

JEWISH

OCTOBER 2025

LIVING

THE **JEWISH VOICE** OF DELAWARE
& THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

DELAWARE

NEXT GEN

Hineini

Beautifully B'Shert

A Journey Through
a War-Torn Land

The Comedy of Myq Kaplan

Evolve Hadassah



Published by
Jewish Federation
of Delaware

I BELIEVE IN THE GOOD...

I love working for the Jewish Federation of Delaware because it allows me to connect with my mother's Jewish ancestry and give back to a community that means so much to me. The Jewish values of compassion, repairing the world, and connection guide everything we do, and being part of that mission is deeply meaningful. I'm especially proud to support efforts that combat antisemitism and help ensure a safe, vibrant future for the Jewish people.

- RACHEL LEE GAROFOLO,
Office Manager &
Marketing Specialist



**Jewish Federation
of Delaware**

ShalomDelaware.org • 302-427-2100



**TOGETHER
As One**

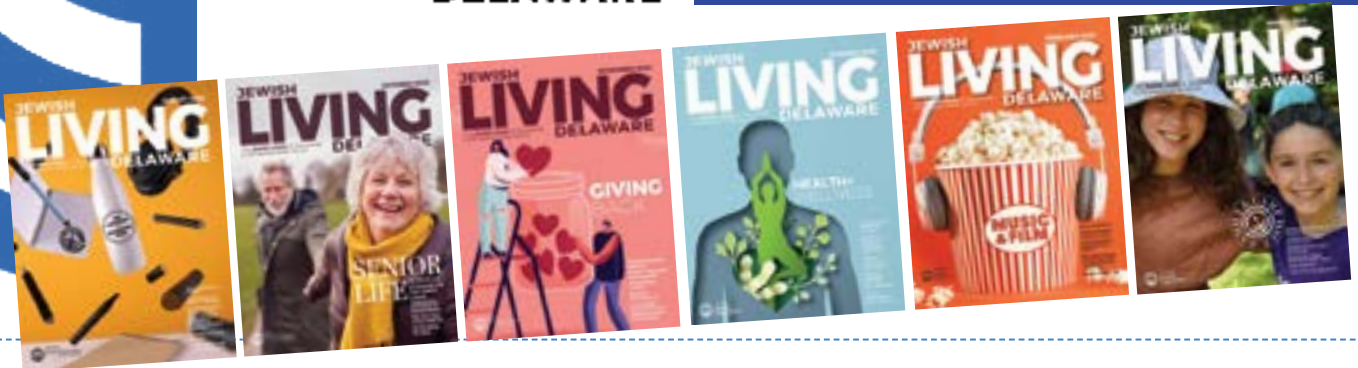


Building our future; honoring our past

Jewish Living Delaware is the only source for Jewish community news in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley. To continue to provide a vibrant window to everything Jewish in our area, we need your help. Our annual Patron Campaign is now underway. Your donation—large or small—helps us bring you our award-winning monthly publication, the annual Shalom Delaware Guide, weekly Federation News & Notes e-mails, and the ShalomDelaware.org website.

**JEWISH
LIVING
DELAWARE**

**2025
PATRON CAMPAIGN**



Jewish Living Delaware 2025 Patron Campaign

To make a gift by check fill out the information below and return it with your check to:

Jewish Federation of Delaware
101 Garden of Eden Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

To make a gift by credit card,

you can donate online at:

www.shalomdelaware.org/impact/ways-to-give/donate

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ \$36

☐ \$250

☐ \$54

☐ \$500

☐ \$72

☐ \$1000

☐ \$100

☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to: Jewish Federation of Delaware

**15,000+ Dresses in
stock in sizes 00-26
Largest selection of
Dresses on the
East Coast!**

Guaranteed!

By Appointment Only
Book from our website
JansBoutique.com

Jan's

856-428-8181

406 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill NJ

JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE



JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE
(formerly j- VOICE Monthly) and
Shalom DELAWARE are published
by Jewish Federation of Delaware.



PUBLISHER'S REPRESENTATIVE:

Seth J. Katzen
President and CEO,
Jewish Federation of Delaware

EDITOR: Emma Driban

Emma@ShalomDel.org | 302.427.2100

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Alexandra Martinez

Alex@TornekDesign.com

ADVERTISING SALES: Rachel Garofolo

Rachel@ShalomDel.org | 302.427.2100

BILLING: Amy Hoffmann

Amy@ShalomDel.org | 302.427.2100

JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Michael Sigman and Susan Towers.

JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE COMMITTEE:

Elisha Caplan, Lisa Driban, Sharon Fullerton,
Marianne Gellman, Whitney Katirai, Elizabeth Rich,
Meredith Rosenthal, Jennifer Steinberg,
David Udoff, Mark Wagman

PROUD MEMBER OF



Jewish Federation of Delaware, a non-profit corporation,
publishes **JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE** 11 times a year and
SHALOM Delaware annually.

The known office of publication is: 101 Garden of Eden Road,
Wilmington, DE 19803.

**Views expressed by guest columnists, in readers' letters,
and in reprinted opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect
the opinions of JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE, the JEWISH
LIVING DELAWARE Committee, Jewish Federation of
Delaware, or the underwriters of any columns.**

Submissions of copy and .jpg photos may be sent to
Editor@ShalomDel.org or mailed to the known office
of publication. All copy or photos submitted to **JEWISH
LIVING DELAWARE** shall become the property of **JEWISH
LIVING DELAWARE**. All submissions of text or photography
may be changed and printed at the discretion of the editor
without notice to the submitter.

JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE reserves full discretion to
decide what will be published. No material will be accepted
which is considered against the best interest of the Jewish
community. Acceptance of advertising neither endorses
advertisers nor guarantees kashrut.

© **JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE**, 2025 – by Jewish
Federation of Delaware (ISSN-220425) – H. G. Roebuck &
Son, Inc. – Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited.
All rights reserved.

Periodicals postage paid for **JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE**
(USPS-704160) at Wilmington, DE and Philadelphia, PA.
Subscription price: \$36.00/Mailed to subscribers and
contributors to Jewish Federation of Delaware who live within
the continental United States.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to: **JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE**
101 Garden of Eden Road
Wilmington, DE 19803



22

Hineini

By popular demand! CAO of the Siegel JCC Anna Saul shares the future she sees for our community and the incredible journey she's undergone to get where she is today.

24 **Beautifully B'Shert**

"What I once thought was a long shot dream—to meet my husband through a community social group—came true!" A former CONNECT (predecessor to YAD) member shares the story of how she found her one and only at a community event.

26 **A Journey Through a War-Torn Land**

During his second visit back home since October 7, Community Shaliach Yuval Moha witnesses the differences in his homeland. Yuval pays tribute to that visit. Be sure to go online for a full gallery of photos from Yuval's trip.

28 **The Comedy of Myq Kaplan**

Drawing on Jewish traditions of questioning and resilience, Myq Kaplan's comedy blends sharp observation, personal stories, and philosophical reflection into performances that are as thoughtful as they are funny. Get your tickets today for his upcoming show at Arden Gild Hall on October 18!

30 **Evolve Hadassah**

The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah now offers Evolve, a national program for women in their 30s, 40s, and 50s to partake in the Hadassah community. No longer your grandmother's Hadassah, Evolve aims to make the organization more accessible for younger generations.

**Columns**

16 Synagogue News: Temple Beth El Launches "Schmooze Squad"
Temple Beth El is excited to announce the launch of a new social group, the "Schmooze Squad," designed to bring together Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s—along with "old souls" a bit younger and "young at heart" members a bit older.

34 Food For Thought: Calling All Bagel Fanatics
Have you had a chance to try Van Buren Bagels? Well, we're obsessed! Read on for an interview with the owners and their favorite bagel pairings.

Comm.Unity	4
HEC	6
In Poetry	8
Agencies	10
Rabbis' Voices	14
Jewish Learning	20
Beyond Delaware	38
Crossword Puzzle	40
Obituaries	42

Jewish Federation of Delaware...Powered By Community



SETH J. KATZEN, PRESIDENT & CEO OF
JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE

Jewish tradition teaches us to care for one another. In our community we have shown—time and again—that our caring is boundless.

Jewish Federation of Delaware protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice), and Torah (Jewish learning).

TODAY...The Annual Campaign

A gift to the Federation's Annual Campaign provides unrestricted funds that provide a lifeline to our Jewish community for meeting humanitarian, social service, educational, and community building needs. These gifts are the predominant source of funding for the Federation's operations and provide critical support to our five beneficiary agencies; the Albert Einstein Academy, Jewish Family Services of Delaware, the Kutz Senior Living Campus, Siegel JCC, and University of Delaware Hillel; as well as our overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and World ORT. Doing so allows us to direct the funds in partnership with those agencies where the funds are most urgently needed.

One gift to the Annual Campaign makes it possible for us to simultaneously help our most vulnerable neighbors, build our Jewish community, stand with the people of Israel, and reach out to our Jewish family around the world. By allocating your philanthropic dollars to ensure the greatest impact, we

have earned a reputation as being a trusted and effective charity that makes a real difference.

TOMORROW...Leaving a Jewish Legacy

A Jewish Legacy is an opportunity to ensure that you will be remembered and that your passion and your values will continue when you are no longer here. It also serves as an example to your loved ones that you believe it is important to support the Jewish community. The act of creating a legacy empowers you to complete the work of your heart. By leaving a legacy, you will help to ensure that the traditions and institutions important to you remain vibrant for future generations.

Passing our values from generation to generation is one of the most fundamental tenets of Judaism. Our parents and grandparents built this Jewish community. That is their legacy. Securing its future financial strength will be our legacy.

TODAY and TOMORROW... We Grow Stronger TOGETHER As One.

There is much to do. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to be part of a caring community that gives back. TOGETHER, we can accomplish what no one individual could do on his or her own. Repairing the world and building community is something we can all celebrate.

L'Shalom,

Seth J. Katzen, President & Chief Executive Officer



In our commitment to serve as the wise stewards of your philanthropic investment, we are proud to report that Jewish Federation of Delaware is the **ONLY NONPROFIT IN DELAWARE** to earn the highest ratings from all three key industry evaluators of nonprofits:



**Your Values
and Traditions
Can Live Forever**

**Your legacy
gift can make
it happen!**



Life & Legacy
ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

Be remembered forever with a gift to Jewish Federation of Delaware in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact
Marla Levy, Endowment Manager | Marla@ShalomDel.org | 302-427-2100 ext. 820

The Butterfly Project



BY **RACHEL LEE GAROFOLO,**

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR WITH THE HALINA WIND PRESTON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I magine . . . you're in a meadow with a cloudless, cerulean sky above you, a slight breeze rustling your hair, the warm sun on your face, inhaling the delicate perfume of wildflowers. From nowhere, a butterfly floats by you, elegantly dancing in the wind, followed by another and another. One by one, more come, and you can no longer see the sky nor the flowers, as you are immersed in a shimmering storm of wings. 1.5 million butterflies.

To most people, butterflies joyfully herald the arrival of warm weather; they can also symbolize transformation and freedom. To those interred in a concentration camp during the Holocaust, they represented hope that they could survive a devastating nightmare. We all know that millions of people were killed during the Holocaust—1.5 million of them children.

Holocaust education was ratified in Delaware in 2020 and a key component in shaping and sustaining this program was the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee (HEC), supported by the Jewish Community Relations Committee at Jewish Federation of Delaware.

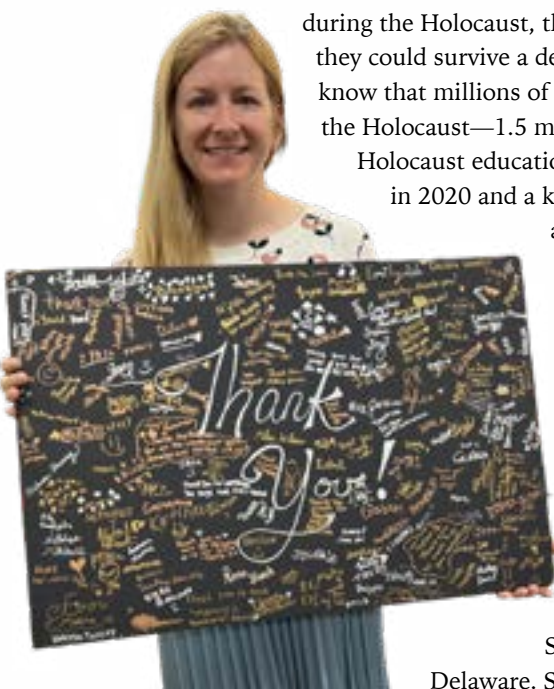
Sarah Snyder teaches sixth grade at Postlethwait Middle School in Camden,

Delaware. She didn't want to teach about the worst atrocity in history for merely a day or two, perhaps

jumping next to a lighter subject. She asked herself how she could help her students understand what happens when hate and bigotry go unchecked. She found out about The Butterfly Project, a grassroots education initiative based in San Diego, whose mission is to teach social justice through lessons of the Holocaust, educating participants about the dangers of discrimination and prejudice to cultivate empathy and social responsibility in classrooms, museums, and community centers. But why butterflies?

