

TJP

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INSIDE



'Broadway Potluck'

Kayla Rutner creates nationwide talent showcase, p.6

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Quick Look

2-3	Elections 2020
5	Community
6	Dallas Doings
8	Arts & Culture
9	Around the Town
10	Jewish Foodie
11	Simchas
12-13	Columnists
15	Obituaries

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BIG SMILES, FULL HEARTS

Legacy Willow Bend volunteers keep up the love from afar, p.5



Photo: Ilana Swerin
Never too young to give to others, 4-year-old Maya Swerin, made 15 cards and a Shabbat Shalom sign for The Legacy Willow Bend residents.

ELECTIONS 2020: LOCAL DEBATES

Allred/Collins and Cornyn/Hegar square off, pp 2-3

- Shabbat begins:
- 6:25 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23
- Shabbat ends:
- 7:33 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24

Cornyn and Hegar face off in JCRC and AJC forum

By James Russell
Special to the TJP

Republican Senator John Cornyn and Democratic opponent MJ Hegar made the case for their candidacies during a virtual forum Oct. 14 sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas' Jewish Community Relations Council and AJC-Dallas.

The forum was moderated by Jeffrey A. Engel, founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University and professor of history. Hegar and Cornyn appeared separately and audience questions were not permitted.

Hegar has campaigned as a decorated combat veteran and outsider candidate who has the willingness to buck her own party. Cornyn is seeking his fourth term. He sits on

the Finance, Intelligence and Judiciary Committees and previously was Majority Whip.

Both unequivocally supported the United States' partnership with Israel, and denounced the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

"The U.S.'s special relationship with Israel [is] unique and it's special. And it's something we have to protect," Hegar stated. "I greatly respect Israel's position as a democracy in a very volatile area of the world. This alliance is strategically and morally and ethically important to us."

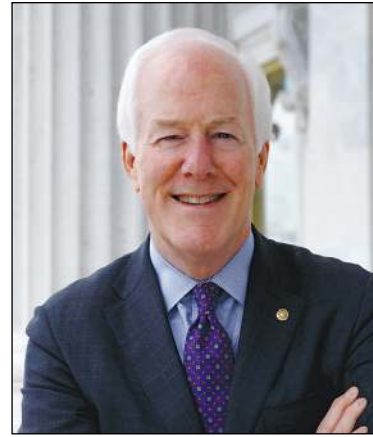
The BDS movement does not recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, Hegar said and "its leaders have too frequently deployed antisemitic rhetoric that I don't think that we've done a good enough job calling out."

"There is no better friend or ally of Israel than the

United States, certainly in the Middle East," said Cornyn. "It's important for us to continue to support Israel in every way we can both through military weapons sales and defensive weapons. But also [by fighting] back against efforts to marginalize Israel on the world stage through things like the BDS movement."

Of those seeking to destroy or delegitimize Israel, Cornyn said, "all roads lead to Tehran," calling Iran "the number one state sponsor of international terrorism and of course a nuclear threat."

Both condemned antisemitism and bigotry as well. Hegar is concerned about the rise of white nationalism as well as antisemitic violence. "There has been a rise of vandalism of Jewish businesses, cemeteries, on college campuses, etc. The violence obviously is the most concerning thing but it is the rise of white nationalism that really bothers me. We've



John Cornyn



MJ Hegar

seen swastikas and hateful literature. These things can't be overlooked," she said. "The hate speech that is allowed and is sometimes stoked by politicians for political convenience means that violence is right on its heels. We have to stand against hateful rhetoric and actions, whether it's from people on the left or the right."

For Cornyn, "antisemitism is abhorrent, as are racism,

xenophobia and bigotry. I think people of goodwill need to speak out against it and we need to reject them."

He added that he spoke at last year's Anti-Defamation League summit in Washington, D.C., and noted his friendship with San Antonio Pastor John Hagee, who leads Christians United for Israel (CUFI). "While I'm

see SENATE, p.4

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House candidates duke it out in AJC-Dallas debate

By James Russell
Special to the TJP

Congressman Colin Allred and businesswoman Genevieve Collins, both of Dallas, squared off during a virtual debate on Sunday, Oct. 18, hosted by AJC-Dallas and Temple Shalom and supported by several community partners including Congregation Beth Torah, Temple Emanu-El, NCJW, BLEWS of North Texas and Cathedral of Hope.

The candidates for the 32nd Congressional District, which includes northeast Dallas County and a portion of Collin County, provided differing visions for rebuilding the country after the COVID-19 pandemic has killed 222,000 Americans and seen 12 million people lose their jobs. They clashed on issues such as healthcare and foreign policy while affirming their support for Israel and a two-state solution.

Republicans held the seat from 2003 until 2018, when Allred knocked off longtime Congressman Pete Sessions. Now Collins is seeking to win it back.

Collins, who is running for office for the first time, touted her experience as executive at education technology firm Istation. Allred, an attorney, said he is a bipartisan dealmaker with endorsements from the conservative-leaning U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Dallas Morning News editorial board as well as labor unions like the AFL-CIO.

"It has been an honor of my life to represent the district I grew up in," he said, touting a successful new Veterans Affairs hospital in Garland, the new United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal and successfully pushing for a bullet train between Dallas and Houston.

Collins chided Allred, however, for voting with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi "100% of the time."

If elected, she said, she would focus on jobs, protecting pre-existing conditions and "fully funding the police" -- referring to the activist movement calling for policing reforms that emerged following multiple police-related killings of people of color. Republicans have sought to tie Democrats to the movement. "Just two weeks ago he voted to defund police by \$600 million," said Collins, who is backed by the Dallas Police Association.

Allred said he also does not

support defunding the police and voted for a COVID-19 relief bill that added \$600 million to help law enforcement, including more than \$300 million for a program that helps hire additional officers and \$300 million to help law enforcement cover costs associated with the coronavirus.

Allred said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Senate Republicans rejected the House bill, saying it was too expensive. That led Pelosi and the House to scale back the original bill's scope, though not all the police funding was scrapped.

"You've been fearmongering throughout this campaign about not only me, but also what's going to happen if I get re-elected, that I'm going to try and defund

the police," Allred said. "You've darkened my skin in mailers. That's not who we are here in North Texas, and so I think you should be responsible for what you've done in your advertisements as well ... I don't think that's what reflects the attitude that I'm hearing here tonight."

They also disagreed on Judge Amy Coney Barrett, the federal judge nominated by Trump to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court who is expected to be confirmed this week. Collins said the Constitution requires a president to nominate a judge upon a vacancy.

Allred took issue with the hasty confirmation process, which he called a hypocritical move by McConnell and Trump.



Colin Allred



Genevieve Collins

When President Barack Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to succeed the late Antonin Scalia 11 months from election, McConnell blocked it until Trump

won. "He's rushing a judicial nominee but not moving COVID

see HOUSE, p.4

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Germany allocates \$662 million in emergency funding for Holocaust survivors around the world

(JTA) — Germany has pledged an extra \$662 million toward helping Holocaust survivors during the coronavirus pandemic.

