

בצרוך החיים

Memorial Book



תשפ"ג-תשפ"ד | 2023

Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman, *editor*
with assistance from Max Buchdahl
and Arielle Solomon

Introduction

by Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman

עשה לך רב, וקנה לך חבר, והוי דן את כל אדם לכף זכות.
(פרקי אבות א:ו)

As we remember colleagues and spouses who have passed away since our last Memorial booklet was shared, about 15 months ago, we take this adage from Pirkei Avot to heart. They have been our *chevreh*, and we have learned much Torah from them. You will read their biographies on the following pages and will see the length and breadth of their careers and rabbinates. Among them are two past presidents, chairs of many RA committees, builders of community institutions, and founders of many endeavors we hold dear.

This is the 30th memorial booklet in which I have been involved. I was the editor of many of them and I thank the volunteers and RA staff who did the bulk of the work other years: Rabbis Jonathan Waxman, Bernie Glassman, ז"ל, Stanley Greenstein, ז"ל, Nahum Shargel, Isidoro (Yehoshua) Aizenberg, ז"ל, Arthur Lavinsky and Carol Levithan, as well as R. Gabriel Kretzmer Seed, who edited the book for a year when I retired in 2013. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Arielle Solomon, RA office manager, over the last two years, and the primary assistance this year of Max Buchdahl, secretary of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, for their great attention to detail and logistics of completing the Memorial Book.

I started working on these booklets after our beloved Rabbi Jules Harlow retired in 1994. His elegance and eloquence graced the first several years of this endeavor where we share the lives of our departed colleagues with you. As our past president Rabbi Debra Newman Kamin delivers the *azkarah* this year, many of you will be listening to her and recalling the many colleagues with

whom you served. I started in the rabbinate 45 years ago, and there are three colleagues with whom I served in my early years in Washington, D.C. as a newly minted young rabbi. I was in my late 30s when I started working on these *azkarot*, and each year, I served with more and more of these distinguished rabbis. Some of the deceased, sadly, are even my peers.

I hope when you read this booklet, you will shed a tear, have a gleam in your eye, and a fond memory of these rabbis.

יהי זכרם ברוך

Rabbi Kassel "Kass" Abelson, ז"ל
הרב כתריאל בן הרב גרשון ולאה, ז"ל
RA President 1986-1988

Born: June 26, 1924

Died: July 18, 2023/ג'תשפ"ג ראש חודש אב תשפ"ג

Home: Minneapolis, MN

הגיד לך אדם מה טוב, ומה ה' דורש ממך כי אם עשות משפט ואהבת חסד
והצנע לכת עם אלקיך.

*It has been revealed to you as an individual what is good,
and what the Eternal requires of you:
To do that which is right, to embrace others with kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Rabbi Kassel Abelson responded to the prophet Micah's charge in action and word with a heartfelt "amen."

Kassel Abelson studied Hebrew and Jewish texts with his father, Rabbi George (Gershon) Abelson. As a young student, his strength was problem-solving through learning from others and packaging diverse data into an overall perspective, which led him down the scientific path of studying chemistry. That analytical and practical approach served Rabbi Abelson well in the rabbinate. As a gentleman and a gentle man, he had an incredibly unique ability to listen to and apply perspectives and perceptions with meaning and depth.

Rabbi Abelson was very proud of the Abelson connection to the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Beginning with his father's ordination in 1920, to his own ordination in 1948, through the graduations of his beloved wife Shirley and his daughter Elissa (Rick Sherwin, JTS 1978), to the ordination of his grandson Josh in 2009, Rabbi Abelson was incredibly proud to be a link in the first four-generation chain of JTS graduates.

Rabbi Abelson referred to Shirley not as his rebbetzin but rather as *rabbanit*. She was more than the rabbi's wife; she was his partner in leading the community. They married in 1947 and he was ordained six months later, in 1948, at which time they went to Beth El Synagogue in Minneapolis, MN, as Rabbi David Aronson's assistant rabbi. After serving in the Air Force as a chaplain and as rabbi at Shearith Israel Synagogue in Columbus, GA, Rabbi Abelson returned to Beth El to succeed Rabbi Aronson.

With wisdom, patience, innovation, and thoughtful guidance, Rabbi Abelson and Shirley grew the community. Congregants and colleagues alike were drawn to his warmth, integrity, and kindness. He referred to Beth El as his family; it is where he touched individual lives, educated chavurot, facilitated the spiritual and physical growth of Beth El, and modeled what it means to be a mensch.

Rabbi Abelson had a gift for finding just the right words or story to give perspective to a situation without belaboring it, for saying what one perhaps already knew but needed to hear, and for exposing people to the sources he read and analyzed to put things into a new light. Rabbi Abelson gave life-enhancing sermons, and his life was his best sermon!

With the support of his second wife, Joan, Rabbi Abelson flourished nationally and internationally. As a member of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, he authored many teshuvot addressing a wide range of ever-accelerating sociological and technological concerns. Each paper was firmly set on the foundation of classical texts and shaped by moral conscience. Rabbi Abelson was able to restructure the CJLS so that he, as its chair, was not the ultimate authority but rather the ultimate organizer and facilitator. The committee became less frontal and more collaborative. With his quiet strength, he helped the committee navigate spirited, often heated discussions with respect, listening to diverse opinions and developing an overall plan better than its individual parts.

As president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Abelson pulled factions and facets of the movement and Jewish community together. He called on the presidents of the Orthodox RCA and the Reform CCAR to join him in overcoming folded-arm partisan policies with a nationally published statement: "Our understanding of the Covenant tends at times to produce differences of opinion, even deep divisions within the [People] Israel. Notwithstanding these real differences, there is nothing that prevents us from respectful dialogue and cooperation on matters of mutual concern."

Rabbi Abelson remains the quintessential model of a genuine man, a man of impeccable integrity, a mentor who teaches by example, an individual whose words and actions are one and the same, a peacemaker who inspires respectful dialogue, a sensitive and compassionate man who empathizes with those in need, a Jew who is proud of his heritage and has committed to evolving that heritage in our ever-changing world. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1975.

Beyond his quiet power to create community and the depth of commitment to moral inclusivity, Rabbi Abelson cherished every moment of life with joy, inspiring those around him to count their blessings.

Rabbi Abelson is survived by his children, David (Susan), Elissa (Rick), and Sam (Sharon), and by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Abelson, Sherwin, Foss, and Lipnick families.

This tribute to Rabbi Abelson was written by Rabbi Rick & Elissa (Abelson) Sherwin, Rabbi Josh Abelson Sherwin, Dr. Nomi Kate Sherwin, Davi Sherwin, and Joel Sherwin.

רב מנחם אריה בן שמואל וג'טל, ז"ל **Rabbi Mendel L. Abrams, ז"ל**

Born: April 24, 1934; Minneapolis, MN

Died: June 18, 2023/ג'תשפ"ג; Burtonsville, MD

A graduate of the famed Minneapolis Talmud Torah school, Rabbi Abrams was an acolyte of Rabbi David Aaronson of Beth El Synagogue. A 1956 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BA in sociology, he entered the rabbinical school of JTS in that year, during which time he served Beth Ohr in Woodbridge, NJ as a student rabbi. In 1959, he married Lila Berger, a school teacher. Upon ordination in 1962, he entered the US Army as a chaplain stationed in Arizona, where he served for two years, attaining the rank of captain.

In 1964, he assumed the pulpit of Am Echod in Waukegan, IL, where he served for four years. In Waukegan, he was instrumental in establishing many programs and auxiliaries in the congregation, such as the Men's Club and Adult Education Institute. While in Waukegan, he was the secretary of the Chicago RA region. Rabbi Abrams, along with a pastor in the community, started the Lake County Community Action Program for preschoolers in the area. They then asked for federal funding for the next year. When they received the funding, the federal government changed the program's name to Operation Head Start, and it is now a nationwide program. He was very proud to have been a founder of the program.

In 1968, he became the rabbi of Anshe Emeth in Youngstown, OH. He was very active in the Youngstown community, serving as a member of the boards of the Youngstown Jewish Community Center, the Youngstown Jewish Federation, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Jewish Community Relations Council, and he was an advisor to various media outlets in Youngstown. He was also president of the Youngstown Board of Rabbis.

In 1971, he assumed the pulpit of Beth Torah Congregation in Hyattsville, MD, where he served the congregation for over 50 years until its closing in 2020. Immediately upon his arrival at the shul, he proclaimed it egalitarian; girls and boys had equal roles in their b'nai mitzvah ceremony including reading from the Torah and leading the *t'filot*. Being in a DC suburb, Rabbi Abrams hosted programs featuring a variety of elected officials, judges, and ambassadors among whom were members of Beth Torah. He even had Washington Capitals tickets with Congressman Steny Hoyer, beginning during his time in the Maryland State Senate, where he served as president long before he was elected to Congress. Rabbi Abrams was involved in a myriad of activities in the Washington Jewish community, including serving as president of both the Washington Board of Rabbis and the Baltimore-Washington region of the RA.

In 1975, he earned a DMin from Wesley Theological Seminary and embarked on an over forty-year career as a family therapist as senior counselor at the Washington Pastoral Counseling Center, work he found extremely rewarding.

In the 1970s, while teaching, Lila founded Abrams Travel, focusing on travel to Israel. Rabbi Abrams was her partner in this venture and for almost 50 years took hundreds of groups to Israel, specializing in interfaith trips bringing Christian clergy of all denominations to Israel to gain a better understanding of the homeland of the Jewish people and the Abrahamic faiths. They expanded to clergy of many faiths. Abrams Travel served as the official travel agency of the 1998 RA Convention to Israel. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1988.

The Abrams family is very proud of its many contributions to Masorti Judaism in Israel, including at the Agron Street Synagogue in Jerusalem.

He is survived by his wife, Lila; son, Ron (Luba); grandsons, Jordan, and Harry; and brother, Erwin (Phyllis). He was predeceased by his brothers, Harvey and Sheldon.

Rabbi Michael G. Brown, ז"ל
הרב משה גבריאל בן אברהם יוסף ויהודית, ז"ל

Born: March 31, 1938; Scranton, PA

Died: March 17, 2023/ג'כ"ד אדר תשפ"ג; Montreal, Quebec, Canada

One of the foremost Canadian scholars of Jewish history, Rabbi Brown played a pivotal role in establishing the distinguished Jewish Studies department at York University in Toronto. Generations of our colleagues, their parents, spouses, and children studied with him during his decades at York. A 1960 graduate of Harvard University, he entered graduate school at Columbia, earning an MA in 1963 and in 1976 a PhD from SUNY Buffalo. He was ordained in 1968 from JTS and began his association with York as a lecturer that year. Also in that year, he married Francine (Frankie) Nisson.

In 1968, while he was still completing his PhD, Rabbi Brown was recruited by York University to build a Jewish studies program, *ex nihilo*. He was involved in the hiring of virtually every faculty member who has taught Jewish studies at York since. In his role at York, he created an extensive and innovative curriculum for the program and helped establish three endowed chairs. He headed what became York's Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies from 1995-2002. He personally taught two dozen courses, mostly in Jewish literature and history. His specialty was Canadian and American Jewry. He also taught courses in Hebrew language and literature, Zionism, and Jewish texts. For many years, he served as a teacher conducting trainings on Holocaust education with Canadian and Polish teachers.

York became the place to go to recruit Jewish teachers across North America. He advanced and professionalized Jewish education in Jewish day schools. He was the author of numerous books in the fields of Jewish education and Jewish history. His volumes in Jewish education include: *Teaching Teachers*, with Alex Pomson and Sydney Eisen (2000), *Creating the Jewish Future*, with Bernard Lightman (1999, translated into Russian in 2001),

and *Approaches to Antisemitism: Context and Curriculum* (1994). His works in Jewish history include: *Not Written in Stone: Jews, Constitutions, and Constitutionalism in Canada*, with Daniel Elazar and Ira Robinson (2003), and *Jew or Juij? Jews, French Canadians, and Anglo-Canadians, 1759-1914* (1986). Rabbi Brown also co-compiled two important resource volumes, *Jews and Judaism: A Bibliography of Jewish Canadiana, 1965-2000*, and *A Guide to the Study of Jewish Civilization in Canadian Universities*. With Sara Horowitz, he co-edited *Encounter with Aharon Appelfeld*, a book about the famed Israeli author. He also published dozens of articles and book chapters on topics ranging from Jewish summer camp to Canadian antisemitism, Jewish education, and Jewish women's history.

Aside from his academic and scholarly work, Rabbi Brown was involved in numerous communal activities and organizations. He spent 13 years at Camp Ramah, first in 1967 as a Rosh Edah, then as a group leader for several summers on Ramah Pilgrimage, and then a number of years as a teacher and *yoetz* to high school graduates in Mador, National Ramah's official counselor training program at Ramah Poconos. In 1975, after the death of Rabbi David Mogilner, Rabbi Brown moved into the position of Mador director, which he occupied until 1980, the last year of the Mador program. In Canada, he was involved with Toronto's Associated Hebrew Schools, TanenbaumCHAT, the United Synagogue Day School, Bet Sefer Le-Dugma in Jerusalem, the National Board of License for Teachers of Hebrew in North America and Academic Advisory Board, and the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. He chaired the Rabbinical Assembly's *limud* program at its 2001 convention in Toronto. Rabbi Brown also served for 25 years as the High Holiday rabbi at Agudath Israel Congregation in Ottawa.

