Women protest at The Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice in May.

The Journal's publisher and editor Steven A. Rosenberg, and its associate editor Linda Matchan, won top awards for excellence in journalism at last week's American Jewish Press Association's Simon Rockower award ceremony. The awards are sometimes referred to as the “Jewish Pulitzers.”

Rosenberg was recognized for “Excellence in Deadline/Breaking News Reporting,” for his reporting on the brutal stabbing last June of Rabbi Shlomo Noginsky outside of a Jewish day camp and school at the Brighton Common. Augmenting the breaking news story was Rosenberg's video interview on the Journal's website with Noginsky following the stabbing. AIPJ judges described the entry as: “Outstanding coverage with details of the attack and response from the community and authorities.”

Matchan, who joined the Journal in February as its associate editor, won the award for “General Excellence – Best Freelancer.” Her work was based on three stories she wrote for the Forward last year about Combined Jewish Philanthropies, a Jewish ALS advocate and a deaf pulpit rabbi in Concord.

Rosenberg became the Journal’s publisher and editor in 2017, and formerly worked as a staff writer at the Boston Globe for 15 years. Matchan spent 36 years at the Globe as a staff writer and editor, and has freelanced for the Washington Post, the Forward and other publications.

“This story – of an Orthodox rabbi being stabbed repeatedly in broad daylight in a busy part of Boston – had enormous security implications for Jews and interfaith families throughout the region. After the rabbi's stabbing, I don’t think anyone is thinking that it can't happen here anymore,” said Rosenberg. Since the attack, the Journal has covered the alleged stabber's court hearings, and also has written about the rabbi's recovery. Recently, Noginsky announced that he plans to open a rabbinical school in Brighton that will ordain eight rabbis – one for each of his stab wounds.

Said Matchan, “My story about CJP is a story about accountability. The stories about Ron Hoffman and Rabbi Darby Leib describe two lesser-known community members, both practicing tikkun olam and thereby changing the world in quiet but impactful ways. I’m thrilled to be recognized for this work and look forward to doing more of it for the Journal.”

To read Rosenberg's article, visit: https://bneintervews.s1.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/1989/attachments/583 490217614877ce5ee830_d.pdf

Rabbi David Kudan to lead Gloucester’s Ahavat Achim

By Steven A. Rosenberg

GLOUCESTER – Rabbi David Kudan, who has led congregations in Glen Cove, IL, Winchester, Malden and Peabody, has been named the new interim spiritual leader of Temple Ahavat Achim in Gloucester.

“It’s exciting to be embarking on a new phase of my career. Gloucester has been very welcoming and embracing, and I’m very excited about serving a new role there,” said Kudan, who moved to Gloucester several years ago. “Temple Ahavat Achim is a wonderful community, unique in many ways. There’s a great Jewish presence that’s so rooted there. They’re very devoted to the synagogue, and for many years it’s been the main Jewish presence in Cape Ann.”

Kudan, whose father was a Reform rabbi, grew up in the Midwest. In 1973, he met Barbara Abrams on a high school trip to Israel, and years later they married. He went to Hampshire College, where he wrote his thesis on the impact of the printing press on early Yiddish publishing. After working in stock options for a year, he enrolled in the rabbinic studies program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and became a rabbi. He has served as a rabbi at several congregations, including Harvard Hillel, Temple Shir Tikvah of Winchester, Hillel, Temple Shir Tikvah of Winchester and Temple Tifereth Shalom in Gloucester.

“Kudan, who began his new position this week and was slated to hold his first Torah class this morning, replaces Rabbi Steven Lewis, who led Ahavat Achim for the last 10 years. Kudan was named the new rabbi after the temple set up a Search Committee, led by Richard Quateman and Bo Abrams.

“We were seeking a rabbi wishing to create joyful, musical and meaningful, fulfilling participatory worship experiences,” said Quateman, who is also the temple’s president. “We also wanted a rabbi who could represent us to the larger Cape Ann community and beyond, and join us in seeking ways to work together on issues of social justice. Rabbi Kudan brings all these skills and attributes, together with – most importantly – a wonderful sense of humor.”

Rabbi David Kudan

New synagogue to open in North Andover

By Steven A. Rosenberg

ANDOVER — A new, unaffiliated congregation that will focus on community and music will open this summer in the Merrimack Valley.

The new temple will be called Congregation Ahavat Olam, which in Hebrew translates to “eternal love.” It will be led by Rabbi Idan Irelander, who spent the last 20 years as the cantor and musical director at Temple Emanuel in Andover. Irelander, a native of Israel, originally came to Boston to study music, and holds a degree from Berklee College of Music. He received his cantorial ordination from Hebrew College, and his rabbinical ordination from the Academy of Jewish Religion.

“I am so excited to serve as the founding rabbi of Congregation Ahavat Olam, a vibrant place where everyone is welcome and appreciated for who they are,” said Irelander, whose wife, Einat is also Israeli. Idan and Einat have two children.

“I have always felt that by classifying different streams in Judaism, we create an artificial division among Jews. At Congregation Ahavat Olam, we practice Judaism that transcends any single denomination, one that unites people with varying identities and celebrates the best our tradition has to offer. After all, our people share one Judaism, one God, one Torah, and one family.

“Ifnai Mizrahi students are dear to my heart. I am excited to be able to continue working one on one with our students, build individualized curriculums that fit each student best and give them the tools to be successful and proud during their big day.”

According to its founders, Congregation Ahavat Olam will be a welcoming and inclusive congregation, void of bias. “We believe in community, spirituality, inclusivity, and growth. Our members display their spirituality in various ways, but our commitment to each other, Judaism, and God shows us that we all belong,” the new congregation wrote on its website, ahavatolam4all.org.

“Rabbi Idan is the spiritual leader our community needs now. Rabbi Idan’s fresh energy, his compassionate pastoral connection with children and adults alike, and his extraordinary musical talent will serve as our shul’s most attractive draw,” said Marc Freedman, the congregation’s founding president. “I am so excited to meet our newest members and introduce them to a community where we can share the oys and joys together.”

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.ahavatolam4all.org.

Rabbi Idan Irelander

Sagan Harborside

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Eleven graduate from Epstein Hillel School

MARBLEHEAD — Before an audience of family, friends, and the faculty and staff of the school, 11 eighth-grade stu-
dents of Epstein Hillel School’s graduating class of 2022 joyfully received their diplomas on the evening of June 15. While fam-
ily members sat at beautifully
prepared tables of crudities, des-
serts and beverages (and boxes of tissues for the emotional moments), the ceremony kicked off with an invocation by Rabbi
Samantha Safran, EHS’s Director
of Jewish Life and Learning. Amy
Gold, Head of School, addressed the students next. She shared
inspiring quotes from famous people – from Mahatma Gandhi to the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Larry Bird – and
connected those insights to the six core values of Epstein
Hillel School: Potential, Identity, Curiosity, Intelect, Compassion
and Community.

