

JEWISH

LIVING

DELAWARE

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

GIVING BACK

Hope: A Small Act of Repair

Path to Freedom

Love Made Permanent

**How Hadassah Supports
Israel through Advocacy
and Funding**

NOVEMBER 2025

I BELIEVE IN THE GOOD...

I support Federation because of all it does to uplift the different expressions of Judaism that make Delaware such an awesome place to be Jewish. Grateful to be a rabbi serving this community, and grateful for the ways that Federation uplifts us all!

- RABBI NICK RENNER,
Congregation Beth Shalom +
Federation Donor



TOGETHER
As One



ShalomDelaware.org • 302-427-2100



EinsteinDay.org



UDHillel.org



SiegelJCC.org



KutzHome.org



JFSDelaware.org



JAFI.org



AMERICAN
JEWISH
JOINT
DISTRIBUTION
COMMITTEE
JDC.org

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

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

To make a gift by credit card,
you can donate online at:
www.shalomdelaware.org/impact/ways-to-give/donate

<input type="radio"/> \$36	<input type="radio"/> \$250
<input type="radio"/> \$54	<input type="radio"/> \$500
<input type="radio"/> \$72	<input type="radio"/> \$1000
<input type="radio"/> \$100	<input type="radio"/> Other \$ _____

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

**15,000+ Dresses in
stock in sizes 00 to 26
Bridal and Evening
Womens & Plus
Sizes too!**

**Largest selection
on the East Coast!**

Jans'
established
1974

**856-428-8181
406 Marlton Pike East
Cherry Hill NJ 08034**

**By Appointment Only
Book from
JansBoutique.com or**



**scan to book
Appointment**



**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:
Ellisha Caplan, Lisa Driban, Sharon Fullerton,
Marianne Gellman, Whitney Katirai, Elizabeth Rich,
Meredith Rosenthal, Jennifer Steinberg,
David Uoff, 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. C. 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

18

Hope: A Small Act of Repair

For Congresswoman Sarah McBride, “public service is a form of *tikkun olam*—an obligation to repair what is broken and build what is just.” The homegrown politician shares her hopeful outlook and desire to continue doing good for her state and country.



20

Path to Freedom

They say, “it takes a village,” but for the Mohammadi family it took a world. Read on to learn how members of our community supported a family in crisis and helped bring them to safety.



24

Love Made Permanent

“Your children and grandchildren inherit more than your name or your heirlooms; they inherit your example. When they see the causes you supported, the communities you cared for, and the love you invested in the world, they inherit a roadmap of how to live with purpose.”

26

How Hadassah Supports Israel through Advocacy and Funding

Hadassah’s core mission is to strengthen the Jewish people’s connection and commitment to our historic homeland. Through a multitude of initiatives and resources, Hadassah brings together women from around the world to support Israel.

Columns

8 Synagogue News: Operation Isaiah, Joseph's Pantry, and Tikkun Olam

Every year for many years, Congregation Beth Emeth has been showing up for their neighborhood through the work of Operation Isaiah, a collection of goods designated for those in need in their area. Read on to learn about the impact they have made.

10 Agency Update: From Campus to Community

Giving Back is baked into the DNA of Hillel at the University of Delaware students. For two Hillel members, it has been a significant part of their college experiences.

32 In Travel: Why I Went to Israel

Representative Melanie Ross Levin shares why she chose to participate in 50 States, One Israel—a bipartisan trip that brought together legislators from across the country to learn firsthand about the security challenges Israel faces, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the diverse voices within Israeli society.

Comm.Unity	4
Jewish Scene	6
Synagogue News	8
Agencies	10
Jewish Learning	12
JHSD	14
Rabbis' Voices	16
Food For Thought	28
In Travel	32
Simchas	34
Crossword Puzzle	36
Obituaries	38

COVER IMAGE

OpenArt.com



Jewish Federation of Delaware . . . Today, Tomorrow, and TOGETHER.

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 urgent, ongoing humanitarian and 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 local 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

Including the Federation in your will or trust 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 leaving a legacy empowers you to complete the work of your heart and helps 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.

With gratitude,

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 remains the ONLY NONPROFIT IN DELAWARE to earn the highest ratings from all three key industry evaluators of nonprofits:





**You Can
Assure Jewish
Tomorrows with
a Promise Today**

**Your legacy
commitment will
sustain valued Jewish
organizations for
generations to come.**



**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. 821**

Americans for Ben-Gurion University Tribute Brunch



The annual Kick-off event held in support of Americans for Ben-Gurion University's November 16th Tribute Brunch welcomed guest speaker, Ben-Gurion University's Vice President for Global Engagement, Professor Michal Bar-Asher Siegal. Also in attendance were Tribute event honorees, Delaware Governor Matt Meyer and David Magerman; Tribute co-chair Daniel Erlbaum; and 25 leaders of the Philadelphia and Delaware chapters of Americans for Ben-Gurion University. The reception was hosted by Delaware chapter associate chairs, Carol Rothschild and Nina Appel.

Photo Credit: Claire Winick



Key leaders of the annual Tribute event came together to build enthusiasm and positive energy, working towards raising friends and funds for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Standing are: Governor Matt Meyer, Delaware chapter's 2025 honoree; Kim Isaacs, Americans for Ben-Gurion University VP for Advancement; Nina Appel and Carol Rothschild, hosts of the reception and officers of the Delaware chapter; Carolyn Glazer-Hockstein and Neil Hockstein, Delaware chapter co-chairs. Seated are Claire Winick, Director of Development for Pennsylvania and Delaware, and guest speaker, Professor Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Ben-Gurion University Vice President. The Delaware Tribute co-chair, Richard Levine, was unable to attend.

Photo Credit: Claire Winick



Carol Rothschild and Nina Appel, reception hosts and long-time friends of Governor Meyer's parents, Ellen and Bob Meyer who are also officers of the Delaware chapter, extended warm hospitality to Governor Meyer and 30 guests representing Americans for Ben-Gurion University's Delaware and Philadelphia chapters.

Photo Credit: Claire Winick

Spaghetti Shabbat in the Sukkah

Our community came together to celebrate Spaghetti Shabbat in the Sukkah, an all-ages evening of fall fun at the Siegel JCC. The event featured dinner, fall-themed activities, face painting, a chance to discover PJLibrary, and the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of shaking the lulav & etrog.

Photo Credit: Kayla Buchanan



Operation Isaiah, Joseph's Pantry, and Tikkun Olam

BY JAN ELLEN ZIMMERMAN

Around the time of the High Holidays, you may see streams of congregants entering the doors of Congregation Beth Emeth dressed in their synagogue best. An hour or two later, most leave carrying an empty paper bag. So, what's the bag for? A week or two later these paper bags will be returned to the synagogue full of baby diapers and wipes, toiletries, paper towels, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, menstrual products, and other necessities of daily living. This is Operation Isaiah, a collection of goods designated for those in need in our area. Every year for many years, Beth Emeth has been collecting these items during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as part of our dedication to the core Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

In years past, items collected were donated to the Food Bank of Delaware and other community organizations. However, beginning at the end of 2019, the donations received were the start of a new endeavor at Beth Emeth—a weekly food pantry that was named Joseph's Pantry. We all remember the story of Joseph, who rose from slavery to a position of authority in Egypt, interpreting the Pharaoh's dream to mean the necessity of preparing in good times for the hard times to come.

However, for many people in our neighborhood in Wilmington, the hard times are already here; and for some they may be permanent. For reasons such as unemployment or underemployment, divorce, old age, becoming a victim of a crime, eviction, an illness or accident that prevents them from working, or other calamities that we have all faced at one time or another in our lives, our neighbors may find themselves in need of food and other basic living supplies such as toilet paper, baby or adult diapers, cleaning products such as laundry detergent or dishwashing liquid, and simple toiletries such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, and menstrual products.

Can you imagine going without any of these things, let alone all of them? This is the situation that many of our clients at Joseph's Pantry face. Although government programs pick up some of the slack, the benefits received are meager and many in power are looking to make them smaller, or even to make them disappear.

In response to these urgent needs, the collection of items every year through Operation Isaiah is a very needed and appreciated mitzvah in the community that surrounds Beth Emeth. We share our neighborhood, the Ninth Ward, with some of the poorest residents of our city Wilmington. In response, our

Congregation has been incredibly generous. Every year we distribute about 300 empty bags, and we receive most of them back filled to the brim. With the help of these donations—plus monetary contributions throughout the year and a bunch of volunteers to sort and shelve the donations

and deliver them to people week after week—we have been able to help keep many of our neighbors supplied with the necessities of everyday life.



Photo provided by Congregation Beth Emeth

Recently, we received a thank you card from one of our regular clients, who said, "The amazing volunteers who show kindness and respect every visit are deeply appreciated . . . visiting each week has made a meaningful difference in our lives, providing us with a sense of hope and dignity . . . every week you supply our family with nutritious meals and other important items . . . which has greatly eased our financial burdens."

Those of us who donate to, or volunteer at, Joseph's Pantry are grateful for the opportunity to help our neighbors. In many cases, we are "paying it forward" from times where others have helped us. For others, it is a chance to interact with people who may differ in some ways from us, but with whom we share common human bonds. It is also a chance to educate people in the community about Judaism and what we stand for, and to counteract the many pieces of misinformation they may have received. Practicing what we believe by helping our fellow citizens speaks louder than the negative social media content they may have encountered. And we are thankful to have the chance to do that as well.

About the Author:

JAN ELLEN ZIMMERMAN is a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and manages their weekly food pantry, Joseph's Pantry. She is a retired public school music teacher and a member of the CBE Adult Choir and the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware. She recently appeared on Jeopardy! where she spoke about having her Bat Mitzvah at the age of 68.

Giving Back to the Community: Interfaith Outreach Thanksgiving

BY RABBI MICHAEL BEALS, TEMPLE BETH EL



With the exponential rise in antisemitism, post-October 7th 2023, there has been a need to create more interfaith bridges between our Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors.

We got a first taste of that bridge-building last month, when Maestro Simone Tartaglione, Music Director of the Newark Symphony Orchestra, created Delaware's first-ever Jewish Heritage Concert, featuring Bernstein's Jeremiah Symphony, Fuhrman's *Avinu Malkeinu Fantasia on a Jewish Prayer*, *Tumbalalaika*, and an all-synagogue choir original arrangement of *Oseh Shalom*. The fact that this was initiated by a non-Jewish organization in order to help build bridges with the Jewish community was extraordinary.

This month, the Newark Interfaith Council, also worried about the rise in antisemitism, voted unanimously to hold their annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration at Temple Beth El. It has been many years since Newark's only synagogue was asked to host this celebration. But because of the rise of antisemitism, the interfaith clergy, representing different denominations of Christianity—as well as Seikh, Muslim, and Jewish houses of worship—felt that hosting the event at the synagogue would help build ties with the local Jewish community. This is now the second time in recent memory that a non-Jewish organization reached out to the Jewish community to extend an outstretched hand of friendship.