Rabbi Brown received many honors over the course of his career, including a Medal of Honour by the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, Poland, in 2011 for his work in Holocaust education and anti-racism, and an America-Holy Land Fellow at the Hebrew University. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1994.

He is survived by his children, Joshua, Matthew (Leah), Rabba Abby Brown Scheier (Rabbi Adam Scheier); grandchildren, Ozzie and Theo Brown, Aviya, Ayelet, Annael, Allegra, and Arella Scheier.

This biography of Rabbi Brown was partially adapted from a talk given by David S. Koffman, Acting Director, Israel & Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry on the occasion of Rabbi Brown's receiving the Louis Rosenberg award last year.

רב גדליה בן מרדכי ושרה דבורה, ז"ל Rabbi Gerald Chirmomas, ז"ל

Born: February 15, 1939; Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Died: May 19, 2023/ג'תשפ"ג; כ"ח אייר תשפ"ג; Boynton Beach, FL

As a mohel, Rabbi Gerald Chirmomas brought an estimated 16,000 Jewish males into the covenant of Abraham over the course of his career. As a rabbi utilizing his mohel platform, in which he taught Torah to community members often not reached by other rabbis, he taught Torah to tens of thousands of people.

Rabbi Chirmomas was the youngest of seven children and the last surviving child of Sara and Max Chirmomas, of blessed memory. Born in Montreal, he was raised in a Lubavitch Hasidic environment and in a household that also was open to learning from the broader world. At an early age, Rabbi Chirmomas was fluent in French, English, and Yiddish. He graduated high school at 15, after which he attended the Lubavitch Yeshivah in Crown Heights and received *semikhab* from the Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1959.

Rabbi Chirmomas said that he always wanted to perform as many mitzvot as possible. As a young rabbi, he studied *milah* and *shechitah* in Israel. When it came time to slaughter his first chicken, he realized that it was not for him. However, he did complete his studies in *milah* and was certified by Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Chief Rabbinate.

Following this course of study, Rabbi Chirmomas returned to North America to pursue his career in the rabbinate and complete his secular education. The pulpits he served early in his career were in Vancouver, Quebec City, and Bangor, ME. He earned his BA and did graduate work in sociology at the University of Maine. He also took doctoral-level classes in psychology at Laval University in Quebec, where classes were taught in French.

Rabbi Chirnomas moved to Boonton, NJ in 1971. His plan was to abandon the rabbinate and become an optometrist. While studying optometry, he accepted a rabbinical position to support himself and also did *britot* on the side. He further expanded his professional portfolio as a certified marriage counselor and mediator. Along the way, he dropped optometry and leaned into the rabbinate. His practice as a mohel flourished. Rabbi Chirnomas joined the Rabbinical Assembly at the 1974 Convention and became a cherished member of the *chevrah* of Conservative rabbis, serving as president of the New Jersey region of the RA.

Rabbi Chirnomas's children Mordi, Munroe, and Debbie recalled that for much of their childhood, prior to their father's marriage to Tina, Rabbi Chirnomas was a single father, and that he raised them with love and devotion. Despite his busy schedule, he packed their lunches early every morning and drove them to and from school every day, no matter his work demands. As challenging as life was, he made parenting as a single father look easy. When Tina came into his life, along with her daughters Julie and Marcie, they became a loving blended family.

At the height of his career, Rabbi Chirnomas was one of the most sought-after *mohalim* in the New York Tri-State area. He was profiled in a *New York Times* feature by Debbie Galant on December 3, 1995. Gallant notes the understandable tension in a room where a bris is about to happen. She then writes: "Enter Rabbi Gerald Chirnomas, certified mohel, who strides in like the confident surgeon in some television medical drama, or perhaps a high-powered Hollywood director walking onto the set. In fact, this ceremony has something in common with both settings; it's surgery as performance art." The article goes on to discuss Rabbi Chirnomas's characteristic efficiency, speed, reassuring presence, and diffusion of tension with appropriate humor.

Rabbi Chirnomas would give every baby boy a miniature suede *kippah* inscribed with his Hebrew name. He also had a practice of remaining in touch with families and sent birthday cards to the boys for their first several years. Rabbi Chirnomas believed in *simbah shel mitzvah* and always carried out his duties

with joy. He especially enjoyed performing *britot* for children of rabbinic colleagues and rabbinical students. In those cases, he customarily waived his honorarium. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1991.

In his later years, Rabbi Chirnomas and Tina lived part-time in their "snowbird" residence of Boynton Beach, FL, where they attended Temple Torat Emet. Having survived and recovered from a devastating automobile accident, Rabbi Chirnomas walked with difficulty. Attending services at synagogue was vitally important for him, and yet, as a traditionalist, he did not ride in a car on Shabbat and holidays. He purchased a scooter from the Tzomet Institute in Israel, which designs devices that circumvent certain Sabbath restrictions. On any given Shabbat, Rabbi Chirnomas would coast slowly down the sidewalk to and from the synagogue in his special red scooter, with Tina seated behind him hugging him around his waist. Despite whatever hardships he faced, Rabbi Chirnomas sought to fulfill *mitzvo*t and to do so with joy.

Rabbi Chirnomas is survived by his wife, Tina; children, Mordi Chirnomas, Munroe (Ellen) Chirnomas, Dr. Debbie Chirnomas (Dr. Michael Hurwitz), Julie (Dr. Andrew) Schneider and Marcie (Brian) McMahon; grandchildren, Ilana, Jared, Edden, Noah, Jonah, Patrick, Rebecca, Daniel, Michael, Alex, Sammy, Miranda, Ari, and Shai; and great-grandchildren, Maya and Asher.

This biography of Rabbi Chirnomas was prepared by Rabbi Edward C. Bernstein, Chaplain, Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

רב ז"ל רבי זבי דרשׁוויץ, ל' אלמלך בן אהרון וארליא, ז"ל

Born: May 4, 1928; Brno, Czechoslovakia

Died: March 26, 2023/ג' ניסן תשפ"ג; Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Zvi Dershowitz immigrated to the US as a ten-year-old with his family, just days before the Nazis invaded his hometown. The family arrived in Brooklyn, NY, and settled in Williamsburg on February 2, 1939. He earned a diploma in electrical technology from the Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in 1949 (part of the SUNY system) after which he went to help the nascent State of Israel. He returned to Brooklyn and was ordained in 1953 at Mesivta Torah Vodaath, the same year he married Tova Russekoff. They were married for 62 years, until her death in 2015.

He held several pulpits in the early years of his career. In the early 1950s, upon ordination, he served the Morristown Jewish Center, NJ, and then Camp Solel in Ithaca, NY. From 1954-1956, he was a rabbi at Beth Shalom in Kansas City, MO, followed by a five-year stint at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, MN. While in these pulpits, he also served as director of Herzl Camp in Wisconsin for nearly eight years. At camp, Rabbi Dershowitz's philosophy was to focus on creating an atmosphere in which campers would experience "joyful Judaism." The number of campers at Herzl Camp more than doubled during his tenure.

In 1961, he accepted an appointment to direct the Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Simi Valley, CA. In 1963, he became the administrative director of Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA, and in 1973 joined the rabbinic staff at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles as associate rabbi. He was admitted to the Rabbinical Assembly in 1979, noting that after serving his entire (25 years at that point) career in the Conservative movement, it was about time. For many years, he also taught weekly classes at the University of Judaism (now the American Jewish University), including its landmark Introduction to Judaism course. At Sinai, he created an extensive adult education program that was active for decades.

Having been a refugee himself, he devoted untold efforts to the struggle to free Soviet Jews and to welcome Iranian Jews fleeing persecution into his community. During his time at Sinai Temple, the synagogue witnessed an influx of Jews fleeing the Iranian Revolution. Rabbi Dershowitz worked with Congress and the executive branch and helped secure visas for countless Jews who today make up a significant and wonderful part of the synagogue. For the work he did to help them enter this country and the work he continued to do to help integrate them into the Los Angeles community, he became well-known and well-loved among the Persian-American Jewish community.

An article in the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal* noted that Rabbi Dershowitz "worked with local Jewish leaders to lobby Congress to grant political asylum to those with Iranian passports who could prove they were Jewish." It continued, "Staff at the Justice Department became accustomed to seeing his letters on Sinai Temple letterhead. He was one of the reasons many Iranian Jews were not only able to immigrate legally to this country but also secure jobs and integrate here. When it came to asking his congregation to embrace the newly-arrived refugees, Dershowitz had one motto: *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la zeh* ('All of Israel is responsible for one another')."

Outside of congregational life, he was involved in numerous organizations, serving as co-chair of the United Synagogue Youth Commission, and on the boards of Masada, the Young Men's Zionist organization, the American Camping Association, the Interreligious Council of Southern California, the Jewish Federation Commission on Soviet Jewry, and the Southern California Board of Rabbis Radio and TV Committee. He was a regular guest on KABC's popular radio show, *Religion on the Line*.

Rabbi Dershowitz contributed to Jewish communal life in diverse ways, including serving oft-neglected populations. For several years he led services, singing, and discussions with Alzheimer patients at an old age home, bringing joy and meaning to this special population. For five years, he also served as chaplain to inmates in Los Angeles County jails. For several years, he sat on the University of Southern California Ethics Commission, reviewing prospective

medical and psychological studies to help determine whether they were within ethical and moral guidelines from a rabbinic and humanitarian viewpoint.

He loved his role officiating at weddings, working with each bride and groom to make weddings a very personalized experience. He was also known to officiate poignant, meaningful funerals and was praised by families and his colleagues for conducting full eulogies during the pandemic, even if there was only one – or no one at all - in physical attendance at the graveside. He actively served the community until weeks before his passing.

He is survived by his children, Judy, Hillel, Nomi, and Toby; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, who gave him so much joy and about whom he always expressed great pride, and his sister Lili, of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Theodore "Ted" Gluck, ז"ל הרב חנוך בן אברהם וברכה טובה, ז"ל

Born: July 3, 1930; Bronx NY

Died: September 13, 2023/כ"ז אלול תשפ"ג; Chicago, IL

Born to immigrant parents from Hungary, Tibor Gluck began his primary education at Salanter Academy in the Bronx, NY, where he started going by Theodore. For high school, he attended the Talmudical Academy of Yeshiva University and Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. Gifted with a beautiful voice, he was a serious opera student and learned the cantorial art which he practiced until his eighties. He then entered the City College of NY and was mesmerized by the serious open intellectual inquiry and fierce spirit of debate. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1951 and immediately entered rabbinical school at JTS, where he was ordained in 1955. Rabbi Gluck then entered the chaplaincy, serving in the US Air Force from 1956-1958. After his discharge from the Air Force, he was called to the pulpit of Beth Israel in Derby, CT where he remained until 1966. While at Beth Israel, he became the vice president of the Connecticut Region of the RA and was appointed a member of the Rabbinical Assembly Prayerbook Commission.

From 1966-1969, he was the rabbi of Tifereth Israel in New Bedford, MA. While at his two New England pulpits, he studied at Yale, pursuing a PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Literature, which he was awarded in 1975. Never one to conform to expectations and realizing that what he loved most about the rabbinate was the ability to counsel his congregants, he moved his family to Chicago to pursue studies in psychotherapy at the Alfred Adler Institute (now Alfred Adler University). He opened a psychotherapy practice in Chicago and practiced until a few months before his death at age 93.

He is survived by his wife, Marguerite; children, Cantor Rachel (Charles) Rosenberg, Joseph (Cathy) Gluck, Miriam Buckner and Sara (Mark) Drexler; grandchildren, Ari (Lital) Rosenberg, Jonah (Lauren) Rosenberg, Yael (Avi)

Margolin, Avi (Oriya) Gluck, Raanan Gluck, Kate Buckner, Rebecca (Skyler) Gerald, Aaron (Carly) Drexler, Coby Drexler and Rikki Drexler; 11 great-grandchildren; and sister, Edith Stokes.

Rabbi Simon W. Glustrom, ז"ל **הרב שמעון זאב בן שלמה וחיה, ז"ל**

Born: March 4, 1924; Atlanta, GA

Died: October 2, 2023/י"ז תשרי תשפ"ד; Hackensack, NJ

Raised in Atlanta, Rabbi Glustrom earned a BA from Yeshiva University in 1944 with a second degree from its Teacher's Institute. He then entered the rabbinical school at JTS, where he was ordained in 1948. In that same year, he married Helen Stein. Rabbi Glustrom also pursued further graduate studies at JTS. After ordination, he became the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Durham, NC, where he also served as the volunteer Hillel director at Duke University.

