



JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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OF NOTE

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The Show Must Go On

Pandemic or not, people are planning 2021 events.

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Philanthropist also worked in journalism.

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Tree of Life Congregations Reflect

Healing continues two years after hate crime.

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Volume 133
Number 28

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Two Years Later, Tree of Life Shooting Victims Stay Strong

TOBY TABACHNICK | JE FEATURE

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS since an anti-Semite wielding an assault rifle stormed the Tree of Life building in the heart of Squirrel Hill, murdering 11 worshippers at the three congregations housed there: Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha.

Not a day goes by that Andrea Wedner doesn't think of her mother, Rose Mallinger, who, at the age of 97, was killed that day. The two were seated in the sanctuary, as they were most Saturday mornings, and before they could run, the gunman opened fire.

"I think of her every day, multiple times a day," said Wedner. "And it still hurts. It hurts the most that she's not here to enjoy the family and be with us. And what bothers me a lot, too, is the way she died."

Of the 13 worshipers shot that day, Wedner, a member of Tree of Life, and Dan Leger, a member of Dor Hadash, were

See Victims, Page 16



▲ JRA volunteers pack food and toiletries.

Photo by Elvera Gurevich

Agencies See Increased Need for Food, Mental Health Services

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

LIFE IS NOT GOING back to normal anytime soon, and local Jewish organizations are preparing to help clients struggling with pandemic-induced

unemployment, food insecurity, housing access and mental health challenges through the fall and winter months.

Jodi Roth-Saks, executive director of Jewish Relief Agency, said the organization's food distribution program has

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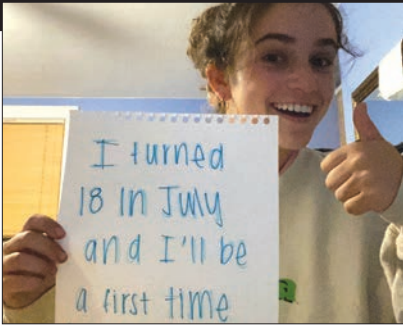
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Oct. 23 5:51 p.m.
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Reform shuls work to get out the vote.



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JEWISHEXPONENT.COM

Miriam's Advice Well

IS TRICK-OR-TREATING OK IN 2020?

For those families that participate in trick-or-treating, how have the rules changed in the era of COVID-19? Miriam notes that while nothing can be 100% safe, some common sense precautions can help ease concerns and enable kids to still have fun; she points out that kids have proven to be more than adaptable in many circumstances. For further explanation, read Miriam's Advice Well online. From dating to parenting, Miriam welcomes all questions. Email yours to news@jewishexponent.com and put "Advice Well Question" in the subject line. [jewishexponent.com/2020/10/19/dear-miriam-is-trick-or-treating-ok-in-2020/](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2020/10/19/dear-miriam-is-trick-or-treating-ok-in-2020/)



Philacatessen

SPROUTING BROCCOLI

Everyone's familiar with broccoli, but food columnist Keri White found a variation at the local farmers market that she had to try – sprouting broccoli. The miniature shoots turned out to be a tasty and easy to prepare side dish when sautéed with garlic, salt, olive oil and chili flakes. 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/2020/10/19/sprouting-broccoli/](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2020/10/19/sprouting-broccoli/)



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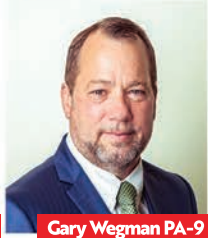
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2100 Arch Street, 4th. Floor,
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MAIN PHONE NUMBER:
215-832-0700

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SALES & MARKETING

DISPLAY
sales@jewishexponent.com

Sharon Schmuckler
Director of Sales
215-832-0753
sschmuckler@jewishexponent.com

Susan Baron
215-832-0757
sbaron@jewishexponent.com

Taylor Orlin
215-832-0732
torlin@jewishexponent.com

Shari Seitz
215-832-0702
sseitz@jewishexponent.com

**CLASSIFIED/
DEATH NOTICES**
classified@jewishexponent.com
Nicole McNally, 215-832-0749
Kimberly Schmidt, 215-832-0750

BUSINESS

Laura Frank
Publisher's Representative
215-832-0512
lfrank@jewishphilly.org

Eileen Pursley
General Manager
215-832-0741
epursley@jewishexponent.com

Mike Costello
Finance Director
215-832-0757
mcostello@jewishexponent.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
subscriptions@jewishexponent.com
215-832-0710

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
215-832-0797

News & Tips
news@jewishexponent.com

Letters
letters@jewishexponent.com

Calendar Events
listings@jewishexponent.com

Liz Spikol, Editor-in-Chief
215-832-0747
lspikol@jewishexponent.com

Andy Gotlieb, Managing Editor
215-832-0797
agotlieb@jewishexponent.com

Jesse Bernstein, Staff Writer/Books
Editor
215-832-0740
jbernstein@jewishexponent.com

Sophie Panzer, Staff Writer
215-832-0729
spanzer@jewishexponent.com

PRODUCTION
production@jewishexponent.com
Jennifer Perkins-Frantz, Director
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AFHU 'Woman of the Decade'



Mrs. Albert Farber, who was honored last week as "Woman of the Decade" by the Women's Division, American Friends of the Hebrew University, displays her award to her granddaughter, Reeva Blumenthal. Helping her is Raymond G. Perelman, member of the international board of governors of the Hebrew University and an executive board member of the Philadelphia Chapter of AFHU, who made the presentation during a luncheon at the Warwick.

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Modified Simchas Continue in COVID Era

LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

NOT EVERYONE LOOKS into their backyard and sees the spot where they'll be married. And perhaps fewer still see an empty synagogue as the setting for the day that they became a Jewish adult in the eyes of the community.

In the midst of a pandemic, some Jews across Philadelphia are finding that a simcha venue might just be wherever you happen to stand. Others, though they may squint, still can't quite see the site of their future memories, and have chosen to postpone their milestones for a few months, if not indefinitely. Choosing any trail is a difficult call for those who have been forced to do so.

"We made the best of it," said Mia Blitstein, whose son, Judah, elected to postpone his planned May bar mitzvah until 2021. "There's no other option at this point."

The Blitstein family belongs to Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, where Judah has readied himself for a lifetime of Torah reading since fifth grade. As the big day approached, so did the virus; invitations to the May bar mitzvah went out on March 16 with a note attached to let potential attendees know that the Blitstein family was indeed aware that a burgeoning global pandemic might necessitate a postponement.

Judah and his parents assessed their options. He could keep his date, keep his parshah that he'd worked hard to learn and deliver the goods via Zoom; he could lose both, but potentially have an in-person celebration if he postponed until the fall; he could keep the parshah, but read it in 2021, to give himself an even better chance to have his friends and family around him.



▲ Mikki Rosenberg and his wife Hannah celebrate their wedding a bit differently from how they planned. Photo by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

Judah chose Door No. 3. A new DJ was contracted, and the food is taken care of, but with a vaccine still more concept than reality, his mother isn't holding her breath.

"I have really put it on the back burner," Blitstein said, "because we have no idea what it's going to look like."

Down the road in Dresher, Debbie Dall got the date for her son Zach's bar mitzvah three years ago: May 9, 2020.

"When COVID started happening in March, I figured by May, we would be OK," Dall said. "Little did I know."

Her family has been a part of Temple Sinai for generations, and Dall was determined to find a way for her son to join the community of Jewish adults within its walls. Adaptations were necessary; a list of 110 of Zach's friends who were to be invited to his bar mitzvah was whittled to four, Zach had to learn a new parshah for the new August date and the 40 total attendees that did make it to the synagogue signed

waivers, wore masks and were spread out among 400 seats in the sanctuary.

Afterward, some who had attended the service and others who had not were welcomed to the Dall backyard with Zach-branded masks, hand sanitizer and food trucks. It wasn't the original plan, but in the end, Zach became a bar mitzvah.

"He didn't want to tell his children that that's how he got bar mitzvah'd, through a computer," Dall said.

On the other side of the river, Shari Morelli and her daughter, Sadie, are preparing for an Oct. 24 bat mitzvah, right in their Wynnewood backyard, to be led by Main Line Reform Temple Senior Rabbi David Straus. Over the summer, Morelli and Sadie decided that a small ceremony, attended by family and their closest friends, would be preferable to waiting a year. Now, they'll have small, distanced tables of masked friends and family celebrating with them,



▲ Jamie Sweet and Andrew Africk were married on Sept. 13. Photo by Caitlin Scott Photography

while their cantor Zooms in.

"I feel like you just don't know what tomorrow is gonna bring," Morelli said. "And I really felt like we should embrace it now and just take what we're given."

Two stops down the Paoli/Thorndale Line in Merion Station, Jamie Sweet, an infection control nurse at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, spent the summer trying to figure out how she might safely marry her fiancé. May 24, the original date, had come and gone, and though they were fortunate that their vendors were accommodating, there was still the problem of getting married.

Get married, they did. With personalized masks to mark the Sept. 13 occasion, a small group of family and friends gathered for a ceremony, cake, drinks, a quick first dance and a catered dinner for an even smaller group.

"There were a lot of tough discussions with our parents," Sweet said. "In the end, everybody was happy with the decision we made."

Mikki Rosenberg was

similarly content with his experience. He proposed to his now-wife Hannah on Thanksgiving 2019, and plans were made for June.

"My in-laws are amazing, and I'm pretty sure she likes my parents," he joked. All was going smoothly — until it wasn't.

The grand plan was to have the wedding in Baltimore, halfway-ish between his family in Philadelphia and her family in Rockville, Maryland. The grand plan was grandly dashed and, in the end, Rosenberg found himself married a few months later than he thought, danced around his father-in-law's study by his brothers.

"From the moment it started, it was awesome. It was honestly the best one I could have had," Rosenberg said. "It was just so nice and so pleasant, and everyone was there was so appreciative of being there. And we were careful, but also just had a lot of fun." •

jbernstein@jewishexponent.com;
215-832-0740

Philanthropist Ione Apfelbaum Strauss Dies at 87

LOCAL

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

IONE APFELBAUM STRAUSS, a longtime philanthropist and, later in life, a journalist, died on Oct. 1. She was 87.

The Coatesville native donated substantial time and support to local institutions with missions both Jewish and secular, giving quietly and consistently for decades.

She led fundraising efforts at her alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, where she was the first woman ever elected president of the General Alumni Society, elevating her to the board of trustees. Strauss' support for the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, along with her leadership as a member of the board of

overseers, was crucial to its early successes, according to the center's longtime leader, David Ruderman. She was a member of the board of overseers of the School of Arts and Sciences, and a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania Press. She served as president of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and raised money for the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, among other campaigns.

And her support for the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia kept her in touch with a family tradition going back to her great-uncle.

"My mother was the type of person who really cared about other people, more than anything else," said her daughter, Louise Strauss, herself a trustee of Harcum

College, where her father was once a trustee as well.

Ione Apfelbaum was the only daughter of Hortense and Louis Apfelbaum, whose names are memorialized in a fellowship at the Katz Center. Her unique name, Ione, was an attempt to name her after her grandfather, Isaac.

Strauss attended Scott Senior High School in Coatesville, where she developed her interest in Judaism and politics that persisted into adulthood. She and her family attended services each Shabbat at Beth Israel Congregation (now located in Eagle, with the addendum "of Chester County"), and she lit candles each Friday for the rest of her life. She was confirmed at Beth Israel, and attended Sunday



See Strauss, Page 24

▲ Ione Apfelbaum Strauss

Photo by Hilary Strauss


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Pittsburgh Congregations Reflect After Two Years

NATIONAL

ADAM REINHERZ | CONTRIBUTOR

TWO YEARS AFTER 11 loved ones were ripped from their families, multiple bodies and minds were injured and a sense of communal serenity was shattered by the events of Oct. 27, 2018, the three congregations principally affected by the shootings — Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha — are trying to find a balance between looking at the past and focusing on the future, all within the constraints of COVID-19.

For Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha, there are the obvious losses of Joyce Fienberg, Rose Mallinger, Cecil and David Rosenthal, Bernice and Sylvan Simon and Irv Younger. Barb

Feige, Tree of Life's executive director, said the congregation is continuing to respect each family's journey, but the near-eradication of in-person gatherings has challenged longstanding support systems.

And, Feige pointed out, the congregation has suffered double displacement: First, in the aftermath of Oct. 27, 2018, Tree of Life relocated to Rodef Shalom Congregation. Then, because of COVID-19, Tree of Life went virtual.

When the 2019 High Holidays arrived, additional space was required beyond what Rodef Shalom, Tree of Life's new home, could provide. The Calvary Episcopal Church offered its 1,000-seat sanctuary free of charge, which Tree of Life graciously accepted, yet

this meant the congregation was tasked with personalizing an unfamiliar space.

The need for virtual programming for this year's High Holidays helped the congregation really get a sense of itself, Feige explained: "Tree of Life is more than a building. It's a family. It's a community. It's people together and, yes, there is a connection to the building at Wilkins and Shady without a doubt — generation to generation has grown up in that building and celebrated simchas in that building — but we're still a congregation, a family celebrating simchas together."

Still, the lack of in-person connection had an impact.