Gold reminded the students that, “Compassion will always
lead you to make good choic-
es and to think beyond your-
self.” And reflecting on the
next chapter, as the graduates
move on to high school, she
said, “Remember that learn-
ing doesn’t happen in a straight
path. … Trust yourself, rely on
the values you’ve learned here
to EHS, and from your family
and heritage. Remember that
hard work, perseverance, and
patience will lead you to success
and fulfillment.”

Graduates also heard words of guidance from Epstein Hillel School alumnus and current
EHS Facilities Manager Yaniv Havusha (’00). His message to the students was that they
should always try to do things that make them happy. “Don’t be afraid to take a different path,
to do things that aren’t expect-
ed of you,” advised Havusha. “Because if you love what you do, it will show, and you’ll excel.”

Perhaps the most moving
remarks came from the gradu-
ates themselves. Five students
reflected on their time at Epstein
Hillel School and the incredible
impact it had on them, whether
they were at the school for all
nine years or only two. Several
themes were consistent across
all of their speeches: Students
felt supported and accepted
by the faculty who helped them
become mentors and leaders
both at EHS and in the greater
community; and they feel well-
prepared for whatever comes
next.

“The EHS community
embraces diversity and acceptance,
which in turn assists its students
discovering their identities,” said
graduate Jamison Moore.
“We are provided a safe space
where we can grow, learn, make
mistakes and explore together.”

All of the speakers – a mix of both
outgoing and more reserved
personalities – demonstrated
incredible poise and confidence
while speaking, manifesting
those transformative leadership
skills they all talked about.

In addition to the pomp and
circumstance, there were also
some light, fun moments. Most
notably, the five members of the “9-Year Club” (EHS graduates
who have attended the school
since Kindergarten) surprised
the audience with a flawless per-
formance of The Kindergaten
Song – complete with accompa-
nying hand gestures. This is a
song that these teens last per-
formed at their Kindergarten
breakfast at the end of their first
year at EHS. The 9-Year Club’s
performance was kept a secret
from nearly everyone, including
their beloved Kindergarten
teachers, Barbara Sidman and
Beth Tassinari, both of whom
were in attendance. “What an
amazing surprise!” said the
now-retired Sidman. “I can’t believe they remembered all of
the words.”

Another touching moment came when it was time to hand
diplomas. Each student was
presented their diploma by a
middle school faculty mem-
er, who shared a few personal
reflections about that student.
Each presenter also incorporat-
ed a passage from traditional
Jewish teachings that best repre-

sented that graduate. Along with
their diploma, each graduate
received a wooden bookmark
engraved (using the school’s
laser cutter) with the same pas-
sage and their name.

In one last assignment at
EHS, the Class of 2022 presented
their class gift: two water bot-
dle-filling stations that are now
installed in the lower school
and upper school hallways and
will help hydrate the students
and staff for years to come. “We
greatly value protecting our
environment and reducing the
amount of plastic that we use,”
said graduate Noa Brochstein.
Her words are representative of a
group of graduates who are
sure to leave an impactful and
lasting legacy on Epstein Hillel
School and beyond.

Members of the Class of 2022
will attend the following High
Schools in the Fall: Marblehead
High School (4); Swampscott
High School (4); Salem High
School (1); Stoneham High
School (1); The Academy
at Penguins Hall (1); Gann
Academy (1).

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Photos: Brian Meryanski

Amy Gold, Head of School, addresses the Epstein Hillel School Class of 2022.

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A BIT MORE
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THE JEWISH JOURNAL – JEWISHJOURNAL.ORG – JULY 7, 2022
In Israel, another election

For the fifth time since 2019, Israel will hold a national election to choose a prime minister. The election is expected to take place in less than a month.

The announcement comes after the coalition that Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid formed last year lost its parliamentary majority after several politicians left their coalition. The coalition comprised eight diverse political parties from the national religious Yamina, to dovish Meretz, the left-wing Meretz and the Muslim Arab Mâan. The ruling government had 61 Knesset members to the opposition’s 58 – the minimum needed for a majority.

Almost lost amidst the announcement was the ascendance of Yair Lapid to the prime minister’s post. Lapid took office last Friday, and already met with French President Emmanuel Macron this week in Paris. Macron said that Israel is “lucky” to have him as prime minister.

Lapid, who leads Israel’s Yesh Atid Party, previously worked as an actor, songwriter, journalist to have him as prime minister. He also was a Knesset member and journalist.

The upcoming election signals Israel’s electorate is still polarized and divided. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already begun campaigning to reclaim his seat in power. Netanyahu is facing fraud charges in three court cases against him, including allegations of bribery.

Netanyahu is facing fraud charges in three court cases against him, including allegations of bribery. While few praised the Bennett-Lapid coalition as a perfect union, the government was surprisingly effective over the last year. It defended Israel from Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza; it attacked Iranian strongholds in Syria; preventing shipments of arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon, and also coordinated with Iran to slow down Iran’s nuclear program. At home, the coalition was able to pass a national budget – a first for the country in nearly four years.

Israel is facing similar issues to America: a divided country dealing with inflation, a battle for truth in the Knesset and the media, religious and homogenous extremists, and rising real estate costs that prevent millennials and others from buying an apartment. It is also dealing with a slew of Palestinian terror attacks in recent months, and constant threats from Iran. With so much at stake, it is clear that somehow unite the electorate. Given the current political climate, though, we should expect more annual elections.

Letters to the Editor

Ukraine needs Israel’s support

The Russian “invasion” of Ukraine has upended the balance of the international world order and threatens the peace, health, and stability that we all seek. We are certainly right to condemn and deplore the brutality, criminality, arrogance, and pure violence visited upon a sovereign democracy and its people by the megalomaniac Russian dictator Putin.

Surely every western democracy would condemn the Russian lies and crime. Just as certainly every rationale and peace-loving nation would assist Ukraine in the defense of its territory and people.

That is, every nation but Israel. It is amazing that after years of promoting and seeking American support on the basis that Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East, that we see the Israeli government initially refuse to totally condemn Russia and Putin by name or to provide the material support Ukraine and its Jewish President so desperately need.

On Feb. 23, Israel released its first statement on supporting Ukraine without even mentioning Russia. An official said “we did the minimum required so for the centrists in the country in nearby four years. Israel is facing similar issues to America: a divided country dealing with inflation, a battle for truth in the Knesset and the media, religious and homogenous extremists, and rising real estate costs that prevent millennials and others from buying an apartment. It is also dealing with a slew of Palestinian terror attacks in recent months, and constant threats from Iran. With so much at stake, it is clear that somehow unite the electorate. Given the current political climate, though, we should expect more annual elections.

