

JEWISH

JANUARY 2025

# LIVING

THE JEWISH VOICE OF DELAWARE  
& THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

# DELAWARE



Jews on the Heritage "Spectrum"

The Family: Which One?

An Interview with  
Governor-Elect Matt Meyer,  
Champion of Delaware Cultures

Who Is Jewish?  
The Enduring Power of Jewish  
Ritual and Tradition

Taste of Good Things to Come

Uncle Philip's Sherry Trifle:  
A Story of Becoming British

Falling for Tahini

# FOOD & CULTURE

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# Young Adult Division

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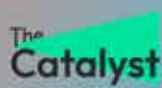
Jewish Federation of Delaware's Young Adult Division (YAD) brings together young adults to socialize, connect with their Jewish roots, and engage in social action.

You are not one thing, and neither are we. We are all unique and YAD is here to celebrate our differences. We welcome people from all Jewish backgrounds, as well as those interested in Judaism.

For more information or to join, visit [linktr.ee/YAD.JFD](https://linktr.ee/YAD.JFD)



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



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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.**

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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

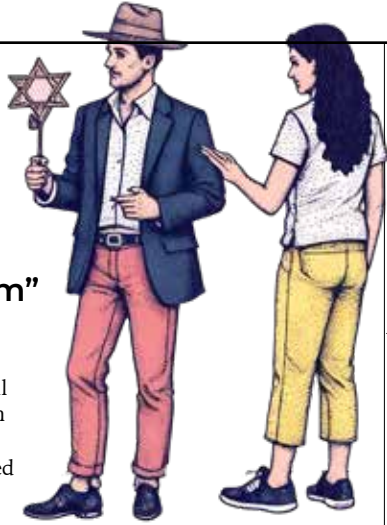
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Wilmington, DE 19803



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## Jews on the Heritage "Spectrum"

Diversity and Inclusion, even within the small realm of Jews in America, have been constrained for decades by our human desire for "boxes" or categories. Whether Conservative or Converted, Reform or Reconstructionist, we as Jews exist on a spectrum. While we can't represent every place on this spectrum, Rae Cook gives us an overview of just a few of our diverse neighbors here in Delaware.



# 14

## The Family: Which One?

What are the differences between "the family" of yesteryear, today, and tomorrow? Rabbi Peter Grumbacher shares his observations on how representative, or unrepresentative, TV families have been over the years.

Jewish Living Delaware  
**EXCLUSIVE**

# 16

## An Interview with Governor-Elect Matt Meyer, Champion of Delaware Culture

In November 2024, Delawareans elected the second Jewish governor in our state's history. Former New Castle County Executive, now Governor-Elect, Matt Meyer, is set to take office on Tuesday, January 21. County Executive Meyer graciously dedicated an hour of his time to give an exclusive interview with Jewish Living Delaware—answering questions on topics from policies and appointed staff to Delaware favs.

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## Who Is Jewish? The Enduring Power of Jewish Ritual and Tradition

Seaside Jewish Community Member Andrea Hoffman shares the stories of Seaside members who discovered, or recognized, their Jewish ancestry after years of wondering.

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## Taste of Good Things to Come

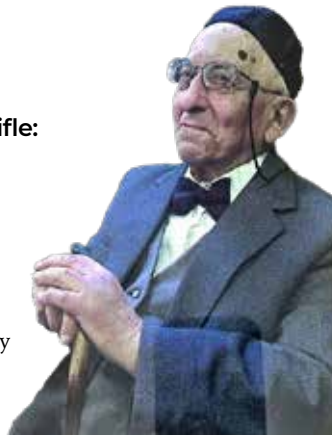


Read a sneak preview of our online exclusive interview with Zach and Leigh Ann, owners of Sleeping Bird Donuts. Visit [JewishLivingDelaware.org](http://JewishLivingDelaware.org) for the full interview.

# 20

## Uncle Philip's Sherry Trifle: A Story of Becoming British

Rabbi Michael Beals offers a delectable recipe for a British classic in honor of his Uncle Philip. With a bit of family history sprinkled in, this story is quite a treat!



# 22

## Falling for Tahini

This past November, Rebbitzin Ariel Rabinovich co-hosted a Jewish Life & Learning program at the Siegel JCC along with Amy Zitelman, co-founder and CEO of Soom Foods. Soom Foods was founded by Amy and her sisters and is the leading brand of Tahini in the United States. Enjoy a decadent recipe for double chocolate chunk tahini cookies, along with a story about the program.

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**COVER IMAGE**

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# Jewish Living Delaware... 2025 and Beyond

Welcome January and 2025. We introduce you to the evolution of *Jewish Living Delaware*—the ONLY monthly magazine in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley with a Jewish lens. Published by the Jewish Federation of Delaware, JLD is positioned as a Jewish lifestyle magazine with a local focus. We highlight our beneficiary and supported organizations, state-wide synagogues, and our efforts in Israel and overseas.

Thanks to sharing your voice through our summer Readership Survey, we learned what you are interested in reading, preferred sections and content, as well as format and publication frequency preferences. We have taken your feedback and input seriously while addressing our ongoing challenges of producing a professional publication with the rising costs of paper, printing, postage, and labor expenses. We offset these expenses with advertising revenue, but it is not enough. We had to conduct a deeper dive to better understand our rising costs against delivering a publication the community wants.

As such, we have modified the print format beginning this month with an effort to minimize rising production and postage expenses. Changes include self-cover, saddle-stitch binding, and lighter paper. The page count has also been reduced, which required an analysis of content. We have minimized the republishing of national content as a result. We also needed to balance advertising and content as well.

One other change we are proud to announce is the launch of an online companion website to complement the printed edition at [JewishLivingDelaware.org](http://JewishLivingDelaware.org). Having a more robust digital presence allows Federation to highlight and expand certain sections of the magazine such as Jewish Scene, upcoming programs and events, obituaries, and posting important news in real time. We commend the assistance of our talented art director and designer, Alex Martinez Tornek, who brings a welcoming visual presentation of our content, in addition to having developed our new website.

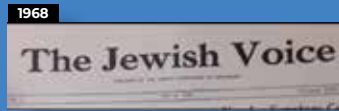
*Jewish Living Delaware* and [JewishLivingDelaware.org](http://JewishLivingDelaware.org) continue to be produced in-house by the staff of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. Thank you to our Editor, Emma Driban, and our Team who bring our communication vehicles to life. I also want to extend our gratitude to the Jewish Living Delaware Committee, co-chaired by Michael Sigman and Susan Towers, and committee members Elisha Caplan, Lisa Driban, Sharon Fullerton, Marianne Gellman, Whitney Katirai, Elizabeth Rich, Meredith Rosenthal, Jennifer Steinberg, David Udoff, and Mark Wagman.

As always, I am proud of our publication, which remains “The Jewish VOICE of Delaware & the Brandywine Valley.” Since its inception as The Jewish Voice by Rabbi Simon Krinsky in 1929, through publishing oversight by the Wilmington Jewish Educational Organization, and its evolution in 1968 with the Jewish Federation of Delaware into a monthly Jewish lifestyle magazine—we remain one of the only Federations throughout North America who continues to publish a monthly magazine like *Jewish Living Delaware* in-house. Many communities have outside and unaffiliated media companies who publish their own content. The relationships they have with their local Federations are minimal and mostly focus on the purchasing of advertising placement. Our rich history and support of our readers is a true testament to the vitality of this important vehicle that informs and ignites the Jewish community.

This has been a journey that I am proud of and that we continually evolve to meet the changing needs of our community.

With gratitude,  
**Seth J. Katzen**

President & CEO, Jewish Federation of Delaware



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\* Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) cannot be used for this type of fund.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Kozicki  
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# JEWISH SCENE

## Wilmington Hadassah Attends the Greater Philadelphia Region Education Day

Thirteen Wilmington Hadassah members were among 115 attendees at the Greater Philadelphia Region Education Day. Our Wilmington chapter is part of the Greater Philadelphia Region.

Photo provided by Wilmington Hadassah



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# The Siegel JCC's Date with the First State

The Siegel JCC's Date with the First State fall fundraiser on Saturday, November 16, was a dazzling success as we honored Rodger Levenson! With support from our top sponsors, WSFS Bank and Stape & Associates, guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening filled with karaoke, dancing, raffles, and a surprise visit from Rocky!

Photo Credit: Kayla Younker



## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FROM : DELAWARE GRATZ ENDOWMENT FUND

The mission of Delaware Gratz has always been and will continue to be the education of Jewish teens. Although we are no longer offering traditional classes, we are continuing to offer Jewish teens the opportunity to continue their Jewish education.

Delaware Gratz Endowment Fund will now be offering grants and scholarships to Delaware teens (currently in 9th grade) to attend educational opportunities.



Research has shown that the best way to not only give teens a Jewish education but also encourage them to become active and engaged Jewish adults is through experiential learning. These studies have shown that experiences in Jewish camps, youth groups, spending a semester in a school in Israel and trips to Israel have a much greater impact on these teens than actually attending traditional classrooms.

- These opportunities can include:
- Trips to Israel
  - Semesters abroad in Israel
  - Gap year educational programs
  - Attending Jewish summer camps
  - Attending special programs in Israel or in the United States
  - ... as well as many other educational opportunities.

The Delaware Gratz Board is committed to continuing to enrich the lives of our Jewish teens by supporting their continued Jewish education.