"People missed that, and that's unrelated to our trauma,



▲ Families light yahrzeit candles for their loved ones in Pittsburgh at the 2019 commemoration of Oct. 27.
Photo by Joshua Franzos

maybe it piles on," Feige said. "We know that one of the things the shooting did was highlight the preciousness of life, and you want to recognize those connections even more,

and that COVID made people recognize that. That's what's important for Tree of Life right now: to continue to maintain things that bring us together and keep us together because

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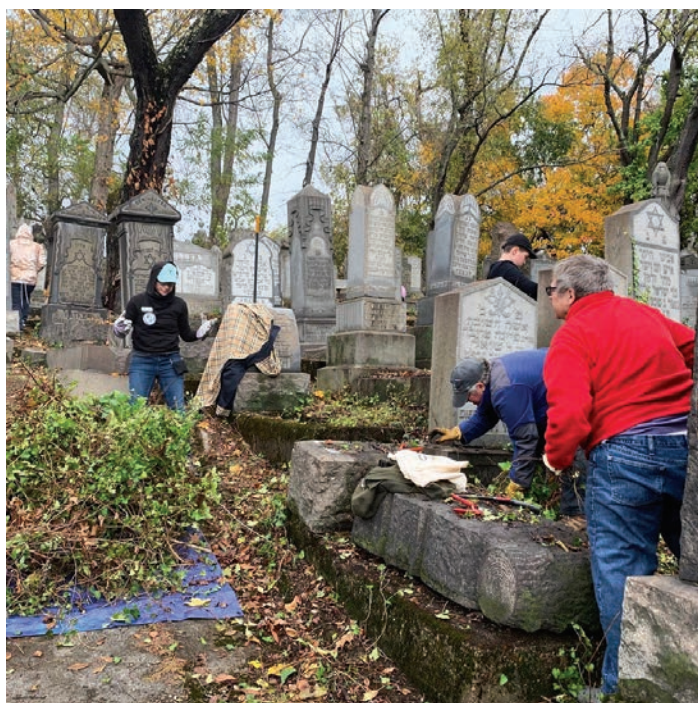
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▲ A cemetery cleanup in Pittsburgh was part of last year's commemoration. Photo courtesy of Repair the World Pittsburgh

we can't do it with physical space right now."

For New Light, the past two years have required solidifying a home and creating a safe space for members to grieve the losses of Richard Gottfried, Daniel Stein and Melvin Wax.

"They were the religious heart of our congregation," New Light co-President Stephen Cohen said. "They led our services. They were our choir. They were our event managers. They did everything. All of the day-to-day stuff that makes an organization work lay in the hands of those three individuals, and they're missed. They're missed terribly every single Saturday, every single day, because of what they contributed to the congregation."

Approaching the second commemoration has been difficult, New Light co-President Barbara Caplan said.

"It's a hard time. It's a hard thing to talk about. It's a hard place to be, but we're doing the best we can," Caplan said. "It's just very emotional right now. It's building up."

Since the attack, the congregation has adopted different supportive measures, like regularly checking in on Gottfried's, Stein's and Wax's families.

"We're just trying to make sure everybody's doing all right, but it's just very difficult," Caplan said. "It's a very emotional time for everybody, especially the families, obviously."

New Light has several plans to mark Gottfried, Stein and Wax's second yahrzeit. Apart from unveiling a new memorial board inside its current prayer space, the congregation will host a special service at the New Light cemetery. The latter will include the dedication of a monument and bench, as well as recognition of a tree seedling donated by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. The events will occur in-person and on Zoom — a hybrid pattern New Light has adopted during the pandemic, such as holding in-person and streamed Shabbat services.

"Ritual is very important to us, and under Jewish law there are some things that require in-person attendance in order to do the ritual, like Torah reading," Cohen said.

The ability to maintain these practices is a credit to New Light's landlord, Congregation Beth Shalom, Cohen said. Across the city COVID-19 shuttered synagogues, but when New Light expressed a



▲ Dr. Arnold Eisen leads a session of Torah study during a 2019 commemorative event in Pittsburgh.

Photo by Sanford Riemer

desire to hold in-person gatherings, Beth Shalom's leadership and medical team worked to safely enable New Light's wish.

"Beth Shalom has proven to be the most wonderful landlord," Cohen said. "They have accommodated us in every way."

That includes allowing New Light to hang its memorial plaques on the walls, and affix artwork in areas beyond New Light's designated space inside Beth Shalom's Helfant Chapel.

"They've helped us make a house a home," Cohen said.

For Dor Hadash, honoring the memory of Jerry Rabinowitz and aiding those harmed by the events of Oct. 27, 2018, requires both words and action.

"For us on the second commemoration, we're aware that our country is changing," said Donna Coufal, Dor Hadash's president. "Our country is not a predominantly white country anymore. Our country is not a binary gender anymore. There's a lot of changes happening, and people ... fight those changes in violent ways. And we've been the recipient of that violence."

Losing 11 people because of hate, Coufal said, means that for Dor Hadash "it's really important to us to continue to stand up against hate, stand up against gun violence. And this 10/27 we intend to speak out on all of these issues."

Dor Hadash has plans for events surrounding the commemoration but it is

important to the congregation to make explicit that the Oct. 27 attack was specifically directed against Jews; that white supremacist ideology promotes anti-Semitism, xenophobia and the demonization of people of color; and that the enactment and enforcement of reasonable firearm legislation would prevent future terror.

But Dor Hadash's inclination toward action has necessarily been complicated by the pandemic. People can only handle so much Zoom, Coufal said, so there need to be ways to facilitate aid and remedy problems from afar.

Whether it's caring for the vulnerable without physically being in the same room or

speaking out about matters of concern from a distance, Dor Hadash plans to continue helping those hurt by past trauma as well as confront present-day difficulties.

Such work begins with a framework of memory, Coufal said: "My understanding of Judaism is that remembering is really important. We remember Jerry Rabinowitz and how we loved him and love him. I didn't know all of the other people who perished. But they were people who were going to synagogue. They were people who loved being part of a community. It's just the best way people can be. And we want people to be able to do that in a safe and happy way."

With the second commemoration days away, congregations and their members recognize the need to carefully protect those in pain while reaching out beyond the bounds of a congregation.

What gives us a sense of purpose as a community," Coufal said, "is both looking inwards to help our own people, but also working to create a kinder and more just world." •

Adam Reinherz is a staff writer with the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, a Jewish Exponent-affiliated publication.

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Jewish Mayor of Anchorage Resigns After Sexting Affair with Television Anchor

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz resigned on Oct. 12 after admitting to a sexting affair with a local news anchor who falsely accused him of pedophilia and left a voice message with anti-Semitic epithets, JTA reported.

Berkowitz’s affair became public on Oct. 9 when the anchor, Maria Athens, posted a video to Facebook, accusing him of pedophilia. That same day, she posted two photos to Facebook that she claimed were of Berkowitz’s bare buttocks and left Berkowitz a voicemail in which she used anti-Semitic language and threatened to kill him and his wife.

Athens said she planned to air a story about the allegation, but got into a physical altercation with her boss and was arrested for assault, the Anchorage Daily News reported. Both police and the FBI said there was no evidence that Berkowitz engaged in criminal activity.

“I apologize to the people of Anchorage for a major lapse in judgment I made several years ago when I had a consensual, inappropriate messaging relationship with reporter Maria Athens,” Berkowitz said in a statement. “I’m embarrassed and ashamed for the hurt I’ve caused my family and our community. I take responsibility for my actions.”

RBG to Get Statue in Brooklyn

The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be memorialized via a statue in her native Brooklyn, New York, JTA reported.

“Her legacy as a jurist, professor, lawyer and scholar will endure for generations, and we are honored to erect a permanent statue in memory of Justice Ginsburg,” New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. “Lord knows she deserves it.”

The New York Times reported there will be several other initiatives to honor Ginsburg, including a bronze statue set for 2021 at a Brooklyn development. The city named a municipal building in Brooklyn for Ginsburg in September.

Jewish Economist Wins Nobel Prize

Jewish American economist Paul Milgrom won the Nobel Prize in economics along with fellow economist Robert Wilson for their work in auction theory, JTA reported.

Milgrom, 72, earned a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University in 1979; he is now the university’s Shirley and Leonard Ely Jr. Professor of Humanities and Sciences. Wilson was his thesis adviser.

Milgrom and Wilson “used their insights to design new auction formats for goods and services that are

difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies. Their discoveries have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world,” the committee said.

Milgrom joins scientist Harvey Alter, who shared the prize in medicine, and poet Louise Glück, who won the prize in literature, as Nobel laureates this year.

Poland to End Kosher Meat Exports in 2025

The Polish senate passed a law Oct. 14 that will end its \$1.8 billion kosher and halal meat export industry in 2025, although religious communities will still be able to slaughter meat without prior stunning if the meat is not for export, JTA reported.

There are about 20,000 Jews and a similar number of Muslims in Poland, and most of its kosher and halal slaughterhouses produce meat for export. Critics contend that killing animals without stunning them is cruel, while proponents argue that it is relatively painless.

The law was changed a bit compared to the law introduced last month in the government’s lower house; that version was originally intended to go into effect in 2022. Farmers and meat producer unions sought to have the law postponed because of economic issues created by the pandemic. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia honors the memories of these individuals who passed away during the year 5780 and made a vital contribution to our Jewish communities. They reached beyond their own lives to enrich future generations through their legacies to the Jewish Federation. May their memories forever be a blessing.

They left the world better than they found it.

Visit jewishphilly.org/memorial-tributes to read the reflections that were lovingly submitted by families and friends to honor the memories of their loved ones.

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ISRAEL BRIEFS

Israel, Bahrain Establish Formal Relations

ISRAEL AND BAHRAIN AGREED Oct. 18 to establish formal diplomatic relations, the Associated Press reported.

The United States brokered the relationship, making Bahrain the fourth Arab state to normalize ties with Israel. U.S. and Israeli officials visited Bahrain to forge the agreement.

With the agreement in place, the countries can open embassies and exchange ambassadors in the months ahead.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates participated in a September White House ceremony where UAE formally established ties, but Bahrain's agreement at that point was less detailed.

"Today we made the first formal step in bringing closer ties between the countries," said Meir Ben-Shabbat, who is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser. "We were accepted with open arms, with warmth and cordiality."

"It was indeed an historic visit, to start opening relations between both countries, to have fruitful bilateral relations in both fields," said Bahrain's foreign minister, Abdullatif al-Zayani, at the signing ceremony.

Bahrain joins UAE, Egypt and Jordan as Arab states with diplomatic treaties with Israel.

Israel's Oldest Man Dies at 117

Shlomo Sulayman, who claimed to be Israel's oldest man, died Oct. 11 at 117, JTA reported.

Sulayman, who his family says was born in 1903, emigrated from Yemen to Israel with his wife and four children in 1949. Two other children were born in Israel. Sulayman served in the Israel Defense Forces and worked in agriculture. His wife died several years ago at the age of 94.

Grandson Gil Radia said Sulayman was living on his own and his mind was clear until the end.

"Until the pandemic, he would go to the synagogue, even at the age of 116. He was a very modest man, which is why everyone loved him. But I guess the isolation at home contributed to his health deteriorating," Radia said.

Israel Becomes 24th Nation to Top 300K Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 topped 300,000 on Oct. 15, making Israel the nation's 24th country to reach that mark, Ynet reported.

Israel is the only country in that group with less than 10 million residents.

The nation's Health Ministry said the death toll since the start of the pandemic was 2,128. There are 38,355 people battling coronavirus, with 713 patients

in serious condition, including 247 connected to ventilators.

The contagion rate of the 37,487 tests conducted on Oct. 15 was 4.2%.

The nation's coronavirus cabinet did vote to allow small business that don't involve public interaction to reopen, as well as kindergartens, takeout food service and beaches.

Tik Tok Removes Lehava's Channel

Video-sharing social network Tik Tok removed the channel of far-right Israeli group Lehava, JTA reported.

Lehava opposes Jewish-Arab coexistence and gay relationships. It is led by Benzi Gopstein; he was banned from Israeli elections last year while head of the right-wing Jewish Power party because of anti-Arab statements that were considered an incitement to racism.

At first, Tik Tok removed three Lehava videos. It later removed the channel entirely after fielding complaints about the content.

Lehava previously was banned from social media networks Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Gopstein complained about Tik Tok's decision. "You can find every evil on Tik Tok, but somebody who talks a little about Judaism and about not assimilating — this, Tik Tok decided to close," Gopstein said. •
— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb



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Reform Congregations Work to Mobilize Voters

LOCAL

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

RABBI DAVID STRAUS believes voting is a nonpartisan issue.

"If you believe in democracy, how can you not believe that we need to do everything we can to make sure that

everybody who's eligible to be registered to vote is registered to vote? And that every vote is counted and that all blocks to voting are taken down so that it becomes possible for everybody to be able to vote?" the senior rabbi at Main Line Reform Temple said.

Straus and his congregation are participating in Every Voice,

Every Vote, the Reform Jewish Movement's 2020 civic engagement campaign. The statewide nonpartisan initiative, which is run by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, aims to mobilize the entire Reform Jewish Movement and encourage all U.S. citizens to exercise their right to vote.

"There are about 40-plus

Reform congregations in Pennsylvania. And, depending on whose numbers you listen to, that's between 10,000 to 12,000 voters," Straus said.

The campaign has projects in California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. In Pennsylvania, RAC-PA congregations are working

with One PA, an organization dedicated to voter engagement. Several Reform congregations in the Philadelphia area are participating.

"It's been really powerful for our members to be connected to Reform Jews and congregations not just around the Philly area but in other parts of the state," said Beth Kalisch, senior rabbi at Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne.

The campaign has three main areas of focus: mobilizing voters, combating voter suppression and engaging student voters.

Straus said Main Line Reform's 35-member civic engagement committee reached out to every adult member of the congregation two weeks ago.

"We divided the membership list up and called every member to make sure of three things: Are they registered to vote? Do they know the mechanics of voting? And do they understand how to request a mail-in ballot?" he said.

Main Line Reform member Margot Horwitz joined the committee because she has always been drawn to social justice as a Jewish value, or "civic mitzvah." She said it was exciting to see people deciding that they want to make a better world.

Kalisch said Beth David members had been reaching out to their fellow congregants with a goal of reaching 100% voter participation among members. Their main method of outreach is phone banking and distributing information.

