

JEWISH EXPONENT

— WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH IN PHILADELPHIA —

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OF NOTE

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Volume 134
Number 24

Published Weekly Since 1887



Should We Read More Torah in Era of Biblical Events?

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

WE ARE LIVING THROUGH a period of plagues, floods, wildfires and other biblical events. In the Torah, such catastrophes often follow poor human behavior — times when we ignore the word of God.

You can take those stories literally or metaphorically. And many rabbis argue that such direct causation is a gross oversimplification.

And today we are both scientifically advanced and inclined, so we can offer credible, rational explanations for events once considered biblical.

But as Simchat Torah approaches on Sept. 28 and 29, the question remains: During a time of chaos, as we finish one annual Torah reading cycle and commence another, can modern Jews benefit from doing a little more reading of the good book?

It almost sounds like a joke: Ask rabbis if Jews can benefit from doing more Torah reading. What do you think they are going

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▲ B'nai Abraham Chabad's Sukkah in the Square in 2020

Courtesy of Yochanon Goldman

Sukkot Celebrations Make Cautious Comeback

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

ON SHABBAT, one is told to light Shabbat candles 18 minutes before sundown, when Shabbat actually begins. It's a liminal space between normal and different times.

"In some ways, the time we're in is

like that: We're somewhat safe, but we're somewhat not safe," said Charles Schur, who organizes the Sukkot map on the Jews in Center City Facebook page.

This year, fewer Jewish organizations and synagogues have shared their sukkah on the map than in pre-COVID years:

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Sept. 24 6:36 p.m.
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Here are a few cocktails (and mocktails) for you.

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Miriam’s Advice Well
SUBMIT A QUESTION

Our resident advice giver is seeking questions from our readers. Are you perplexed about Jewish traditions? Unsure of pandemic-era protocol? Confused about child care and its related issues? Concerned about changes in your life? 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/category/community/miriams-advice-well/



Philacatessen
BLUEBERRY LEMONADE

Blueberries are commonly associated with summer. So is lemonade. Therefore, it makes sense that, by combining the two, you’ll get a tasty drink that screams summer, even if the season is coming to an end. Food columnist Keri White provides the details in her latest Philacatessen blogpost. Visit the Jewish Exponent online to read Philacatessen and get the recipe. And check Philacatessen regularly for content not normally found in the printed edition, such as other recipes, restaurant reviews and food news from around the Delaware Valley.
jewishexponent.com/2021/09/20/blueberry-lemonade/

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Philadelphia City News SUCCOTH AT FARM SCHOOL

Twenty-first Annual Succoth Pilgrimage to Doylestown Institution

The National Farm School will celebrate its twenty-first annual Succoth harvest pilgrimage on Sunday, September 29, on the grounds of the institution, Farm School, Bucks county, Pa., marking the completion of twenty-one years of genuinely patriotic and humanitarian work, and reviewing the work of the past year—a year in which the school has labored even more patriotically and earnestly, to the fullest extents of its resources, to answer the call of our government for more food producers and for greater food production, toward the successful prosecution of the war.

These annual pilgrimages have achieved a notable reputation for interest and enthusiasm, and are looked forward to with pleasure as an annual event by a host of friends of the school, both because of the brilliance of the programme arranged as well as of the calibre of the speakers who participate in them.

The Board of Directors of the National Farm School announces that the exercises this year will in every way uphold the established precedent, and visitors to the school on that day will be rewarded, not only with an opportunity of spending an enjoyable day's outing in the country and viewing the splendid progress which the school is making, but also of listening to addresses by such prominent speakers as Mr. Edward T. Stotesbury, Mr. Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Mr. Samuel T. Bodine, president of the United Gas Improvement Company; Mr. Howard Heinz, Federal Food Administrator for Penn-

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Building Repairs Continue After Flood

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

THE BASEMENT OF the Jewish Community Services Building looks vastly different than it did on Sept. 2, but it still bears little resemblance to what it looked like prior to Hurricane Ida.

Since then, large, rectangular chunks of drywall were removed from the wall, and 250 auditorium seats were ripped out; all salvageable

pieces of memorabilia from the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame were packed into big, square boxes and stored in the building lobby. Industrial fans are blowing around the clock, drying the last of the water that once reached 7 feet high.

The building's facilities team and Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia executives agree that progress has been steady, but slow. Robb Quattro, the building's director of information technology and systems,

has a mantra to summarize the progress made over the last three weeks: "Slow is better than no."

Steve Rosenberg, the Jewish Federation chief operating officer, and other Jewish Federation executives aim to have staff and tenants back in the building on Oct. 4, the date originally set for many employees to return from pandemic-precipitated remote work in March 2020.

Though the Jewish Federation has committed to having



▲ Two hundred and fifty auditorium seats were removed after they were damaged in the flood.
Photos by Jamaal Chambers

employees return then, it is willing to be flexible if necessary.

"We've told staff to be ready for Oct. 4," Rosenberg said. "And if you're ready for Oct. 4, you'll be ready for Oct. 11 or 18 or 25."

With more employees working from home once again, remote access to the server through the previously never-before-used disaster relief site has increased to almost 30 people. Quattro has tripled the bandwidth on the virtual private network.

Facilities staff works on building repairs daily.

"The team is in here by 7 a.m. every day, really working," Rosenberg said.

On Sept. 13, the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was up and running again, leaving the elevators as the only component of the main system still not operable.

Though facility manager Jamaal Chambers and his team lifted the two elevators in the building lobby to drain three feet of water from one elevator shaft over two days, the elevators are waiting on parts before they can be repaired.

Those elevator repairs are straightforward and likely minor; the Jewish Community Services building also has two elevators in the back — one passenger and one freight elevator — that are presenting higher hurdles to clear.

The passenger elevator in the back of the building experienced the brunt of the flooding and is too muddy to be lifted and drained of water. The freight elevator — used by the

facilities staff to carry furniture and supplies throughout the building — relies on a transformer to function. Because the transformer is located at waist-level, it was entirely submerged and needs to be replaced.

In the meantime, a crew will begin cleaning the entire building, which has remained empty since the hurricane. According to Rosenberg, the cleaning process will take about two weeks. Facilities staff also discovered minor damages to the building's roof, which will need to be repaired.

The memorabilia from the hall of fame will be assessed and cleaned by local museum specialists until it is eventually moved to a new home, which is still being decided upon by Stephen Frishberg, the hall's chairperson.

During the building cleanup, Chambers noticed some new needed repairs that wouldn't have otherwise been discovered — such as a leak in the lower-level bathroom behind the drywall — so he considers the building lucky, despite the existing damage.

The building is about 50 years old, but Chambers said that its age has been an asset to its integrity. The foundation of the building is brick, which is no longer the to-go material when constructing buildings meant to house many tenants.

"A lot of the older buildings are built better because nowadays, all these new developments — a lot of it is just wood

See Repairs, Page 5



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Confused About Shemini Atzeret? Us Too: The ‘Hybrid Holiday’ Explained

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

SCHRÖDINGER’S CAT is a thought experiment used in quantum mechanics that — without getting into the hairy details — consists of a cat in a box becoming radioactively poisoned and, upon one opening the box, the cat is found to be, paradoxically, both dead and alive.

The Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret, sandwiched between Sukkot and Simchat Torah, has nothing to do with radioactive cats or quantum mechanics, but it’s an anomaly in its own right:

“It’s a hybrid holiday,” said Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch of Mekor Habracha/Center City Synagogue in Philadelphia.

Shemini Atzeret is both its own holiday and an extension of the holiday of Sukkot and the preface to Simchat Torah.

“In the Torah, we’re told to have a sacred congregation, a gathering, on the eighth day of Sukkot,” Congregation Beth Tikvah Rabbi Nathan Weiner said.

In Hebrew, “*shemini*” means eight, and “*atzeret*” means assembly. The holiday is first mentioned in Leviticus 23:36 and, according to a midrash, is a way to linger in God’s presence following the intensity of the weeks of the High Holidays.

“We have spent so much time with God and in synagogues over the last couple of weeks,” said Rabbi Yonah Gross of Congregation Beth Hamedrosh in Wynnewood. “Before we head back to our lives, Hashem says, ‘I want to spend one more day with you.’”

Celebrated on the 22nd of Tishrei in Israel or the 22nd and 23rd of Tishrei elsewhere, Shemini Atzeret, in short, is a celebration that acts as the transition from Sukkot to



▲ Rabbi Nathan Weiner
Courtesy of Nathan Weiner

Simchat Torah.

Like most concepts in Judaism, however, the simple explanation is not necessarily the most satisfying one, and it certainly doesn’t account for why Shemini Atzeret remains a lesser-known Jewish holiday.

The holiday is a Yom Tov, a festival day, where one refrains from using technology like on Shabbat. During Shemini Atzeret one can — but doesn’t have to — dine in the sukkah; however, it’s not necessary to say a blessing, shake the lulav and etrog, eat a specific food or complete certain ritual practices.

“There’s not a very clear, tangible meaning that people can grab onto,” Weiner said.

Shemini Atzeret is observed differently based on one’s geography and Judaic movement, making the holiday’s ritual practices even harder to pin down.

In Israel, as well as in the Reform and Reconstructionist movements, Shemini Atzeret is a one-day celebration that also combines Simchat Torah.

In the Orthodox and Conservative movements outside of Israel, Shemini Atzeret is a two-day affair.

Yet Weiner tacks an asterisk onto this idea.

“It’s where you live, not where you are” that determines if your celebration is one or two days. If you’re in Israel but are a Conservative Jew from the U.S., you’d celebrate the holiday for



▲ Shemini Atzeret is both a standalone holiday and connected to Sukkot and Simchat Torah.
Courtesy of Getty Images

two days, despite being in an area that celebrates for just one.

To make matters more complicated, Simchat Torah is not a biblical holiday like Shemini Atzeret and Sukkot are, meaning it was developed by rabbis and is not in the Torah. The two-day celebration of the holiday was likewise created rabbinically, largely for practical reasons.

Outside of Israel, several holidays, such as Passover, consist of two-day celebrations, instead of one in Israel, to create a larger margin of error for the lunar calendar.

“The calendar needed to be declared by the high court in Jerusalem and allow time for the word to get out when exactly the holiday was,” Gross said.

To make sure those outside of Israel caught word of when exactly a holiday was and had time to celebrate, the holiday in question was extended to two days, not one, a much more laborious solution to a problem that could have been solved today through a simple Google search.

But regardless of how or where one is celebrating Shemini Atzeret, there are a few rituals that are the same across the board.

During Shemini Atzeret, we add the prayer for *geshem*, rain, to the Shemona Esrei or Amidah, the daily prayer central to Jewish practice. This is not only added on Shemini Atzeret to mark the changing of the

seasons but is said at the end of Sukkot to make sure that rain doesn’t fall while we’re dwelling in a sukkah and eating outside.

And like most every Jewish holiday, Shemini Atzeret blends joy and grief, as it is another opportunity for Yizkor, the memorial service, following Yom Kippur, Hirsch said.

If Jews can figure out how to find harmony in the seeming contradiction of celebration and mourning, then we are certainly capable of deciphering the meaning of a holiday that both stands on its own and is intertwined with others. Besides, it’s got to be easier to understand than quantum mechanics. ●

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Repairs

Continued from Page 4

and plaster and Sheetrock,” Chambers said. “The fact that it was an older building helped us.”

Despite the building’s solid foundation, flooding damage was inevitable, Chambers said.


Storms such as Ida aren’t seen on the North East Coast as frequently or with as much severity as in the Southeast. Had Ida been a better-predicted and less-severe storm, Chambers would have stacked sandbags around the building to limit water from entering the basement.


But given the level of unexpected rainfall, trying to prepare for the storm was futile.

“It was just bad luck,” Chambers said. “I would never say ‘never,’ but I doubt we’ll see something like this again.” ●




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Leadership Winners Reflect on Awards' Impact

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

JEWISH FEDERATION of Greater Philadelphia started honoring young leaders in 1958, and today gives out three annual awards: the Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Young Leadership Award, the Mrs. Blanche Wolf Kohn Young Leadership Award and the Jack Goldenberg Young Leadership Award.

Eligible candidates must be between 25 and 45 and demonstrate a record of participation in the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community and potential for future leadership.

In 2021, the winners are Jan Kushner, Tamar Silberberg Shiffman and Matt Shipon, who will be recognized at



▲ **Jodi Miller**
Courtesy of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Jewish Federation's board of trustees meeting on Sept. 30.

Meantime, three past winners — Arnold Kessler, Jodi Miller and Mitch Goldenberg — discussed what the awards meant to them.



▲ **Mitch Goldenberg**
Courtesy of the Goldenberg family

Arnold Kessler

Kessler, now 94, but then a young lawyer, was the first Feinstein Award winner back in 1958.