These extraordinary examples of reaching out as caring allies to Delaware's Jews exemplify the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

Temple Beth El's Choir Director, Susan Shertok, will be gathering choirs from all the local houses of worship to learn a

familiar setting of *Oseh Shalom*, the Jewish prayer of peace.

Aside from great music, each religious leader will present a sacred text both in English and in the native language of that house of worship elevating this year's theme: **Celebrating Commitment to Community**, in their unique faith tradition.

Judaism is replete with texts spotlighting community, from the *Pirkei Avot* maxim: don't separate yourself from the community, to the *Pesach Haggadah* describing the Wicked Son as the one who uses the language, "this is on account of what the Lord did for YOU" instead of "what the Lord did for US," as he

excludes himself from the community. And, of course, in the Torah itself, in the Book of Exodus, Moses is successful in building the *mishkan* (the Tabernacle), because *ve'yakel*. Why? Because Moses creates a community of givers by being inclusive, and lifting up all the givers, from those who bring gold, to those who bring multi-colored yarn, to those who provide their skills and craftsmanship.

The Newark Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 PM, at Temple Beth El, 301 Possum Park Rd., Newark, DE 19711, and is free and open to the public.

© 2025 Delaware Hospice

Your best choice for serious illness care at home

Looking for the best provider of serious illness care? Make sure they offer a full range of services for different stages of illness. Plus, check how long they've served your region. If they're driven by a caring mission instead of profit, that's another plus.

It all adds up to only one choice.

Delaware Hospice.

302.478.5707 • DelawareHospice.org

DELAWARE™ HOSPICE | DELAWARE® PALLIATIVE

Proudly serving residents of Pennsylvania's southern Chester and Delaware counties.

From Campus to Community

BY JOSH KOPPEL

Giving Back' is baked into the DNA of Hillel at the University of Delaware students. From community service to campus leadership, Hillel students are leading the way. I spoke with Miles Appleby and Rachel Bruckner—two Jewish student leaders with Hillel at UD—to learn more about their experience in giving back to the Jewish community, UD, and the Delaware community at large.

Rachel, class of 2026—a Human Services major with minors in Cognitive Science, Disability Studies, and Women and Gender Studies—has given back to her communities in several ways throughout her time at UD. Her resume of service work is extensive. She is an Engagement Intern at Hillel at UD, working to bring students to Hillel and provide them with a new community. Furthermore, at Hillel, she has been a member of the Inclusion Committee for Markell's Freshman Fest, helping freshmen transition into the community. Beyond Jewish life, she participates in Best Buddies, pairing UD students with peers who have disabilities, and volunteers at the Mary Campbell Center where she supports individuals with communication disorders through the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

Some of her most formative Jewish memories are service-related. "My earliest memories were visiting my friend Selma in the Jewish senior housing facility located next to my JCC preschool." Her lifelong commitment to service is clear, and Hillel at UD plays a large part.

Shabbat is a cornerstone of her Hillel experience. "My favorite memory at Hillel was my first Shabbat dinner freshman year. I remember looking around and being overcome with a sense of belonging and the feeling of home. I couldn't stop smiling, as I had the feeling that friendships here would last a lifetime and that I had found my community." She and those same friends still gather weekly, a tradition that remains the highlight of her week.

Miles, class of 2028, a Political Science major, envisions a future devoted to public service. "I'm passionate about government and



public service; my goal is to build a career where I can influence policy and create change on a large scale," he explained.

At UD, Miles has demonstrated his commitment to service and community involvement. Through Jewish community leadership, event planning, and volunteer opportunities connected to Hillel, he's found ways to serve his peers and the broader community. Even guiding prospective students and families as a campus tour guide is part of that mission, commenting that "I consider it a form of service, too—sharing my school with prospective students and their families."

For Miles, the foundation of his Judaism is service to others. "Judaism has taught me that community and responsibility go hand in hand." His favorite memory of Hillel at UD, like Rachel's, centers on Shabbat dinners. "There's something really special about stepping away from the week and gathering as a community. That sense of belonging that comes with walking through the front door is what first drew me in." What started as a search for a Jewish home on campus became a place to lead and truly embody the spirit of 'Giving Back.'

For Rachel and Miles, their commitment to *tikkun olam* is the modern embodiment of the ancient values of our Sages, in the words of Rabbi Tarfon in Pirkei Avot, "you are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." This commitment to repairing the world feels synonymous with giving back, especially during this season of gratitude. Giving back is not only about service hours or volunteer projects for these students; rather, it is a commitment to the Jewish values that guide them. Their stories show how Jewish life at UD is not only a source of community, but also a source for leadership and a commitment to building a better world.

About the Author:

JOSH KOPPEL is a Senior at the University of Delaware and is currently interning with Hillel at UD on the Development Team.



Photos provided by Hillel at the University of Delaware



UD Hillel is a Beneficiary Agency
of Jewish Federation of Delaware



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



we're adding a middle school!
starting with 6th grade in 2026-2027

Schedule a tour today!

info@einstenday.org
(302) 478-5026


ALBERT EINSTEIN
ACADEMY
www.einstenday.org

Naamah, Wife of Noach and Animal Whisperer

An Original "Swim" Into the Uncharted Midrashic Waters

BY MICHELE WEINER

And G-d said to two angels, "Bring her. Bring the one with the big heart to the forest that I will show you."

And the two angels turned into large birds, one white and one black, and they flew off on their mission.

Naamah was a child then. She loved to be outside during the time of the sunset. Naamah, the comforter, the one who cried when a flower died, would wave goodbye to the sun and shout hello to the moon.

It was at that very moment, between the setting light and the dawning dark, that the two birds appeared and invited her to ride on their backs for a special journey into the air. Behind their wings she placed one leg on the white bird and the other on the black bird. She rested one forearm on the white bird and one on the black bird. Her balance was perfect because her heart was pure. And off they flew to the forest that G-d showed them.

Naamah then lived in that forest for a year by herself but not alone. The angels assigned to the plants and animals kept her safe and alive. She learned the languages of the plants and the animals. Their angels taught her. They would all sing together on the evening of each full moon, each sounding off its own vibrational frequency, creating a truly wonderous concert which G-d loved to hear.

On her 365th day in this forest, Naamah, on the back of a donkey, was taken to the very edge of the forest. "Donkey, why are we stopping here?" she asked. His neigh in response said, "It's time for you, great singer and comforter, to go on, to fulfill your mission in life."

Naamah understood. With some sadness, she blessed the donkey with a long, genetic memory of its ability to communicate, and one day in the future its descendent would speak in its own self-defense and touch the heart of one with a closed heart and change the course of history. She blessed the angels and the plants



Noah's Ark by Edward Hicks

Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

and animals, thanking them for teaching her their languages and their songs. The same two angels, one shaped as a black bird and one shaped as a white bird, appeared and invited Naamah for a homebound journey through the air. They flew, once again, in perfect balance.

As Naamah disembarked from the backs of these angel birds, they told her that she was the descendent of Cain, the one whose great mistake brought violence into the world. It was her mission to restore wholeness and holiness back into the world. That was all they said. They flew off, leaving her baffled. How was she to do that?

Naamah arrived home on the same day that she left. Her time in the forest was not the same time as that of her parents' home. Her parents never knew of her time away.

When Naamah grew to be a young woman, she heard whispers about a man who was told to build a big boat because a great flood would someday come and destroy the plants, the animals, and the bad people who lived in the world. She was frightened by this, and because she so loved all of life, she felt drawn to this man; Noach was his name. She wished to help him save the helpless plants and animals. Someone would have to do this if the whispers she heard were true.

Naamah's father was a wood seller. He bought branches and tree trunks and sold them after he cut them into firewood so people could see and be warm at night. Noach needed a special wood to build his big boat. He came to Naamah's father and asked for help. Her father did not believe these whisperings about a big flood coming one day, so he had no interest in finding this special wood that Noach needed. Naamah, though, knew where to get this wood; she knew about these trees and where they grew, and she secretly led Noach to where these trees lived.

The angels of these trees put a desire to serve into the hearts and roots of the oldest and wisest of them. Naamah put her ear to the ground to listen to their vibrational frequencies. They sang a song of a holy sacrifice that one day would be theirs. Naamah found the helpers who could help her assist Noach, and then she remembered what the angel birds told her long ago about her mission of restoring wholeness and holiness to the world and about her ancestor, Cain, who brought violence into the world. She knew at this moment she was living her mission.

Noach fell in love with Naamah, her big heart, her empathic nature; she was the one who led him to the trees that would save humanity. So, they married and worked together, preparing for the big flood.

As Noah was building the ark, Naamah was preparing for the filling of the ark with the animals and birds. She was a gifted animal whisperer. She learned the languages of the animals and birds and she loved all of these creations. She would help them when they needed assistance or food.

As so many of the people of her generation were wicked in their interactions with people, many were also wicked in their interactions with animals and birds. These wicked cruel actions included hunting and eating animal and bird flesh and playing cruel games that injured these creatures. Naamah would help the injured ones. She came to be recognized by her sweet natural fragrance, and the animals and birds could smell her approaching before they saw her.

When it was time to bring the designated animals and birds into the ark, it was Naamah who recruited and trained the selected

few. When she informed all of the creatures of what would soon be coming, only a few of them believed that such a disaster could occur. They had never witnessed devastating flooding. They were naïve. A few who had extraordinary faith in her because of her kindnesses did believe her and wanted to be saved and have the merit of starting the animal and bird kingdoms once again. The idea of a boat ride was also intriguing to them.

She built a miniature ark and had practice sessions with those who were up for this challenge. They learned how to enter the mini ark and practiced settling in for short periods of time. She also taught them how to connect to the vibrations of her thoughts, specifically, to the command to enter the ark when the time was right. The command would be a silent thought command so as not to disturb the others who did not believe their lives were in danger. Soon they were prepared and excited about this new venture.

When the rains started, Naamah called to them, using her thought command so the other creatures would not know or hear her voice calling out. She cried for the ones who could not enter, and her tears fell with the raindrops down her cheeks as she stood at the entrance to the ark waiting for her beloved friends to join her in this life saving venture. They quietly entered also with tears rolling down their faces as they were leaving the life they had known and all their fellow creatures who would soon perish beneath the waters.

**For the rest of this story, go to:
JewishLivingDelaware.org/naamah-wife-of-noach**



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



Toni Young: JHSD Board Member Who Wrote the History of the Wilmington Jewish Community

BY MARLA BROWN FOGELMAN



Photo provided by Jewish Federation of Delaware

Ask historian and writer Toni Young about her role as one of the first board members of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD), and she quickly points to the collaborative effort involved in its launch. “The right group of people came together,” she said. “We worked as a team. Rabbi David Geffen, then rabbi of Beth Shalom, was our leader and inspiration.”