The money will be given out in two payments over the next two years to some 240,000 survivors around the world, especially in Israel, the United States and Western Europe, the New York-based Conference

on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

Two grants of about \$1,400 each will go chiefly to Jews who are not already receiving financial support from Germany earmarked for victims of the Nazis.

Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the Claims Conference,

told the AP that about half of Holocaust survivors in the United States live in Brooklyn and were particularly hard-hit by the financial effects of the pandemic.

The new payments come in addition to the \$4.3 million in emergency funding that the Claims Conference has given to agencies providing aid to Holocaust survivors.

Correction

Elliott Goldman, a Westover Hills City Council member, is not related to Texas Rep. Craig Goldman. The TJP mistakenly identified them as brothers in an Oct. 15, 2020 article.



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SENATE

continued from p.2

a Christian, I think our values align: Unity, generosity, peace, dignity, courage, gratitude, learning, and growth are all things that we value.”

The two differ on their number one domestic priority, however.

Health care is Hegar’s top domestic priority.

“We have to just stop playing politics with this. We have to protect preexisting conditions. John Cornyn has ads out saying he’s protecting preexisting conditions. It has been fact-checked false,” she said, referring to a **Washington Post** review of his statements. While Cornyn opposes the Affordable Care Act, which banned denying coverage based on preexisting conditions, he says he supports protecting those with preexisting conditions.

COVID-19 is worsening the situation. “The pandemic is really showing us what the implications of having a broken health care system are,” she said. COVID-19 is Cornyn’s top issue.

“Congress has passed four successive pieces of legislation totaling \$3.8 trillion and about

\$20 billion has been delivered in federal aid to our hospitals, schools for testing and personal protective equipment,” he said.

Facing an unprecedented pandemic during an election year has only added to Americans’ polarization.

“What makes it even more difficult is coming during an election year when the American people are already polarized. We’ve tried to do everything we could. We’ve gone big and bold to try to deal both with the virus and an eventual vaccine but also the economic consequences of this pandemic,” he said.

Cindy Sweet Moskowitz, chair of the JCRC, noted how valuable it was to hear from both candidates.

“The JCRC and AJC were pleased to collaborate on this unique program, featuring both candidates for the Texas senatorial election. Our U.S. Senators make decisions on issues that impact U.S. foreign policy, relations with Israel, as well as national and local concerns. It is an incredibly important election and we were glad to provide this opportunity to members of our Jewish community,” she said.

Election Day is Nov. 3. Early voting ends Friday, Oct. 30.

HOUSE

continued from p.3

legislation,” he said. “We’re doing so much damage to SCOTUS. Let the American people weigh in and vote.”

Collins defended the executive branch’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The government fully unleashed its power and resources, but Congress delayed,” she said.

Allred disagreed, citing that the country’s deaths count for more than 20% of global deaths.

The candidates differ on the United States’ role in foreign policy as well, though both are strong supporters of Israel and oppose the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel movement.

“The president has walked away, questioned or says these institutions have not served purpose anymore. We’ve abandoned our fundamental values. I’ve been working to re-assert our role in foreign policy especially as member of the Foreign Policy Committee,” Allred said.

But our European allies are not paying their fair share into democratic institutions such as the United Nations, Collins said, pivoting to the topic of Israel. “I stand with former U.N. ambassador

Nikki Haley, who stood for Israel.” She added, “I’m 100% behind a two-state solution.”

Allred, who visited the region as part of a congressional delegation, called Israel one of the country’s strongest allies. “The only clear way forward is a two-state solution where both have security and autonomy,” he said.

He strongly opposes the BDS movement. He co-sponsored a 2019 bipartisan nonbinding resolution condemning the movement. It passed 398 to 17.

“The BDS movement is trying to delegitimize Israel. No one serious is supportive of this movement. We need to tamp down efforts like this because of the diaspora and need for a Jewish homeland.”

The debate was moderated by **KERA 90.1** Senior Editor Sam Baker. Almost 700 people watched the debate live by registering through Zoom, while another 1,400 watched the Facebook Live stream. Subsequently the debate has been watched several hundred times on Facebook, and **C-SPAN** has rebroadcast it twice. The debate is still available to view on the AJC-Dallas Facebook page.

Election Day is Nov. 3. Early voting ends Friday, Oct. 30.

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The Legacy Willow Bend thanks its volunteers

By Deb Silverthorn

The tenet of giving unto others has not slowed during the pandemic and the residents at The Legacy Willow Bend remain beneficiaries of the kindness of many.

“We’re thankful to everyone wanting to make a difference for our seniors,” said Rivae Campo, volunteer coordinator at The Legacy Willow Bend. “The sky’s the limit for volunteering prospects. We don’t say ‘no’ too often and we can make almost anything work,” said Campo, “even in this time when being together means while we’re apart.”

Volunteer opportunities available include video chats with residents; creative gift packages and greeting cards for residents and the staff; holding collection drives for niceties such as hand lotions, sugar-free soft candy, notebooks with pens, nail polish and small packages of tissues; fabric to make no-sew blankets (3 yards per blanket); and large print books, including puzzle and adult coloring books.

Vered Golan shared her talents in floral design by creating dozens of arrangements which were distributed throughout the community. Two Eagle Scouts completed their service projects, one providing herb gardens and a second creating mile markers promoting exercise. Dallas Jewish Funerals donated bingo game prizes, the Friend and Foe Board Game Café delivered meals for health care staff, and Amy’s Hallmark delivered more than 150 greeting cards for the residents.

Dozens have donated face shields and pens decorated with flower toppers, blank cards, jars and plants. Many volunteered their time for FaceTime chats, phone calls, virtual activities and recordings to share on The Legacy’s internal television channel.

While Jewish Family Services’ summer Rabbi Gerald J. Klein Internship did not happen, The Legacy’s assigned intern, Peyton Ellis, was able to still volunteer off-campus.

“We’re following all COVID-19 protocol and guidelines and are not able to schedule in-person volunteer activities,” said Campo. “I am also working from home and look forward to the day we can all



Photo: Lisa Harris

“It’s all in there in one line in the Bible: ‘Do unto others as you’d have them do unto you,’” said 86-year-old Legacy resident, and volunteer, Col. Ben Greenfeld (right), with Judy Minkin (left) and Elinor Benton.



Photo: Barry Sobol

“Right now, it’s a delicate ballet to choreograph gathering supplies, collecting completed work and donating to the centers,” said volunteer Carol Sobol, representing the Legacy Knitting and Crochet Club, “but our hearts are full, and our hands are still creating.”



Photo: Rivae Campo

Vered Golan designed and donated dozens of floral arrangements to The Legacy Willow Bend.

see LEGACY, p.7

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Kayla Rutner serves up delicious musical theater

By Deb Silverthorn

Need a dose of musical theater? Thanks to a 16-year-old from Dallas, you can enjoy “Broadway Potluck,” an online concert with at-home performances by talented singers from across the country.