The Butterfly Project pays tribute to the poem, "The Butterfly," written by a young prisoner at the Terezin concentration camp. The concept of the program is to use the example of a butterfly to help students make tangible connections to the Holocaust. Each butterfly is ceramic and hand-painted to reflect each student's unique imagination. "The metamorphosis of ceramic butterflies represents the resilience of Holocaust Survivors. They start as clay, which is soft and malleable, with the potential to become anything—like children. Then they are kiln-fired for the first time, which makes them hard, but brittle—similar to the effect trauma has on a person. At last, they are glazed and kiln-fired a second time, after which they emerge strong, resilient, and beautiful—just like a person who survives devastation." (<https://thebutterflyprojectnow.org/>)

The Butterfly Project made state history by being the first of its kind in a Delaware school. "For me, the point of the project is to remember the Holocaust but also to find hope in remembering the children and shining a light on how we fight hate when it seems impossible." Due to cost, Snyder reached out to the HEC to help with funding. "We are proud to . . . have funded this program. [The students] did a phenomenal job in creating the first permanent display of butterflies in the state of Delaware" says





Photos provided by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee

Steve Gonzer, co-chair of the HEC. 350 ceramic butterflies were permanently affixed to the walls of Postlethwaite's library. The ceremony for the unveiling of the installation was attended by the Mayor of Dover, among other officials. Snyder plans to repeat last year's project and add an additional 350.

Gonzer interviewed students after the project and was saddened by some of their responses. One of his questions was if they thought the Holocaust could happen again. One student replied, "Yes, it probably will happen again because a lot of bad things have happened, and I feel like it'll never be truly over." Another student responded, "not really, but it's still possible because a lot of people just don't like a lot of people, even when you've never met them. It's sad and depressing." The students could not comprehend why, under Nazi influence, many people followed unquestioningly, as if herded like sheep.

Another way to perceive the Nazi's influence was to compare it to bullying. Thankfully, each student was adamant that if they saw another student being bullied, they would step in. This is the hope we have for our youth—don't let one person or groups' power influence your decisions and decency. "Using history's darkest time to instruct students about hope, resilience, and kindness, helping them develop the courage to stand up to injustice in today's world."

The victims of the Holocaust never smelled wildflowers again. People across nations must commit to empowering our youth to stand up to injustice in today's world to prevent another Holocaust and end genocide everywhere.

Never Forget the next time you see a butterfly swirling in the sunlight.

At the time of the article, 394,800 butterflies have been painted.



MISSING SOMETHING?

FIND COLUMNS AND ADDITIONAL CONTENT ON OUR WEBSITE.

OUR OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE ALSO INCLUDES:

- AGENCIES
- JEWISH LEARNING
- A BONUS PHOTO GALLERY (SEE PAGE 26)

PLUS....

AN ONLINE EXCLUSIVE FEATURE WITH RABBI LEVI SHMOTKIN

JewishLivingDelaware.org



Thoughts on Life and Aging

BY FAITH BROWN

Reaching 95, I've come to the realization
That all of life is about separation.
Separated at birth from the comfort of our mother's womb
Expelled from her body when there's no longer room.

We begin with many long years of education,
Which we hope will continue long beyond graduation.
Separating from parents during endless college years
Making decisions on life despite common fears.

Guiding our children, strange as it seems
We must separate so they can find their own dreams.
With many challenges, they must learn the rules
Separate from parents, how to find the right tools.

We know we are destined to living apart
making room for new loves to enter our heart.
The next stage is love stronger than life
Now becoming mom and dad not merely husband and wife
True love will find us no matter the season
Treasure those feelings
The heart needs no reason.

Sadly, separation in life again rears its head
With the loss of parents and friends, we honor the dead.
No matter the length of our lives in years
Life begins with a cry and ends with tears.

But we're blessed with memories despite separation
Hoping our lives will be an inspiration.
God gives us life and love, those are our winnings
From painful endings, often come new beginnings.

About the Author:

FAITH BROWN is a 95-year old resident of Lodge Lane. Faith has been an active member of the Delaware Jewish community for many years, teaching the Hebrew schools and leading choral and dance groups at AKSE with her husband Lou, z"l, for over 60 years, and currently co-leading weekly Shabbat services at Lodge Lane.



ARDEN CONCERT GILD

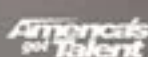
PROUDLY PRESENTS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Jewish Federation
OF DELAWARE

MYQ KAPLAN

AS SEEN ON:



LOWERY TRUSTEE

— LIVE COMEDY AT GILD HALL —

SAT OCT. 18, 2025

— 8:00 PM - \$30 GENERAL / \$25 MEMBERS —

2126 THE HIGHWAY - ARDEN, DELAWARE 19810

TICKETS: ARDENCONCERTS.COM

AGENCIES

Albert Einstein Academy is proud to be in its 56th year of excellent Jewish learning and discovery. From kindergarteners celebrating the first day of school, to curious students sharing their ideas about why science matters, to classmates practicing kindness and respect, our community is filled with wonder, purpose, and Jewish values. For more than half a century, our school has nurtured minds and hearts,

inspiring generations of students to learn, question, and care. Here's to another year of building knowledge, character, and community!



Albert Einstein Academy is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.



1&2: Kindergarteners and first graders watching concrete being poured for the indoor pool; Photo Credit: Dana Kawalek

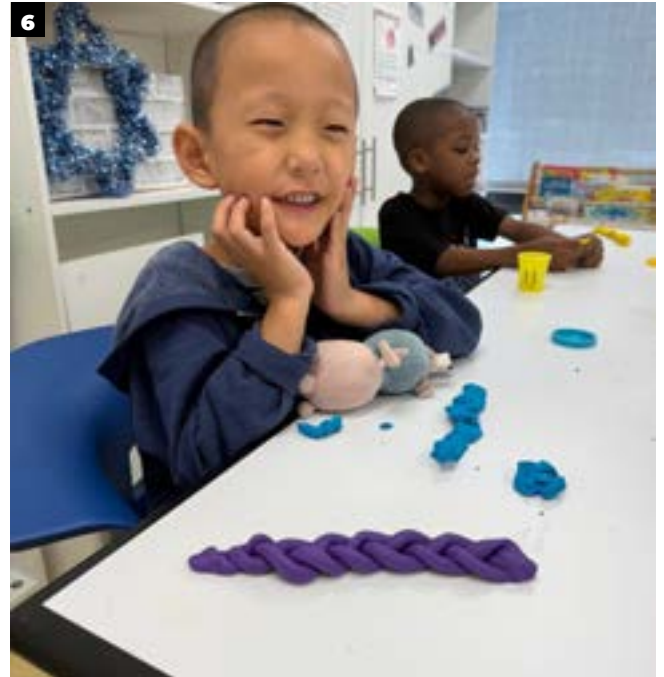
3: Discussing how to be a kind classmate on the first day of school; Photo Credit: Rachel Blumenfeld

4&5: Students on the first day of school discussing why science is important; Photo Credit: Rachel Blumenfeld

6: Students build fine motor skills by learning how to braid Play-Doh challahs; Photo Credit: Dana Kawalek

7: Kindergarteners celebrating the first day of school at Einstein; Photo Credit: Rachel Blumenfeld





SCHEDULE A TOUR



NURTURING EXCELLENCE

Now Accepting Applications for 2025-2026

EINSTEINDAY.ORG
302-478-5026

Kicking Off the Fall 2025 at Hillel

BY **SARA RUDINFELD**, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AT THE HILLEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE



Photos provided by the Hillel at University of Delaware

It was an exciting summer for Hillel at the University of Delaware, as we welcomed three new staff members and over 200 members of the Class of 2029 for Markell Fresh Fest!

During Markell Fresh Fest, over 180 students came together at Hillel for a two-day introduction to Jewish life at UD. Kicking off with a barbecue lunch, students and parents from the class of 2029 had the chance to mix, mingle, and meet new people. As part of the program, students moved in two days before the rest of the Class of 2029, received personalized tours of the campus, met up on Main Street with upperclassmen group leaders, and learned all about the Jewish community here at Hillel. We are so grateful for the generosity of the Markell/Weinstein family, longtime supporters of the Hillel at the University of Delaware, who make it possible for Hillel at UD to put on this monumental experience for incoming students

As Hillel at UD continues to serve more students each year, we are thrilled to be able to expand our team. Over the summer, we welcomed three additions to the Hillel at UD professional team: a new Springboard Innovation Fellow, an IACT Campus Engagement Associate, and a Jewish Agency for Israel Fellow.

Gaia Steinberg, our Springboard Ezra Fellow, hails from Las Vegas, NV and graduated from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in Spring 2025. As the child of two Israelis, Gaia is a fluent Hebrew speaker. On campus, they served as the president of Hillel Las Vegas for two years, served as president and founder

of Students Supporting Israel, completed the StandWithUs First-Year Leadership Internship, completed the StandWithUs Emerson Fellowship, ran a Jewish-Israeli Student Leadership Coalition, and served on the Task Force on Jewish Identity and Inclusion under the UNLV president. They look forward to working at the University of Delaware Hillel and helping Jewish college students develop their unique personal connections to Judaism.



Haddie Daner moved to Delaware from sunny California and will spend this year serving as our IACT Campus Engagement Associate. She is a graduate of Sonoma State University. During her time at SSU, she served as president of the Sonoma County Hillel, Phi Sigma Sigma, and the Order of Omega Honor Society. Following an unforgettable Birthright trip during her senior year, she committed to returning to Israel and, after graduation, moved to Jerusalem to pursue an MA in Nonprofit Management at Hebrew University. She hopes to help others discover the beauty, meaning, and magic of Israel through travel, conversation, and connection.



Yedidya Tzur, is the Hillel at UD '25-'26 Jewish Agency for Israel Fellow. He is a graduate of Ariel University, where he studied Electrical Engineering. "As a Jewish Agency Fellow here in Delaware, I'm here to help bridge hearts and minds—to make Israel feel a little closer and strengthen our community." Yedidya is passionate about people, opportunities for the exchange of ideas, and bringing Israeli culture to UD. Through his work, he crafts experiences that spark curiosity and meaningful connections for our students.



UD Hillel is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware

We Can Help You Achieve Your 2025 Real Estate Goals

- By Building Generational Wealth Through Home Ownership
- Through Commercial and Investment Portfolio Development
- By Providing In-House/Personalized Concierge Service 24/7/365

WE ARE HONORED TO BE RANKED IN THE TOP 7% OF REAL PRODUCERS
BRANDYWINE VALLEY AND NOTED AS
"...ONE OF THE REGION'S MOST TRUSTED AND EXPERIENCED REAL ESTATE TEAMS."

302.275.5600 | STAPEANDASSOCIATES.COM

TOP 500
REAL PRODUCERS
2024

S

STAPE & ASSOCIATES



Q: What are the Most A: Prominent Themes in Genesis?



Each month, Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher, along with rabbis from around the state, answer your questions about Judaism.

Have a question?
ASK THE RABBI!

Send your questions to:
AskTheRabbi@ShalomDel.org

RABBI JULIE HILTON DANAN

Seaside Jewish Community,
Rehoboth Beach

Here are a few of my favorite themes and lessons from the book of Genesis. Chapter one of Genesis has one of the most important concepts in the Torah, that humanity is created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26). In ancient times, monarchs were seen as the image or likeness of a deity, but the Torah recognizes the divine image in everyone. (*Etz Hayim* Torah commentary). This concept was pretty radical for its time, and indeed, for our own time. No matter a person's status or abilities, each one contains the divine image and is deserving of dignity and respect. To harm any person is to diminish the divine image on earth.

To drive this concept home, chapter two of Genesis describes the creation of the first human, Adam, from the earth. One beautiful *Midrash* tells how Adam was made from all different colors of earth from around the world, to show that all

racess and places are equally worthy. The *Mishnah* (Sanhedrin 4) declares that our shared ancestry ensures that no one can brag of their lineage, since ultimately, we are all related. Furthermore, humanity was created as one to teach us that saving one life is like saving a world. Taken together, these first chapters of Genesis focus on the value and dignity of each person—and as Rabbi David Seidenberg writes in his book *Kabbalah and Ecology*, of each and every non-human creature on the planet.

As we progress through the book of Genesis, our ancestors turn out to be inspired but imperfect human beings, which makes their hard-earned lessons relevant to us. One of the central stories in the book of Genesis (chapter 32) is the mysterious night episode of Jacob's struggle with an angel. Jacob emerges triumphant yet wounded and receives the new name of "Israel." Like our ancestor, we too can grow from the dark times and struggles of life.