At the time, the honor was an outgrowth of the Young Men's Council, a committee within Jewish Federation that tried to galvanize young Jewish men into becoming local pillars.

Kessler started the committee on the theory that "well-to-do families had young people who would become leaders." He turned out to be right.

The council started holding well-attended monthly meetings, he said. The gatherings were mostly informative, with Kessler booking prominent speakers from around the area. He wanted to help the young men learn the lay of the Jewish land.

"It was a successful endeavor," Kessler said. "Out of the Young Men's Council were certainly people who became leaders."

Kessler became active in the Jewish community around the same time he became a lawyer, in 1954. By 1958, he had done enough to be honored by his council's young men.

The Young Men's Council continued into the early 1960s. After it ended, Kessler became

a Jewish Federation board member and the president of his synagogue: Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood.

Now, though, the Bala Cynwyd resident spends most of his time with his wife, Naomi Kessler, and their three children and seven grandchildren.

"I look back and feel that maybe I made some contribution to Philadelphia Jewry," he said.

Jodi Miller

Miller, 52, of Wynnewood, won The Jack Goldenberg award in 2011, honored for her many years in Jewish leadership roles outside the Jewish Federation's jurisdiction.

Miller had been the Home and School Association chair at her synagogue, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, when her children were in preschool. Later, she became the Parent-Teacher Organization chair at Perelman Jewish Day School when her kids were students there.

"I was humbled to be honored for the work I had done, and it inspired me to continue down the path," Miller said.

After being honored, Miller rose to important positions within Jewish Federation, too.

She now serves on the board of trustees and as the chair of volunteer engagement. She also has served as the chair of women's philanthropy, the Committee on Social Responsibility and the Committee on Israel and Overseas.

Miller views herself as an ambassador for the Jewish Federation and its work. And she thinks the ambassador role is about educating, engaging and fundraising in the wider Jewish community.

Miller continues to do this work because she believes in it. "L'dor v'dor, from generation

to generation," Miller said.

Mitch Goldenberg

Goldenberg 65, of Elkins Park, and his brother, Michael Goldenberg, were motivated to get involved by their father, who told them, "Always be a giver."

Since both brothers were accountants, they joined Jewish Federation's Young Accountants Division and learned how to fundraise, he said. Later, they ran campaigns for young leadership, where Mitch Goldenberg was vice chair for fundraising.

Their early efforts earned the Goldenberg boys The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein award, with Michael Goldenberg winning it in 1995 and Mitch Goldenberg winning in 2000.

According to a Jewish Federation official, after winning, the Goldenbergs learned that "budgets were tight" to provide winners with their reward, which was a trip to the Jewish Federation of North America's General Assembly.

So they responded by endowing a third award: the Jack Goldenberg Award, named for their father.

"He wasn't a wealthy man but he went out of his way to help people," Goldenberg said.

Mitch Goldenberg eventually became a real estate developer, and his brother became a health care consultant. They ascended within the Jewish community service ranks as well.

Mitch Goldenberg now sits on the boards of Federation Housing and Abramson Senior Care.

"My father used to tell me, 'There are many people who are old, frail and running out of money, and they need our help,'" he said. ●

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NEWSBRIEFS

Warsaw Ghetto Bones Found in Basement Buried in Jewish Cemetery

WARSAW JEWISH COMMUNITY members buried the bones of a person who may have died in the city's ghetto during the Holocaust, JTA reported.

The person's identity is unknown — the bones were discovered in the basement of a residential building by someone looking for a water leak, the Associated Press reported.

Marek Slusarz, who found the bones, said he was glad to help bring the remains to a proper burial. He is not Jewish.

"After nearly 80 years this unknown person got his dignity back," Leslaw Piszewski, chairman of the Jewish Community in Warsaw, said at the ceremony at a Jewish cemetery. "This is very important. This is the only thing that we can do for the unknown victim."

About 450,000 Jews were locked up by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto, with at least 80,000 dying due to horrific conditions, disease or starvation. At least 10,000 were killed during the 1943 uprising, according to the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Israel.

Large Jewish Education Center Opens in Siberia

The Siberian city of Tomsk opened the region's largest Jewish education center — a century after

communists shuttered the synagogues there, JTA reported.

The building, which has a floor space of about 25,000 square feet, was inaugurated on Sept. 12 with the help of leaders from the Chasidic Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

The center, where 200 Jewish children will attend various classes and workshops, features a kindergarten with three classes. It's the only Western-style institution in the city of 500,000 and includes a robotics lab, modern furnishings, pottery workshops and table tennis stations.

The building will also be open to non-Jews who can enroll their children in extracurricular activities.

Tomsk is symbolic for many Russian Jews for its Cantonist community, which became an icon of the determination of many Jews in Russia to adhere to their faith and culture despite oppression.

French Court Acquits Imam of Antisemitic Hatred Incitement Charges

A senior French imam whose sermon recited a religious text commanding Muslims to kill Jews was acquitted of incitement to antisemitic hate charges, JTA reported.

Mohamed Tatai, the rector of the Great Mosque of Toulouse, did not intend to incite hatred in his 2017

sermon, the Correctional Tribunal of Toulouse ruled on Sept. 14. The sermon came days after the United States said it would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Jewish community leaders, who broke relations with Tatai and his mosque, protested the ruling. Tatai leads an interfaith dialogue group called the Circle for Civil Dialogue.

Survey: 22% of Adult Jewish Gamers Face Antisemitic Harassment While Playing

About one in five Jewish adults who play online multiplayer games faced antisemitism while playing, JTA reported, citing a Sept. 15 survey from the Anti-Defamation League.

The survey found that harassment and bigotry are common across the 97 million Americans who play multiplayer games. About 83% of adult gamers surveyed said they have been harassed while playing; 60% of gamers aged 13-17 said the same.

Among adults, nearly half of women said they were harassed, as did 42% of Black gamers and more than one-in-three Asian and LGBTQ+ gamers. A quarter of Muslim gamers also said they were harassed. More than 70% of 10 adults reported what the ADL calls "severe abuse, including physical threats, stalking and sustained harassment." •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

ISRAELBRIEFS

Holon Apartment Building Collapses

AN APARTMENT BUILDING in Holon collapsed on Sept. 12, destroying the homes of 36 families but leaving no casualties, JTA reported.

Tragedy was prevented because the building was evacuated the day before. The collapse comes just a few months after a similar incident at the Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Florida, which killed nearly 100.

Building residents in Holon said they heard a loud noise the day before the collapse, prompting the authorities to evacuate its residents and those in the buildings next to it. Images of the building before it collapsed posted to social media showed huge cracks in the walls with peeling paint and, in some areas, chunks of the wall falling off.

Uman Pilgrims Suspected of Forging COVID Tests to Return to Israel

Hundreds of Israelis who traveled to Uman, Ukraine, for an annual Rosh Hashanah pilgrimage are believed to have forged negative COVID tests to return to Israel after testing positive for the virus, JTA reported.

Travelers were required to present a negative COVID test before traveling to Ukraine and before

returning to Israel. Some of those testing positive acquired fake test results to board their flights back to Israel.

Those travelers are likely to be charged with fraud, forgery and spreading an infectious disease, and were taken to their homes to quarantine by ambulances, Haaretz reported.

"The Israeli government takes a very serious view of patients who fraudulently enter Israel by falsifying documents and deliberately spread disease, which constitutes an irresponsible act of harming public peace," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement.

Tens of thousands of Israelis travel to Uman annually in a pilgrimage to the grave of Rabbi Nachman, the leader of the Breslov branch of Chasidism.

More than 3M Israelis Get COVID Boosters

The Health Ministry said on Sept. 17 that 3.02 million Israelis have received a COVID-19 booster shot since they were made available over the summer, The Times of Israel reported.

"To the three million good and responsible Israelis who went and got vaccinated, thank you! Thanks to

you, we are all safer and healthier, and thanks to you, our country remains open during the holidays and in general," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said. "Our next goal: four million vaccinated."

The Health Ministry said there were 81,072 active cases, with 661 of them considered serious. The death toll stood at 7,494, and 6.33% of the tests came back positive on Sept. 16.

Carcinogenic Emissions Climb 14% in 2020

Emissions of materials known or suspected to be carcinogenic increased 14% in Israel in 2020, Globes reported, citing data published by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Much of the increase was attributed to new sources of benzene emissions discovered at the ICL Rotem (Rotem Amfert Negev) fertilizer plant and at Yehuda Steel, and also to production increases at asphalt plants.

The report said that emissions by factories into the air, the sea, rivers and the land because of breakdowns increased by 330% since 2012.

Waste burning was the source of 62% of the carcinogens released into the air. •

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

www.jewishexponent.com

‘Sounds of Jerusalem’ Shaped WKDU’s History

LOCAL

SASHA ROGELBERG | JE STAFF

AS A DREXEL University freshman in December 1977, Mark Grossmann traveled to Israel on a Hillel-sponsored trip. He had just begun working at WKDU, the university’s student-run radio station.

On that trip, Grossmann caught the ear bug of Israeli pop music, buying three Israeli records to take back to Philadelphia, including “Sipurei Pugi,” rock band Kaveret’s debut album.

On Jan. 13, 1978, Grossmann would spin that album on his inaugural episode of “Sounds of Jerusalem,” his WKDU show about Israeli culture that aired weekly through the station for almost 15 years until 1992, when Grossmann left Philadelphia for Boston, where he now lives.

On July 17, Grossmann and his small production team reprised the show for two hours at WKDU’s 50th anniversary event, celebrating the show’s lasting impact, along with the talent of several other WKDU alumni.

Thousands in the Drexel and Philadelphia Jewish community tuned into “Sounds of Jerusalem” in its late ’80s heyday, making it one of WKDU’s most popular programs. The show was syndicated to two U.S. radio stations and, at one point, broadcast in Israel.

But Grossmann’s show had humble beginnings. The only Jewish person at the station, Grossmann was asked by his program director to create a show on Jewish culture.

As a freshman having to climb the ranks to establish his reputation, Grossmann played 30 minutes of Israeli music for his first episode of “Sounds of Jerusalem,” which was embedded in another student’s 6-10 a.m. radio show.

After 10 weeks of that abbreviated format, the station managers gave Grossmann the OK for his own four-hour time slot.

Grossmann immediately took advantage. Using grant money from the Hillels of Greater Philadelphia, he bought more music and developed a show.

He frequently had Steve Feldman, now the executive director of Zionists of America

Philadelphia, as a correspondent, and created other segments, such as “A Moment of Hebrew,” “Torah Thoughts of the Day” and “The Nutritioner Rebbe,” an unnamed Jewish Drexel student studying nutrition (revealed at the 50th anniversary show to be Dr. Stephan Lansey, a physician practicing in New York).

Grossmann developed a



▲ WKDU station staff in 1979: Mark Grossmann is below the exit sign; Sherri Pennington is in front in a leather jacket. Courtesy of WKDU archives

See Sounds, Page 20

In Memoriam

The Philadelphia Israel Bonds Council and Staff

Mourn the loss of our long time Campaign Vice Chair, Robert (Bob) Rovner,

A dedicated Zionist and staunch supporter of Israel Bonds.

May his memory always be for a blessing.

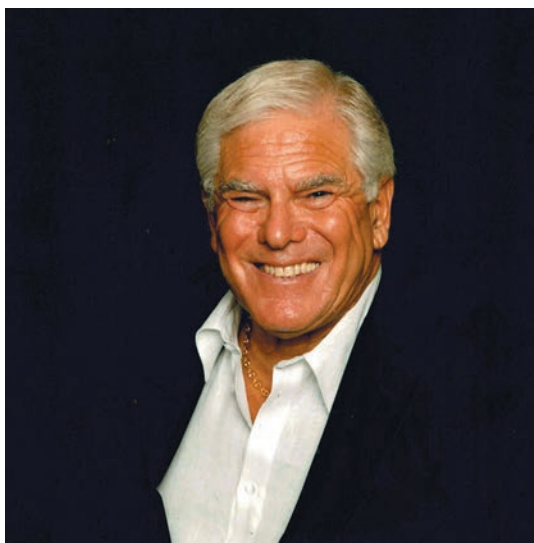


Photo provided by family of Robert (Bob) Rovner

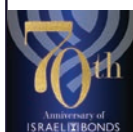
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Springfield, Illinois: Lincoln Still Lives Here

TRAVEL

JEFF AND VIRGINIA ORENSTEIN |
JE FEATURE

Note: We recommended that travelers should continue to follow the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and check with each mode of transportation and specific venue of interest for current information before traveling. Check visitspringfieldillinois.com/BlogDetails.aspx/Latest_News_on_COVID-19.