“I love being creative and took that passion to create a mitzvah opportunity that is showcasing artists and helping others,” said Kayla Rutner, a graduate of Akiba Academy and a junior at Greenhill School who is the daughter of Marilyn and Michael and sister of Sarina. “‘Broadway Potluck’ is bigger than I could have imagined but exactly what was in my heart.”

When Kayla’s summer plans disappeared, she was determined to bring together young voices from around the country. . With the support and talents of family friend Todd Shotz, the program realizes her dreams while also helping others with donations benefiting the nonprofit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. It is available to watch on YouTube.

“Kayla has an amazing voice and spirit and I was happy to help,” said Shotz, a longtime Broadway show manager and entertainment producer. He is also the founder and executive director of Hebrew Helpers, whose mentors provide individualized Jewish education.

His friendship with the Rutners dates to when he and Kayla’s dad sang in The Penn Glee Club. “‘Broadway Potluck’ is a labor of love,” he added.

“Broadway Potluck,” with more than 2,300 views and nearly \$9,500 raised in the 36 hours after its premiere, includes performances by Zoe Blackman, Skylar Crown, Sophia Grey Delucci, Kacie Endsley, Bre Furman, Jake Horlitz, Aldana Pavicich, Annabel Poinsette and Kayla Rutner. It was edited by Kate Franklin of Dallas, a 2020 Greenhill graduate and freshman at the University of Southern California.

“Both Kayla and Kate have been in productions that present humanity and take creativity to care about others. ‘Broadway Potluck’ is absolutely practice in play,” said Valerie Hauss-Smith, Greenhill School Director director of Theatre. “Talent is a gift from God; what you do with it is your gift back. It’s wonderful watching these two grow in their artistry, making a difference for others.”

Broadway stars Liz Callaway,



Photo: Courtesy Kayla Rutner

“Kayla and Kate have been in productions that present humanity and take creativity to care about others. ‘Broadway Potluck’ is absolutely practice in play,” said Valerie Hauss-Smith, Greenhill School Director of Theatre. Kayla Rutner, left, and Kate Franklin, right, are shown in a 2019 Greenhill School performance of “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

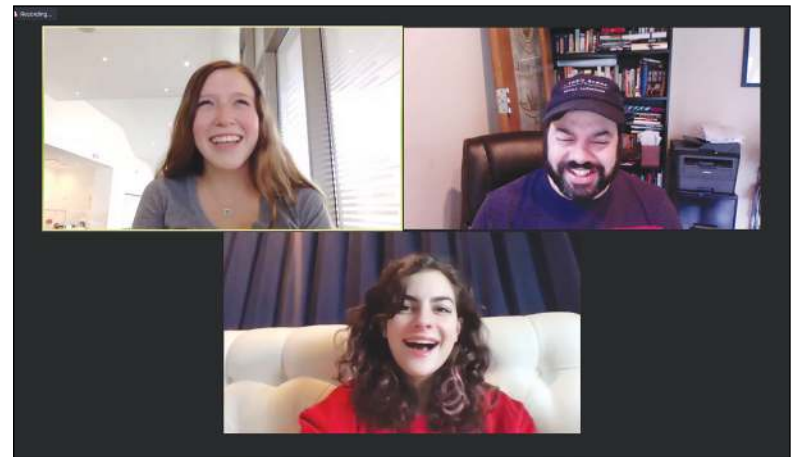


Photo: Courtesy Todd Shotz

“I love being creative and took that passion to create a mitzvah opportunity that is showcasing artists and helping others,” said Kayla Rutner, creator and producer of “Broadway Potluck,” shown with co-producer Todd Shotz and editor Kate Franklin. “‘Broadway Potluck’ is bigger than I could have imagined but exactly what was in my heart.”

Kevin Chamberlin, Joanna Gleason, Ann Harada, Adam Pascal, Tonya Pinkins, Jonah Platt, Donna Vivino and Rachel York shared bravos to the participants, with an introduction and farewell message by Joel Grey.

“Artists have an obligation to bring others along: to sing and speak for those who can’t, to make them a part of something,” said Gleason, who won a Best Actress Tony Award for her role as the Baker’s Wife in “Into the Woods.”

“Artistry is in our bones and ‘Broadway Potluck’ is exactly that. My hat is off to Kayla for this brilliant expression of understanding that responsibility and I applaud all of the participants’ diligence to continue working and performing their craft during this time,” she added.

Kayla’s family, members of Congregation Shaare Tefilla, where Michael serves as lay chazzan,

see RUTNER, p.7



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LEGACY

continued from p.5

be back on-campus.”

Many of the residents themselves participate in volunteer programs, and are grateful to be together while practicing social distancing.

The Legacy’s Knitting and Crochet Club, which began in 2010, remains fruitful. By the end of 2020, they will have created and distributed nearly 28,000 items to Cochran United Methodist Church; Dallas and Plano police departments; Hope’s Door and Streetside Showers in McKinney; Jewish Family Service, Christ United Methodist Church and Minnie’s Food Pantry in Plano; Plano ISD, National Council of Jewish Women, Vickery Meadow Food Bank and Clothes Closet; and several shelters, schools and other organizations.

“Right now, it’s a delicate ballet to choreograph gathering supplies, collecting completed work and donating to the centers,” said volunteer Carol Sobol, “but our hearts are full, and our hands are still creating.”

The group’s need for skeins of medium worsted weight yarn, in any solid color, including variegated yarns, is great as its annual mah jongg tournament, which “charges” yarn donations rather than cash entrance fees, has been canceled this year.

The residents themselves are returning respect, writing cards and letters to police and fire departments, to in-patients and for JFS to distribute with holiday food packages.

“It’s better to be strict than sorry, so we’re making it happen,” said Col. Ben Greenfield, who has lived at The Legacy for five years. “I’ve written thank-you notes to first responders and written trivia questions for game days,” he said.

At 86, with a 33-year career in the U.S. Army, a business career after that and years of volunteering at Operation Kindness and JFS behind him, sitting still isn’t his style. “It’s all in there in one line in the Bible: ‘Do unto others as you’d have them do unto you.’ There is no disclaimer that suggests we must only ‘do’ when things are good.”

For information about volunteering at The Legacy Willow Bend or The Legacy Midtown Park, contact Riva Campo at 972-468-9191 or rcampo@thelegacysc.org.

RUTNER

continued from p.6

stems from generations of singers. Her grandfather Murray Rutner was also a service leader and her great-grandmother, Shoshana Rutner, was a singer and pianist, the latter two of blessed memory.

“When my dad and I did ‘Sound of Music’ at the Aaron Family JCC, I knew acting was what I wanted to do,” said Kayla. “I enjoy singing, dancing, playing piano, acting and,

now, producing. I love it all.”

Kate, the daughter of Audrey and Rick and sister of Nick, grew up at Temple Emanu-El. At USC, she’s majoring in film and television production.