Genesis ends with the saga of Joseph. In Genesis 45, Joseph is able to forgive his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years before. He has eventually risen to prominence and power, but they have grown, too, especially his brother Judah. Joseph can see their repentance and can recognize the bigger picture and the divine plan in his struggles and suffering.

While the families of Genesis have their share of jealousy, competition, and

disfunction, ultimately, they show us that struggles can lead to growth and that forgiveness and reconciliation are possible when we appreciate the divinity in ourselves and everyone we meet.

RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER

Rabbi Emeritus,
Congregation Beth Emeth

Of course, creation leads the pack, not only the creation of the world, but the creation of our People, as well. The former has been the source of controversy; was it as stated in the Torah or was it something like the Big Bang? Well, there are *two* creation stories in the Torah, the first two chapters of the Book, and neither one is even close to the other, let alone the Big Bang theory. But be that as it may, this month's question is focused on *themes*, not theories. We'll leave the theories alone right now; the themes are powerful and teach us something.

There is order in the universe.

We were created in God's image, but the wickedness of humans leads God to send a flood.

With the story of Cain and Abel we learn even families have their own drama, and virtually every nuclear and extended family in all of Genesis proves it to the nth degree. And to me, this is also a theme that emanates from that fact, namely,

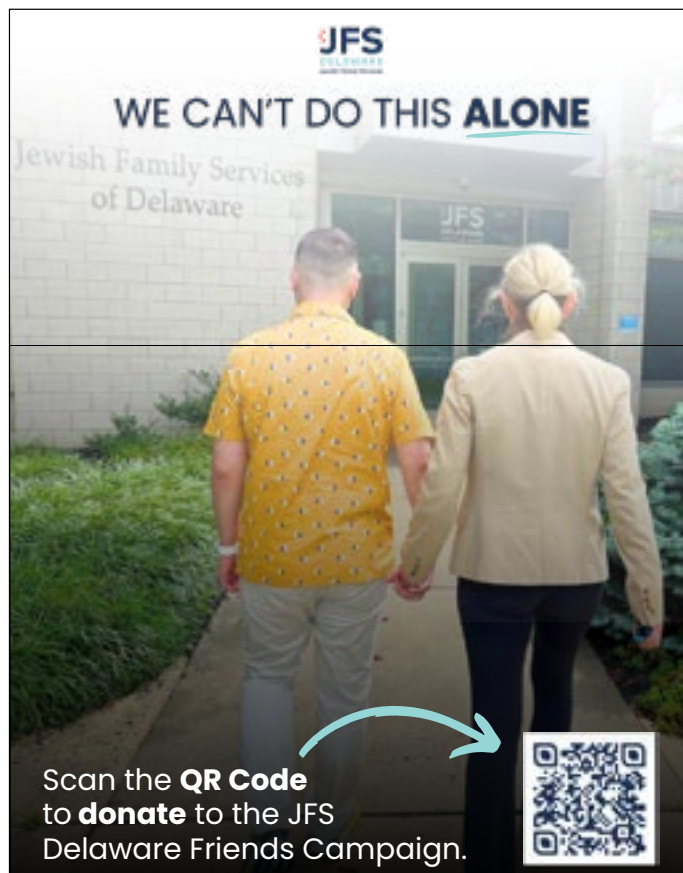
even our ancestors are far from perfection. If we have *tzadikim* (righteous people) that we venerate, they remain behind the curtain until Moses . . . and even Moses wasn't perfect!

But that doesn't mean that we should eliminate learning about our ancestors, but you knew that already. Without the vision of Abraham (nudged by God, of course), where would we be? Perhaps worshipping deities if no other *ahah!* moment had come along.

Another theme, subtle as it is, happens to be the evolution of our God idea. Historically, we know that the territorial God of Israel became a universal God; with the exile to Babylonia our only other choice was to worship their deities. Thus, we creatively manipulated our theology. But in the earliest narrative of the Abraham cycle, we know that the God he called his own sent him from his native land "*to a land that I will show you.*" Thus, even then we weren't stuck with national borders for monotheism to take hold.

Perhaps the most important theme—though they are all important—is the notion of the *brit*/covenant. Our relationship with God was like a contract. The rainbow was the symbol of the one established with Noah and circumcision was the most important at the time. Throughout our history the *brit* was renewed. My question is: what, if anything, is its role today?

Best wishes to you and yours for a healthy and joyful New Year, and for peace throughout the world!



Save the Date for an action-packed breakfast program highlighting...

THE IMPACT OF THE DELAWARE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON REAL ESTATE PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE

WITH PROFESSOR (DR.) DAVID WILK OF
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY FOX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Thursday, October 30th, 8:30 | 9 AM Program
More information to follow

Temple Beth El Launches “Schmooze Squad”—A New Social Group for 20s, 30s, and the Young at Heart

BY SHARON GIANNOTTI, CHAIR OF THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE AT TEMPLE BETH EL



Temple Beth El is excited to announce the launch of a new social group, the “Schmooze Squad,” designed to bring together Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s—along with “old souls” a bit younger and “young at heart” members a bit older.

This group was created to fill a unique need: providing a welcoming, relaxed space for those who may feel overlooked in synagogue and community life. Many in this age group find themselves living back at home with parents, new to the area, or simply lacking a local circle of Jewish friends. The Schmooze Squad is here to change that by offering a place to meet new people, strengthen old friendships, and even reconnect with familiar faces from the past.

A variety of events are already on the calendar, with plenty more in the works. The kickoff event took place on Sunday, September 28, and set the tone for a year of fun, meaningful connections, and community building.

The best part? There’s no long-term commitment required. Whether you’re looking to stop by for one event or become a regular part of the group, the Schmooze Squad is all about coming together, enjoying time with others, and finding your place in the community.

You can follow us on Instagram at [@schmoozesquad](https://www.instagram.com/schmoozesquad) or reach us by email at Schmoozesquad@gmail.com for updates and event details.

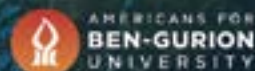
If you know someone in this age group who might enjoy being part of the Schmooze Squad, contact us through Instagram, by email, or by calling the Temple Beth El office to leave their name and information. One of our Schmooze Squad coordinators will personally reach out to welcome them.

Come schmooze with us—meet new people, reconnect with old friends, and discover a welcoming community that’s been waiting for you!



Photo Credit: AdobeStock.com

DELAWARE AND PHILADELPHIA CHAPTERS' 2025 TRIBUTE BRUNCH



GUIDED BY VISION, DRIVEN BY COURAGE, FORGING OUR WAY FORWARD

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 | 11:00 A.M.

WEITZMAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY



TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR OR VISIT
www.a4bg.org/tribute-brunch-2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Claire Winick, Director of Development
at claire@a4bg.org or 267-231-4204

HONORING



David Magerman

Noted Philanthropist and
Pioneering Computer Scientist



Matt Meyer

Governor of Delaware

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Doug Seserman, CEO, Americans for Ben-Gurion University
Ariel Fromowitz, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Student and IDF Veteran

MID-ATLANTIC CHAIRS
Connie and Sam Katz

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER CHAIR
Sherrie Savett, Esq.

DELAWARE CHAPTER CHAIRS
Drs. Carolyn Glazer-Hockstein
and Neil Hockstein

DELAWARE CHAPTER TRIBUTE CHAIR
Richard A. Levine, Esq.

Welcome
to the
Chosen
People!

SUKKOT

Sukkot commemorates a 40-year camping trip, with many unhappy Jewish campers. G-d then turned it into a holiday of great joy! He led us out of slavery, provided temporary shelter, and brought us into the Promised Land. Now every year, we build our booths for one week, to remember the way G-d took care of our ancestors in the wilderness, and how He wants to still meet our needs today.

— Happy Sukkot!



Copyright © 2021 G. Altman

Temple Beth El



*Be a part of our TBE Family-where
tradition meets belonging!*

Rabbi Michael Beals
www.tbede.org
+302-366-8330

TEMPLE BETH EL
301 POSSUM PARK ROAD
NEWARK, DE 19711

Celebration of the Animals!

BY **RABBI MICHAEL BEALS**, TEMPLE BETH EL

"Why are all those people holding animals, ready to be blessed, and we aren't doing ANYTHING?!", my wife, veterinarian Dr. Elissa Green, asked me during my penultimate year at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan.

Every year, St. John the Divine, the Episcopal Cathedral near Columbia University, would hold a Blessing of the Animals Service on the Saint's Day for St. Francis of Assisi. I explained to Elissa that, unlike priests, rabbis do not have extraordinary blessing powers.

"So, call it a 'Celebration of the Animals' program instead," retorted Elissa.

"But we could not do it on St. Francis of Assisi's Saint's Day," I countered.

"So, choose ANOTHER day of Jewish significance," my wife challenged.

And that's how, more than 25 years ago, I came to host the first Celebration of the Animals on the Sunday when we read Parshat Noah, the second Torah portion in the Book of Genesis, after Simchat Torah. I started the celebration at my first synagogue in Southern California, B'nai Tikvah Congregation, and it was



Photo Credit: Freepik.com

covered in The Los Angeles Times at a time before these animal celebrations became more normal in progressive synagogues throughout the country.

At Temple Beth El of Newark, this year's pet celebration—to be held on October 26—has a section for introducing pets, a healing service for sick pets set to the music of Debbie Friedman's *Misheberach* prayer, and a Yizkor section where we shared the names of our deceased pets and then collectively read the poem, "The Rainbow Bridge." We also read biblical stories of Moses and David as shepherds, Noah in the ark, and celebrate Rebecca's kindness to animals. Then we shared our own pets' stories.

This year, even if rain threatens, we expect a *minyan* of well-behaved leashed doggies (and cats in carriers) and their dedicated pet parents. I hope to bring BOTH Jasper and Violet with me—our beloved shepherd mixes, rescues from Human Animal Partners (HAP), where Elissa works as the Director of Veterinary Medicine. In the past, we have brought Yofi, Sparky, Oreo, and Cinnamon with us to the Celebration of the Animals—all of whom have since crossed over The Rainbow Bridge.

We hope to have HAP on hand this year in case any animal lovers want to add another furry member to their family.

Schoenberg Memorial Chapel



Part of the fabric of our community.

Schoenberg Memorial Chapel is dedicated to providing service with **compassion, competence, and dignity.**

519 Philadelphia Pike | Wilmington, DE | 302-762-0334



Coming soon with **YAD**



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/YAD.JFD](https://linktr.ee/yad.jfd) TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**GET CONNECTED
WITH YAD**



FILL OUT OUR FORM TO JOIN
THE YAD WHATSAPP COMMUNITY



@YAD.JFD



JFD'S YOUNG
ADULT DIVISION

**INTERESTED IN
JOINING YAD?**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT
OUR INTEREST FORM AND STAY
UP TO DATE ON ALL THINGS YAD!



[LINKTR.EE/
YAD.JFD](https://linktr.ee/yad.jfd)

Another Interpretation of B'reshit

BY MICHAEL SIGMAN, CO-CHAIR OF THE JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Photo Credit: Freepik.com

We will soon start reading the Torah from the Beginning, please allow me to remember and share some poetic Torah that I co-authored a long time ago with my mother.

Sybil Sigman, z"l, was a well-known and widely respected Jewish educator in South Jersey for nearly three decades. She served on faculties of schools of all Jewish denominations. Before moving to Cherry Hill, NJ, she taught in multiple synagogues in Brooklyn, NY. Sybil was an extraordinary teacher who enjoyed spending time with young people and having an impact on their lives. Her goal was to instill in her students a love of learning and an enduring Jewish identity. She and I also spent hours punning and stretching our creative writing efforts. This included sometimes making Biblical text a little more approachable.

God's Dictation

By Michael & Sybil Sigman

In the beginning-God said-
"Let there be electrification!"
That threw some light on the situation
No radiation-just purification
And God said, "This is good.
Twill be a sensation."

And there was evening, and there was morning. The first day.
Tween heaven and earth a separation
Gravitation and rotation
At the equator, centralization
At the ends, polarization
And God said, "This is good.
Now we have a firm foundation."

And there was evening, and there was morning. The second day.
"Let us gather the seas in anticipation
That the waters be pure, no contamination.

May the land yield produce from good fertilization
To sustain the oncoming population."
And God said, "This is good.
There is enough land for every nation."

And there was evening, and there was morning. The third day.
The sun for illumination
The moon for meditation
The stars, our constellation
North Star for navigation
And God said, "This is good.
The heavenly bodies in syncopation."

And there was evening, and there was morning. The fourth day.
The birds will fly in formation
The fish will swim in flotation
They will be fruitful, and by multiplication
Ensure the world of procreation
And God said, "This is good.
Every living thing has a destination."

And there was evening, and there was morning. The fifth day.
Cattle and beast in duplication
Adam was created in God's image-nation
Eve was the core of his inspiration
And over All, mankind got domination
And God said, "This is good."
God was filled with exaltation

And there was evening, and there was morning. The sixth day
God made a proclamation
The Sabbath would be the occasion
A day set aside for God's glorification
o be celebrated with prayer and rededication

And now we leave it for your appreciation and dissertation
-But God said, "This is very good."