"The process of getting a mail-in ballot and completing it and returning it is very confusing. Although other states have been doing it for a long time, it's new to Pennsylvania, and people have a lot of questions about it and trying to decide whether to vote in-person or by mail, so we're mostly sort of helping people navigate a lot of those conversations," she said.

Beth David recently hosted

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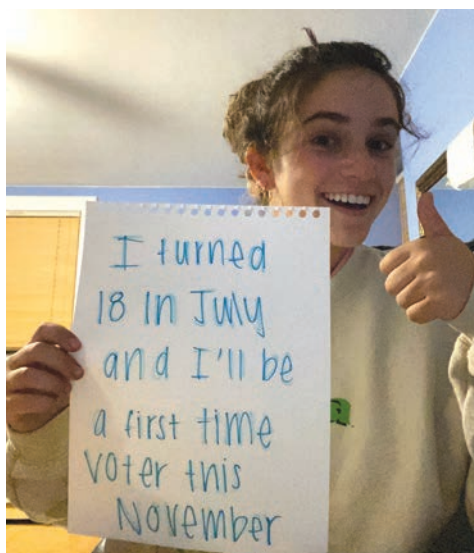
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HEADLINES

► Beth David Reform Congregation member Julia Ochroch with a sign about first-time voting
Courtesy of Julia Ochroch



► Beth David Reform Congregation member Helene Bludman phone banks from home.
Courtesy of Helen Bludman



a virtual adult education program with Lauren Cristella, chief advancement officer of the nonpartisan advocacy organization Committee of Seventy.

Kalisch also reached out to some of her congregants who recently turned 18 and will vote for the first time. She compiled a montage of them holding signs declaring they were first-time voters and encouraging other congregants to vote as well.

Even high school students who are not yet old enough to vote are getting in on the action. NFTY - The Reform Jewish Youth Movement is organizing young citizens to advocate for the issues that matter to them.

"Our teens are phone banking and calling people to canvass and saying, 'I can't vote, but you can. This is my future.' And talking about

the ways in which the issues at stake in this election will impact their future," Kalisch said. "They want to make sure that people who can vote are taking that right and that responsibility seriously. It's a really powerful message coming from our teens."

Congregations also reach out to voters outside their congregations via phone banking. One PA specializes in outreach to low propensity voters, or those who don't usually participate in elections.

"The idea of this campaign is really to try to encourage everybody to have their voice heard. We think democracy is stronger, and our country is stronger, when voter participation is higher," Kalisch said. •

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Iconic Italian Market in New York City Has a Lengthy, Unexpected Jewish History

NATIONAL

LEAH SIESFELD | JTA.ORG

TEITEL BROTHERS, the 105-year-old Italian provisions store on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, is not Italian at all. In fact, Teitel Brothers is the only existing store in the Bronx's Little Italy — the real Little Italy — with Jewish roots.

Arthur Avenue is a gem in New York City's cultural and culinary crown. It's authentically Italian with a selection of paneterie, pasticcerie, salumerie and pescherie — food stores that specialize in one type of product: bread, pastry, meat and fish. As customers bustle through stores you can even hear the Italian “Buona giornata!”



▲ At the entrance to the iconic Italian store is a Star of David mosaic.

Courtesy Teitel Brothers

At the corner of Arthur Avenue and 186th Street, also is the eponymous store. Outside is an eye-catching, colorful display of pastas, olive oils and

the best-priced Rao's tomato sauce in all of New York City. If you don't look down, which

is easy to do when taking in the hanging prosciutto di Parma above and the olive bar to your right, you will miss the Jewish history right below your feet. At the entrance to the store is a Star of David mosaic.

I sat down with Eddie Teitel, one of three brothers who runs the family-owned shop with their father, Gilbert, to find out how Jewish immigrants from Austria built a successful Italian grocery store.

Unlike most Jewish immigrants who assimilated to New York's Lower East Side in the early 20th century, Jacob and Morris Teitel, tailors from Austria, arrived in 1912 and headed north to the Italian

See Market, Page 14

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Photo Credit: Dooley Productions

JEWISH DEMOCRATS FOR TRUMP!

Activist Dr. Paul Brody, a practicing Dermatologist, of Great Neck, Long Island in New York, has launched a campaign entitled **“JEWISH DEMOCRATS FOR TRUMP - It's INCUMBENT Upon Us to Keep The INCUMBENT! A Man Of ACTION: He Ain't 'biden' His Time!”**

Dr. Brody is puzzled as to how any Jew could vote for the opposition considering President Trump's great achievements for America and for Israel. All Jews must give “HaKarat HaTov” (Expression of Gratitude) and say “Thank You” to the greatest friend that the Jewish people have **EVER** had in the White House, by pulling the lever for Donald Trump on November 3rd.

Perceiving that most Jews are still registered Democrats, Dr. Brody is focusing his attention on Jewish Democrats who should “be made more aware of the facts.” To protect America and Israel, accomplishments and achievements must be placed at a higher value than a candidate's rhetoric when casting one's ballot.

Dr. Brody himself never switched his affiliation from the Democratic Party - although his views have been much more closely aligned with the Republican Party for many years - so that he is able to criticize certain Democratic Party ideologies as a Party member.

Over the years, Dr. Brody, partnering with Dr. Joe Frager, has accompanied Governor Mike Huckabee to Israel on many occasions, including arranging for him to address the Knesset several times, and was instrumental in enabling commentator Glenn Beck's presentations in Israel, including addressing the Knesset in the summer of 2011. He and his wife Drora served as the Chairpersons of the Israel Day Concert in Central Park - the “Concert With A Message” (coined by Dr. Brody) - for 14 years, held annually, immediately following the Salute to Israel Parade - galvanizing the Jewish people to call for the Unification of Jerusalem, as the eternal capital of Israel - **NEVER** to be divided, and never relinquishing any part of our sovereign Land. These are basic principles that motivate President Donald J. Trump. President Trump reiterated these ideas when he addressed Ministers and Members of the Knesset, and VIP'S, together with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem on May 23, 2017. Dr. Brody and his daughter Dana Brody, Esq. were in attendance.

During the 2008 presidential elections, Dr. Brody coined the slogan “Say **CAIN (YES)** for **McCain** - because **McCain is ABLE!**” A placard highlighting this slogan, was presented to Senator Joe Lieberman, representing Sen. McCain, at a gathering of support, at the Lawrence, LI home of Phil Rosen, then Chairman of the American Friends of Likud. Dr. Brody also quipped, at a Press Conference he helped organize at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, that if McCain had selected Gov. Huckabee as his running mate, the ticket would have been dubbed **MaCCABEE!!**”



“JEWISH DEMOCRATS FOR ROMNEY: IT'S A MITT-zvah!” made its debut on October 16, 2012, at the demonstration at Long Island's Hofstra University before the second Presidential Debate. Dr. Brody and his then 13-year-old son Joey, joined the Republican Jewish Coalition and unveiled their “Jewish Democrats for Romney...” placard. The placard garnered much attention and comment, both encouraging and negative, by other demonstrators and passers-by.

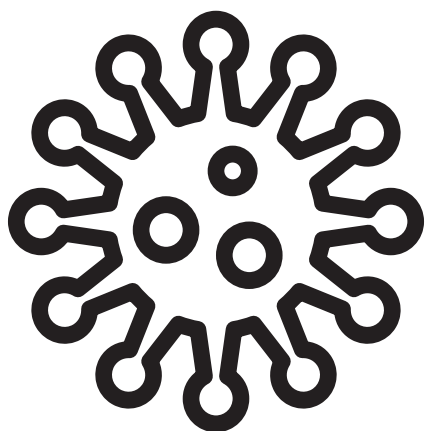
Dr. Brody hopes that in the same vein, the **“JEWISH DEMOCRATS for TRUMP”** campaign will stimulate Jewish Democrats - especially in the “swing states” - and everyone else, to re-evaluate their thinking - hopefully quickly - and strongly support the incumbent President Donald Trump.

After all, President Donald J. Trump is “A man of action: He ain't “biden” his time!” And **ACTION** speaks **LOUDER** than words!

For comments or tax-deductible contributions, please contact **JewishDemocratsForTrump@yahoo.com**

More than 8,400 Pennsylvanians have died from Covid-19.

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HEADLINES

Market

Continued from Page 12

neighborhood of Arthur Avenue. In 1915, they opened Teitel Brothers, importing high-quality provisions from a country they'd never visited. Jacob and Morris learned to speak Italian before they spoke English.

In the 1930s, as fascism and anti-Semitism rose in Europe, the Teitel Brothers' landlord warned them: "If people knew you were Jews, nobody would shop here." A week later, they installed the Star of David mosaic so everyone who crossed the threshold knew they were Jews. "It took a lot of courage to do something like that," Teitel remarked.

While Teitel Brothers was not the only Jewish merchant on Arthur Avenue, it is the only Jewish store in the neighborhood that exists today. Why did Teitel Brothers outlive the other Jewish stores? According to Teitel, "We're the first ones here in the morning. We start at a quarter to five and we work hard. We're one of the last stores to close up and we have a great product."

It's true. Teitel Brothers is the Wonka factory of Italian provisions. Two-thousand products line the walls of the 900-square-foot corner store. In Teitels' 105-year-history, much of their inventory has remained constant, but if their customers want something they don't have, they will order it. For example, as more immigrants from Albania and Yugoslavia have moved to the neighborhood, the store has added feta and phyllo dough to their shelves.

Eddie Teitel is the first Teitel in the third-generation business to visit Italy. Every other year, he attends the Food Show in Modena, takes tours of olive oil factories in Spoleto and sees where their Romano cheese is made in Nepi.

Before he traveled to Italy, one way the Teitels would find new products was through



▲ The outside of the store

Courtesy Teitel Brothers via JTA

Arthur Avenue is a gem in New York City's cultural and culinary crown. It's authentically Italian with a selection of paneterie, pasticcerie, salumerie and pescherie.

salesmen. Eddie Teitel tells a story of a persistent salesman whose cousin from Sicily made a delicious olive oil. Eddie Teitel and his brothers liked the olive oil so much that when their uncle passed away, they bought the exclusive rights and named it "Don Luigi" in his honor. In 2001, The New York Times praised the Don Luigi extra virgin olive oil as being "the perfect expression" of Sicilian olives and "a bargain worth seeking out." After the article was published, the store sold out in three days.

When Eddie Teitel travels to Italy, he brings back the best of Italian provisions, and also the European hospitality, which he describes as "second to none." It helps that he has known many of his customers since he was 10, when he started helping his father in the shop.

Each generation of Teitels have brought something new. The first generation opened the store. The second opened the wholesale business. When the third generation took over, there was one truck and now there are eight. Jean, the oldest brother who was a merchant

marine, applies his discipline to keep their warehouse across the street in order. Michael, the middle brother and a chef of 35 years, loves to share recipes with people who come in.

As for the next generation? Eddie Teitel's son, who was recently bar mitzvahed, helps in the store on the weekends. Before he joins the family business full-time, his father will make sure he has a college education.

In February, Teitel Brothers was honored by the New York City Department of Small Businesses as one of 10 century-old establishments that have proven to be a permanent neighborhood fixture between 1878 and 1920, along with the famous appetizing spot, Russ & Daughters.

Teitel Brothers is more than a store. It is a glimpse into the history of Jewish New Yorkers, the discrimination they faced, and their resistance to such hate — all preserved in cans of tomato sauce, aged salami, and an almost century-old mosaic. ●

This piece originally appeared in The Nosh.

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Victims

Continued from Page 1

the only two to survive. Now, two years later, although life is forever changed for both of them, they remain strong and resilient, determined to infuse their lives with meaning.

Although some of their injuries are permanent, both Leger and Wedner say they have adjusted.

"I'm doing well physically," said Leger, a retired nurse and UPMC chaplain, who was shot in the chest. "Some days are better than others. I still have some physical problems that will probably be around for the rest of my days that are the result of this. But I'm alive, and they are manageable, and here I am."

Wedner, a former dental hygienist, who was shot in the arm, acknowledged her hand "is not going to be 100 percent," but she does have use of it.

"Some things are a little more

challenging," she said. "I'm grateful to have my arm and my hand. So I just deal with it."

Both are grateful to have survived, and are resolute to get the most out of life.

While the pandemic has caused each of them to shift some plans — Wedner and her husband, Ron, planned trips that had to be canceled, and Leger's plans to provide nursing services to the underserved are now on hold — they are both filling their days with activities that bring them joy and fulfillment.

As he did before the pandemic, Leger volunteers with the CheckMates program through AgeWell Pittsburgh, making calls to those who are homebound. He also checks in with members of Dor Hadash and is active on the steering committee of the 10.27 Healing

Partnership, which helps those impacted by the shooting and others who have experienced trauma induced by hate. And he writes a lot, especially poetry.

"As Jews, we're not supposed to really retire," Leger said.

Wedner, who is also on the steering committee of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, fills her days babysitting her granddaughters, baking, taking walks, reading and keeping in touch with family and friends.

In the weeks and months following the shooting, Wedner, like others who were directly impacted by the massacre, was showered with messages of love and support from the local community, as well as from around the world. She is still feeling that love, which she calls "the key to my healing."

"I've met so many wonderful people from this," she said. "And it's enriched my life."

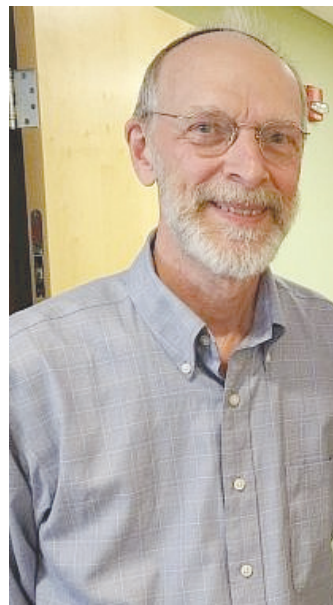
As the two-year commemoration of the shooting approaches, Wedner anticipates spending the day with her family.