“When Kayla brought me this program, I was so excited, and it was a great experience. We really put our heart and souls into it,” said Kate, who edited the complete program from her laptop, this her first professional note on her resume as an editor. “Editing is my opportunity to help tell and shape

stories and ‘Broadway Potluck’ allowed us to show what we can do, in a time of ‘can’t.’”

Donations to “Broadway Potluck” support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, providing meals, medication and emergency assistance to millions affected by life-threatening illnesses. Broadway Cares is also the single largest financial supporter of The Actors Fund, providing a safety net of services for those on stage, behind the camera or behind the scenes.

“I still have this faith in the truth of my dreams,” sings Kayla, the production’s closing entertainer. The lyrics from her selection, “Anastasia,” are a reminder to always remain hopeful. “In my dreams it’s all real and my heart has so much to reveal. And my dreams seem to say don’t be afraid to go on, don’t give up hope come what may.”

For more information and to submit an audition for a planned spring concert, visit broadwaypotluck.com.

Discover more at thelegacysc.org



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TJAA plans online events Oct. 25, Nov. 15

Shining the light on Jewish arts

By Deb Silverthorn

The Texas Jewish Arts Association (TJAA) is convening two programs via Zoom in the coming weeks, continuing its mission of bringing thoughtful programming to the community.

“We’re a community of visual artists, dancers, musicians, writers and art enthusiasts and we hope others will join us,” said TJAA President Nan Phillips, a sculptor and stained and fused glass artist and teacher. “Our mission is to support artist members by fostering camaraderie, offering educational and social programming, and bringing artists’ work to the public.”

On Sunday, Oct. 25, from 3 to 5 p.m., the Art Schmooze will allow the community to get to know the artists.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, Dennis Kratz, senior associate provost and founding director of the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, will lead the discussion APART: Thoughts on Public Art, Religion, Translation and Creating and Responding to Art.

The organization was formed in 2013 after a program by the Dallas Jewish Historical Society brought together Nancy Cohen Israel as speaker and local artists who displayed their work. Israel is a Dallas



Photo: Rafael John Cocchi

In January, the Texas Jewish Arts Association and the Texas Sculpture Association collaborated to present the Juried Exhibition at the Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts. Dancers, from left, Ally Elliot, Ally Z. Shives, Terrance Carson, Rose Kotopka and Suki John performed to the music of violinist Sarah Price.

art historian, art educator, writer, curator, and owner of Art à la Carte.

With a mutual desire to connect, and to create programs and events that could be held taking the Jewish calendar and other sensitivities into account, the TJAA was founded by Israel, Julie Berman, Jan Ayers Friedman, Kim Goldberg, Veronique Jonas, Nan Phillips and George Tobolowsky.

The last public event, a juried exhibition by a collaboration of the TJAA and Texas Sculptors Association, featured nearly a month of many facets of art at the Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts in Richardson. Among the highlights: a Jan. 19 reception featuring speaker Congregation Beth Torah’s Rabbi Elana Zelony; “Hasidic Duets” by Dr. Max Stern; and a composition by Ayala Asherov-Kalus, “Winters and Afterthought.” The latter was

led by Sarah Price, TJAA’s music division director, and with dancers performing amid paintings and sculptures.

Last month, Price and Asherov-Kalus premiered a composition for solo violin, sponsored by TJAA’s partnership with the Israeli Composers’ League. Composed by Asherov-Kalus, and performed by Price, “Serenade” made its debut on the TJAA’s website, Facebook and YouTube pages.

“With live performances shut down, and all of us not knowing the when, what and how we might return, we are grateful for these opportunities to reach even more people to share our art,” said Price. “It was my first attempt at anything technical, and it’s all a learning opportunity, but we’ve had a great response.”

Asherov-Kalus agreed. “This piece



Photo: Jan Ayers Friedman

Members of the Texas Jewish Arts Association hope to return to gallery visits, like this one to the Cris Worley Fine Arts gallery which was exhibiting the work of artist Simeen Farhat. From left, Roseline Bodiford, Nan Phillips, Deborah Lonergan, Gail Sachson and Carol Cohen.

is a reminder of the social distancing we’re all witnessing. These are hard times,” said the Israeli native, composer, performer and music teacher at the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance. She wrote the piece during quarantine, struck by how difficult it was to create something moving at this time. “I asked myself if it was possible to be romantic during these times of isolation. ‘Serenade’ was my answer to take off and fly as music does.”

Suki John, TJAA dance division director and a professor in the School for Classical & Contemporary Dance at TCU, came to the organization four years ago. With TJAA members, she is building upon her 1990

choreo-drama, “Sh’ma,” creating an educational component to the story of her family’s experience during and after the Holocaust.

“The program in January was beautiful and we hope to create other opportunities, sooner than later, to come together — however that is,” said John, who enjoys the structure of working across disciplines with live music and surrounded by physical art. “Regardless of our members’ talents, we want to improvise and bring joy and art into each other’s lives.”

To register for either event, or for more information about the Texas Jewish Arts Association, visit texasjewisharts.org/upcoming-events.html.

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Matt Schneider heads to grad school at Northern Illinois University

Matt Schneider, grandson of Corrine Jacobson of Fort Worth and son of Dallasites Diane and Mike Schneider, is in graduate studies in percussion at Northern Illinois University. Matt received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Texas A&M University, Commerce, graduating Magna Cum Laude. While at TAMUC, Matt received many honors including a Presidential Scholarship and Marching Band Scholarship. Matt was president of the TAMUC Percussion Association in 2019. In addition, Matt was the first-place winner of the 2019 PMA composition competition, first-place winner of the 2018 PASIC (Percussive Arts Society International Convention) Keyboard Solo division and first-place winner of the PASIC Multiple Percussion Solo division in 2017.



B'nai B'rith 2020 Academic Award of Excellence winner Rebecca Ronin with her parents Galina and Vladimir.

attending Arizona State University and majoring in business.

Stephanie is enthusiastic about her education as evidenced by her membership in the National Honor Society, being an AP Scholar with Honors and receiving the President's Bronze Volunteer Award.

She was a member of the school's Dragon Concert Band for seven years. She also participated in the Southlake Carroll Color Guard for five years.

Stephanie and her family are members of Congregation Beth Israel. She has been an active participant in the (NFTY-TOR) National Federation of Temple Youth-Texas/Oklahoma Region youth group. Also, she was a member of ALTRUSA, which is an international service organization that focuses on community service, as well as Scholars and Athletes Serving Others (SASO).

Rebecca Ronin, daughter of Vladimir and Galina Ronin,

graduated from Grapevine High School (GHS).

She earned a 4.82 GPA on a 5-point scale and scored a 1260 on her SATs. Rebecca is attending the University of Texas at Arlington in the fall majoring in finance, economics and pre-med.