©Michael Sigman and Sybil Sigman



ARTISANS' BANK

www.ArtisansBank.com | 302.658.6881

LET'S GET BANKING.
TOGETHER!

We are dedicated to providing customers with the tools and guidance needed to choose the personal or business account that fits their needs.

We build long-lasting relationships based on trust and mutual respect, to become the trusted financial advisors you can always rely on.



**LET'S
TALK!**



Proudly serving the community since 1990

- Free car wash with every service
- Only 10 minutes north of the JCC



1713 Wilmington West Chester Pike
Glen Mills, PA 19342

484-206-8039
ConcordvilleSubaru.com

CONCORDVILLE
SUBARU



Hinei

Finding My Purpose in the Jewish Community

BY ANNA SAUL, CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER AT THE SIEGEL JCC

In January 2024, I began the Mandel Institute Executive Leadership Program. The program included four in person seminars; three in Boston and one in Israel. It was a truly transformative experience. I am so grateful for the opportunity which the Mandel Institute afforded me to learn alongside 19 of my peers from various Jewish organizations across the country and from many excellent faculty members and advisors. I am also so incredibly thankful for this community that invested in me by allowing me to participate in this program, something that took me away from my work at times. The program concluded with capstone presentations by each program fellow on their vision for the future of the Jewish community.

Much of my vision has been inspired by our amazing community here in Delaware, and I'd like to share an abridged version of the speech I presented. You may have heard me lead the Hatikvah at the J's Annual Meeting or at Jewish Heritage Night. I never could have expected this path for myself, and I'd love to tell you why.

I never had a bat mitzvah.

Growing up, that was something I was embarrassed to admit.

I am the only child of Jewish parents from the Soviet Union. I immigrated to America at the age of five and knew very little of my Jewish heritage at the time. My parents and grandparents had lived as second-class citizens under a repressive, antisemitic regime. For them, being Jewish was a stain.

Once we arrived on US soil, the frigid hostility my family had been accustomed to gave way to a warmer reception from Jewish organizations like the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Klein JCC in northeast Philadelphia. The *tzedakah* provided by the local Jewish community through these organizations introduced me to Judaism, and even made it possible for me to go to Hebrew school for a few years. My parents, however, were not really included in the learning process. I was left virtually on my own to learn that you don't wear jeans to shul, that water fountains are off-limits on Yom Kippur, that the salami sandwich my mom packed me for snack was forbidden altogether. And, once the initial immigrant support period expired,

my parents were not able to continue my Jewish education on their own.

So, that sense of being a part of a Jewish community ended, as did the learning. I remember sitting through the bat mitzvah of a classmate and feeling like I had to move my lips along with the prayers to fit in, even though I couldn't remember how to read them. Similarly, I remember a moment in second grade when I had to draw a picture of what I would like to give my mom for Mother's Day and then describe it to the class. I didn't know what Mother's Day was to begin with, but I guessed, and drew flowers. The adjective I came up with to describe them in the English I had only recently learned was "smelly." I knew immediately that I had said something wrong when the class erupted in laughter. There were so many moments like this in both Jewish and secular spaces where I felt different and alone.

When I heard about Birthright Israel, I was eager for an opportunity to learn about and connect to my heritage, and hoped that I'd meet other Jews like me. On my Birthright trip as a young adult, I was among several women who had not been bat mitzvah'd, so we had a ceremony

together on Masada. It was the first time I felt comfortable admitting what had felt so shameful before. It was during this moment of hope that I knew that there was a place for me in the Jewish community and that I wanted to be a part of shaping what it could look like in the future.

Several years later, I began raising a family and working right here at the Siegel JCC. Going to weekly Shabbat celebrations in the Early Childhood Center, I took it all in. I learned all the songs. I felt a part of it. I got to learn these traditions with my peers, and it felt equitable. Putting my arms around my neighbor and proudly singing *Hinei Ma Tov*, I finally felt comfortable being the type of Jewish person that I am.

Yet, when I look around, people are missing. We are only attracting a small portion of the Jewish population, and I wonder where they are. My hunch for why they're not showing up is that they are afraid they may not be welcomed or because they don't belong.

I want as many people as possible to experience the magic I have, without questioning whether they are Jewish enough.

As a Jewish communal leader, I feel both passionate about and responsible for creating inclusive, welcoming Jewish spaces where people feel comfortable being their authentic Jewish selves. My vision for what that

looks like is made up of three components: Education, Service, and Connection.

1. Education: Are we willing to teach but also to learn?

A sense of belonging can be created through education and information sharing. This starts with engagement and inclusion, which can be fostered through learning opportunities offered in a non-judgmental and equitable fashion.

I experienced this when my younger son, Shiloh's, bris was hosted in the Kehillah Lounge, surrounded by our J family. All in attendance could share in the joy and deep meaning of this ancient tradition. Everything was explained in a warm and welcoming manner, such that everyone in that room was made to feel like their presence was important, as well as a true mitzvah.

If my parents had a similar opportunity to learn alongside me as I have with my own children, our family could have experienced the beauty of Judaism together.

2. Service: Are we willing to be creative in how we interest people in showing up?

I remember once signing up for a high school day of service hosted by the Klein JCC. I hadn't set foot in there for 10 years even though it was the place where I was first introduced to Judaism. I hadn't felt compelled to visit because I was so disconnected at that point. The service opportunity drew me in and made me feel like I was in the right place at the right time. I cleaned a garden that day (for the first and last time in my life—I leave that work to my husband now), but there was so much good that was done by hundreds of teens that day.

Through service, we expand engagement and connection. Acts of service are an example of Jewish philanthropy. Service opportunities make Judaism more accessible and consumable, and maybe even less intimidating. It's also a value that can be shared with children and serve as a gateway to philanthropy for young adults who can share their time, when that is their most valuable asset.

Service is centered around the value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. It goes

beyond just serving the Jewish community. It's about supporting people not because THEY are Jewish, but because WE are. The community is stronger when all its parts are built up. Service is a way to combat hate of all forms, including antisemitism.

3. Connection: Are we willing to stretch to include people?

I have grown up celebrating Russian New Year (*Noviy God*), a secular holiday that was invented to replace Christmas by the Soviets. We put up a tree adorned with ornaments, exchange gifts, and drink and celebrate each New Year's Eve. This tradition is one that I want to share with our community, without fear of judgment that it is somehow related to Christmas or makes me less Jewish. I'm also sure I'm not the only one who celebrates differently, and I would love to welcome more people into my home for the party.

Downplaying others' traditions doesn't lift up our Jewish identity. We can certainly educate and share on Jewish traditions and create programming around Jewish holidays, but it does not have to come at a cost of making someone else feel that their traditions are less valuable or makes them an "other."

Connection is what makes the world go around. Fostering opportunities for people to find connection, to see what they have in common, and build micro-communities can be our path to success.

What I bring to the Jewish communal space is the deep belief that we have a responsibility to meet people where they are and create a sense of belonging no matter where they are in their Jewish journey.

Creating Jewish communal spaces where we educate, provide service opportunities, and connect people are the keys to the future of the Jewish community; it depends on it.

I want to create a world where my kids live without fear of being laughed at or excluded.

A world where it's OK if they don't have bar mitzvahs or if they do.

Where they are not called "other," but rather "brother." ■

Beautifully B'Shert

BY MADELINE GRINDLE

As I arranged chocolates and orange slices on a tray, I chatted excitedly with the Community Shlichah about our expectations for the evening. The Chocolate Passover Seder was one of our first big events since CONNECT (a predecessor to the current Young Adult Division) had started, and we were hoping to spend the night with familiar faces and new friends.

Matt walked into the event with zero expectations. A Delaware transplant from Indiana, he was tagging along with the only Jewish friends he had made in the area, going with the flow with an easy confidence. When he was greeted by a cute, kind girl (me!), his interest piqued for what the night had in store.

For Matt, this was pretty much love at first sight. I, on the other hand, wrote him off after his introductory fun fact was

that he would be moving at the end of the summer to begin a PhD program in Ohio.

The event was fun and engaging. We shared some laughter and had meaningful discussions, and Matt regretted not getting my number before the evening ended.

Determined to correct his mistake, Matt attended more CONNECT events throughout the summer, aiming to find another moment with me. That moment never technically came, but he settled for copying my number from the CONNECT group chat and sent me a message—some quirky question about NJBs (Nice Jewish Boys) and tattoos, which made me smile and sparked not just conversation but my interest in getting to know him.

From that night on, we were texting and Snapchatting non-stop. I deflected a few date invitations, intimidated by my feelings and facing him one-on-one, but eventually agreed to get coffee at Brew HaHa, where we both admitted

our interest in each other. That meeting ended with us agreeing not to date since he was moving away for graduate school and neither of us felt we had the emotional strength for a long-distance relationship.

Despite that difficult decision, we stayed in constant contact with each other, even as Matt traveled halfway around the world for a family wedding. It was during that time that our connection grew even deeper—our conversations spanned any imaginable topics and I was impressed and touched by his commitment to message and connect with me across time zones.

Halfway through his trip, I messaged him to ask: "Can I change my mind?"

We went on our first official date in Trolley Square the day Matt arrived home and spent the rest of the summer together until he left for school. Those weeks were short, but the days were long, and we spent them making unforgettable memories, meeting each other's friends and family, and preparing for our long-distance relationship.

Nightly phone or FaceTime calls, occasional care packages, and the endless stream of Snapchats helped our time between monthly visits to and from Cincinnati pass more easily.

Then, in March 2020, after canceling what would have been one of my visits west, we agreed to spend our COVID quarantine time together in Delaware, the two of us and our recently-adopted dog, Roxy, in one tiny apartment. What we thought would be a few weeks turned into nine months of living together and, after that, we knew we would never be able to return to a long-distance arrangement.



Photo Credit: Jessica Manns Photography

In the spring of 2021, when Matt was called to return to campus, Roxy and I moved out to Ohio with him while he finished up his program.

After the big move, I got a new job at the local JCC, Matt was working steadily through his research and publications, and we explored the treasures of our new city together.

In December of 2022, COVID foiled Matt's grand plans for a proposal back in our old Trolley Square neighborhood, where our story began. Instead of visiting home, we spent Chanukkah quarantined in Cincinnati, taking care of each other. The night after the originally planned proposal would have taken place, our energy was returning and we were frying up some latkes when Matt turned to me—seeming simultaneously nervous and calm—and proposed.

On April 14, 2024, we got married at Victory Brewing Company in PA, promising a lifetime of love and dancing our feet off in front of family and friends. We honeymooned in Paris before returning to life as usual, full steam ahead for Matt to finish his degree.

Almost one year later, Matt's hard work and research culminated in the defense of an impressive dissertation, earning him his long-awaited PhD. It was hard



Photo Credit: Jessica Manns Photography

for me to comprehend that, after five and a half years, he had finally reached this achievement he had been working toward since our relationship began. My heart burst with pride and anticipation as we finally began to consider our next chapter as newlyweds.

After a rollercoaster of a job application and interview process, Matt was selected for a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Energy Technology Lab in Pittsburgh, where we have since relocated. We immediately began planning new adventures—physically, in our new beautiful city, as well as in our relationship.

It is now over six years since we first met. Looking back through the ups and downs of falling in love through a long-distance relationship, adopting a perfect dog, a world-wide pandemic, and every

little adventure and milestone along the way, it's hard to believe the chances of it all. Had Matt not come along with his friends to CONNECT, or had I stayed resolved in our decision to just be friends... well, I don't like to think about that.

CONNECT did for us exactly what its name promised: formed a once-in-a-lifetime connection between two *b'shert*.

What I once thought was a long shot dream—to meet my husband through a community social group—came true! It's sometimes difficult to comprehend how much time has passed and how much we have been through since that first meeting. As it was during our first summer together, some days and weeks feel long, but the years have flown by. I'm grateful to soak up every moment and look forward to creating more memories together for decades to come. ■

About the Author:

MADELINE GRINDLE (née Driban) is a native Delawarean, and a Siegel JCC and Albert Einstein Academy alum. A passionate Jewish nonprofit professional and community volunteer, Maddie met her husband, Matt, through YAD (formerly "CONNECT") while she served as a lay leader of the Delaware young adult group. Maddie and Matt married in 2024 and recently moved from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh, where they live with their 10-year-old terrier-pittie mix, Roxy.



This photo documents the first time Maddie and Matt met, at CONNECT's Chocolate Seder

Photo provided by Madeline Grindle

A Journey Through a War-Torn Land

BY YUVAL MOHA, COMMUNITY SHALIACH

When I came to the Jewish community in the U.S. about two years ago—just two weeks before October 7th—I left behind a vibrant and bustling country, full of life. I returned for the first time after the war to a completely different reality. During my first year serving this community, I lost two close friends who served with me as combat soldiers. Their deaths hit me hard, and preparing myself mentally for that first visit was difficult. When I returned to Israel, I found it hard to carry the frustration and burdens that people wore on their faces and in the streets. At one point, despite my immense longing to see family and friends, I felt a need to return to the community I serve, to disconnect and get away from the pain that hung in the air.