▲ The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is one of the best presidential memorial and interpretive sites in the nation. It is full of educational displays presented in modern high-tech fashion.

Photos by Jeff Orenstein

SPRINGFIELD IS THE state capital of Illinois and former home of Abraham Lincoln. It is a delightful medium-sized city that looks and feels quintessentially Midwestern, while it celebrates its Lincoln heritage. Its downtown area is compact, walkable and full of fascinating history and hospitality.

As Springfield's most famous citizen, Lincoln is remembered and celebrated throughout the town. The Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is a not-to-be-missed attraction that tells the story of Lincoln and his times with vivid sights, sounds

and interactive multimedia displays. The National Park Service also maintains a historical site and ranger-escorted tours nearby at Lincoln's Springfield home. Numerous other Lincoln-oriented attractions dot the region.

Historic Route 66's original 1926 alignment came directly through Springfield and brought so many to and through the city, helping to increase interest. The Cozy Dog Drive In and the Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum are good places to explore that celebrated road's

history and sample some of its kitschy delicacies like the Cozy Dog hot dog on a stick.

Because it is home to the Illinois state government, today's Springfield is dominated by state buildings and business. The tallest building in town is the Illinois State Capitol which is remarkable for its lush furnishings and its Renaissance Revival and Second Empire style. Barack Obama started his political career there. The nearby Old State Capitol was where Abraham Lincoln made his famous "A house divided against itself cannot stand" speech.



▲ The present Illinois State Capitol dominates the Springfield skyline and is the sixth building to house the state's government. Tours are available.

Be sure to stop by the downtown visitor's center (once home to the Lincoln-Herndon law office) and get your free Explorer Passport to local attractions.

Springfield is a recommended destination because of its history and comfortable ambiance. It's a good place to visit in its own right, and if your

road or train travels take you along the path from Chicago to St. Louis, Springfield is a worthwhile way stop that merits at least an overnight stay.

Before You Go:

- visitspringfieldillinois.com/
- facebook.com/VisitSpringfield/
- midwestliving.com/travel/

Jewish Springfield

SINCE SPRINGFIELD IS THE HEART of the Land of Lincoln, it is worth noting that Lincoln declared in a public conversation in 1863 that he had "a high regard for the Jews" and had close and enduring friendships and political alliances with several Jews during his days in New Salem and Springfield, including Abraham Jonas and Julius Hammerslough.

Springfield has almost 1,000 Jews out of a population of about 113,000 making it a small — but active — Jewish community. According to a history by Rabbi Barry Marks, Springfield's original Jewish settlers arrived in the 1850s. The first congregation was the Springfield Hebrew Congregation, dating to 1858, composed of predominantly German immigrants. The group evolved into the Reform Temple B'rith Sholom and built a synagogue on North Fifth Street.

Eastern European Jews began arriving in Springfield in the 1880s. In 1895, they bought a

former Methodist Church on the southeast corner of Seventh and Mason streets and adapted it for use as synagogue B'nai Abraham.

In the 20th century, many prosperous German Jews migrated to the Aristocracy Hill neighborhood south of downtown. Temple B'rith Sholom built a new synagogue in 1917 in the Classical Revival style on South Fourth Street, which it still uses. The East European Jews lived north and east of downtown on Jefferson, Mason, Reynolds and Carpenter streets.

Despite the Great Depression, both congregations flourished in the 1930s when Illinois got its first Jewish governor, Henry Horner. (Samuel Shapiro was its second and only other.) B'nai Abraham's then-new synagogue was completed in the late 1930s. It is now called Temple Israel.

In 1981, the two congregations merged their Sunday school programs and formed the Springfield Board of Jewish Education, and Temple Israel and Temple B'rith Sholom cooperate in other joint

endeavors. A Springfield Chabad congregation was founded in 2016.

Most of the Jewish young men (and some women) of service age were in the armed forces during World War II; six were casualties. The Jewish Federation of Springfield was founded in 1941 as the charitable, cultural and philanthropic arm of Springfield Jewry and represents the entire Jewish community. Other local Jewish organizations include a chapter of Hadassah and a B'nai B'rith lodge.

The 1970s saw growth for the Springfield Jewish community. New universities and Illinois state government brought many young Jewish professionals (especially from the Chicago and St. Louis areas) to Springfield. Local Jews are prominent in the legal and medical professions, as well as in the leadership of local community organizations.

Today, Springfield's Jewish community remains small but significant to area Jews. •

— Jeff and Virginia Orenstein



▲ The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates are memorialized vividly with the Lincoln Museum.

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UCGYWETpnJkTYQB_y_

pUHvPg (Lincoln)

Getting There:

Springfield can be easily reached by highway, air or train.

- By car, Springfield is at the intersection of Interstate 72 and Interstate 55.
- By air, the nearest commercial airport is Abraham

Lincoln Capital Airport (SPI), 4.3 miles away.

- By train, the Amtrak station is right in downtown Springfield (a short walk from the Lincoln Library) and has frequent service to and from Chicago and daily to St. Louis and points in Texas.
- Since Springfield is an inland city, there are no ocean cruise connections.

Must-Sees and Dos for a Short Trip:

- The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
- Lincoln Home National Historical Site
- The Old State Capitol
- The Lincoln Tomb
- Enjoy a poutine-like horseshoe sandwich (local delicacy) at a

local microbrewery like downtown's Obed and Isaacs.

- Lincoln's New Salem Historical Site
- Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum

If You Have Several Days:

- Tour the Illinois State Capitol with guide.
- Route 66 attractions (Cozy Dog, Route 66 Motorheads, etc.)
- A Lincoln ghost walk (springfieldwalks.com)
- Dana-Thomas House (Frank Lloyd Wright architecture)
- Tour the Illinois Governor's Mansion.

Ginny O's Tips for Dressing the Simply Smart Travel Way for Springfield: This is a capital city, so the dress is a little more business-like

than many tourist attractions, especially when the legislature is in session. Neat casual is always acceptable.

This Destination at a Glance

Over 50 Advantage: Enjoy history and a laid-back, friendly Midwestern ambiance.

Mobility Level: Moderate. Some attractions require substantial walking and some stairs.

When to Go: Year-round. Winters are cold, and summer can be hot and humid.

Where to Stay: We loved our stay at the Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel. There are a few outside steps, but the interior has an elevator.

Special Travel Interests: Abraham Lincoln, Route 66, Illinois government. •

Jeffrey and Virginia Orenstein are travel writers from Sarasota, Florida.

Phillies Acknowledge Rosh Hashanah Via Twitter

LOCAL

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

THE PHILADELPHIA Phillies probably won't win the World Series this year. But on Sept. 6, shortly after 7 p.m., they did do at least one thing that no other Major League Baseball team did this year.

On Twitter, the Phillies wished their Jewish fans "L'shanah tovah and happy #RoshHashanah!"

Beneath that caption, the team posted a picture of the sun setting behind the scoreboard at Citizens Bank Park.

The Philadelphia area has one of the largest Jewish populations in the United States, with many estimates placing Philadelphia behind only New



▲ Citizens Bank Park

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Phillies

York and Los Angeles. But the New York Yankees, Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers, among other MLB teams in areas with large Jewish populations, did not make Rosh Hashanah posts this year.

"Holidays are a universal opportunity to interact in a positive way with different

segments of your fan base," said Michael Harris, the Phillies' vice president of marketing and new media.

Harris said the Phillies have also posted for Christmas, Kwanzaa and several other holidays that honor the heritage

See Phillies, Page 21

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Torah

Continued from Page 1

to say?

“Yes,” answered every single rabbi interviewed for this story.

But the real question, and the real answers, came in the follow-up to the obvious “yes” response. If modern Jews can benefit from doing more Torah reading in 5782, why is that the case?

Rabbinical answers to this question were both varied and equally wise.

Rabbi Valman Lipsker runs the Chabad Lubavitch Center in Philadelphia. He said the law and guidance of the Torah can eliminate plagues and floods.

“God said it,” Lipsker added. “If you follow my guidance, I will give you all you need.”

But unfortunately, according to Lipsker, not enough modern Jews are reading Torah.

“If we read it more, we would have more recognition of the beauty God is giving us,” he said. “It’s time we return to Him.”

Rabbi Aaron Gaber, who leads the Conservative Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, generally agrees with Lipsker.

Gaber explained that, in Deuteronomy, the last book



▲ Rabbi Aaron Gaber of Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown
Courtesy of Rabbi Aaron Gaber

of the Torah, Moses transmits God’s ethical will through speeches to the Jewish people. In those speeches, Moses discusses our covenantal relationship with Him.

“God promises to care for us and keep us as his chosen people,” Gaber said. “Our

responsibility is to live by the mitzvot.”

Then, in Genesis, the first book of the Torah, by punishing Adam and Eve, God makes clear to humans that we’re holding the pen to “write the story of the world,” the rabbi said.

“It’s up to us to treat that world with love and compassion,” Gaber added. “And if we don’t, there are consequences.”

The Conservative rabbi denied the literal interpretation that God punishes humans with natural disasters. But he did conclude that, in a modern context, living by the mitzvot requires us to consider our relationship with the machine.

There is a tension between humanity’s ability to advance and the health of the environment, Gaber explained. And right now, we’re out of balance, and humanity’s advancement is at least partially responsible for the climate change we’re experiencing.

“How do we make advancements and at the same time be



▲ Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch of Mekor Habracha in Center City
Courtesy of Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch

stewards of the world?” he asked. “We have to work at that.”

Rabbi Albert Gabbai, who guides Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia, said we need to work harder to understand our moral relationship with the larger world.

That requires us to read Torah so we can grasp one core principle in particular — one we repeat during Yom Kippur services.

That every individual action matters. Nothing is meaningless, and nothing goes unnoticed by Him.

“When I go to the dust, is it all meaningless?” Gabbai asked. “Absolutely not.”

But today, according to Gabbai, too few Jews are taking the time to deeply consider this principle and others. He believes we’re too often choosing superficial, junk food-like alternatives, from social media to television, over our water, which is the Torah.

“Torah doesn’t change. It’s the principles. Everything emerges from it,” he said.

Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch of the Orthodox congregation Mekor Habracha in Center City supported Gabbai’s micro, individual-level interpretation.

He thinks we can benefit from more Torah reading because it should guide our actions every day. But he also rejected direct causations between individual actions and macro-scale events.

“To pin exact behavior to events is dangerous,” Hirsch said.

Rabbi Elliott Perlstein, who leads the Conservative synagogue Ohev Shalom of Bucks County, offered a similar refrain. That said, he still believes our behavior has consequences, and that Torah can help us be cognizant of that.

“Sooner rather than later, those who wreak havoc will have havoc wreaked in their own lives,” Perlstein concluded. “We ought to be very aware of that.” ●

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Sukkot

Continued from Page 1

11 this year compared to 19 in 2019.

As Jewish organizations and synagogues contend with another year of COVID-19, albeit one that looks different than last year, the feeling of liminality between being COVID-free and COVID-conscious is reflected in Sukkot plans around the city.

Old City Jewish Arts Center is welcoming the public into its sukkah, just as it did last year, celebrating the theme of “we all belong,” both under the sukkah and in society.

OCJAC is continuing its tradition of filling the walls of the sukkah, located in front of the building by the sidewalk, with art from local artists and community members.

Planning on bringing back their Sushi and Simchat Torah event this year after skipping it last year — and hoping the sukkah will attract visitors interested in viewing the “11 Years in the Fringe” exhibit inside the building — OCJAC Rabbi Zalman Wirberg is all for fulfilling the mitzvah of inviting guests into his sukkah.

Open 24 hours, the OCJAC sukkah follows the city’s guidelines of social distancing and mask-wearing, hoping to ease some guests’ anxiety.

“This year, we’ll see more visitors who we haven’t seen because of the extra safety protocols,” Wirberg said.

Congregation Mikveh Israel also kept to its Sukkot traditions this year, feeling that hosting an outside event will mitigate COVID risks.

Spanning across nearly their entire parking lot, the Mikveh Israel sukkah is donned with real fruits hanging from the roof.

Just like last year, individuals and families will sign up for a time slot to eat and spend time under the sukkah. Families are seated together in their respective pods.



▲ This year's Old City Jewish Arts Center's sukkah, which has the theme of “we all belong”
Courtesy of Zalman Wirberg

“Masks are mandatory; we put hand sanitizer everywhere,” Congregation Mikveh Israel Executive Director Shayna Golda said. “We try to keep people in their comfort zone.”

While these sukkahs endured during COVID to help recreate a sense of normalcy, the B’nai Abraham Chabad sukkah will host its first Sukkot celebration event in the sukkah in two years on Sept. 26 in Rittenhouse Square.