In 1950, he assumed the pulpit of the Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation Etz Chaim, where he served until being named rabbi emeritus in 1991. During his tenure in Fair Lawn, NJ, he served as president of the Rotary Club and two terms as president of the Fair Lawn Clergy Association, among a myriad of civic activities. In the broader Jewish community, he served as president of the Bergen County Board of Rabbis and chair of the Federation of Northern New Jersey. He was a strong proponent of egalitarianism and guided the synagogue (not so gently) to accept women's equality in the synagogue. Early in the days of JTS's acceptance of women into rabbinical school, he had a female rabbinic intern, which was very rare for those days.

His service to the Rabbinical Assembly and the movement in general was extensive, comprehensive, and legion. He was a member of committees too numerous to mention. In 1963, he was the assistant chair of the annual RA convention. In 1970, he was appointed chair of the Committee on the Status of the Rabbi. This committee deliberated for two years and became involved in issues such as setting congregational standards and distributing a survey to colleagues to collect data about job satisfaction and salaries. In 1972, the committee submitted a resolution to the Convention as its report to the plenum.

This resolution sought to bolster rabbinic security for those serving congregations by dealing with issues including salary, benefits, severance, tenure, and housing. He also served several terms on the Executive Council of the RA, his last term being in the mid-1990s.

Rabbi Glustrom's most important contribution to the RA was in publications. Shortly after his retirement, he was appointed chair of the Publications Committee during his term on the Executive Council. When the RA determined to undertake a revised version of *Siddur Sim Shalom* for both Shabbat and weekdays, he spent untold hours serving on the committee from its inception in 1991 until the publication of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays* in 2003, as he was approaching his 80th birthday. He also served on the RA's *Va'ad Ha-Kavod* (Ethics Committee).

For the wider Conservative movement, in the mid-1970s, he chaired the Atid Council (USCJ's college arm) and was honorary vice president of the World Council of Synagogues.

He was the author of *When Your Child Asks, Timeless Tablets: Why the Ten Commandments Still Speak to Us*, *The Language of Judaism*, his memoir, *I Would Do It Again — Perhaps*, and his final book published in 2014, *Unfinished Journey: A Rabbi's Bout with Doubt*. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1975.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; daughters, Jan, Beth, and Aliza; grandchildren, Jonathan and Daniel Yaffe, Jonah and Zoe Belkin, and Lydia and Eli Dubois; and great-grandchildren, Rafael, Will, Goldie, and Noa.

RA President, 1982-1984
הרב אהרן משה בן אריה ליב וחנה, ז"ל
Rabbi Arnold Goodman, ז"ל

Born: June 27, 1928; Brooklyn, NY

Died: February 28, 2023/ז' אדר תשפ"ג; Jerusalem, Israel

On the seventh of Adar, February 28, at the age of 94-and-a-half, Rabbi Arnold Goodman passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Our father lived a life of infinite blessing and goodness.

An only child, he became the ancestor of many descendants. He was the beloved husband of Rae Parnes Goodman in a love affair that lasted 70 years. He was the wise, loving father to Ari and Ciporit, Daniel and Judy, Shira and Wes; the incredibly beloved Saba (to his American grandchildren) and Grampa (to his Israeli grandchildren) to Yehuda, David and Amirit, Netanel and Laureen, Renana, Yeshayahu and Adi, Chani and Eilon, Sarah, Joseph and Sara, Hannah and Ari, Nat and Davide, Sam, and Jordana; the loving Saba Raba to his great-grandchildren Yarden, Ophir, Orot, Kedem, Caleb, Pnina, Lex, Rachel and Tamar. Our father taught us that if you have made it with your own family, you have made it in life; it does not matter what else you do or do not accomplish. He made it.

He was a 1948 graduate of the City College of New York with a BS in psychology and was ordained from JTS in 1952. He earned an MA in educational administration from the University of Chicago in 1955 and graduated from DePaul University Law School in 1962. Deeply traditional himself, for his fifty years in the American rabbinate, his mission was to create a big tent where all could participate in the Jewish project with equal dignity. He was an early, leading voice for egalitarianism, empowering women to daven, teach, chant Torah and Haftarah, count in the minyan, and become rabbis before it was commonplace. He supported the LGBTQ+ community years

before the acronym had been created. At the age of 94, he flew to Italy to perform his first same-sex marriage for one of his grandchildren.

Our father had deep convictions with an incredibly strong core. One year at a family seder, he observed that if he were living at the time of the Exodus, and had to leave right away, and could only take one thing with him, the one thing he would take would be his tallit and tefillin because he could not start his day without davening. And yet, he was deeply nonjudgmental. He loved every person in his life unconditionally on their terms.

The consummate family man, he served congregations in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Atlanta. He managed to be there for everybody else's families in the best of times, the worst of times, and all times, while always being there for his own family.

Somehow, while focused on the welfare of his congregational families, and his own family, he was also a leader of the Conservative movement. For decades he served the Rabbinical Assembly, which he dearly loved, becoming president in 1982. He was pivotal in launching Project RA, leading to the democratization of the placement process for rabbis and open pulpits in Conservative synagogues more widely to RA members. He also democratized the leadership process of the RA – he expanded the leadership pipeline for the Rabbinical Assembly. During this period, there was a lot of anger among many RA members and there was wide agreement that if Rabbi Goodman got involved, people would get on board. He was devoted to changing institutions in the RA so our members felt more engaged. He served on the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards for two terms, from 1991-2001. He was the author of *The Plain Pine Box* which inspired families across North America to bury their loved ones consistent with traditional Jewish practice. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1997.

He lived in and loved two homes and two homelands. He loved America and spent his first 74 years in service of a more perfect union. He loved

Israel and spent his last 20 years savoring the miracle that after the vulnerability of Jewish history, a reborn people living in its reborn homeland. It was the capstone of his remarkable life that he spent his last two decades participating in that rebirth.

Three vignettes—from his Minneapolis years, his Atlanta years, and his Jerusalem years—capture our father as a rabbi and as a human being.

In Minneapolis at Adath Jeshurun Congregation, in the 1970s, a concerned father came to see him. My daughter does not want to have a bat mitzvah. Will you meet with her? Of course, our father responded. He met with this twelve-year-old, had a thoughtful conversation, and reported back to the father that he would not recommend that his daughter go forward with a bat mitzvah. What do you mean, not recommend? Aren't you a rabbi? Isn't it your job to get young people to have a bat mitzvah? If you do, our father cautioned, it will be an imposition. She will resent it. Let her do it when she is ready. She did not have her bat mitzvah at 13. But decades later, when she saw the announcement that our father had passed, she sent an email telling her story and adding the coda that as an adult she chose to have a bat mitzvah, that it was deeply meaningful for her to do so when she did so, and that she will be forever grateful to our father for seeing in a twelve-year old's reticence a soul that could be nurtured. She is now living an engaged Jewish life as an active member of her community, and she credits our father with allowing her to get there in her own time.

In Atlanta, at Congregation Ahavath Achim—where he served from 1982 until being named rabbi emeritus in 2002—our father connected deeply in the 1990s with a family from his congregation whose daughter was diagnosed with cancer as a young woman in her 20s. Our father stayed connected to this family for the twenty years he was in Israel. This young woman, married and the mother of a small girl, passed away in January 2023, when our father was quite sick and limited. He would pass himself but a month later. With his last energy, he dictated a eulogy for this young woman which was read by Rabbi Lawrence

Rosenthal at her funeral. He was a loving and empathetic pastor literally until the end of his life. He gave his last strength caring for another family he loved.

In retirement, in Jerusalem, he taught the children of the small shul in which he davened, Kol Dodi. After services were over, he would teach Israeli children about the parshah in Hebrew.

The rabbi who had spoken to 5,000 people on the High Holidays in Atlanta happily taught Israeli school children. When he took ill in the last months of his life, one Shabbat, two of his teen learners came bearing cookies and the request that he come back as soon as possible. When we asked who was teaching them in our father's absence, they replied: *ein mahlif*, there is no substitute.

Truer words were never spoken. There was no one like our father: deeply wise, deeply moral, deeply compassionate, deeply loyal to family and friends. His family misses him literally every day. And congregants who knew him in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s spoke about him all those decades later as somebody they could believe in who changed their lives for the better. His legacy is so big and beautiful. We are blessed to do our best to perpetuate it as best as we can.

This biography of Rabbi Arnold Goodman was written by his son-in-love, Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz, senior rabbi, Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA.

Rabbi Michael Haselkorn, ז"ל **הרב מרדכי בן דב ומלכה, ז"ל**

Born: January 14, 1941; New York, NY

Died: February 11, 2023/כ' שבט תשפ"ג; Newton, MA

A 1962 graduate of Princeton University with a degree in mathematics, it was during his years there that he became interested in exploring Judaism in depth and developed his acumen as a bridge player. After graduating, he headed to Chicago where he earned his PhD in accounting and an MBA at the University of Chicago School of Business. After finishing his coursework in 1965, he taught accounting at the University of Illinois before moving to New York in 1967 to begin rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), while also teaching accounting as an assistant professor at Adelphi University.

In 1970, he married Sharon Fine, who he had met at the University of Chicago, and the happy couple spent a year in Israel before returning to Cambridge, MA so she could continue her education at Harvard while he finished his ordination studies at JTS. They became active in Harvard Hillel before eventually moving to Newton, MA. While he was finishing his PhD, he began a more than four-decade career teaching cost accounting at Bentley University in Waltham, MA and was named associate professor emeritus upon his retirement in 2020. His interests included the use of computers in the classroom and how new manufacturing techniques might change the cost accounting system. He also taught at Harvard's Extension School, where he was honored in 2010 for 25 years of teaching. He had a small consulting practice and wrote several articles and case studies on internal cost accounting systems. He was a frequent reviewer of accounting textbooks and a member of the American Accounting Association, the Institute of Management Accountants, and the Massachusetts Society of CPAs.

In 1983, he and Sharon became founding members of Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, a new synagogue in Newton, MA. Because of his experience with finance and accounting, he became treasurer of the shul, serving several terms. He remained actively involved with the synagogue until his death. He was considered a man of integrity, humor, passion, and generosity.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Aryeh (Lisa) Haselkorn, Dov (Jeanne) Haselkorn, and Reva (Isaac) Haselkorn London; grandchildren, Eitan, Ezra, Adina, Adele, Dana, Graham, Jane, Delila, and Maor; brother, Robert (Margot) Haselkorn of Chicago, IL; and sisters-in-law, Esther Kletter, Judy Dach, and Miriam Chriki.

Rabbi Howard Jay Hirsch, ז"ל **הרב צבי חיים בן יקותיאל ושרה, ז"ל**

Born: September 3, 1937; Cleveland, OH

Died: April 15, 2020/כ"א ניסן תש"פ; Cleveland, OH

A 1959 graduate of Case Western Reserve University with a degree in English literature, Rabbi Hirsch had previously studied biology at the University of Chicago, where he was a member of the ZBT fraternity, before transferring to Case Western in Cleveland, OH. He had private tutoring in Hebrew and Jewish studies as a child in addition to attending Hebrew school, and he was the valedictorian at Cleveland's Bet Sefer Ivri Gavoha in 1955. He was ordained from JTS in 1964, during which time he served as rabbinic intern to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman at Temple Israel of Great Neck, NY.

Upon ordination, he became assistant and then associate to Rabbi Armand Cohen at The Park Synagogue in Cleveland. In 1973, he married Eva Lewis Talty. After 10 years in Cleveland, they moved to California, where Rabbi Hirsch assumed the pulpit of Hollywood Temple Beth El. He returned to his native Ohio, where from 1976 to 1980, he served Shaarey Torah Synagogue in Canton. In 1980, he was named rabbi of Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach, FL, and in 1985 he became the rabbi of Central Conservative Synagogue in West Palm Beach. In 1987, he assumed the position of executive director of the Fort Worth Jewish Federation (TX) and then was called to the pulpit of Temple Shalom in Colorado Springs, where he served from 1989-1997 before retiring and being named rabbi emeritus. He was very proud of his innovations at Temple Shalom, which included the creation of a robust "Introduction to Judaism" program to welcome Jews by choice, bringing the first 12-step group to the synagogue, founding a preschool, and expanding the role of the rabbi to becoming a spokesperson for the Jewish community on important state, national, and international issues.

In addition to his synagogue roles, Rabbi Hirsch remained active in both the broader Jewish community and the general community, serving in major leadership roles in the UJA Rabbinic Cabinet, including as chair of its Publication Committee and Speaker's Bureau, and as the chair of several missions to Israel. He served on boards of the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, the Steering Committee of the Colorado Springs UJA campaign, and the ADL in Denver. He was also heavily involved in interfaith relations. He taught at several Catholic colleges, including Regis University in Denver, where he served on the faculty in the department of religious studies for over 20 years and was named professor emeritus upon retirement. He also earned a PsychD from the Colorado School of Professional Psychology. He was a founding member of the Committee on Medical Ethics for Memorial Hospital, co-founder of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue with the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs, and co-founder of the Colorado Springs Community Concerns Group, an interdenominational association of clergy and national leaders to foster tolerance and respect for diverse groups.

His work in interfaith relations led Rabbi Hirsch to found the Center for Christian-Jewish Dialogue, the mission of which was an extension of his lifelong work: fostering a spirit of respectful dialogue and bringing multiple faiths together. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1991.