"I know last year, leading up to it, and that day, I heard from so many people, and it was really helpful," she said. "It's so helpful that we get the support we get from family, friends, just the community."

Leger is trying "not to overplan," for Oct. 27, 2020, he said, anticipating he will spend the day with his wife, Ellen, and Miri Rabinowitz, whose husband Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz was killed during the massacre. "I'm trying not to overthink it and to let whatever emotions come my way have a place to be."

He has, though, been trying to "fill in some blanks," he said. Not only has he finally started to examine, and process, his medical records concerning his injuries, but he is also trying to identify all "the helpers."

"I've met with some of the police officers who have been involved, who came to help, and it led me to reach out to the



▲ Dan Leger

Photo by Adam Reinherz



▲ Andrea Wedner

Photo by Ron Wedner

“Life goes on. You have to keep going. My mother would want us to do that and I have to live on for her and through her.”

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Public Safety department to try to get a list of just who were all the people who were there that day," he said. "Who were the helpers? Who came? I'm beginning to compile those names and it is just an extraordinary list, an extraordinary number of people who ran in our direction. They didn't run away. They ran in our direction and they came to help."

He hopes to be able to reach out to some of those people, and, if he is allowed, to acknowledge them publicly.

The trial of the gunman still has not been set, the delay due in part to the federal government seeking the death penalty. While Wedner does not spend a lot of time thinking about the eventual trial, Leger finds its delay difficult.

"It's a prolonging and agonizing process that needs to come to as much closure as it can," he said. "When people lose their lives, the people who lose those people from their very existence don't have the opportunity of closure. But there are opportunities for closure about certain elements of the experience."

He is trying, he said, to "learn as much as I can about why it is that we have such a proclivity in our culture for

not being able to communicate well enough so that something like this can be avoided."

There are many opportunities, Leger stressed, to honor the memories of "the beautiful people that we lost that day, things like learning opportunities and service opportunities. If anyone ever thinks they need an excuse to do something good, think about one of these people and do something in their memory. That's how we keep them alive."

For Wedner, the memory of her mother, Rose Mallinger, is constant. She remains an inspiration and she is "always around."

"Life goes on," Wedner said. "You have to keep going. My mother would want us to do that and I have to live on for her and through her. A lot of the things I do and say, I think of her. She's always there. She keeps me going. She was a strong lady, so I think I may have inherited that from her. She was pretty amazing. She was a hoot. She was something, she really was. I miss her. We all miss her." •

Toby Tabachnick is the editor of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, a Jewish Exponent-affiliated publication.

Agencies

Continued from Page 1

seen a significant increase in community members reaching out for support since the start of the pandemic, a trend she expects to continue.

"I would say we've seen, between March and August, 500 new households. We typically average 24 new households a month, and now we're averaging 72 households a month," she said.

JRA clients receive a 15-pound box of food on a monthly basis, and the agency has recently added safety supplies like hand sanitizers, masks and toilet paper to the relief packages. Last month, JRA packed and distributed 3,865 boxes of food and 100 toiletry bags. Before the pandemic, the average number of monthly boxes packed hovered between 3,200 and 3,300.

Increased need for food means increased need for JRA volunteers and staff.

"We have this incredible group of volunteers that we call upon, and we also are always asking for more volunteers

from the community to help us get all the food we're packing out to individuals in the community," Roth-Saks said. "And the thing that we're doing to help us be successful right now is we're relying on the volunteers to actually deliver the food, but we're also relying on a new labor force that we've hired to help us pack all the food."

Due to social distancing requirements and safety protocols, the number of volunteers allowed in a warehouse at a given time is limited, which slows the packing process significantly. Roth-Saks knew it would take more than volunteer shifts to meet the growing need for food, so the organization hired contracted employees to speed up the process. In addition to food packers, the organization hired warehouse cleaners to make sure the work environment is safe.

An expanded staff and expanded inventory can't happen without expanded

funding. Roth-Saks said JRA has been able to bring in more funds via grant writing and partnerships and plans to host its 20th annual fundraising event, "Whatever It Takes: A Livestreaming Show to End Hunger," on Oct. 25.

Brian Gralnick, director of social responsibility at Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, said most of the organization's agencies anticipate an increase in clients as long as there is no vaccine.

Mitzvah Food Program is looking into setting up more outdoor pickup points with tents and portable heaters for volunteers, as well as maintaining food delivery outside their pantries. Gralnick also said KleinLife is keeping an eye on the impact of colder weather and mental health concerns for senior clients who have been isolated for months.

Hebrew Free Loan Society of Greater Philadelphia, which provides community financial support in the form of loans,

has created a new COVID-19 loan designed to help people address short-term costs.

"We didn't want people to take on additional and uncomfortable debt, but it just might be that bridge in a short-term difficult financial situation or to solve a really immediate problem," said Amy Krulik, president of the board of directors.

She is anticipating that the pandemic will linger for at least six months to a year. The organization is planning accordingly, but the economic uncertainty makes it hard to predict what kind of loan requests it will face in the upcoming months.

"What I suspect is that we may find some requests from some unexpected places," she said.

People may take out fewer loans for cars and more for home improvement, as more time spent at home puts more pressure on plumbing and heating systems.

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia staff have carefully monitored eviction moratoriums for clients struggling with housing payments.

Courtney Owen, JFCS' director of individual and family services, said that although moratoriums have helped delay rent payments, they haven't solved all housing issues, and renters who have benefited from the moratoriums may still be unable to pay several months of back rent and utilities. Owen said it is still crucial for clients to know their rights, and access any benefits they may be entitled to.

She also said JFCS has witnessed an increased need for mental health services and anticipates the number of requests for telehealth counseling will remain high well into fall and winter. The organization maintains a hotline for isolated seniors in need of support and

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has formed several support groups on topics ranging from parenting during the pandemic to suicide prevention.

The organization is looking to increase its counseling staff as it strives to help clients cope with overwhelming uncertainty.

"Mental health has always had such a big need in all of our communities, but right now it's something that's impacting everybody. And we know that that's sort of snowballing the longer this goes on," Owen said.

She and her colleagues encourage clients to take action before a problem becomes an emergency, whether that means keeping up with as many bills as possible, reaching out to landlords before back rent comes due or seeking mental health counseling.

"We don't want people to wait until it becomes a crisis point to reach out to us," Owen said. "If people feel like they need financial or social support, or they're unsure of what to do right now, or they've lost their job or have any situation that could be supported and they've maybe never reached out for help before that, we're here. Those are the individuals that we really want to connect with, because the sooner we get involved to help somebody, the better we can meet their needs." •

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▲ JRA volunteers make a delivery to a client's home.

Photo by Elvera Gurevich

Reflections on Pittsburgh Shooting Two Years Later



BY RABBI JEFFREY MYERS

AS LONG AS WE live we will never forget the lives of those we lost on Oct. 27, 2018. We will never forget who we were with and what we were doing, how we responded and what we have done to honor these beloved martyrs of our community.

As we commemorate one of the most significant events of our lives, we still grieve, we still remember, we still survive in a time that continues to challenge us in ways we never imagined. Despite these challenges, we will continue to reach out to teach each other about hope,

love and community.

Are we better as a nation two years later? While I cannot lessen the impact of more than 200,000 COVID-related deaths in the United States alone, I have learned that during times of trauma, people's authenticity inevitably rises to the surface. If you are innately a good person, you will find ways to utilize your goodness to help better the lives of others.

In the days and weeks following the Oct. 27 attack that killed 11 worshippers from three congregations, strangers from across the globe offered condolences, prayers, encouragement and even lengthy, hand-written letters pouring out their tears. As we approach the second year commemoration, good people once again reach out, offering continued support, reminding us that they have not forgotten.

I still believe that deep down the vast majority of humanity is comprised of good people. They reject all forms of

"H" (that word is eliminated from my vocabulary), bigotry, racism, and the all too frequent violent acts that often accompany these words. Perhaps during periods of great stress, who we really are is seen in full view, stripped of all pretense and protective gear. Studies have shown that during great stressors throughout history, anti-Semitism rises.

When coupled with so much else occurring in America at this time, some might suggest that it's no surprise that the proverbial pot is boiling over. Social unrest. Pandemic. Political upheaval. Economic stress. Serious divisiveness. All at once we find ourselves coping with these entrenched daily travails on top of the indelible mark that Oct. 27 left on each of us. Despite it all, we remain resilient and resolute in moving forward with our lives, with plans to rebuild our synagogue as well as our dreams.

There are plenty of helpers out there and we should look

to them, in a reference to the famous advice Mister Rogers' mother gave him as a child when things were upsetting. We, too, must be helpers because they need our support to swing the perceived pendulum in the opposite direction.

It can seem overwhelming to simultaneously take down the bad and build up the good, but the old adage that "if you sit on the fence and watch you will get splinters" applies. We need to disassemble the fences that separate us and use the wood to instead build bridges. We are all more alike than we recognize, and too frequently we allow the differences to define us. We must use our commonalities to unite us in the goal of making this experiment of a mixing pot called the United States successful.

The silent majority of good, decent people have been silent for too long. When will the day come that they rise up, and state with moral clarity, that words of "H," bigotry, racism

and the violence that they inevitably lead to are unwelcome, and do not belong in our society? Where are the Hebrew Bible prophets reminding us of our responsibilities to protect the orphan, the widow and the stranger? It is "we, the people" who are being tested to extreme limits. Will we pass the test?

Each of us can try harder. Do more. Do better. Only the passage of time will show if our collective resolve and hard work creates a unity that truly honors those we loved and lost.

On a personal note, I remain humbled and grateful to still be here among congregants, family, friends and community members who share that place, time and memory of something so profound that happened to us all and changed us in the process. May their memories be a blessing to us forever. •

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers is the rabbi of Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha in Pittsburgh.

New York Needs to Make its COVID Crackdown Standards Clearer



MICHAEL A. HELFAND | JTA

FOR SO MANY American Jews, the recent clashes between Gov. Cuomo and the New York ultra-Orthodox Jewish community over new COVID-19 restrictions (and protests of them) are nothing short of a dangerous embarrassment.

It is thus unsurprising that the broader Jewish public

largely viewed the raging and rioting against new restrictions as undermining collective Jewish values and credibility in deeply corrosive ways. But the disparate impact of these new restrictions on ultra-Orthodox communities — combined with Gov. Cuomo and Mayor De Blasio's repeated references to noncompliance within those communities — has provoked both growing distrust of the state and, in turn, legal challenge to its new regulations. The impacted communities see these new public health orders as unfairly targeting Jews and thereby suppressing their religious freedom.

The strategy to address both the growing trust deficit and the ongoing legal challenges is the same. The state must be far more transparent and

clear in how it uses numbers and not politics to identify which neighborhoods are being subjected to increased regulation.

Round one of legal challenges to the new restrictions began last week, when the Agudath Israel filed a federal lawsuit, attempting to stave off synagogue closures in advance of the impending Jewish holidays. The lawsuit, thus far, has not garnered much sympathy. Indeed, Judge Matsumoto, in rejecting the claims of religious discrimination alleged by Agudath Israel, concluded unequivocally that the "balance of equities and the public interest weigh strongly in favor of New York's mission to protect its citizens from this global pandemic which continues to be of great

concern." The stakes, according to the judge, were simply too great to afford any leeway to houses of worship.

Although the case is still ongoing, the fanfare has largely subsided. Maybe this is as it should be: In the wake of the federal court's ruling, Jewish leaders have focused efforts on educating and rebuking the impacted communities, reiterating the importance of compliance with health and safety guidelines.

But like many legal cases, examining the details matters. Cuomo's executive order — the so-called "Cluster Action Initiative" — seeks to address "hot spots" by identifying areas where there has been an uptick in COVID-19 cases and then imposing greater restrictions to stem the spread of the virus.

The majority of these hot spots encompass predominantly ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities — and imposing restrictions on those communities based upon scientific metrics is certainly not anti-Semitic. Indeed, the state has clearly communicated its commitment that decisions must employ a "science-based approach ... to stop any further spread of the virus."

But while the principle is sound, criticism — and legal challenge — has almost exclusively been based on the manner in which Cuomo identified the hot spots.

In an opinion denying the Brooklyn diocese constitutional challenge to the new restrictions, federal judge Eric Komtee

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My Mother Was Not a Number. Let's Honor Her.

BY JONATHAN KAGAN

ON SEPT. 18, my mother, Bebe Kagan, just two days shy of her 95th birthday, died of COVID-19 disease in an Iowa nursing home. Like many in her age group, Mom was a first-generation American. Her parents were immigrants from Ukraine and Moldova, who came to this country to escape persecution and seek opportunity.

Growing up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mom studied hard in public school and was one of the first in her family to attend college. At age 19, she got cancer, and though cautioned against marriage, she married my dad and together they raised and educated seven children.

At 48, Mom's cancer returned, this time necessitating amputation of her right leg. With three children still at home, she carried on as a homemaker, doing laundry, making dinner, reviewing homework and driving with

her left foot.

My father died in 1994, and Mom continued to live a vibrant life in Florida until July of this year, when she relocated to Des Moines to live close to my sister. Just two months after her arrival, Mom was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus by a nursing home staff member. A week later she was hospitalized, and five days later, she died.

The women in my mom's family have a history of longevity, many living far into their 90s and a few past 100. Mom herself had no signs of imminent health risk. There is no doubt that COVID-19 killed her. And there's every reason to believe that had Iowa enacted, supported and enforced safer public health measures, Mom's risk of infection would have been reduced and she'd likely be alive today.