Young, whose four-plus decades of contributions to the Delaware Jewish community and to the state’s history are legion, began serving on JHSD’s board in 1975. Three years later, she became the first woman president of the Society and held that post from 1978 to 1980. She was also the first female president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, serving from 1993 to 1996.

During the 1970s, as the only Jewish member of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Historical Society (DHS), she helped to foster a mutually rewarding relationship between the DHS and JHSD. Her involvement helped lay the groundwork for the DHS-JHSD collaboration in creating a permanent home for the JHSD at the Coxe House. She also served as Honorary Chair of the fundraising campaign for the renovation initiative.

Yet, in addition to her multiple roles as a community leader and philanthropist, Young, who grew up in New York, is particularly noted for writing the definitive history of Wilmington’s early Jewish community. Her book, *Becoming American, Remaining Jewish: The Story of Wilmington, Delaware’s First Jewish Community, 1879–1924*, was published by the University of Delaware Press in 1999. This comprehensive study of the founders of Wilmington’s young Jewish community is widely regarded as the most significant historical resource on this topic.

Writing the Book

Describing the book’s genesis, Young credited Rabbi Geffen as the catalyst in moving her toward taking on this project. But—given her writing credentials, passion for historical research, and her experience as a volunteer archivist for the JHSD—it’s no surprise that Rabbi Geffen recruited her for this task. Young’s well-researched book on the Delaware Opera House, *The Grand Experience: A History of the Grand Opera House*, was published in 1976. For the 1979 book, *Delaware and the Jews*, which featured a compendium of essays by a range of

authors, Young served as both editor and contributor. *Delaware and the Jews* was published in conjunction with the JHSD’s October 1979 symposium in honor of the Centennial of Delaware Jewry—an event that attracted Jewish scholars and writers both within and outside the Delaware Jewish community. The event also included a walking tour of Wilmington’s old Jewish community, led by journalist Bill Frank.

Young recalled that it was during this symposium that the idea for the book came up, sparked by a comment from Rabbi Dr. Leon Jick, a prominent scholar and congregational leader from Massachusetts, who remarked that “someone has to write the history of this community.”

Encouraging her to take on this particular history project, Young said that Rabbi Geffen brought her a “shopping bag” of handwritten notes that he had received from Emile Topkis, an attorney and member of one of the early and prominent Jewish families in Wilmington. According to Young, Topkis had begun compiling these notes in the 1950s and had been planning to write the history of the community. His unusual collection included lists of Jews who had lived in Wilmington in the 19th century and interviews with the community’s founders. Young said she was excited to have Topkis’ notes, albeit noting that the collection included some “bizarre things.” But the notes ended up providing her with what she called “a gold mine” of primary source material.

While immersing herself in all the many avenues of research, Young said she was grateful for the important and wise advice she received from Dr. Carol Hoffecker, a renowned Delaware historian, who counseled her to obtain information from the 1920 census, and from Dr. Barbara Benson, a former director of the Delaware Historical Society, who told her “When you are writing something like this, you have to stop reading and start writing.”

Young said she considers “*Becoming American, Remaining Jewish*” to be a

major part of her JHSD legacy as well as showing the uniqueness of America.

"That's what America is. We come here, keep assimilating in order to become American, but we don't have to give up our identity."

The Importance of History

For Young, the study of history is not only a strong personal passion, but also a necessity for building a better society. "You study the past to make a better future," she said.

Lauded for her overall contributions to the study of Delaware's past, Young received the Delaware Historical Society's History Makers Award in 2008—an award that has been given to recipients such as filmmaker Ken Burns, former Delaware Governor and Congressional Representative Michael Castle, and then-Vice President Joseph Biden.

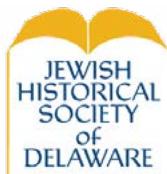
JHSD: The Past and the Future

Young, who moved from Wilmington to New York City in 2016, has continued to be involved in the JHSD. When asked how to encourage more involvement from young people, she suggested holding brainstorming sessions and "doing something surprising to gain interest." She said she would be happy to give a talk in support of the JHSD.

"You can learn so much from history," she said. "Look back at where we came from; how far we've come. The most important thing is we continue."

About the Author:

MARLA BROWN FOGELMAN is a freelance writer in New York City. Her work has appeared in The Washington Post, Parents, The Forward, Moment, and other national and regional publications.



**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
SENIOR LIVING CAMPUS

Lodge Lane
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

Kutz
REHABILITATION & NURSING

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





“Are You a Zionist?”



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 ABRAHAM L. RABINOVICH, PH.D.

Spiritual Leader of
Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

The short answer is yes; the long version is of course I am a Zionist because Zionism has been an essential part of our Jewish belief and psyche for two millennia. For centuries, we have been chanting the words of the psalmist “If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither; let my tongue stick to my palate if I cease to think of you, if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory even at my happiest hour.” (Psalms 137:5-6) In our daily prayers we constantly pray for the return to Zion. We pray “May our eyes behold Your merciful return to Zion. Blessed are You, Lord, who returns His Divine Presence to Zion.”

Our dream to return to our homeland Zion has not ceased since the destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. At the conclusion of the Passover Seder,

we sing “NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!” We conclude our long day service on Yom Kippur with a giant Shofar blast and shouting out “NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!” Our Jewish identity is contingent on being *Am Yisrael*—A Jewish nation in Eretz Israel, our homeland Israel—and no one can deny us our right to establish *Medinat Yisrael*—the State of Israel, in our homeland, the land of our Biblical ancestors.

My father was a devoted Zionist even when he lived in the Soviet Union under the communist regime; he yearned every day to be able to be free in the Holy Land of Israel. In the early 70s, he was involved with Natan Sharansky and many others in the “Zionist Underground” movement led by a group of Jewish dissidents known as “refuseniks.” They defied official Soviet regime to promote Jewish identity, culture, and religion, and to demand the right to emigrate, primarily to Israel. Their activism took place under the constant threat of KGB surveillance and punishment.

Some of his friends even attempted to hijack a civilian aircraft on June 15, 1970 in order to escape to the West and ultimately to Israel. The plan was set in motion, but it was unsuccessful as the group was arrested by the KGB upon arrival together in Smolny Airport near Leningrad. Although this operation—the Dymshits-Kuznetsov aircraft hijacking affair, also known as The First Leningrad Trial or Operation Wedding—failed, it was

a notable event in the course of the Cold War. It drew international attention, which led to the opening of the Iron Curtain and the release of several immigrants from the Soviet Union, including my family in 1971. For my dad and his fellow “refuseniks,” Judaism and Zionism were inseparable, and a Jew without Zionism was unspeakable and unthinkable. How can one be a Jew without striving for Jewish national liberation?

Tragically today, too many Jews avoid the “Z-word,” because so many Jew-haters, and sadly so many Jews, demonize and delegitimize Jews, Israel, and Zionism. I understand how the actions and policies of the current Israeli government are very troubling. However, the reality is that no nationalism is pure, no movement is perfect, and no state ideal. Nevertheless, Zionism remains legitimate, inspiring, and relevant. If we don’t agree with the actions of the current Israeli government, it doesn’t mean that we should abandon Zionism. Similarly, if you don’t agree with the politics of the President of the United States, you should not stop being an American patriot.

I believe that, especially now, it is important to strengthen and reconnect with our Zionist roots. We need Israel and Israel needs us now more than ever. I AM a Zionist because I am a Jew, and I will never let go of our Jewish national dream to be a free nation in our land forever and ever. *Am Israel Chai!*

RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER

Rabbi Emeritus,
Congregation Beth Emeth

You bet I'm a Zionist. Of course, if you ask 10 Jews what a Zionist is you might receive the proverbial 11 different answers. Some might insist that to be a Zionist you must live in Israel. Others believe that financial support of the Jewish State without living there allows you to call yourself a Zionist. And others have Israel in their hearts and insist they, too, are Zionists.

I have visited Israel over 20 times, lived there once for a year and then twice during my sabbaticals, both for over two months. I support Israel financially and she is always in my heart.

Alas, she is in my heart as I write, but in many respects this Zionist is heartbroken. The values I always believed were an integral part of Judaism—and therefore should be integral to the soul of Israel—are in serious jeopardy.

Former Prime Minister Golda Meir once said, *“If we have to have a choice between being dead and pitied, and being alive with a bad image, we’d rather be alive and have the bad image.”* Yes, but. You and I know that throughout her 77 years as an independent nation, rarely—except maybe for 10 minutes after the 1967 Six-Day war—have an overwhelming number of the world’s countries supported her. On the contrary, while other countries have initiated war against their neighbors, even torturing their citizens and killing children, the criticism they have faced pales in comparison to the ire against Israel.

The word “genocide” is the label they place on the response of Israel to the horrific attack of Hamas, yet other true genocides across the years have been ignored. Yes, I truly believe there should be a better way to conduct a war against Hamas. As a Zionist I feel it is my duty—just as it is the duty of the thousands of caring Israelis—to voice my dismay at what is going on in the “defense” of the

Jewish State, but, as has been said since the establishment of the State in 1948, her enemies can lose one war after another but Israel cannot lose even once. Lose a war, lose Israel. It’s as simple as that.

As a Zionist, I truly bewail the current government of Israel. Men like Itamar Ben-Gvir and Betzalel Smotrich know that Netanyahu needs them to sustain a coalition to remain in power, but they have an attitude towards the “other,” anyone not Jewish, and certainly Palestinians and other Arabs, that question their value in this world. And that is so beyond the values we Jews have held dear. And who doesn’t question the motivation of the Prime Minister himself: does prolonging the war prolong his freedom from being tried for corruption? I don’t know and I’m sad that I even can question his motives.

As a Zionist, I am perplexed at Israel’s terrible marketing across the years! You never hear Israel brag about her accomplishments over the course of almost eight decades; what she has given the world in so many fields that have made a difference especially on the medical front; what she could offer her enemies if there was real peace. Her silence does her no good, and Zionists like me should inform others that she is not merely a paranoid entity waiting for the other shoe to fall. As opposed to her enemies whose focus is on death and destruction and who do little for their own people, Israel has always looked to help her own and to help others advance on so many non-military fronts.

There is no easy answer to the current situation. We see Jews on both the right and the left criticize Israel to the nth degree, while often knowing nothing about her. Whether she lives or dies is of no concern to far too many of our own People. It’s tough to be Zionist today, but I remain one. A proud one? The jury is still out on that.