Rabbi Hirsch had a passion for opera and even wrote essays in rabbinical school on Giacomo Meyerbeer and Solomone de Rossi. He was on the board of the Palm Beach Opera and presented opera series in Cleveland and other communities. Rabbi Hirsch developed friendships with Maria Callas, Anna Moffo, and Richard Tucker, who also loved classical music. He and Eva returned to his native Cleveland to be with family in 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Eva; children, Debbi (Millard) Ezell, Judi (Steven) Diamond, Michael Hirsch, Susan (Keith) Mischel, Kathryn (Bob Venorsky) Talty, Meg (Tom) Gallagher, and Thomas (Melissa, שׂרָה) Talty; grandchildren, Jeremy (Paula) Diamond, Justin (Amy) Diamond, Jordan

Diamond, Brittany and Preslie Hirsch, Alex and Austin Mischel, Hanna Talty, Elizabeth and Daniel Venorsky, Christopher and Lynda Talty; and great-grandson, Harper Diamond. He was predeceased by his sister, Gail Hirsch.

רבב Victor Lyle Hoffman, ז"ל הרב אבגדור לב בן ראובן שמעון וגולדה, ז"ל

Born: January 20, 1940; Albany, NY

Died: January 3, 2023/ג' טבת תשפ"ג; Jerusalem, Israel

Victor Hoffman was born in Albany, NY, to a family that appreciated its Jewish identity but did not always find ways to express it. As a young child, he became interested in Jewish life, which led him and ultimately his family toward a profoundly meaningful and inspiring life of *hesed* and *mitzvot*.

Rabbi Hoffman was active at the Hillel at the University of Vermont, which inspired his first trip to Israel with Machon L'Madrachei Chutz La'Aretz. On the boat to Israel, he formed friendships with members of Bnei Akiva and spent time at Kibbutz Saad. After graduation, he returned to Israel for another year at the Hebrew University. During this period, he forged deep and lasting friendships with people in Israel and all over the world, from all walks of Jewish life, that lasted over six decades.

His deepening Jewish identity brought him to JTS, where he was ordained in 1969. The most important experience there was in the aftermath of the fire at the JTS library. While helping dry books damaged by water, he met his *besbert*, Hinda Sternbach, and they were never apart during their extraordinary 56 years of marriage.

After ordination, the growing family moved to New Orleans, LA, where he nurtured and developed the kehillah, Tikvat Shalom (now Shir Chadash). Those 12 years were transformative for the community, as well as the growing family. He and Hinda brought four girls, Talya, Yonina, Renana, and Elisheva into this world and raised them with a deep love of all things Jewish, especially a strong Zionist identity. So successful during those years in the States, his heart was always in the East, and the family realized his dream and made aliyah in 1981. It was so important to raise his children in Israel and to build their lives as

part of the Jewish dream. The songs from the formation of the State, as well as the contemporary experience, were constantly present in their home.

Rabbi Hoffman was all about relationships. His friends were from every generation and every place he went. At his 80th birthday party, just before Covid, he received *berakhot* from friends from high school and college, from the Machon and Hebrew University, from JTS, from the scores of people in the shul whose lives were enhanced by their beloved rabbi, and from Jerusalem friends at their shul, Yehuda HaLevi, and various Shabbat and Rosh Hodesh groups.

His love of people, Judaism, and Zionism extended to his professional life. After making aliyah, Rabbi Hoffman worked for the Masorti Movement, supporting the very young confederation of communities trying to get a foothold. So many colleagues expressed their appreciation of his ability to help facilitate communal relationships, especially female colleagues, who faced even greater obstacles.

Just as he started a new life in Israel at the mid-point of his eight decades of life, he started a new career in Israel as well. With friend and colleague, Jim Lebeau, Rabbi Hoffman created a business to bring people from abroad to learn about living in Israel through daily life and help connect them to Israeli culture and professionals. It was a natural transition to apartment rentals and then to traditional real estate.

However, it quickly became obvious that he was a rabbi doing real estate rather than a realtor who was once a rabbi. His colleagues noted that his biggest flaw as an agent was his dedication to his clients, including total honesty. Rather than just selling a house, he got to know them, helped them find the right community, and connected them with shuls and schools for their children. So many of these client-friends spent Shabbat dinner at their home at 18 Tel Chai.

From their years on the Upper West Side, the Hoffmans were known as enthusiastic participants in sophisticated culture. His passion for Judaica, antiques, art, opera, and classical music was inspiring and sometimes

overwhelming. Understanding and honoring the history of each piece mattered deeply as well. He was always filled with curiosity, a non-stop reader of both fiction and non-fiction, and nothing gave him more joy than sitting down to find out what YOU thought was meaningful. He was the most judgmental, non-judgmental person ever. His expectations of excellence were incredibly high, and that was met by an even more transcendent ability to appreciate and love others simply for who they were. That desire to be with you, to grow with you, extended throughout the generations of his family, including 11 grandchildren, and to friends all over the world.

Rabbi Hoffman's death during the week of **פרשת ויחי** was fitting. Just as Ya'akov had an individual *brakhab* for each person, **איש אשר כברכתו ברוך אותם**, Rabbi Hoffman identified and blessed the sanctity in every person he met. He made every person he encountered feel special, for he truly cared about them. And most importantly, everything was done in an inspiring and sacred partnership with his beloved Hinda. Family was always at the center for the two of them. Through those individual connections, he fostered Jewish community in every setting imaginable. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1993.

Rabbi Hoffman was a support to so many as well as a role model of how to live a life of generosity, *hesed*, and love. In his final time with us, he shared his appreciation of what a full and complete life he had lived, and that while there could always be more, his dreams had come true.

He is survived by his wife, Hinda, daughters, Talya (Rabbi David) Kalender, Yonina (Jeremy) Wanderer, Renana Siegel, and Elisheva (Nadav) Molchadsky; and siblings, Kenneth (Roberta) and Karen Hoffman; and 11 grandchildren.

יהי זכרו ברוך

This biography of Rabbi Hoffman was written by his son-in-law, Rabbi David Kalender, senior rabbi, Congregation Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA.

Rabbi Avraham Holtz, ז"ל הרב אברהם בן אליעזר ופעסל פרומעט, ז"ל

Born: May 26, 1934; New York, NY

Died: November 15, 2023/ב' כסלו תשפ"ד; New York, NY

A graduate of the prestigious Stuyvesant High School in New York City, Rabbi Holtz attended Herzliah High School for his advanced Jewish education. He completed a BA in Ancient History from Brooklyn College in 1955, after which he entered the rabbinical school at JTS. He was ordained in 1959 and earned a DHL in 1962, also at JTS. Rabbi Holtz spent his entire career as a professor of Hebrew at JTS and retired in 2004 as the Simon H. Fabian Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Literature. He also taught liturgy, midrash, and Bible. During his many years at JTS, he also held several administrative roles, including several terms as the chair of the Department of Hebrew Literature and, in the 1970s, as the Dean of Academic Development. In Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz's eulogy, she referred to Rabbi Holtz as being "part of a cadre of younger, native-born scholars teaching at JTS in the 1960s who in retrospect proved to be harbingers of the explosion of Jewish studies in higher education in the United States."

As a young rabbi and new member of the JTS faculty, he was appointed to the Rabbinical Assembly Prayerbook Commission in 1962 under the chairmanship of Rabbi Gershon Hadas. He was instrumental in the text and translation of the *Machzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur* (aka the Harlow machzor) in 1972 and of the original Siddur Sim Shalom (the Harlow siddur) in 1985, both published by the Rabbinical Assembly. His Hebrew was flawless and mellifluous. He was always only too happy to share his wisdom with the Rabbinical Assembly, including for liturgical texts in the *Lev Shalem* series, helping to provide the proper translation of a phrase or the proper Hebrew orthography (including over the past 30 years with this publication). The Rabbinical Assembly owes him a great debt of gratitude for his contributions to our many publications.

In 1967, Rabbi Holtz published a collection of Hebrew essays about the writings of the early modern Hebrew and Yiddish author, Isaac Dov Berkowitz, with a biography and introduction in Hebrew. In 1973, he published his first book, *Isaac Dov Berkowitz: Voice of the Uprooted*. In the aftermath of the Six-Day War, Rabbi Holtz compiled and edited a book about Jerusalem entitled *The Holy City: Jews on Jerusalem* (1971). He also wrote "The Explicit and the Allusive in Language," a translation of Chaim Nachman Bialik's essay, "גלוי וכסוי בלשון."

Rabbi Holtz spent 1969-70 with kibbutzniks and Israeli students who were living at Neve Schechter in Jerusalem. His time spent there teaching and giving informal seminars resulted in a well-known Hebrew book called **בעולם קדושין** **המחשבה של חז"ל: בעקבות משנתו של מ. קדושין**. This was a book about "Judaism" written in Hebrew for Israelis, based on the ideas of Prof. Max Kadushin, one of his teachers and a distinguished member of the JTS faculty.

In 1974, he married Toby Esther Berger, a faculty member of the chemistry department at Barnard College, whom he had interviewed for the Prozdor Hebrew High School in 1959. He had been her teacher both at Prozdor and on the Ramah Israel Seminar in 1962.

Rabbi Holtz's passion was the work of the Israeli Nobel Prize winner, Shai Agnon. He published the first critical edition of a Hebrew novel, stating that he followed the pattern of *Mikraot G'dolot* to mine a deep intellectual understanding of the author. The novel was Agnon's **הכנסת כלה**, called *The Bridal Canopy* in English translation. The annotated edition was published by Schocken Publishing House in 1995 and entitled **מראות ומקורות**. In 2003, a *festschrift* was published in his honor, *Essays on Hebrew Literature in Honor of Avraham Holtz*, edited by Zvia Ben-Yosef Ginor. He also enjoyed a close friendship with the late Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld.

Rabbi Holtz was awarded the Hebrew University's Lady Davis Research Fellowship (1969) and was also a visiting professor of Hebrew language and literature at Columbia University, Hunter College/CUNY, and at the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1988), and was a visiting

scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1989). He visited the USSR in 1972 as a participant in a special program to visit Soviet Jews. In 2013, Rabbi Holtz was named an honorary member of the State of Israel's Academy for the Hebrew Language.

For generations of his students at JTS, it can only be said, given the many tributes that have poured in since his passing, that to study modern Hebrew literature with him was like being transported to the world and milieu of its authors.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Toby Berger Holtz; children, Shalom Eliezer Holtz, Razelle Weinstein, Mordecai Yehiel Holtz, and Miriam Malka Craimer.

רב הרמן לואיס הורוויץ, ז"ל
הרב חיים אליעזר בן דוב בער הלוי והינדע רבקה, ז"ל

Born: October 27, 1928; Newark, NJ

Died: May 9, 2023/ל"ג בעומר תשפ"ג; Philadelphia, PA

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers University with a BA in 1949, he was ordained in 1956 from JTS. He began his career serving the Queens (NY) Jewish Center, followed by nine years at Temple Beth El in Troy, NY from 1959-1968. While in Troy, he was also a chaplain to the Jewish students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and at Russell Sage College. Additionally, he served as a member of the Troy Commission on Human Rights. From 1968-1970, he was the rabbi of Suburban Jewish Community Center in Havertown, PA. From 1970-1976, he served Temple Beth El in Buffalo, NY. While in Buffalo, he initiated a Hebrew program at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1972-1974.

In 1976, he returned to Philadelphia, serving Beth Emeth Congregation in Northeast Philadelphia. Rabbi Horowitz was president of the Delaware Valley Region of the RA during this second stint in Philadelphia and also served a term on the Rabbinical Assembly's Executive Council. In 1990, he transitioned to the field of couples and family therapy. He would do this work for the rest of his career, which he began full-time in 1993. He trained at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, from which he earned a certificate in family therapy. He went on to teach at Hahnemann in its master's program and continued to see patients until just a few months before his death. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1981.

He is survived by his daughters, Sara (Rabbi Michoel) Shepard, Mimi Horowitz (Marc Gaines), and Adeena Horowitz (Aaron Newman); 10 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. His wife, Simone, died in 2012.

Rabbi Joel T. Klein, ז"ל
הרב יואל בן יוסף וחיה שרה, ז"ל

Born: January 1, 1923; Megyaszó, Hungary

Died: January 1, 2023/ח' טבת תשפ"ג; Portland, ME

Rabbi Klein knew he was destined to be a rabbi, having come from a long line of rabbis on his mother's side. Born in a small town in Hungary, he received private lessons from the local *dayan* beginning at the age of three. The family moved to a larger town where he was enrolled in a Jewish school and was greatly influenced by his congregational rabbi. He received an enlightened Jewish education in secondary school, learning from scholars influenced by modern teaching methods. Ordained after World War II, he declared two principles for his rabbinate: 1) he would not be influenced by power or money; and 2) he would not accept a position with a congregation larger than 365 households, one for each day of the year.