If your teen is interested in applying for a scholarship, download Gratz application at: [ShalomDelaware.org/scholarship](http://ShalomDelaware.org/scholarship)

Questions may be directed to [Scholarships@ShalomDel.org](mailto:Scholarships@ShalomDel.org) or the Federation office at 302/427-2100.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



### JOSEPH & MARION GREENBAUM SCHOLARSHIP

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Historically, over 40% of applicants receive scholarships.

**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE:**  
APRIL 15, 2025

Guidelines and the application for the **GREENBAUM SCHOLARSHIP** & other scholarship opportunities are available at:

[ShalomDelaware.org/Scholarships](http://ShalomDelaware.org/Scholarships)

Download an application or email your request to:

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**Jewish Federation of Delaware**  
JEWISH FUND FOR THE FUTURE

Scholarships are overseen by the Jewish Fund for the Future Grants Committee. Application deadlines vary by scholarship.

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**REFORM:**  
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**CONSERVATIVE:**  
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**CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM**  
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# St. John's Bread for Tu B'Shevat

LISA J. SOLOMON

Once in Israel, many, many years ago, I stood on a hilltop facing the most impossibly beautiful grove of ancient olive trees. The guide who led a group of my boisterous friends and me to the site, stood with one sandaled foot braced behind the other to keep steady on the sloping terrain as he spoke with pride about the healthy grove and the fact that those very olive trees have grown for generations, still bearing their best voluptuous fruit. The day was dry, sunny, and hot. As I stood there, taking in the rugged landscape, his voice and the restless noises of my friends began to fade, and I was alone, watching the wide silver-leaved trees—with thick gnarled branches, spreading, spreading, almost touching one another—shading the graveled soil, telling their strong story of survival, how they have, for so many years, for so many people and their children, stood right there. And I could hear their wise heartbeat.

On Tu B'Shevat, The New Year for the Trees, it is a well-known custom to plant or make donations to plant new trees in Israel. But a lesser-known custom mentioned in several of my reference books is eating the fruits of the trees of Israel, such as olives, dates, almonds, walnuts, and carob, or as it is interestingly called, St. John's Bread. When I read about this odd name for an Israeli fruit, I kept looking for a recipe. Surely someone, over all these years, would have decided to create something fitting the title. I looked through old and new Jewish cookbooks, several baking cookbooks and in my favorite bread book...



Read the Full Story and Recipe Online  
[JewishLivingDelaware.org](http://JewishLivingDelaware.org)

St John's bread/ Photo Courtesy: hicookery.com

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# Jews on the “Spectrum”

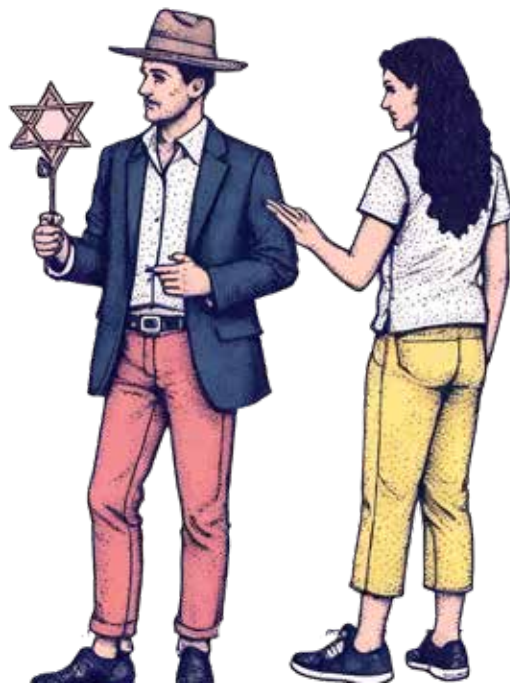
BY RAE COOK

**D**iversity and Inclusion, even within the small realm of Jews in America, have been constrained for decades by our human desire for “boxes” or categories. People are black, white, LGBTQ, straight, conservative, liberal, religious or not, and of course Jewish and non-Jewish, Sephardic, German, Ashkenazi, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, universalist, or Independent, and born Jewish or a convert to Judaism.

*What we’ve found is that none of us is truly only one thing or the other, but in many ways, we Jews and others exist along a spectrum, at times with surprising variations.* We cannot represent every place along the spectrum in this short article, but here is a good beginning on understanding ourselves today in Delaware through stories from a group of fascinating Delaware neighbors.

## FAMILY BACKGROUND SPECTRUM

On the education and experience spectrum, we Jews range from backgrounds in Jewish day schools and overnight camps to almost no contact with other Jews and little to no Jewish education. Hallie Ciarlone and Ann Osman, Jewish day school grads, read Hebrew fluently and understand our holidays well, and Ann Osman—in her 70s and raised in an observant household—just chanted Torah for the first time since she was 13 years old. Rose Muravchick’s grandfather, who emigrated to the US as a teenager, operated Kosher-style hotels in Miami and New York’s Borscht-Belt, but



her home life was not particularly religious. Hallie’s husband, Mark, grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, had very little Jewish experience, and was bar mitzvah-ed, one of very few in Bucks County at the time. More on Rose’s family in a moment.

## JEWISH GEOGRAPHY

In our American past, Jews have divided themselves into German, Ashkenazi, and Sephardic Jews. But there are Jews in our synagogue, Temple Beth El, who see themselves as Puerto Rican Jews, Israeli Jews, and American Jews, with little “feel” for the three historical gold standards for dividing up Jews according to Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Middle Eastern origins.

Hallie Ciarlone says that defining Jews is a work in process. Even though Hallie provides a wide range of experiences for her children, she is glad to come to

Temple Beth El so that her children can have Jewish friends. Rose Muravchick identifies herself as an American Jew, with an emphasis on being an American first, given that her family can trace its origins in this country back several generations on both sides.

We can all research our family ancestries with ease now, despite the disappointing results most Ashkenazi Jews get from consumer products like 23andMe. News from 23andMe: “You’re Jewish!” Some Jews therefore find the results of testing might not change anything, but non-Jews, including a Mexican friend and a Swedish acquaintance of mine, are surprised to find that a substantial part of their genetic heritage is Jewish.

## INTERFAITH PARTNERS/SPOUSES, PARENTS, AND GRANDPARENTS

Rose Muravchick, Nick Harris, and their son, Yosi, are vibrant members of Temple Beth El. Rose and Nick met in graduate school where Rose, born Jewish and raised in a secular home and Conservative synagogue, earned her Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a focus on Islam and Christianity and her husband, Nick—born to a devout Catholic mother in South Dakota—earned his Master’s Degree in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Rose had a long history of detachment from Jewish education and Jewish groups. Years later, their interesting homelife now includes weekly Shabbat dinners, blessings, challah making, and Sephardic Jewish cooking . . . by her husband, and that is when he is not teaching their son Hebrew or serving as a Hebrew instructor for other children at Temple Beth El. Rose said that her non-Jewish husband is the leader of their family’s learning about their Jewish heritage, and Rose is very active in helping Temple Beth El.

A recent Shabbat service included several new member families at Temple Beth El with Black spouses. Do not assume a Black spouse is a recent Jewish convert or a non-Jew. Several Black spouses at



TBE are second and third generation Jews, or more in the case of our Ethiopia-born members, dedicated to Judaism long before they met their Jewish husbands.

## MINORITY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AS A SUBCOMMUNITY OF JEWS

Ivy Harlev, Chief Executive Officer of the Siegel JCC or “the J,” has a passion for the J community and the communities within that community. Ivy is married to another woman, and they have raised two children (now 22 and 24) in the JCC and surrounding community.

Ivy’s first message to all those she meets is “Connect with whatever community fits you. You need that community to feed your soul and to make the world a better place.” You need somebody besides your family, and the JCC is designed to provide that opportunity to everyone. Ivy’s second message to families of all kinds is to be kind and respectful, making a few valuable suggestions for showing respect:

1. Recognize that your greatest and possibly most effective allies can be non-Jews both at the JCC and in our society.
2. If you are sincerely curious about sexual orientation or other differences, don’t just start asking questions. Harlev suggests that we first ask others, “Are you open to my asking you questions?” If they say yes, then kindly ask. If they say no, then they are not open at that time. However, Harlev still suggests that we all be bold and curious about differences, because we will discover how many similarities and shared values we have.

At the J, members and non-members are all welcome to find a space and place to meet and get to know others outside of their chosen group.

Ms. Harlev also addressed other difficult differences in politics and world views. In many of our families and her JCC members, there are seemingly implacable differences within and across families, resulting in hurt feelings, damaging fights, and even estrangement. Harlev wants us to view these folks with extremely different views from ours as not “anti-me” and,

more importantly with family members, with love even though we disagree with them. And, if we look closely enough, we may find values in common. Ivy said she and her staff feel so fortunate to have jobs that improve the quality of many diverse people’s lives through blending communities and providing a welcoming home to all.

Similar to Black and Hispanic communities, Jews cannot be assumed to be only progressives. Arlene Johnson and Nellie Forwood, Temple Beth El co-presidents, stand firmly on no politics in the synagogue due to the wide range of political beliefs among the congregants and their desire to have TBE respect everyone’s point of view. Johnson says that “we don’t know people well enough to put labels on them” and that all of us should read and listen more widely and never berate others. She reminds us that “what is small to some people is big to others,” and we can learn more by asking questions such as “How did you come to have that point of view?” Forwood adds, “Practice the updated Golden Rule” of ‘Do unto others as they would have you do unto them,’ and the modern view is to read this dictum as listen and learn about their viewpoints. Rabbi Beals at Temple Beth El has publicly stood for no politics from his bimah but be curious and share our “backstories.”

