemetery. Michael's positive attitude was kind and uplifting, a beacon for all who knew him. He is sorely missed by Harris, Jay, Anthony and his many friends.

## DEATH NOTICES

### HELEMAN

Nancy Heleman, died September 29, 2020. Loving daughter of Carol Micklin. She is survived by her sister, Arleen Gehman and her children Erica and Keith. Predeceased by her husband Ron. Nancy worked for the Government for over 30 year, she was a huge fan of all Philadelphia sports teams and loved her television shows. Her funeral service was held Sunday, October 4 at Shalom Memorial, arrangements by Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

### LEVIN

Leo Levin, passed away October 3, 2020 due to complications of Covid-19. Beloved husband of the late Mildred Levin (nee Myers). Loving father of Sharon Rosen (Wayne) and the late Mark Levin. Adoring grandfather of Dr. Alicia Rosen. He was a WWII veteran, and purple heart recipient. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Alzheimer's Association 399 Market St. Suite #250, Phila PA 19106 www.alz.org/delval. Services were private.

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### LUBOW

Bernard LuBow, October 3, 2020, of Moorestown, NJ. Husband of Sandra LuBow. Father of the late Laura (Dr. Howard) Altman and the late Dr. Richard (Wendy) LuBow. Grandfather of L.J. (Marlo), Jon, Olivia and Alyssa. Great Grandfather of Hayden. Brother of Barbara Graff. Interment Roosevelt Memorial Park, Trevose, PA.

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### SCHLESSINGER

Rita Schlessinger (nee Warshell). Passed away on October 4, 2020. Rita grew up in Strawberry Mansion and was a graduate of Simon Gratz High School, as well as a member of Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel. Wife of William Schlessinger. Mother of Evan (Dana) Schlessinger, David (Carole) Schlessinger and the late Brian (Tara) Schlessinger z"l. Grandmother of Ricky, Mimi, Bella, Alex, Maya, Shira, Eitan and Shimon. Contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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### SUSSMAN

David Sussman, October 4, 2020 of Ardmore, PA. Beloved Brother of Dr. Stephen (Jane) Sussman, Benjamin (Deborah Cohen) Sussman and Bowen Sussman. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Services and interment were held at Roosevelt Memorial Park. Contributions in his memory may be made to www.eagleville.org/giving.

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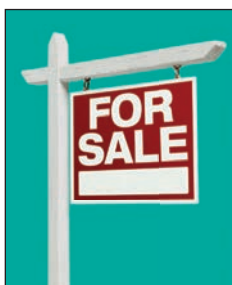
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## INFORMATION

### LEGAL NOTICES

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - PHILA. COUNTY - CIVIL ACTION LAW - NO.: 190903653 - Mary Ann Whitonis & John Whitonis, Plaintiffs vs. Edward Thompson, Defendant, 240 Royal Court, Langhorne, PA 19047. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COMPLAINT has been filed with regard to the above captioned matter. NOTICE YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this Complaint and Notice are served by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the Court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed against you by the Court without you, and a judgment may be entered against you by the Court without further notice for any money claimed in the Complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the Plaintiff. 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 OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP. Phila. County Bar Assn., Lawyer Referral Service, 1101 Market St., #11, Phila., PA 19107, 215.238.6300. James J. Conaboy, Atty. for Plaintiffs, Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen, P.C., 1006 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505, 570.348.0200.

CPM MGMT, Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation for a professional corporation were filed for **Hallie M. Kushner, Ph.D. P.C.** with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on September 22, 2020. The address of this corporation's proposed registered office is 1601 Walnut Street, Suite 706, Philadelphia PA 19102 in Philadelphia county. This corporation is incorporated under the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

### LEGAL NOTICES

Pursuant to the requirements of section 1975 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, notice is hereby given that MARK ROSENTHAL, INC. is currently in the process of voluntarily dissolving. Harry S. Rosenthal, Esquire Gwynedd Office Park (107) 768 North Bethlehem Pike Ambler, PA 19002

MYRA'S HOUSE has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Hugh P. McElhenney, Esquire 111 North Olive Street Media, PA 19063

SANTI'S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

### ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ANDRE K. JOHNSON, DECEASED. Late of Philadelphia LETTERS 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 SIERRA GREEN, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Danielle M. Yacano, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Or to her Attorney: DANIELLE M. YACANO THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES 1701 WALNUT ST., 6TH FL. Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of Barbara Miller aka Barbara R. Miller; Miller, Barbara aka Miller, Barbara R. Deceased Late of Philadelphia, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Gary Miller, 1805 Fireside Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 and Marci Rowling, 95 Windy Knoll Dr., Richboro, PA 18954, Co-Executors. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC Two Liberty Place, (3200) 50 S. 16th Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