An excellent student, Rebecca is a member of the National Science Honor Society, GHS Math Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and an AP Scholar with Distinction and Honor. She enjoyed being a member of the Diversity Advisory Council at GHS, Business Professionals of America. She was recognized by the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Among the many high school honors Rebecca has earned include being a GHS STEM NASA Ambassador, GHS STEM Research/Science Fair winner, Sports Trainer of the Year and GRACE Volunteer Award winner. She was also part of various



Photos: Courtesy Isadore Garsek Lodge B'nai B'rith

B'nai B'rith 2020 Academic Award of Excellence winner Stephanie Felberbaum with her parents Nicole and Samuel.

organizations which included the Ambassador's Club, Multicultural Club, DECA Organization (Distributive Education Clubs of America) and the UIL Science/Math Club. She played in the GHS Band and was a sports medical trainer as well.

Rebecca was busy outside her high school activities as Chabad's C-Teen Southlake president, a member of NFTY-TOR, the vice president of NETTY (Congregation Beth Israel Temple

Youth). She was also a member of GHS HOSA, which is a professional organization for students planning to pursue a career in health professions, and played in the GHS Band. In her spare time, she participates in the USA Swimming Lifetime Fitness Program and the Cleburne Rodeo and enjoys fishing and shooting clay targets.

It is truly amazing that Rebecca accomplished all the above while finishing high school one year early at the age of 16.

B'nai B'rith Garsek Lodge names 2020 grant winners

The Isadore Garsek Lodge of B'nai B'rith recently named its 2020 Academic Award of Excellence scholarship recipients. Typically, these would be revealed at the Jewish Person of the Year Dinner. However, the annual event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's awardees are Stephanie Felberbaum and Rebecca Ronin.

Stephanie Felberbaum is the daughter of Samuel and Nicole Felberbaum. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Carroll Senior High School in Southlake.

She earned a 4.93 GPA on a 5-point scale and a score of 1420 on her SATs. Stephanie is

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Good nutrition for breast cancer survivors

By Tina Wasserman

October is National Breast Cancer month. I don't have to be reminded as my mother succumbed to the disease in October, 39 years ago. Although I have a degree that focused on nutrition and foods, I am not a registered dietitian, so I went to the internet to acquire more information that would help women navigate the disease in the kitchen. My researches lead me to the National Breast Cancer Foundation and its free e-book "Nutrition Care for Breast Cancer Patients" written by Annie Cavalier, the founder of My Healthful Life. Annie studied nutrition and dietetics at The University of Texas at Austin and attended graduate school at Texas Woman's University working toward her master's degree in

nutrition as well as completing her dietetic internship to receive her license as a registered dietitian (RD). We have not met but I wanted you to have access to her e-book and to her practice. She grew up in McKinney and can be found on Facebook. My goal is to take some of her guidelines and give you recipes that will meet those suggestions.

The current USDA guidelines are to make 50% of your diet fruits and vegetables, 25% grains and 25% protein. Be aware, however, their recommendation for protein in cancer patients is double the portion so instead of a 3-ounce portion you should focus on 4, or preferably 6, ounces per serving. You will also get many of your nutrients if you focus on the rainbow approach to your fruits and vegetables.

These pigmentations represent many antioxidants that protect us, and different antioxidants can be found in red produce from green produce from white, so creating a "rainbow" on your plate helps you visually to want to eat as well as helping you eat more nutritionally.

One suggestion that I found very interesting is not to eat your favorite foods if you are experiencing bad side effects from your treatment. You may associate that food with that difficult time and never want to enjoy it again. I remember having to take a medicine when I was a child and I always followed it down with my favorite grape soda. Even at my age I will never drink grape soda again.

Barley Salad

Natural grain, yellow, green and red (if you add the suggested tomatoes in Tidbits) vegetables pack a lot of protein and antioxidants by themselves but if you make this in a bowl with some chickpeas and leftover cooked fish or chicken you will have a well-rounded, healthy meal.

- 2 cups water or low-salt vegetable broth
- ½ cup pearled barley
- ½ tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 medium cucumbers
- 1 medium crookneck squash
- 1 medium zucchini
- 2 scallions

Dressing:

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 to 2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar or balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh tarragon, Mexican Mint Marigold or basil
- 1 clove of garlic, finely minced
- Finely grated zest of ¼ lemon
- Pinch of kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- Watercress or arugula for garnish

1. Bring 2 cups of water to a boil and stir in the barley. Simmer, partially covered, for 25 minutes or until tender. Drain and set aside in a medium bowl. Toss barley with the ½ tablespoon olive oil.

2. Peel seed and cut cucumbers into ¼-inch dice.

3. Cut the squash and the zucchini into ¼-inch dice and blanch for 2 minutes in boiling salted water. Drain and run under cold water.



Photos: Dave Carlin

Barley Salad



Black Bean Quesadilla with Smoked Salmon and Herbed Montrachet

Drain again.

4. Trim 1 inch off the green ends of the scallions and then cut scallions into ¼-inch lengths.

5. Mix the mayonnaise in a small bowl to make a smooth sauce. Add the remaining ingredients for the dressing to the mayonnaise and stir to combine. Set aside at room temperature or chill for later use.

6. Mix the barley, squash, zucchini and scallions in a bowl with the dressing.

7. Pour mixture into a clean serving bowl, garnish with some watercress or arugula leaves and serve, or serve salad on a bed of the greens if you wish.

Tina's Tidbits:

- Tossing barley with a small amount of oil will prevent the grain from absorbing all the moisture from the dressing.

- For a more robust color, add diced red bell peppers or small, halved,

cherry tomatoes to the barley mixture before adding the dressing.

- Blanching vegetables for a short period of time brings out the natural sweetness and color as well as slightly softening the food.

- Garlic may be eliminated if the taste or smell irritates you during treatment.

- Load this salad with any flavorful ingredients. Olives, sun-dried tomatoes, butternut squash, all will enhance this dish.

Black Bean Quesadilla with Smoked Salmon and Herbed Montrachet

Foods eaten during treatment, or anytime for that matter, don't need to be boring or bland. Here is a take on quesadillas that is impressive for any eater and yet is packed with protein and good fat from the salmon, and can be enhanced with additional vegetables, if desired. Make it as

see **FOODIE**, p.14

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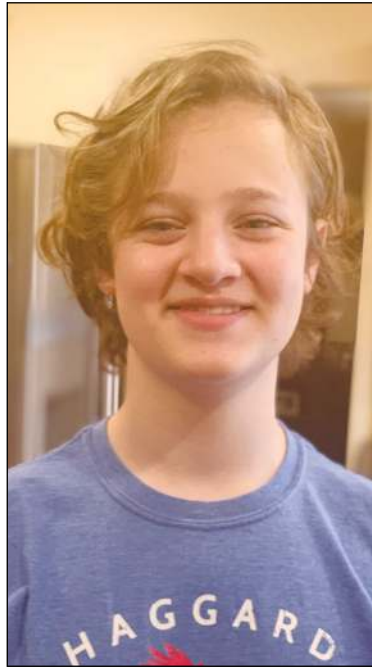


BAR MITZVAH
Maxwell Levy

Maxwell Levy, son of Lissa and Eric Levy of Plano, was called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, at his house in Plano via Zoom. Rabbi Daniel Utley and Cantor Leslie Niren officiated via Zoom. Max is the brother of Teddy, 10 and Elie, 19. He is the grandson of Susan and Arnold Levy of Dallas, Anne Baker of Asheville, North Carolina, and Sabrina and Tom Creola of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

An eighth grade student at Haggard Middle School, Max loves theater, reading, board games, computer games and anything to do with comedy.