**EVERYTHING JEWISH
IN DELAWARE, IN
ONE PLACE...**

**JEWISHLIVING
DELAWARE.ORG**



**THIS MONTH'S
BONUS ARTICLES
INCLUDE:**

**MORE FROM
OUR LOCAL
AGENCIES &
SYNAGOGUES**

**IN DELAWARE
COMMUNITY
SPOTLIGHT**

JewishLivingDelaware.org 



hope

A Small Act of Repair

BY CONGRESSWOMAN SARAH MCBRIDE

When I first ran for the Delaware State Senate, and later when I sought to represent our state in the U.S. House of Representatives, my goal was simple. My mission—though it may take on new forms with each role I've held—has always remained: to make government work for our neighbors, not against them.

This work is not easy, given that change rarely is—but we are called to persevere in the face of such challenges. This work reminds me of the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, which is not about quick fixes or perfect outcomes. Rather, it is about summoning the hope and discipline required to repair what is broken, to build what is just, and to nurture what is fragile.

For me, public service is a form of *tikkun olam*—an obligation to repair what is broken and build what is just.

Across our state and country, we are living through a crisis of hope. Parents, students, small business owners, seniors—neighbors in every zip code—feel worn down by chaos, the news cycle, uncertainty and despair, sharp and unforgiving rhetoric. The weight of it all can grind away at our collective spirit and exhaust our resolve.

And yet, I continue to meet people who inspire me to believe in what is possible. Our state's neighbors give me hope.

In workplaces, union halls, houses of worship, community centers, and neighborhoods across Delaware, people are showing up for one another. They lend a hand even when it costs them something, they look out for those who might otherwise be overlooked, and they take on leadership without asking for credit.

They remind me that perseverance is not always a sweeping gesture. Sometimes it's the quiet act of a nurse staying late to comfort a patient, a line worker covering a shift so a colleague can care for their family, or a neighbor shoveling the sidewalk for someone who can't. These acts, humble as they may seem, stack together and form the building blocks of repair—the small but powerful steps that keep our communities strong.

When I walk the halls of Congress, my staff will tell you that I'm known to greet nearly every person I walk past, even if they are someone on the other side of the aisle. Even if they've said some pretty unfortunate things about me on social media the day before. This habit of looking someone in the eye, whether friend or stranger, ally or opponent, is an outward expression of the kind of world I want to help build: one rooted in kindness, respect, and hope. A world that recognizes that we are connected through our common humanity.

Because the truth is, *tikkun olam* is not just about policies or programs, it is about people. It is about how we treat one another when it is hard, not just when it is easy. It is about holding fast to the Jewish imperative of *tzedek, tzedek tirdof*—justice, justice shall you pursue. Not justice only when it is comfortable or convenient. Not justice only when the votes are easy. Justice even when it requires us to stretch across divides, to trust one another's intentions, and to listen with humility to each other's pain.

Hope is not naive—it is foundational.

Twenty years ago, in the face of marriage bans and pundits declaring our movement a political liability, the LGBTQ community had a choice. We could have turned inward, writing off our neighbors who disagreed. But instead, we summoned the courage to reach outward. We welcome imperfect allies. We created room for people to grow and gave them space to learn. And because of those choices, public opinion shifted, and laws were changed.

When we root our work in hope rather than grievance, in love rather than bitterness, change is not only possible—it is sustainable.

This transcends any single issue or community. We face the same choice now. Will we meet division with more division, or will we seek out the better angels in one another? Will we write off those who disagree, or will we trust in democracy's

promise that people can change, opinions can evolve, and that justice can bend the arc of history?

Even in struggle, goodness can be found, and new beginnings can emerge. Perseverance allows us to see progress where others see only hardship.

In Delaware, I have seen goodness in our veterans who, after service abroad, come home and continue to pour into their communities. I have seen it in farmers in Sussex County who weather economic storms yet still show up at sunrise to put food on the table. I've seen it in students at the University of Delaware and Delaware State who are tackling climate change, artificial intelligence, and public health with a seriousness beyond their years.

And so, for me, public service is inseparable from *tikkun olam*. Each constituent helped, each bill introduced, each vote cast is another small act of repair. And while we will not finish the task, neither will we shy away.

I know this moment can feel heavy. The divisions are real; the disagreements are hard. But I remain optimistic, because I have seen with my own eyes that most people are decent and kind. When we meet one another in proximity—at the grocery store, in line at the DMV, in the breakroom, or in the halls of the Capitol—we find compassion for each other that social media never shows.

That is why I believe Delaware, and our nation, can continue to move forward. Because ours is a history of never giving up on our neighbors, of choosing grace over grievance, and of harnessing hope instead of despair.

Because we know this to be true: the answer to hate is not more hate. Love invites people in. Joy grows our ranks. And hope—infected, inviting, resilient hope—is the only way forward.

This is the Delaware spirit I will continue to carry with me in every room I enter: the conviction that when we persevere together, we can, in some small ways, repair the world. ■



About the Author:

CONGRESSWOMAN

SARAH MCBRIDE

proudly represents the greatest state in the nation, and our country's First State, Delaware, as its sole member of Congress. She currently serves as chair of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee and is a member of the Senate's Judiciary Committee, Education Committee, Banking, Business, Insurance, and Technology Committee, and Executive Committee.

PATH TO FREEDOM

BY ELLY ALEXANDER

Photos Provided by Elly Alexander and the Mohammadi Family



Maryam hugging Akbar at the Toronto airport

In August 27, 2025, Akbar walked off a plane at Toronto Pearson International Airport and into the arms of his sister, Maryam. It was a reunion after four tense and uncertain years of hard work, set-backs, and patience. They say, "It takes a village . . ." However, this took more than a village. It took a world. Now that Akbar and his wife, Farzana, are safe, I am reminded of the many friends and experts who helped.

The story began in 2017, when the Mohammadi family arrived in Wilmington, Delaware. Maryam's husband, Sadiq, had been a translator for the US military, and he was no longer safe in Afghanistan. They arrived in the US with their two young daughters, ages two and eight. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) program at Jewish Family Service (JFS) and members of Congregation Beth Shalom and Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomed them and made sure they had everything they needed.

The family quickly captured my heart. The girls went to JCC camp, and I met eight-year-old Mahnaz when she

was working with an English tutor in the Albert Einstein Academy library, where I was employed. I first met Sadiq and Maryam at a Shabbat dinner at Karolin and Mark Lipman's house. When I heard they were looking for a school for Mahnaz, I suggested Einstein since she was already familiar with the campus. She started that fall, and her teacher was a young woman from Toronto. Little did I know then that this would prove to be a crucial connection. Mahnaz learned both English and Hebrew that year, excelling at both. The family became part of the Einstein community, and a few years later we celebrated the birth of a baby brother.

Actually, this story really begins for me a generation or two earlier. In 1942, a family in Amsterdam hid a five-year-old Jewish girl from the Nazis and saved her life. That girl was my mother. I grew up hearing stories of family members escaping, often saved by people taking great risks. I was compelled to do whatever I could to help the Mohammadi family.

On August 15, 2021, the United States pulled out of Afghanistan and the Taliban took control. I happened to be visiting the Mohammadi family that weekend. I sat with Maryam and Sadiq as they shared their deep concern about 10 family members left behind in Afghanistan. They worried for their parents and for their niece who would no longer be able to go to school. They were especially worried about Maryam's brother, Akbar, who was

in grave danger due to his job as a police officer. They felt helpless and didn't think there was anything they could do. I had to at least try. After all, my mother was saved by strangers. What is a life worth?

The first person I called was Rosi Crosby, who was working at JFS. She agreed that we had to try. The best choice was to apply for humanitarian parole, a temporary entry authorization given for urgent humanitarian reasons. There was an August 30 deadline, and the application was long and involved. Each of the 10 applications needed extensive documentation, written explanations, and a fee paid to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). My husband, Rick, agreed that we should try. My crash course in international immigration began.

Sadiq provided the written statements and documentation via email for each family member. The applications had to be compiled in a precise way, each with a cover page. In order to follow all the instructions and complete them in a week, it took a team! We were on vacation in Massachusetts, so we had friends there bring us supplies. Papers were spread across a large table as we frantically sorted and collated. We managed to get everything to FedEx on time.

But it was too dangerous for Akbar to wait. In September 2021, he walked over the mountains and into Pakistan. At this point, Sadiq and I were in frequent touch. He and Maryam worried constantly, waiting for word from Akbar. He was hiding in a small village but was not safe. The story evolved into a movie-worthy, nail-biting undercover escape. Akbar's wife was able to get to Iran with her family.

While the Mohammadi's and I waited for the USCIS decisions, Rosi called Senator Coons' office, and Pastor Greg Jones wrote to Senator Carper. Each office had teams working tirelessly on immigration issues. Senator Carper and his staff spent hours and weeks and months getting in touch with the State Department and Homeland Security and the embassies. Rabbi Beals reached out to

his contacts in the White House. But, to everyone's dismay, in January 2022, all of the applications were denied. I learned that thousands of applications for humanitarian parole were denied (while USCIS made millions from the fees). This seemed insane to me. Maryam was beside herself.

In Islamabad, Akbar was still in danger and could not wait any longer for "normal" visa-issuing procedures. So, I dug into the fine print: If we provided significant documentation from credible third-party sources specifically naming Akbar and the serious harm he faces, his case could be reevaluated. *The documents must include evidence of imminent risk.* Amazingly, Sadiq and Akbar gathered (and translated) letters, phone messages, and official documents, and together we resubmitted Akbar's application for humanitarian parole (temporary entry authorization) just a few weeks later.

Months passed without an answer. Sadiq wrote to inquire:

Dear USCIS Humanitarian Parole Officer: It has been nine months since I applied for Humanitarian Parole on behalf of my brother-in-law, a former Afghan police officer. While the world's attention has turned to the people of Ukraine, the terror has only increased for people being hunted by the Taliban...

The Taliban is actively looking for my brother-in-law inside and outside of Afghanistan. He is very scared and worried. And any moment it is possible for him to be found, tortured, or killed (even inside Pakistan). He is strongly warned by the people of his village not to ever come back. Taliban sends many arrest warrants and threatening messages to everyone in the village or city for any information about his whereabouts.

The only chance for my brother-in-law's survival is to be allowed to be with our family in the United States. He has US citizen sponsors and a family here in the states. He wants to work and he will not become a burden of the state. He deserves to live a terror-free life.

Please adjudicate his case as soon as possible and allow my brother-in-law get to safety

before it is too late. Contact me if you need any more information.

Sincerely,

Sadiq Mohammadi (Applicant)

Apparently, a response was lost in the mail, and the new evidence was never considered. Sadiq was told by USCIS:

For new evidence to be considered, you would have had to file Form 290-B within 30 days of the denial letter (and pay fee). Form 290-B is separate from Form I-131. Since 30 days have passed from the denial letter dated January 7, 2022, then in order for new evidence to be considered, you must file a new form I-131...