## JEWISH SELF-LOVE AND HATE

Along the spectrum of Jewish self-love, we have all seen the full range of intense Jewish self-love to neutral feelings to indifference to dislike of their own Judaism. But, quoting Joshua Hoffman, head of the Future of Jewish organization and author of *Reimagining Israel, The Future of Jewish*, and *Journeys of the Jewish Spirit*, “. . . throughout our 4,000-year history, non-Jewish societies have always made it abundantly clear: A Jew is a Jew is a Jew.” Jewish Love/Hate plays out in social media; some Instagram posts continually extol the worldwide contributions of the Jewish people, while other social media posts vilify us.

But what if one individual courageously takes what seems to be an ordinary step toward addressing hatred one on one?

Featured in 2009 in the New York Times, there is the true story of Rabbi Michael Weisser in Lincoln, Nebraska and how he bonded with a KKK leader there.

One Sunday morning, a few days after they had moved into their new house in Nebraska, the phone rang. The man on the other end of the line called Rabbi Weisser “Jew boy” and told him he would be sorry he had moved in. Two days later, a thick package of anti-black, antisemitic pamphlets arrived in the mail, including an unsigned card that read, “The KKK is watching you, scum.”

The messages were from disabled and wheelchair-bound Larry Trapp, at that time the Grand Dragon of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Nebraska.

Rabbi Weisser, who suspected the person threatening him was Mr. Trapp, got Trapp’s telephone number and started leaving messages on the answering machine. He explained, “I would say things like: ‘Larry, there’s a lot of love out there. You’re not getting any of it. Don’t you want some?’ And hang up. And, ‘Larry, why do you love the Nazis so much? They’d have killed you first because you’re disabled.’ And hang up. I did it once a week.”

Rabbi Weisser also made an offer: ‘I heard you’re disabled. I thought you might need a ride to the grocery store.’ Months later, Mr. Trapp called the Rabbi back, and he said, “I want to get out of what I’m doing and I don’t know how.” Rabbi Weisser proved to be a formidable source for change for a confirmed antisemite, via compassion and perseverance.

Ivy Harlev at the “J” also says, try kindness. As Arlene Johnson at TBE says, try to learn and understand the spectrum of thought and feelings. Nellie Forwood adds the need to teach and practice tolerance.

## THE FUTURE FOR THE JEWISH SPECTRUM

The consensus from this selection “along the spectrum” about their Jewish family lives was that the definition of a family will expand naturally, and asking each other questions to start conversations is a great step.

Continued on next page

## FOOD &amp; CULTURE

Continued from page 13

Wide diversity in our community will be redefined as the norm, to quote Dr. Muravchick. Hallie Ciarlone and Ivy Harlev added that being part of a Jewish community is vital, either at a synagogue like Temple Beth El or at a Jewish community center. Perhaps our huge variety of Jews is another factor in our long, long success as a people.

Author Joshua Hoffman makes the point that, especially in these tumultuous times, we need to function as a whole, no matter where we define ourselves, with respect for one another, and we need to unite courageously.

## 5 STEPS TOWARD EMBRACING THE SPECTRUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

1. Redefine Jews (and all people) as a spectrum, not as “boxes” or categories, and as a work in process
2. See the wide Jewish family spectrum as the norm rather than the exception
3. Explore and update your beliefs and assumptions often, not just about families but even your long-held loyalties and associations
4. Find your own community but be interested in other communities and subcommunities
5. Let’s honor the whole range of family stories and our need for each other

## BIO

RAE COOK studied bilingualism, linguistics, Spanish, and speech therapy, but came into communication consulting work at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and fell in love with coaching corporate and technical leaders’ communications. She is published in the USA and Japan in academic and technical journals on how technical and international leaders can be understood and influential. After selling her consulting business, Rae mainly writes about technical communications and about our Jewish community as a volunteer at Temple Beth El. Her professional goal is to finish a practical book on communication skills.

Rae went to *folkshtul*, learned Yiddish and a little Hebrew, and now still, at 69 years old, has to do the *Di Fir Kashes* (“Four questions”) in Yiddish at Passover! Her personal goal is to find out as much as she can about the Jewish community and to share the high points with the rest of Delaware’s Jews.

# The Family: Which One?

BY RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER,  
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Emeth



**M**y undergraduate major was Sociology. In one of my classes we were asked to write a paper on “The Family.” We could go in any direction we liked, a blessing indeed, and that it didn’t require any research, merely observation, even better.

I chose to look at the “The Television Family” with an emphasis on *Father Knows Best*, *Leave it to Beaver*, and *The Donna Reed Show*. I should have switched the title to “TV Families . . . ZZZzzz” in that all three had so much in common that they could be interchangeable. For all intents and purposes, all three were past their prime, literally. If I recall correctly, they were no longer aired during what we now call “prime time,” and I’m not sure they even began their reruns. It would take a while for a new style of family series to appear, and when *All in the Family* shocked American viewers in 1971, the era of family reality blossomed and would do so until this very day.

But let’s get back to “mom-in-a-dress” TV.

What did I know about any family other than those three programs? They were just like my family: mother baked, cooked, cleaned, made the beds, got the kids ready for school, made sure

they did their homework, while father went to work, read his newspaper, and had an occasional poker game with his buddies. On the other hand, TV mom wore heels and a dress when all these chores were handled, while TV dad wore a suit and tie while sitting in his easy chair. My father didn’t wear a tie while watching TV and never played cards. My mother only began to play canasta in her 60s because she finally put her foot down and told dad that was what she was going to do. After all, dad ruled the roost—sort of—while mom (theirs and mine) wanted the kids and dad to believe “father knows best.” As one overarching description conveyed, “[mother] was portrayed as a voice of reason, [while father] was thoughtful and offered sage advice in response to his children’s problems.” So true in just about every TV family series back then!

That was pretty much the case in those television series; they reflected the 1950s post-war, pre-turbulent 60s America. Suburban housing developments seemed to be images of each other, as were the houses themselves; and if there were any family issues, they could be solved in a calm, methodical fashion. Of course, what occurred in the privacy of the home was not aired, especially not on the television





Photo Credit: Freepik.com

programs created to portray the “typical” American family.

I received a good grade on that paper. Why not get an A? There was so little to write about; just adding “ditto,” “ditto,” “ditto” would have sufficed. But here’s the thing. Another review of *Father Knows Best* posited that the Andersons were a “truly idealized family, the sort that viewers could relate to and emulate.” Note, the family name was “Anderson,” not “Rodriguez,” “Wojcik,” or “Cohen,” the point being obvious: they were of European stock (Western European, of course), and, of course, all Americans could “relate” to that. And if not “relate” then certainly wish to “emulate.” Really? Hard to believe the Rodriguez, Wojcik, or Cohen families could relate back in the 50s, but, boy, could they relate when Archie Bunker made fun of his son-in-law, Michael “Meathead” Stivik, and had many negative things to say about minorities in general. And remember Archie’s face when Sammy Davis, Jr. turned and kissed him? Now THAT was something most of us related to in terms of what was happening in America . . . here was a bigoted, (probably WASP) guy being kissed by a Black, one-eyed Jew, someone he did not want in his neighborhood!

From then on, we began seeing a variety of families. By necessity we had to ask, “Which one?” Indeed, which family reflects

“THE Family?” If I wrote that paper today and focused on what I saw family life was like on 21st century TV, there would be a plethora of models. Just commercials themselves are not what laundry soap ads were like decades ago. We have families consisting of mixed-race couples, gay and lesbian couples, single moms and dads, every conceivable combination one might think of. And just take a walk in the park and you’ll see precisely that, and that—precisely—is the American “family” today . . . there is no defining it!

I attended a seminar on Jewish values as one of my electives in rabbinical school. There, too, we had to hand in a paper before the term ended. As was the case years before, it was more observational than academic. I told the instructor I was going to tweak the one I wrote for my sociology class which was fine with him.

“Of course,” he said, “I’ll have to grade it the way I see it, not the way it was graded back then.” I had no problem with that, inasmuch as I added far more up-to-date examples and worked it so that “Jewish” values would be included. Remember, this was early 1970s America; we still talked about Jewish values. But just as there is no monolithic family—Jewish or otherwise—there were then, and are today, no monolithic Jewish values . . .

10 Jews, 11 opinions. How much the more

so today if I or someone else would venture into the world of “The Family.”

*Modern Family*, the series that ran for 12 years, ended in 2020. I believe I watched no more than a handful of episodes, if that many. It’s not that I was offended by anything (I rarely get offended), I just do not like what they call a “mockumentary.” To me the differences were unreasonably highlighted. I suppose that is necessary for a contemporary television program. Nevertheless, the situations were complex enough, not requiring emphasis on cultural, religious, racial, and gender differences.

Let us remember that while the “modern family” of 2024 consists of the mixture I mentioned, they are trying to overcome difficulties the TV families of the 50s were often also trying to handle. Therefore, portraying stereotypes as it did, the show is true to its category of a “mockumentary.” Families face enough problems that television shows don’t have to stress the obvious and mock the characters, thereby minimizing the shared concerns of families of the 20th and 21st centuries.