A survivor of the Holocaust, he earned a PhD in 1947 from Peter Pazmany University of Science in Budapest in ancient Semitic languages and psychology and was ordained in 1949 by the Jewish Theological Seminary in Budapest. In that year he married Anna Berkovits, a cousin of the hazzan's wife in the south-central Hungarian community of Baja, where he was first posted. The family then moved to Győr, where he served as Chief Rabbi of Northwestern Hungary. After the Hungarian Revolution against Communist rule in 1956, he survived a harrowing escape, having been sentenced to death by the Soviets.

Rabbi Klein arrived in the United States in 1957 (his family had arrived several months before), where he became assistant to Rabbi Samuel Dresner in Springfield, MA. He then served as rabbi of Temple Meyer-David in Claremont, NH, followed by two years at Congregation Am Echod in Waukegan, IL (a suburb of Chicago). He joined the Rabbinical Assembly in 1967. In 1964, he assumed the pulpit of Temple Israel in Manchester, NH,

where he served until 1977, at which time he retired from the pulpit rabbinate and became a marriage and family therapist.

While in the active rabbinate, he also served as chaplain at several VA hospitals including Downey, IL, White River Junction, VT, and Manchester, NH. During that period, he also began formal training in clinical psychology to prepare for his new career. He was certified as a pastoral counselor in New Hampshire and established his practice under the name of Psychotherapy and Counseling Services, specializing in patients with cancer and cardiac disease. He was also appointed an adjunct professor of psychology at Notre Dame College in Manchester.

Rabbi Klein maintained extensive involvement in both the Jewish and general communities. He was an adviser to Parents without Partners, served as chair of the advisory board of the New Hampshire State Services to the Blind, chair of the Community Concert Association in Manchester, president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (NH Division), and a member of the board of the American Cancer Society. His service to the Rabbinical Assembly included a term as a member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (1975-1977) and as treasurer of the New England Region. He was the author of several books and articles including *Through the Name of God: A New Road to the Origin of Judaism and Christianity*. In recognition of his years of service, the Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 2001.

He is survived by his children, Les Klein (Toby Rose) and Judy Klein (Richard) Golden; grandchildren, Joshua (Lisa), Jonathan (Casandra), Solomon (Laura), and Benjamin (Eden); and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his grandson, Jeremy. His wife, Anna, died in 2013.

רב ז"ל הרב צבי שמואל בן יהודה ושרה, ז"ל **Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, ז"ל**

Born: April 3, 1935; Brooklyn, NY

Died: November 15, 2023/ז' אייר תשפ"ג; Canton, MA

Perhaps the most well-known Rabbinical Assembly member, his landmark work, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, was published in 1981 and was #1 on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list. Called a public theologian by then *New York Times* religion editor Gus Niebuhr (November 6, 1996), our colleague was a 1955 graduate of Columbia University with a BA in literature. He was ordained from JTS in 1960 and in that year married Suzette Estrada. While in rabbinical school, like many of his peers, he became influenced by the theology of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, and Rabbi Kushner's view of Judaism was informed by Kaplanian thought and practice. After ordination, he served for two years as a chaplain in the US Army, attaining the rank of first lieutenant. After discharge from the army, he spent four years as an assistant rabbi to Mordecai Waxman at Temple Israel in Great Neck, NY.

In 1966, he was called to the pulpit of Temple Israel in Natick, MA. In that year, his son Aaron was diagnosed with progeria, an illness that causes premature aging, the same day his daughter, Ariel, was born. Aaron was a brilliant student at the Solomon Schechter School in Newton. Ariel watched over him very carefully. His fellow students at Schechter would carry him up the stairs at school. Aaron died in 1977.

While serving at Temple Israel, Rabbi Kushner also served as president of the New England region of the RA and from 1980-1984 was the editor of *Conservative Judaism*. He started his journey as an author in 1971 with the publication of *When Children Ask About God: A Guide for Parents Who Don't Always Have All the Answers*, which imparted to parents the notion that questioning God was a healthy way to impart Judaism to their children. One did not have to believe in an all-powerful God to have faith as a Jew.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People represented his struggle to make sense of what happened to Aaron. Rejected by two publishers, Schocken Books published the work. The book catapulted Rabbi Kushner into a best-selling author, and it was named one of the most influential books in recent years by the Book of the Month Club. The book resonated widely and sold over four million copies in at least a dozen languages. It made Rabbi Kushner realize how much suffering was out there and how many parents had lost a child. The only way to take God seriously, he asserted, was not to hold God responsible for all the unfair things that happen in the world. The book was adopted by non-Jewish clergy and its message spread through the country and to the rest of the world.

In 1983, Rabbi Kushner devoted more of his time to writing and scaled back his work at Temple Israel. In 1990, he decided to write full-time. In that year he also assumed the chairmanship of the Rabbinical Assembly's *Va'ad Hakavod*, the Ethics Committee. In addition to his writing, he began speaking widely in the United States both to Jewish and general audiences and became a celebrity. He also taught at JTS and Clark University. Thinking he was too young to retire, the synagogue bestowed upon him the title of rabbi laureate. He continued to live in Natick and *daven* at Temple Israel until he and Suzette moved to a senior residence in Canton, MA. Despite his prodigious schedule, he always had time to speak to a rabbinic colleague or help a colleague think through a difficult issue. He would often reach out to colleagues whom he thought needed a listening ear. Rabbi Joel H. Meyers, executive vice president emeritus of the Rabbinical Assembly, delivered the following words at Rabbi Kushner's funeral: "As a colleague, Harold was a 'rabbi's rabbi,' always willing to be helpful to his colleagues. We all knew we could count on Harold for wise advice or for help with a project. Everyone was in awe of the depth and breadth of his learning and insights. Thus, when it came time to write a commentary for a Conservative Movement Humash, it was only natural to turn to Harold and ask him to be the commentary author. We should bear in mind that whenever we open the text of the Humash, we continue to study with him."

Rabbi Kushner was honored by the Roman Catholic organization, the Christophers, in 1995, as someone who made the world a better place in the past 50 years. He was named clergyman of the year in 1999 by the organization, Religion in America. In 2000, he offered a prayer in honor of President Clinton's second inauguration, and in 2004 he read from the Book of Isaiah at the state funeral of President Ronald Reagan. In that year Masorti Olami bestowed upon Rabbi Kushner its Rabbi Mordecai D. Waxman Memorial Rabbinic Leadership Award, named for the rabbi to whom Rabbi Kushner served as assistant. The Jewish Book Council gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award, and in recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1986.

Rabbi Kushner continued to write many more books, including *Living a Life That Matters: Resolving the Conflict Between Conscience and Success*, which also became a best-seller. In the same year, he also published *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*. He wrote an introduction to Judaism book, entitled *To Life: A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking* (1993). In 1996, *How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness* appeared on bookshelves and *Living a Life That Matters* was published in 2001.

In 2001, the *Etz Hayim Torah Commentary* was co-published by the Rabbinical Assembly and JTS. It was the first major Torah commentary put out by the Conservative movement in almost a century. Rabbi Kushner was the editor of the *d'rash* commentary. He approached his friend and colleague, Rabbi Meyers, who was then the newly appointed executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, offering to underwrite part of its publication. He and Suzette dedicated their contribution in memory of their parents.

Rabbi Kushner is survived by his daughter, Ariel Kushner Haber; and two grandchildren, Carl Haber and Chila Haber, who live in New York City. He was predeceased by his wife, Suzette, who died in 2022, and by his brother, our colleague, Rabbi Paul Kushner, who died in 2019.

רב ל, דוב ברל בן דוד ושרה, ז"ל

Born: July 18, 1942; Sharon, PA

Died: August 29, 2023/י"ב אלול תשפ"ג; Wyncote, PA

Raised in Phoenix, Rabbi Lerner was a 1964 graduate of Arizona State University, where he completed a degree in psychology and philosophy. He was ordained in 1970 at JTS. During rabbinical school, he was youth director and teacher at Temple Israel in Great Neck, NY. In 1967, on the last day of the Six-Day War, he married Barbara Mollin of Great Neck.

When Rabbi Lerner was ordained, rabbis either had to serve a hardship pulpit, go into the military chaplaincy, or serve a congregation overseas to develop the burgeoning Masorti Olami movement (then known as the World Council of Synagogues). Upon ordination, Rabbi Lerner traveled to become the rabbi of Beth El in Santiago, Chile. Within six weeks, Salvador Allende became president of Chile and the synagogue was concerned about its future stability. Many Chilean Jews fled the country, so they told Rabbi Lerner to return to the United States. He and Barbara were living in her parents' home in Great Neck temporarily and, serendipitously, the rabbi hired to be the assistant to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman at Temple Israel took another position, and the synagogue hired Rabbi Lerner as its assistant to Rabbi Waxman. After two years in Great Neck, he assumed the pulpit at Beth Ahm in Matawan (now Aberdeen), NJ. He also served congregations in Springfield, MA, Old Westbury (Long Island), NY, and until 2000, Beth Judah in Ventnor, NJ. He retired from the pulpit in that year, and he and Barbara moved to the Philadelphia area, where she was working as a consultant in Jewish education.

Rabbi Lerner was an early adopter of technology. After founding the Foundation for Family Education in 2001, he established a website, Jewishfreeware.com, focusing on material, especially for Pesah and Tu Bishvat. Although he was not an expert on the tech side, it didn't hurt that his son,

Reuven, a graduate of MIT with a degree in computer science, was always at the ready to help his abba. For four years at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, he became the rabbi of the egalitarian minyan at Shaare Shamayim in Northeast Philadelphia. The Orthodox synagogue had absorbed several congregations, and one stipulation was that it hold an egalitarian minyan. His and Barbara's Shabbat home was an RV parked in the shul parking lot. He also taught Hebrew high school in various locations in the Philadelphia area, including Gratz Jewish Community High School.

While in Philadelphia, Rabbi Lerner became involved in the supervision of restaurants and caterers as a mashgiach. His brand was TKS supervision. Dov was meticulous, honest, and dealt with the utmost integrity with the businesses, which they deeply appreciated. He and Barbara also taught kashrut in the community as a way to expand observance of the mitzvah. One of their educational tools was to teach kashrut through cooking demonstrations, sometimes as often as once a week. In the broader community, he was a volunteer chaplain for the Cheltenham Police Department.

Committed to teaching ritual mitzvot to *amkhab*, Rabbi Lerner served on the RA Committee for Enhancement of Shabbat. He was also the business manager of *Conservative Judaism*, served on the RA Fundraising Committee, and coordinated lunch and learn programs at many RA conventions.

Akbaron, akbaron, Rabbi Lerner was known as the chief archer of the Conservative movement. He spent many summers at Camp Ramah in Palmer.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Reuven Lerner (Shira Friedman), Dr. Shulamit Lerner (Cliff Nerwen), and Avi Lerner; cherished grandchildren, Atara, Shikma, Amotz Lerner-Friedman, and Moshe Sam Lebowitz; and sisters, Carol (Alan) Lewis and Beth (Jack) Hollander.

רבב יעקב ישראל מרדכי בן יוסף וחנה, ז"ל **Rabbi Jeffrey M. Marker, ז"ל**

Born: March 16, 1948; Brooklyn, NY

Died: February 26, 2023/ג' אדר תשפ"ג; Brooklyn, NY

Although born in Brooklyn, Rabbi Marker was raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. He took a somewhat circuitous path to the rabbinate, having been involved in many aspects of Jewish life since childhood, much of it intertwined with progressive politics. He was a 1972 graduate of the University of Maryland with a BA in history and earned an MA there in 1976. In that year he married Paula Freedman of Baltimore. After ordination from JTS in 1982, he was named the director at the Hillel Foundation at Penn State University.

From 1983-1987, he served as rabbi of the United Synagogue of Hoboken, NJ, just as gentrification began in the city. Rabbi Marker brought egalitarian Judaism to the community, becoming the synagogue's first Conservative rabbi. According to Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, our colleague at the synagogue, in 1997, Rabbi Marker and four other clergy members founded a shelter for those displaced by fires (arson was common in those years in the community). The shelter was housed in the basement of one of the churches in the city and the clergy would sleep there in a rotation to make sure there was always someone there, since otherwise the city would have an easier time shutting it down. The City of Hoboken ordered them to close the shelter, claiming it was an illegal hotel in violation of zoning laws, and when Rabbi Marker and the other clergy members refused, the city sued them. The case advanced to the New Jersey Superior Court, which ruled in favor of the clergy organization and the shelter. The decision created a precedent for a religious organization's ability to shelter homeless people without government interference. The organizations that he co-founded—the Hoboken Clergy Coalition Shelter and the Hoboken Communities of Faith for Housing—continue to exist today, not only providing for people's basic needs but helping

thousands to make the transition from homelessness back to being housed and employed.

After Hoboken, Rabbi Marker became the rabbi of the Park Slope Jewish Center in Brooklyn, where he served until 1990. He remained very involved in the community up until his death. He spent the last decades of his career as a hospital chaplain, having received formal chaplaincy training when the profession was in its infancy. He interned for two years at Memorial Sloan Kettering and then became a Jewish chaplain at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx.

Advocating for the poor, oppressed, and vulnerable was a hallmark of Rabbi Marker's rabbinate. He was involved in organizations like Shalom Achshav (in the early days) and Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace (from its founding in 2002), Rabbis for Human Rights, and Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice and Peace. He was dedicated to the cause of Israelis and Palestinians living in co-existence.

