

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

In 1967, the Israeli poet, Zelda, taught us that each person has three names: the one given to us by God, the one given to us by our parents, and the one we create for ourselves.

As I sit to write these words to you, the burials have already begun in Pittsburgh. 66-year-old Jerry Rabinowitz was the first to be returned to his Maker. Brothers 54-year-old David Rosenthal and 59-year-old Cecil Rosenthal followed soon thereafter. Preparations are still underway for the others. There were eleven murder victims in all, each of whom had a name, each of whom is to be remembered.

I never did have the opportunity to meet these beautiful people during their lifetimes, but in death they have become part of me and part of us. Each of them did have a name, given to them by God and by their parents, but also by the lives they led. Because I did not know the victims or their families, I have adapted here a series of memories compiled by Emanuella Grinberg, Elliot C. McLaughlin, Sara Sidner, and AnneClaire Stapleton of CNN.com after speaking with friends and family members (<https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/28/us/pittsburgh-synagogue-shooting-victims/index.html>). Join me in remembering and celebrating the names of these 11 precious souls:

(continued on next 6 pages)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, November 2nd**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Kristallnacht Commemoration
- **Sunday, November 4th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, November 5th**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Mtg.
- **Saturday, November 10th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, November 11th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
1:00 pm – Charles Marr Memorial Service
- **Friday, November 16th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
- **Sunday, November 18th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Sisterhood
- **Monday, November 26th**
7:30 pm – Book Club
- **Friday, November 30th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
- **Sunday, December 2nd**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, December 3rd**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Mtg.

Joyce Fienberg



Joyce Fienberg, 75, had a long career at the University of Pittsburgh as a research specialist from 1983 until her retirement in 2008. Her employers at the Learning Research and Development Center called her a "cherished friend" and "an engaging, elegant, and warm person."

She was just as beloved by Ph.D. students of her husband, Stephen, an acclaimed statistician who taught at Carnegie Mellon University for 36 years. He passed away two years ago after battling cancer.

The couple opened their home to Stephen's students and treated them like family, former student Jason Connor said. Joyce would send cards to her husband's students long after they left Carnegie Mellon, Connor said.

"She was a very petite woman but lit up a room with her huge personality. We weren't just welcome in the classroom, but into their home," Connor said. "Everyone says this, but she really was an enormously caring person."

She had two sons, and was also a grandmother. Fienberg grew up at the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, the temple said on its Facebook page. She lived in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, not far from Squirrel Hill.

Richard Gottfried



Richard Gottfried was Jewish, and his wife, Peg Durachko, was Catholic. Together, they opened a dental practice in 1984 and helped prepare other interfaith couples for marriage through the St. Athanasius church.

In 1996, the couple joined the Discovery Study Club, a local group that's part of an international organization of dentists and specialists who offer educational lectures and workshops in dentistry, according to the practice's website.

The couple was a fixture in the community of Ross Township, said Patrick Mannarino, North Hills School District superintendent. Gottfried, 65, was the district's dentist for a long time, Mannarino said.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragedy," he added, "and our thoughts and condolences go out to all of those affected, including Dr. Durachko and her loved ones."

Rose Mallinger



Friends and relatives say the 97-year-old Squirrel Hill woman lived for her family. She regularly attended Tree of Life with her daughter, Andrea, who was injured in the shooting.

And despite her age, Mallinger was spry, vibrant and full of life.

"To Bubbe, family was everything. She knew her children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchild better than they knew themselves. She retained her sharp wit, humor and intelligence until the very last day," her family said in a statement.

Family friend Stephen Neustein said he fully expected Mallinger to make it to at least 100. The mother of three children, with five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, still cooked family meals for high holidays.

Robin Friedman said Mallinger was a secretary in her school's office when she was growing up. Then, as in now, she was a sweet and lovely lady who was quick with a friendly greeting, a hug and a smile, Friedman said. "She had a lot of years left," she said.

Relative Elisa Schwartz called Mallinger "one of the matriarchs of the family." Mallinger was a first cousin to Schwartz's grandmother. "We used to have a cousins' club to celebrate Hanukkah and gathered for Seders at Passover," Schwartz said on Facebook.