But this year, on my second visit since the war, the experience was completely different. Although Israel is still in a state of war, I cherished every single moment I got to spend with my family and friends. I realized this was my time to connect, not

only with people but also with the complex reality of Israel. During this brief visit, I had some deeply meaningful experiences, and I want to share two of them with you.

Beauty Alongside Pain

On the first weekend of my visit, I went out with friends in Tel Aviv. We chose to wear festive white clothes, as is customary on a summer weekend, and we set out from one of their homes on Yarkon Street toward Rothschild Boulevard. This combination of festive attire and a good mood stood in complete contrast to what I saw on the way. As we passed through Allenby Street, I was confronted by the complete destruction of houses. This was a result of the Iranian attack that had taken place just two weeks earlier. My friends, who had grown used to the sight, kept walking, but I stopped. I stood a few steps behind them to take in the full picture. It was a moment when I truly understood the price of war. I felt an ambivalence I couldn't put into words: the Israeli zest for life, the decision to go out and celebrate,

stood directly opposite the destruction and the pain. I realized at that moment that only here, in Israel, could you find this complex combination.

Never Forgetting

During this visit, I had the opportunity to meet with musician and artist Micha Biton, who came to Delaware to share his story from October 7th as part of our community's Yom Ha'atzmaut events. Micha lives in Kibbutz Netiv HaAsara, the kibbutz closest to the Gaza border, where 20 of its members were murdered by two terrorists who infiltrated the kibbutz by air. Micha guided me along the path the terrorists took. I saw the very spots and homes where they murdered people in front of their children's eyes. I met a kibbutz member whose adoptive father was one of the first to be killed—a man who went out to protect the kibbutz and was sacrificed on the altar of war.

Afterward, we continued to the memorial site of the "Nova" party in Re'im. Last year, I promised myself I wouldn't



At the site of the Nova massacre, the view from the stage shows memorials for individuals who lost their lives that day

Photo Credit: Yuval Moha

cross that imaginary line, but this year, I realized it wasn't a question of whether to go or not—it was a matter of obligation. This was my first time visiting the site, which has since been officially funded by the state. It is now organized and commemorated in a uniform manner, with careful thought and effort put into each of the memorials. Among the signs, I recognized the memorial for my friend, Avi Hovelashvili, who was the company commander in my military service. He was killed in the area of the party when he went to help. On the morning of October 7th, Avi woke up to the sound of sirens and left his home, saying goodbye to his wife and his young daughter, Romi. He knew he was needed, so he put on his uniform and left armed with only his personal pistol. On the way, he realized the infiltration was much larger and more significant than anyone had thought. He joined another soldier, and they managed to neutralize a squad of terrorists. But when they arrived at the party site, they encountered an overwhelming number of

terrorists, and he was killed. Just a week before he was killed, his wife discovered she was pregnant. Their second son, Imri, was born eight months after Avi's death. Avi was 26 years old at his death.

We ended the day in the city of Sderot, where I visited the memorial for the Sderot police station. The station was overrun by Hamas terrorists, and many battles and heroic stories unfolded there, ending with the decision to detonate the station from the outside with all the terrorists inside. The city of Sderot chose to engrave a quote from one of Micha's songs on the memorial—his works having become a symbol of hope and resilience.

What do I want to tell you? A visit to this country, even when it's in a difficult state, isn't just a trip; it's an internal journey. It's a journey that teaches me to contain pain along with hope, to understand the strength of the human spirit, and to recognize that—even in the darkest moments—light can emerge. ■



For the full gallery of images and videos from Yuval's trip, go to JewishLivingDelaware.org.

The Comedy of Myq Kaplan:

A Journey Through Identity, Humor, and Belonging

BY EMMA DRIBAN, EDITOR

When Myq Kaplan talks about his path to comedy, he starts not with punchlines but with music. Growing up, Kaplan began playing the violin at age four. He later picked up the guitar, started writing songs, and discovered that some of them made his friends laugh. That realization—that humor could open doors and create connections—was the seed that eventually grew into a career in comedy.

But Kaplan's comedic identity didn't come from nowhere. As a kid, he was fascinated by comedians on television, from *Saturday Night Live* to Jerry Seinfeld. He vividly remembers watching Paul Reiser's special, though he wasn't even sure if Reiser was Jewish. "Comedy itself felt Jewish—or at least Jewish-adjacent," he recalls. And then there was the night in the Catskills or Poconos when he saw Henny Youngman live. Youngman signed a book for him titled *Take My Jokes, Please*. For Kaplan, those moments marked the beginning of a lifelong relationship with comedy, a world that felt both welcoming and familiar.

Kaplan talks about comedy as a way of navigating the outsider's perspective. Like many comedians, he grew up feeling a little out of place—his parents' divorce, moving schools, starting over with new kids. At camp, he found kinship among other misfits, the ones who didn't fit in anywhere else. "Comedy, to me, has always been about turning that outsider's perspective into something universal," he says.

That sensibility, Kaplan believes, has roots in Jewish history. "There's a parallel between being a young person searching for belonging and the Jewish people wandering, trying to find a home,"

Photo Credit: imdb.com & Freepik.com

he reflects. Humor becomes both shield and compass—a way to make sense of displacement and turn vulnerability into strength.

Although he didn't set out to blend Judaism into his comedy, Kaplan admits it's part of his DNA. He went to Hebrew school, had a bar mitzvah, learned Jewish history. Only later, on the comedy circuit, did he encounter antisemitic jokes—sometimes tossed casually by fellow comedians. The first time, it shocked him. He had grown up in such a sheltered environment that even playful digs about being Jewish felt foreign. "It was a flavor I'd never experienced," he says. Over time, he began to see how humor itself has always been part of Jewish resilience, whether in the self-deprecating tropes of Jewish mother jokes or in the Talmudic tradition of questioning, debating, and analyzing.

"I've joked that what I do is almost Talmudic," Kaplan says. "It's analytical, cerebral, layering perspectives, arguing with myself. There's this desire for connection, compassion, understanding—that's all very Jewish."

Kaplan's comedy isn't about performing Jewishness so much as embodying it. It's in his style, his sensibility, his relentless curiosity. He describes his process as one of noticing: paying attention to the little details of everyday life and then reflecting them back in surprising ways. He cites a favorite book, *Several Short Sentences About Writing* by Verlyn Klinkenborg, which says the writer's job is to notice—and then notice that you're noticing. "Comedy happens when you stop and say, 'Wait, did you ever notice this?'" Kaplan explains.

"Something obvious yet invisible until someone points it out. Something both inevitable and surprising."

That's how his material emerges, from the ordinary to the profound. Sometimes it's a quirky observation. Sometimes it's a deeply personal story about his family or relationships. Sometimes it's a philosophical exploration of identity. All of it, though, filters through the lens of "Myq Kaplan-based comedy." He recalls the perfect line from comedian Paul F. Tompkins, who begins a set by saying, "Hi, my name is Paul Tompkins and I do Paul F. Tompkins-based comedy." Kaplan connects this to the story of Rabbi Zusya, who feared not being asked, "Why weren't you Moses?" but instead, "Why weren't you Zusya?" In other words: the comedian's role is to be fully and unapologetically themselves.

Kaplan's writing process reflects this same layered approach. He carries a small digital recorder everywhere. Whenever a thought, observation, or funny idea strikes, he records it. Later, he transcribes the recordings into notebooks. Eventually, he types everything into his computer. Each stage—recording, handwriting, typing—adds another layer of thought. And then comes the stage work, where Kaplan riffs, improvises, and discovers in real time what works. Listening back, he harvests new lines and feeds them back into the cycle. It's less about inspiration striking once and more about constantly refining, noticing, and reshaping.

This fall, Kaplan headlines the historic Arden Guild Hall for the first time. The gig came about through a mix of connections

and timing—his friend Jackie Kashian recommended him after performing there herself, and last year he opened for Emo Phillips at Arden. The booker, David Fruchtmann, thought it would be a great full-circle moment. For Kaplan, it's not just another gig—it's a chance to share his comedy with a community that values both art and tradition.

What can audiences expect? Kaplan laughs. "I usually have more than two hours of material ready, so it'll be some mix of themes. One set I've been working on is about masculinity—what it means, how it connects to Jewishness, and how those identities intersect. The other is about family, especially my grandmother, who passed away at the start of the pandemic. She was hilarious without trying to be. I could do an hour just on the things she and my mom have said."

As our conversation came to a close, Kaplan circled back to gratitude. "Thank you for reading, for considering comedy. My demographic, I joke, is 'people who know the word demographic.' If you've made it this far, there's a good chance my comedy is for you."

With humor rooted in observation, identity, and connection, Kaplan's comedy feels both uniquely personal and universally resonant. Whether he's unpacking masculinity, honoring his grandmother's wit, or noticing the absurdity of everyday life, Kaplan isn't trying to be anyone else. He's simply trying to be the most Myq Kaplan version of himself—and inviting audiences to laugh along. ■

Visit [ArdenConcerts.com](https://www.ArdenConcerts.com) to purchase tickets.



Judy Levy



Phil Epstein



RT Christopher



Stacy Horowitz



Karen Legum



Andrea Levy



Karen Mengden

Your path home.

3801 Kennett Pike, #D200 Greenville, DE 19807 / 302.351.5000

www.christopherlevygroup.com



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Evolve Hadassah: For the Next Generation

BY MICHELE SANDS, WILMINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH



Photo Credit: Hadassah.org

"Not your grandmother's Hadassah" became the rallying cry of the largest Jewish women's organization in this country decades ago when its leadership and membership were aging. However, it appears that younger women were busy with their families and/or careers and didn't heed the call; they continued to leave involvement in Hadassah to older generations. So, how could Hadassah attract a younger generation of women if they still saw their mothers and bobbies as its target market?

Just a few years ago, Hadassah came up with a great solution, Evolve Hadassah: The Next Generation. Evolve was developed as a national program for women in their 30s, 40s, and 50s to inspire them to be part of a Hadassah community

and take action on issues they care about. The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah now offers Evolve to women in this age range thanks to area resident, Rachel Werkheiser. In 2024, Rachel applied to become part of a select group of Evolve participants who are given a life-changing immersive opportunity to learn more about Hadassah, gain leadership skills, and travel to Israel.

Rachel was accepted into the select group but her trip to Israel, scheduled for November 2024, became a four-day Evolve Immersive Experience (EIE) in New York City instead because of safety concerns in Israel. However, the theme of the four-day experience, "Bringing a Taste of Israel to New York" was designed to help Rachel and her cohort forge connections to Israel, Hadassah's work, and one another.

"I think my favorite part was the American Jewish Historical Society," Rachel was quoted as saying in an article on the Hadassah website. "It was absolutely fascinating, and I loved seeing all the treasures and having them explained to us."

Rachel also wanted to "not only see things [she had] never seen before but also experience them with a group of [her] friends." She continued, "I hope to never stop learning and experiencing new things."

Rachel went on to explain that she has been a Hadassah life member since childhood because of her mother's involvement in the organization. Joining EIE meant continuing her mother's legacy and fulfilling her own need to connect with Jewish women, give back to the community, and help with Hadassah's



After making candles for Chanukah, Wilmington Hadassah Evolve members get ready to indulge in latkes and other holiday treats
Photo Credit: Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah

mission in Israel. “My friend sent me information about the EIE program, and I immediately jumped in with both feet.”

Rachel’s involvement in the Jewish community goes well beyond Hadassah. She began a two-year term as president of Congregation Beth Emeth in June 2025, after serving on a number of committees and holding other offices in recent years. She was previously an at-large member on the Siegel JCC Board of Directors. Professionally, Rachel is a corporate restructuring lawyer with the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

During the past year Rachel has been sharing her commitment to making Hadassah relevant to the next generation by organizing activities where prospective and current members can make new friends and learn the benefits of Hadassah membership. Activities have included a morning of games with friends, a candle-making program prior to Chanukah, a spring walk outside the JCC, and a trip to New York City to see *Death Becomes Her* on Broadway. The latter attracted women (and men) of all ages. Together with co-planner Missy Rosenthal, Rachel developed this as an Evolve-driven activity, and a similar trip is likely to occur in the future, as are more local activities.

Evolve Hadassah is giving the next generation the opportunity to make connections that will last a lifetime and help create change at the local level and in the world. You can be a part of a community of empowered young women supporting Israel and advocating for issues that are a priority for Hadassah and are critical to the next generation.

The advocacy page of the Hadassah website, www.hadassah.org/get-involved/advocate-take-action, details priorities that will be of particular interest to the next generation, including:

- Combating antisemitism through education—at home and abroad—including helping to secure passage of the Never Again Education Act, which expands Holocaust and anti-hate education throughout the US;
- Developing the reConceiving Infertility program to raise awareness, confront taboos, destigmatize infertility and fight for access to quality, affordable diagnosis and treatment; and
- Championing women’s health equity with its vision for a future of women’s health that includes prevention, research, maternal and reproductive health, and access to quality and affordable care.



Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, empowers women to find innovative ways to connect, advocate, and become powerful leaders. Our members (everyone who identifies as a woman)—with our allies and supporters—make our impact possible, ensuring that Hadassah healing, in every sense of the word, reaches people who need it the most. Contact Judi Rosenberg at judimax1@aol.com for information about Hadassah membership and the Wilmington Chapter.

To learn more about the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah’s Evolve: The Next Generation program, contact Rachel Werkheiser at rachellwerkheiser@gmail.com.

Find your spiritual home IN DELAWARE



**Despite being a “small wonder,”
Delaware is filled with many synagogue options.**

From Traditional to Unaffiliated, Wilmington to Lewes, our synagogues are welcoming, warm communities happy to help you find a spiritual home.

TRADITIONAL:

ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH

Wilmington
302-762-2705 | AKSE.org

RECONSTRUCTIONIST:

TEMPLE BETH EL

Newark
302-366-8330 | TBEDE.org

REFORM:

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

Wilmington
302-764-2393 | BethEmethDE.org

CONSERVATIVE:

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

Wilmington
302-654-4462 | CBSWilmDE.org

CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM

Dover
302-734-5578 | CBSDover.net

CHABAD LUBAVITCH:

CHABAD OF DELAWARE

Wilmington
302-529-9900 | ChabadDE.com

CHABAD OF SOUTHERN DELAWARE

Lewes
302-377-1162 | JewishSouthernDelaware.com

HAVURAH:

CHESTERTOWN HAVURAH

443-837-5186 | facebook.com/ChestertownHavurah

COMMUNITY HAVURAH OF DELAWARE

CommunityHavurah.org

MOT REGIONAL HAVURAH

Middletown, Odessa, Townsend | MOTHavurah@gmail.com

UNAFFILIATED:

SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rehoboth Beach
302-226-8977 | SeasideJewishCommunity.com

JOIN A SYNAGOGUE. GET CONNECTED. BE INSPIRED.



OCTOBER 8 offers a look at the explosion of antisemitism on college campuses, social media and in the streets of America beginning the day after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Through meticulous investigation, the film also uncovers how over decades, Hamas created sophisticated networks in America to permeate U.S. institutions and examines the tsunami of online antisemitism, propaganda, and disinformation unleashed by Iran, China and Russia – with the sole purpose of dividing American society.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
7 PM FILM FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION
DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Registration Required: WWW.SHALOMDELAWARE.ORG/EVENTS

Sponsored by:

Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation of Congregation Beth Shalom, Siegel JCC, and Jewish Federation of Delaware



Calling All Bagel Fanatics

BY EMMA DRIBAN, WITH ELLIE GULICK AND GRAY COWAN OF VAN BUREN BAGEL



Photos provided by Van Buren Bagel

If you have been to the Brandywine Park Farmers Market, you've likely been wondering about the long lines stretching down the length of the vendor tents. Well, the answer is Van Buren Bagel.

Started in May 2025, Van Buren Bagel is the passion project of Ellie Gulick and Salesianum School grad Gray Cowan. The couple started making bagels just for themselves, but recognized the local bagel vacancy and capitalized on the opportunity. In the few short months since venturing into the baking business, they have scaled up from making 100 bagels to 1,200 for each market—and still sell out every time!

Their bagels feature a nice outer crust and a dense, but not hard to chew center that can stand up to any desired topping, including their homemade cream cheeses. As a bagel fanatic, myself, I have become quite the fan—dubbing them “the best bagel in the state . . . if not beyond.” Don't believe me? Try them yourself!

How did Van Buren Bagel get started? What drew you to bagels specifically?

Ellie: About two years ago when we lived in Philadelphia, we started making bagels just for us. I am a huge bagel lover; I always have been since I was a kid. I really just love a good sesame seed bagel, toasted with plain cream cheese. On the weekends, I would be like, “I need my bagel,” and there wasn't really anything that close by that we could walk to at the time. I would Door-Dash Bart's Bagels—my favorite in South Philly—and it just it started to get a little expensive. We were like, “you know what? Let's see if we can do this ourselves.” At the time, we had some hobbies, but it felt cool to be able to bake together and start this whole thing together.

Gray: It started just as a fun thing to do. I mean, like Ellie said, she's a bagel fan. She was getting them all the time. It was like, legit, every weekend. It was a must. We needed to get a bagel at some point. Bagels have such a subculture, where everyone's chasing after the best bagel they can get their hands on, especially in the Northeast—New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. We're close to it, but there's not an established bagel “culture” here. That sounds so corny, but it is true. So, we started making them ourselves and it's such a fun process. Every single step that you change affects the end product, so it's slowly just making it better and better. For me, that process is a really fun one. It's very gratifying. We got them to a point where we were like, “wow, these are legit. They can hold their own against any other bagel that we're finding.” Then, when we moved to Wilmington—back to Wilmington

for me—we realized there aren't really any shops like in Philly, where there's one on every other corner. At some point, people started to come up to us and say, “Oh my gosh, Wilmington hasn't had a bagel spot in a while.” So, we felt that this was something cool we could do for ourselves. It's always been a passion of ours. We really enjoy the bagels. And then this farmers market near us started at just the right time. We could walk there, and joked that we were going to train our dog to pull a little wagon of bagels down there.

What was the transition from just baking them for yourself to selling them like?

Gray: I kept going to friends and family and be asking, “Are these good? Tell me straight up.” And everybody said they're really good. There's a lot of romance involved about how fun it would be to sell them. And then when you're actually faced with doing it, it's a bit different. It took me four hours for the first market, which now is like nothing, but it is a ton of work. Scaling up was crazy, and we're still scaling up. We sold 100 at the first market, and we sold 1,200 at the most recent market. So, it's been crazy. Crazy and awesome.

Ellie: A lot of it was this idea of Gray wanting to do more than what he was doing at work. A 9-to-5 is great—I have one—but we all know how it feels like you're at your computer all the time. He just wanted to do just something where he was more invested, where it was more of a passion. We had been doing this on the side, he had completely taken on all the baking at

that point. One day he said, “I’m gonna do it all.” And he really liked doing it, so at that point he wanted to get serious about this. Then, the Brandywine Park Farmers Market came around and it just felt really right.

Speaking of the Brandywine Park Farmers Market, you have a line that spans almost the entire length of the market by the time 9:00 rolls around. How has it felt to so quickly become a crowd favorite and to be so sought after?

Gray: It’s pretty crazy. We were just talking about the journey that this has taken. It’s always scary, like “will people like these?” or “are we going to get traction?” So, the fact that it’s come true has been amazing. I think there is something to be said about the community that we live in. It’s very tight knit. Everybody wants to support us, which is like the most gratifying thing ever. We couldn’t be more thankful.

Ellie: It’s amazing. It has a lot to do with the people who are coming to the market and the community that we’re in. We were just saying the other day, we feel like if we did this anywhere else it might be a different story. It just feels really right being in Wilmington. The timing and the location and the community and the support that we’re getting from all these people. It just feels really right, and we really appreciate it.

Gray: The line is surreal. At end of the day, I’m just trying to make the best bagel that we possibly can. If we just keep doing that, everything will fall into place.

How does it feel to be able to do this together?

Ellie: It’s a really cool feeling to be able to build something together and we work pretty well together, which is nice. We’re friends first and then business partners.

Gray: I couldn’t do this without her. I’m baking and Ellie is everything else. Neither of us could function without the other.

Ellie: It’s cool to see kind of how our roles have formed, too. He does everything that has to do with the food and the products and the ingredients.

Gray: But the branding, the sales, the marketing, the actual feel of everything comes from Ellie. Also, it’s just been fun, because we’ve had this dream for a while and to now have officially made that leap has been amazing.

Do you have plans for the future? Are you envisioning a bagel shop? More flavors? New cream cheese?

Gray: I think all of that! Ideally, we are looking to open up in 2026. I will say that we’re learning something new every day and this is our first crack at an entrepreneurial venture. We’re learning a lot. We’re trying to speak with the right people and see everything that goes into it, but our dream and our hope is to get something going for next year. In the meantime, we’ll keep doing markets. The Brandywine Park Farmers Market ends in October, so after that we’re either going to be in a pop up in the area or

at other local farmers markets. Definitely be sure to follow our Instagram page for those details: @VanBurenBagel.

As for cream cheese flavors, we’re constantly trying new stuff. Once we do get a shop, I’m so excited to have everything centralized and be able to produce as much as we possibly can in terms of new flavors.

Ellie: Obviously we try to make the freshest bagels that we can at the market—Gray finishes making them at like six or seven in the morning. But we drive them 30 minutes into the market. One thing I’m really excited about, whenever we are able to open a shop, is for people to have a hot, fresh bagel. It is like the craziest experience. When you have them that fresh you don’t need to toast them or anything. I’m just so excited for people to get that fresh taste.

Have you tried any really wacky flavors?

Gray: I’ve been messing around with the jalapeno bagel for a while. It’s either too spicy or not spicy at all. It’s taking me a while to put out new flavors because I’m a bit of a perfectionist in terms of wanting to give our best. I’m trying to workshop behind the scenes. I think cream cheese is where we’re going to try to get crazy, interesting stuff. But a lot of bagels are on the way. I’m trying new flours for things like whole wheat or pumpernickel.

Ellie: You’ve gotten a lot of onion bagel requests; onion, just a salt bagel, or poppy seed—like those classic flavors. Those are a little easier to do.

Gray: There’s a balance there with flavors, because we don’t want to get carried away and offer too much. That subtracts from the classics. But we’re definitely working on some things.

Ellie: Yeah, maybe some fun, seasonal flavors for the fall.

Gray: That’s the fun part, because that’s when we get to be creative and not focused on making the same exact bagel every time. Now it’s your turn to give a Van Buren Bagel a try! Enjoy one of Ellie and Gray’s suggested combinations.

Continued on next page



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Continued from page 35

The How We Got Started: Sesame Bagel with Scallion Cream Cheese

A simple, timeless combination—this is Ellie's favorite bagel pairing. The reason we started baking bagels to begin with! The nuttiness of sesame pairs beautifully with the brightness of scallion, creating a balance that never gets old.

Gray's Off the Clock Sando: Everything Bagel with Turkey, Mustard, and Pickles

This is our take on a deli-style classic. Gray makes one of these the moment he gets home from the kitchen—even if it's 8 PM. The bold seasoning of the everything bagel stands up to layers of turkey, sharp mustard, and tangy pickles. Hearty, satisfying, and full of flavor.

An Easy Weekend Morning: Rosemary Sea Salt Bagel with Plain Cream Cheese and Tomato

Fresh and elegant. When we have weekends off, this is our go to. Wake up, sun shining, birds chirping . . . let's have an easy Saturday morning. The aromatic rosemary and briny sea salt are complemented by the cool creaminess of plain cream cheese and the juicy sweetness of ripe tomato. It's a bite of late summer, anytime.

Editor's Addendum: Plain Bagel with Plain Cream Cheese, Chili Crisp, and Honey

Emma's addition to the mix. If you like a bit of spice, this combo is for you! The sharp bite and crunch of the chili crisp plays nicely with the coolness of the cream cheese. Don't forget a little drizzle of honey to round out the flavor.



Bagels can be pre-ordered and purchased for pick up on Saturday. Visit VanBurenBagel.com for more information.

NSO
Newark Symphony Orchestra
Simeone Tartaglione, Music Director

Featuring soloist
Marjorie Sheiman,
Mezzo-Soprano



Featuring soloist
Lawrence Stomberg,
Cello



Sunday, October 26, 2025 3PM
Jewish Heritage Concert
The Independence School

Bernstein **Fuhrman**
Saint-Saëns

our
59th
season



Tickets available at
newarksymphony.org

The NSO is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

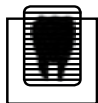
Delaware Division of the **Arts**

INTERNAL MEDICINE AND PRIMARY CARE

MARC GROBMAN, D.O., FACP

3411 Silverside Road,
Suite 102, Weldin Building,
Wilmington, DE 19810

TEL (302) 479-0580
FAX (302) 479-0583
marcgrobmandoimpc.com



Edward Weinstein, D.D.S.

COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

2390 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

302-998-8474
302-998-1427 fax



HOLIDAYS MADE SIMPLE. REALLY.

We know you have a full plate for the holiday season. So we've made it easier. Indulge in one of our complete holiday meals with all the trimmings. Or, if you're planning a holiday party, relax and let Janssen's catering do all the work!

WWW.JANSSENSMARKET.COM

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?



I CAN HELP.