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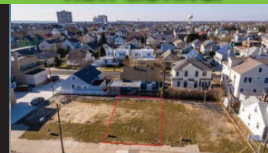
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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF BERNICE F. KLIGERMAN, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DON KLIGERMAN, EXECUTOR, c/o Bradley Newman, Esq., 123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030, Philadelphia, PA 19109.  
Or to his Attorney:  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
ESTATE & ELDER LAW OFFICE OF  
BRADLEY NEWMAN  
123 S. Broad St., Ste. 1030  
Philadelphia, PA 19109

ESTATE OF DARA DUNDON  
Deceased  
Late of Pennsylvania  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to James E. Dundon, Administrator c/o his attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF CURTIS CLARK, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LARHONDA HANTON, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Marc Vogin, Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to her Attorney:  
MARC VOGIN  
KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD  
1700 Sansom St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF GLADYS J. PODLASZEWSKI, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to KAZIMIERZ PODLASZEWSKI, EXECUTOR, c/o Stephanie A. Henrick, Esq., 40 E. Airy St., P.O. Box 671, Norristown, PA 19404-0671.  
Or to his Attorney:  
STEPHANIE A. HENRICK  
HIGH SWARTZ, LLP  
40 E. Airy St.  
P.O. Box 671  
Norristown, PA 19404-0671

ESTATE OF HAROLD SLOTNICK, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to BERNARD SLOTNICK, JEFFREY SLOTNICK & AARON SLOTNICK, EXECUTORS, c/o Andrew J. Barron, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to their Attorney:  
ANDREW J. BARRON  
THE LAW OFFICES OF PETER L. KLENK & ASSOCIATES  
1701 Walnut St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF HERBERT A. MILLIGAN, SR. a/k/a HERBERT ALLEN MILLIGAN, SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LINDA E. ROYAL, EXECUTRIX, 5424 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.  
Or to her Attorney:  
BRUCE M. DOLFMAN  
901 N. Penn St., F-2102  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

ESTATE OF JENNIFER McGINLEY-BYRNE, DECEASED.  
Late of Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DEBORAH McMULLEN, ADMINISTRATRIX, c/o Amy F. Steerman, Esq., 1900 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to her Attorney:  
AMY F. STEERMAN  
AMY F. STEERMAN LLC  
1900 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of Jerome Konrad aka Jerome V. Konrad; Konrad, Jerome aka Konrad, Jerome V., Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia, PA.  
Letters of Administration on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Karen Konrad, 3129 Englewood St., Philadelphia, PA 19149, Administratrix.  
Andrew I. Roseman, Esquire  
1528 Walnut St.  
Suite 1412  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE ZOIDA, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to CHARLES J. GILLEN, EXECUTOR, c/o Martin J. Pezzner, Esq., 100 W. Sixth St., Ste. 204, Media, PA 19063.  
Or to his Attorney:  
MARTIN J. PEZZNER  
GIBSON & PERKINS, PC  
100 W. Sixth St., Ste. 204  
Media, PA 19063

ESTATE OF JUDITH S. GELLES a/k/a JUDY SUE GELLES, JUDITH GELLES, JUDY GELLES and JUDY S. GELLES, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DAVID P. GELLES, EXECUTOR, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.  
Or to his Attorney:  
DAVID S. WORKMAN  
ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP  
The Bellevue, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
200 S. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF KENNETH M. GALLAGHER, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to JOHN F. WALSH, ADMINISTRATOR, 653 Skippack Pike, Ste. 317, P.O. Box 445, Blue Bell, PA 19422-0702.  
Or to his Attorney:  
JOHN F. WALSH  
653 Skippack Pike, Ste. 317  
P.O. Box 445  
Blue Bell, PA 19422-0702

ESTATE OF LEON KATZ, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to LEWIS JAY GORDON, EXECUTOR, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.  
Or to his Attorney:  
DAVID S. WORKMAN  
ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP  
The Bellevue, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
200 S. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE of Maureen Lucas a/k/a Maureen K. Lucas; Lucas, Maureen a/k/a Lucas, Maureen K., Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia, PA.  
Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Michelle Achtert, 160 Kirk Lane, Media, PA 19063, Executrix.  
Stapleton & Colden  
5248 Township Line Road  
P.O. Box 350  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

ESTATE OF MICHAEL V. PASSARO, SR., DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to MICHAEL PASSARO, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, c/o Marc Vogin, Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
Or to his Attorney:  
MARC VOGIN  
KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD  
1700 Sansom St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE of Patricia Celia; Celia, Patricia, Deceased  
Late of Philadelphia, PA.  
Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against or indebted to the estate should make claims known or forward payment to Kimberly DiNardo, 2418 S. Camac St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, Executrix.  
George V. Troilo, Esq.  
453 Maplewood Rd.  
Springfield, PA 19064