The record of public health decision-making during the pandemic in our country is well-documented, and while some leaders and jurisdictions

have acted boldly and with prudence, many balked at stay-at-home orders, did not issue face mask mandates (despite evidence that masks work), and shunned social distancing recommendations, opening bars and restaurants which have repeatedly led to surges in COVID-19 case numbers and deaths.

The Talmud, the book of Jewish law, says that whoever saves one life, saves the entire world, and makes the point that one person can make a difference. For society to continue, selflessness and kindness must exist.

It is surely understandable that some view mask wearing as an unwelcome inconvenience because it can be. Not being able to gather with friends and family, fellow congregants and co-workers, in groups, as we used to, is a real loss for many of us. And, if there is just one thing that most Americans still have left in common these days, it's that we hate having people telling us what to do (or

shaming us for not doing).

But let's not forget that we also have another thing in common — a very good and important thing: We accept some responsibility for one another's safety. For instance, even though we might arrive at our destination sooner, we haven't decided that stopping at a red light is an infringement on our liberties. We recognize that for all of us to be safe on the road, we each have to adhere to some rules.

In that same way, if each of us could think of and follow the proven COVID-19 safety practices (i.e., mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing), just like we stop for red lights, we could go a long way toward protecting both ourselves and others from sickness and death from COVID-19.

While several of our elected officials — with whom we may agree on many policy issues — have not exemplified the public health practices that we

know save lives, we don't have to defend or copy their unsafe behaviors. We can think for ourselves and separate our politics from our concepts of social responsibility in civil society. And in so doing, we can feel good knowing that we're acting in accordance with our values, doing right by others and ourselves.

Bebe Kagan, a resilient and strong woman who had more life left in her, died alone in an Iowa nursing home. My mom was not a number, and neither were the other more than 210,000 American victims of COVID-19 to those who loved them. At the very least, we can honor and give sanctity to their lives by together doing all we can to prevent more sickness and death during this pandemic. Speaking for all of us who have been left behind to mourn, please consider your part in sparing any more families the pain and sorrow we endure. •

Jonathan Kagan lives in Potomac, Maryland.

I Thought Anti-Semitism Was a Problem of the Past. Then I Became Jewish.



BY KYLIE ORA LOBELL | JTA

IT WASN'T UNTIL I started converting to Judaism that I realized that anti-Semitism is very much alive and well — and it's only getting worse.

Last year saw the most anti-Semitic incidents in

40 years, according to the Anti-Defamation League. While the numbers aren't yet in for 2020, there have been anti-Semitic events every month of the year so far.

And yet, when I talk to my family about anti-Semitism and why I don't feel safe here in America anymore, they don't quite understand.

I don't expect them to, either. If you have never been discriminated against for your identity, then you simply can't comprehend how it could happen to others, either. You don't know how scary and powerless you feel when people say they hate you.

Growing up in a white home in a predominantly white

neighborhood in Baltimore, I never once faced racism or any form of discrimination. My family and I pretty much looked like everyone else. We could blend in and there were no differences between the people in our community and us.

On the other hand, in high school, when my mom moved us to Pikesville, a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood, I noticed that they looked different from us right away. Mostly, I'd see them on Saturdays, wearing all black and pushing baby strollers. The only thoughts that crossed my mind were, "Wow, Jewish people walk a lot," and "They must be really hot in that dark clothing."

Unlike my mom and I, they

couldn't hide who they were.

Today, I'm one of those Jews walking on Shabbat around my neighborhood, which is a little frightening nowadays. But the few times when I have experienced real anti-Semitism, ironically, have occurred when I wasn't easily identifiable as an Orthodox Jew. Like the time my landlord told me her father used to "Jew people down," or when

my Uber driver said Jews control the world and like to make little children into matzah ball soup (really!). The topic came up because we were driving through a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood in Los Angeles and he spotted some haredi Jews.

The first incident was offensive, and the latter was horrifying. I shared these

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STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

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Helfand

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concluded that “the Governor of New York made remarkably clear that this Order was intended to target a different set of religious institutions,” referencing Cuomo’s CNN interview where he stated “the cluster is a predominantly ultra-Orthodox [Chasidic] community. ... the issue is with that ultra Orthodox community.” By contrast, Judge Matsumoto concluded that Cuomo’s statements were “taken selectively out of context,” and did not evidence any form of prohibited discrimination against the Jewish community.

Parsing out Cuomo’s intent may be an impossible task, although his continuing call-outs of religious Jews specifically certainly provides fodder for trying. One can certainly imagine, given the public health stakes, granting him the benefit of the doubt. But maybe more curious than his word choice is the relative

opacity of the actual new restrictions — an opacity runs counter to the state’s commitment to making decisions based upon public health metrics.

Cuomo’s executive order is quite clear that “red zones,” “orange zones” and “yellow zones” will be subject to heightened restrictions, including significant limitations on houses of worship. But the executive order is silent on how the state identifies which neighborhoods fall into these color-coded categories.

Early last week, it sounded like Cuomo planned to impose the new restrictions on zip codes with the highest positivity rates. But as the week progressed, Cuomo made it clear that clusters would be drawn “not by zip code, not by census tract ... it’s only by the numbers.”

The problem is that the state has not made clear exactly what that means. What benchmark metrics — that is, what numbers — over what geographic area

constitutes a cluster subject to the new regulations?

Consider, as a contrast, California’s current regulations. In California, counties are placed in a color-coded tier based upon an adjusted case rate and positivity rate. The state is quite clear what benchmarks a county needs to hit before the state will loosen COVID-19 health restrictions. New York, however, has not provided analogous rules in its official documents or statements; they do not appear in Cuomo’s executive order, nor in the state’s briefing in federal court. This failure certainly makes it hard to determine whether the state is applying the same restrictions to other neighborhoods that it is applying to predominantly ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods.

Failure to apply these same restrictions to all neighborhoods with comparable positivity rates — to engage in something akin to religious gerrymandering — would raise serious concerns as to whether the state is singling out

particular Jewish communities for discriminatory treatment.

The state’s lack of clear metrics is not evidence that the state has targeted Jewish communities. But if the state is going to be successful in its attempt to convince the impacted Jewish communities that they are getting a fair shake — that decisions are being made based on numbers and not politics — then it has to do a better job explaining what those numbers are and how its “science-based” decision-making works.

Ultimately, these new restrictions do not exist in a vacuum. They come on the heels of a summer where de Blasio unnecessarily politicized COVID-19 restrictions. As I’ve expressed previously, in choosing to justify the disparate treatment of racial justice protests and houses of worship on political grounds — and not on far more reasonable public health grounds — De Blasio cemented in the minds of many faith communities that ongoing COVID-19

regulations were not just about health and safety. Those missteps have already served as grounds for a federal court to strike down some of New York’s public health guidelines — a consequence that puts all New Yorkers at risk.

Undoing the damage of these early missteps will require the state to go above and beyond when it formulates new restrictions, especially those that disparately disadvantage religious communities. There is no room any more for ambiguity. Ambiguity only feeds into a festering narrative of distrust. Indeed, if the state is unable to convince faith communities that its restrictions are intended to protect them instead of punish them, it is hard to see how it will be successful in securing compliance. ●

Michael A. Helfand is professor of law and vice dean at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, visiting professor at Yale Law School, and fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.

Lobell

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stories online and with my family, because the only way non-Jews can slightly understand what is going on is if we tell our stories and show them our lived reality.

It took me a while to get to this place, though. I didn’t want to comment on anti-Semitism because I didn’t want to seem like I was being dramatic. One thing that anti-Semites say online is that anti-Semitism doesn’t actually exist, and Jews make it up or are exaggerating it.

I gave into that for a little bit, sadly because I didn’t want to face harassment online. But we must speak up.

This summer, I witnessed #JewishPrivilege shift from an anti-Semitic hashtag on Twitter to one where Jews were sharing their anti-Semitic trauma. I shared the

landlord and Uber stories, and also posted, “#JewishPrivilege is when a Hollywood agent yelled at my husband, a comedian, for taking off Jewish holidays because ‘You can’t do that in this business!’” and “#JewishPrivilege is having to hire an armed guard for our synagogue because Jews were massacred in Pittsburgh and Poway.”

I received more engagement than I’ve ever achieved on the platform. One person told me “F— Israel” and another called me a “heathen” for converting. But overall, I found massive support from non-Jews and Jews alike, with many retweeting me and agreeing with what I had said. It empowered me to keep tweeting about anti-Semitism.

We must continue to speak up, show our vulnerability and humanity and help the non-Jewish community understand. Black Lives Matter is

very effective at showing people outside of the Black community their pain and trauma and has gained a huge following, with people of all different races and backgrounds supporting them.

There’s no reason that anti-Semitism and its effects shouldn’t be understood and rejected just as firmly as racism.

Unfortunately, a lot of non-Jews think that anti-Semitism is a thing of the past that died with the Holocaust and society has advanced since then. I certainly did before I converted. But when talking about anti-Semitism in the classroom, it has to go way beyond the Holocaust so people can very much realize it’s alive and well today.

Recently, a teenager asked my husband to take off his hat so he could see if he had horns. Maybe if that teen had gotten a better education on anti-Semitism, he

would have thought twice before saying that.

When I talk to my family about how America is quickly becoming like Europe before the Holocaust and how I want to move to Israel one day, they say “Really?” and find it hard to believe.

“Why would you move so far away?” they ask. I tell them I want to survive. I send them news articles to back up my claims. I hope they’re beginning to understand. I hope they see that Pittsburgh and Poway were not isolated incidents but indicative of a bigger issue going on.

It may seem dramatic, but I’m OK with being dramatic

now. I’m not going to apologize for bringing up the trauma I’ve experienced. That’s not my job. I’m done with feeling powerless.

If our collective chorus gets louder and louder, and we tell our non-Jewish friends and family about anti-Semitism, they may just start to understand — and become valuable allies in the process. ●

Kylie Ora Lobell is a copywriter, editor, marketer and publicist who has written for New York magazine, The Washington Post, The LA Times, The Jewish Journal of Los Angeles, Aish, Chabad and Tablet magazine.

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Yankee Pot Roast Welcomes Fall



FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

KIDS LOVE IT because the meat is tender, adults love the complexity of the flavors and, most importantly, the cook loves it because you just throw everything in the pot and leave it alone for 4 hours. This can also be done in a slow cooker, but the instructions below are for an old-school oven braise.

Topping the finished pot roast with chopped parsley gives a burst of freshness to this hearty dish and adds a nice visual dash of bright green when you serve it.

Since the vegetables are all contained in the pot, you don't need much in the way of sides — a loaf of crusty bread and a bottle of dry red wine complete this meal beautifully.

If you wish for something else on the table, the simplest green salad does the trick. The version below, which features a make-in-the-bowl lemony dressing, delivers a refreshingly welcome contrast to the richness of the pot roast.

As for dessert, you can go one of two ways — stick with the theme of homey-cozy and serve something

like apple pie or brownies, or go with something light and contrasting like sorbet, sliced melon or mango, or a spiced fruit compote.

YANKEE POT ROAST Serves 6

"Why is it called Yankee?" I wondered. Some research revealed that the cooking technique was brought to New England by French immigrants in the form of *étouffée* and was adapted to local ingredients.

The name may be a nod to the stereotypical frugality and ingenuity of New Englanders: The recipe takes an inexpensive cut of meat and patiently braises it to tender deliciousness. The long winters of the region necessitated warming comfort foods, and cooking the dish slowly over several hours served the additional purpose of heating up the kitchen.

The inclusion of vegetables is also said to be a tradition of the New England, or Yankee, version — perhaps as a clever way to stretch the meat and cook the meal with maximum efficiency and minimum effort.

- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 4- to 5-pound chuck roast
- Salt and pepper to season meat
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 4 carrots cut in large chunks
- 3 parsnips cut in large chunks
- 1 small turnip, cut in large chunks
- 4 stalks celery cut in large chunks
- 3 cups beef stock
- 1 cup red wine
- 1 tablespoon fresh or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon fresh or 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 whole bay leaf
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

Heat your oven to 275 F. Generously sprinkle the roast with salt and pepper.

In a large Dutch oven, heat the oil, and sear the beef on all sides. Remove it from the pan, and add the garlic and onions, scraping up any browned bits.

When the onions and garlic are fragrant, place the beef, along with any drippings, back in the pan. Add the vegetables, broth, wine, thyme, rosemary and bay leaf. Cover and place it in the oven.

Roast for about 4 hours until the meat is falling apart. Remove the bay leaf. Sprinkle parsley over the pot roast just before serving.

BOSTON LETTUCE WITH LEMON DRESSING Serves 6

Since we are serving a Yankee pot roast with roots in New England, Boston lettuce seems to be the right choice for the salad.

This simple salad is all about showcasing the ingredients. Buy the crispest lettuce you can find and use top-quality olive oil.

If you can't find Boston or bibb, any varietal (except iceberg) is fine here — romaine, red leaf, oak leaf, arugula, etc. There is so much going on in the main course, this simple citrusy salad is the

ideal complement.

I prefer this just as it is, but you can add some tomatoes, cucumbers, sprouts or fresh herbs if you wish.

The other benefit of this salad is the lack of fuss. You can assemble it right in the salad bowl, dressing and all.

- 2 heads Boston or bibb lettuce, rinsed, spun and torn into bite-sized pieces
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ¼ cup best-quality extra-virgin olive oil
- A couple of pinches of kosher salt
- Generous grinding of fresh cracked pepper

Place the lettuce in a salad bowl. Spritz it with lemon juice, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and drizzle with olive oil. Toss and serve immediately. ●

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JEWISH EXPONENT

OCTOBER 22, 2020 21

Golems, Dybbuks and Rabbis: A Look at Scary Movies With Jewish Roots

FILM

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

IT'S A HORROR FILM buff's favorite time of year: The nights are getting longer, the air is getting colder and the fallen leaves are making those eerie skittering sounds that seem to follow you down the street.