My crash course in immigration was turning into an advanced degree in law and bureaucracy. Since most parole applications were being universally denied, Sadiq and I consulted an immigration attorney and decided to try something different. In the summer of 2022, with the help of Sarah Baker Andrus and her connections at the University of Delaware, Akbar applied for a student visa. He got an interview at the US Embassy in Islamabad, but his application was denied because they didn't believe he would return to his home country after he got his degree. Meanwhile, Sadiq and Maryam became US citizens and could apply to bring family members here, but it could take 13 years for a sibling application!

Desperately, Sadiq, Maryam, and I considered many possible routes, including through Mexico. Our best option was to apply for immigration to Canada with a private sponsorship. Basha Silverman connected us to Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS), the HIAS affiliate in Toronto. We started that process in February 2023. Who did we know in Canada who would sponsor them? Remember Mahnaz's third grade teacher?

Not only was her teacher from Toronto; her father is a rabbi there. His congregation had sponsored refugees in the past, and they agreed to sponsor Akbar and his wife. So, we began another long application process. Meanwhile, we needed a wider circle of support.

Continued on next page

In June 2023, Karolin, Rosi, and I sent a letter to the “village” of people who helped the Mohammadi family in Delaware:

As most of you know, Maryam and Sadiq have been doing everything they can to help their family members who are stuck in Afghanistan. Maryam's brother Akbar was in the most danger and had to flee to Pakistan. The good news is that Akbar's wife, Farzana, has been able to join him in Islamabad! We have tried many different avenues to try to get Akbar to the US, but have been unsuccessful so far. The best option right now is a Canadian sponsorship program through JIAS (the Canadian version of HIAS). Friends in Canada have generously agreed to sponsor Akbar and Farzana, but the approval process takes two years.

In the meantime, Akbar and Farzana cannot work because their Pakistan visas won't allow it. Their monthly expenses are \$400. Maryam and Sadiq are also applying to bring their parents to the US, another expensive process. Supporting Akbar on top of that is becoming unsustainable. The three of us put our heads together and thought that maybe the “village” would come together again to help “sponsor” Akbar for two years until the Canadian opportunity becomes a reality. We hope and pray it will!

About 20 community members pitched in and helped lift a huge weight off of Maryam and Sadiq's shoulders. Akbar knew a community was rooting for him, giving him hope for the future.

It took until September 2023 for JIAS to get the Canadian sponsorship application ready to submit. And until February of 2024, to hear that the process was successfully underway.

Once again, we waited.

Finally, on Passover 2024, Akbar and Farzana had an interview at the Canadian Embassy in Islamabad. Although a translator was provided, Akbar was concerned about miscommunications.

In August 2024 (three years after Afghanistan was taken over), Akbar received a letter from Canadian Immigration that they had concerns about his character related to his work experience. He had 30 days to address



Elly and her mom Fran Kan celebrating Akbar's arrival with the Canadian flag those concerns in order for his case to be reconsidered. JIAS recommended we hire a Canadian attorney. We'd come this far, so Sadiq and I met with an attorney. She was cautiously optimistic and took the case.

Maryam had always spoken highly of Akbar, but now I saw for myself. During virtual meetings with the lawyer, I learned about the many times Akbar had gone out of his way to help people; in fact, he had risked his reputation in order to expose corruption and abuse. Hearing Akbar tell those stories (Sadiq translated) was a rare privilege. The lawyer took affidavits from people who could vouch for his

kindness and acts of courage. One of those colleagues was already living in Canada, and the other was living in Germany. The response with evidence was 45 pages long!

The waiting continued.

Six months later, on Passover 2025, Akbar was called for a second interview at the Canadian Embassy. This time he prepared for the interview with the lawyers, and it went well. Then, more waiting.

As we began to lose hope, and life was becoming more dangerous for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Akbar and Farzana were finally approved for permanent residence in Canada! Could it really be true? It would take another month before they got their travel documents. Maryam and I could not breathe until they stepped off the airplane in Toronto. When they did, there was a collective sigh of relief!

My mother (now 88) reminded me that the Canadian military liberated Amsterdam. She flies the Canadian flag on liberation day. On August 27, she raised that flag again. Last week, she mailed a blanket she had knit to Akbar and Farzana. She enclosed a note wishing them a warm welcome to Canada. ■



Mohammadi family reunion at the Toronto airport

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.



Love Made Permanent

BY MARLA LEVY, ENDOWMENT MANAGER JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE

Photo Credit: AdobeStock

When we pause long enough to reflect on our lives, we realize that what matters most isn't the possessions we've accumulated or the accolades we've received, it's the impact we've had on others. A legacy is more than a gift of money, a name etched on a wall, or even a story passed down. It is the continuation of our values, our love, and our dreams for the future. Leaving a legacy is one of the most profound ways to ensure that the life you've lived continues to make a difference long after you're gone.

The Desire to Be Remembered

All human beings long to be remembered. We want our lives to mean something beyond the years we are given. We want our children, our community, and the generations to come to know that we stood for something, that we cared deeply, that we left the world better than we found it. A legacy is the bridge between the life we live today and the impact that carries forward tomorrow.

Imagine the joy of knowing that the values you held dear—kindness, compassion, generosity, commitment to family and community—will continue to ripple outward, touching lives long after your own story concludes.

More Than Material Wealth

When people hear the word “legacy,” they often think only of finances. But legacy is so much more. It is the wisdom you share with your grandchildren. It is the example you set by showing up, giving back, and living with integrity. It is the community you strengthen through your generosity.

Financial gifts are certainly one powerful part of legacy giving, but they are not the whole story. Your legacy might include mentoring a young person, supporting an institution that shaped your life, or simply ensuring that the causes you believe in continue to flourish. It is a chance to weave your story into the fabric of something enduring.

Legacy as a Gift to Your Loved Ones

A legacy is not only a gift to the world, but also a gift to your family. It tells them: This is who I was, and this is what I believed mattered most. It gives them a guide, a moral compass, and a sense of connection to something greater than themselves.

Your children and grandchildren inherit more than your name or your heirlooms; they inherit your example. When they see the causes you supported, the communities you cared for, and the love you invested in the world, they inherit a roadmap of how to live with purpose. That gift is priceless.

Turning Values into Action

We all have values that shape the way we live. Perhaps it is faith. Perhaps it is family. Perhaps it is a deep belief in justice, kindness, or education. But values alone are not enough—what makes them powerful is when we turn them into action.

Legacy giving transforms values into something tangible. It allows you to say, “This is what mattered to me, and I want to

make sure it continues to matter.” By planning for a legacy, you are putting your values into motion and ensuring they continue to guide and inspire long after you are gone.

A Legacy of Hope

At its heart, a legacy is an act of hope. It is a belief in the future and in the people who will come after you. It is saying, “I may not be here to see it, but I believe in tomorrow.” That kind of faith is what keeps communities strong, what keeps traditions alive, and what ensures progress continues.

When you leave a legacy, you become part of a story much larger than your own. You join with countless others who—through acts of generosity—ensured that schools were built, synagogues thrived, food was shared with the hungry, and opportunities were given to those who needed them most.

The Time Is Now

The truth is nobody knows how many days we are given. Legacy giving is not something to be left for “someday.” It is a decision we can make now, while we are alive to see the joy it brings. There is a profound peace in knowing that you have secured your place in the future—that your life will echo in the laughter of children, the prayers of a congregation, the strength of a community.

Making a legacy commitment is not just about the end of life, it is about living fully now, with clarity and purpose, knowing you are shaping tomorrow.

Your Story, Continued

Your life has been filled with moments of love, struggle, joy, and growth. You have built relationships, overcome challenges, celebrated milestones, and created memories. These things are precious, but they are also fleeting. A legacy takes the essence of your story and allows it to live on.

When future generations look back, they will not only remember your name—they will remember your impact. They will see your generosity in the opportunities they enjoy, your compassion in the communities they belong to, your vision in the institutions that stand strong.

Leaving a legacy is not about wealth, it is about meaning. It is about ensuring that your life continues to touch others, that the values you hold close are carried forward, and that love does not end with you. It is a final, beautiful act of generosity that extends your story into the future.

When you leave a legacy, you give a gift far greater than yourself. You give hope. You give love. You give the future.

**This is not just charity,
it's continuity. It's love made permanent. ■**

To continue the conversation about creating a lasting legacy, email Marla@ShalomDel.org

How Hadassah Supports Israel through Advocacy and Funding

BY **MICHELE SANDS**, WILMINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH



At Hadassah, Israel is in our DNA. Programs here in the US advance a deeper understanding and connection to Israel—for adults and young Jews. Our advocacy supports Israel's security and a strong US-Israel relationship. In Israel, our hospitals and youth programs create a better future, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or race.

In Delaware, the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah supports Hadassah's core mission of strengthening Zionism—the Jewish people's connection and commitment to our historic homeland of Israel—by encouraging women to become annual or Life members and men to become Associates, by building fundraising into all our activities, and by inspiring our members and the broader community to advocate and donate to Hadassah.

Our commitment to Zionism is woven into the fabric of who we are, which is why our official name is **Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America**. The organization was founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, a teacher,

three years after she traveled to pre-state Israel and took action after seeing Jews living in camps without proper plumbing or sanitation. Horrified by the impact starvation and disease had on her people, she devoted the rest of her long life to improving the health and well-being of her people and what was to become the Jewish Homeland.

The results of Henrietta Szold's "practical Zionism" can be seen today in Hadassah's two world-class hospital campuses in Jerusalem and the youth villages she founded to save the children who left their homelands as the Nazis invaded Eastern Europe. Hadassah doctors are always at the ready, as seen during a terror attack in Jerusalem this past September when some 30 terror victims were treated at Hadassah hospitals. *Newsweek* recently included Hadassah Medical Organization on its 2026 list of the "World's Best Specialized Hospitals" and "World's Best Smart Hospitals," and named it a global leader in cardiology and oncology.

Amid escalating anti-Israel sentiment, particularly since October 7, 2023,

Hadassah has worked to amplify women's voices as thought leaders, educators, and advocates in support of Zionism and Israel. To this end, Hadassah provides talking points, which can be found on its website, www.Hadassah.org, to help its members and others to have clear facts about Israel at war which help address some of the most common misinformation. Antisemitism can be masked as anti-Zionism. Anti-Zionism normalizes antisemitism and paves the path for further violence and hatred. Anti-Zionism embeds historic antisemitic tropes and themes within its rhetoric and criticism of Israel; often using "Zionist" to replace "Jewish person" to avoid censorship and repercussions for bigotry. You can learn more in the **Countering Anti-Zionist Misinformation fact sheet** on the Hadassah website.