He is survived by his wife, Paula Freedman; daughters, Rena Freedman Marker and Alizette Llanos; and brothers, David and Bill.

רבֵּי פּוֹלָה ל. רַימֶרס, ז"ל
הרב ישראלה ברוריה בת אברהם אבינו ושרה אמנו, ז"ל

Born: August 15, 1947; Arlington, VA

Died: June 14, 2023/ג' תשפ"ג; Lebanon, PA

A 1969 graduate of Barnard College, Rabbi Reimers earned an MA in International Affairs in 1971 and a certificate in South Asian studies, both from Columbia University. In the early years of her career, she was a social worker. While she was working for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California in immigration and refugee services, she began her interest in Judaism. She completed her conversion in 1981 and was so passionate about studying Judaism that a few years later, she entered rabbinical school. Rabbi Reimers began her studies at the University of Judaism (now AJU), earning a BHL in 1986 and receiving ordination from JTS in 1990.

Upon ordination, she became assistant rabbi at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, CA, and then moved to a position as assistant rabbi at Har Zion Congregation in Phoenix. In 1993, she assumed the pulpit of Ahavath Achim in Colchester, CT. She revived synagogue life there, increasing membership by reorganizing the religious school, creating a new curriculum *de novo*, and instituting family Shabbat and holiday programs. She also involved the synagogue in United Synagogue events and in the local federation.

For family reasons, she moved to the Los Angeles area in 1995 and became the rabbi of Burbank Temple Emanuel. She was a strong advocate for the rights of Palestinians and after 9/11, she invited a group of Muslims to the sukkah at the synagogue. Thinking it might offend her guests, Rabbi Reimers removed the Israeli flags from the sukkah, which caused quite a stir in the community. She persevered and defended her decision despite the pushback. While in California, she served as secretary of the Pacific SW Region of the RA and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California.

From her early years in the rabbinate, Rabbi Reimers was a fierce defender of the separation of religion and state. She spoke widely on the dangers of Christian missionaries, especially if their efforts sought to convert Jews. In 2006, Rabbi Reimers assumed the pulpit of Congregation Beth Israel in Lebanon, PA, where she continued her activism in the separation of religion and state issue, going so far as to object to the Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast, which she thought was simply a right-wing move to impose Christianity on the American public. While at Beth Israel, she also served as the chaplain at Lebanon Valley Hospital. She retired several years ago from Beth Israel and continued to reside in the community until her death.

Rabbi Reimers served on several RA committees, including the 1995 Convention Committee and the Committee on Congregational Development in the early 2000s. She was a strongly devout feminist, penning the article "Feminism, Judaism, and God the Mother" (*Conservative Judaism*, Fall 1993). In recognition of her years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded her a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 2020.

She is survived by her sister, Georgina (Gigi) Miller; brother-in-law, Rich Miller; sister-in-law, Merry Maisel; niece, Kelsey, and nephew, Will; and great-nephews, Maverick, and Chase. She was predeceased by her husband, Robin Maisel, who died in 2021.

רבי שמואל בן אהרן וצירעל, ז"ל **רבי שמואל פסקו, ז"ל**

Born: June 21, 1932, Newark, NJ

Died: December 17, 2023/ה' טבת תשפ"ד; Thousand Oaks, CA

Born in Newark, NJ to a traditional family, Rabbi Paskow attended a yeshivah high school. He graduated from Brooklyn College, was ordained by HUC-JIR in 1958, and worked in Conservative synagogues for most of his career. Upon ordination and after completing a one-year fellowship in Talmud studies at the HUC-Cincinnati campus, he entered the Army as a chaplain, where he was stationed in Verdun, France for two years. In France, he met Carol Bauman at Shabbat services; she was also an American, working abroad. They returned to the US in 1962 and got married. They were married for 60 years until her passing in 2022. Rabbi Paskow proudly served in the Army Reserves for over 30 years and made it to the rank of colonel.

Rabbi Paskow served most of his career at Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA after serving as assistant to Rabbi Aaron Wise at Valley Jewish Community Center and Temple (now Adat Ariel). A true community builder, he had a unique ability to connect with individuals, making them feel welcome and at home. He had a lasting impact on those who grew up with him as their rabbi. He never forgot a name or something special he learned about his congregants, embodying the spirit of warmth and inclusivity. He was also a pioneer in including the girls and women in all aspects of the services. He was named rabbi emeritus upon his retirement in 2000, at which time the sanctuary was named in his and Carol's honor.

Rabbi Paskow passionately supported Israel, leading over 40 trips there and even receiving an award from The Israel Ministry of Tourism.

He is survived by their daughter, Rabbi Michele Paskow; two grandsons, Aaron Cohen and Jonathan Cohen; and a brand new great-grandson, Zylar

"Zohar Chaim" Cohen. He leaves a legacy of a deep love of Yiddishkeit, a positive outlook on life, and a big, joyous smile.

This biography of Rabbi Paskow was prepared by his daughter, Rabbi Michele Paskow, Congregation B'nai Emet in Simi Valley, CA.

Rabbi J. Leonard Romm, ז"ל
הרב יהודה ליב בן אברהם דוב וחיה שרה, ז"ל

Born: May 27, 1946; Philadelphia, PA

Died: September 21, 2023/ד'תשפ"ד; Haifa, Israel

Rabbi Romm attended Akiba Hebrew Academy and then Temple University, where he graduated with a BA in English in 1967. He also studied Hebrew there with Dr. Ezra Shereshevsky and was the president of the Hebrew Honor Society, Eta Beta Rho. Inspired by the example of his parents, Albert and Laura Romm, who helped found the Overbrook Park Congregation, he entered the Jewish Theological Seminary and was ordained there in 1972. During his time there, he held a student pulpit in Newport, Rhode Island, taught afternoon Hebrew School in Metuchen, New Jersey, and was a Rosh Edah at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA. Years later, he returned to JTS to pursue his DHL. It was in the dining room of JTS that he met his future wife, Diane Woodrow. His younger brother, Rabbi Edward Romm, also received ordination from JTS in 1977.

Throughout his rabbinical career, Rabbi J. Leonard Romm was committed to education for both adults and children and ensuring that his synagogues had a daily minyan. His first pulpit was in Parkchester in the Bronx. There, he was actively involved in the Jewish Association for Services to the Aged (JASA), which provided programs and support for his congregants, most of whom were elderly. He was also on the advisory board of the Hebrew Day School of Pelham Parkway and president of the Interfaith Clergy Council of Parkchester.

After the birth of their second son, Rabbi Romm and his family moved to Long Island, where he became the rabbi of the Baldwin Jewish Center. During his time there, he created a Mommy and Me program for stay-at-home mothers and their preschoolers that received an award from the USCJ. Rabbi Romm served as the President of the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau and

Suffolk Counties (RANS), and many Long Island rabbis remember very fondly the year-end barbecues held in the backyard of his home at 257 West Seaman Avenue. He and Diane also served for several summers as madrichim on the USY Pilgrimage to Israel.

Rabbi Romm was then invited to become the associate rabbi of Temple Israel of Great Neck, which he served from 1983-1987. He focused on providing pastoral services for the large congregation, teaching adult education programs, heading the Torahthon program, running the daily minyan, and creating his *Kol Romm* column for the weekly newsletter. On learning about his passing, one former congregant wrote: "He was so important to me in dealing with my mother's passing. Working with him was so meaningful to my commitment to Judaism. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and I remember so much of his Torah commentary and sermons. As a friend and a teacher, he will be sorely missed." Rabbi Romm also established a strong relationship with the clergy in the two Orthodox synagogues in Great Neck and with the Persian Jewish community.

Rabbi Romm's last pulpit was at the Bellmore Jewish Center, where he began his service in 1987. During his time there, he continued his focus on educational programs, pastoral services, and the daily minyan. He also became involved in the Union for Traditional Judaism and co-edited its collection of essays entitled *Halakhab and the Modern Jew*. He contributed columns on the weekly Torah reading to the local Jewish newspaper, the *Long Island Jewish World*. He also traveled to Belgrade with a group of American rabbis in the wake of the war in Serbia, providing an extensive description of his time there for the newspaper. In addition, Rabbi Romm developed what was then a pioneering effort—a website for the synagogue. United Synagogue recognized this initiative, giving it an innovation award. In recognition of his years of service, the Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1998.

Rabbi Romm had retired just two months before the tragic events of September 11. However, he returned to Long Island to hold two communal

memorial services in Baldwin and Bellmore for the members of those communities killed on that terrible day.

As committed Zionists and lovers of Hebrew, Rabbi Romm and his wife Diane moved to Israel after his retirement. They settled in Haifa to be near Diane's sister and her family. Rabbi Romm became active in Congregation Maor Yehuda, giving *derashot* in Hebrew to the Israeli congregants. On Shabbat afternoon, he read Torah at a nearby synagogue of North African Jews, who found his Ashkenazi cantillation very exotic. In addition to his ongoing Torah learning, Rabbi Romm became active in two charities for children headquartered in Haifa—the Talia Trust for Children, and Arugot. In the latter group, he ran a photography club for recent Ethiopian immigrant youngsters and set up a therapy garden for the charity.

These activities were outgrowths of his numerous hobbies and interests. As a young boy, Rabbi Romm developed a strong interest in natural history. He was an avid photographer and sketch artist. He and Diane also enjoyed traveling and joined an Israeli travel group with whom they saw every corner of the country.

Above all, Rabbi Romm was a writer. For years, he contributed short stories to the Board of Jewish Education's publication *World Over* and the Men's Club magazine *The Torch*. He also wrote a young adult novel called *The Swastika on the Synagogue Door*, which was eerily prophetic. He continued writing even in retirement, contributing numerous pieces to the magazine of ESRA, the English-Speaking Residents Association in Israel.

However, Rabbi Romm's greatest joy was his family. He decided that providing the best Jewish education to his children was his top priority, which governed his choices about where to seek pulpits. His older son, Zvi, is a *musmah* of Yeshiva University and was the rabbi of the historic Bialystoker Synagogue on the Lower East Side for 20 years. His younger son, Gideon, known as Gadi, has been the long-time gabbai of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains and is now its co-president.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; sons, Zvi (Shira Pfeffer), and Gideon (Jana Chasan); brother, our colleague, Rabbi Edward Romm; grandchildren, Chava (Levi Goldman), Aharon, Miriam, and Moshe, and Beni, Ilan, and Ori; and great-grandson, Shlomo Yosef—a blessing he regarded as the capstone of his life.

This biography of Rabbi Romm was prepared by his widow, Diane, with input from his brother, our colleague, Rabbi Edward Romm.

רב הרב חיים בן הרב מיכאל וחיה שרה, ז"ל **רב הרב הרב רוזנבלום, ז"ל**

Born: August 21, 1929; New York, NY

Died: September 7, 2023/ג'תשפ"ג; Rockville, MD

Rabbi Herbert Rosenblum was born and raised on New York City's Lower East Side, studying at the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School and playing basketball in Seward Park. His father, Michael, was a rabbi who taught Talmud at the Etz Chayim yeshiva in Brooklyn. His mother, Bessie, was a full-time homemaker. Rabbi Rosenblum studied at Talmudical Academy and Yeshiva College and then attended rabbinical school at JTS. He spent summers as head of waterfront at summer camps including Massad, where he met Sheila Mirsky, whom he married in 1955. Upon ordination in 1954, Rabbi Rosenblum served as a US Army chaplain in Fort Lewis, WA, and then began his first pulpit position in Port Washington, NY. In 1958-59, he and Sheila spent a year in Israel, where he studied at the Hebrew University, courtesy of the G.I. Bill. Upon returning to the US, he became the founding rabbi of Temple Emunah in Lexington, MA, serving as both rabbi and *shaliach tzibbur*, and completing a PhD in Jewish History at Brandeis University. In 1971, he assumed the position of associate dean at the Hebrew College and head of its Prozdor Hebrew High School in Brookline, MA. Rabbi Rosenblum returned to the pulpit for a few years in the 1980s, first at Temple Beth Zion - Beth Israel in Philadelphia and later in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and Long Beach Island, NJ.

Rabbi Rosenblum was passionate about Hebrew language and song and was a lifelong athlete, swimmer, and tennis player as well as a private pilot and a motorcyclist. He was a perpetual learner and teacher, teaching at Clark University and Tel Aviv University while on sabbatical, and in retirement auditing history courses at the University of Pennsylvania. Rabbi Rosenblum wrote the book *Conservative Judaism: A Contemporary History*, as well as an autobiographical volume entitled *Before I Forget*. He and Sheila traveled all over

the world to maintain strong ties with friends and relatives, and for adventure and discovery.