If you're seeking some Jewish representation in your scary viewing lineup, read on: The following movies and TV series draw on Jewish legends to generate some serious screams.

'The Golem' (2018)

Brothers Doron and Yoav Paz directed this historical horror film starring Hani Furstenberg as Hannah, a Jewish woman from a 17th-century shtetl. She creates a golem, a humanoid figure with supernatural strength made from clay, for protection when a group of violent noblemen from a neighboring village accuse the Jews of cursing them with a plague. She develops an attachment to her creation, even as it turns its dark powers of destruction from her enemies to her community.

Dan Ben-Amos, professor of folklore in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department at University of Pennsylvania, said stories about golems often draw from the biblical story of God creating Adam from the earth. They also may stem from Jews' fear of violence and persecution.

"Pogroms were a regular



▲ A golem comes to life in Paul Wegener's 1920 film "The Golem: How He Came Into the World."

Screenshot from trailer posted by Eureka Entertainment Ltd.

historic event in Jewish life," he said. "They could not protect themselves, at that time, by themselves. They needed some stories from God that would protect them."

Filmmakers have been inspired by golems for at least 100 years. Paul Wegener's 1920 silent horror film "The Golem: How He Came Into the World" reimagines the legend of the golem of Prague, who was created to protect Jews from a pogrom but quickly goes rogue.

'The Possession' (2012)

This terrifying film was directed by Ole Bornedal and stars Natasha Calis as Emily, a

young girl who brings home a mysterious box engraved with Hebrew letters from a garage sale, and then starts behaving strangely.

Her family consults experts in Jewish mysticism and discovers she has been possessed by a *dybbuk*, an evil spirit that possesses and ultimately destroys its human host. Similar to the devil in "The Exorcist," the *dybbuk* must be forced out of the host's body with a ritual.

Ben-Amos said the *dybbuk* legend emerged from the Kabbalah during the 16th century, though the idea of demonic possession is not unique to Jewish tradition.

"Very often, when people got some sort of a disease and began to behave in an insane or unnatural way — and sometimes people claim that they have voices that are not their own — it is considered a possession by another spirit, and the magicians, the *ba ale shem*, would be called to cure

the individual," he said.

'Juda' (2017)

Judaism and vampire stories have a fraught history due to the role of blood in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. Ben-Amos said the blood libel, which alleged that Jews mixed the blood of Christian children into matzah, was widespread during the Middle Ages. Bram Stoker's "Dracula" and F. W. Murnau's "Nosferatu" were both widely acknowledged as anti-Semitic caricatures, from their large noses and Eastern European origins to their association with vermin.

So is it possible to portray a Jewish vampire sympathetically? "Juda" director Meni Yaish and writer and star Tzion Baruch think so.

The Israeli series, which is available on Hulu, follows Baruch's Juda, an Israeli gambler who is bitten by a Romanian vampire, Anastasia Fein's Tanja, after a poker game. As Juda begins his transformation, Tanja

realizes she has broken the rules of her clan by accidentally biting a Jew, which threatens her own immortality.

Juda, meanwhile, consults with a rabbi about various aspects of vampiric existence and Jewish law: Can he enter a room with a mezuzah? Nope. Can he drink blood even though kosher law forbids it? Yes, but only if it comes from an animal and not a human.

'Corpse Bride' (2005)

Director Tim Burton's stop-motion film isn't technically a horror flick, but it has enough animated corpses and skeletons to land solidly in the creepy camp. It tells the story of Johnny Depp's Victor, a groom who accidentally puts a wedding ring on the finger of Helena Bonham Carter's Emily, a murdered woman. She proclaims Victor her husband and takes him to the underworld, where he struggles to escape back to his real fiancée.

The story is based on an old Jewish folktale about a young man who accidentally weds a corpse by placing a ring on her finger and jokingly reciting vows. He and his friends are horrified when the body rises from the earth and cries, "My husband!"

Jewish folklorist Howard Schwartz retells the tale in his 1987 book "Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural," in a story titled "The Finger." His source was the 17th-century volume "Shivhei ha-Ari," which collected earlier stories about Rabbi Isaac Luria of Safed, a city located in what is now northern Israel. In the legend, the rabbi rules that the marriage between the terrified groom and the corpse is invalid because the dead have no claim on the living. •

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Documentary Narrates Secret Mission by Teens to Secure State of Israel's Independence

FILM

SOPHIE PANZER | JE STAFF

ON THE EVE OF Israel's War of Independence, a group of Jewish teenagers risked their lives to secretly manufacture bullets for freedom fighters.

Their work was memorialized in a museum near Tel Aviv, but relatively few people outside the country know their story.

Now, a documentary by a production crew from the Philadelphia area is bringing their experience to new audiences.

"Code Name: Ayalon" premieres at the Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia on Oct. 29 (the festival was rescheduled from the spring due to the coronavirus). It will also run at the Mandel JCC Cleveland Jewish FilmFest, the Miami Jewish Film Festival and more.

Broadcast reporter and Cachet Communications President Laurel Fairworth was inspired to produce the film during a mission to Israel in 2012 to honor her late mother. She was assigned to a bus visiting the Ayalon Institute Museum, a museum built on the bullet factory where the teens worked.

"I would never have chosen, in all fairness, a bullet factory from the '40s to go visit, but I was assigned that bus, and we went and I was enchanted by what I found," she said.

She learned the story of a group of scouts who were selected by the Haganah for a mission they knew could cost them their lives.

"They said, 'We want you to take on this dangerous mission. We can't tell you what it is, but you all have to agree. If anyone says no, we can't go for it — in other words, it has to be unanimous,'" Fairworth said.

"And they said yes. They agreed to take this on before knowing what it was they were



▲ "Code Name: Ayalon" will premiere at the Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia. Courtesy of Laurel Fairworth.

■ If you ever make a documentary, don't make it about a secret factory. There's no documentation of secret stuff."

MICHAEL LOPATIN

going to be asked to do," she continued.

In 1945, the Haganah built a factory under a kibbutz on the outskirts of Rehovot, a small town 30 minutes from Tel Aviv. The teenagers would live there and produce 2.5 million bullets to be smuggled to Jewish freedom fighters preparing to fight Arab forces for independence.

It had to be done in complete secret due to rising political tensions in the region — the British were trying to keep peace by banning weapons manufacturing. If they were caught by British forces, they would be hanged, and if they were caught by Arab forces, they would be blown up.

Their mission was ultimately a success, and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion credited those 2.5 million bullets with saving the state of Israel.

This, Fairworth thought, would make a great documentary.

After a few months of deliberation, she decided to take on the project. Michael Lopatin, president of Ralph Lopatin

Productions and creative director for the Marlo Group in Los Angeles, joined as a director.

Initially, finding material to work with was difficult.

"If you ever make a documentary, don't make it about a secret factory. There's no documentation of secret stuff," said Lopatin, who lives in Merion.

Through Fairworth's contacts at CNN, the production team was able to track down the last 10 survivors who worked at the factory and hired interviewers to speak with them about their experiences.

"We commissioned these interviews and got them on tape and that became the jumping off point," Lopatin said. "They were able to frame the story pretty completely."

He wanted the film to focus mainly on the factory worker's memories.

"We wanted the least amount of narration as possible and the most amount of survivors to tell the story," he said.

The former bullet manufacturers were happy to talk about their work, but they had kept it

mostly quiet for decades since the Haganah had impressed upon them the importance of secrecy. They also didn't feel like they had done anything particularly heroic.

"They said, 'They told us to keep it a secret and once we left we just never thought to tell anyone,'" Fairworth said.

Composer Rodney Whittenberg, who runs the recording studio MelodyVision in Plymouth Meeting, joined the team to provide the documentary's soundtrack.

"Being African American, I've often found a fondness or a connection to Jewish culture. And so the story of the oppression of the Jews, both at the end of World War II in Europe, but also being occupied by the

British, it just struck me as a story that I would like to be involved in telling, like how people found a way to covertly protect themselves," he said.

Whittenberg composed tracks that incorporated elements of Eastern European klezmer and orchestral music, as well as Middle Eastern music and modern electronic percussion.

He focused on creating a constant sense of tension to convey what was at stake for the young workers.

"If they got caught, it would mean the fall of this new country that they were trying to create," he said. ●

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Belief Never as Important as Action

BY RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN

Parshat Noach

EFRAT, ISRAEL — “And Haran died before his father, in the land of his birth, in Ur Kasdim” (Gen. 11:28).

When it comes to questions of belief, the agnostic is the loneliest of all.

On one side of the fence stands the atheist, confident in his rejection of God and often dedicated to the debunking of religion, which he considers to be “the opiate of the masses” (per Karl Marx). On the other side stands the believer, who glories in his faith that the universe is the handiwork of God. The agnostic stands in the middle, not knowing (*a-gnost*) whether or not God exists, usually despairing of the possibility of acquiring certitude about anything transcending observable material phenomena.

Our biblical portion makes reference to two very different agnostics, Haran and Noah. The contrast between them contains an important lesson for agnostics, believers and atheists alike.

The Bible states that Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and sons’ wives, went into the ark “because of the waters of the Flood” (Gen. 7:7). From this verse, Rashi derives that “Noah had little faith; he believed and he didn’t believe that the Flood would arrive.”

Noah didn’t enter the ark until the water literally pushed him in. Rashi’s phrase that “he believed and he didn’t believe” is really another way of describing an agnostic who remains in the state of his uncertainty; he believes and doesn’t believe. Noah is therefore described by Rashi as the first agnostic.

The second biblical agnostic appears in the guise of Haran. “These are the generations of Terah. Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran” (Gen. 11:27).

Why does the text specify “and Haran died before his father in the land of his birth, in Ur Kasdim” (Ibid. v. 28)? What is the significance of citing the exact place of Haran’s death?

Rashi explains by citing a fascinating midrashic tradition, and at the same time extracts Haran from relative anonymity, setting him up as

a counterfoil agnostic to Noah. This midrash details how Terah, the father of the clan and a famous idol manufacturer, brings charges in the court of King Nimrod against his own son. He accuses Abram of being an iconoclast who destroyed his father’s idols while preaching heretical monotheism. As punishment, Abram is to be cast into the fiery furnace.

Haran is present at the trial and takes the position of having no position. He remains on the sidelines thinking that if Nimrod’s furnace will prove hotter than Abram’s flesh, he will side with the king; but if Abram survives the fire, then it would be clear that Abram’s God is more powerful than Nimrod’s gods, and he will throw in his lot with his brother.

Only after Abram emerges unscathed, is Haran ready to rally behind his brother. He confidently enters the fiery furnace (literally: *Ur Kasdim*), but no miracles await him. Haran burns to death.

Is it not strange that the fate of the two agnostics should be so different? We read how Noah was a man of little faith, and

yet not only does he survive the Flood, he turns into one of the central figures of human history. He is even termed “righteous” in the Bible.

In contrast, Haran, father of Lot, brother to Abraham, hovers on the edge of obscurity, and is even punished with death for his lack of faith. Why is Haran’s agnosticism considered so much worse than Noah’s?

Rabbi Moshe Besdin, z”l, explained that while Noah and Haran shared uncertainty about God, there was a vast difference between them. Noah, despite his doubts, nevertheless builds the ark, pounding away for 120 years, even suffering abuse from a world ridiculing his eccentric persistence. Noah may not have entered the ark until the rains began — but he did not wait for the flood before obeying the divine command to build an ark!

Noah may think like an agnostic, but he acts like a believer. Haran, on the other hand, dies because he waits for someone else to test the fires. In refusing to act for God during Abram’s trial, he acted against God. In effect, his indecision is very much a decision. He is an

agnostic who acts like an atheist.

Indecision is also a decision. A person who is indecisive about protesting an evil action or a malicious statement is aiding and abetting that malevolence by his very indecisive silence. After all, our sages teach that “silence is akin to assent.”

Noah reached his spiritual level because he acted, not so much out of faith, but despite his lack of it. Our sages understood very well the difficulty of faith and the phenomenon of agnosticism. What they attempt to teach the agnostic is: If you are unsure, why do you act as if you are an atheist? Would it not be wiser to act as if you were a believer?

We learn from Noah’s life and Haran’s death that perfect faith is not necessary in order to conduct one’s life. Belief is never as important as action. In the world to come, there is room for all kinds of agnostics. It depends primarily on how they acted on Earth. ●

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is the founding rabbi of Efrat and the founder, chancellor emeritus and rosh hayeshiva of Ohr Torah Stone.

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Strauss

Continued from Page 5

school there, too.

Strauss commuted to Penn from Coatesville as an undergraduate, but it didn’t appear to be a burden, academically speaking; Strauss, a journalism major, was a member of several honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, and wrote for the women’s student newspaper; she’d later work as a Main Line Times reporter.

Following her graduation, she traveled with her parents as she had done since she was a child, spending two years on a grand tour that took the family from

the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. With her husband of 60 years, Hilary Strauss, she would continue this tradition throughout her life; and that’s not to mention their summers in Margate, another practice that went back to college summers at her parents’ house there.

It was a European trip tracing medieval Jewish history, according to Ruderman, that helped forge a long friendship between the Strauss and Ruderman families. Ruderman said that the depth of Strauss’ intellect and passion for the

project of Jewish history were obvious.

“She had a deep commitment to the Jewish people in her own way,” Ruderman said. Strauss, he added, was always quiet and never “flashy.”

Her daughter has a slightly different characterization: not quiet, but “reserved,” Strauss said, likely a product of her mother’s upbringing. She worked hard to never offend, and refrained from dominating a conversation; consequently, many felt able to confide in her. Even regarding political matters, an arena where

she had strong commitments (voting for Democrats since Adlai Stevenson’s presidential campaign), Strauss was careful to take note of present company.