Last year, the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department was not giving out permits to host events in city parks. The Chabad could leave its sukkah up in the park, but couldn’t host gatherings. This year, the permit application process was nearly identical to years prior, giving B’nai Abraham the opportunity to make up for last year’s quiet holiday.

“We hope it’s as close as possible to ‘B.C.E.: Before-COVID era,’” Chabad Rabbi Yochonon Goldman said.

Though B’nai Abraham Chabad was able to successfully attain permits this year for its sukkah, the Center City

Kehillah was not.

The Kehillah typically builds sukkahs and hosts Sukkot events in Julian Abel and Matthias Baldwin parks.

However, the Center City Kehillah’s new Executive Director Rebecca Krasner doesn’t take over the role until October, and her predecessor left the role in early summer.

Applying for park permits just wasn’t a priority this year, and Krasner felt she didn’t want the Kehillah to host Sukkot events without being able to properly coordinate COVID protocols for the holiday during this time of transition.

“We at the Center City Kehillah feel very strongly about keeping people safe during this time, and that extra added layer of coordination ... wasn’t something that we were comfortable taking on this year,” Krasner said.

Instead, Krasner hopes Jewish community members will find another sukkah to visit that is open to the public.

But not all Jewish organizations feel comfortable making their sukkah open to the public.

Thomas Jefferson University

Jewish Student Association has its sukkah open only to Jefferson students and staff.

The school’s policy dictates that only Jefferson students and staff have building access, and because the sukkah is located within a campus building’s atrium, only Jefferson community members are granted access.

Like others, the Jefferson JSA did not put up a sukkah last year, but wanted to prioritize the holiday this year.

“It’s one of the more important services that we provide,” JSA President Alex Straus said.

Last year, the Jewish community at Jefferson was disconnected, especially among newer medical students who had not attended the university prior to COVID. Straus hopes more in-person programming will help tighten the community.

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“That’s another reason why we want to come back this year, have a sukkah and do some kind of event,” Straus said.

To find a sukkah open to the public, visit the Jews in Center City Facebook page. ●

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After 9/11, I Wrote a Headline Comparing US, Israel. I Regret It



BY GARY ROSENBLATT

ONE OF THE MOST controversial — and tone-deaf — front-page headlines to appear in The New York Jewish Week during the 26 years I served as editor was published the morning after 9/11 — 20 years ago.

Across the top of the page, in moon landing-size bold type, it read: “America: The New Israel.”

And underneath, in italics: “As fear and vulnerability grip U.S., will empathy with Jerusalem increase?”

How did Israel somehow take center stage in this American tragedy?

I can criticize the headline and those words because I wrote them.

Looking back now, I realize just how misplaced my anger, sadness and fear were in my immediate response to the deadliest terror attack in U.S. history — one that claimed 3,000 innocent lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a lonely field in rural Pennsylvania.

Not in my defense but in the interest of establishing the context of my initial reaction — and of many supporters of Israel — allow me to recall the mood of much of the Jewish world, here and in Israel, in early September 2001. It was, to be blunt, one of deep despair.

In Durban, South Africa, international anti-Semitism reached a new high — or low — when the United Nations World Conference Against

Racism adopted a resolution labeling Israel an “apartheid, racist” state and accused its government of “genocide and ethnic cleansing.”

The U.S. and Israel withdrew their delegations on determining that they could not remove anti-Israel language from the final declaration of the conference.

But Durban is hardly remembered now, its miserable outcome overtaken by the leap from rhetorical terror to the real thing.

In early September, Israel was one year into the Second Intifada, a uniquely brutal and frightening period when it seemed that Palestinian terrorists were killing Israelis on an almost daily basis.

It’s difficult to convey the sense of fear and outrage that hung over the country like a

bombings, drive-by shootings, stabbings and stonings across the country. Sixteen teenagers and five other young people were blown up at the Dolphinarium disco in Tel Aviv; 13-year-old Koby Mandell and his 14-year-old friend Yosef Ishran were stoned to death in a cave in Tekoa on Lag B’Omer; a five-month-old baby was stoned in an attack in Shiloh; a 40-year-old woman, five months pregnant, was shot in her car near Karne Shomron; and 15 people were blown away by a suicide bomber one August afternoon in a Sbarro restaurant in downtown Jerusalem.

According to the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, 1,137 Israelis were killed during the Second Intifada, which lasted five years. Its most common weapon: suicide bombers

tragedy, I already mourned for my fellow Americans. But as we learned more details, I was overly focused on what I saw as the striking parallels between two democracies whose citizens were viciously and unfairly attacked by Arab terrorists. To the perpetrators, the U.S. and Israel were Big Satan and Little Satan.

Particularly galling to me, American officials for months had been calling on Israel to show restraint in its response to the many Palestinian terror attacks, and the media too often made moral equivalence of the attackers and the attacked.

As my colleagues and I tore up the articles planned for that week’s edition and threw ourselves into reporting on the attacks and their profound impact, I wrote an editorial titled “Terror Hits Home,”

of violence” as if there is no difference between the arsonist and the victim of fire.

In a letter to the editor responding to the headline, published a week later, a reader wrote she was appalled that rather than focus on the plight of the victims, “you harangue and berate the United States for its sins of omission. How cruel. How arrogant.”

The letter noted that “there is nothing wrong with your front-page articles except for their placement. Horror and outrage should have been your lead.”

Her point was well taken, and still is.

My timing was woefully premature in calling out what I saw as Washington’s hypocrisy — pressuring Israel to ease up in its defense against deadly attacks on civilians as the U.S. was about to launch a “war on terror.” I should have been mourning the victims, damning the perpetrators and praising the heroes — the firefighters who rushed into the chaos rather than escape it, and those brave souls on American Airlines Flight 77, whose struggle with the plane’s hijackers likely saved the U.S. Capitol from a direct hit.

The fact is that the 9/11 attacks did change U.S. policy toward Israel in its own, and ongoing, war on terrorists. It started at the top. “The personal relationship between [President George W.] Bush and [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon grew much tighter,” Gideon Sa’ar, then Cabinet Secretary in Sharon’s government, later recalled. “Following the September 11 attacks, Bush finally understood Sharon’s situation as leader of a nation fighting mass terror attacks. He began to identify with him.”

Israel is still condemned by many for using “disproportionate force” in its insistence

Looking back now, I realize just how misplaced my anger, sadness and fear were in my immediate response to the deadliest terror attack in U.S. history — one that claimed 3,000 innocent lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a lonely field in rural Pennsylvania.

dark cloud. I returned from a five-day trip to Israel on Sunday, Sept. 9, relieved to have avoided terrorism firsthand. That same day, three Israeli men (one was 19 years old) were killed by a Hamas suicide bomber on a train in Naharia.

Every day, parents feared that when they sent their children off to school in the morning, they might never see them again. The battle was waged not on distant fields but on the streets of Israeli cities, in cafes, hotels, on buses and trains.

During that first year, 110 Israeli men, women and children were killed — almost all of them civilians — in 51 separate incidents of suicide

targeting innocents. Its most lasting impact: convincing a majority of Israelis that making peace with the Palestinians was a dream-turned-nightmare.

The intifada’s impact on Israeli politics is evident two decades later in a country whose citizens have moved increasingly right on the Palestinian issue.

I was back at work on that beautiful Tuesday morning, Sept. 11. After seeing on TV the non-stop clips of a plane smashing into one of the Twin Towers, I looked out the window of my Times Square office and saw and smelled the black clouds in the distance. And then the second plane hit.

I felt sickened and stunned. Not knowing the extent of the

which stated: “Friends and supporters of Israel could not help but think that this week the United States became Israel,” with American citizens suddenly “learning what it is like to experience fear and vulnerability, to bear the brunt of blind hatred, to have innocent civilians targeted as victims of suicide bombers.

“Will the U.S. government, which pledged to strike back against those who committed these dastardly deeds, now see the folly in its calls on Israel to use restraint in the face of murderous terrorist acts?”

“Surely we don’t expect Washington to seek peace talks with the perpetrators, or offer up several states to pacify them, or condemn the cycle

See Rosenblatt, Page 26

What ‘The Wire’ Actor Michael K. Williams Taught My Jewish Students



BY RABBI JOE WOLFSON

BETWEEN 2008 and 2011, one of the ways I survived in yeshiva was “The Wire,” HBO’s groundbreaking police drama. Tosafot and Rambam throughout the day, Brother Mouzone, Avon Barksdale and McNulty late at night.

Our beit midrash had a main lower part and an upper part up some steps. These were the low rises and the high rises. The fish pond in the garden was the docks. When one of my rabbis asked me about my dating life, the scene of imprisoned Avon asking young Marlo how things on the street were going came to my mind. I responded as Marlo did: “It’s all in the game.”

I can own my weirdness, but I wasn’t alone. A friend who had attended elite private schools and universities in the U.K. before moving to Israel to work in tech — his life was about as far removed from the Baltimore ghettos as possible — told me he loved “The Wire” so much because “I can just relate so well to the characters.”

Ridiculous and outrageous as this may be, it’s a testament to the unique brilliance of “The Wire.” I can only assume that if Orthodox Ashkenazi Jews responded this way to “The Wire,” then other cultural subgroups were similarly riveted.

Yet even amid all this brilliance, one character especially stood out. Omar

Little, a frightening stick-up artist who nevertheless lived by a code of honor, stole nearly every scene in which he appeared. As The Guardian once put it, “if ‘The Wire’ is a cult, then Omar is a cult within a cult.”

The actor who played Omar Little, Michael K. Williams, died on the eve of Rosh Hashanah at the age of 54. Years after the show aired, I had the privilege of getting to know Williams. His passing and the memories it brought back suggested what society in general and the Jewish community in particular can learn from his life.

In 2015, I began working as a rabbi at New York University’s Bronfman Center for Jewish Life. Downtown Manhattan boasts more than its fair share of famous folk, and one day the man I could only think of as Omar literally bumped into me. Any desire to respect his privacy was overwhelmed by my excitement. Far from

showed him the brilliant Omar Omer counter.

I told him about my work with students at NYU, and he told me about his nephew who had recently left jail after 20 years and the HBO documentary “Raised in the System” they had made together focusing on the school-to-prison pipeline. He wanted to find audiences for the documentary’s message. I wanted to find a way for our community to think seriously about criminal justice. We decided to work together.

Few of the tributes in recent days have focused on Williams’ work as an activist, but I am reasonably confident that if he could choose one of his works that people would watch in the aftermath of his passing, it would be “Raised In The System.”

Shortly before Passover, in the spring of 2019, the Bronfman Center and the Orthodox Union’s Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at NYU hosted Williams for a

[Michael K.] Williams wished to tell the story of his own community, but simultaneously expressed a genuine curiosity about the Jewish community.

being annoyed at my intrusion, he was exceedingly gracious and even agreed to record a Shanah Tovah greeting for our community. We arranged to get coffee a couple of weeks later.

Humble, gracious, curious is how I would describe that coffee.

I asked a few questions about “The Wire.” Was the Sunday truce — when warring gangs would put down their arms — actually a thing? I told him how many Jews were obsessed with the show and completely baffled him when I

viewing of the documentary and a panel discussion.

It’s impossible to watch the documentary and not feel broken-hearted over the lives of beautiful young people who get sucked up within the prison industrial complex. The documentary takes a viewer from being an outsider to the issue to a passionate believer that incarceration rates are a national priority issue which must and can be fixed.

Yet the stars of the evening were not Williams and the

See Wolfson, Page 26

KVETCH ‘N’ KVELL

An Incongruous Opinion

MOSHE PHILLIPS’ DIVISIVE RANT about Israel and rabbi bashing (“The Real Danger of That Atheist Harvard Chaplain,” Sept. 9) seemed incongruous on the Exponent’s opinion pages.

Phillips poo-pooed a rabbi’s credentials even though he hides his own in public profiles. Phillips attacked Harvard hiring a secular humanist chaplain, even though that happened in 2005. All recent demographic studies report Jews as the least religious group in America, thus Harvard chose someone relatable to its students. Rabbi Epstein’s promotion to chief chaplain illustrates his success.

I’m happy these young, bright Jews who don’t identify with religion found an alternative role model for staying in our community. Not my brand of Judaism either, but if it works, great.

Then Phillips attacked Epstein’s Zionism due to a tweet labeling as “supremacists” some Jewish Israelis who provocatively marched, chanting “We’re here — so suffer!” and “Death to Arabs!”

The centrist Israeli foreign minister also commented that day, saying “The fact that there are extremists for whom the Israeli flag represents hate and racism is abominable and intolerable. It is incomprehensible how one can hold an Israeli flag in one’s hand and shout ‘death to Arabs’ at the same time ... this is not Judaism and not Israeli and it certainly is not what our flag symbolizes. These people shame the people of Israel.”