For his mitzvah project Max wanted to do an independent project on something that directly affected his community in Plano. Usually the PTA at his middle school gives \$800 per year to the school counselors for the students of lower-income families who were not able to provide regular meals for their children. The counselors would put money on these students' accounts so they could have at least one meal that day. However, last year the PTA ran



out of funds and was unable to make this donation. Max felt very passionately about helping his fellow students and decided that this would be his bar mitzvah project.

Over the course of a year, Max held bake sales, garage sales and even included his fellow theater classmates in a movie-watching fundraiser. In the end, Max was able to raise enough money to provide 130 meals for his fellow students.

BAT MITZVAH
Addison Boyle

Addison Rose Boyle, daughter of Bonnie and Rob Boyle of Plano, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, at Congregation Shearith Israel. Rabbi Ari Sunshine and Cantor Itzhak Zhebker will officiate. Addison is the sister of Connor. She is the granddaughter of Frances and David Eisenberg of Dallas and the late Inez and John Boyle of Washington, D.C.

A seventh grade student at Shelton School, Addison enjoys volleyball, cheerleading, creating TikTok videos, playing with her dog Bentley and spending time with her friends and family.

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In their words .✍.

Columnists, opinion from the TJP

Bar mitzvah, basketball and Genesis

Backtrack with me, please: Last week I told you about how I had a brand-new, strange yet wonderful experience attending the symphony during COVID-19. And this good thing has happened again! So go forward with me now as I tell you about it ...

Shabbat morning, I attended a bar mitzvah. Not virtually, not Zoom or anything like it, but REAL! I sat in the sanctuary of my shul with most of the dozen others present. Already on the *bima*: the rabbi standing to my right, the bar mitzvah boy with his tutor standing to my left. Scattered about the “virtually” empty sanctuary: the grandparents in front, the parents to the left, the synagogue president toward the back — and just few others, including the person responsible for our bar and bat mitzvah scheduling and all that goes with it.

The rabbi opened with melodic prayers — lovely voice, on pitch, our few much thinner voices joining in. Then the parents ascended to their son’s “high place” and wrapped him in his new *tallit*. So far: just like any usual Saturday a.m. service, only much quieter, more thoughtful. The few of us had so much to be thinking about...

This young man — for he was both! Obviously no longer just a little boy! — then stepped forward to face his tiny “audience” and read his speech. He began by telling us about a main love of his life — basketball! He plays it. He studies it. He follows it in all possible ways. And he also equates it with his blossoming Judaism. Our faith, he reminded us, has rules too. We cannot just run wild on the playing court of life and do whatever we please; we have an instruction manual: our Torah — and our coaches: parents and grandparents, rabbis, synagogue officers who make decisions that affect us all, based on that greatest of all books. His language was simple but his message was profound, expressed to perfection by a youngster just entering adulthood. We learned that Judaism fits into his life with importance, as do family, friends and basketball. My only regret as I sat there: How I wished



IN MY MIND'S I

By Harriet P. Gross

— including basketball — to his portion from Genesis. Through his young eyes, we got a new look at our biblical rule-breakers and the legacies we’ve inherited from them. Here he also proved that he’s already a good and clever speaker, teasing us with easiness until he gets to the heart of things and hits us over the head — gently, of course — with all that’s really important.

The grandma who sat directly in front of me, who blessed the Torah before and after its reading, is my good friend. So I certainly know how sorry she was that big plans for this big life milestone had to be scrapped because of something even bigger. But also certainly, she was thrilled to witness her grandson’s triumph, and to be part of it herself.

When my own son became a bar mitzvah so many, many years ago, the skies opened up with lightning and poured an incredible amount of rain on all of us just as we were arriving, so we all entered the synagogue at a run. And I’ll never, ever, forget my friend and neighbor, the woman who raised her arms, her head and her voice as she ran, shouting loudly: “Enough, Lord! I already believe!” This remains the task of our Judaism: to believe, no matter the weather or COVID-19. There were sacred moments, even secret bar mitzvahs, in Auschwitz, too. We must never forget that.

Our shul president gave the new man his gifts; we threw candy at him; and then we left. It was an inspiring Jewish experience.

Harriet Gross can be reached at harrietgross@sbglobal.net.

his friends from school and shul, plus his far-flung family members, could have been here also, to hear him live, see his confidence, experience his competence in person.

Of course he managed to relate all he said

Do Jews believe in reincarnation?

Dear Rabbi Fried,

We have had much debate in class at religious school if we, as Jews, believe in reincarnation. Many kids felt this is a belief of people from India and places like that but Jews don’t believe in these kinds of things. Could you please tell us if there are any Jewish sources for or against reincarnation?

Thank you,

Marc and Brittany

Dear Marc & Brittany,

Reincarnation, otherwise known as transmigration of the soul, is not considered an essential tenet of Jewish belief as it is not mentioned explicitly in the Torah or Prophets and not codified in Maimonides’s 13 core principals of Jewish faith. Early medieval Jewish scholars discussed and argued this concept, some for and others against.

This belief, however, is overwhelmingly accepted as a Jewish belief by most Jewish philosophers and experts in rabbinical sources over the past 500 years and is the theme which fills hundreds of Chasidic stories.

The source of this belief is the “Book of the Zohar,” the principal source of Kabbalistic thought, which openly discusses the concept of reincarnation, in Hebrew known as *gilgul neshamos*. There is also the classical work of R’



ASK THE RABBI

By Rabbi Yerachmiel D. Fried

Ar’iz’l. This concept is the source of the Yom Kippur liturgy which recants the murder of the 10 leading Jewish scholars who were said to be incarnations of Joseph’s 10 brothers who sold him to slavery, their deaths atoning for that sin so long before. Both the Kabbalists and Maimonides refer to hints in the written Torah and Prophets to the occurrence of reincarnation.

Interestingly, the purpose of reincarnation is not viewed as a punishment or retribution or even fatalistically. It is, rather, an expres-

see FRIED, p.13

Kids’ books can help adults, too

Dear Families,

My favorite way to start this column is to say, “I found a new book!!” Biblioholism is a terrible, wonderful addiction to buying and reading books and since the tornado took close to 1,000 books from my home, I have been busy. In addition to a huge collection of books on all Jewish subjects, my real love is books for children and especially Jewish ones. The pandemic has stopped the ritual visits to the bookstore but thankfully Amazon knows just what I love. Before you stop reading because you can’t imagine buying children’s books for yourself or other adult friends, think again. A really good book for children has lessons for everyone and just as Rabbi Ben Bag Bag said about Torah, “You gotta turn it and turn it — you will find secrets inside!” (That is a loose interpretation of the rabbi’s comment in Pirke Avot 5:26.)