"Tree of Life is actually an appropriate name for how our community has come together. I will be mourning the loss of Rose and the 10 others who have lost their lives too soon as well as praying for the others that were injured," she said.

Cecil and David Rosenthal



The brothers (David on the left, Cecil on the right) were inseparable, said Chris Schopf of ACHIEVA, a Pittsburgh nonprofit that provides support for people with disabilities. The organization worked with the brothers. In a statement, they described them as extraordinary men who were respected members of ACHIEVA's community.

"Cecil's laugh was infectious. David was so kind and had such a gentle spirit. Together, they looked out for one another," said Schopf, a vice president for residential support. "Most of all, they were kind, good people with a strong faith and respect for everyone around."

According to their obituaries posted by the Ralph Schugar Chapel, [Cecil](#) was a devoted Tree of Life congregant. [David](#) worked for Goodwill Industries and was described as a hard worker who was frequently recognized for his dedication.

Laura Berman, the cantor of Temple Sinai, said Cecil was a "beautiful man" and a "sweet, gentle soul."

"The kindest soul you would ever meet," she said. "A smiling face. He was one of those embodiments of the community. Just open, warm, smiling, wanting to help and just in his beautiful simplicity. That's who he was."

Bernice and Sylvan Simon



The Simons died together in the same synagogue where they wed more than 60 years ago.

According to their 1956 wedding announcement in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the couple married at Tree of Life synagogue. The bride carried a Bible with white orchids and streamers of stephanotis, and wore a gown of ivory chantilly lace and tulle trimmed with sequins.

Their neighbor in Wilkinsburg described them as the "sweetest people you could imagine." Jo Stepaniak said she lived next to 84-year-old Bernice and 86-year-old Sylvan for nearly 40 years. They were the kind of people who regularly stepped up to help in their small neighborhood and in the Jewish community.

"They wanted to give back to people and be kind," Stepaniak said. "They were loving and giving and kind."

Daniel Stein



Joe Stein said his father Daniel was a "simple man" who "did not require much." The news of his death left their family devastated.

"Our lives now are going to have to take a different path, one that we thought would not happen for a long time," Joe Stein said on Facebook.

The 71-year-old retiree lived in Squirrel Hill with his wife, according to nephew Steven Halle. Stephen said he and his family were shocked by his uncle's sudden death at the synagogue, where Stein went every Saturday.

"He was a great guy," Halle said. "He was a fun guy, he had a dry sense of humor and everybody loved him."

Melvin Wax



Melvin Wax's greatest passions were his grandson, his religion and the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was "always in a good mood, always full of jokes," remembers his sister.

The 88-year-old accountant was usually among the first to arrive at Friday night and Saturday morning services, Bonnie Wax said. He was well-versed in reciting Jewish prayer.

"The synagogue for him was very important. We always used to kid with him that you should have been a rabbi," she said.

Upon learning of the shooting, she immediately feared that her brother could have been one of gunman's victims.

"He'd always be early, so when I heard this happened, I kind of said to myself, 'Ugh,'" his sister said. "I was hoping it wasn't Melvin, and unfortunately, he was one of the victims."

Irving Younger



Irving Younger of Mount Washington greeted Tree of Life members and visitors with a big smile and a handshake, a friend said.

"He was a guy that, when you walked in, he was the first person that would meet you and help you find a seat," recalls his pal and former Tree of Life president Barton Schachter.

"He liked to make sure you knew where you were in the prayer book. It was his duty. He felt responsible. He felt like his role was to help serve."

It was a role that came naturally to the charismatic 69-year-old, who had been frequenting the synagogue for at least 10 years, Schachter said.

A former real estate agent, Younger used to have an office on one of Squirrel Hill's main thoroughfares. More recently, he enjoyed spending time at one of the sidewalk tables in front of a local coffee shop, where he appointed himself as greeter, Schachter said.

Years ago, Younger coached Little League, said Meryl Ainsman, whose son played on his team. She remembered him as a kind man.