In conversation, in her philanthropy, in family life: “She cared about everybody’s well-being,” her daughter said.

Strauss was predeceased by her husband, Hilary Strauss, and another daughter, Erika; she is survived by Louise Strauss. ●

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

#VoicesHavePower: How Our Women of Vision Support Survivors in the Jewish Community

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL Domestic Violence Awareness Month and, at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, funding culturally competent responses to domestic violence has long been a priority. Twenty-five percent of all Jewish women will experience domestic abuse—the same rate as non-Jewish women—but studies have also found that Jewish women stay in abusive relationships for twice as long.

Understanding this nuance and offering a full range of support—like trauma-informed counseling and financial help—is why we fund organizations like Jewish Family and Children's Service and The Female Hebrew Benevolent Society. And in the past few years, our Women of Vision affinity group has built a special relationship with one violence prevention organization focused on community education and legal support: Dinah.

Dinah, named for Jacob's voiceless daughter, focuses specifically on violence against women in the Jewish community. It points to specific issues that create a culture of complacency, such as stereotypes that Jewish women are "difficult," and tolerance for men who refuse to grant their wives a divorce.

"We have created a void in which anyone suffering thinks they are the only one—the exception, the weak one," founder Shana Weiner wrote. "They believe that no one will listen them, support them, save them."

Dinah aims to be that savior, connecting Jewish women with culturally

OCTOBER



competent legal defense, educating lawyers and clergy, and offering bystander training to community members. It was a perfect match for our Women of Vision, a group of women philanthropists dedicated to funding innovative programs to enhance the lives of women and girls.

With Women of Vision's help, Dinah was able to develop a trauma-informed training curriculum, called a Community Ally Training, which breaks down misconceptions about violence in the Jewish community. Dinah also trained 50 lawyers to support survivors of domestic violence in court—and

since Dinah is volunteer-run, recruiting strong allies in the legal profession is crucial to fulfilling their mission.

Most recently, Women of Vision has provided Dinah with a capacity building grant to help this young, volunteer-run organization put systems to better serve survivors.

"Members of the Jewish community are not exempt from the tragedy of domestic partner violence," said Mindy Fortin, Women of Vision chair. "At this difficult time, when incidences of domestic violence have skyrocketed due to the hardships that COVID-19 has brought to our doorsteps, we feel it is more important than ever to help protect the most vulnerable among us."

If you or someone you know needs help, you can find a domestic violence reporting hotline at dhs.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Report-Abuse.aspx.

Our 2020 High Holidays Food Drive Rises to Meet a Challenge

ENDING FOOD INSECURITY IS A MAJOR PRIORITY at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and the High Holiday Food Drive is one of our biggest initiatives in the fight against hunger.

Each year, synagogues from across the region participate, collecting tens of thousands of pounds of food for all five of our food pantry sites. And this year, economic downturn and a high unemployment rate mean that need is greater than ever.

"We have seen an increase in new recipients and an increase in the number of visits from all recipients," said Phil Holtje, our Mitzvah Food Program associate. "One pantry location has seen a dramatic weekly uptick of 40%."

Typically, the food collection process is part of the participating synagogues' High Holiday programming, with congregants collecting food and bringing it to their synagogues. But this year, almost all services are virtual, and many synagogues are not open to the public. To further complicate matters, our team doesn't have access to the SHARE Food Program warehouse in North

Philly, where we usually store and sort donated food.

"COVID-19 really threw a wrench into all this," Holtje said. "Synagogues have had to get creative in how they collect for us."

Some congregations are still collecting items at their synagogues and coordinating pickups with our Mitzvah Food Pantry staff. Others are delivering the goods directly to our pantries, while still others are collecting money from their congregants or purchasing items in bulk and having them delivered to the pantries.

Holtje stressed the importance of the food drive and anti-hunger initiatives in general.

"COVID-19 has put families out of work," he said. "More often than not, they're forced to choose between paying for food and paying other bills. We expect the economic impact of this pandemic to stretch well into 2021, so that means that we have to be there for our community."

Learn more about the High Holidays Food Drive or make a donation to our Mitzvah Food Program at jewishphilly.org/resources/mitzvah-food-program/.

DEATH NOTICES

ANILOFF

Perry Aniloff, October 12, 2020, of Philadelphia, PA. Adored father of Jamie and Alison. Beloved brother of Larry (Betty) Aniloff and cherished son of the late Harry and the late Lillian Aniloff. Uncle of David (Buffy) and Caryn (Arend) Deboit. Perry taught Health and Physical Education for 37 dedicated years for the School District of Philadelphia and directed numerous athletic programs for Klein JCC for 43 years. The family respectfully requests that contributions in his memory be made to coloncancercoalition.org
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COHAN

The family of Trina Polen Cohan is heartbroken to announce her death on October 8th, 2020 at the age of 84. She battled MDS for several years with extraordinary strength and dignity. Trina was born in Philadelphia, PA on April 1st, 1936 to Esther (Brodsky) Polen and Bernard Polen. A lifelong scholar, Trina graduated with a BA from Smith College and a MA in the Psychology of Reading from Temple University. She was a remedial reading and writing tutor at Germantown Friends School, Penn Charter and Greene Street Friends. She also volunteered at an adult literacy program. Trina started each day with a mug of coffee sprinkled with large marshmallows as she read the newspaper and listened to the weather report on her transistor radio. She loved to read (real books, not electronic), especially mysteries of all genres. She enjoyed puzzles of all types-cryptograms, crosswords, Sudoku, jigsaw- and never missed "the funnies." She was an incredible cook who baked her love into each meal and dessert. Every summer, her homemade peach pies were fought over to the last bite. Trina was patient, smart, gentle, lovely, strong, principled, intelligent, kind, a great listener and an ardent Democrat. She was not known for her sense of direction. She loved spending time on boats exploring different places with her husband, Donald. Above all, she was an exceptional daughter, wife and mother and grandmother. Trina is survived by her children, Rachel Cohan Albert, Benjamin Cohan and Susannah Cohan McQuillan; Her son-in-laws, Jonathan Albert and Joe McQuillan; her daughter-in-law, Judy Qiu and her grandchildren, Sarah Albert and her husband, Matthew Cantatore, Jake Albert, Minori and Manna Cohan and Will and Matthew McQuillan. She is also survived by her brother, Stephen Polen and his family, Kara McQuillan and her family; Benjamin's stepdaughter, Anwen Deng and several first cousins. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald S. Cohan. Trina's family is grateful to her exceptional health care team at the Abramson Cancer Center: Dr. Selina Luger, Liz and Ali and the nurses at Valley Forge Medical Center who provided exemplary care and friendship. Trina's family are forever indebted to the anonymous Red Cross donors for their extraordinary generosity of platelets and blood even during the Covid crisis. Trina's memorial service will be determined at a future date. Donations in her memory may be made to The Musser Blood Center at the American Red Cross, 700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 Attention Helen Muniz Re: HLA patient, Trina Cohan. Alternatively, donations may be made to the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania in honor of Dr. Selina Luger. There are no words to express how greatly Trina will be missed by those of us who have loved and cherished her, throughout our lives.

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EILBERG

Clare Eilberg (nee Clara Marcus), 95, of Philadelphia, on October 14, 2020. Preceded in death by her husband and soulmate of 59 years, William Eilberg. Beloved Mother of Janet Eisenberg (Dr. Burton) and the late Linda Feldman. Treasured Grandmom of Michelle Mostovy-Eisenberg. Grandmother of Dr. Judith Eisenberg and the Hon. Todd Eisenberg (Elana). Great-grandmother of William and Benjamin. Also survived by her sister-in-law, Rachel Eilberg. Sadly missed by her loyal feline companion, Lucy. Preceded in death by her dear parents, Morris and Henrietta Marcus, siblings Jack Marcus (Mona), Nathaniel Marcus (Joyce), Pearl Eilberg, Rabbi Paul Eilberg and Leonard Eilberg. She was loved by all who knew her. She was a clerk typist and executive assistant for many years. She was a Jewish educator for the Hebrew Sunday School Society for over thirty years. She was a volunteer for the Shalom Tamid Chapter of Hadassah and KleinLife for many years. Contributions in her memory may be made to Hadassah, 1518 Walnut St. Ste. 402, Phila., PA, Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El, 8339 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA or Crossroads Hospice, Attn: Joe, 523 Plymouth Rd., Ste. 225, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

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GLASSMAN

Howard T. Glassman, on May 30, 2020 Husband of Eta (nee) Roseman. Father of Sharon (Paul Kiteck) Glassman and Beth (W. Mark Eliason) Glassman; brother of Arlene (Ronald) Salove and Judy (Gerald) Saepoff; grandfather of Nicole and Aaron Schulman. Howard was a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and The University of Pennsylvania Law School. He was a partner at Blank Rome where he specialized in the area of bankruptcy law. Service and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Beaumont Employee Counseling Fund, Attention of Birch Clothier. 601 N. Ithan Ave. Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

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GOLDSTEIN

Edwin F. Goldstein of Riderwood Village, Silver Spring, MD, passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2020, Beloved husband of Grace Feldman Goldstein, loving father of Bart and David (Linda) Goldstein and Nancy (Rob) Reibman, dear grandfather of Jessica, Mark, Mason, Brittany, Lauren, Nicole and Alex. Edwin was born on July 13, 1928 in Baltimore, MD. He received a chemical engineering degree from John Hopkins University. He was founder and owner of Arc Water Treatment Company, started in 1963. Edwin was known for his generosity to his family and his sense of humor. Graveside services were private. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to Torchinsky Hebrew Funeral.

A Community Remembers

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DEATH NOTICES



GRADMAN

Dr. Alan Howard Gradman: Beloved husband of Temima Gradman for 50 years, father of Arielle (Jack) Berlin, Gideon (Juliette) Gradman and Jonathan (Alexandra) Gradman, grandfather of Benji and Sammy Berlin, Yuval, Eli and Lev Gradman, and brother of Lisa Lipton and the late Marc Gradman, passed away at his home in Pittsburgh on October 1 from pancreatic cancer. He was 74. Dr. Gradman was born September 26, 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to David and Gertrude Gradman and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. He attended Duke University as an Angier B. Duke Scholar and received his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship in cardiology at Stanford University in California. Dr. Gradman spent 13 years on the faculty at Yale University School of Medicine as Associate Professor of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. He and his family came to Pittsburgh in 1990 when he became Chief of Cardiology at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, where he engaged in research, teaching, and caring for patients for the next 19 years. He also served on the faculty of Temple University Medical School as Professor of Medicine. Dr. Gradman's research in cardiovascular diseases specialized in Hypertension and Heart Failure, and he authored over 130 articles, reviews, and book chapters. He lectured all over the world, combining his love of teaching with his love of travel and adventure. This passion for teaching extended into his volunteer work, including his decades-long volunteering in India teaching doctors at the Satya Sai Superspecialty Hospital in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, India. Outside of medicine, Alan had a broad range of interests, from ancient history to current events. He was a voracious reader and a perpetual student, who took the time to understand topics deeply, often seeking out primary sources and first-hand accounts of historical events to gain insight into the events and issues of today. His family and friends enjoyed his conversations and looked forward to his insights, which will surely be missed. He also loved hiking, especially in the West, which he enjoyed with his sons Gideon and Jonathan and his brother Marc. He had a special fondness for Yosemite National Park, where he went on an annual family hiking trip for over 20 years. Graveside Services and Interment were held at Poale Zedeck Memorial Park Cemetery. Contributions may be made in his name to the Yosemite Conservancy (yosemite.org), Mekor Habracha / The Center City Synagogue (mekorhabracha.org), and ZOA, 6507 Wilkins Avenue, Suite 102, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Arrangements entrusted to Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc., family owned and operated.

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DEATH NOTICES

JOHNSON

Annette P. Johnson (nee Posner) on October 10, 2020. Loving mother of Lee (Karen) Levicoff, Joy Robbins and the late Marc Levicoff; Dear sister of Wayne (Linda) Posner and Samuel Posner; Devoted grandmother of Marc, Maggie (Santini), Macy, Maxine and Rayna.

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KELNER

Dr. Lester D. Kelner, on October 10, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Fannie (nee Kurman); Loving father of Abbie Kelner (Gabriel Yifrah), Michael Kelner (Donna), Julie Kelner (Debbie Hopkins) and Robert Kelner (Rona); Dear Brother of Russel Kelner (Nancy); Devoted grandfather of Daniel, Jacob, Rebecca (Christopher), Elizabeth, Joshua, Jennifer and Will. Services and interment were private. Contributions in his memory may be made to Memorial Sloane Kettering. www.mskcc.org

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NEMROFF

Phyllis Nemroff (nee Cohen). Age 85, passed away October 9, 2020 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Phyllis was born in Elkins Park, PA. She graduated from Cheltenham High School and was a proud Temple University alum. Before her illness, Phyllis was very active in her community. She taught Sunday School for many years at Temple Judea in Philadelphia and later served on the board of Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park. As a devoted member of Women's American ORT (now World ORT), Phyllis served as president of the Philadelphia Region and helped chapters throughout the Mid-Atlantic District. Phyllis enjoyed reading, gardening, bird watching, and taking boat trips with her husband of 63 years, Arthur, and friends from their yacht club. She also loved visiting with her eleven grandchildren. Phyllis was an avid Philadelphia sports fan and especially enjoyed watching the 76ers and Phillies. She loved her home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and relocated there after retirement. Preceded in death by her father, Samuel Cohen; mother, Rose Cohen; sister, Beryl Halpern (Leonard); and brother, Richard Cohen; she is survived by her husband, Arthur Nemroff; children, Sandra McBride (Ed), Sally Ehrlich (Gary), Sam Nemroff (Jennie), and Lisa Fleetwood; grandchildren, Eric McBride (Claire Ripsteen), Jim McBride (Amy Leung), Karen McBride (Mark Heck), Rose McBride, Stephen Nemroff (Jenna Nagler), Andrew Nemroff, Daniel Nemroff, Max Ehrlich, Eli Ehrlich, Gavin Fleetwood, Justin Fleetwood; and sister-in-law, Polly Cohen. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809; World ORT (www.ort.org), or the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org).