To learn how Jewish women have been affected by anti-Zionism and antisemitism post-October, Hadassah launched **Everyday Antisemitism: Women's Stories Survey**. Two-thirds of Jewish women surveyed reported that antisemitism is affecting their lives,



Photo Credit: hadassah.org/endthesilence

relationships, and work. Their moving stories and the statistics Hadassah collected are published in a must-read report, **From Fear to Resilience: Women Facing Antisemitism**. Hadassah has also developed resources for fighting antisemitism that include five ways to take action: report it, speak out, advocate for change, engage your community, and support Hadassah with your donations.

Hadassah's **End the Silence** campaign was developed to demand that the United Nations and others hold Hamas accountable for the horrific conflict-related sexual violence that occurred on October 7, 2023, including against many of the hostages. More than 150,000 Hadassah advocates from around the world have spoken out and, in August 2025, the UN took a first step toward this goal by listing Hamas as a party responsible for sexual violence in conflict. Hadassah is encouraging continued advocacy by asking you to write to the UN to thank them for this first step and continue demanding action to hold Hamas accountable for crimes against humanity to deter future conflict-related sexual violence.

The updated **End The Silence Fact Sheet** (on Hadassah's website) includes evidence from credible sources highlighting the systematic and brutal weaponization of sexual violence and rape by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and beyond. This fact sheet is meant to be a resource to fight misinformation and antisemitic biases.

With 300,00 members across the nation today—1,200 of whom belong to the Wilmington Chapter—we remain committed to building a better world through medicine and health care, advocating for change including for women's equality, and supporting Israel while promoting a strong US-Israel relationship. You can add your voice and support of Hadassah's mission by joining the Wilmington Chapter and/or contributing to the organization. ■

Contact Judi Rosenberg at judimax1@aol.com for information about Hadassah membership. Contact Arlene Eckell at hseane1967@gmail.com to explore the many ways you can contribute to and support Hadassah. For example, cash, IRA accounts and insurance policies are some of the funding sources you can use to become a Keeper of the Gate, establish a Yahrzeit for a loved one, or make a bequest to Hadassah.

HADASSAH

Please note: Much of the material in this article was excerpted from the Hadassah website, www.Hadassah.org. Please visit this website to learn more about what Hadassah is doing and how you can become an advocate and supporter.





Meeting at the Table

BY **EMMA DRIBAN**, EDITOR

November is a month steeped in tradition, and few traditions feel as central as the ones that gather us around the table. As the air turns crisp and the days grow shorter, we find ourselves reaching for recipes that are more than just instructions on a page, they are bridges connecting us to one another.

With the season shifting and holidays approaching, kitchens across the neighborhoods and congregations come alive—not just with the aroma of cinnamon or roasted vegetables, but with the hum of shared stories. Recipes, when passed around a community, become more than just directions for a dish. They transform into a kind of collective memory.

In November, food takes on a particular role in weaving communities closer. Potlucks, holiday drives, and seasonal gatherings showcase how recipes are exchanged, adapted, and celebrated. Each dish reflects not only an individual family's tradition, but also the way traditions blend when shared—old recipes evolving with new ingredients, cultures meeting at the table, neighbors finding common ground in flavor. In this way, community recipes don't just feed; they sustain bonds, offering comfort, belonging, and joy during a month centered on gratitude.

Enjoy these seasonal recipes, originally shared in *The Delaware / Arad Partnership Cookbook: Recipes & Stories from Our Table to Yours*, and, remember, whatever you bring to the table is more than just food.

Shlomo Surkis' Carrot and Seed Salad

Ingredients:

- 4 carrots, coarsely grated
- ¾ cup sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, walnuts mixture
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup olive oil

Directions:

1. Coarsely grate the carrots and put in a bowl. Season with the salt and olive oil.
2. Lightly toast the seed mixture in a dry pan until golden brown.
3. Incorporate the seeds into the carrots and serve!

Lisa Dadone Weiner's Artichoke Squares

Ingredients:

- 12 oz artichoke hearts, preferably marinated
- 1 onion, minced
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 6 eggs, beaten
- ¼ cup dry bread crumbs
- ½ Tbsp za'atar
- ¼ lb. sharp cheese, grated
- ½ cup roasted peppers, chopped (Lisa has used spicy and sweet)
- ½ cup mushrooms, sliced
- ½ cup parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees and lightly grease a square casserole dish.
2. Chop up artichokes.
3. Sautee the onion and garlic in olive oil until soft and fragrant. Add mushrooms and continue to sautee.
4. In a large bowl, beat the eggs. Add bread crumbs, salt, pepper, and za'atar.
5. Stir in grated cheese, artichokes, peppers, and sauteed onions and mushrooms.
6. Add the parsley and stir well.
7. Pour into the casserole dish and sprinkle more za'atar on top.
8. Bake until set.
9. Let cool and then cut into squares.

Tzil Cohen's Tunisian Couscous**Ingredients:****COUSCOUS:**

- 2.2 lbs. semolina
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil
- 3 cups water
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp salt
- Couscous pot or 2-tier steamer pot
- Sifter

SOUP:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, crushed
- 3 zucchinis, sliced
- 3 carrots, cut into cubes
- 1 cabbage, cut into big pieces
- 1 cauliflower, separated into florets
- 3 potatoes, but into cubes
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 squash or small pumpkin, cut into cubes
- 1 stalk of celery, head and leaves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp turmeric

- $\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp sweet paprika

- 9 cups of chicken broth

- 1 lb. meat/chicken

- $\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp hot paprika (optional)

Directions:**COUSCOUS:**

1. Fill the bottom part of the couscous or 2-tier pot with water, bring to a boil and lower the heat.
2. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix the semolina and salt.
3. Add the oil and rub the semolina together with your hands. Add 1 cup of water and rub together again.
4. Put the semolina into the sifter and rub it out into a big bowl, until all the lumps become crumbs. Do this twice.
5. Put the semolina in the upper couscous pot and cook for 45 minutes.
6. Pour the semolina back into the bowl, add another cup of water, mix, and wait until it cools.
7. After it cools, sift the couscous in the sifter twice. Return to the pot and let it cook over a low glam for another 45 minutes.
8. Pour the semolina back into the bowl, add another cup of water, mix, and wait until it cools.
9. After it cools, sift the couscous again and it's ready to go!

SOUP

1. In a large pot, brown an onion in oil. Add the meat/chicken and stir for 2 minutes. Then add the crushed tomato, mix well and cook for another 7 minutes.
2. Add all of the other vegetables and stir for 3 minutes. Add water to cover the vegetables. Season with spices, mix and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and add the tomato paste. Add in the broth If you prefer a thicker soup, add 2 tbsp of oats.
3. When the vegetables are soft, the soup is ready.
4. Pile couscous in a deep plate, place the vegetables on top, and top with the broth.

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



STAPE & ASSOCIATES



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



ARTISANS' BANK

www.ArtisansBank.com | 302.658.6881

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

LET'S GET BANKING.
TOGETHER!

LET'S TALK!

 MEMBER FDIC NMLS # 774924

Proudly serving
the community
since 1990

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



SUBARU

1713 Wilmington West Chester Pike
Glen Mills, PA 19342

484-206-8039
ConcordvilleSubaru.com

CONCORDVILLE
SUBARU

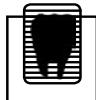
INTERNAL MEDICINE AND PRIMARY CARE

MARC GROBMAN, D.O., FACP

3411 Silverside Road,
Suite 102, Welden 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.JANSENNSMARKET.COM

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?



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
GLOBAL PROPERTIES



With the area's largest selection of kosher foods, ShopRite of Brandywine Commons has everything you need for your Thanksgiving celebration!

Visit, call, or order online today.



1300 Rocky Run Parkway, Wilmington
(302) 477-3270, ext. 5
shoprite.com/catering

Why I Went to Israel

BY MELANIE ROSS LEVIN,
DELAWARE STATE REPRESENTATIVE 10TH DISTRICT

Listening, Learning, and Bearing Witness

When people ask me why I went on the 50 States, One Israel trip, my answer is simple: because it's my job.

As a state legislator, my responsibility is to learn, to listen, and to soak in as much as I can. Representing the most Jewish district in Delaware, I know that what happens in Israel is not an abstract issue—it is top of mind for many of my constituents. That makes it my responsibility to show up, ask hard questions, and bring back what I learned.

This bipartisan trip—50 States, One Israel—brought together legislators from across the country to learn firsthand about the security challenges Israel faces, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the diverse voices within Israeli society.

Bearing Witness

During the trip, I met with Israeli leaders and civil society representatives and asked direct questions about humanitarian aid, food insecurity, and access to medical care. We did not go to be spoon-fed talking points. We went to press, to probe, and to learn.

And to Israel's credit, they encouraged us to ask questions. No topics were off-limits, and no question was too difficult. That openness is what democracy looks like—and it's what distinguishes Israel in a region where free inquiry is often suppressed.

I also visited the Nova music festival site and the kibbutz of Nahal Oz, standing in the very places where the October 7th terror attacks unfolded. Seeing the devastation firsthand underscored the immense pain and grief caused by Hamas's atrocities—and the urgency of freeing the hostages and working toward peace.

While we were there, we also got a glimpse of what ordinary Israelis live through every day. Twice, our delegation had to run for shelter because of incoming missile attacks. One of those times, the airport itself was targeted as we were standing in line at check-in. We had to abandon our bags and move quickly into a shelter. I was later told that, because it was the Thursday before Rosh Hashanah, the enemy knew the airport would be especially crowded. That moment made clear just how malicious these attacks are—and how they target the rhythms of daily life itself.

Facing Backlash

Since returning home, I've been flooded with hate: emails, texts, voicemails, and even a disruptive visit to one of my constituent coffee meetings. These coffees usually focus on neighborhood issues like traffic safety or drainage problems—the bread-and-butter of local governance. The fact that some chose to hijack these spaces with hostility and antisemitic tropes reveals a deeper problem.

At one point, critics even claimed that participants on the trip had been "brainwashed." As someone who knows the long history of antisemitic conspiracy theories, including the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion, I knew exactly what that language meant. It wasn't just disagreement about policy—it was a coded attack on Jews and Jewish self-determination.

The weeks following my return were difficult. But in times like these, I try to channel my grandfather, Benjamin Ross. He faced antisemitism in his day, even having to change our family name from Rozenkrantz to Ross. His response was simple and strong: "the hell with it." He didn't let hate define him—and neither will I. My stubbornness is the same. My strength, too.