So here is my recommendation for today — “Honey on the Page” by Miriam Udel. It is a translation of Yiddish children’s stories! Now Amazon is fast though I haven’t gotten my copy yet, but the recommendation came from kveller.com, which is a wonderful website connected to myjewishlearning.com. The article from author Miriam Udel shares how she found lessons from her children’s literature that could help kids (and adults) living during this pandemic. She recommends stories for dealing with everything from empathy to tantrums to PTSD and even politics! Yes, the tales are for kids but that is the beauty of it — we ALL learn from stories!



SHALOM FROM THE SHABBAT LADY

By Laura Seymour

is left with their own noise and is very happy. Main message? It could always be worse — but there is more to take from the story and I’ll leave that to your family to relate to.

Yes, Yiddish has given us great words and great stories and great words of wisdom, but don’t forget the Torah and the Midrash and Talmudic stories! Simchat Torah has just passed and we have begun the cycle of reading Torah again, and if you made a Jewish New Year’s resolution to delve into Jewish learning, the book of Genesis is a great place to start. And remember that each time we read, we are different, so the lesson of the time for us will be new. The bottom-line message? Don’t stop learning, interpreting and finding the messages that help us every day!

Laura Seymour is director of camping services at the Aaron Family Jewish Community Center.

Speech and thought: refinement, clarity, context

One of the classical principles of scriptural interpretation is that the written Torah is especially efficient — every word is precise and instructive. Any section which appears to be extraneous or redundant signals additional information being smuggled into the text. Based on this premise, the Talmud (Pesachim, 3a) points to an expression in this week’s portion, where instead of the more logical and succinct term “unclean,” the Torah uses an elaborate phrase. The subtle divergence, explains the Talmud, provides us with a lesson about the importance of refined communication, even if it entails being lengthier: “An unrefined word should never pass a person’s lips, for the Torah goes out of its way and uses eight extra letters to avoid an unpleasant word.”

But choosing delicate language to avoid crude speech is not the only consideration when expressing oneself. In other places, the importance of clarity and conciseness is stressed regarding good writing and communication. And sometimes we run into a clash of values: Which is more important, more direct or more refined language?

The commentaries explain a guiding principle regarding when it is preferable to be brief and blunt for the sake of clarity, or to be lengthier yet delicate to avoid speaking crudely. It depends on the context: When it comes to conveying law (practical education or halachic ruling), clarity is primary. But when the Torah conveys anecdotes, refinement takes precedence.

The broader applications of

this distinction are, for example, the need in business transactions or medical discussions to be precise — a situation where clarity takes precedence over refined speech. But in conversations, such as when asked about someone’s character, being tactful overrides the need to be more direct, clear and concise.

Repetition signals lessons

Most ethical commentaries, whether in Torah or other works, deal with ways to refine one’s actions or speech, like the lesson above. Later in this week’s Torah portion, we find a more subtle instruction that relates to managing our thoughts.

The passage begins after the story of the flood: “And Noah, the man of the earth, debased himself and planted a vineyard. He drank wine and became drunk, and he uncovered himself within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father’s nakedness and told his two brothers outside. Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and they walked backward, and covered their father’s nakedness; their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father’s nakedness” (Genesis 9:20-24).

When examining the precise wording in this passage, there is a seeming redundancy in its last verse (“Their faces were turned backwards, and they did not see their father’s nakedness”). The immediate question is: Once the reader is informed that “their faces were turned backward,” the next phrase — “they did not see their father’s nakedness” — is obvious and unnecessary. If so, this

apparent extraneousness is communicating a separate idea about Shem and Japheth’s approach to helping their father.

Even thoughts can be hidden messages

To understand the lesson in this extra phrase, let’s depart to examine two famous teachings. Stemming from the doctrine of divine (personal) providence, the Baal Shem Tov teaches that everything one sees and hears offers a lesson; there is no such thing as a random encounter or meaningless event. This teaching extends even to our own personal reactions and emotions, which can provide significant lessons. Furthermore, there are guidelines about how to interpret the waves of thoughts and feelings that naturally flow inside.

This leads to a second teaching, which discusses how to manage the common occurrence of noticing flaws in another person. The Baal Shem Tov explains that our perception of the world is like a mirror through which we see our own reflection. And if a person sees a deficiency in someone else, it is a sign that he or she must have a similar fault, either outwardly or a more subtle version — otherwise, that thought would never have come to mind. (And the reason God uses such an indirect method to send us this message is that while it is easy to recognize flaws in others, we are naturally more resistant to see flaws in ourselves.)

At first glance, this overarching



D’VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Dan Lewin

Parashat Noach

principle is profound but puzzling. Why can’t one simply notice another’s flaw without necessarily possessing the same character trait? Indeed, there is a notable qualification to the Baal Shem Tov’s teaching: The principle depends on the emotion it provokes. Just as our choice of speech (using precision vs. refinement) depends on the social context we

are in, so too whether seeing flaws signifies a cause for self-reflection depends on the context.

If, upon noticing a deficiency, one’s reaction is constructive and action-oriented — “maybe I can help this person” — then not necessarily does the observer have that deficiency. (This benefit of noticing flaws applies to a great extent in education and parenting, where overlooking deficiencies can be detrimental; or determining that this is not a good person for me to hire, to do business with, etc.) But if seeing the flaw results in judgment or intolerance — i.e. being annoyed, focusing on the negative, disliking the person or branding the person — the statement of the Baal Shem Tov applies. That disturbing observation is a mirror, a message to look inward. And sometimes these reactions and lessons (being bothered and gaining constructive insight) occur simultaneously.

To see or not to see?

With this teaching in mind, we can revisit the above verse with Noah’s sons to extract the deeper lesson in the Torah’s repetitive

description of not seeing their father’s nakedness.

Noah’s three sons found him in a demeaning state, but they had very different reactions. Shem and Japheth averted their eyes; they did not want to see their father’s deficiency or embarrassment. To signify this virtue, the Torah adds “and they did not see their father’s nakedness,” emphasizing that not only did they (physically) refrain from looking at him, they were not thinking about his missteps — they were only concerned with helping to cover him.

By contrast, Ham, the third brother, focused on his father’s flaws, spoke about it to his brothers, and thus revealed his own failings. This contrast in characters is reflected in the following verses encapsulating the reward and legacy to their descendants: “Blessed be the Lord, God of Shem, and may Canaan be servant to them. May God enlarge Japheth and may he dwell in the tents of Shem.” (Genesis 9 26-27)

Thus, the deeper layer of the story conveys how the same sight or situation can lead one person to focus on a character deficiency while another person notices the fault only insofar as considering what can be done to improve the situation. And the main message in this extra phrase is that, at times, it is wiser to immediately push away thoughts that pop into the mind, especially when noticing flaws in others. More specifically, in addition to refraining from speaking about another’s shortcomings, we should only indulge these observations insofar as it lies within our ability to help improve the situation.