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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF RICHARD J. GELLES a/k/a RICHARD GELLES, DECEASED.  
Late of Philadelphia  
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DAVID P. GELLES, EXECUTOR, c/o David S. Workman, Esq., The Bellevue, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.  
Or to his Attorney:  
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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Local Cemetery Company Quoted Heinrich Himmler in Calendar

**NATIONAL CEMETERY OPERATOR** StoneMor, Inc., which is located in Trevoise, issued — and then recalled — a 2020 calendar that included a quote from Nazi commander Heinrich Himmler, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

StoneMor spokesman Keith Trost said the calendar was produced by a vendor and that the mistake was made out of ignorance instead of hate; the theme of the calendar was “honor.” The quote for November was Himmler’s “My honor is my loyalty” — which referenced loyalty to Adolf Hitler.

The company said it printed 38,000 copies of the calendar, which it sent to funeral homes in late 2019 as part of its annual reporting campaign.

In a statement to the Inquirer, StoneMor CEO Joe Redling said the company’s marketing team was able to recall and destroy most of the calendars. He said the vendor was fired, as were the employees who didn’t notice the phrase. He said policies were put in place to prevent it from happening again.

Redling said the company has no tolerance for anti-Semitism and informed the Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia office about what happened.

StoneMor operates 321 cemeteries and 90 funeral homes, most of them east of the Mississippi River, according to its website. That includes the Jewish Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge, New Jersey, and 13 sites for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

### Zagafen Regains Cholov Yisroel Designation

Zagafen restaurant in Merion Station once again is serving food under a *cholov Yisroel* designation.

When the dairy restaurant first opened last fall, it touted that it had both the *cholov stam* designation, as well as the more stringent *cholov Yisroel* designation. The latter requires a separate kitchen, a second *mashgiach*, time-consuming extra silverware cleaning and additional training for servers.

But in a January Exponent article, owner David Magerman said the community that the *cholov Yisroel* designation was created to serve did not seem to be interested in Zagafen.

“It was an experiment, and it didn’t work out,”



► Zagafen exterior  
Photo by Joanna Rottini

Magerman said then.

He has since reconsidered.

“The bottom line is we made a mistake,” he wrote in an email. “We thought restricting ourselves to *Cholov Yisroel* ingredients would hold us back from a culinary perspective, but we were wrong. We thought the market wouldn’t be impacted significantly by not being *Cholov Yisroel*, but we were wrong.”

Zagafen’s website is touting a new menu.

“We now know that we can create a great product at a reasonable price point using exclusively *Cholov Yisroel* ingredients, and that will allow us to serve a larger part of the local and transient kosher market, and so that’s what we are going to do,” Magerman wrote.

### Longtime Philadelphia, Cheltenham Educator Leonard B. Finkelstein Dies at 91

Leonard B. Finkelstein, 91, a former School District of Philadelphia district superintendent and former Cheltenham School District superintendent, died Sept. 21, according to his family. He was 91.

Finkelstein worked for Philadelphia schools for more than 27 years as a teacher, principal, program director and district superintendent. He was the first director of the district’s Parkway Program and created and directed the Alternative Programs Office before serving as the District Six Area Superintendent (West Oak Lane, Mt. Airy and Germantown).



► Leonard B. Finkelstein  
Courtesy of the Finkelstein family

He then served as superintendent of the Cheltenham district, holding the position for more than 10 years.

He later worked with Aramark at the Pan American Games, and set up new school systems and trained teachers in the United States, Europe, and Asia, including multiple trips to China and Thailand. Locally, he helped create the Science Leadership Academy and was involved in the experiential design of The National Constitution Center. He was on the advisory board and a U.S. delegate of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

In his 80s, Finkelstein and his wife, Leila, founded Global Youth United, a youth led nonprofit organization.

Finkelstein is survived by his wife, Leila; four children Larry (Donna), Lisa, Lee (Rita) and Lon (Holly); and nine grandchildren.

### Synagogue to Sell Pandemic-Inspired Cookbook

Congregation M’kor Shalom of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, announced it will soon be selling a cookbook entitled “Pots and Pandemic – Cooking in Quarantine.”

The book will contain more than 200 recipes submitted by congregants and community members from across the country. The book is divided into sections for appetizers; soups, salads, sides and sauces; main dishes; baked goods; and desserts.

Many contributors share anecdotes about the motivations and experience that brought them into the kitchen during the pandemic.

The \$20 book will be available for distribution after Thanksgiving, with a portion of the profits donated to the Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantry of Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Southern New Jersey. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

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