What will family shows of tomorrow portray? No doubt, there will be changes. But we have to be empathic to every family regardless how they are portrayed. ■

# An Interview with Governor-Elect Matt Meyer

## Champion of Delaware Culture

BY EMMA DRIBAN, Editor

Governor-Elect Matt Meyer Photo Credit: mattmeyer.org

**In November 2024, Delawareans elected the second Jewish governor in our state's history. Former New Castle County Executive, now Governor-Elect, Matt Meyer, is set to take office on Tuesday, January 21. "These days, I still prefer County Executive over Governor-elect, just because I LOVE my current job and I'm going to miss it. I'll be called governor for years to come, but I only get to be county executive for a few more weeks." County Executive Meyer graciously dedicated an hour of his time to give an exclusive interview with Jewish Living Delaware.**

**You've had a diverse career thus far—teacher, diplomat, business owner, elected official. How has your professional journey prepared you for your role as governor?**

Whether working as a diplomat in Iraq, teaching sixth and seventh graders at a public school in Wilmington, or running a small business, I've always focused on bringing people together to solve big challenges and get real things done. From day one, I'm going to be a governor who will stand up and deliver. It's how I've always operated—when I started not one,

but two small businesses; as a public school teacher, who had to get a room full of pretty active seventh graders to understand geometry and algebra; and as the leader of Delaware's largest local government, delivering honest, transparent, and results-oriented leadership every single day. So, I think those experiences, each in very different ways, are something I bring with me to be a governor who will serve and deliver from the first day in office.

**What are some changes you anticipate going from a county official to serving the whole state?**

I love my current job. A lot of people are saying, "Oh, you're taking a step up now. You're going to a bigger job." I don't see this as a step up. There are few things more rewarding than being a county executive or a mayor. We live in a time where we are very politically divided, and whenever someone says they want to work in government people instantly want to know what "team" you're on. That doesn't happen as much at the local level. It's incredibly rewarding when you introduce innovation—like texts and video to 911 or Whole Blood, which enables paramedics to do blood transfusions on the scene—and see these initiatives become a reality. So, I love my job at the county.

Yet, while transitioning from a county to a state-wide role pretty dramatically expands the scope of the challenges, I'm excited to dig in and bring a local touch to state government. I got into politics

because I was a sixth and seventh grade math teacher, and I was fed up and felt like we needed to be doing more to deliver results for Delawareans. The state role will have a lot more to do with education than the county does, and I'm excited for that, too. Leading at the state level also requires balancing the diverse priorities of three different counties, and making sure our immense challenges are tackled head-on.

**You've just started to build your cabinet. What is your approach for recruiting this important team?**

I like people who listen. If you walk into an interview with Matt Meyer and say, "I have all the answers, and here's what they are," you're probably not going to get a job. I'm looking for people who are collaborative, who have a track record of actually getting things done and getting real results. This also means including people whose voices have been excluded for too long. Maybe they're not insiders. We need to work to ensure those most affected by our policies are leading the charge to create real solutions. We're committed to building a government, also, that reflects the strength and diversity of Delaware.

**How does being Jewish influence your leadership style?**

The Delaware Jewish community has been a cornerstone of my life since I was in preschool. I spent a lot of time in the JCC playing Gaga, going to Midrash classes after Hebrew school.



After I was bar mitzvah-ed, I continued my Jewish education through junior high and high school by going to the JCC. It was a home away from home, both, whether I was learning the Talmud or playing basketball. More generally, the lessons of the Torah really shaped my values, taught me the importance of service, compassion, and justice. I like to quote Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, “Community is the strength that helps us through the toughest times.” What I love about Jewish communities generally, especially our small Jewish community here in Delaware, is that we can call on each other and stick together, both in big tough times like COVID and in smaller tough times—those day-to-day challenges of death and disease and the unexpected, you know. There's no greater reward than being able to help someone and, hopefully, working to improve our communities. We're creating larger support networks for those in need. That's something I learned in the Jewish community in Delaware and something I carry forward to the whole state now.

**Your first elected role was as Moreh of the Wilmington AZA chapter of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Are there any lessons you learned in your BBYO years that you still draw on to this day?**

I began in a membership-focused role. Our membership was decreasing when I took over and I went to the synagogues and got lists of all the Jewish families. Hundreds and hundreds of them! I called around to ask if kids wanted to join. They'd all say no. So, we started to ask for their mothers, and their mothers would say yes! We grew from like 15–20 members to close to a hundred in the course of a few months. It taught me that if you put in the work, you really can accomplish a lot.

We were so mission-driven! We fed the hungry, we created programs for the homeless, we built playgrounds, and we helped build and repair houses. We got people engaged in the community and sides of the community they hadn't seen before. I'm so proud of that work. It set me off in a place where I learned that if you put in the

time, it's really, really rewarding. I think it still drives me today.

**How will you support the Jewish Federation of Delaware's mission of Tikkun Olam?**

Sadly, it's not hard to see in our country right now that we live in a broken world. Tikkun Olam stands for the idea that all of us have a responsibility to do our part to heal it. I, personally, take that responsibility very seriously, whatever role I'm in. Ten years ago, it was as a sixth and seventh grade math teacher, and now it's going to be as governor. My first job as governor—learned in part from those days in BBYO—is to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized Delawareans are listened to, cared for, and empowered. Those values have become the hallmark of how I've run Delaware's largest local government as county executive, and it's how I'm going to run our state as governor.

**How will you balance and support states' rights in relation to the anticipated Federal mandates?**

When federal policies threaten our rights or go against what is best for Delaware and Delawareans, I won't hesitate to push back and advocate for our state's autonomy. I like to think about who my boss is at work. Who do I report to as governor? I don't only report to millionaires and CEOs who've built big, successful companies, but I report to every voting Delawarean, particularly our working families. I report to people who came to this country as immigrants and feel under threat. I report to young women who need to have their rights fully realized and protected if the federal government isn't willing to protect those rights and encourage and include people from traditionally excluded communities—specifically LGBTQ+ Delawareans—I'm going to protect them. And if the federal government wants to come down hard on Americans in this state in a way that does not represent our shared values, then you'll see a governor who fights back and does everything to protect Delawareans. I think a lot of the stuff that is happening nationally is often used to distract people from what's actually happening in our communities. I saw it as a middle schoolteacher when kids

would go off on a tangent to try and distract you from something they did wrong, and I see it now. I think that's somewhat what is going on nationally. The attack on people from certain immigrant communities, the attack on people of certain gender identities and sexual orientations, and the attack on other groups—it's appalling to me. It's totally unrepresentative of who we are as Americans, and I'm going to do everything I can to make sure we protect people, whether times are good or times are rough.

**You had some great political ads throughout your campaign for Governor. One of the fan favorites featured your wife, Dr. Lauren Meyer, and new baby, Levi. Is she ready to take on her new role as Delaware's First Lady?**

I don't tend to speak for Lauren, so you'll have to ask her, hahaha. All I can say is that it takes a great first lady to make a great political ad about a first lady. My wife is truly incredible. I mean, she not only works emergency room shifts, but now she leads the emergency room for Christiana Care while being a new mom. I'm just lucky to have the best partner anyone could ask for. For the first time in Delaware history, we have an emergency room doctor as our state's first lady. Lauren's job is truly a reminder of the life and death decisions that come from the policies that we prioritize. She sees the impacts and has an ability to save lives every day, and she often reminds me that our policies—whether it's policies around gun violence, education, housing, or healthcare—can truly save lives as well. I think she's ready to use her new role to highlight critical issues like healthcare access, like public health, like family policies and childcare, which she has actually spent her entire life championing in other ways.

**What is your standard Brew HaHa order?**

I actually keep a modified form of kosher, so I'd have to say the Newark. It's the one with mozzarella, greens, tomato, and pesto. I'll say I am also a regular Charcoal Pit. I don't like to tell my rabbi because the meat's not kosher, but the milkshakes are! ■

# What is Jewish?

## The Enduring Power of Jewish Ritual and Tradition

BY **ANDREA HOFFMAN**,  
SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMBER

**Y**ears ago, my sister fell in love with Juan Carlos Letelier, a Chilean man she met in Central Park. They eventually married, and all the while he told her that he “felt Jewish.” Why did he feel as if he were a Jew? He recalled how his father lit candles regularly, talked about the *Zohar*, and never attended church, despite living in a deeply Catholic country.

After years of wondering about his heritage, Juan Carlos traveled to Lima, headquarters of the Inquisition in South America. After doing much research, he discovered a probable Jewish ancestor who had been forced to convert to Catholicism so he could continue practicing medicine.

Today, at age 65, my brother-in-law is content to have his hunch confirmed, but has not pursued Jewish observances. Others like him from Latin American countries, however, are re-discovering their long-lost Jewish ancestry and today are practicing Judaism.

Take the case of the Puerto Rican couple Ernesto Rivera and Blanca Domench, who in recent years were living in Dover, Delaware. I met them because they also were attending Seaside’s Biblical Hebrew Class, taught by member Barbara White.

The couple had grown up and married in Puerto Rico, where they were raised as evangelical Christians.

Yet, Ernesto suspected that he might be Jewish. He was circumcised and his grandmother lit candles and dressed in white on Friday nights. Blanca also wondered about a Jewish heritage, as there was some discussion of the possibility in her family. They also lit

candles and baked round breads. They had nails on the doorposts of many rooms in their homes.

Ernesto began searching online for information. He also began asking questions.

Over time, he learned that in two Puerto Rican cities, Aguadilla and Ceiba, there were people who claimed some connection to Judaism.

In 2011, Ernesto’s job caused him to move to Philadelphia, where he found an apartment near the home of an orthodox rabbi. After attending services three times, he asked if he could pursue conversion, but the rabbi turned him down. Undeterred, Ernesto found an Afro-American Synagogue that welcomed him. He contacted the rabbis of Philadelphia’s Bet Din to confirm his Jewishness. Ernesto was interviewed and the rabbis found that his knowledge of Jewish traditions, plus his circumcision were proof enough for him to pursue a conversion journey. He, and Blanca, eventually completed a rigorous study of Judaism and took part in Mikvah ceremonies.