If Phillips’ Zionist test requires siding with those “nationalists,” then the foreign minister’s out. Epstein’s tweet demonstrated calling out bigotry, Jewish or not.

Finally, Phillips bemoaned Epstein’s association with J Street, a left-wing organization espousing a two-state solution. Phillips omitted his leadership at Herut, a right-wing group.

Such vitriol is decimating American Zionism. Publishing it before Yom Kippur is especially discordant. As the other op-eds noted, especially now, we need to be kinder and remember we are one people who need each other.

No exceptions. •

F. Penina Hoffnung | Philadelphia

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

We are a diverse community. The views expressed in the signed opinion columns and letters to the editor published in the Jewish Exponent are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers and boards of the Jewish Publishing Group, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia or the Jewish Exponent. Send letters to letters@jewishexponent.com or fax to 215-569-3389. Letters should be a maximum of 200 words and may be edited for clarity and brevity. **Unsigned letters will not be published.**

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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.

Building a Legacy's Next Chapter: Jonathan Morgan Becomes New JFRE Chair

JONATHAN MORGAN ORIGINALLY JOINED the Jewish Federation Real Estate (JFRE) group more than a decade ago because the founding members were "rock stars in the Philly real estate community."

Beyond JFRE's initial allure and the ability to form a local network, Morgan quickly recognized the full-scope and beauty of the group's mission to fund capital projects that support critical infrastructure needs in Greater Philadelphia and in Israel.

"We are a community that supports its community," said Morgan, a Greater Philadelphia native.

Today, Morgan is the president and founder of Morgan Properties JV, an affiliate of Morgan Properties, and the new JFRE chair. Committed to continuing the legacy of connection, innovation and giving back, Morgan looks forward to bringing in the next generation of JFRE members.

Morgan, who is also a member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Board of Trustees, is gearing up for his first program as the JFRE chair — Legends and Leaders. While the highly-attended and annual event was canceled last year due to the pandemic, this year, it will take place on Oct. 15 at the Kimmel Center, with a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person.

We spoke with Morgan to learn more about him, his new role and JFRE's upcoming Legends and Leaders signature event.

How does it feel to be the new chair of JFRE?

I am extremely excited to be the new chair of JFRE. JFRE is an amazing affinity group of the Jewish Federation, and I am very proud to continue its rich traditions and build off our momentum from this past year. We have much to look forward to in the year ahead as a Jewish community.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term as JFRE Chair?

I hope to increase member engagement, particularly as it pertains to Young JFRE, which represents our members younger than 30 years old. We believe that Young JFRE is our lifeblood, so we definitely want to provide these younger Jewish real estate professionals with networking and community building opportunities to further their engagement in our community. We want to give them an opportunity to learn from our Executive Committee and attend some of these incredible events to meet the best and brightest in real estate.

What advice has the immediate past JFRE chair, Matt Pes-tronk, given you?

Matt has been amazing, and he is very passionate about JFRE. Under Matt's leadership, we had to pivot to a virtual setting for most of our meetings and events during COVID. It was a time of uncertainty and very challenging to say the least. Matt has always been fully supportive of our key initiatives for this year. He suggested we focus on quality over quantity and strategize ways to make a significant impact and not dilute our brand. JFRE is very passionate in everything we do, and that is part of the reason we are successful.

Legends and Leaders is around the corner. What are you most excited for and why should people attend?

David Adelman is our keynote speaker this year, who I am excited to be speaking with in conversation. David is the CEO of Campus Apartments, founder of Darco



▲ Jonathan Morgan
Courtesy of Jonathan Morgan



▲ Jonathan Morgan and other JFRE members during an exclusive hard-hat tour of the Comcast Technology Tower during its construction in 2017
Courtesy of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Capital and co-founder of FS Investments. He is also the current board co-chair of the Jewish Federation and one of the original founders of JFRE. As I said, the JFRE founders are our city's real estate rock stars and a major reason as to why I became a member.

I am also thrilled to say that our signature event will be at the Kimmel Center, one of the best venues in Philadelphia. Legends and Leaders is hands down the top real estate networking event in our city. We expect a great turnout.

Why should real estate professionals and related industry professionals become JFRE members?

Real estate professionals and others in related industries should attend our programs to network with our industry leaders, engage with your community and learn about some of the exciting opportunities that we are offering this year with JFRE. I would encourage everyone to sign up for Legends and Leaders, get involved in JFRE and become a member. We are just getting started and have much to look forward to in what will be an incredible year.

Why do you give to the Jewish Federation?

I give to the Jewish Federation because it is important to give back and ensure that we as a Jewish community stick together. If this past year taught us anything, it is that we need to come together. There is still a lot of antisemitism out there in the world. I have four young children and want to teach them the importance of being Jewish and being part of our community. It defines us and so that is why I give to the Jewish Federation.

What is something people may not know about you?

My family is what drives me. My wife and I have four young kids between the ages of one and six. We are teaching them the importance of being Jewish and giving back to the community.

Want to become a JFRE member? Visit jewishphilly.org/jfre. To register for JFRE's signature Legends and Leaders event on Oct. 15 at the Kimmel Center, with a virtual option, visit jewishphilly.org/legends.

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Cocktails and Mocktails: Sips of Summer

FOOD

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH to be invited to a friend's home in Stone Harbor at the Jersey Shore for a recent weekend. She, a teetotaler, tapped me to handle the bar for all of the guests.

She asked me to bring cocktail accouterments for Friday and Saturday and wine for the Saturday night dinner. I was happy to undertake this task and was determined to provide something refreshing and tasty for my gracious hostess. I wanted to accommodate her preferences (which also include no refined sugar) and sought to pour her something more interesting than sparkling water, which is often the default for nondrinkers.

Mission accomplished by these two recipes, named for where they were created.

The Society Hill paired perfectly with vodka, but I could definitely see it with rum or tequila. And for the low-octane version, my friend added sparkling water, but

if you eschew fizz, tap water is just fine. My goal was to highlight summer flavors and also integrate herbs from my garden; the mint complemented the lemonade perfectly.

On that Saturday, which just happened to be National Tequila Day (where do they get these observances?), I created the Stone Harbor out of fresh watermelon, lime juice and basil and mixed it with tequila for those wanting to partake. Because the watermelon is so naturally sweet, we did not need to add any sugar or agave; it was just delightful!

SOCIETY HILL

Makes about 2 cups of strong lemonade, which would provide about 6 drinks when they are mixed with vodka, sparkling water or water — quantity may vary pending the juiciness of the lemons.

Do not be alarmed by the fact that this uses whole lemons with the rind. I've made it with both peeled lemons (a pain) and whole lemons (not a pain). The latter method arguably



onlyyouqj / iStock / Getty Images Plus

adds more lemon flavor, and since the whole pureed mess is strained anyway, it's a great hack.

I made simple syrup using sugar and water for the group, but the hostess preferred honey, so I used a 1-part honey/3-parts water proportion to make her simple syrup. Agave is an excellent alternative if you find the flavor of honey overpowering.

- 8 lemons, cut in quarters
- 5 stalks mint with leaves
- ¼ cup sugar (honey/agave)
- ¾ cup water, plus more for adjusting the flavor
- Vodka/sparkling water/tap water
- Lots of ice
- Sprigs of mint for garnish

In a blender or food processor, puree the lemons with the mint until fairly smooth. Pour it into a strainer over a bowl and let it sit. Make the simple syrup: Place the sugar and ¾ cup of water in a small saucepan, and bring it to a boil. Set it aside to cool.

Press the lemon puree

firmly against the strainer to extract all of the juice from the mush. There should be at least 1 cup of this lemon/mint liquid.

When the syrup cools, mix it with the lemon juice and then add water, gradually, until the drink tastes like strong lemonade — approximately 2 cups.

For a mocktail, fill a glass with ice, and fill it three-fourths of the way with the lemon mixture. Top off the drink with either sparkling water or additional ice water.

For a cocktail, fill a glass with ice and fill it one-fourth of the way with vodka. Fill the glass the rest of the way with the lemon mixture. Stir, garnish it with a sprig of mint and enjoy.

STONE HARBOR

Makes about 6 cups of juice, which produces 8 or more drinks depending on how you spike it and how much ice you use.

The freshness and simplicity of

this drink is deceptive — it is just watermelon and lime juice. But it is far more than the sum of its parts! On top of that, the color is just beautiful.

- 6 cups watermelon, cut in chunks
- Juice of 6 limes
- Basil leaves, snipped or muddled to release flavor
- White tequila

Puree the watermelon in a blender or Cuisinart. Pour the puree through a strainer, pressing down on solids to extract maximum juice. Squeeze the juice of 6 limes into the watermelon juice and stir.

To serve as a cocktail, fill a glass with ice and fill it one-fourth of the way with tequila. Fill it up with the watermelon-lime mixture and a basil leaf.

For a mocktail, simply pour the watermelon lime juice over ice and add the basil or, if that is too fruity for you, mix your preferred proportion of water or sparkling water. •



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Jewish Sports HOF to Induct Two Classes Sept. 29

SPORTS

JARRAD SAFFREN | JE STAFF

THE PHILADELPHIA Jewish Sports Hall of Fame has had a tough year-and-a-half.

In 2020, the pandemic forced the hall to cancel its annual induction ceremony. Now, after Hurricane Ida flooded the Jewish Community Services Building on Sept. 2, the hall is temporarily homeless.

But come Sept. 29, the organization will, at long last, have something to celebrate.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia, two years' worth of classes, 2020 and '21, will be inducted. After missing last year's ceremony, the museum wanted to honor eight legends of Philadelphia Jewish sports instead of the usual five.

The 2020 class consists of Emmy Award-winning sportscaster Carl Cherkin, former Bucknell University basketball standout Bryan Cohen, ex-Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Erskine Mayer, former Philadelphia Eagles owner Jerry Wolman and Carol B. Polis, the first female professional boxing judge.

The 2021 class includes discus Olympian Samuel Mattis, ex-NFL player Steve Shull and former NCAA fencing champion Adam Feldman.

A trio of awards will also be given out that night: The Philadelphia Sports Spirit Award to Alan Horwitz, a passionate, front-row fan of the Philadelphia 76ers; The Pillar of Achievement Award to William Yale Saltzman, the founder of Camp Canadensis and the first Jewish football captain at Franklin & Marshall College; and The Simon Gersh Award to the Junior Jewish Basketball League, the Montgomery County-based intramural league that has run



▲ Attendees at the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame's 2018 induction ceremony. Chairperson Stephen Frishberg is second from right.

Courtesy of Stephen Frishberg

for 35 years.

Retired Sixers announcer Marc Zumoff, a class of 2011 inductee, will host the event.

Every hall of famer and award winner has a Jewish background and a connection to Philadelphia, according to hall Chairperson Stephen Frishberg.

"The recipients are thrilled and humbled when I call," said Frishberg, referring to the calls he made to inform people of their selections.

The RSVP list backs up the chair's claim. Every living inductee plans to attend.

Wolman died in 2013, but a family member will represent him at Rodeph Shalom. Mayer died in 1957, and Frishberg had trouble tracking down a family member for him. But the chairman and board of directors agreed that the old righty, who posted a 2.96 career ERA, deserved a spot in the hall.

Living class members are not just excited about their selections; they are excited to come to the ceremony, too.

Cherkin, a retired television reporter for Philadelphia's Fox affiliate and a founding executive of the MLS' Philadelphia Union, said he views the honor as recognition of his life's work.

Cohen, who was an Abington Friends standout before Bucknell, said the achievement was "surreal" because he grew up playing basketball in the area. He's also still only 32.

"That I got inducted at such a young age means a lot," he added.

Polis was appointed as the

first female pro boxing judge by the governor of Pennsylvania in 1973. She called that the biggest honor of her career ... until now.

The Jenkintown native, who judged 27 title fights in nine countries, is traveling from Florida for the ceremony.

"It takes a lot of guts to walk up those steps and get into the ring," she said of why she loves boxing.

Even though the COVID era continues with the delta variant, the hall of famers will not give their acceptance speeches to an empty sanctuary/virtual audience. About 125 Philly sports community members and fans have bought tickets for the event, according to Frishberg.

All attendees will be required to show vaccination cards at the door and wear masks while inside. Rodeph Shalom's sanctuary can hold up to 1,500 people, so attendees can social distance if they want, Frishberg said.

Frishberg is confident that the hall can pull off a COVID-safe event and start a new

winning streak.

"We'll bounce back," he said. "It's just a process."

After the induction ceremony, the process will turn back to the harsh reality of the day-to-day.

Since the hall was in the basement of the Jewish Community Services Building, it saw 7 feet of water rush in during the Sept. 2 flood. Physical cabinets, televisions and lockers were all lost, Frishberg said.

But the artifacts can all be cleaned and remediated, he said, so the hall will try to do that.