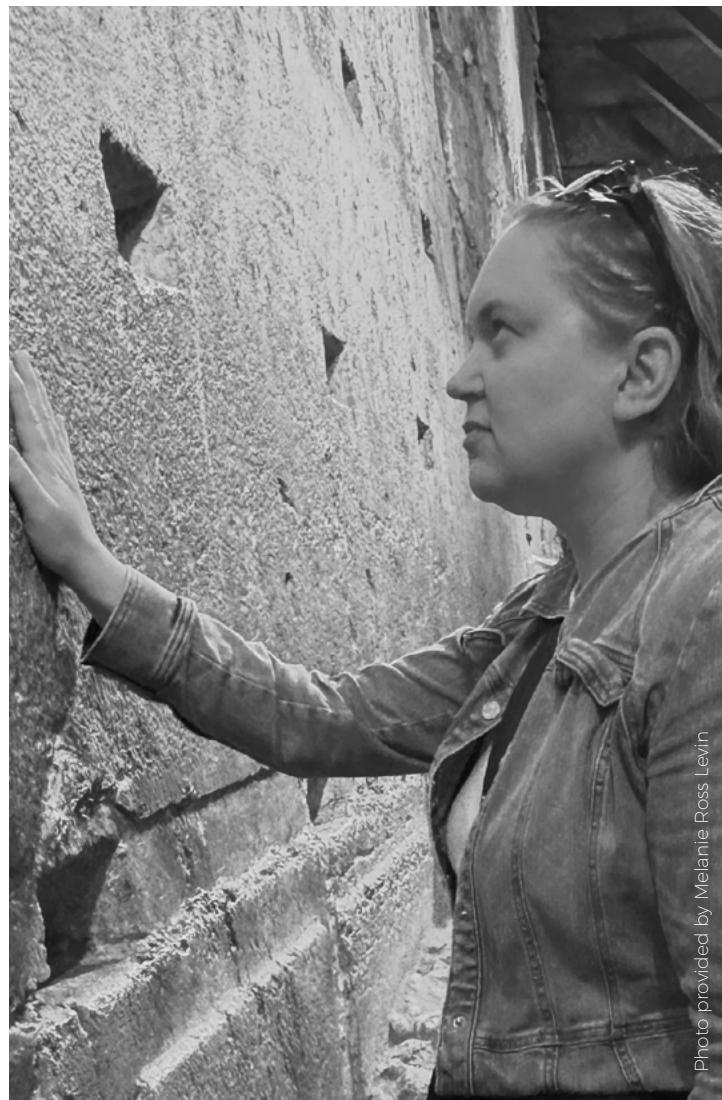


Photo provided by Melanie Ross Levin

More Than a War

But here's what I want our Delaware Jewish community—and our broader community—to hear clearly:

Israel is more than a war. This war or any past war. Israel is life. It is a vibrant democracy, a place of innovation and culture, and the eternal homeland of the Jewish people.

No one claims perfection. But reducing Israel solely to conflict erases its people, its history, and its hope for peace.

And let's be clear: you can love Israel and not love what Prime Minister Netanyahu is doing—just like you can love America and disagree with President Trump. Loving a country doesn't mean endorsing every policy of its leaders. It means believing in its people, its values, and its future.

I am a proud Jew. That is, and always will be, part of my life and identity. I can hold space and love for both Israelis and Palestinians. I believe in peace, and I want this war to be the last war.

Moving Forward

For me, leadership means engaging even when it's difficult, asking tough questions, and refusing to be silent in the face of hate. That's the work I do in Dover, whether it's passing legislation to improve the lives of Delawareans or helping a constituent navigate a state agency. It's also the work I do as part of our Jewish community—showing up, listening, and standing firm against antisemitism while never losing sight of our hope for peace.

While I wish I knew how to end this war, I do know one thing: it won't end with people posting memes or hiding behind their computers from real conversations. Wars don't end with hashtags—they end when people talk to people, face-to-face, with honesty and courage.

Some made assumptions about the purpose of this trip without ever talking to anyone who actually went. And that tells you all you need to know.

Assumptions are easy. Dialogue is hard. But dialogue is what leadership requires—and it's the path I will continue to walk.

About the Author:

MELANIE ROSS LEVIN is deeply involved in Delaware's Jewish community, proudly serving as Development Manager for the Jewish Federation of Delaware, a board member of UD Hillel, and an active member of Congregation Beth Emeth. She lives in North Wilmington with her husband, two daughters, and a MISBEHAVING rescue dog, and is honored to represent the 10th District in the Delaware House of Representatives.



THE SCREENING ROOM
AT 1313
1313 N. MARKET STREET
HERCULES BUILDING, WILMINGTON
WWW.THESCREENINGROOM.ORG

**FIRST RUN INDEPENDENT FILMS
IN TWO THEATERS!**

Three hours of free parking in garage below the building after 5:30 PM weekdays and Saturday and Sunday

The Chancery Food Court is open for lunch & dinner on the 1st floor

For more information and advance tickets:
www.TheScreeningRoom.org



JOIN THE ZOO! Today!

See the many benefits coming your way by becoming a member of the Brandywine Zoo. Enjoy visiting the animals and learning about habitats and conservation while having fun!

*NOW, Household and above memberships include 2 passes for DE Childrens Museum and DE Museum of Nature & Science.

The Brandywine Zoo is managed by DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society.

OpenEveryDay: 10AM–4PM
BrandywinePark, Wilmington, DE
302-571-7788

brandywinezoo.org/membership

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

Go a little wild!



**Maya Dzwilewski**

Saturday, October 25

Maya Dzwilewski is an eighth grade honor roll student at Springer Middle School, where she's known for her dedication and participation in the Brandywine School District's "LifeSavers" program, chorale, sports, and theater. Maya lives with her parents, James and Anika; her brother, Kole; and her sister, Hana. She is also the beloved granddaughter of Elias and Vivian Mamberg and Kathy and Allan Dzwilewski.

For her mitzvah project, Maya partnered with the Food Bank of Delaware. She organized a community-wide food drive by distributing and collecting donation bags from doorsteps in her neighborhood. Through her efforts, she coordinated signage, pickup, and delivery of non-perishable goods directly to the Food Bank's pantry—a meaningful way to support those in need.

Maya is a passionate, year-round athlete. She plays field hockey, softball, swims competitively with DSA in the winter, and competes on the JCC swim team in the summer. She also has a love for the performing arts and has done several productions in Wilmington Drama Kids and will be taking part in the Springer Middle School 2025 fall play.

Looking ahead, Maya hopes to pursue a career in business. Her energy, leadership, and compassion shine in everything she does—and her family is incredibly proud of her on this special day.

Adam Jeremy Solomon

Saturday, November 1

Adam Solomon will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 1 at Congregation Beth Shalom. He is the son of Sandi and Ethan Solomon and the younger brother of Jacob Solomon. His grandparents are Malvy Solomon, and the late Haim Solomon, Willard Bernstein, Sheila Bernstein, and Brenda Bernstein.

Adam is an eighth grade student at Springer Middle School and is most passionate about music and gaming with his friends. His interest in music began at a young age and he now plays trumpet in the school band. With just a couple of lessons, Adam has also turned into a pretty good drummer. Adam also enjoys cross country, tennis, and jigsaw puzzles, but his favorite thing to do is spend time with his big brother.

Adam volunteers as an Ozer at Congregation Beth Shalom Hebrew School. His mitzvah project is packing snack bags at the Ronald McDonald House to help families in residence.





Elissa Renee Meltzer Cohen & Jared Philip Meltzer Cohen

Saturday, November 15

Elissa Renee Meltzer Cohen and Jared Philip Meltzer Cohen will become a B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday November 15, 2025, at Congregation Beth Shalom as they are called to the Torah to chant *Parsha Chayei Sarah*. Elissa and Jared attended the ECC at the JCC through pre-kindergarten, Albert Einstein Academy for elementary school and are currently in seventh grade at the Tower Hill School.

Both Elissa and Jared enjoy attending sleepaway camp at Island Lake Camp each summer, spending time with their grandmas, aunts, uncles, and cousins and traveling the world with their mom and dad. Elissa is a dare devil at heart who loves thrill rides and zip lining. She is passionate about gymnastics, fashion, and cooking and her favorite subject in school is mathematics. Jared is an avid reader who plays three musical instruments (piano, guitar, and clarinet). He enjoys horseback riding, fishing, and magic and loves to go out for a good steak dinner.

Elissa and Jared are the children of Howard A. Cohen and Evelyn J. Meltzer.

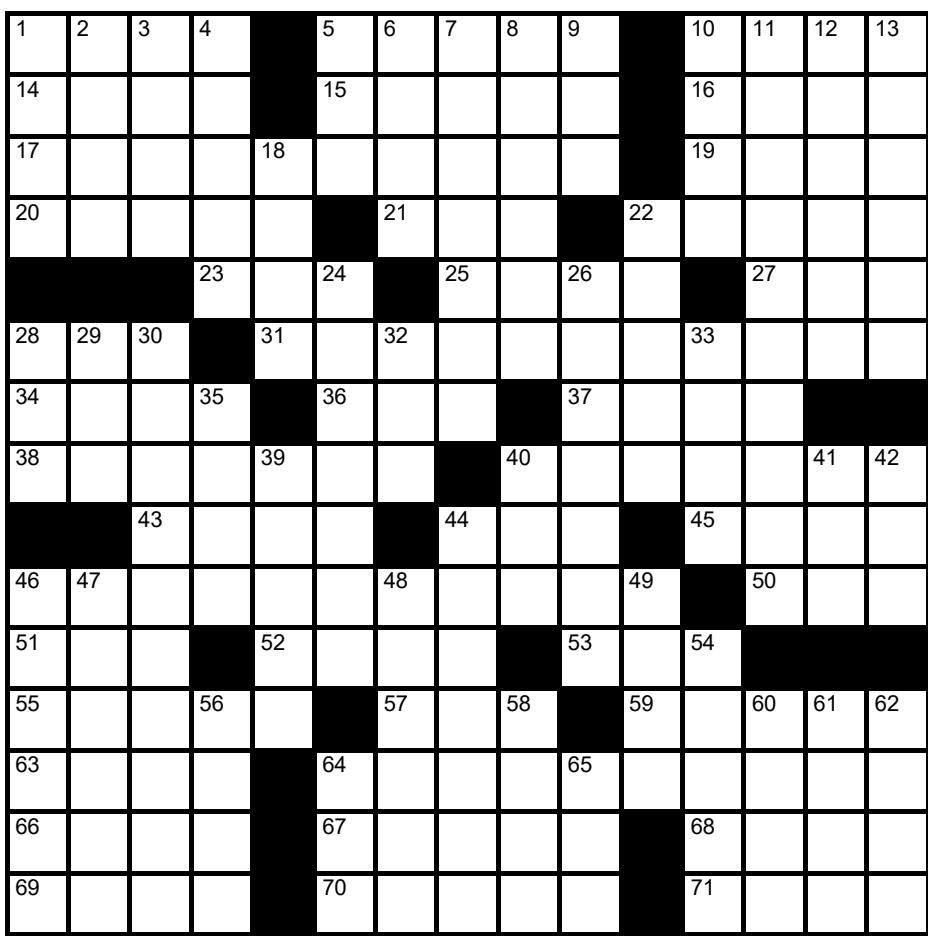
Schach

BY YONI GLATT

koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

SOLUTION: PAGE 40



ACROSS

- Kotel direction
- Hollywood trophy
- Food label org
- Opera solo
- Selected
- Downhill toy
- Schach option for Nebraskans
- Half of a Samoan port?
- Major Japanese city
- Yam __
- Take the crown, like Zimri
- Sault __ Marie
- Flanders of literature
- "__ ready for Shabbos"
- A Jewish slave might get one pierced
- Schach option for New Englanders
- Gelatinous movie monster
- Japan's capital, once
- Footwear brand in Israel
- White whales