In 2019, Ernesto’s job brought him to Dover Air Force Base. In addition to his assigned duties, he was asked to assist Jewish personnel and prepare for Jewish burials. He completed a lay leader program through the Aleph Institute. It was during this time that he studied Hebrew with Seaside members and when I got a chance to know him and Blanca. Earlier this year, he and Blanca moved back to Puerto Rico, where he became a lay leader of two newly formed congregations. They are both also teaching basic Hebrew prayers.

One new congregation in Ceiba had purchased land for a cemetery and a small building for a Shul. The congregation also raised \$5,000 toward the \$10,000 cost of a Torah scroll they purchased with the help of the same Philadelphia rabbi who restored one of Seaside’s Torahs.





# A Taste of Good Things to Come

BY **EMMA DRIBAN**, Editor

If, like many Wilmingtonians, you've been a fan of Sleeping Bird Coffee since their opening in 2021, it should come as no surprise that Zach and Leigh Ann's latest venture is equally as delicious.

As of August 2024, Sleeping Bird has a new home on 202 tucked behind Lucky's Coffee Shop. While their original coffee shop is still bustling over on Miller Road, the new **Sleeping Bird Doughnuts** is a hive of foodie bliss.

Co-Owner Zach DeLong is the mastermind behind the highly sought-after doughnuts. While still operating his now-dissolved food truck—Scission—AND working in the coffee shop, Zach began experimenting with doughnut dough for fun and came to find that customers loved his confectionery creations.

Unfortunately, due to the size of the space on Miller Road, he was maxed out at about 100 doughnuts per day—which sold out almost every time the duo had them for sale. Now, at around 1,200 doughnuts per day, Zach and Leigh Ann are still selling out, with lines snaking around the building and into the parking lot most days.



Seaside also helped out the new synagogue by donating some of the material originally designated for burial in its Genizah in Lewes.

Puerto Rico is just one example of the reemerging Latin American Jewish communities made up of descendants from Jews who were forced to convert to Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition. To learn more, visit filmmaker Dani Rotstein's website: <https://www.reemergeproject.com>.

Also, view the trailer for his documentary about the re-emerging Jewish community of Majorca Spain at: <https://xuetaislandthemovie.com>.

If you would like to visit Ernesto and Blanca in Puerto Rico, let me or Barbara White know. The Whites have often gone to Puerto Rico. Ernesto and Blanca would be delighted to meet with any members of the Jewish community from Delaware, particularly members of Seaside. ■

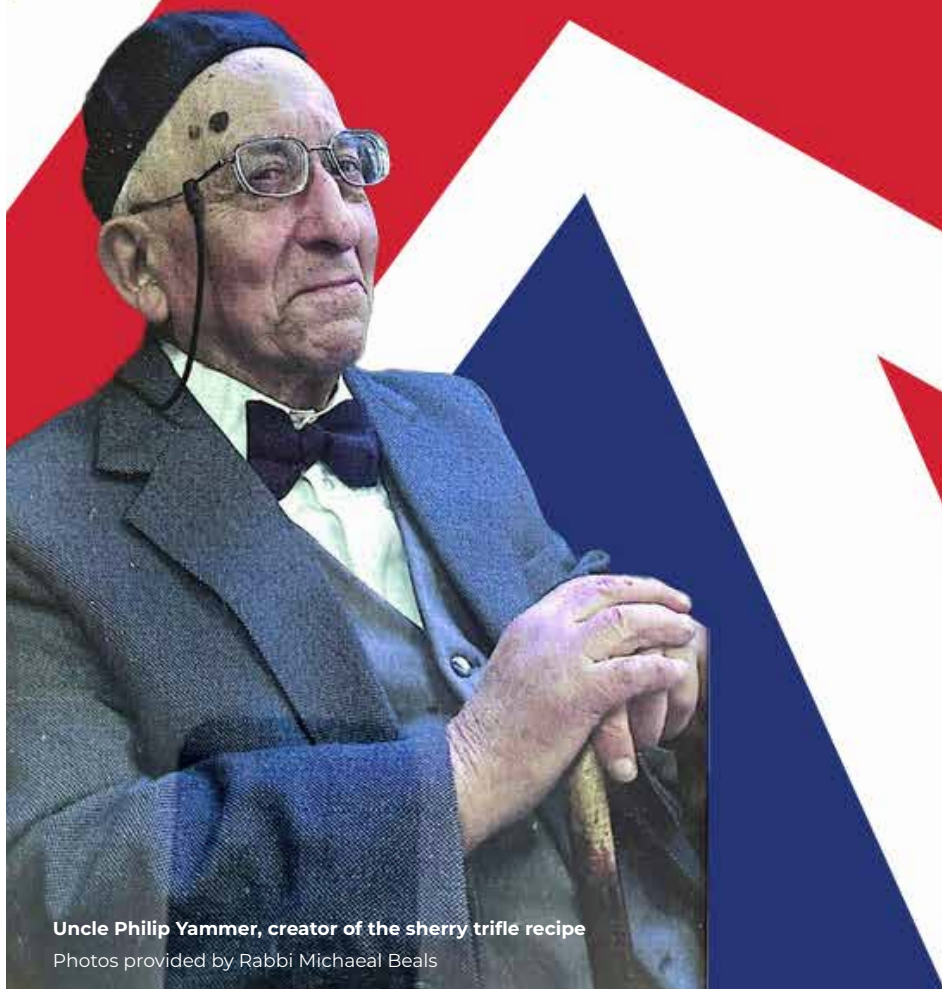
Published in the November/December edition of The Scroll, Seaside Jewish Community's Newsletter

Photos provided by Seaside Jewish Community

**To learn more about this sweet new sensation, visit [JewishLivingDelaware.org](http://JewishLivingDelaware.org) and read our exclusive interview with owners Zach and Leigh Ann**

# Uncle Philip's Sherry Trifle: A Story of Becoming British

BY RABBI MICHAEL S. BEALS, Temple Beth El



Uncle Philip Yammer, creator of the sherry trifle recipe

Photos provided by Rabbi Michael Beals

My story begins, I suppose, circa 1800 BCE, when Avraham and Sarah responded to God's command of "*Lech Lecha*," and we left Ur of the Chaldees for Canaan. Or, perhaps circa 1200 BCE, when around Mount Sinai, our ancestors, led by Moshe, said "*na'ase v'nishma*," we will do and we will learn—articulating an ancient covenant which is enforced to this day.

While I cannot prove any of it outside the Torah itself, my own family story kicks in about 1890. Czar Alexander III, was trying to stamp out Judaism, in part, by taking young Jewish boys in their early- or mid-teens, and forcibly drafting them for a 25-year length of service into his Imperial Army.

One of the enlisted, Mortra (Marks) Tammer—my namesake—went AWOL, sold the uniform, and used the proceeds to get him as far as the money would take him—Whitechapel, London's East End. There, along with his wife, Rivka Gunlash Tammer, he built a thriving family of eight children. Many of the descendants of those original eight are still friends.

I descend from the middle girl of the family, Raie Tammer Beals. She was my dad's mom. After World War Two, Raie, her husband William, and my dad, Alan, left war-torn London and made a new home in San Francisco back in the '50s—and I was born in 1963.

But it's my Uncle Philip, Raie's baby brother, we need to focus on if we are going to get to the bottom of this Sherry Trifle Recipe. As the youngest of this brood of eight, he was able to best bridge his Jewish-Polish origins and become a proper, Middle Class British Gentleman, educated in a fine British university, and make a career at a prestigious publishing house called Andre Deutsch, where he was much beloved. He, along with his lovely wife, Deborah, had three daughters: Ruth, Maxine, and Frances (all very accomplished). Maxine married Maurice Godley, who had two fine sons, Jeremy and Benjamin. And it was the eldest daughter of Benjamin, Tamara, whose



bat mitzvah my family just attended in Borehamwood. Although Philip, in his becoming British, left Orthodoxy for Liberal Judaism, Tamara, his great-granddaughter, became bat mitzvah in a United Synagogue shul—which is British for Modern Orthodox—really vibrant and engaging with the BEST tunes for Shabbat.

I first discovered my British roots when, as a 10-year-old, my cousins Ruth and Maxine first visited my family, laden with Cadbury Chocolate bars (before they were bought out and compromised by an American company). Two years later, Ruth and Maxine’s parents, Deborah and Philip, came for their own visit to Southern California. And that’s when I first watched my Uncle Philip create his renowned British Sherry Trifle in the Palm Springs home of his big sister, my Grandma Raie.

After visiting my British family for Tamara’s bat mitzvah, I thought I would blow off the dust from my Uncle Philip’s recipe, and bring it as a contribution to my wife’s, Elissa’s, lovely cousins in Columbia, Maryland.



**The Tammer Family, circa 1915, Whitechapel (Jewish East End) London; my Grandma Raie Tammer Beals is seated middle far right; my great-grandfather and namesake, Morta Tammer, is the seated patriarch with the impressive mustache; and the creator of the trifle recipe, Philip Tammer, is located directly in the center of the family photo**

It had to be adjusted from dairy to parve, following a Thanksgiving turkey dinner, and further adjusted to be gluten free, to accommodate the needs of guests at the table. The guests, mostly all members of Columbia’s Reconstructionist Synagogue, were unanimous with their praise for this creation of love and tradition.