Jerry Rabinowitz



Jerry Rabinowitz touched the lives of many, both as a primary care physician in Edgewood Borough and a member of Dor Hadash -- one of three congregations scheduled to celebrate Sabbath at Tree of Life on Saturday.

In the early days of HIV treatment, when stigma around the disease was high, Rabinowitz was known to hold patients' hands without gloves and embrace them whenever they left the office, one patient recalled.

Michael Kerr said Rabinowitz treated him for HIV in the 1990s until 2004. Back then, for HIV patients in Pittsburgh, "he was (the) one to go to," Kerr said in a Facebook post Sunday. Rabinowitz helped him stay calm and got him into trials for medications that Kerr believes saved his life.

"Before there was effective treatment for fighting HIV itself, he was known in the community for keeping us alive the longest," Kerr said. "Thank you Dr. Rabinowitz for having always been there during the most terrifying and frightening time of my life."

Susan Blackman said she knew Rabinowitz for 35 years. He was the family doctor for her and her three children, and she said she saw him every quarter.

"He was like a member of the family," she said. "I can't imagine the world without him."

Rabinowitz was known for wearing bow ties that made people smile and put his patients at ease, his nephew, Avishai Ostrin said on Facebook.

"You know how they say there are people who just lighten up a room? You know that cliché about people whose laugh is infectious? That was Uncle Jerry," he wrote. "It wasn't a cliché. It was just his personality."

The Dor Hadash congregation was like a second home for Rabinowitz, said Deborah Friedman, another one of Rabinowitz's patients. When she spoke about Rabinowitz on Sunday, she started to speak in the present tense, but quickly stopped herself.

"He was a wonderful guy," she said.

Ostrin said his uncle was not in the basement where the congregation was gathered, but outside the room. "Why? Because when he heard shots he ran outside to try and see if anyone was hurt and needed a doctor. That was Uncle Jerry, that's just what he did."

Ostrin said if there was a message his uncle would want everyone to take from the tragedy, "it would be a message of love, unity, and of the strength and resilience of the Jewish people."

זכרונותיהם לברכה -- May their names be for a blessing,

Rabbi Dubin

Zelda

זלדה

Everyone Has a Name

לכל איש יש שם

Everyone has a name
given to him by God
and given to him by his parents

לכל איש יש שם
שנתן לו אלוהים
ונתנו לו אביו ואמו

Everyone has a name
given to him by his stature
and the way he smiles
and given to him by his clothing

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו קומתו ואופן חיוכו
ונתן לו האריג

Everyone has a name
given to him by the mountains
and given to him by his walls

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו ההרים
ונתנו לו כתליו

Everyone has a name
given to him by the stars
and given to him by his neighbors

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו המזלות
ונתנו לו שכניו

Everyone has a name
given to him by his sins
and given to him by his longing

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו חטאיו
ונתנה לו כמיהתו

Everyone has a name
given to him by his enemies
and given to him by his love

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו שונאיו
ונתנה לו אהבתו

Everyone has a name
given to him by his feasts
and given to him by his work

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו תגיו
ונתנה לו מלאכתו

Everyone has a name
given to him by the seasons
and given to him by his blindness

לכל איש יש שם
שנתנו לו עונות השנה
ונתן לו עיוורונו

Everyone has a name
given to him by the sea and
given to him
by his death.

לכל איש יש שם
שנתן לו הים
ונתן לו
מותו.

(Translated from the Hebrew by Marcia Falk)

President's Message

I was planning on writing about what a wonderful day we had on Sunday.

We ran a successful blood drive and we planted a garden of 500 daffodils in memory of the children murdered during the Holocaust. I was going to say how moving this event was for me, as when I started doing genealogy of my family from Hungary, I found entire limbs of my family tree completely disappeared during the Holocaust. I don't have names to remember these relatives by, but when we say Mourner's Kaddish at services, one of the reasons that I respect everyone standing up for this prayer, is that there are many people who do not have anyone to say Kaddish for them, and we do that as a community.