- Like someone immortal, perhaps
- X-Man Musk
- City of cardinals: abbr
- Yingst, of Fox News
- Schach option for many South Asians
- Like many a Tisha B'Av story
- Lead in with friendly or conscious
- Part of a Kohen Gadol's pair
- Broadcaster of "Fauda"
- New recruit
- Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
- Adams of Yosemite Photography
- Served perfectly
- Schach option for Floridians
- Spice setting
- Michael of R.E.M.
- __ Fide
- Layup compared to a full court shot
- Poke fun at
- Armed team

DOWN

- Texas city
- Cupid by another name
- Apocryphal Jewish scribe, Ben
- Makes like the 2025 Mets
- High Holiday mo., often
- Israeli party
- "Just one more thing" Detective
- Make a request
- Hi or Lo
- Mail letters
- Shechts
- Antiperspirant option
- Takes in long term
- Make satisfied, like a Jewish mother
- Some arm bones
- Roosevelt who never changed her last name
- CIA headquarters
- Diminish
- Brewed drink
- People to look up to
- Docs
- Peyton Manning, once
- Onion or tulip
- Do dinner and a movie, say
- NLE city
- Salty expanse
- Second largest Jewish city in Aus.
- African country known for many a 48-Down
- Grew into
- Wood of the Tabernacles
- Jack Sparrow or Captain Hook
- Blacken, as a steak
- Social climbers, perhaps
- Circular ocean current
- Abbr. for devices that knock out electric grids in some movies
- Some move to Florida to get away from it
- "The Simpsons" schoolteacher Krabappel
- Bar aspirant's exam, briefly
- CA winter clock setting
- Finder's charge



3

Reasons to Choose Senior Living at Maris Grove®

1. Get **the best value** for your money.
2. Enjoy more **amenities and activities!**
3. Feel confident with **on-site care.**

See ALL the reasons to discover the Brandywine Valley's premier community. Call **1-800-690-1688** for your free brochure.



Brandywine Valley
MarisGrove.com



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 yenahem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei tzion vi'Yerushalayim.

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

Abraham Bailis

Age 88, passed away Friday, August 29, 2025.

Born August 30, 1936, he is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Adam, Naomi, and Ruth; brother, Michael (Joanne); grandchildren, Jacob and Aubrea; daughter-in-law, Lan; and son-in-law, Alex.

His final words were "what can I do for you?"

Richard F. Gordon, MD

It is with the greatest 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.

Rich was born in Philadelphia, the only child of Norman and Eleanor (née Chesney) Gordon. He served two years as a Major in the U.S. Air Force, receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for distinguished and meritorious service. After completing his service, Rich, his wife Helaine, and their son David moved to Wilmington, DE, where he established his medical practice.

Rich's 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 was also fun, with a caring heart and a sense of humor that endeared him to both staff and patients.

In his spare time, Rich loved reading, taking classes at OLLI, and traveling the globe. Above all else, he treasured time with his family. 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.

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.

Linda Greenhouse Harwitz

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Linda Greenhouse Harwitz who passed away peacefully in hospice care in Marietta, GA after a brief illness.

Linda was born on November 17, 1944 in Wilmington, DE where she spent most of her life before moving to the Atlanta area in 2007. She grew up with her parents, Bernard and Sylvia

Greenhouse and her younger brother, Dennis. Linda was a graduate of P.S. DuPont High School and was in the first graduating class of the School of Nursing at the University of Delaware. During her varied careers, she was an operating room nurse, an entrepreneur, and a nurse paralegal. She was known for her tenacity, sense of compassion, and ceaseless quest of knowledge.

Linda is survived by her husband of more than 59 years, Gerald; her son, Steven, and daughter-in-law, Karilena; her son, Marc, and daughter-in-law, Daniele; her grandchildren, Ingrid, Emerson, and Grant; and her brother, Dennis, and sister-in-law, Liz.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hadassah, an organization that Linda cherished and was a long-standing member and leader at www.hadassah.org/donate, or directly to Hadassah, c/o Arlene Eckel, 2000 Pennsylvania Ave., #602, Wilmington, DE 19806, or to an organization of your choosing.

Cheryl Joy Navitsky

Age 76, passed away with grace and love, surrounded by her husband and daughter.

Cheryl was born on April 1, 1949 in Wilmington, DE, where she spent the majority of her beautiful life before moving to Las Vegas with her husband and daughter. She was devoted to her family, friends, and community. A beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, Cheryl was known for her warmth, caring, and unwavering dedication to those she loved.

She spent her career as a school teacher, nurturing all those around her with her gentle spirit. Cheryl found joy in warm, sunlit days, the peacefulness of riverside fishing, seaside moments at the beach, and traveling to new destinations. Above all, she treasured time spent with her beloved family and lifelong friends. Her laughter, loyalty, and humor will be remembered and missed by all who knew her.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the Davita Dialysis Centers for making her feel at home while she was in their care.

Preceded in death by her beloved mother, Myra Berkowitz; father, Samuel Berkowitz; and nephew, Samuel Berkowitz; Cheryl is survived by her greatest companion and husband of 49 years, Leonard; her loving daughter, Nicole; her brothers, Jan Berkowitz (Adrienne) and Mitchell Berkowitz (Roe); nieces and nephews; extended family; and her circle of close friends.

Hayim Weiss

Hayim Weiss, beloved husband, son and brother, passed away leaving behind a legacy of kindness, quiet strength, and unwavering love.

Born to Elliott and Barbara Weiss, Hayim grew up in Williamsport, Pa, and graduated with the Williamsport Area Senior High School Class of 1990. He continued his education at Muhlenberg College and later earned his Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

As a young man, Hayim earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 12, an accomplishment that reflected his dedication, perseverance, and character. He was also a member of Lodge 106 of the Masons and the Grange in Williamsport. In Wilmington, Del, he became a devoted member of Congregation Beth Shalom, where he built lasting friendships and contributed meaningfully to his community.

Hayim shared 25 wonderful years of marriage with his wife, Meredith, who was his greatest joy and companion. He was also a cherished brother to Philip (Diane) Weiss and Sarah Weiss, and a source of pride and comfort to his parents.

Though a quiet man, Hayim had a gift for making others feel seen and valued. To many in Delaware, he was known as "the face you looked forward to seeing". His warmth and acceptance of others – without judgment on condition – made a lasting impression on everyone he encountered.

Hayim will be remembered most for the way he loved people just as they were, with no exceptions. His life was a testament to gentleness, kindness, and genuine connection.

He will be deeply missed by his family, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

JEWISH
LIVING
DELAWARE



**Obituaries are
placed free of
charge.**

For more information or
to submit an obituary,
please email:
Editor@shalomdel.org

JEWISHLIVINGDELAWARE.ORG



**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

Welcome
to the
Chosen
People
Series!

NOAH & THE ARK

Noah followed G-d when everyone else was headed the other way! G-d became so vexed with the people's wicked ways that a flood was in the forecast. Noah was given a "building project" that lasted 100 years. But it seemed that G-d was building something

more important in Noah — the courage to ignore all of the mocking during the years that it did not rain; not to mention, his bringing the animals into his newly-built ark. His act of obedience literally kept him and his family afloat! G-d promised afterwards that he would never again destroy the world through a worldwide flood. G-d's promise was confirmed by the first rainbow.



Copyright © 2025 G. Altman



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Puzzle on page 36

1	W	2	E	3	S	4	T	5	O	6	S	7	C	8	A	9	R	10	U	11	S	12	D	13	A						
14	A	R	I	A				15	C	H	O	S	E					16	S	L	E	D									
17	C	O	R	N	S	18	S	T	A	L	K	S						19	P	A	G	O									
20	O	S	O	A	K	A		21	S	U	F			22	U	S	U	R	P												
							23	S	T	24	E			25	M	O	L	L		27	G	E	T								
28	E	A	29	R		30		31	E	L	32	M	B	R	A	N	33	C	H	E	S										
34	B	L	O	35	B			36	E	D	O			37	N	A	O	T													
38	B	E	L	U	G	A	S	39				40	A	G	E	L	41	E	42	S											
								43	E	L	O	N		44	S	T	L	45	T	R	E	Y									
46	B	A	47	M	B	48	O	O	49	P	O	L	E	50	S	A	D	51	E	C	O	52	U	R	I	M	53	Y	E	54	S
55	C	A	D	56	E	T			57	R	A	E		58		59	A	N	60	S	61	E	62	L							
63	A	C	E	D				64	P	A	L	M	65	F	66	R	O	N	D	S											
66	M	I	L	D				67	S	T	I	P	E		68	B	O	N	A												
69	E	A	S	Y				70	T	E	A	S	E		71	S	W	A	T												

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



THE SIEGEL JCC

ALL-STAR BALL

FALL FUNDRAISER!



NOV
15

SATURDAY

7 PM

Register
Today!



Wear your
fav team
jersey!

TAILGATE GAMES • GAME DAY FOOD • KARAOKE • LIVE MUSIC • RAFFLES • MORE!
INDIVIDUAL TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
PREGAME VIP PARTY HONORING MONA & RON DUWELL BEGINS AT 5:45 PM

ALL-STAR COMMITTEE:

Matt Auerbach, Julie Devlin, Stacy Horowitz, Magan Forman, Rachel Giattino, Karen Legum, Alana Miller, Beth Moskow-Schnoll, Allison Robbins, Meredith Rosenthal, Steph Saran Rudolph, Katie Sherry, Michelle Silberglied

Call 302-478-5660 or email AnnaSaul@siegeljcc.org for more info.

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

JOIN US FOR OUR



CELEBRATION

**HONORING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS
AND FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

Montana Tucker

Award-winning Actress, Singer, Dancer, Philanthropist, & Social Media Activist

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

HARRY'S SAVOY GRILL

6:45 PM | Community Cocktail Reception

7:30 PM | Program

International influencer with almost 14 million combined followers across her social media platforms, Montana Tucker empowers from every angle.

Montana's passion has always been combatting antisemitism, as well as all forms of hate, and to educate people to love others for their kind hearts and souls and not because of their color, race, sexual preference, or religion.



SCAN
HERE TO
REGISTER