Frishberg and the board need a new location and about \$30,000 to rebuild the tribute to Philadelphia's Jewish sports icons.

The hall has a GoFundMe campaign with the goal of raising \$36,000: gofundme.com/f/help-rebuild-our-museum. You can also call 215-900-7999 to buy tickets to the ceremony. •

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The Sweet Joy of Life

RABBI DANIEL YOLKUT

Parshat Sukkot

THE HOLIDAY OF Shemini Atzeres suffers from an identity crisis. On the one hand, its very name — the Eighth Day of Assembly — leads to the impression that it is the closing day of Sukkot, the holiday that immediately precedes it.

At the same time, the Talmud clearly understands it to be a separate holiday, with significant features that distinguish it from Sukkot. Among the halakhic features that the Talmud uses to prove its independence is the recitation of the blessing of Shehechyanu — *Baruch she-he-cheyanu ve-kiyamanu ve-higiyanu la-zeman ha-zeh* — the benediction recited at the beginning of each festival thanking God “who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.”

The Shehechyanu said at the beginning nights of Sukkot is not sufficient to cover the joy that we have in encountering

a new and independent milestone of Shemini Atzeres.

It is striking to note how often this special blessing is recited over this season of the year: both evenings of Rosh Hashanah during kiddush, preceding the shofar on both days of Rosh Hashanah, during Kol Nidrei on Yom Kippur, during kiddush on the opening evenings of Sukkot, before waving the lulav and etrog for the first time, and again in the kiddush of Shemini Atzeres and Simchat Torah. (In fact, during the time of the Talmud, an additional Shehechyanu was recited when the sukkah was constructed! Sukkah 46a.)

In many ways, this simple expression of gratitude to God for survival is the anthem of our High Holiday season.

There is a powerful story that illustrates the profound significance of this blessing: One year, the first Bobover Rebbe, R' Shloime Halberstam (1847–1905), acquired a precious possession: a set of the famed Slavita edition of the Talmud. Particularly prized

by Chasidic rebbes due to the beauty of the printing and the piety of the printers, the Bobover Rebbe was overjoyed with his good fortune.

So when the second night of Rosh Hashanah arrived that year, the Bobover Rebbe asked that the Slavita Talmud be placed on the yom tov table together with the customary platter of new fruit, in order that his shehechyanu — his heartfelt declaration of joy in being allowed to live another year — should include his excitement over his new Talmud.

Decades later, in 1946, his grandson who bore his holy name, R' Shloime Halberstam (1907–2000), found himself in New York on Rosh Hashanah under very different circumstances. He had lost his wife, most of his children and many of his followers during the dark years of the Holocaust. Bobov was gone, and as a refugee in America, his beard just growing back after the war, was trying to imagine the near impossible work of rebuilding.

When he sat down to celebrate the second evening of Rosh Hashanah, he, too, placed a new set of Talmud on the table, just as his namesake had done.

And when I imagine the ragtag group of refugees that shared that first Rosh Hashanah in the New World, I think about what the Shehechyanu must have meant to them:

- Notwithstanding the horror and the carnage, they were still alive.
- Notwithstanding the utter obliteration of the rich heritage of European Jewry, the Talmud still lived.
- Notwithstanding the unfamiliar and spiritually rootless soil they found themselves on, the grandson could still find the same joy in Judaism as the zeyde had years before.

Baruch she-he-cheyanu ve-kiyamanu ve-higiyanu la-zeman ha-zeh!

This has been a challenging year for the whole world, and

as we culminate for a festival season that, in some ways, would be unrecognizable to our pre-pandemic selves, it is not difficult to give in to a sense of sadness and despair.

This Tishrei, we need to seize on to the Shehechyanu of the Bobover Rebbe, to find the joy and gratitude to Hashem for what we do have, that we are still here and appreciating the unique gifts of each festival of this blessed season.

And I leave you with this question: What can we bring to the table this year to enhance our Shehechyanu? More than a lychee or a kumquat, we need to dig deep in ourselves to find and share that for which we are so grateful to Hashem, notwithstanding the anxiety of this past year.

Baruch she-he-cheyanu ve-kiyamanu ve-higiyanu la-zeman ha-zeh! •

Rabbi Daniel Yolkut is the spiritual leader of Congregation Poale Zedeck. This column was provided by the Vaad Harabanim of Greater Pittsburgh.

Sounds

Continued from Page 9

strong relationship with the consulate general of Israel in Philadelphia, another frequent show guest and, with the help of the consulate general in Washington, D.C., “Sounds of Jerusalem” broadcast Israel News Digest on the show.

“The premise of the show was very much focused on giving an Israel view of what was happening in the world, avoiding direct politics as best as possible,” Grossmann said.

Before the internet, there were few outlets for pro-Israel messages to be shared. “Sounds of Jerusalem” was, according to Grossmann, one of the first U.S. Israeli culture radio shows.



▲ A “Sounds of Jerusalem” poster from the 1980s

But Grossmann and his production team aren’t completely responsible for the show’s large audience.

WKDU gained a large

following of Black listeners in the 1970s, largely thanks to “The Black Experience in Music,” a group of Black students who called themselves “communicators,” rather than DJs, as they not only played music but educated Black communities in Drexel and Philadelphia about cultural happenings.

“We were such a crucial part [of WKDU] because we were the only consistent program,” said Sherri Pennington, a communicator from 1977 to 1981.

“The Black Experience” began in 1971 and was responsible for the vast majority of the station’s programming through the ’80s.

Much like Drexel’s Jewish

population, Drexel’s Black community was small but disproportionately represented at WKDU, which became a space for underrepresented communities.

Though WKDU’s influence has waned, along with most other radio stations, it still serves to provide a space for those on the fringes looking to discover music and culture beyond a Spotify playlist.

“WKDU is a very multicultural space,” outgoing WKDU Production Director David Juro said.

Juro is Jewish, but unlike Grossmann, he’s one of several Jewish students at the station who make shows about a myriad of topics.

Along with students, Drexel has a robust group of alumni still broadcasting their programs from WKDU. After the 50th anniversary celebration in July, more alumni are considering returning to reprise their shows.

Pennington returned to WKDU as a communicator on Sept. 19. After his 50th anniversary stint, Grossmann is thinking about doing likewise.

“Maybe there are ways to bring it back,” Grossmann said. “I definitely wouldn’t have thought that until I did it and had all these people as engaged as they were.” •

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temple Dental Names Student Center to Honor David A. Bresler

THE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY Kornberg School of Dentistry dedicated the David A. Bresler Student Life Center on Sept. 17.

The center honors Bresler, a 1979 graduate who founded Doc Bresler's Cavity Busters, a multi-location pediatric dental practice. Bresler, who also served as a member of Temple's faculty, died in 2015.

Bresler's three children are also Temple dental graduates — Joshua Bresler, Jason Bresler and Rachel Bresler. They maintain the Cavity Busters practice.

The center serves as a social and educational hub for students at the dental school.

In recent years, the dental school has received a combined total of \$5 million in major gifts. Those donors were also honored at the dedication ceremony.



▲ The David A. Bresler Student Life Center at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry
Courtesy of the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El Seventh Graders Pay Tribute to First Responders

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, more than a dozen seventh-grade students from Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood, visited multiple

fire stations and police departments in Lower Merion Township and Haverford Township on Sept. 12 to thank first responders for their ongoing service.

The children and their families shared remarks of gratitude and presented police officers and firefighters with plaques gifted by Jewish National Fund-USA featuring a photo of JNF-USA and KKL-JNF's 9/11 Living Memorial in Jerusalem.

The text on the Jewish National Fund-USA plaques reads, in part: "The JNF-KKL 9/11 Memorial, in the foothills of Jerusalem, expresses the deep connection and shared values between the people of Israel and the United States. It is the only memorial outside of the United States that honors each victim. The memorial is an American flag waving and transforming into a flame."

"A piece of melted metal from the ruins of the Twin Towers forms the base of the monument. This memorial serves as the site of an official ceremony held with the United States every year, as Israel honors the memory of the heroes who fell and recognizes the heroes who walk among us. Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice."

Philadelphia Museum of Art to Return Czech Shield Confiscated by Nazis

The Philadelphia Museum of Art announced Sept. 13 that it was returning to the Czech Republic a ceremonial pageant shield confiscated by the Nazis when Czechoslovakia was annexed during World War II, The New York Times reported.

The shield, which was once part of a collection owned by Archduke Ferdinand, was created during the Renaissance by Italian artist Girolamo di Tommaso da Treviso in about 1535. The shield is 24 inches in diameter, is made of wood, linen, gesso, gold and pigment, and depicts the storming of New Carthage by Roman soldiers.

The local museum acquired the shield as part of a bequest and it has been on display in the Galleries of Arms and Armor since 1976.

The museum said it has worked with Czech Republic historians since 2016 to determine the shield's provenance and history.



▲ Students at Narberth Fire Department
Courtesy of Jewish National Fund-USA



▲ Students at Lower Merion Police Department
Courtesy of Jewish National Fund-USA

"A work that had been lost during the turmoil of World War II is being happily restituted, and out of this has come an exceptional scholarly partnership," said Timothy Rub, the museum's director and chief executive.

In recent years, museums around the world have returned art stolen by the Nazis to heirs of the original owners, many of whom are Jewish families. Some of the efforts to retrieve the art have resulted in lawsuits. ●

— Compiled by Andy Gotlieb

Phillies

Continued from Page 11

of their fans. The "happy Rosh Hashanah" post is, at this point, an annual gesture. So is Jewish Heritage Night at CBP.

"I'm proud of my Jewish faith and love the fact I work for an organization that encourages its employees to honor and celebrate their heritage," Harris said.

Local Jewish baseball

fans agree with Harris. They appreciate that their team acknowledges their community.

Conservative Rabbi Elliott Perlstein, who leads Ohev Shalom of Bucks County, called the post a "teaching moment."

Many non-Jews assume that, due to its proximity to Christmas, Chanukah is the biggest Jewish holiday, according to the rabbi. This post makes them more aware

of the High Holidays.

"Maybe a lot of people say, 'They have their own new year?'" Perlstein said.

Wyndmoor resident Michael Seeherman is president of the men's club at Beth Tikvah-B'nai Jeshurun in Glenside. Before COVID broke out last year, the club bought tickets to Jewish Heritage Night.

The group views the Phillies as a good community partner, Seeherman said.

"We're looking forward to having another outing next year," he said. "This only encourages groups like ours to stay supportive."

In divisive times, it's refreshing to see such a big and visible organization reach out, Seeherman added.

Social media can drive the divisiveness of our times. But it's also necessary to use social media as "a big part of any marketing strategy in this day

and age," Harris said.

The Phillies do their best to use it to be inclusive. They might just do that better than any team in baseball.

"I was surprised to hear we were the only team to acknowledge Rosh Hashanah," Harris said. "I certainly can't speak for others as to why that's the case." ●

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DEATH NOTICES

BAUMHOLTZ

Brenda Baumholtz (nee Lomberg) on September 10, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Harold; Loving mother of Lisa (Bobby) Morganstein and Karen (David) Berman; Adoring mom-mom of Allie (Corey), Demi, Dylan, Zachary and Madison. Contributions in her memory may be made to Jewish National Fund, 78 Randall Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 or to a charity of the donor's choice. GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

BOGDANOFF

Bernice Gladys Bogdanoff (nee Rubin) passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 12, 2021. Born in Philadelphia on March 12, 1924 to Morris & Lena Rubin. Bernice married Henry, the love of her life, September 10, 1944, for 58 wonderful years. Together they raised three loving children: Bruce (Sue), Marcy (Ernie), Philip (Ellen). Doting MomMom of Amy Bogdanoff, Aron (Mandy)Bogdanoff, Lisa (Marc) Kassenoff, Ira (Jenny) Brownstein, Jay, Jason & Jeremy Bogdanoff. Adoring Great MomMom of Jacob, Hailey, Zoe, Adam, Maddie & Henry. Bernice loved her family and friends to the fullest. She was an avid swimmer & enjoyed all aspects of the Jersey shore. Bernice was predeceased by her husband Henry, her sister Nita, her son Bruce, & her granddaughter Amy. Contributions in her memory can be made to Atlantic Care Hospice of New Jersey. GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