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The Roe v. Wade ruling curtails rights to privacy for women and it is grossly unequal. Many states will now force women to have children with no exceptions. This is undemocratic and authoritarian. It is a radical judgment. The ruling now sets a precedent to curtail even more rights. The majority of citizens do not want this. The arguments made in this country surrounding abortion are tainted in purpose; purposeless divisiveness politically and, worse, they are racist and sexist from their inception. The days of aggressive moderating and equivocation no longer work. We have gone backwards in our rights now. To be “fiscally conservative, but social liberal” clearly did not work today. Bottom line: A woman no longer has equal protection under the law in nearly half the states. I am worried about the safety of women in our country.

Andrew B. Wolfe
Northbridge, CA

Call the ‘Mapping Project’ by its real name

Let’s not soften the Mapping Project and its intent. It is antisemitic, racist, anti-Zionist, targeted and hate focused.

Ilene Bornstein
Andover

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I should never have experienced rape and illegal abortion. Neither should anyone else.

By TaRessa Stovall

The dismantling of Roe v. Wade isn’t a faraway dystopian nightmare for me. It’s a deeply personal memory. I was just 17 when, on Labor Day weekend 1972, I was raped at gunpoint in a wooded area not far from my father’s home. 

I ran home, ran to the shower to wash it out of me. Like most Black rape victims, I opted not to report it to the police. Even before I missed my period, my Yiddishh mama studied my face and said, “You’re pregnant.” We didn’t discuss options or possibilities. Abortion was illegal. 

I’ll never know how she – an elegant, proper, working-class single mother – knew where to go. It didn’t occur to me to wonder what it cost her (or where she got the money) financially or emotionally. She took me to a dreary off-road storefront where a scowling white male doctor scraped me out while growling and “relax” and “stay calm.” I sounded and felt so much like a rag, a rag bag of abdominal pain. Mom sped back to that doctor and lit him up. He examined me and announced that a cervical tear required surgery. He scraped some more, and prescribed an antibiotic, never taking responsibility or apologizing. 

I don’t wish any of my experience on anyone. It felt like progress when, in January 1973, not long after my mother and I walked 7-2 to uphold a woman’s right to a legal abortion. Now, the court has rolled back that right with profound implications for millions of women, especially Black women, who have never had full autonomy in this country. 

I first joined the Danvers Food Bank, integrating a wealthy white high school. The white girls went to Mexico or Canada over the weekend and came back to share their abortion tales. I don’t recall ever hearing any Black girls even utter the word “those” who got pregnant gave birth to, and kept, their babies. 

Back then, a 1976 report from Family Planning Perspectives on illegal abortions stated that “Women who died as a result of illegal abortions typically were Black, were more than 12 weeks pregnant, and had self-induced in their own community.” 

Once abortions were legal, I accompanied a few of my Black friends to a local place where they exercised their newfound right in a place that was clean, safe, and medically able. 

Afterward, I held them close, watching at the sting of their tears on my memories. 

While the reversal of Roe v. Wade hits all women hard, Black women face special danger. We’re already living with the constant weight of centuries of intergenerational sexual trauma, woven through our DNA from enslavement. Reconstructive and Jim Crow, which contributes to a long list of health disparities exacerbat- ed by the stress of continued everyday racism. 

So this new ruling hits us especially hard. Experts cite the disproportionate impact expected on Black women and other women of color, who “have traditionally faced overwhelming costs and logistical obstacles in obtaining reproductive healthcare.” 

This brings yet another threat to Black lives. Black women in the United States face disparities of income or education levels; far three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than White women,” reports the National Partnership for Women & Families. Abortion bans could increase those tragic losses by 43%. 

At least 11 states have heavily restricted abortion or made it illegal since the recent Supreme Court decision. Twelve more states have similar laws in place, with several others appearing likely to follow suit, according to research from the Guttmacher Institute, a group that favors abortion rights. 

Abortion bans could have greater propor- tions of people of color, “NPR reports and find, “Abortion rights" of people obtaining abortions are people of color." 

Banning abortion could also exacerbate economic dis- parities. The Black Women’s Collective notes that “the single most cited reason Black women give for abortion care is the inability to afford a child.” Lack of safe, legal abortions mean that “they and their children will be condemned to a lifetime of poverty and poor health outcomes.” 

The “horrors” of the abortion ban are clear. Beyond gen- der dynamics, these laws are designed to maintain white supremacy, which never hesi- tates to exploit Black bodies and lives to maintain power. This recent use of power is least in part by the browning of America. While white people made up around 64% of the nation in 2010, that number dropped to around 58% in 2020 according to the 2020 Census – the first such decrease in Census history. 

The logic is simple: Because Black people cannot continue to maintain power as a minority in the “majority rules” system that they created, the government is working to increase the white birth rate by any means neces- sary. 

I watch white women stress- ing over the new ruling with a fazed eye, since around 47% of them voted for Trump in 2016, and an estimated 15% did the same in 2020, according to the Washington Post. Living in a cross-section of racial and sexist discrimina- tion, the horrors I experienced a half-century ago feel all too close today. 

As Justice Clarence Thomas sug- gests that the Court reconsider access to abortion for same-sex marriages and relationships and marriage. 

I have a young adult daugh- ter. With her choices threatened, I watch her politics more deeply examined. And the reality of the racial divide looms large. 

Steadfastly identify as white, even while living in the cross- hairs of white supremacist vio- lence. But justice cannot be part of this dynamic. Anyone who truly wants democracy must be willing to address the systemic commitment to white suprem- acy that underlies these threats to our democracy. 

Otherwise, as James Baldwin famously wrote in a 1970 letter to “black people,” “as long as you take us in the morning, they will be coming for us that night.” 

This story was originally published by the Forward. Sign up for the Forward’s newest stories from the Forward delivered to you each morning.

‘Circling the Square’ one last time
from page 4

He was right; those were wonderful memories. There were weekly stories called “Danvers at Work,” which were about people who worked in Danvers even though they didn’t live here. I learned to respect people who lived in Danvers but had interesting jobs elsewhere. 

As a former teacher, I enjoyed writ- ing about the children in the Danvers schools, even visiting them and sharing in their achievements. “Because I knew so many people in town, I felt obligated to celebrate their special accomplishments to sup- port them in their sad occasions. I attended many wakes and funerals. Of one the most difficult was that of a three-year-old young man who was tragically killed in an automobile accident. His mother was standing by the grave and asked me to reassure her that somehow I had the formula for a mother’s survival after the loss of a child. If I could survive, there was hope for her. 

And so we cried together, we laughed together and we went on. 

Sometimes it’s the unexpected things that help make our day. One morning, a young man was rushing across Route 114 to get to the bus stop before the school bus. Unfortunately, there was a truck ahead of the bus and though the driver wasn’t traveling fast, he hit the youngster. To be on the safe side, an ambulance was called and trans- ported the boy to Boston Children’s Hospital. 