SCHOENBERG MEMORIAL CHAPEL

PAUL

Harold Paul, September 25, 2020. Husband of Sylvia (nee Miller) Father of the late Warren Paul and the late Stephen Paul, also survived by 5 grandchildren. He was a active member of Beth Sholom in Elkins Park and Equity Lodge #591 FNAM. He was a draperies salesman. Contributions in his memory may be made to Beth Sholom Congregation, 8321 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027.

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DEATH NOTICES

PRYWES

Professor Noah S. Prywes passed away on September 21, 2020. Prof. Prywes was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1925. He immigrated with his family to pre-state Israel in 1933 and later attended the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology studying Electrical Engineering. He served in the Hagana and then the beginnings of the Israeli Navy. He moved to the U.S. for graduate school, first at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) and then at Harvard University where he obtained a Ph.D. in Applied Physics in 1954 before there were departments of computer science. Dr. Prywes first worked on early electronic computers at Univac in the 1950s, leading the computing unit for the LARC computer, which was one of the world's first supercomputers. In 1958 he took a job on the faculty of the Moore School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences for 38 years. Noah's early doctoral students were some of the first to receive Ph.D.'s from a Computer Science department. Noah was a pioneer in many of the most significant waves of computer technology over the past half century. In the 1960s he created one of the first relational database management systems (Multi-List). In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he advanced and commercialized timesharing, the predecessor to today's cloud computing. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was at the forefront of automatic programming, nonprocedural specification systems and reverse engineering, and the application of these technologies to parallel and distributed computing. In the early 2000s, he developed innovative speech technology for use in telephony. Noah applied his technology through several businesses to a wide range of domains—from early automated payroll systems to financial reporting for Wall Street banks as well as in scientific computing and real-time systems for aerospace and the military, particularly Naval systems. Noah published prolifically, was awarded numerous patents, and was a Fellow of the IEEE Computer Society. Dr. Prywes was an active member of Lower Merion Synagogue in Bala-Cynwyd, PA, once serving as president. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dr. Ruth W. Prywes, three sons (Menahem, Daniel and Ron Prywes), and seven grandchildren.

SKALINA

Alexander Skalina, passed away on October 14, 2020. Husband of the late Katharina (nee Sos). Father of Dr. Stefan (Mary Ellen) Skalina. Grandfather of Lauren Skalina (Matthew Zelin), Rachel Skalina (Alexander Hutchinson) and Benjamin Skalina (Molly). Great Grandfather of Sylvie and Naomi Zelin. Contributions in his memory may be made to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org.

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WEISS

Evelyn Weiss (nee Cohen) on October 13, 2020. Wife of the late Arnold. Mother of Harry (Hilarie) Weiss and the late Shelly Weiss. Grandmother of Scott (Liz) Weiss and Matt (Liz) Weiss. Great-grandmother of Nola, Emme and Brandon. Graveside services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Shelly Weiss Memorial Fund c/o Franklin & Marshall University, PO Box 3003, Lancaster PA 17604 or Hadassah, 1518 Walnut St, Suite 402, Philadelphia PA 19102.

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DEATH NOTICES

WEXLER

Mona Wexler (nee Ginsburg), October 9, 2020, of Holland, PA, formerly of Wyncott, PA. Beloved wife of the late Herbert Siegel and the late Norman Wexler; loving mother of Susan (the late Kenneth) Etkin, Nancy (Anthony Pino) Siegel and Stacy (Eric) Gremminger; cherished grandmother of Howard (Jennifer) Etkin, David (Karin) Etkin, Scott (Nancy) Aaron, Blair (Jason) Manus, Lyssa (James) Murphy, Jonathan (Sarah) Gremminger, Frank (Latanya) Young and great grandmother of Madeline, Kyle, Kevin, Abigale, Taylor, Sia and Pepper. Also survived by step-daughters Ilene (Richard) Miller and Lori Wexler and two step-grandchildren. Services were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia (www.jewishphilly.org) or to Chandler Hall Hospice Program (https://ch.kendal.org)

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YUDKOVITZ

Barbara Yudkovitz (nee Tabackin) on October 14, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Louis Yudkovitz. Devoted mother of Stephanie Rubin (Eric) and Janice Tumbleson (Jim). Loving grandmother of Aiden, Shane, Sienna, Jordyn, and Naomi. Dear sister of the late Jay Tabackin. Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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ZYGMUNTOWICZ

Itka Frajman Zygmuntowicz, passed away peacefully at home on October 9, 2020 at the age of 94. Born in Ciechanow, Poland, Itka is a survivor of Auschwitz who shared her powerful testimony with thousands of middle, high school and college students. She is the author of a memoir "Remember, My Child" and two books of poetry (available on Amazon), as well as a featured witness with the USC-Shoah Foundation. She has inspired people from all walks of life with her message of love, courage and forgiveness. Wife of the late Rachmil Zygmuntowicz. Mother of Erland, Jerry, Sam and Michael (dec.), grandmother of Ezra (dec.), Eli, Eliza, Will, Raphael & Isaac and great-grandmother of Ryland & Alta Zygmuntowicz. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center, 8339 Old York Road, Suite 203/205, Elkins Park, PA. 19027, www.hamec.org.

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Or to her Attorney:
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Or to their Attorney:
ANDREW J. BARRON
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delphia, PA 19103,
Or to their Attorney:
ANDREW J. BARRON
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ESTATE OF JENNIFER MCGINLEY-
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Or to her Attorney:
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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF JUDITH S. GELLES
a/k/a JUDY SUE GELLES, JUDITH
GELLES, JUDY GELLES and JUDY
S. GELLES, DECEASED.

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to make payment without delay to
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Or to his Attorney:
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ESTATE NOTICES

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CEASED.

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ESTATE of Barbara Miller aka Bar-
bara R. Miller; Miller, Barbara aka
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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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, AD-
MINISTRATRIX, c/o Marc Vogin,
Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl., Phila-
delphia, PA 19103,
Or to her Attorney:
MARC VOGIN
KLEIN, VOGIN & GOLD
1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ESTATE OF BERNICE F. KLIGER-
MAN, 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 de-
cedent to make payment without
delay to James E. Dundon, Admin-
istrator c/o his attorney Debra G.
Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300,
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

ESTATE OF GLADYS J. POD-
LASZEWSKI, 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, EX-
ECUTOR, 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

CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE

Court of Common Pleas for the
County of Philadelphia Family
Court, No. NC2010003 NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that on October 7,
2020, the petition of Chau Tran was
filed praying for a decree to change
the name of Nguyen Nhu Tran to
Yuna Nguyen Tran and the name of
Nguyen Sy Huyen to Kaleb Nguyen
Tran. The court has fixed Decem-
ber 10, 2020 at 10:00 am in Room
6FV, Family Court, 1501 Arch
Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 for
hearing. All persons interested may
appear and show cause if any they
have, why the prayer of the said
petitioner should not be granted.

ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE ZOIDA, DE-
CEASED.

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 KATHRYN M. SICIN-
SKI, 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 de-
cedent to make payment without
delay to JOHN F. WALSH, ADMIN-
ISTRATOR, 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 LEONARD PAUL KED-
SON a/k/a Leonard Kedson a/k/a
Leonard P. Kedson

Late of Haverford Township
Notice is hereby given that, in the
estate of the decedent set forth be-
low, the Register of Wills has granted
Letters Testamentary to the
persons named. All persons hav-
ing claims against said estate are
requested to make known the same
to them or their attorneys and all
persons indebted to said decedent
are requested to make payment
without delay to the Executors
named below.
Executors
David Kedson & Ira Kedson
105 Sycamore Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086
Attorney:
Steven R. Sosnov, Esquire
SOSNOV & SOSNOV
540 Swede Street
Norristown, PA 19401



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ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE of LORRAINE R. GRICEVICS
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 David Lee Rehn, Administrator c/o his attorney Debra G. Speyer, Two Bala Plaza, Suite 300, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

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 Vugin, Esq., 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Or to his Attorney: MARC VUGIN KLEIN, VUGIN & GOLD, 1700 Sansom St., 3rd Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103

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, 6th Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.
Or to his Attorney: DAVID S. WORKMAN ASTOR WEISS KAPLAN & MANDEL, LLP, The Bellevue, 6th Fl., 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

ESTATE OF VERONICA ROZDZIELSKI, 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 GERALDINE UNGER, EXECUTRIX, c/o Andrew Gavrin, Esq., 306 Clairemont Rd., Villanova, PA 19085.
Or to her Attorney: ANDREW GAVRIN THE LAW OFFICE OF ANDREW GAVRIN, 306 Clairemont Rd., Villanova, PA 19085

ESTATE OF WILBERT THIRKIEL HAYES a/k/a WILBERT HAYES, 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 CYNTHIA K. HAYES, ADMINISTRATRIX, 484 Browning Ln., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.
Or to her Attorney: JORDAN R. SHAPIRO SHUBERT GALLAGHER TYLER MULCAHEY, 121 S. Broad St., 20th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107

FICTITIOUS NAME

FICTITIOUS NAME REGISTRATION
An application for registration of the fictitious name **Metztil**, 619 Sears St., Philadelphia, PA 19147, was filed in the Department of State at Harrisburg, PA, August 10, 2020, pursuant to the Fictitious Names Act, Act 1982-295. The name and address of the person who is a party to the registration is Jeanne Cicco Barker, 619 Sears St., Philadelphia, PA 19147.

PETITION NAME CHANGE

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, Case No: NC2008002. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 19, 2020, the petition of Luisa A. Santos was filed, praying for a petition to change the name of her minor child, Allison Dominguez, to Allison Laine Torres Santos. The Court has fixed November 5, 2020 at 9:00 A.M., in Courtroom 6F of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Family Division via telephone/video hearing at 215-686-4065. All persons interested in the proposed change of name may participate in the remote hearing and show cause, if any they have, why the petition should not be granted. No parties shall appear in person in Courtroom 6F.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Film Festival Kicks Off Oct. 24

THE BUCKS COUNTY KEHILLAH Jewish Film Festival will screen three films virtually over the next three weekends.

There will be interactive discussions via Zoom after each film.

“Crescendo” from 2019 screens at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 24. It tells the tale of a famous conductor who accepts a job creating an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra and then deals with the resulting problems. Rabbi Raysh Weiss of Congregation Beth El of Yardley leads the post-film discussion.



▲ “Crescendo” screens at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 24
Courtesy of Menemsha Films

“Fiddler, Miracle of Miracles,” which tells the original story behind the beloved musical, follows at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1. Post-film discussion on the 2019 offering will be led by Rabbi Sigal Brier of Temple Judea of Bucks County.

And 2011’s “My Australia” is slated for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 7. The film follows two troubled boys in Lodz, Poland, after World War II who fall in with an anti-Semitic organization. The boys’ mother moves them to Australia, where they “become aware of their family’s roots.”

Rabbi Elliott Perlstein of Ohev Shalom of Bucks County will interview Ami Drodz — on whose story the film is based — as part of the post-film discussion.

KleinLife Receives \$10K COVID-19 Response Grant for Use in Meal Delivery

KleinLife in Northeast Philadelphia announced Oct. 12 that it received a \$10,000 COVID-19 grant from the Truist Foundation through Meals on Wheels America.

KleinLife President and CEO Andre Krug said the money will be used to buy resources for the Home Delivered Meals Program it runs in coordination with RSVP Philadelphia. The program provides 70,000 meals annually to homebound seniors in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery counties who cannot shop or cook for themselves.

“Since the start of the pandemic we have added hundreds of area seniors to our Home Delivered Meals Program,” Krug said.

Meals on Wheels America said it has distributed \$18.3 million in emergency funding to local senior nutrition providers actively responding to pandemic.

RapidMask2Go Supplies PPE in SEPTA Suburban Station

Philadelphians passing through SEPTA Suburban Station are now able to buy KN95 masks, hand sanitizer and gloves from vending machines provided by RapidMask2Go.

The company was founded by David Edelman, a Jewish New Yorker who travels to Philadelphia often because his son is a patient at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

RapidMask2Go installed its first vending machines in Suburban Station in July and there are now four in the transit hub. The company also has installed machines in New York City and more than 10 NJ Transit stations.

Edelman said vending machines seemed like a natural fit for safe, in-person purchases.

“There was no human contact involved, it was something that people could see and it had that immediate gratification versus going online to

purchase something and maybe it shows up,” he said.

The idea was also a response to the rampant price gouging that occurred in the earlier stages of the pandemic when people were desperate for supplies, Edelman said.

“People were charging five and 10 times what the average cost for those masks and gloves would be, so we did a standard markup and made it accessible to everybody,” he said.

Dispensing PPE through vending machines is becoming increasingly popular — local startup Philly PPE also sells supplies through vending machines in the area.

JRA to Celebrate 20 Years with Virtual Annual Event

The Jewish Relief Agency will celebrate 20 years at 10 a.m. on Oct. 25 with “Whatever it Takes: A Livestreamed Show to End Hunger.”

The show, which will be hosted by KYW 1060 reporter Hadas Kuznits, will honor outgoing chairman Daniel Erlbaum.

The show also will feature a cooking demonstration with “Chopped” champion Darius Peacock, who will use JRA food box ingredients.

JRA serves more than 6,000 low-income individuals across Greater Philadelphia, with 500 to 1,000 volunteers participating each month. ●



▲ JRA’s drive-through system was tweaked for social distancing because of the pandemic. Photo by Elvera Gurevich

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