The Sherry Trifle is a tribute to a lovely family, Uncle Phil—long since passed—but whose recipe and his personal journey in bridging a Polish-Jewish past, with a British future, is embodied in this recipe. As Julia Child would say: “Bon Appetite,” or as I would say: “*Betayavon!*” ■

## Uncle Philip’s Sherry Trifle

### Ingredients:

- Bird’s Custard, which can be found in the international/UK section at Wegman’s in Glen Mills. I doubled the recipe on the can and used parve oat milk instead of milk
- Ladyfingers, I used two packages of the ladyfingers found in the gluten free section of ShopRite
- Raspberry preserves
- Cream Sherry, I picked up a parve bottle at Fairfax Liquors
- Fresh strawberries and raspberries
- Canned pears, peaches, and apricots

### Instructions:

1. Strain the canned fruit and add the liquid to equal amounts of cream Sherry in a bowl. You will be generously ladling this liquid over the lady fingers.
2. Prepare the Bird’s Custard according to package instructions.
3. Line the bottom and sides of an angled glass bowl with ladyfingers. Coat with raspberry preserves.
4. Generously bathe the ladyfingers with the cream sherry and canned fruit juice mixture.
5. Add all fruits in a layer then coat with a layer of custard. Repeat this step until you’ve reached the top of the bowl.
6. Take the finished, multi-layer Sherry trifle masterpiece and place in the fridge to set and ferment overnight.



**The finished trifles set in the fridge overnight**

# Falling for Tahini

BY REBBITZEN ARIEL RABINOVICH

**T**his past fall, I had the privilege to organize and co-lead the first cooking class under the JLL (Jewish Life & Learning) program at the Siegel JCC with my childhood friend, Amy Zitelman, co-founder and CEO of Soom Foods. Soom Foods was founded by Amy and her two older sisters and is the leading brand of tahini in the US. Soom is the tahini of choice of award-winning restaurants and is sold in over 4500 stores including Whole Foods Market and online at Amazon.

On November 21, 2024, over 40 participants from across the community gathered at the Siegel JCC around tables brimming with butternut squash, citrus, flour, sugar, chocolate, and—of course—tahini. While sharing the family story behind starting Soom Foods, Amy kicked off the class by showing participants how to break down a butternut squash like a pro and the secret to mincing garlic and cleaning leeks. The energy, enthusiasm, and delicious food were abundant!

Participants had their chance to create a perfectly balanced roasted butternut squash and leek fall dish drizzled with a citrus tahini sauce and topped with za'atar roasted walnuts. We then transitioned to the second part of the class where we made the most decadent tahini and chocolate chunk cookies.

We hope you will join us for future classes but in the meantime, I highly recommend recreating the delicious double chocolate chunk tahini cookies we made in class! ■



**Michelle Silberglied, Stacey Horowitz, Iris Vinokur, and Meredith Rosenthal were eager attendees of this program**  
Photo Credit: Katie Glazier



**Meredith Rosenthal, Ariel Rabinovich, Stacy Horowitz, Michelle Silberglied, and Amy Zitelman**  
Photo provided by Meredith Rosenthal



**Karen Moss and Sylvia Wagman pose with Amy Zitelman, Founder of Soom**  
Photo Credit: Katie Glazier



# Double Chocolate Chunk Tahini Cookies

Serving: 36 cookies | Cook Time: 25 minutes

## Ingredients

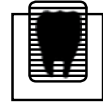
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, softened
- ½ cup + 3 Tbsp granulated sugar
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup Soom Chocolate Tahini
- 1½ tsp vanilla
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp fine sea salt
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chunks

## Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit and coat a baking sheet with nonstick spray.
2. In a large bowl, mix softened butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, and Soom Chocolate Tahini, and mix until well incorporated.
3. Add in vanilla and the eggs one at a time, stirring until mixture is creamy.
4. In a separate medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda, and sea salt until combined.
5. Add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture and combine just until there is no more visible flour in the dough or on the bottom of the bowl. Fold in semi-sweet chocolate chunks into the batter.
6. Using a small cookie scoop, scoop dough onto the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 2 inches apart. Flatten dough slightly.
7. Bake cookies for 13–16 minutes. While cookies cool on baking sheet for 2–3 minutes, sprinkle with a pinch of coarse sea salt before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling.



Photo Credit: Katie Glazier



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# Is There a Delaware Jewish Food Culture?

BY ELLISHA CAPLAN,

Jewish Living Delaware Committee Member

**W**e are planning an online social event for our team of nine at work and, as a “getting to know you” exercise, I asked everyone to share their favorite place they have visited, a place that they would like to visit in the future, and whether they prefer sweet or salty snacks. My secret motive was to send everyone a snack box that matched their sweet/salty preference and related to one of the locations they named.

Everyone responded so enthusiastically. One colleague loves sweet snacks and wants to go to Big Sky Country (Montana); another colleague, who keeps kosher, likes sweet snacks and loved a trip she took to Utah. After about two hours of online snack box searching and hysterical laughter over some of the options that came up in my search, I’m starting to think that this plan has gone sideways.

Look up “Bulgarian Salty Snack Box” and you will likely find a box for sale with beer nuts and pretzel sticks. How exotic. Similarly, when looking for salty snack boxes from Scandinavia, salty licorice is about the only thing that pops up. My Utah sweet box search came up with a bottle of “Cinnamon Bun Syrup” with no Kosher symbol to be found.

Undoubtedly, each of these places has a food culture to share that is simply difficult to fit into an international drop-ship ready package of snacks. You’ve got to visit to get a real taste of the foods they have to offer.

This brings me to Delaware foods. Are there “Delaware” foods? Yes. Milkshakes at Charcoal Pit, Woodside Farm Creamery ice cream, Capriotti’s “Bobbie,” to name a few. But “Jewish Delaware” foods?

A few ideas immediately come to mind: the Zomick’s challah that you can buy at the JCC on Fridays, chopped liver from the kosher counter at the North Wilmington Shoprite, any of the Reuben options at Rosenfeld’s in Rehoboth or Bethany, kiddush luncheons with salads made by the Sisterhood at Congregation Beth Shalom, and latkes at the Chanukah bazaar at Congregation Beth Emeth. In reality though, none of these foods are the things that I eat on the regular. It’s homemade food that calls to me, and homemade food that, in my opinion, truly breeds food culture.

I’m offering up some recipes from *Now You Don’t Have to Call Your Mother: A Collection of Recipes from Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation Cookbook (2000)* this month.

Bubba Jean’s Banana Cake from Dianne Seidel is especially appropriate, as according to her comments, it was legendary! Maybe one of these recipes will become your “Delaware” food.

## Grilled Salmon with Orange Glaze

from Arlene Simon  
Serves 4

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup orange marmalade
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- ½ tsp grated fresh ginger root
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 3 Tbsp white rice vinegar or other white vinegar
- 1 lb salmon fillet, skin off, cut into 4 pieces
- 6 thinly sliced scallions with some green
- ¼ cup toasted sesame seeds

### Instructions:

1. Combine marmalade, oil, soy sauce, ginger, garlic and vinegar. Marinate fish in a foil pan for 2 or more hours.
2. Heat grill. Brush orange glaze on each side of salmon and grill for about 5 minutes on each side.
3. Top with scallions and sesame seeds.

## Arroz con Tomato (Sephardic Rice with Tomato)

from Ray Freshman, z"l

### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 ½ cups rice
- 2 ¼ cups water or chicken stock
- ¾ cups tomato sauce
- 1 tsp salt

### Instructions:

1. Heat oil in heavy pan over medium heat. Add rice; stir to coat.
2. Add water (or chicken stock), tomato sauce and salt; bring to a boil.
3. Stir once; lower heat to a simmer.
4. Cover tightly and cook for 20 minutes until water is absorbed. Do not stir while cooking.

Comments: If you want Arroz Blanco (white rice), cook as above but use 3 cups water or stock and no tomato sauce. This goes well with meats, chicken, or fish cooked with tomatoes.







### Bubba Jean's Banana Cake

from Dianne Seidel

Yield: 3-4 loaves

#### Ingredients:

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 beaten eggs
- 2 cups mashed bananas (6 approx.)
- 1 cups oil
- 1 (8 ¼ oz) can crushed pineapple

#### Instructions:

1. Mix flour, sugar, salt, and baking soda together in large bowl.
2. Combine eggs, mashed bananas, oil, undrained pineapple and vanilla. Add all to dry ingredients. Stir well to moisten.
3. Spray oil in 3-4 loaf pans and divide batter evenly.
4. Bake at 350° for 60-70 minutes. Test center with toothpick.
5. Cool in pan for 5 minutes, then remove and cool on racks.
6. You can add nuts, chocolate bits, or raisins. You can also sprinkle with powdered sugar or glaze.