A couple of days later, the publicist from the Boston Bruins called to relay a generous offer from a once-famous Bruin to support the boy. To be on the safe side, an ambulance was called and trans- ported the boy to Boston Children’s Hospital. 

I guess my newspaper role was to help others.

We spoke about more serious things, about antisemitism and Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS), but we also talked about their grandchildren and admired their pictures and chatted about town happenings. 

A few weeks ago at a Kiwanis lunch meeting, when I shared my sad news about the demise of “Circling the Square,” one of the founders of the Danvers Food Pantry stood up and said, “We would never have had a food pantry in Danvers were it not for Myrna.” 

I guess my newspaper role was to help others. As I was going through the rest of the stories, I thought a lot about Good Samaritans and kindness, the need to support each other. We are working to increase the white birth rate by any means neces- sary. 

Myrna Feiner writes from Danvers.
Rabbi Sruli Baron enriches Chelsea Jewish Lifecare

CHELSEA — Rabbi Sruli Baron, co-founder and co-director of the Tobin Bridge Chabad with his wife Chaya, has joined Chelsea Jewish Lifecare as a chaplain at the Leonard Florence Center for Living, Chelsea Jewish Lifecare’s flagship residence, and Chelsea’s largest provider of healthcare services.

With 128 residents, Chelsea Jewish Lifecare’s Leonard Florence Center is located at 575 Chelsea St in Chelsea. The Leonard Florence Center is the largest provider of healthcare services in Chelsea. It is a skilled nursing facility and a nursing home.

Rabbi Sruli Baron's role is to enrich the lives of all the residents at Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, as well as to provide spiritual guidance and comfort. He is known for his warm personality and his ability to connect with people on a personal level.

Baron joined Chelsea Jewish Lifecare after serving as the rabbi at the Katzman Family Skilled Nursing Facility, a part of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare. He is currently serving as the rabbi at the Leonard Florence Center for Living.

Baron has been a rabbi for 30 years, and he has served in various capacities throughout his career. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University and holds a master's degree in Jewish education.

Baron is passionate about his work with the residents in the assisted living and skilled nursing residences. He has spoken about the importance of providing spiritual guidance and comfort to those who are in need of it.

Baron is also a member of the Chelsea Jewish Lifecare board of directors, and he is a board member of the Chelsea Jewish Lifecare Foundation.

Rabbi Sruli Baron at Chelsea Jewish Lifecare.

Acknowledging that the pandemic has been extremely difficult for everyone, Baron believes faith, spirituality, a connection to our history and tradition are all tools that religion provides to navigate the pain, fear and uncertainty in our lives. He is looking forward to providing Jewish programming and services, and to being a religious presence for the residents.

Baron explained, “I seek to provide the guidance and comfort that so many need in these troubling times. In addition, our residents love being able to live in a community where importance is given to Shabbat and the Holidays, and Jewish programming is offered regularly. It allows them to feel truly at home.”

The Leonard Florence Center for Living cares for more individuals living with ALS than any other place in the world.

Baron admitted that he is inspired every time he visits the residents. “Honestly, I would love to pretend that I am there in an advice-giving capacity, but when I visit with the ALS residents, I truly learn more from them than I could possibly teach in a lifetime. I am humbled by their faith, resilience, perseverance, and optimism. I am honored to be there for them, sit with them, speak with them, and yes, learn from them.”

Barry Berman of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare noted that the rabbi’s visits have a tremendous impact upon the residents of the skilled nursing and assisted living residences. “Clearly, our residents look forward to the rabbi’s visits,” said Berman. “Their faces light up with smiles amidst many animated conversations. His presence is both comforting and uplifting.”

On a personal level, Baron maintains an active lifestyle. He loves running, biking, basketball, softball and CrossFit. Currently he is training for the New York City Marathon. He and Chaya are the proud parents of sons Mendy and Tzvi, and infant daughter Miriam. It’s a busy household indeed.

“I hope to raise my children as I was raised, on the knees of grandparents (their's and others) listening to life’s lessons. I hope I can teach them to respect the perspectives that can only come from someone who was raised in a time so different from our own.”
By Rich Tenorio
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

MARBLEHEAD — Thanks to a partnership of three community organizations, a new community garden is taking root at Temple Sinai to help address food insecurity.

The SPUR Community Roots Garden at Temple Sinai represents a precedent-setting partnership between SPUR, a nonprofit that promotes volunteering, the temple; and the Jewish Community Center of the North Shore. On June 22, a group of 4- and 5-year-olds from the JCC came to the garden to harvest its first crop—radishes, spinach and lettuce planted a month ago by a separate group of youngsters.

The harvest was also an opportunity for kids to plant new crops—pumpkins, watermelon and butternut squash, which Temple Sinai Social Action Committee head Barbara Rosenstroch said she hopes will be ready for a fall harvest around Sukkot.

“I think it’s just really nice to have different community organizations with the garden,” Rosenstroch said. Historically, the temple has been involved in similar initiatives, such as the Manna Project, with other organizations, she added.

The idea for the garden came from a chance meeting Rosenstroch had with SPUR executive director Lynne Krasner Schultz at the Swampscott farmer’s market, where Schultz was tabling for SPUR. Rosenstroch suggested the idea to Schultz, and then JCCNS preschool director Stephanie Walsh came on board.

“The JCC is right across the street” from the temple, Schultz said. “It made sense to ask the JCC and incorporate its preschool.”

“We talk in the classroom about planting and seeds,” Walsh said. “We’re really big on teaching a curriculum about social learning, giving care of other people—’not everyone is as fortunate as us.’ Planting food for other children, they’re very interested in that.”

“Every day, when school is in session, the kids learn about food insecurity and growing,” Schultz said. “They love being able to see things grow and experience growing.”

Although SPUR already had a garden that generates around 1,000 pounds of fresh produce per year that is given to both food pantries and group homes, Schultz cited increasing food insecurity on the North Shore as a reason to create a second one.

“The need has gone up so much,” she said. Citing inflation, she added, “the cost of everything is rising.”

The garden at Temple Sinai consists of four raised beds, and soil and an automated irrigation system from Black Earth, a company based in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

For compost, there’s alfalfa and a local ingredient—seaweed from the beach. “It’s totally organic compost,” Schultz said. “It’s right on the beach. At the beginning and end of every summer, we’ll get seaweed. It’s very nutritious—a little bit of an extra boost [for the plants].”

And, she noted, “the raised beds are pretty tall, high up, so no bunnies can jump in.” Although squirrels, chipmunks and groundhogs may be a bit more determined, she added, “It’s really the bunnies we’re most worried about, with the nice, leafy greens.”