Letter

President Trump has earned the Jewish vote

The day that the UAE and Bahrain signed an agreement with Israel at the White House, the Jewish Democratic Council ran an ad comparing Trump to Hitler! To invoke such a reference to the Holocaust is an affront to all who lost their lives and to the memory of the Holocaust.

The Democrat left labels anyone who disagrees with them as haters, bigots, racists, and people clinging to their privilege, religion, and the Second Amendment.

In the 1950s, Fred Trump

donated the land where the Beach Haven Jewish Center was built and underwrote its construction. Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, converted to Judaism in accordance with Jewish law. The president has boasted about “my Jewish grandchildren.”

It is Trump who has taken steps to address antisemitism through his December 2019 Executive Order on combating antisemitism.

Jew hatred has become a characteristic of the Democrat Party with Rashida Tlaib, Linda

Sarsour, Keith Ellison and Ilhan Omar. Why do the majority of American Jews still pledge their loyalty to Dems? After the Tree of Life massacre Jewish “intellectuals” called for synagogues to ban Trump voters from their sanctuaries! My non-Jewish friends voice their bewilderment with this to me.

The Jewish Democratic Council seeks to misdirect Jewish concern and link the president to white supremacists. Their ad in this past week’s *Texas Jewish Post* is an example of their *lashon hora*. Ignored

are the many times President Trump has explicitly condemned white supremacists. Ignored is the fact that the Pittsburgh and Poway murderers expressed hatred of Trump. Meanwhile David Duke praises Omar and Richard Spencer endorses Biden.

Biden would restore the U.S. commitment to the Iran nuclear deal, canceling economic sanctions and enabling Iran to have an open path to nuclear weaponry. The purpose of Biden’s foreign policy is to delegitimize Israel.

This election should be about achievements and results, and it is clear that Trump stands head and shoulders above Biden.

As we pray for the state of Israel and for our U.S. government, we should also pray that we remain a community that stands for religious liberty, not against it; and affirms the alliance between America and Israel, rather than undermining it.

Scott Mackler
Dallas

Lillian Hammer



Lillian Hammer

On Oct. 8, Lillian Faye Hammer, 94, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away.

Lillian was born on Aug. 30, 1926, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Rose (Eisenberg) and Harry Gerson. After attending

secretarial school, she found work at a series of local companies including Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. On Sept. 24, 1950, she married Jake Hammer. Together they raised a daughter.

Lillian balanced family life with a full-time career, propelled by her strong

work ethic and business acumen. Eventually, she entered the temporary staffing industry. When she moved to Dallas in 1981 to be close to her newborn granddaughter, her then-employer tasked her with opening two offices. In 1988, nearing the age when most people retired, Lillian opened her own staffing agency, Business Professional

Staffing. The company ran successfully for two decades and earned recognition as one of the top agencies in DFW.

Lillian loved Las Vegas, cruises and spending time with her family. She was an independent woman and loyal friend, known for her quick wit.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Jake.

She is survived and greatly missed by her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Geoff Crowley; grandchildren Evelyn Crowley, Jaime and Nick English, Dashiell and Sophia Crowley; and great-granddaughters Bennet and Violet English.

Graveside services were held on Oct. 14 at Shearith Israel Cemetery on Dolphin Road.

Irma Freudenrich, Dallas' oldest Holocaust survivor, passes away at 103

Irma Freudenrich, 103, passed away Oct. 19, 2020, in Dallas. She was born April 7, 1917, in Lobsens, Germany, now part of Poland to Frieda and Abraham Herzfeld, the youngest of six children born. Her father worked in a brick factory. As the situation in Germany worsened for the Jews, Irma, her sister Ruth and one of her brothers moved to Lodz in 1939. Irma got word that her mother wanted her help and she should return to Lobsens.

When she arrived she learned that both her parents had been murdered by Nazis in the woods near their home.

Irma returned to the family home and rescued family heirlooms and silver. She hid below the seats of a train. After four weeks of varied travel she returned to Lodz. During part of that travel, she jumped from a train before it pulled into the station to avoid discovery. "I don't know how I did that," she told the TJP, "... but I had guts."

By December, the Jews were confined to the ghetto in Lodz. Irma and her sister lived in the ghetto for four years. There, Irma met Izy, whom she would marry after the war. In October 1944, Irma, her sister, Izy and his parents were forced onto a cattle car and taken to Auschwitz.

When they arrived at Auschwitz, Irma said that there was no room for them in the barracks. It was winter, and they slept outside on the ground until other women inside died, creating space for them indoors.

As the end of the war approached, Irma, her sister Ruth and Izy's mother were forced on the Death March to Bergen-Belsen. The trio contracted typhus. Bergen-Belsen was liberated April 15, 1945. Sadly, Izy's mother died four days later.

Just before her 100th birthday, Irma told the TJP how Izy had been at Dachau and when the camp was liberated on May 2, he found a bicycle and began riding from camp to camp in search of his mother and Irma. He finally arrived at Bergen-Belsen June 26. Irma and Izy were reunited and married July 1 by a rabbi at the camp.



Irma Freudenrich prepares for her 100th birthday celebration April 7, 2017.

Photo: Sharon Wisch-Ray

From the camp, Irma, Izy and Ruth hitchhiked to Hamburg, Germany. Irma became pregnant. She learned that her brother Ernst was in a "spy camp" in Russia. Irma traveled there while she was four months pregnant with her daughter Tonika. She said, "I asked the guards if my brother was there. When they said yes, I asked if we could go to lunch and I would bring him back afterward." Irma explained that once Ernst was with her, they boarded a train and never looked back. She had arranged for papers for Ernst. "I told him not to say a single word. I had guts."

The family immigrated to the

United States in 1950 through the port of New Orleans. Irma had an uncle living in Fort Worth, so the family settled in the area. They became members of Shearith Israel, where Irma was a member.

Izy worked for a garment cutter and eventually took the business over, building it into a thriving company with more than 400 workers.

Irma and Izy had a second daughter in 1953. Anita was born prematurely and lost her sight as an infant. Irma dedicated her life to making sure Anita got the proper education and training. She left home after graduation from

Hillcrest High School and went to a school for the blind. "It was hard for me to let her go, but I knew I had to," said Irma, making reference to the fact that it takes guts to let someone you love leave.

In addition to owning her own business after Izy died in 1974, Irma became an avid volunteer with Jewish Family Service and Lighthouse for the Blind, among other organizations. The wall of her home office was filled with thank-yous from the various organizations she's served. "I worked for JFS for more than 30 years," she said.

Irma told the TJP in 2017 that she was not embittered by the hardships

that she had faced throughout her life. "It is important that I tell my story," she said. And in fact, just a couple of weeks before her 100th birthday, she did just that to several hundred students at Ursuline Academy.

In addition to her husband, Irma was predeceased by her daughter Tonika.

She is survived by her daughter Anita Bonanno and her husband Emil of Houston, her niece Frieda Schmiel and many close friends who cared for her deeply.

A graveside funeral was held Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Shearith Israel Cemetery with Rabbi Ari Sunshine officiating.

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(The CDC defines close contact as within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.)



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