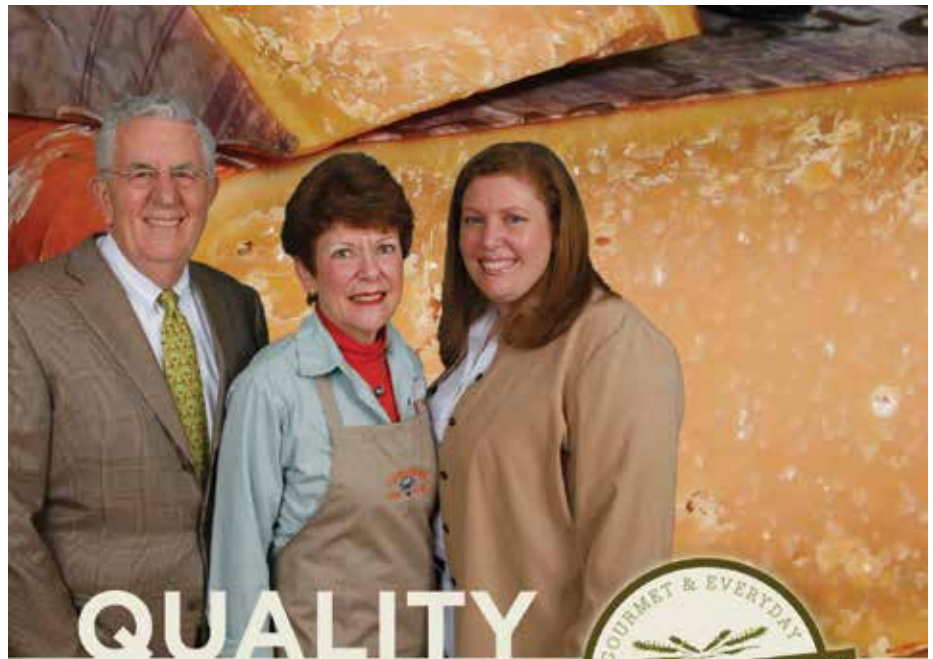
Comments: Mom's (Jean Drowos) cakes always sold well at Beth Shalom Sisterhood's and McClasson's bake sales. She was known for it!

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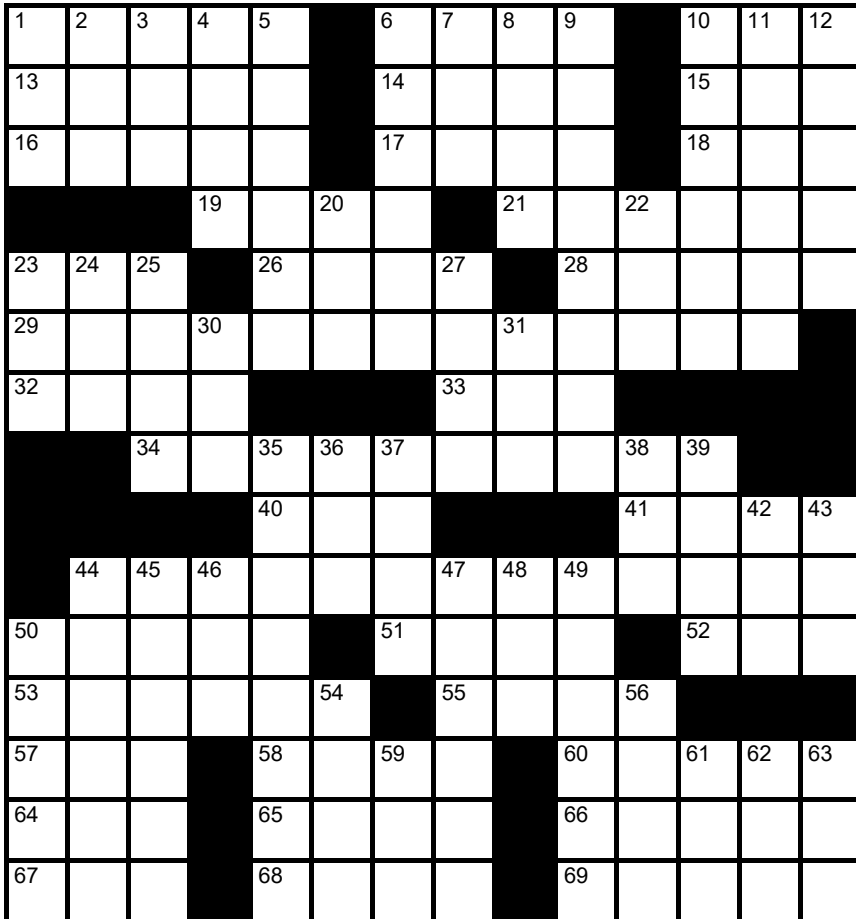
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# Kugels

BY YONI GLATT  
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM  
SOLUTION: PAGE 29



**ACROSS**

- 1. Notable satirical publication, with "The"
- 6. Fictional way to get from place to place
- 10. Bilko, briefly
- 13. Model X maker
- 14. "Not \_\_\_ many words..."
- 15. "My Cousin Vinny" setting: Abbr.
- 16. Fender guitar, popularly
- 17. Huge fan
- 18. Pal, to Wolverine
- 19. Hand rests for the angry
- 21. One on the couch, perhaps
- 23. Trig fig.
- 26. Home improver Bob
- 28. Roping event
- 29. Some Cheerios
- 32. Machu Picchu's country
- 33. Japanese pond creature
- 34. Gemara option
- 40. Brown and Jacobs

- 41. King who was Ahab's father
- 44. Feature of a more mature beard
- 50. It has pavillions for Germany and Morocco, but not Israel
- 51. Likely rip spot
- 52. Text format letters
- 53. Pool toy
- 55. There might have been one in the High Priest's breastplate
- 57. "The Bourne Identity" setting: Abbr.
- 58. "Gotcha"
- 60. Big name in health care
- 64. 63-Down competitor, once
- 65. One whose work is a bust?
- 66. Spider-Man foe
- 67. Israeli broadcaster
- 68. Dan or Katif
- 69. Many a side dish found in this puzzle

**DOWN**

- 1. Extra periods, briefly
- 2. Mosquito barrier
- 3. \_\_\_air
- 4. Korban option
- 5. Lifelong resident
- 6. Osem snack
- 7. Orc foe
- 8. Stat relative
- 9. You can take one to 50-Across
- 10. Shabbat, to Diego
- 11. What some baked goods lack
- 12. Shrimp, in Judaism
- 20. Little photo?
- 22. Rival of Peyton
- 23. Steve Rogers, to allies
- 24. Not closed, to Coleridge
- 25. Like Simone Biles
- 27. Cross of Egypt
- 30. NBA coach Tyronn
- 31. Kirel of note
- 35. Sounding like a clunky engine
- 36. Major tzedakah org.
- 37. Employee IDs, at times
- 38. Do some cleaning up
- 39. Little rascals
- 42. Band that featured a Buck and a Berry
- 43. Return recipient
- 44. Return co-filer
- 45. Fall droppings
- 46. Former Israeli airport
- 47. Eretz preceeder
- 48. 2002 NBA Rookie of the Year Gasol
- 49. Get going
- 50. Opposing side
- 54. Uncle of Zebulun
- 56. Israelite king who killed two other Jewish kings
- 59. Stops before ICUs, maybe
- 61. Comedian Notaro
- 62. Sderot to Tsfat dir.
- 63. Nostalgic mail option, for some





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# The Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar

BY **ABBE LUNGER**, Founder of PrintArtKids



Inspired by the need to create something uplifting and positive for the Jewish community in the aftermath of October 7, the founders of two women-owned Jewish brands—Abbe Lunger of PrintArtKids and Rabbi Robyn Frisch of Mazel Pups—collaborated to create the **Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar**. This unique calendar—which combines elements of Jewish tradition, joy, and adorable dogs—is designed for Jewish (or Jew-ish, or anyone else) individuals who have a connection to or interest in Judaism and a special affection for dogs.

Each month of this standard calendar features a 12" x 12" full color image of a super-cute dog celebrating a Jewish holiday or sporting Jewish-themed clothing and/or accessories. The calendar includes US and Canadian national holidays, Jewish and Israeli holidays, and dog-themed holidays. It also includes information about Jewish holidays and traditions, as well as fun facts about each featured dog, all of whom have a significant presence on Instagram. The calendars make delightful gifts for not only Jewish people, but also those who would like to learn about Judaism

in a fun and unique way. It's sure to be cherished by family, friends, business associates, and anyone else who could use some Jewish Pawsitivity!

As if this calendar isn't already paw-fect, **The Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar** also has a tzedakah component! For each calendar sold directly by the creators, a percentage of profits will go to the Israel Guide Dog Center. Based in Israel with their US office located in nearby Warrington, PA, the IGDC provides guide dogs for the blind and visually impaired, PTSD-trained service dogs for soldiers who have experienced service-related emotional trauma, and emotional support dogs for those with special needs.

If you or someone you know could use some Jewish Pawsitivity, buy yourself a copy (or two) of **The Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar** and spread some Jewish love! Bulk purchases are also available for retail and fundraising opportunities. Go to <https://printartkids.com/calendars/> to order or to learn more!