All crops will be donated to the Marblehead Food Pantry, which serves 50 families per week, according to Schultz. Rosenstroch said members of all three partnering organizations, as well as members of the public and the kids’ parents, can sign up to deliver vegetables and help with other tasks such as weeding.

The garden occupies the footprint of a previous garden that had existed at Temple Sinai. It includes tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers that are harvested and used for the temple Kiddush.

With the raised beds, “there’s no runoff, no erosion, fewer weeds,” she said.

If the harvest is done around Sukkot, Rosenstroch said she hopes to have an adult education program around sustainable farming and Jewish gardens.

The JCC preschool kids planting the first seeds.

JCCNS preschoolers harvesting radishes and leafy greens.
Israel’s new prime minister calls to stem extremism in politics

By Philissa Cramer

Israel’s new prime minister calls to stem extremism in politics by Iran and terrorism within Israel, the Hebrew by Lapid on Twitter.

Times of Israel and in adapted form in his diagnosis for why widespread agree-

ment on fundamental ideas hasn’t trans-

formed into political harmony.

“The answer is politics,” he said in the speech, published in English by the Times of Israel and in adapted form in Hebrew by Lapid on Twitter.

“Israel, extremism doesn’t come from the streets to politics. It’s the oppo-

site,” he added. “It flows like lava from politics to the streets. The political sphere has become more and more extreme, violent and vicious, and it is dragging Israeli society along with it. This we must stop. This is our challenge.”

Lapid assumed power on Saturday, days after the Israeli government official-

ly dissolved and weeks after he and his predecessor, Naftali Bennett, announced that they could no longer maintain their coalition. In that announcement, Bennett announced that Lapid, who had been scheduled to cycle into the prime minister role next year, would become the interim prime minister while the country awaits its fifth round of elections in just over three years.

In his speech, Lapid said Israelis agree that their country should be “Jewish, democratic, liberal, strong, advanced and prosperous.” He also said urgent issues including the danger presented by Iran and terrorism within Israel, the country’s “education crisis” – the school year just ended with a disruptive teacher strike – and the high cost of living cannot wait until the country’s political turmoil is resolved.

The leader of Israel’s centrist Yesh Atid party, Lapid also offered a vision for the country’s relations with its Arab citizens and Palestinian neighbors that is differ-

ent from his two right-wing predeces-

sors, Bennett and Benjamin Netanyahu. (He also thanked Israelis for supporting a smooth transition of power, an apparent jab at Netanyahu, who sought to remain in power through multiple elections and is now seeking to return despite an ongo-

ning corruption trial.)

“We believe that Israel is a Jewish state. Its character is Jewish. Its iden-

tity is Jewish. Its relations with its non-

Jewish citizens are also Jewish. The book of Leviticus says, ‘But the stranger who dwells with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself,’ ” Lapid said.

He added, “We believe that so long as Israel’s security needs are met, Israel is a country that seeks peace. Israel stretches out its hand to all the peoples of the Middle East, including the Palestinians, and says: The time has come for you to recognize that we’ll never move from here, let’s learn to live together.”

Biden moved into an apartment on the grounds of the prime minister’s resi-

dence in Jerusalem late Saturday, accord-

ing to a picture that Lapid’s wife, the author Lihi Lapid, posted to Instagram with the caption “A new beginning.”

The official residence is under renovation, so he is staying in an apartment previ-

ously used to house security forces, in an arrangement that puts him near the symbolic seat of power but not precisely inside it.

Ahead of his first presidential visit to Israel, Joe Biden congratulated Yair Lapid on becoming prime minister last week, following the resignation of his prede-

cessor Naftali Bennett.

“Congratulations to @YairLapid, Israel’s new Prime Minister, and thank you to Alternate Prime Minister @NaftaliBennett for your friendship over the past year. I look forward to seeing you both in July to celebrate the unbreakable U.S.-Israel partnership,” Biden wrote on Twitter shortly after Lapid assumed the premiership. Biden is scheduled to visit Israel and the West Bank for two days on July 13 as part of a regional visit that will also include a trip to Saudi Arabia.

Bennett, a hawkish politician who supports expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Golan, last month announced that he is stepping down after a year in power because of his narrow parliamentary majority’s dif-

culty to govern. Lapid, a centrist who had served under Bennett as foreign minister, will become the interim pre-

minister, will become the interim pre-

minister until the Nov. 1 elections thanks to a clause in the pair’s coalition agreement reached last year.

Lapid tweeted in response: “The ties between Israel and the United States are unbreakable. They are based on deep foundations of shared values and a com-

promising vision for the future. I look forward to welcoming you to Israel and strength-

ening the unique alliance between us.”

Bennett, who first met Biden in August when the president hosted Bennett at the White House, also replied on Twitter, writing: “Thank you, Joe. We’re looking forward to seeing you soon, here in our eternal capital Jerusalem. You’re a true friend of the State of Israel.”

Lapid and Biden have met in the past, including in 2013 when Biden was vice president under Barack Obama and Lapid was visiting Washington D.C. in his position as Israel’s finance minister.

Lapid, who aligns with Bennett on some issues, such as opposition to the Iran nuclear deal, has been more vocally critical of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. He has also stated that he supports a two-state solution to Israel’s conflict with the Palestinians but has said that there is “no current plan” for there.

During a press conference Thursday, Biden said that his upcoming visit is meant in part to “deepen the region, which I think we’re going to be able to do and which is good — good for peace and good for Israeli security.”

For this reason, “Israelis leaders have come out so strongly for my going to Saudi Arabia,” Biden added.
Yonathan Avrech, former Israeli emissary to the North Shore

By Rich Tenorio

In a June 29 webinar, Alisa Rostovtseva, a volunteer community care coordinator for the Waltham-based nonprofit Action for Post-Soviet Jewry, shared heartrending perspectives from the conflict in Ukraine.

Throughout the conflict, the APSJ’s Ukraine program director, Ella Goncharova, was a founding partner of the Dnipro Kehilla Project, an online hub that now surpasses $280,000 in donations to APSJ — including a major gift from his son Igar. When Igar was told that he was ready to return to their home, their friends gave them a beautiful grandfather clock which became one of their prized possessions.

Each summer Yonathan led scores of teens on six-week YIYI Israeli trips that included experiencing kibbutz life as well as touring Israel. During these trips Yonathan shared his passion for Israel and Zionism, kindling a lasting love in the teenagers. When the Avrechs were ready to return to their home, their friends gave them a beautiful grandfather clock which became one of their prized possessions.

After returning to Israel, Smadar and Yonathan kept close contact with us and their North Shore friends. Yonathan traveled around the world promoting the kibbutz factories’ products. He also fell in love with running and ran marathons well into his 70s. Smadar’s passing in 2011 was extremely difficult for Yonathan and everyone who loved her.