After living for 34 years in Philadelphia, he and Sheila moved to Ring House, an independent senior living residence in Rockville MD, in 2018. In Rockville, they were active participants at Congregation B'nai Israel, at the local JCC, and in Ring House programs. Rabbi Rosenblum and his beloved Sheila were together for nearly seven decades until Sheila passed away in December 2022. He was buried on the day that had been scheduled for Sheila's unveiling. He was predeceased by his two sisters, Dena Kogen (Rabbi David Kogen, ז"ר) and Miriam Edelman. Rabbi Rosenblum and Sheila were the loving parents of Tamar Warburg (Philip) of Newton, MA, and Varda Makovsky (David) of Silver Spring, MD, and proud grandparents of Tali Warburg Goldstein, Maya Warburg, Jonathan Makovsky, Elianna Makovsky, and Joshua Makovsky. Rabbi Rosenblum's extended family, including the Kogen nephews, share warm memories of innumerable instances of the gracious yet down-to-earth hospitality of his and Sheila's home.

This biography of Rabbi Rosenblum was prepared by his nephew, Rabbi Avram Kogen.

רב ויליאם ד. רודולף, ז"ל **הרב זאב דוד בן שמואל ומרגולה, ז"ל**

Born: July 23, 1943; Philadelphia, PA

Died: March 27, 2023/ה' ניסן תשפ"ג; Bethesda, MD

A 1964 graduate of Temple University with a BA in psychology, you knew whenever you were in Rabbi Rudolph's presence that he was a native Philadelphian and was proud of it. He was ordained from HUC-JIR in 1969 and was admitted to the RA in 1988. After ordination, he studied Ancient Near Eastern Languages at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor until 1973, when he became the Hillel director at Michigan State University. He returned to Ann Arbor in 1976 to become the Hillel director there and stayed until 1980, when he assumed the position of director of personnel and then associate international director at Hillel International's headquarters in Washington, DC. In 1983, he became part-time associate rabbi at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, MD, and in 1996 assumed the position full-time. In 2001, he was elevated to the position of senior rabbi which he served until he was named emeritus in 2015.

At Beth El, he brought with him two invaluable lessons learned from his Hillel experience—the need to build a big tent (one size does not fit all) and the need to empower others (you can't do it all yourself). To that end, he nurtured and established various programs, including the early morning Shabbat Minyan, Senior Caucus, Family Camp, Megillah Madness, and the Israel Media Series, just to name a few. He also instituted the Latke-Hamantaschen Debate at Beth El which he brought from his Hillel work. Since its debut by Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky at the University of Chicago Hillel in 1946, it has become a staple at Hillels on many campuses. During the height of the pandemic in 2021, Dr. Anthony Fauci appeared in Beth El's Latke-Hamantaschen Debate on Zoom.

Rabbi Rudolph wrote a weekly online column during his career called "It's Wednesday." When he retired, he changed the name to "It Used To Be

Wednesday." He continued to write until about six weeks before he died. He served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for many terms. His involvement in the federation included serving on its Planning & Allocations Committee, its Rabbinic Cabinet, and its Missions Committee. He headed numerous missions to Israel from both the synagogue and federation and raised millions of dollars on Israel's behalf. His passion for Israel was ignited when, as a rabbinical student, he spent time on a kibbutz in 1964. He was the recipient of the federation's Matthew Simon Rabbinic Leadership Award. For four years after his retirement, he served as a part-time rabbi at Fauquier Jewish Congregation in Warrenton, Virginia.

In his retirement, Rabbi Rudolph continued with a dizzying array of activities. He, along with other Rabbinical Assembly members including Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, was the driving force behind the establishment of the Ramah Day Camp in DC in 2014, now a resounding success (try getting a kid into camp these days, good luck!). He was also the force behind the Jewish Millennial Engagement Project in the DC area, now known as The Den Collective. Additionally, he was the vice-president of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington until the time of his death and co-chaired the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli-Arab issues.

He was an avid cyclist and a former runner. Until he became too debilitated by his illness, he would go on multi-day bike trips often with his son, Marc. He also had an extremely dry sense of humor. When this author first met him as a newly ordained rabbi at a Hillel conference when he was doing a riff on Sumerian and Akkadian and asked who he was, the answer was he was Bill Rudolph from Ann Arbor and he's ABD in Semitics from Michigan.

Rabbi Rudolph embodied the two great hallmarks of the rabbinate. He had an excellent command of Jewish texts and the Hebrew (and cognate) language, and he was the epitome of a people person. Even in retirement, he was always inquiring about the welfare of his congregants. He knew everything about them and their families and genuinely cared for them. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of

Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 2005. He also received a Doctor of Divinity degree from HUC-JIR in 1994.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Fribush; children, Dan (Jenn), Sara (Steve), and Marc (Karen); and three grandchildren, Stacy, Ian, and Josie.

רב שמועון יהושע בן שאול ושרה לאה, ז"ל **Rabbi Stanley J. Schachter, ז"ל**

Born: May 27, 1929; Philadelphia, PA

Died: November 1, 2022/ג' חשוון תשפ"ג; Jerusalem, Israel

A 1950 graduate of Temple University with a BS in Political Science, our colleague was known to be a great athlete and champion fencer. He was ordained from JTS in 1955, the year in which he married Lifsa Block of Brooklyn, NY. After ordination, he entered the military chaplaincy, serving in the US Navy while stationed at the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton (San Diego, CA). Upon discharge from the Navy in 1957, he served as assistant rabbi for four years to Rabbi Gerson Hadas of Beth Shalom Congregation in Kansas City, KS. Then he moved to Congregation Ner Tamid in Chicago, IL, where he served until 1972. One of his significant accomplishments as a young rabbi in Chicago was his role in founding the Solomon Schechter Day School of Chicago, where he also chaired its school board. He and Lifsa wanted an appropriate day school for their children. In 1972, when Rabbi Gershon Cohen was appointed as JTS Chancellor, he invited Rabbi Schachter to join the seminary's administration. During those years of enormous institutional growth and ideological ferment, he served as a vice-chancellor and faculty member for the next fifteen years. While at JTS, he completed a doctorate in Piyut Studies under the direction of Dr. Menahem Schmelzer. Lifsa completed her doctorate in Jewish Education at JTS in the same year (1986) making them the first husband and wife to have done so. For several years, Lifsa ran the education department's seminar for master's students at JTS. Rabbi Schachter was proud to be among those who voted for the admission of women to the rabbinical school.

Rabbi Schachter served the Rabbinical Assembly in many ways over the years. In 1970, he was elected to a three-year term on its Executive Council and served a second term from 1996-1999. He was on the Joint Prayerbook Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogue as well as the

RA's Prayerbook Committee. In 1987, he became the senior rabbi of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation in Cleveland, OH, after serving Temple Beth El in Poughkeepsie, NY, for a short time. He served as B'nai Jeshurun's senior rabbi until his retirement. He came to the synagogue shortly after it moved to a large suburban facility. In 1999, he negotiated a successful merger with Congregation Beth Am. Both Rabbi Schachter and his Beth Am colleague, Rabbi Michael Hecht, שליט, would be named rabbi emeritus upon their retirements in 2001. For his 50th anniversary in the rabbinate, Rabbi Schachter wrote about his time at B'nai Jeshurun, saying that "it was a stimulating *shiddukeh* and a dream relationship. I was surrounded by lay leaders who responded positively to virtually every challenge I put to them." In recognition of his years of service, JTS awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1980.

He was most proud of his innovative programs in Jewish education at B'nai Jeshurun, including instituting a *Tikkun L'eil Shavuot* before it was popular and sending dozens of students to Israel each year to study. He significantly increased the number of campers the shul sent to Camp Ramah and was instrumental in bringing the Gross Jewish Day School to B'nai Jeshurun's campus. After retirement, he taught as an adjunct professor at the Siegel College of Judaic Studies, a jewel of the Cleveland Jewish community. He also served as the Jewish chaplain at the world-famed Cleveland Clinic, and he continued to edit and write. He published *Laugh for God's Sake* in which he probes the ethical connection between Jewish jokes and Judaism's ethical teachings, and he translated into English *Dance of Joy and Sorrow*, an acclaimed Holocaust memoir written in Hebrew by Lea Blumenkrantz-Fried. He also contributed to numerous publications over the years: *Reconstructionist Magazine*, *Proceedings of the Rabbinical Assembly*, *Chicago Jewish Sentinel*, and *Torch Magazine*. On the last day of 2015, he and Lifsa made aliyah and lived in Jerusalem.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Lifsa; children Amy (Yigal Simon), Michael (Marilyn Feit), Abby (Simon) Fink, and Brenda (Ben Krull); 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; siblings, Jacob L. Schachter, and Sondra Crain, (Rabbi Donald D. Crain). He was predeceased by our colleague, his uncle, Rabbi Salomon Faber, שליט.

Rabbi Jack Segal, ז"ל הרב יעקב בן ביילע פינקל וחנוך העניך הלוי, ז"ל

Born: April 18, 1929; Brooklyn, NY

Died: July 7, 2023/ג' תמוז תשפ"ג; Houston, TX

Rabbi Jack Segal was born in Brooklyn, NY, to his loving parents, Bertha and Henry Segal. He and his two brothers were raised in an Orthodox home and all of his education from boyhood through high school took place at Yeshivah Rabbi Chaim Berlin. Even as a young boy, he had a passion for Judaism and the Jewish way of life.

Through his many years of yeshivah study, he demonstrated an extraordinary ability to recall precise details of almost everything he studied. At an early age, he was recognized by his teachers as an *illui* (prodigy) based on his ability to recite passages from the Talmud and other *sifrei kodesh* at length and from memory.

It was, therefore, no surprise when he continued his studies at Mesivta Rabbi Chaim Berlin, where he was ordained an Orthodox rabbi. While he loved the traditions and devotion to Jewish law at the yeshivah, an incident while studying there raised questions in his mind over which direction to go rabbinically. In the end, he resolved that some of his views were more progressive than being an Orthodox rabbi would allow. Conservative Judaism was on the rise, and among many Jews of the day, it was perceived as "Orthodox with mixed seating," which suited Rabbi Segal's needs nicely.

After receiving ordination, he served Rodef Shalom Congregation and Tree of Life Congregation, both in Pennsylvania, and then Neveh Zedek Congregation in Portland, OR.

His experience at Neveh Zedek was particularly valuable. Far removed from the yeshivah world in which he had spent almost all his life, he felt liberated being in an environment that respected and embraced traditional

Jewish values but also recognized the modern world in which Jews were actually living.

After Portland, he and his wife, Toby, returned briefly to New York, where Rabbi Segal was needed in the family vest business. Still, he yearned to find a congregation somewhere that could engage him and allow his many ideas to blossom.

When he heard about a large Conservative synagogue in Houston that was looking for a young associate rabbi to work with Rabbi William S. Malev, he applied and was offered the position. It would be the family's last move. Houston would be their home for the next 58 years.

Congregation Beth Yeshurun and Jack Segal were meant for each other. The local community was warm and welcoming, and Rabbi Segal found a synagogue that was ready and eager to embrace his vision of what a congregation could be. It was no surprise then that when Rabbi Malev passed away in 1973, Jack Segal was invited to become the senior rabbi, a position he would hold for the next 23 years.

Rabbi Segal was a man blessed with the ability to create one exciting program after another. He was a natural innovator who delighted in creating programs that used acronyms: TNT (Tallis 'n Tefillin), SOS (Siddur on Sunday), and LBJ (Lox, Bagels, and Judaism), among others. His congregational trips to Israel were famously named after the local baseball team, but for Rabbi Segal, ASTROS stood for Adult Synagogue Trip Religiously Oriented. He organized monthly dinner meetings for lawyers and another for doctors. TNT included an abridged service and a family-friendly salute each week to one segment of the membership, such that every member had reason to come and be honored on at least one Sunday each year. People loved his enthusiasm and sense of humor. He made every service, every class, and every synagogue event a joy with his innate warmth and genuine love for Judaism and Beth Yeshurun.

He endeared himself to generations of Beth Yeshurun children in both the day school and religious school through the excitement and joy he brought

to every classroom and school event. For years, dressed as Moses and holding a long staff, he would stand at the head of a column of hundreds of kids on their two-mile journey to the Promised Land (the Jewish Community Center), even stopping to "cross the Red Sea" (the nearby Brays Bayou) along the way. He was ready to do anything to make sure every child felt the joy of being Jewish. He was the only rabbi anyone had ever known who could walk on his hands.

Back in the synagogue itself, Rabbi Segal devoted himself to officiating at thousands of life-cycle events over his long career, including baby namings, bar and bat mitzvah services, weddings, and funerals. Under his leadership, Beth Yeshurun grew to more than 2,000 families and became the largest Conservative congregation in the United States.

Even as he worked full-time as a congregational rabbi, he continued his studies, earning undergraduate degrees in physics and mathematics at New York University and the University of Pittsburgh, respectively; two advanced degrees in counseling and psychology at Oregon State University; a DHL in Talmud at Hebrew Union College; and a doctorate in counseling and psychology at the University of Houston.

Rabbi Segal's expertise in Jewish law earned him an invitation to serve on the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Law and Standards, where he was perhaps best known for his teshuvah which limited the days on which weddings could not take place during *Sefirat Ha'Omer*.