The events of October 27th in Pittsburgh have left me shocked. A lone gun man goes into a house of worship and brutally murders people. The acts are unfathomable. I know that everyone is concerned about security, and if you are concerned, please come to the board meeting on November 5th at 7:00 PM and express your opinions AND your ideas to the board to help guide us in our thinking.

For me, I will not let the terrorists stop me from living a Jewish life. I will give you a couple of examples of how I have put this philosophy into action during my life. When my son Sam was in the eighth grade, their class trip was to Washington DC. This was 2002, and the planning for the trip was in the fall of 2001. I stood up at the board of education meeting and said the same thing I said a few sentences ago. Do not let the terrorists stop us from going about our lives. The second was when my daughters had a girl scout troop trip planned for Assateague Island for a camping trip. This was during the time when the DC Sniper was travelling the metropolitan DC area and randomly shooting people. I sent off my wife and my daughters on this trip and again spoke to the girl scout troop about my convictions of leading your life.

I hope that all the parents of the Sunday School as well as the rest of the congregation do not feel so scared by the media and the threats that are out there every day to stop coming to temple because we might be a target.

Life is precious and living it to the fullest is what I will do to my dying day.

I love you all.

Howie



Sisterhood

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting will be on November 18th at 10:30am at the Temple.

Tentative Future Meetings:

January 27@ 10:30 - at the Temple

March 10 @ 10:30 - at the Temple - pack Mishloach Manot bags

May 19 - Final Meeting - at the Temple

A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee



Please let us know when someone has passed away, is ill or otherwise in need of a little sunshine so that the Jewish Center may be there to support and assist as best we can. Please contact Ruth Schutzbank at (908) 329-6036 or Howie.ruth@hotmail.com.

Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Thank you to all of the students and parents who helped with the Daffodil Project. A reminder that there will be no Sunday School on November 25th.

Upcoming Schedule:

- November 4th
- November 11th
- November 18th
- December 2nd

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study continues at the JCNWJ. Read more about our group on Pg. 9. Our schedule for the year is:

- November 10
- December 15
- January 12
- February 23
- March 16
- April 13
- May 11
- June 22

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please join us for a Memorial Service to remember Charles (Chas McGee) Marr, father of Suzi and grandfather of Grace Marr on Sunday Nov 11 at 1pm at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey.

Also, please join the family after the service if you can, for luncheon and socializing.

~Suzi and Grace

BUILDING UPDATE

Kitchen and Bathroom supplies

If you notice that any kitchen or bathroom supplies are getting low, please email Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

Updates & Events

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

FOOD DRIVE

The High Holiday food drive may be over, but our congregation continues to donate food all year round to the food pantry. The Jewish Center is collecting non-perishable items such as canned soup, pasta, and cereal on an ongoing basis to help out those in need.

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Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz (berk721@aol.com) or Ruth Schutzbank (Howie.ruth@hotmail.com). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.

Donations

In Honor of the High Holy Days

- Alison and Andrew Shelofsky
- Beth and Harold Lappin
- Diane Margolin
- Doreen and Ronald Frank
- Dr. and Mrs. Bernie Robins
- Harold Schwartz
- Helen and John Mattson
- Judy and Paul May
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- Leon Glass
- Rene Marinich
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- Rita Koral and Doreen Webb
- Robert Margolis
- Roseann and Edward Weinstein
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank
- Susan and Dan Hirschberg
- Teri Stanton

In Honor of the Daffodil Project

- Sherry and Allen Onweller

In Honor of Betty Berkowitz and Al Manasse

- Jeannie and Jeff Berkowitz

In Honor of Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

- Jeannie and Jeff Berkowitz

In Honor of the Kowskis

- Edward Skoller

In Memory of Chas McGee

- Teri Stanton

In Memory of Esther Lewis

- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In Memory of Hannah and Heather Braunstein

- Marci and Gil Braunstein

In Memory of Michael Lewis

- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

On the Yahrzeit of Celia Robins

- Dr. and Mrs. Bernie Robins

On the Yahrzeit of Henriette Goldstein

- Iris and Howie Hirsch