Weeks before his death, Yonathan received a special gift from his son Igar. When Igar was told that he was being promoted to the rank of colonel, he asked the army if the ceremony could take place at one of his father’s bedside. Aviv Kohavi, Chief of Staff of the Israeli army, came to the kibbutz and during the ceremony for Igar he thanked Yonathan, his children and grandchildren for their exemplary service. He spoke about The Eyes of War photo in a bittersweet ceremony that we were privileged to watch on Zoom.

Yonathan left a lasting legacy on the North Shore. We were privileged to have him as our beloved friend.

help the relief effort. Kardon also noted that many of the evacuees are in their 70s, 80s and 90s, and APSJ has helped them with donations of items such as eyeglasses and shoes, and also with photocopies of their documents.

Another coordinators said that the war has not impacted their location in the way it has affected Maripol. They still described facing many challenges.

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APPRECIATION

Yonathan Avrech, former Israeli emissary to the North Shore

By Karen Madorsky

Yonathan Avrech, a shaliach to the North Shore from 1980-1980, passed away on June 24 after a courageous four-year battle against cancer. In 1980, when his husband Jerry and I were preparing to go to Israel for our son Adam’s bar mitzvah, someone suggested that we contact Yonathan. Not only did we receive advice about Israel, but that call was the beginning of a life-long friendship. Meeting Yonathan, his wife Smadar, and their four children impacted our lives and the lives of so many North Shore people.

Yonathan brought great enthusiasm and commitment to all aspects of his life. He and his family were the pillars of Kibbutz Yagur, a large kibbutz near Haifa. Serving in many administrative roles in the kibbutz and its factories, Yonathan was the embodiment of the kibbutz philosophy. As a soldier, he served his country with distinction. During the Yom Kippur War, his iconic photograph called The Eyes of War was on the cover of the European edition of Newsweek.

Kardon noted in a follow-up email that Rostovtseva lost her home, her husband’s business and the synagogue she was involved with. We are acutely personal. She and her husband tried to evacuate their father-in-law from Mariupol to the city of Zaporizhzhia – 217 miles away, along a dangerous route she called “The Road of Life” – but he died on route. She also shared photos of Jews suffering from cancer who have had to evacuate from Mariupol.

APPSJ partners with 15 Jewish communities in Ukraine, including in Dnipro, where the organization was a founding partner of the Dnipro Kehilla Project. A Boston-based initiative, APSJ works with six local programs in Dnipro, a city which Goncharova said has not escaped attack.

“We’re a relational – people-to-people – organization,” Kardon said. “We galvanize helping hands here to support both on the ground. Because we had a network of volunteers throughout Ukraine, the minute the war started we were in direct contact with our network on the ground. We are unique in this way.”

She added, “For a few of our coordinators, this is their first time speaking publicly about their experiences during the war. Each one has families and jobs, but they still choose to care for the elderly. We could have invited political and historical experts, but we wanted this webinar to be about personal experiences of the coordinators and elderly, firsthand experience living through the war.”

Working toward ‘one day,’ APSJ care coordinators share stories of devastation, need in Ukraine
At left, a woman holds a sign paying tribute to her great-grandmother, who died after a self-induced abortion, at the Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice in May.

At right, a sign from the Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice in May.

Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision riles Jews

from page 1

faiths and ethnic backgrounds about their predicament, explained what an abortion entailed, and then held refer them to where they could get a safe abortion,” said Cohen, who lives in Waltham and Rockport, and found the files after he’d died when she was cleaning out the family home.

Describing her dad as a “liberal, forward-thinking person, always involved in people’s rights,” she’s certain he’d been horrified about last month’s Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade.

“I believed in life after death, my father would be screaming from his grave,” said Cohen, who is involved in women’s reproductive health care herself, as executive director of the Newton-based adoption agency, Adoptions With Love.

Like many of the rabbis, ministers and even Catholic priests in the CCS network, Silverman took a grave personal risk by helping women get abortions, under the radar of police and the watchful eyes—and even involvement—of organized crime. They were too aware of what dangerous acts desperate women with unwanted pregnancies were resorting to, and how hospitals and morgues were filling up with women with botched abortions.

“We could have been arrested, and there were some rabbis who were,” Rabbi Harold Kudan, 90, said in an interview. He was also a member of the CCS network, and lives in a suburb of Chicago. “But sometimes you had to break the law. There are times we had to stand up and say the law was wrong.”

Now, some 50 years later, we’re back to square one. But there’s a difference.

For the previous generation of Jewish activists, the fight for abortion rights went hand in hand with the other struggles of the time against political power and oppression—the Civil Rights and Anti-War movements, the fight for women’s rights. Kudan marched in Selma, Alabama with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Silverman “was always involved in different movements having to do with people’s rights,” said Cohen.

Between 1968 and 1973, the Jane Collective, a grassroots organization of women using the anonymous name “Jane,” provided access to 11,000 safe and illegal abortions in Chicago. As the recent HBO documentary “The Janes” makes clear, for many of them abortion work was related to their commitment to addressing other social issues, with the same broad ethical imperative. “We were building a new world,” one of the Janes said in the film.

These struggles have not, of course, gone away, but nowadays there are other ominous backdrops in day-to-day life in America—gun violence, threats to democracy, and, for Jews, a terrifying increase in acts of antisemitism.

According to an Anti-Defamation League survey, American Jews feel less safe than they did a decade ago. For many, the ban on abortions feels like yet another assault on Jewish life and Jewish beliefs.

“It is all about the Christian view—or at least a certain form of Christianity—of when Jewish life begins,” said Rabbi Alison Adler of Temple B’nai Abraham in Beverly. The case to restrict and end legal abortion is driven by a Christian belief that human life begins at conception, as she noted in a recent Shabbat letter to her congregation.

“That is not the case in Judaism,” she said. “As Jews we need to discuss how it is concerning when this country’s laws are based on a particular Christian notion of when human life begins, thereby forcing that religion upon everyone.”

She added in an interview: “This is being thrust upon the whole country. As Jews, it is very scary.”

“There are wonderful authorities, scholars and Jewish legal experts who have emphasized that we, as a Jewish community, need to stand up against that as a Jewish issue,” said Rabbi David Kudan, the rabbi of Temple Ahavat Achim in Gloucester, and son of Rabbi Harold Kudan.

“In Judaism we respect the human body and we understand that a fetus is a potential life, but by no means on the same level as a full human person,” he said. “It is a Jewish issue of respecting our rights as citizens to fulfill our religious requirements and not be coerced into violating our traditions. The notion of life beginning at conception is an outlier in terms of world religions. It’s a pretty rare position.”

The Pew Research Center has found that about 83% of American Jews think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and the younger generation of Jews has jumped into the fight to support reproductive freedom. Many contend that abortion access is a Jewish value, and that the American narrative about religion and abortion has long ignored Jewish voices.