DUBB

Alisha Beth (nee Cherry). Alisha, beloved mother, daughter, sister, cousin, and dear friend, died on September 12th of metastatic breast cancer at age 50. She is survived by her daughters, Hannah Dubb and Sydney Dubb, her mother, Janet Cherry, and her sister, Deborah Cherry, and is predeceased by her father, Arthur Cherry. She was an amazing, loving and special person who lived in Philadelphia most of her life. A graduate of Central High School, Class of 247, and the University of the Arts, she was on the board of the Jewish Children's Folkshul and an active member of the Philadelphia Folksong Society for over 25 years. Alisha was the epitome of a "happy camper" - she loved to camp, starting with an annual trip to the World's End State Park with her Central H.S. friends, then onto the PFS Spring Thing, Folk Festival and Fall Fling. Alisha was creative and generous, loved cooking, and having parties. Alisha was a people-gatherer and had a particular knack for collecting interesting and eclectic friends. Her friends then became dearest friends with each other. Her warmth and generosity were felt by all who knew her. She was described as a "bright light" in any room. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jewish Children's Folkshul, www.folkshul.org or UNITE for HER, www.uniteforher.org or to the organization of your choice

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GREENFIELD

Faith R. Greenfield, Esq. on September 3, 2021, of Media, PA. Beloved wife of 42 years to Tom Mayewski, loving sister of Dr. Jeff (Heather) Greenfield, Lee (Cathie) Greenfield and sister-in-law of Dr. Ray (Cheryl) Mayewski, devoted aunt of Rachel, Alise, Sara, Rich, Anne and Beth. Faith was a prominent attorney in Philadelphia, Head of the Litigation Department and Acting General Counsel at Campbell Soup Company and an Adjunct Professor at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Liver Transplant Program at Penn Medicine, c/o Penn Medicine Development and Alumni Relations, 3535 Market Street, Suite 750 Philadelphia, PA 19104 (www.pennmedicine.org/giving) noting Liver Transplant Team in the comments section, King's College, 133 N. River St. Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18711 <https://alumni.kings.edu/give/give-now> or the Gift of Life Family House, 401 N. Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA, 19123 <https://support.giftoflifefamilyhouse.org/give/196189/#1/donation/checkout> JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS www.levinefuneral.com

INGBER

David M. Ingber, on September 11, 2021. Beloved husband of Rosalind (nee Mann); adoring father of Steven (Kim) Ingber, Terri (the late Steven) Coopersmith, and Amy (Ian) Blackman. Doting grandfather of Rachel (Mike Lewis), Ariel, Danielle, Andrew, Justin, Oliver and the great grandfather of Makenzie. Contributions in his memory may be made to Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun www.btbj.org/donate or to JDRF www.jdrf.org/donate GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

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LEVITAN

Peter Wallfield Levitan, 91, of Margate, NJ passed away on September 14, 2021 at Royal Suites Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Galloway, NJ. He was the beloved husband of Shirley (Segal) Levitan. Peter was born in Philadelphia in 1930 to the late Esther and David Levitan. He was a proud graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia where he served as class president. Peter graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Education. He began his career as a business teacher of all subjects at the Levitan School of Business for quite a few years. Later, eager for new challenges, Peter set his sights on the health care industry and became the assistant administrator at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia. It was there that he met his devoted wife Shirley and the two married. They enjoyed forty-seven years of happily wedded bliss. He became the executive controller for Albert Einstein Medical Center. In retirement, they wintered at their beautiful condo in Boca Raton, Florida. Peter and Shirley enjoyed traveling extensively around the world. They cruised the Caribbean yearly, as well as visiting locales such as Israel, the Scandinavian countries, and California. Peter enjoyed many hobbies. He appreciated listening to good music, attending the theater, reading, going to the beach, and watching football, especially the Philadelphia Eagles. Peter is also survived by his daughter, Regine (Jeannie) and her husband Don of Rochester, Vermont, and his son, Daniel of Fremont, California; two grandchildren, Paige of Keene, New Hampshire and Michael of Rochester, VT; and his nephew, Kenneth and his wife Elana, son of his late brother, Mark Levitan. Peter was an active member of AVODA for many years and Shirat Hayam Congregation, 700 Swarthmore Ave., Ventnor, NJ, where contributions in his memory may be gratefully made.

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ORLEANS

Selma Orleans (nee Holtzman). September 9, 2021 of Manalapan, FL. Devoted wife of the late Marvin. Beloved mother of Jeffrey P. (Elizabeth) Orleans and Patricia (Melvyn) Siegel. Adoring grandmother of Elizabeth, Ashley, Andrew, Arthur, Ellie, Laurie and the late Michael. Proud great-grandmother of James, Alek, Ana Juliet, Alexa, Madison, Justin, Megan, Jake, Marley and Brooks. Services and interment were private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Selma Orleans Scholarship Fund C/O Jewish Federation of Philadelphia. JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS www.levinefuneral.com

RATNER

Marvin Lee Ratner, on September 11, 2021. Devoted father of Sheryl Benson (John), Hope Katz, Brian Ratner (Anita) and Chris Weisenberger. Dear brother of Stephen Ratner (Audrey), and Robert Ratner (Kimberly Powers). Loving grandfather of Jonathan (Christine), Michael (Sara), Morgan, Kathryn, Madison, Kevin, and Mark. Loving great grandfather of Eric, Shayla, Nova, and Mayana. Contributions in his memory may be made to American Cancer Society or Old York Road Temple - Beth Am. GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL-SACKS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

ROSENBERG

Harriet Rosenberg (nee Mondelblatt), aged 93, of Abington and Philadelphia, PA, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2021. She was the beloved wife of the late Harold Rosenberg, and is survived by her children, Iris (Kevin) Parker and Murray (Lorna) Rosenberg. Grandmother to Reid, Johanna, and Hilary Parker (Corley,) and David, Aryeh, and Judith Rosenberg; and Great-Grandmother to Noah and Micah Parker, Jordan and Juliana Majors, and Max Corley. Harriet was born in South Philadelphia and raised as the only child of Fannie (nee Fogelman) and David Mondelblatt. She grew up in a loving home surrounded by her extended family. Sunday dinners and numerous family gatherings and lifecycle events caused Harriet to develop a strong focus on family, something she always cherished and ardently promoted throughout her life. Harriet and Harold married in 1951 and purchased a home in Northeast Philadelphia where they lived for 40 years. She took great pride in her role as homemaker while Harold manufactured women's lingerie at his Garden Looms factory. She attended numerous school events that involved her children and grandchildren, bringing her great joy. Harriet and Harold relished spending time with their grandchildren and traveling. After Harold's death, Harriet continued this tradition by taking each of her grandchildren on a "big trip" after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Disney World, London and Paris, Alaska, Italy, and the Caribbean. Harriet went back to work at the age of 50 for the School District of Philadelphia until her "early" retirement at the age of 82 1/2. She loved her administrative assistant position in the RITE/MERIT Program and the people she worked with each day. Harriet's co-workers, who included many nuns, teachers, and administrators, were a great source of love and support during her working years and in retirement. Harriet lived independently until the end of April 2021. She enjoyed going to family gatherings, numerous educational and music programs, and Shabbat services. She was very generous, warm, and optimistic. She shared her winning smile with all whom she met. Please consider a donation in her memory to Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Sharing is Caring Fund at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, or the American Diabetes Association. Funeral and Shiva will be private due to Covid restrictions. JOSEPH LEVINE and SONS www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

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SILVER

Evelyn Shirley Silver (nee Levine) aged 97. Beloved wife to Harry Silver (deceased 2010) for 63 years and mother to Norman, Mitchell (Joyce), and Leslie (Michael). Grandmother to Max and Jade Silver, Eli and Tara Beattie. She was born on October 8, 1923, daughter of Harry and Anna Levine in Brooklyn, N.Y. and passed away peacefully in her room at Rydal Medical Center on September 5, 2021. She lived in Abington PA until moving to Rydal Park. She and Harry were lifelong members of Old York Road Temple Beth Am synagogue which was their community throughout their lives. They founded the Harry and Evelyn Silver Scholar in Residence program at the synagogue, believing in the importance of education and the furthering of knowledge. She was a lifelong member of Hadassah, acting as president of the local Philadelphia chapter, now Einstein-Senesch. Evelyn was well known for her generosity and philanthropy. She traveled extensively throughout her life, often to Asia, accompanying Harry on his work trips. They travelled together and occasionally with their children and grandchildren as they explored the world in their later years. In addition to being exceptionally well read, she loved crossword and jigsaw puzzles and gardening. Her weakness for chocolate and Baileys Irish Cream was well known. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: Harry and Evelyn Scholar in Residence Fund at Temple Beth Am, Abington, PA Planned Parenthood, (<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>) Einstein-Senesch chapter of Hadassah in Greater Philadelphia.

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SMOLOW

We mourn the loss of our beloved Miriam Smolow who passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2021. She was the wife of Ernie Smolow (died July 28, 2020), mother of Ron (Nan) Smolow and Craig (Rhoda) Smolow, grandmother of Lauren, Jessica, Andrea, Michael, Erica and Josh and great-grandmother of 10, sister of Leonard Hoffner and Judith Cohen. Miriam was a "gute neshuma." Her life was always about the other person. She had the remarkable ability to empathize, to feel what you were feeling. She will be remembered for her most beautiful, loving, and caring smile. Miriam grew up in Philadelphia with her brother & sister during the great depression. She married Ernie when he returned home from WWII. She was a successful businesswoman, way ahead of her time. Early on, Miriam worked out of the home selling real estate and insurance. Later, she had a very successful career working for Almo Electronics. Miriam encouraged her sons and her grandkids to be independent and self-reliant and often said, "Make sure you get a good education" and always support the Jewish community. When you visited with her, she would always end the visit with a loving squeeze of the hand, a kiss goodbye, and would say: "Thank you for being you". Memorial contributions can be made to Hadassah, 40 Wall Street New York, NY 10005, PLEASE NOTE: #TMSM09C in the memo line or call Donor Services at (800) 927.0685, or to Shir Ami Reform Jewish Congregation, * Israel/Camp Scholarship Fund * 101 Richboro Rd., Newtown, PA 18940.

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STUART

Robert Stuart, September 9, 2021, of Cherry Hill, NJ. Beloved husband of the late Doris (nee Scheuer). Loving father of Nancy (Kevan) Portney; cherished PopPop of Joshua and Bryan; and long-term devoted companion of Rosalind Lavin. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (www.komen.org).

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MEMORIAL



GLAUSER

On August 30, 2020, the world lost a one-of-a-kind man, Joel Louis Glauser. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and accountant. However, his greatest success was how he loved his family. There is not a day that goes by that Joel is not missed. People like to say that Joel was "larger than life" and had a "heart of gold". He was a successful businessman and problem-solver. He treated all of his clients and friends as if they were his extended family. Joel is survived by his wife of 40 years, Marcy Glauser; his children, Jerry, Michael, Brian (Audra), and Jennifer; his grandchildren, Levi and Noah; his brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Shari Glauser; and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Hope and David Schaefer.

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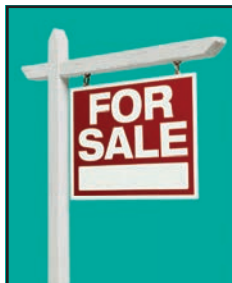
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INFORMATION

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1818-20 N. Front Street Condominium Association has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Law Offices of Jon Taylor, PC 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1888 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **CIT Credit Finance Corp.**, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware is withdrawing from doing business in Pennsylvania. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation 340 Mt Kemble Ave, Ste 100, Morristown, NJ 07960, and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **CIT Financial USA, Inc.**, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware is withdrawing from doing business in Pennsylvania. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation is 340 Mt Kemble Ave, Ste 100, Morristown, NJ 07960, and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System.

Pursuant to the requirements of section 1975 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, notice is hereby given that **FEINBERG & LASHIN, INC.** is currently in the process of voluntarily dissolving.

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Foundation for Physician Advancement has been incorporated under the provisions of the PA Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. Cheshire Law Group Clarkson-Watson House 5275 Germantown Ave. First Floor Philadelphia, PA 19144

K & K TITLE CO., INC., a corporation organized under the laws of the state of New Jersey, has applied for registration in Pennsylvania under the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Associations Code. The alternative name under which the association is registering in this Commonwealth is 95 West Court Street Corporation. The address of its proposed registered office in this Commonwealth is 290 Fox Hound Dr., Doylestown, PA 18901. Gary A. Zlotnick, Esquire Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaar & Toddy, PC One Commerce Square 2005 Market St., 16th Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19103

NOTICE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A PAWNBROKER LICENSE

Notice is given that Lowill's Jewelers Associates, Ltd. did on September 14, 2021, submit to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Banking, an application for renewal licensure of a pawnbroker office at this location, which is as follows: 5719 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 All interested persons may file written comments in favor of or in opposition to the application, with the Pawnbroker Hearing Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Banking, 17 N. 2nd Street, Ste 1300, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-2290. All comments to be considered must be received by the Department within thirty (30) days from the date of this newspaper publication.