Licensed in DE & PA

2023 Good Neighbor Award
New Castle County Board of Realtors
Delaware Association of Realtors

Featured on HGTV's House Hunters

LONG & FOSTER GOLD TEAM

Meredith Rosenthal

Meredith.Rosenthal@LNF.com
Office: 302.351.5000
Mobile: 302.547.1334



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Forbes



ShopRite of Brandywine Commons has catering, a bakery, and a full-service deli directly supervised by Va'ad HaKashrut of Delaware. For the area's largest selection of kosher foods, visit, call, or order online.

1300 Rocky Run Parkway
Wilmington



(302) 477-3270, ext. 5
shoprite.com/catering

It's a Mizpah:

Biking Through the Forgotten Jewish Settlements of South Jersey's Pinelands

BY MARTIN LESSNER



Baron Maurice De Hirsch, founder father of Mizpah; Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

There is a very small town of less than 500 people in the Pinelands of South Jersey named “Mizpah.” The literal Hebrew translation is “watchtower” or “lookout.” The word “Mizpah” also means an emotional bond between people who are separated, a covenant of watchfulness and remembrance between people who are apart. It is taken from the biblical line “The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.” (Genesis 31:49)

In the late 19th century, waves of Eastern European Jews arrived through Ellis Island in New York—“huddled masses yearning to breathe free”—to escape rising antisemitism and violence, especially the pogroms in the Russian Empire.

Concerned about the exploitation and overcrowding of immigrant Jews in the lower Manhattan slums, Jewish philanthropist Baron de Hirsch drove the idea of an agricultural resettlement to promote self-sufficiency and dignity through land labor. In 1891, Baron de Hirsch purchased approximately 5,300 acres in Woodbine, Cape May County, New Jersey, with the goal of the new Jewish immigrants becoming farmers. Each immigrant family received a farmhouse and 50 acres of land, organized in a grid pattern.

The land around Woodbine is sandy, pine-covered, and not optimal for farming. Nevertheless, families came and cleared the land, built homes and a community, including a cemetery and synagogue. Woodbine became known (probably incorrectly) as the first self-governing Jewish community since the fall of Jerusalem, complete with local baseball teams. But the farming proved too difficult, and several factories were built to sustain the local economy.

The Jewish majority in Woodbine began to decline in the 1930s with the slowing of Jewish arrivals and growth of the general community. Most of the second and third

generation moved out for college (and never returned) or for better opportunities in Philadelphia or New York. As of 2003, Woodbine had a total population of 2,719 residents, of whom only 72 were Jews. Still, the town echoes its past—Dehirsch Avenue remains the main thoroughfare and the Jewish cemetery lies quietly off Washington Avenue. Recently, director Steven Spielberg brought a film crew of 175 people to Woodbine to film scenes for a new UFO-themed film, tentatively titled *The Dish*.

Each summer, the Jewish population of Woodbine temporarily rises by one or more, depending on who is riding with me, rolling down Dehirsch Avenue during long bike rides to the Shore that begin in Pennsville, with a refuel at the Mauricetown Wawa.

About 20 miles north of Woodbine is Mizpah, a town much smaller and more obscure, whose roots are bound to the same story. In the 1890s, two clothing manufacturers, seeking cheap labor, built a factory town there for newly arrived Russian-Jewish immigrants, fresh from the urban slums of Philadelphia and New York.

Mizpah’s main drag is still called Dehirsch Avenue—a tribute to the same baron whose utopian dream inspired Woodbine. But by the early 1910s, the clothing industry consolidated in Woodbine and Atlantic City, and Mizpah’s Jewish presence dissolved into distant memory.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, Dan K. and I got an early morning start, meeting at the Claymont Steak Shop at 5:30 AM. We rode through Chester, passed the Boeing factory in Tinicum, through the Penn campus, and up and over the Ben Franklin Bridge to Camden.

To commemorate Memorial Day, we paid a visit to the Camden County Veterans Cemetery and then biked over to the

adjoining Harleigh Cemetery to see the small mausoleum where Walt Whitman and his family are buried. "O Captain My Captain!"

Having biked to the Jersey shore so many times, I make it a goal to cycle some new stretch of pavement, even if it's just for a couple hundred yards. After riding through Hammonton (the blueberry capital of the world), the usual route would go through Egg Harbor or Smithville. But on this day, we headed through the blueberry farms and the pineland forest directly toward Mays Landing.

But just south of crossing Route 322 in Weymouth, the aptly named Mizpah Road cuts through the pinelands on a beautiful five-mile stretch, ending in the town of the same name. As we biked down Dehirsch Road to cross present-day Route 40, we had to use our imagination to view this little town of 500 residents for what it was at the turn of the 20th century.

Aided by a favorable breeze, Dan and I stretched out the final segment to the Atlantic Ocean, where we ended with 115 miles, and a brief "lookout" to a century passed when immigrant hopes for a new life after escaping czarist Russia took them to the pinelands of South Jersey.

About the Author:

MARTY LESSNER is an infrequent contributor to *Jewish Living Delaware*. He enjoys riding his bike to the Jersey Shore and taking a break at the Custard Ranch outside of Woodbine. Marty, along with his wife, Lisa, are currently involved with Jewish Federation of Delaware as Chairs of the Community Security Campaign.



WHERE EVERYONE IS FAMILY

Nestled in charming Bellefonte, our community offers a peaceful environment with a focus on comfort. We provide compassionate Continuum of Care, including Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing.

Kutz Lodge Lane
Senior Living Community

CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A VISIT
(302) 764-7000

Location: 704 River Rd., Wilmington | More information: www.KutzSeniorLiving.org



Looking for a Rabbi to Officiate Your Next Jewish Life Cycle Event?

We are thrilled to share that Rabbi Nellie Forwood, a deeply dedicated rabbi, is now available to officiate weddings, funerals, and other sacred Jewish milestones. She is honored to work closely with families to create meaningful, personalized ceremonies. Rabbi Forwood is also happy to travel.

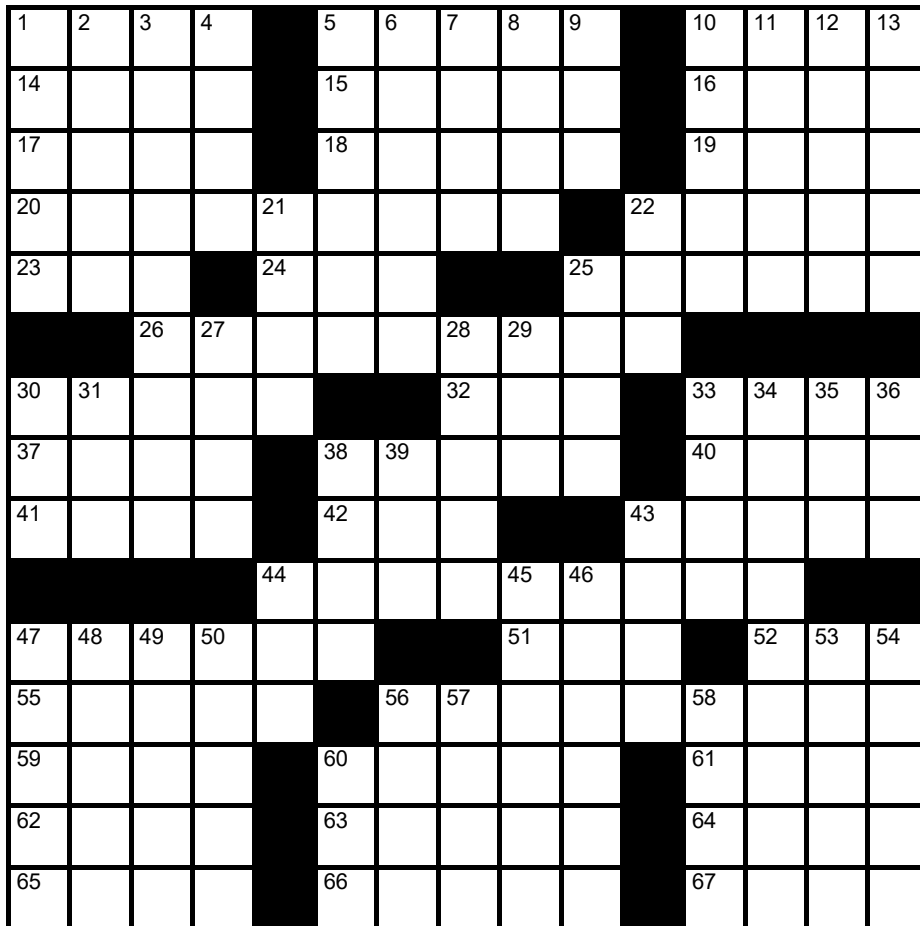
Please note: For a bris, a certified mohel will need to be arranged separately.

To learn more or begin planning, please contact Rabbi Nellie Forwood:
✉ nforwood@hockessin19.com
☎ 302-463-6199

Noah

BY **YONI GLATT**
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MANAGEABLE
SOLUTION: PAGE 40



ACROSS

1. "Woe!"
5. Jewish 1953 AL MVP
10. AL players
14. Big Batman foe
15. Big, medically
16. A special glow
17. Rotenberg of music
18. Celebrity elite
19. River through Russia and Kazakhstan
20. Job for Noah
22. Brothers Ben, Henry, and Jonah
23. Portfolio holding, briefly
24. Kosher sign
25. Big mammals
26. Job for Noah
30. Faulty
32. He's such a deer?
33. Melville Captain or Biblical King
37. The majority of

38. "Blue Ribbon" beer
40. Tihs clue has one
41. "Angry Birds" birds, essentially
42. Haifa to Tsfat direction
43. They can be high or low
44. Job for Noah
47. Susie of "Curb Your Enthusiasm"
51. "Fire away"
52. Cruiser alert, for short
55. Three time MVP Nikola
56. Job for Noah
59. He's such a tree?
60. Pie chart lines, essentially
61. Musical with the song "Another Pyramid"
62. Musical with the song "Memory"
63. Express, as a point of view
64. It croaks in a creek
65. Long, hard journey
66. Barbecue utensils
67. "One night ___!"

DOWN

- Down
1. Old counting devices
 2. Toil away
 3. Orwellian philosophy for Noah?
 4. Appear to be
 5. Band hand
 6. Like a circle stretched in one direction
 7. Esau's land
 8. In ___ (existence)
 9. Org. alternative
 10. Abdul of pop
 11. Away from the urban sprawl
 12. Give a lecture, say
 13. Bath and kosher
 21. Wastes, in mob slang
 22. Prof.'s degree
 25. Bench order
 27. Words of comparison
 28. Native of a -stan bordered by five other -stans
 29. Colorado NHL team, to fans
 30. Simon and Garfunkel song "I ___ Rock"
 31. Naamah, to Shem
 33. What some games end in
 34. It wasn't a concern for Noah on the ark?
 35. Monkey, for one
 36. NYY rival
 38. Common laborer
 39. "I'll take that as ___"
 43. Hwy. of a sort
 44. Efron of "The Greatest Showman"
 45. Forming spikes, as corn
 46. Catches sight of
 47. Removal button
 48. "Green" energy
 49. Rollerblade, e.g.
 50. Belarus city
 53. Gas, brake or clutch, e.g.
 54. Bunch from TV
 56. Guitar accessory
 57. Certain game point, in tennis
 58. Defense alliance since 1949, for short
 60. Deteriorate

CALL FOR WRITERS

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Do you have insights, experiences, or stories you want to share? Whether you are a seasoned writer or a first-timer, this is a great opportunity to share your perspective, spark dialogue, and connect with your community.



Submit your article idea today!

Email:

EMMA@SHALOMDEL.ORG

Wilmington Friends School

*Simplicity, Peace, Integrity,
Community, Equality, and
Stewardship.*

Preschool through 12th grade.
Visit wilmingtonfriends.org to
sign up for an Admissions event
or to schedule a tour.





OBITUARIES

Ha'makom yenaheh etkhem betokh she'ar avelei tziyon vi'Yerushalayim.

May God console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Penny S. First

Age 71, passed away Sunday, August 3, 2025.

Originally from Delaware, she was a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Delaware Law School.

Penny worked as an attorney in West Chester, PA and spent many years working for the Orphans Court. She was a fierce advocate for her friends, family, and clients. Penny participated in the start-up family business known as the First Stop in Wilmington's Financial District. She loved her mysteries and her nephews, and was a long time Yankees Fan.

Preceded in death by her father, Joseph First and step-father, Howard M. Handelman; she is survived by her mother, Shirley First Handelman; her brother, Daniel (Cynthia); nephews, David and Joseph; step-brother, David Handelman (Jacqui Hall-Handelman); sister-in-law, Susan Malzone; nephew, Andrew Handelman; niece, Juliet Handelman; and her companion, Elliot Pottock.

Lawrence Samuel Goldstein

Lawrence S. Goldstein, age 74, passed away July 4, 2025. He was born in Wilmington, DE, January 15, 1951. Larry graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School, Class of 1969, and was a 1973 alumnus of Hartwick College. He was a small business owner and real estate investor for many years in Wilmington.