The National Council of Jewish Women has launched a Jewish Fund for Abortion Access, in partnership with the National Abortion Federation, to help pay for abortions and related expenses, such as travel and lodging. The National Council also sponsors the Rabbis for Repro campaign, urging Jewish clergy to teach about the issue and work to protect access to abortion.

“We now have 2,000 Jewish clergy of every denomination,” said Rabbi Danya Abrams-Kutner, scholar-in-residence on Rabbis for Repro, “so that everyone can see that religion and abortion justice go together,” said Ruttenberg. “So that everyone can see this synagogue is a place where reproductive freedom is held as a sacred value, and everyone in that shul who might ever need support can understand these clergy are people who have your back.”

In the back of his temple’s Torah ark, Rabbi Martin Silverman kept a list and photos of the illegal abortions he’d helped women obtain, including a list of doctors willing to perform them.

But some who remember the days before Roe v. Wade—the days when advocates resorted to underground criminality for a higher purpose— are asking whether these new strategies will be enough.

“I wish I were more of an activist,” said Rabbi David Kudan, who distinctly remembers answering the telephone when he was a boy and speaking to terrified pregnant women asking for his father. They were too afraid to give their names, he said, and often just hung up.

Kudan said he just finished sitting shiva for his mother-in-law, Naomi Abrams, who died in June. A lifelong advocate for civil rights, she campaigned to end the war in Vietnam, demonstrated against nuclear proliferation—and was one of the Janes.

“I try to do what I can, but what we do doesn’t hold a candle to what the previous generation did and the sacrifices they made and the risks they took,” he said. “I think we will have to up our game.”

Linda Matchan can be reached at matchan@jewishjournal.org
Charlotte Dantowitz, 97, of Peabody, formerly of Boston


Charlotte grew up in Boston and raised her family in Peabody. She worked as director of the Peabody Council on Aging and was a dedicated member of Hadassah and Temple Ner Tamid. She loved playing Bridge, gardening, cooking/baking, fishing on her boat, and celebrating and attending social events. She will be fondly remembered for her wit, sense of humor, and generosity. She cherished her time spent with family, friends, and respected colleagues.

A funeral service was held on June 20 at Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel, 10 Vinnin Square, Salem, with interment at Anshai Sfard Cemetery in Danvers. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society (1-800-227-2345), and planned Parenthood. For more information or to register in the online guestbook, visit www.stanetsky-hymanson.com.

Ernestine Snyder, of Salem, formerly of Brighton

Ernestine Snyder, of Salem, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2022, after a long and debilitating battle with dementia. Originally from Brighton, “Ernie” lived most of her life in Swampscott raising and supporting her family. A devoted and loving wife and mother, she was an avid reader, card player, animal lover and much more.

She leaves behind her beloved husband of 66 years, Edward, her three children Michael (Jennifer), Karen (John) and Donna, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was dearly loved by family and friends and will be truly missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Marblehead Animal Shelter.
Arthur A. Suckney, of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea and Everett

Arthur A. Suckney passed away on June 29, 2022. Arthur was born in 1942 in Chelsea to Mae (Segal) and Jack Suckney. He graduated from Chelsea High School in 1960, and then proudly served in the United States Army. After meeting Margo (Ribeck) of Revere on Revere Beach at the fudge shop, they married on June 1, 1966. Arthur has lived in Everett for many years and then settled in Peabody. He was a devoted father to daughter Jennie and son Randy. Arthur worked 38 years as a Massport tow truck driver, driving the Tobin Bridge into Boston. He was known by all for his dry wit, one-line zingers, loyalty, and helping others. Artie never forgot where he came from. His family recently discovered that Arthur for years put the American flag at each headstone of veterans at the local Jewish cemeteries for some holidays for the JWV.

Besides his parents and loving sister Linda (Klein), he was pre-deceased by many dear friends and family. He is survived by his wife Margo, daughter Jennie (Todd), son Randy, devoted nephew Michael, caring sisters-in-law Gaye (Lester) Kligerman and Mona McCannack, along with several nephews, nieces, cousins, friends, and Lucci the dog.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff at the Lahay Hospitals, Kaplan Estates, Brudnick Rehah, Fresenius Di- alysis Centers in Saugus and Danvers, Partners, Cataldo ambula- tance, Care Dimensions, along with the devoted aides who gave Arthur wonderful and compas- sionate care.

Although summer official- ly began last month, APS has begun planning for what it pre- dicts will be a challenging win- ter for Ukraine, with a wish list including medicines and heat- ing pads. Rostovtseva noted that in Maripol, seven people were confined to one room with no heaters or food. “Even if the war is over, people will still have nothing,” Rostovtseva said. “One day, they are going to rebuild the country. This ‘one day’ will not be tomor- row.”

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Seven dead, scores injured in Highland Park Fourth of July shooting

By Phillisa Cramer JTA

A klezmer band was playing when a shooting interrupted a Fourth of July parade in a suburb of Chicago Monday, killing at least seven people and sending dozens more to local hospitals.

A congregant and staff member of a local synagogue were among those murdered, the synagogue announced Monday night.

A public shooting at Highland Park’s July 4 parade killed seven people, six of whom were officially identified on Tuesday: Katherine Goldstein (aged 64), Irena McCarthy (35), Kevin McCarthy (37), Stephen Straus (88), Jacki Sundheim (63) and Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza (78).

On Monday night, North Shore Congregation Israel in neighboring Glencoe announced that a congregant who also worked on the synagogue’s staff was among the victims. Jacki Sundheim was the Reform synagogue’s events and b’nei mitzvah coordinator, according to its website. Earlier in the day, synagogue leaders had posted a message about the shooting, saying, “This touches each of us deeply and personally; the grief, pain, and fear affect us all.”

“There are no words sufficient to express the depth of our grief for Jacki’s death and sympathy for her family and loved ones,” the synagogue said in a statement. “We know you join us in the deepest prayer that Jacki’s soul will be bound up in the shelter of God’s wings and her family will somehow find comfort and consolation amidst this boundless grief.”

The mass shooting in Highland Park, Illinois, one of the most heavily Jewish suburbs in the Chicago area, is at least the 400th in the United States this year. After the shooting, law enforcement authorities said they had arrested a person of interest, a 21-year-old Highland Park native named Robert “Bobby” Crimo who they believed had fired from the roof of a building overlooking the parade route.

At least a third of the 30,000 residents in the suburb along Lake Michigan about 25 miles north of Chicago are Jewish, according to some estimates, and they include many Israelis.

Lynn Sweet, the Washington bureau chief for the Chicago Sun-Times, posted a video showing the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, Chicago’s preeminent Jewish music group, playing in the parade as bystanders scatter and scream. Sweet subsequently posted a picture showing bodies lying on the sidewalk.