# Questions For Our Time

BY FAITH BROWN, Lodge Lane Assisted Living Resident



If the Book of Life was today unfurled  
 It would show a broken world  
 A world of sadness and despair  
 With people who no longer care

Is this the world we want to see,  
 Where a person cannot live free?  
 Is this the choice that we have made?  
 Our freedom now has been delayed

Signs with hatred on every street  
 We try to fight, but face defeat  
 So, to G-d, please hear our voice  
 Do not say we have no choice

Please, dear G-d, we cannot cope  
 We need Your words to give us hope  
 Tikkun Olam, that is our role  
 To repair the world and make it whole

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

### Kugel

Puzzle on page 26

1	O	N	I	O	N	6	B	E	A	M	10	S	G	T			
13	T	E	S	L	A	14	I	N	S	O	15	A	L	A			
16	S	T	R	A	T	17	S	T	A	N	18	B	U	B			
			19	H	I	P	S	21	P	O	T	A	T	O			
23	C	O	S	26	V	I	L	A	28	R	O	D	E	O			
29	A	P	P	30	L	E	C	I	N	31	N	A	M	O	N		
32	P	E	R	U	33	K	O	I									
			34	Y	E	R	U	S	H	A	L	38	M	39	I		
							40	A	J	S	41	O	M	42	R	43	I
			44	S	A	L	T	A	N	47	D	P	E	P	P	E	R
50	E	P	C	O	T	51	S	E	A	M	52	S	M	S			
53	N	O	O	D	L	E	54		55	R	U	B	Y	56			
57	E	U	R	58	I	S	E	E	60	A	E	61	T	62	N	63	A
64	M	S	N	65	N	A	R	C	66	R	H	I	N	O			
67	Y	E	S	68	G	U	S	H	69	K	U	G	E	L			



# OBITUARIES

*Ha'makom yena'hem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei tziyon vi'Yerushalayim*

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

## David Lawrence Hildebrand

Age 76, passed away November 3, 2024. The eldest son of Louise M. (nee Gruener) and Gene K. Hildebrand, David was born in Darby, PA on September 25, 1948. He graduated from Claymont High School before starting a career as a contractor, and later founding the KY Construction Company and Hildebrand Development Corporation.

Dave married Linda Haak (nee Gooding) and had a daughter, Sonja. He and Linda parted ways and Dave later married Christine Dycio of Wilmington, DE. He found calm in reading and listening to the music of his youth. He collected paintings, literature, architectural drawings, and musical records, but it was his collection of framed artwork that was really something to marvel. Dave also liked playing cards, watching the Phillies and Eagles, and chatting with friends over a beer. He loved walking the Rehoboth "boards," and once described feeling at peace whenever he was near the ocean.

Dave is survived by his daughter, Sonja Hildebrand (Donna Schwartz) of Wilmington DE. He also leaves behind a brother, Steven Hildebrand (Debra) of Fairfax VA. Dave was preceded in death by his parents, Louise and Gene Hildebrand; his sister, Janice Hildebrand; and his former wife, Christine Dycio Hildebrand.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations can be made in Dave's honor to the Kutz Home.

## Joselyn Maerov

Age 66, passed away October 29, 2024.

Born April 4, 1958 in Kinston, NC to the late Sidney and Margaret (nee Katz) Maerov.

## Ann Rose Marcus

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Ann Rose Marcus on November 10, 2024.

Ann was our dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt. She was born January 25, 1936 in Brooklyn, NY to Isadore and Goldie Rose. Ann was a proud graduate of Madison High School and Brooklyn College.

Married for over 65 years to Sanford Marcus, they made their home in Wilmington, DE. Ann and Sandy raised two children, Steven and Jonathan. As a pillar of the community, Ann was active in many organizations. She was a pioneer heading up a successful advertising agency at a time when very few women were business leaders. Ann loved traveling, having visited innumerable countries around the world. During her travels she especially loved finding and collecting rare antiques. Later, Ann would enjoy her winters in South Florida escaping the cold for sunshine, tennis, and time with her sister Paula. Over the last few years, she was passionate for the family's newest venture Rose Sisters Chips.

Preceded in death by her parents, Isadore and Goldie Rose; Ann is survived by her husband, Sanford Marcus; sons, Steven (Jennifer Brandenburg) and Jonathan (Lauren Rosato); grandchildren, Rachel, Jonah, and Sarah; and sister, Paula Heimowitz (Gary).

She will be greatly missed by her loving family and close friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Heart Association ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)) or plant a tree in Israel with the Jewish National Fund ([www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)).

## Marvin A. Perel

Age 71, passed away November 26, 2024. Husband of Lois (nee Wexler). Father of Evan (Yael) Perel, Andrew (Stacey) Perel, and Daniel Perel. Brother of Sylvia (Mark) Wagman. Grandfather of Talia, Mira, and Madilyn.

Contributions in his memory may be made to HAMEC (Holocaust Awareness Museum and Educational Center), 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 or Sarcoma Foundation of America, [www.curesarcoma.org](http://www.curesarcoma.org).

## Stuart Schenk

Age 89, passed away Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

Born February 12, 1935 in New York, NY, he was the son of the late Max and Diana (nee Nathan) Schenk.

Preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Sandra; he is survived by his children, Meryl Kaplan (Jeffrey), Karen Caplan (Scott), and Michael Schenk (Dennice); grandchildren, Kelsey Benzell (Lee), Natalie Walden, Adam Caplan, Brandon Caplan, Ellen Schenk, and Dan Schenk.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Willow Tree Hospice Care, Maris Grove, or a charity of your choice.

## Brian F. Strauss

Age 64, of Newark, passed away on November 4, 2024. He was a courageous cancer fighter who never gave the disease an inch.

Brian was a devoted husband of 41 years to Diane with whom he raised two boys, 13 Great Danes, and rescued 11 cats. He was beloved father to Sean and



Michael, and a cherished grandfather, father-in-law, brother, uncle, and friend to so many others. He will be remembered for his easy-going nature and uncanny ability to converse with anyone about anything anywhere.

Brian was an entrepreneur his entire life. He worked for his father at Red Star Decorating until taking over the business himself. He and Diane founded Living Well Magazine—a local publication focused on making the world a better place—operating it successfully for more than a decade. And when he had enough of running his own businesses, he brought his entrepreneurial spirit and skillset to a local company.

Brian spent his final days celebrating his birthday and wedding anniversary. He ate steak and homemade apple pie, watched action movies and the Philadelphia Eagles, and laughed with Diane, Sean, and Michael about his plan to cook a Thanksgiving feast for the 22 people he invited for this year's holiday.

Brian's life will forever be celebrated by his wife, Diane; his eldest son, Sean, and his girlfriend, Emily, his youngest son, Michael, and his wife, Jonelle, and their children, Bennett and Eloise; his brother and sisters and their families; and his beloved Cardi G, Banksy, Burberry, BonBon, and Bowie.

#### Gerald "Jerry" Charles Turnauer

Age 87, peacefully transitioned in the early hours of Tuesday, November 12, 2024 surrounded by loved ones.

He is remembered as a loving husband, father, uncle, sibling, successful truck dealer, friend, philanthropist, and patent holder.

Gerald Charles Turnauer was born on November 11, 1937, to Louis and Lillian Turnauer, in Bridgeport, CT. Jerry grew up in the Allentown/Bethlehem, PA area where he graduated from Liberty High School (Class of 1955). Jerry met his wife, Sandye, in 1959. They were wed on a snowy December evening in 1961 and remained loving life partners for nearly 63 years.

Jerry's success in business would be felt widely by family, friends, and those in need. Ever mindful of his roots, Jerry established the Dean Frank R. Hunt Emergency Scholarship, named for the man who loaned \$500 to Jerry necessary to continue his undergraduate studies. Over the years, Jerry was an avid supporter of many worthy causes including Hadassah, Jewish National Fund, local Rotary Club, Beth Shalom Men's Club (where he served as president), Siegel Jewish Community Center, Friends of the IDF, and Magen David Adom—The Israeli Red Star of David ambulance service.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Sandye; his children, Linda, Esti, and Michael; his ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his siblings, Muriel, Alexander, and Marty. He was preceded in death by his youngest son, Steven, in 2003.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully request a donation in Jerry's honor to Alzheimer's Association or the Dean Frank R. Hunt Emergency Scholarship fund.

#### Stanley Herman Weinberg

Age 95, passed away November 15, 2024.

Born and raised in South Philly, he was the son of Maurice and Dorothy Weinberg. Stanley graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He was the loving husband of Zelma Weinberg, who passed away in August of 2001, and devoted father to his sons, David and Mark, who are still with us.

Stanley was a South Philly boy to the end, even though he lived in Delaware for most of his adult life. He went on to become an accomplished pharmacist, being honored as Pharmacist of the Year in 1969. Stanley continued to work for many years at Wilmington Medical Center, helping create and run the medical center's poison center.

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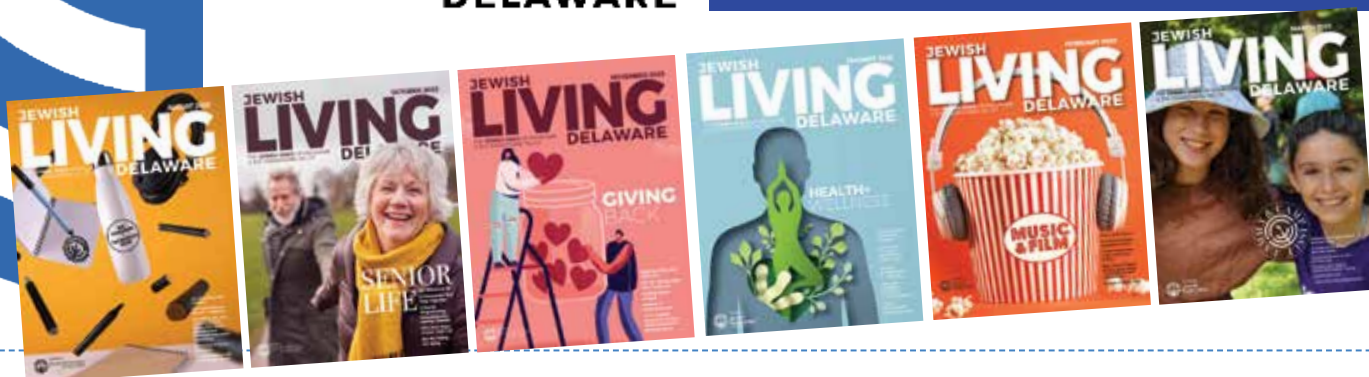
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