Larry had a big heart, and over the years, he rescued and adopted a number of cats and was devoted to them. He enjoyed riding his bicycle on the backroads of Delaware, and he was never happier than when he was driving his red sports car. He found great joy in giving presents and sending cards to loved ones. He cherished spending Thanksgiving and Passover with friends and family who adored him. Larry especially enjoyed classic films and the NY Post. He was a member

of Congregation Beth Shalom, where he attended morning minyan and Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

He is survived by his cousins, Ron and Lucy (Neil), and many more. He will be particularly missed by his oldest and closest friends Dan and Theresa Zoller, along with their daughter Lacey and her children to whom Larry was always their beloved "Uncle," and Steve. The Zollers were with him at the end of his courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Jean; his sister, Barbara; and his rescue cats, Raleigh, Sabrina, and Candace.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Faithful Friends Animal Society, 165 Airport Road, New Castle, DE 19720 www.faithfulfriends.us.

Richard F. Gordon, MD

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard F. Gordon, MD. He was, first and foremost, a man fully devoted to his family, friends, and patients. Beyond this, he was, in the truest sense, a Renaissance man—an avid traveler, adventurer, scholar, and teacher with a boundless curiosity about the world. He thought little of material things, instead cherishing a life of the mind and the heart.

After completing his service in the U.S. Air Force, Rich, his wife, Helaine, and their son, David, moved to Wilmington, DE, where he established his medical practice. Later that year, their son, Brett, was born, followed 11 years later by their daughter, Stefanie.

His professional career spanned more than 45 years, during which he was known as a doctor's doctor—committed to providing the best possible care for every patient.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Helaine; his sons, David and Brett (Laura); his daughter, Stefanie (Yoni); and his grandchildren, Eleanor, Isla, Atlas, Spencer, and Amelie.

The family wishes to thank the medical staff at Wilmington Hospital and their hospice unit for their exceptional care and kindness. We will be forever grateful to them and to all who have extended their love and support.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in his memory may be made to Magen David Adom, the American Heart Association, the Kutz Senior Living Campus Auxiliary, or a charity of one's choice.

Jay Leon Halio

Age 97, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2025.

Dr. Halio is survived by his wife, Dr. Diane Isaacs; daughter, Dr. Amy Halio; and son, Brian Halio.

Shirley Chapnitsky Karfunkle

Age 90, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2025, with her loved ones by her side. She was a much loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and guidance counselor, as well as an active participant in civic affairs. In her later years, she was an avid and accomplished gardener and became a remarkably talented painter.

Born September 15, 1934 in Appleton, WI to Louis and Freda Chapnitsky, and third in a line of four children, Shirley attended the University of Wisconsin and was awarded a bachelors of arts in Education in 1955. She married Richard Karfunkle of Philadelphia in June 1955.

Shirley was a wonderful mother and grandmother. She provided wise guidance to her family, friends and many students, she nurtured beautiful flowers, trees and landscapes. Shirley was a great listener and was always able to provide, in very few words, insights to those she conversed with. In this way, she helped people understand themselves and make their own decisions. She never scolded or raised her voice; a kinder person would be hard to find.

Shirley is survived by her sister, Esther; a son, Jeffrey (Galina); a daughter,

Sharon (Frank); a daughter-in-law, Paula; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Her husband passed away in 1992.

The family would like to thank all of the caregivers at Brandywine Living and Holistic Hospice for their compassionate care and also her longtime companion Sandi Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hadassah or the Brandywine SPC.

Larry A. Kaufman

Age 88, passed away Tuesday, August 26, 2025 after a brief illness, which followed a long battle with leukemia.

Throughout his illnesses, he was continually accompanied by his loving and devoted wife, Lynda M. G. Kaufman. A graduate of P. S. duPont High School, he was a member of the Delaware Air National Guard. Larry attended Temple University, but dropped out after his younger sister died of bone cancer and he needed to help support the family. He worked in his father's business, Kaufman Electric Supply for several years before entering the insurance and financial field. Larry ran his own business for 68 years.

His involvement helped Steven Spielberg launch "DreamWorks," and he was one of the few people in the United States to be qualified to deal with Lloyds of London. Larry's love of art, music, and especially the theater was evident to all who knew him. He performed at the Wilmington Drama League, the Delaware Theater, Old Academy Players, and the Everett. Larry dreamed of Broadway, until he was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia 20 years ago.

Larry chaired the 1969 Wilmington Jaycees' Annual Concert, was a member of the Jewish Community Center, and Congregation Beth Shalom.

Preceded in death by his parents, Adolph and Dorothy; in addition to his wife, Lynda; he is survived by his son, Douglas; daughter, Harriet; sister, Susan, and her children, Hillary and David.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Congregation Beth Shalom.

Jeffrey I. Komins, MD

Jeff was born on May 12, 1945 to his adoring parents, Hedda and David Komins. He and his younger sister, Jill, had a beautiful

childhood in the Philadelphia area, spending summers on the Jersey Shore.

In June of 1967, during his third year of medical school, Jeff and Sue were married in Philadelphia. In the fall of the following year, they were blessed with a daughter, Elisa. In 1970, he joined the Medical Corps of the US Army Reserves, proudly serving as a Major for seven years. In 1971, Jeff and Sue were blessed with another daughter, Deborah.

In 1975, the Komins family moved to Wilmington, where Jeff would practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist for more than 20 years. During that time, Jeff brought more than 7,000 babies into the world. He was adored for his compassionate care, brilliant mind, thoughtful patience and gentle bedside manner.

Beyond his professional success, Jeff's most cherished accomplishment was his family. Some of his fondest family memories included spending time on the Eastern Shore, shooting hoops and fishing with his grandsons, gathering with family on Thanksgiving—which included the Komins Cup flag football game—and taking family trips.

Jeff was predeceased by his parents, Hedda and David. He is survived by his loving wife of more than 58 years, Sue; his daughters Elisa (Brett) and Deborah (David); his four grandsons, Jake, Cole, Bennett, and Carter; his sister, Jill (Norman); his sister-in-law, Joyce; his brother-in-law, Steven and sister-in-law; his niece, Betsy (Marc and son Hunter); and nephews Doug, Stuart (Sarah), and Gregory (Lesley); and a close-knit extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jeffrey I. Komins Fund for Education and Care for the Delaware Community at the Medical Society of Delaware (https://www.medicalsocietyofdelaware.org/delaware/CMMSD/Nav_Items/Jeffrey_I_Komins.aspx) or to a charity of your choosing.

George Norris Levine

Age 96, passed away August 6, 2025.

A kind and generous man, George was deeply loved by his family and many friends.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Paula, and grandson, Kevin, he is survived by his children, Irv (Mary), Layne (Shawn), Brian, Bruce (Dan), and Allen (Kelli); grandchildren, Tiffany (David), Ashley (Jessica), Paul (Alyssa), Suzanne (Matt), Adam (Alexa), Shane (Julianne), and Jake

(Carli); 11 great-grandchildren with two more on the way.

George was devoted to his family and especially adored his grandchildren—never missing a game or special occasion. He spent countless hours volunteering in the community and will be remembered for his warmth, generosity, and steady presence.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

Adele Ross

Adele Ross, beloved wife of Stanley Ross, and daughter of Hyman and Dorothy Chudnofsky, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2025, in West Chester, PA, after a courageous battle with Mesothelioma. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Adele was a devoted mother to Jeffrey (Sylvia), Howard (Lisia), and Sharon (Rick); and a cherished grandmother to Alexandra, Brooke, Noah, Miranda, McKenzie, Tucker, Brandon, and Jordan. She was sister to Elaine (George). Her strength, kindness, and unwavering love for her family will be remembered and missed by all.

Adele grew up in Boston, MA, where she attended high school at Girls Latin School and graduated from Simmons College with a degree in Chemistry. She and Stan met in High School, married after college, and settled in the Delaware Valley where they raised their family, eventually moving to the Maris Grove retirement community where she was active in many committees and social groups.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Maris Grove Resident Care Fund in Adele's memory, a cause about which she was very passionate. Please make your check payable to Maris Grove Resident Care Fund and mail it to: Maris Grove Resident Care Fund, Attn: Sarah Golden/Philanthropy, 200 Maris Grove Way, Glen Mills, PA 19342.

Adele's legacy of love, friendship, community, resilience and compassion will live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind. May her memory be a blessing.

Continued on next page

James Edward Szymanski

It is with great sadness that we share that James Edward Szymanski died peacefully at home surrounded by his family and closest friends. He was a loving, talented, devoted husband and father.

He was born September 20, 1956, the oldest son of nine children to Ed and Mary Szymanski. James grew up in Wilmington, DE, graduated from Salesianum High School in 1974, and owned a successful contracting business.

He was a diehard Eagles fan and was loyal to a fault. Every weekend during football seasons were spent laser-focused on the game, never fearing to express his

joy, frustration, or anger with the players or coaches.

James was unbelievably generous to friend and stranger alike, genuine and compassionate, and was a very sensitive man with a gentle demeanor.

Beloved husband of Gael; father of Karla and Jessica Senior; brother to Annmarie, John (Christine), Kevin (Mary), Karen, Timothy (Marci), Christopher (Magda), and Matthew (Trish); son-in-law to Toekie and Sonya Rudaizky of South Africa; brother-in-law Robin and Peter (Ilana) of Australia; uncle to his extended family, and friend to many. He was preceded in death by "Grams," his maternal grandmother; his uncle Fr. Jack;

his mother and father, Mary and Ed; his brother, Joseph; his sister-in-law, Elaine Rudaizky; and his friend, Ed Vigil—all of blessed memory.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of James Szymanski at www.navysealmuseum.org/donate or <https://www.navysealfoundation.org/donate> or call 757.744.5326; Penn Medicine Abramson Cancer Center at <https://www.PennMedicine.org/Abramson/Donate> or call Penn Medicine Development at 215.898.0578; Jewish Federation of Delaware at <https://www.shalomdelaware.org/ways-to-give/donate.html> or call 302.427.2100.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

--

Puzzle on page 36

1	A	2	L	3	A	4	S			5	R	6	O	7	S	8	E	9	N			10	P	11	R	12	O	13	S
14	B	A	N	E						15	O	B	E	S	E							16	A	U	R	A			
17	A	B	I	E						18	A	L	I	S	T							19	U	R	A	L			
20	C	O	M	M	21	O	D	O	R	E											22	P	L	A	T	T			
23	I	R	A			24	F	I	N												25	W	H	A	L	E	S		
			26	L	27	I	F	E	G	28	U	29	A	R	D														
30	A	31	M	I	S	S						32	Z	V	I							33	A	34	H	35	A	36	B
37	M	O	S	T						38	P	39	A	B	S	T						40	T	Y	P	O			
41	A	M	M	O						42	E	N	E									43	T	I	D	E	S		
										44	Z	O	O	K	45	E	46	E	P	E	R								
47	E	48	S	49	S	50	M	A	N						51	A	S	K				52	A	53	P	54	B		
55	J	O	K	I	C					56	C	57	A	R	P	E						58	N	T	E	R			
59	E	L	A	N						60	R	A	D	I	I							61	A	I	D	A			
62	C	A	T	S						63	O	P	I	N	E							64	T	O	A	D			
65	T	R	E	K						66	T	O	N	G	S							67	O	N	L	Y			



BETH EMETH
MEMORIAL PARK



Information, call:

302-764-2393

Faulkland Rd. off DuPont Rd.

LOOKING FOR AN AGENCY UPDATE AND
DON'T SEE IT HERE? CHECK OUT

**JEWISHLIVINGDELAWARE.
ORG FOR THIS MONTH'S
FULL CONTENT.**

...WE'LL SAVE YOUR (AD) SPACE

JEWISH
LIVING.ORG
DELAWARE



GROUP EX



Shape Your Body at the J

We've got a class for every style of workout -- from upbeat to relaxing to strength-building!

Group classes are included in your membership, so hop in and have some fun!

- Barre
- Circuit Training
- Pilates
- Qi Gong
- Spin

- TRX
- Water Aerobics
- Yoga
- Zumba
- And More!



SCAN ME

JOIN NOW TO
ACCESS ALL OUR
CLASSES!

Yoga Retreat

SUN, OCT 5

8 AM - 6:30 PM

Step into serenity on our beautiful 32-acre campus for a full day of self-care and renewal. Enjoy a balanced mix of yoga, Pilates, mindfulness, creativity, nature walks, and nourishing meals. **All levels welcome!**

Includes meals by It's Simply Delicious & a special giveaway

Cost: \$250 Members | \$350 Non-Members



JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE
101 GARDEN OF EDEN ROAD
WILMINGTON, DE 19803

SAVE-THE-DATE



CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY
HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

MONTANA TUCKER, SPEAKER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH - 6:45 PM | HARRY'S SAVOY GRILL
RSVP - [SHALOMDELAWARE.ORG/90EVENT](http://shalomdelaware.org/90event)