Quality Management Concepts Inc. has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988. Jensen Bagnato, P.C. 1500 Walnut Street Suite 1510 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Tergeo Technologies Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware, has applied for registration in Pennsylvania under the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Associations Code. The address of its principal office under the laws of the jurisdiction of formation is c/o 614 N. Dupont Hwy., Ste. 210, Dover, DE 19901 and the address of its proposed registered office in this Commonwealth is 4550 Manayunk Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128. Fox Rothschild LLP Stone Manor Corp. Ctr. 2700 Kelly Rd., (300) Warrington, PA 18976

THE HOWARD B. ASHER REVOCABLE TRUST BY AND BETWEEN HOWARD B. ASHER, SETTLOR AND HOWARD B. ASHER TRUSTEE DTD. 12/5/2005 AS AMENDED. Howard B. Asher, Deceased. Late of Philadelphia, PA. This Trust is in existence and all persons having claims or demands against said Trust or decedent are requested to make payment without delay to Myrna Asher, Noah Asher, Deborah Anderson & Anthony Asher, Successor Trustees, c/o James M. Orman, Esq., 1600 Market St., Ste. 3305, Philadelphia, PA 19103; James M. Orman, Atty., 1600 Market St., Ste. 3305, Philadelphia, PA 19103

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Business Corporation Law of 1988, **Triangle Land Company**, a business corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of California, will withdraw from doing business in Pennsylvania. The address of its principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation is 11444 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90064 and the name of its commercial registered office provider in Pennsylvania is C T Corporation System. The statement of Withdrawal of Foreign Registration shall take effect upon filing in the Department of State. The date of filing is 9/9/21.

ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE OF ARLENE MAZER, 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 payment without delay to MARC MAZER, 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 CARL ISENBERG, DECEASED
Late of Philadelphia County
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to: Jeffrey M. Rowe, Executor 258 West 22nd Street, 2A New York, NY 10011

ESTATE OF DANIEL WARREN PHILLIPS AKA DANIEL W PHILLIPS
Late of BUCKS County
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who requests that all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make payment without delay, to: LINDA PHILLIPS, EXECUTRIX c/o Joy Dickstein, Esquire 668 Woodbourne Road Suite 101 Langhorne, PA 19047 or to her attorney, JOY DICKSTEIN, ESQUIRE 668 Woodbourne Road Suite 101 Langhorne, PA 19047

ESTATE OF DAVID J. TOPOLESKI, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia County, PA
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make payment without delay to LISA TOPOLESKI, EXECUTRIX, 2407 Oriole Drive, Bensalem, PA 19020. Or to her Attorney: DAVID M. RAPOPORT, RAPOPORT LAW OFFICES, LLC 1650 Market Street, 55th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19020

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ESTATE NOTICES

Estate of HELEN REED; REED, HELEN
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Late of Philadelphia, PA.
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY
on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Stephen J. Reed, 3141 Holly Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154, Executor.
Scott D. Bloom, Esq.
1033A Mill Creek Dr.
Feasterville, PA 19053

Estate of Jacqueline Carlucci-Staley; Carlucci-Staley, Jacqueline
Deceased
Late of Philadelphia, PA.
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY
on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Deborah A. Dunbar, 3246 Gaul St., Philadelphia, PA 19134, Executrix.
Edward J. Campanella, Esq.
477 West Valley Rd.
Wayne, PA 19087

ESTATE OF JAY KAUFFMAN a/k/a JAY FREDRICK KAUFFMAN, 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: ANTHONY EARNEST KAUFFMAN, EXECUTOR, c/o Roy Yaffe, Esq., One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., 16th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042,
Or to his Attorney:
ROY YAFFE
GOULD YAFFE AND GOLDEN
One Commerce Square
2005 Market St., 16th Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042

Estate of JoAnn R. Atkins; Atkins, JoAnn R
Deceased
Late of Philadelphia, PA.
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay, to: Felicia V. Seabron, c/o Ned Hark, Esq., Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC, 7716 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19152, Administrator.
Goldsmith Hark & Hornak, PC
7716 Castor Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

ESTATE OF LORETTA CLEMENTINE JACKSON a/k/a LORETTA C. JACKSON, DECEASED.
Late of Philadelphia
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to DAVID V. BOGDAN, ADMINISTRATOR, 100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520, Philadelphia, PA 19110,
Or to his Attorney:
DAVID V. BOGDAN
100 S. Broad St., Ste. 1520
Philadelphia, PA 19110

ESTATE OF ROBERT GERBER PARKE a/k/a ROBERT G. PARKE, 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 ELIZABETH P. BROWN, EXECUTRIX, 619 Maple St., Westfield, NJ 07090-2420,
Or to her Attorney:
MARGERY J. SCHNEIDER
P.O. Box 260
Wynnewood, PA 19096

ESTATE OF SARA C. SZCZEPANEK
Late of Collegeville Borough
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that, in the estate of the decedent set forth below, the Register of Wills has granted letters of administration to the persons named. All persons having 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 administrators named below.
MIRIAM SZCZEPANEK, STANLEY SZCZEPANEK AND ANDREW SZCZEPANEK, Co-Administrators
c/o Attorney:
Deborah Miller, Esq.
650 Sentry Parkway
Suite One
Blue Bell, PA 19422

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OPINION

Rosenblatt

Continued from Page 14

on doing all it can to protect its citizens from those who would destroy them, and the state. Its leaders prefer the enmity of critics to tears of sympathy from allies.

But America has wavered in its commitment to carry on a war that doesn’t end. After 20 years, our society grew weary of the conflict in Afghanistan, not sure why we were still there. Late in the game we came to recognize the hubris in trying to impose our values — noble as democracy is — on a factional land with its own very different culture.

Still, when the U.S. pulled out

so hastily and ineffectively, we were sickened to think of those left behind — including thousands who risked their lives to help our troops. The fate that awaits nearly 40 million Afghans at the hands of a brutal regime is too painful to imagine.

Still, when a suicide bomber at the Kabul airport gates killed 170 Afghans, including 13 courageous young American soldiers, the response in Washington was “we will not forgive, we will not forget, we will hunt you down.”

Those words seem to echo those of President Bush 20 years ago.

In a moving Washington Post opinion piece, Theodore Olsen, the former U.S. solicitor general whose

wife was killed on 9/11, notes that in pledging to pursue the terrorist perpetrators in Kabul, “we have come full circle.”

Are we truly prepared to honor the thousands of Americans murdered on 9/11 by stepping up our efforts against the Taliban, ISIS and their fellow haters of Big Satan and Little Satan around the world?

It does not seem likely, when Washington is considering diplomatic alternatives. Only when we do, though, will those victims rest in peace. ●

Gary Rosenblatt was the editor and publisher of The Jewish Week from 1993 to 2019.

Wolfson

Continued from Page 15

documentary, but the guests he brought with him.

Dominic Dupont, Williams’ nephew and documentary partner, had been released recently following two decades behind bars for murder. He said he “treated prison like a university,” attained counseling qualifications and became an inspiration to other prisoners in helping turn around their lives.

Derrick Hamilton, who spent 27 years in jail for a crime he did not commit, taught himself law while inside and overturned his conviction — and those of many of his wrongfully convicted fellow inmates.

Dana Rachlin, a young Jewish woman and a frequent collaborator with Williams, came along with a dozen Black teenagers whom she referred to as “her kids.” Rachlin had founded a charity that worked with kids at the schools in Brooklyn with the highest school-to-prison graduation rate. Her work sought to break this pipeline and had achieved remarkable success.

Awe and humility are my abiding memories. A packed room of Jewish students were thinking deeply about what incarceration and freedom could look like, and about how justice could be structured around atonement for crimes and self-improvement rather than around punishment. Without exception, the students who spoke

to me afterward — none of whom came from an activist background — expressed how much they would be bringing from the evening to their seder tables.

Williams, Dupont, Hamilton and Rachlin stayed on for dinner after the event sharing stories, taking pictures, answering questions. Schmoozing. In addition to telling their critically important stories, they had also come to meet the audience, hear their stories and find common ground. A friend of mine — a rabbi of an Orthodox synagogue in the U.K. — saw my Facebook posts about the event and brought Hamilton and Rachlin to speak to his community.

After the event, Williams said to me that “if the Black and Jewish communities could work together, nothing would be able to stop us.”

Williams wished to tell the story of his own community, but simultaneously expressed a genuine curiosity about the Jewish community. We spoke about doing a series of conversations with one another on the book of Exodus — the original story of slavery and liberation — and its relevance to our times. One day he was in the building at the same time as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi of the United Kingdom, and expressed an interest in meeting the man I had described to him as “the premier Jewish thinker, a man obsessed with justice.” The students’ meeting with Rabbi Sacks ran overtime, otherwise the King

would have met the Lord.

Williams was open about his struggles with addiction and passed away from a suspected drug overdose. His passing was in my mind throughout the week of preparation for Yom Kippur. It felt appropriate to reflect on what we can all learn from those who face similar battles.

Maimonides lists the threefold requirement of *teshuvah*, or repentance, as confession (*vidui*), regret (*charata*) and determination for the future (*kabala l’atid*). I have seen no greater lived example of the struggle to live those three elements than those who struggle to overcome addiction.

Those people I have been privileged to know, for whom every day is a challenge, show us the truth that we would all do well to remember, that *teshuvah* is not something that is “achieved,” a destination arrived at. Rather *teshuvah*, like the recovery from addiction, is an ongoing process and struggle that is never over but requires constant work and regular re-examination.

As Williams went through many struggles, he simultaneously used his story, fame and innate brilliance to help others. And he did this with humility and a smile.

No matter how great Omar Little is, Michael K. Williams was infinitely greater. May his memory be a blessing. ●

Joe Wolfson is the rabbi of the Orthodox community at New York University.

COMMUNITYCALENDAR

▼ FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

Parsha for Life

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

Geography of Summer

What is the history of the summer vacation? How does it apply to the Jewish community? Why and where and how do we travel? What is a Jewish “staycation”? **Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel’s Temple Judea Museum** 2021 fall exhibition “The Geography of Summer” is now open. Visit the gallery in person at 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park or follow the exhibition on the Temple Judea Museum Facebook page and on YouTube.

Career Workshop

JEVS will host a Zoom workshop at noon as part of its Career Strategies program. Ask a career adviser expert any questions you may have about the job search process. We are happy to help with all of your questions. Register at jevshumanservices.org/career-workshops.

▼ SATURDAY, SEPT. 25

Dance Showcase

Koresh Dance will hold its Artist Showcase at David Cooper Black Box Theater from 6-7 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. and on Sept. 26 from 6-7 p.m. The showcase is an initiative to give local, emerging

talent a platform to present their work and give the community a chance to discover new artists and dance. Buy \$15 tickets at brownpapertickets.com/event/5230206. 2002 Rittenhouse Square.

▼ SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

Writing Course

Briya Project will host a weekly course of eight two-hour class sessions from 6-8 p.m. until Oct. 31. We will gather on Zoom for moments of ritual and writing, to harness our creative spirits, seek our artistic voices and let them speak out. Register at tickettailor.com/events/briyaproject/564066/.

▼ MONDAY, SEPT. 27

Mahjong Game

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

▼ THURSDAY, SEPT. 30

Film Screening

The Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival kicks off the Jewish New Year at the Gratz College Mandell Education Campus with “Portrayal”, a documentary about a 20-something Russian-American who travels to Europe to confront the artist who stole his family’s artistic legacy. 7 p.m. Film will stream for seven days following at pjff.org/event/portrayal/. Cost is \$12. ●

NEWSMAKERS

Families from Shir Ami in Newtown gathered at Styer’s Orchard on Sept. 9 to pick nearly 200 pounds of apples that were donated to the Warminster Food Bank. On Sept. 12, nearly 40 congregants sorted and labeled food donations as part of the synagogue’s annual High Holiday food drive. In addition, the synagogue’s Rosh Hashanah shofar service took place in Tyler State Park in Newtown on Sept. 7 with Rabbi Charles Briskin leading 12 congregant shofar blowers.



▲ Shir Ami congregants pick apples
Photo by Rabbi Charles Briskin

► Congregants sort food as part of the annual High Holiday Food Drive
Photo by Marc Luber



◀ Rabbi Charles Briskin leads the shofar blowers.
Photo by Rebecca Weiss

On Sept. 12 at Congregation Beth El-Ner Tamid in Broomall, Matthew Rosin and a team of volunteers collected sewing machines and adult and children’s bicycles to send to people in need living in Thailand, Albania, Tanzania and Guatemala.



Courtesy of Congregation Beth El-Ner Tamid

What’s going on in Jewish Philadelphia?

Submit an event or browse our online calendar to find out what’s happening at local synagogues, community organizations and venues!

Submit: listings@jewishexponent.com
Online: jewishexponent.com/events/

JEWISH EXPONENT

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