Reports from Jewish attendees and town residents began emerging shortly after the shooting, even as the area remained under lockdown while authorities searched for the shooter.

After the alleged attacker was arrested, he was charged with seven counts of first-degree murder. According to multiple news reports, the man had visited a nearby Chabad House in the spring during Passover and was under surveillance at the shul for about 45 minutes until he left.

Jeff Leon, a Jewish lawyer whose twin 14-year-old sons were marching in the parade with the high school football team, described scrambling behind cars to shield himself and his brother. “He said he had passed someone who was bleeding from the head. He speculated that the attack was antisemitic in nature.”

“Probably half the people who live in Highland Park are Jewish,” Leon said. “And that just can’t be a coincidence.”

An Indiana-based Chabad rabbi said on Twitter that his 14-year-old son had been less than a block from the shooting helping Jewish attendees don tefilin, phylacteries used in prayer, when the shooting began. “He just called to say that he’s safe,” BH,” Eleazar Zalmanov posted, using an abbreviation that means “thank God.”

Highland Park’s annual Independence Day parade attracts many families to the suburb’s compact downtown. It was preceded by a children’s pet parade and would have been followed by a festival featuring carnival games, live music and fireworks, according to the town’s website.

Tomer Mizrahi had anticipated a hectic day at Mizrahi Grill, the kosher restaurant that he and his brother, Eli, opened in Highland Park a decade ago. Instead, he spent most of the workday with his staff behind closed doors, cleaning details off of news outlets and WhatsApp groups on the deadly shooting that happened about two miles from the restaurant.

“The streets are empty, everybody’s staying inside,” he said Monday night. “I guess it’s because the shooter’s still at large,” said Mizrahi, an Israeli citizen who has been living in the United States since 2000 and in Highland Park since 2012.

“What happens in one neighborhood affects our entire community,” the Jewish United Fund of Chicago, the city’s federation, posted on Instagram, adding that it “stands ready” to deliver support to those in need in the wake of the shooting.

The Highland Park shooting comes less than two months after a pair of deadly mass shootings that stood out even among the constant toll of shootings deaths in the United States. On May 14, a shooter who said he was motivated by antisemitic and racist ideologies killed 10 Black people in a Buffalo, New York, supermarket. Ten days later, an 18-year-old man murdered 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

Ron Kampeas and Cnaan Liphshiz contributed reporting.
The Russian Jewish Community Foundation (RJCF) is a longtime supporter of Magen David Adom (MDA). The ambulances, manufactured in the U.S., recently arrived in Israel. RJCF is a longtime supporter of Magen David Adom (MDA); Israel’s national paramedic and Red Cross service. The foundation donated its first Life Support Ambulance to MDA more than 18 years ago and its second in 2019. With the new ambulances bearing the names of RJCF and members of the Russian Jewish community, supporters are proud to forge a lifesaving connection between members of the Boston Jewish community and residents in Israel.

One of the ambulances was dedicated in honor of doctors Mila and Yefim Magitsky. “Dr. Mila Magitsky worked tirelessly to secure the funds needed to provide these ambulances to the people of Israel, and therefore the Russian Jewish Community Foundation wanted to show our appreciation by naming one of the ambulances in honor of Mila and her beloved late husband, Yefim,” said Lina Klebaner, RJCF director.

Magen David Adom does not receive government funding for its day-to-day operations and relies on donor support for purchasing ambulances, medical equipment, and supplies. “These are two of the first ambulances to leave Elkhart, Indiana in many months due to the pandemic followed by a worldwide semiconductor chip shortage,” said Klebaner. “They are sorely needed, and we are delighted they will soon begin their lifesaving journey.”

“All of MDA’s ambulances are sponsored by donors, most of them from the American community,” said Catherine Reed, chief executive officer of American Friends of Magen David Adom. “We are grateful to the Russian Jewish Community Foundation, a longtime partner, for fulfilling an incredible need for the people of Israel.”

RJCF is a grassroots, all-volunteer charitable organization with a focus on the greater Jewish community. RJCF’s mission is to preserve and enhance Jewish identity among Russian Jews, fight antisemitism, and support Israel and Jewish people anywhere in the world.

The Jewish Journal will print your news at no charge: birth announcements, engagements, weddings, job promotions, and other simchas. Submissions are subject to editing for style and length.

Send your news to rosenberg@jewishjournal.org, subject “People.”

Ariana Malcolm weds Steven Albright

Andrea Malcolm and Thomas Malcolm, and Kerryn Ward are elated to announce the marriage of their children Ariana Malcolm and Steven Albright. The wedding took place at the Kenwood Country Club on October 9. Ariana is a graduate of Swampscott High School, Suffolk University’s Sawyer Business Honors School, and Suffolk University. She works in supply chain management for a Canadian organic solutions company. Steven, a graduate of Swampscott High School and Lynn Vocational Technical Institute School of Plumbing & Gasfitters, is a plumber serving the North Shore.

Brookline, Worcester organizations receive grants from Orthodox Union

Kochvei HaShamayim, a Brookline organization, and Lech Lecha, of Worcester, are among five recipients of the Orthodox Union’s Impact Accelerator awards. Each of the awardees aims to provide social good for the Orthodox community on a scalable platform.

The five organizations were chosen from a field of 71 applicants; each will receive a $10,000 grant to facilitate further growth. In addition to education, recipient organizations are focused on community health, Jewish outdoor adventures and personal growth based on religious learning.

Kochvei HaShamayim, of Brookline, champions the values of family, community, and education by supporting young Jewish couples who must otherwise choose between family life or continuing their education.

Lech Lecha, of Worcester, emphasizes experiencing Judaism through nature. The group organizes outdoor adventures and wilderness journeys for participants to grow strong connections with G-d.

“We’re very pleased that the organizations we chose in this round of the Impact Accelerator focus on a wide variety of needs in the Jewish community as well as serve a range of ages – from children and teens to college students and adults. We hope that by supporting and working with these innovative groups, we will make a lasting impact on Klal Yisroel,” said Impact Accelerator Chairman Ezra Friedberg.

The other winners are based in New York. They include After the School Bell, the Jewish Orthodox Women’s Medical Association, and the Foundations Curriculum.
Scenes from the Jewish Journal’s Honorable Menschions June 14 Gala

Ken Hartman, Rabbi David Kudan, Alan Pierce, and Peg Hartman.

Sue Weiss, Rabbi David Meyer, Rabbi Yossi Lipsker, Cindy and Ron Matloff.

Marc Cooper, Barbara and Bert Wolf, Ginny Dodge.

Lori and Larry Groipen.

Helaine Hazlett, Linda Smidt, Jane Zeller and Jan Brodie.

Marty Schneer and Sara Winer.

Sharon Rich and Arlene Stahl.

Karen Rosenberg, Helaine Hazlett, Shep Remis.

Photos: Tanya Braganti