Additionally, he was a member of Sigma Pi Sigma, Beta Beta Beta, Phi Delta Kappa, the American Psychological Society, the National Council of Family Relations, and many other organizations both in America and Israel. He lectured at Rice University, St. Thomas University, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Austin. He contributed to numerous books and journals and was himself the author of a series of very popular books that captured his experiences as a congregational rabbi—and what he had learned from them. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1986.

Throughout his career, Rabbi Segal's sermons were cutting-edge. He spoke passionately on many of the most controversial issues of the day and did so with great eloquence and conviction. He was among the earliest adopters of the CJLS's teshuvot on women and earned the affection and appreciation of religious leaders throughout Houston for all he did to advance civil rights. He supported the LGBT community during and after the initial AIDS outbreak. He hated hate and did everything he could to bring people together.

Rabbi Segal's decision to retire in 1996 marked the end of a historic 31 years as a rabbi at Beth Yeshurun. He warmly welcomed his successor, Rabbi David Rosen, who was raised at Beth Yeshurun and was 14 when Rabbi Segal arrived in Houston. The two rabbis loved each other and worked closely together until Rabbi Segal passed away.

In his eulogy for Rabbi Segal, Rabbi Rosen said about his teacher, colleague, and friend: "He gave us strength when we were weak, held our hands when they were shaking, healed our hearts when they were broken and asked for so little in return even as he gave us so very much."

Rabbi Segal is survived by his wife, Toby; children Dr. Jeffrey (Shelley), Michael (Sharon), Lisa (Matt), and Scott (Dena); 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

This biography of Rabbi Segal was prepared by his successor, Rabbi David Rosen, rabbi emeritus, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Houston, TX.

Rabbi Hillel E. Silverman, ז"ל **הרב הלל בן הרב משה ואלטע חיה, ז"ל**

Born: February 24, 1924; Hartford, CT

Died: April 10, 2023/י"ט ניסן תשפ"ג; Los Angeles, CA

Born in Hartford, CT, Hillel Emanuel Silverman was the son of Rabbi Morris and Mrs. Althea O. Silverman. His father was the spiritual leader of Emanuel Synagogue for fifty years and achieved national prominence as editor and compiler of numerous prayer books used throughout the world. His mother was a well-known author.

Rabbi Silverman graduated with the highest honors in 1945 from Yale University, where he was a member of the debating team and basketball squad and active in intercollegiate football and baseball.

In 1947-1948, he volunteered in the Haganah as a machine gunner fighting for the birth of the State of Israel after getting permission to learn in the first and only Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinical "Palestine Year." His studies were interrupted by civil unrest following the partition vote and the War of Independence, and he felt it was his duty to fight for the fledgling Jewish state. In 1949, he was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary and in 1952 was awarded his doctorate there in Bible.

Upon ordination from JTS in 1949, Rabbi Silverman served on the Seminary's administrative staff, specializing in teenage education and as the Director of Camp Ramah. In 1951, he entered the United States Navy as a chaplain and served in Naples, Italy as a chaplain for the Mediterranean area.

From 1954-1964, Rabbi Silverman was the spiritual leader of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, Texas. During his ministry there, a magnificent new edifice was erected and an outstanding multifaceted educational and youth program was created. From 1964-1980, he was senior rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, CA. Under his leadership, membership

doubled to 1,400 families, and a new multi-million dollar religious school was created. He later served as rabbi of Temple Sholom in Greenwich, Connecticut from 1981-2001, at which time he retired and was named rabbi emeritus. During his tenure at Temple Sholom, membership tripled, the religious school increased to 450 children, and a magnificent synagogue and educational facility were built.

He spent several years in San Diego as the interim rabbi at Temple Beth El and later became the senior rabbi at B'nai Shalom in Vista, California, where he served from 2004-2018. He spent his final years in Los Angeles, California, where he delivered guest sermons as a visiting scholar at Valley Beth Shalom until 2023. A month prior to his passing, he was honored at Valley Beth Shalom before the Torah and the entire congregation in celebration of his 99th birthday, the birth of his great-grandson, and the upcoming wedding of his grandchild.

Nationally, Dr. Silverman served as an officer of the National United Jewish Appeal and as Chairman of the UJA Rabbinic Cabinet, Israel Bonds Rabbinic Cabinet, Board of Directors of the Joint Distribution Committee, World Council of Synagogues, Executive of the Zionist Organization of America, National Advisory Committee of Jewish National Fund, Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, and the Steering Committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary. He was the past president of the Zionist Organization of America, Southwest Region.

Rabbi Silverman was also a director of the American Friends of Hebrew and Tel Aviv Universities, American Jewish League for Israel, Mercaz, Shaare Zedek Hospital of Jerusalem, Synagogue Council of American Plenum, National Deputy Chaplain of the Jewish War Veterans of America, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and a member of the Executive Council of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Rabbi Silverman also served on the Board of Directors of the Greenwich Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services, Greenwich Emergency Medical Service, Incorporators Greenwich Hospital, American Red Cross, Nuclear Arms Control Council, Greenwich Junior League, and Greenwich

Community Relations Council. He was President of the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy. Rabbi Silverman served as Campaign Chairman of the Los Angeles Jewish Welfare Fund, Chaplain of the Variety Club, and Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Rabbi Silverman has appeared on Connecticut cable television as a panel member on "The Other Side of the News." In Los Angeles, he was rabbi and producer of the American Jewish Hour's "Synagogue of the Air," a popular television show viewed by hundreds of thousands of people on the West Coast every Sunday morning. Additionally, he was frequently interviewed regarding his connection to Jack Ruby and the Kennedy assassination, having testified several times to the Warren Commission.

Rabbi Silverman was on the faculty of the Academy for Jewish Religion, a graduate Rabbinical Seminary in New York City, where he taught Bible and Homiletics. He is the author of *High Holiday Highlights*, *Add Life to Your Years*, *From Heart to Heart*, *From Week to Week*, *Judaism Meets the Challenge*, *Judaism Looks at Life*, and *Time of My Life: Sixty Fulfilling Years as a Congregational Rabbi*. With his late father, he is co-author of the *Junior Prayer Book for Summer Camps*, *Selibot Service*, and *Tisha B'av Service*. He is also co-author with Dr. John Bishop of the *Jewish Christian Connection*.

His articles and essays have appeared in the *Jewish Spectator*, *Jewish Digest*, *Conservative Judaism*, *Reconstructionist*, *Congress Weekly*, *United Synagogue Review*, *American Rabbi*, *Torch*, and *Best Sermons*. He was a contributing editor of *Bennenu* and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Jewish Digest* and the *American Rabbi*.

Rabbi Silverman has traveled extensively, and to Israel on 30 separate occasions. In 1974, Menachem Begin awarded him the Prime Minister's Medal at an Israel Dinner of State in recognition of his distinguished service to Israel and the Jewish people. In 1978, he was awarded the Israel Service Medal at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles. In recognition of his years of service, the

Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1974.

He is survived by his children, Gila (Mark) Rutta, Dr. Sharon (Mark) Pollock, and Jonathan (Jennifer Finnigan) Silverman; three step-children, Dr. David (Miriam) Smotrich, Debbie (Eric) Diamond, and Arona Smotrich; twelve grandchildren, Rabbi Matthew Rutta, Joshua (Kelly) Rutta, Zachary (Rachel Racoosin) Rutta, Noah Pollock, Jacob Pollock, Danielle (Jeremy) Parker, Ariel Smotrich, Jason Diamond, Arielle Pollock, Gabrielle Smotrich, Jeffrey Diamond, and Ella Jack Finnigan-Silverman; and three great-grandchildren, Shir Parker, Lev Parker, and Cory Rutta. His wife, Roberta, died a few weeks after him. Rabbi Silverman died while surrounded by the love of his close family members.

This biography of Rabbi Silverman was prepared by Rabbi Silverman himself and edited by his grandson, our colleague, Rabbi Matt Rutta.

רב משה בן הרב רפאל וקיילע, ז"ל **Rabbi Matthew H. Simon, ז"ל**

Born: August 6, 1932; Johnstown, PA

Died: September 10, 2023/כ"ד אלול תשפ"ג; Bethesda, MD

The son of Rabbi Ralph and Kelsey Hoffer Simon, Rabbi Matthew Simon was raised on the south side of Chicago, IL, where his father was the rabbi of Congregation Rodfei Zedek. The senior Rabbi Simon served as RA president from 1968-1970. A matriculate of the Chicago Lab School, Rabbi Matthew Simon was a 1953 graduate of the University of Chicago with a degree in political science and was the national president of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. He was most proud of being the very first camper at Ramah, as his father, among others, was a founder of the first Camp Ramah, located in Wisconsin.

Rabbi Simon married Sara Rubinow in 1958, the year of his ordination from JTS. She is the granddaughter of our colleague, Rabbi Israel Goldfarb (of *Shalom Aleikhem, Magen Avot, and Zokhrienu L'Hayim* fame). After ordination at JTS in 1958, he entered the US Navy and was stationed in Japan. He retired from the Navy as a captain after 28 years of reserve service in the Navy, continuing to provide chaplaincy at the Walter Reed Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, until shortly before he died. After his active naval service, Rabbi Simon became the rabbi of what is now Temple Ramat Zion in Northridge, CA, and served Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, CA, both in the greater Los Angeles area. While in Los Angeles, he earned an MA in political science at Cal State Northridge. After his rabbinic service in California, Rabbi Simon became the director of the United Jewish Appeal in Jerusalem.

In 1973, Rabbi Simon and his family moved to the metropolitan Washington, DC area, where he assumed the pulpit of B'nai Israel Congregation, then located on 16th Street in the District of Columbia. Under his tutelage, the synagogue moved to a multi-million-dollar campus in Rockville,

MD, adjacent to what would become the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and the Jewish Community Center. Rabbi Simon was twice the national chairman of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal and was the honorary president of the Rabbinic Cabinet of The Jewish Federations of North America. He also was president of the Washington Board of Rabbis and chair of the Jewish Welfare Board's Jewish Chaplains Council, representing the Rabbinical Assembly. He was the first rabbi to become president of a major Jewish federation (1995-1997). He was a past national president of Mercaz and Mercaz Olami. His other communal activities include the following: serving the Council of Jewish Federations' Task Force on Aging, being a delegate to the Jewish Agency and WZO, serving on the board of the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America, and serving as president of the Hillels of Greater Washington, among a myriad of other activities. He had a strong commitment to *K'lal Yisrael*.

His service to Conservative Judaism was legion. Our colleagues owe much of their financial security to Rabbi Simon's leadership. He served on the Joint Retirement Board for many decades with several rotations as its chair, his first term beginning in 1983 and his last term ending in 2010. Rabbi Simon chaired the 1989 Rabbinical Assembly Convention in Washington, DC. He served on many RA committees, including the Financial Services Committee, the Social Action Committee, and the Search Committee for RA Executive Vice President (1988-1999). In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1984.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Sara Rubinow Simon; children, Ethan (Sandy Katz) and Betsy (Col. Jeff Cowan); daughter-in-law, Dr. Miriam Bensimhon; grandchildren, Molly (Kevin), Ezekiel (Joni), Maggie (Zach), Dylan, Marley, and Charles "Buddy;" siblings Carmi and Tamar Hoffs (Josh); and cousin, Rabbi Henry Michelman. He was predeceased by his son, our colleague, Rabbi Joshua Reuveni Simon, and uncle, Rabbi Irving (Bella Goldfarb) Lehrman.

Rabbi Teresa M. Snyder, ל"ז
הרב כרמלה מרים ברכה בת אברהם ושרה, ז"ל

Born: February 25, 1953; Panama City, FL

Died: December 31, 2022/ג' טבת תשפ"ג; Nashville, TN

Born in Florida and raised in Nashville, TN, Rabbi Snyder was a graduate of David Lipscomb College with a BS in biochemistry, and she earned a masters degree in library science from George Peabody College, both in Nashville. She spent the first part of her career as a librarian, during which time she studied to be a paralegal. She also found her passion in Judaism during this time and decided to convert. She extended that passion for Judaism further in the middle of her career, when she entered rabbinical school at JTS, receiving ordination in 2007.

After ordination, she became a prison chaplain in upstate New York, a position she served until her retirement in 2022, at which time she moved back to Nashville. While serving in the chaplaincy she saw as one of her missions to explain Judaism to those in the general community. She lectured about Judaism to interfaith groups and participated in many interfaith forums.

She is survived by her daughters, Teresa Whitesell and Anne (Adam) McGough; step-children, Melanie Bloom and Alan (Sharon) Snyder; eight grandchildren; and brother, John Marshall Johnson III (Cindy). She was predeceased by her husband, Michael, in 2021.

Rabbi Elliott T. Spar, ז"ל הרב אליעזר בן שמואל וחיה רחל, ז"ל

Born: March 27, 1935; Brooklyn, NY

Died: November 29, 2022/ה' כסלו תשפ"ג; Palm Beach, FL

Rabbi Elliott T. Spar lived his life with passion and commitment. He was totally in love with and committed to his family, his rabbinate, the Jewish people, and the State of Israel. He studied in yeshivah from kindergarten and was a 1957 graduate of Yeshiva University having spent a year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In that year, he married Sondra Lee Rothman who died in 1984. While studying at JTS, he earned an MS in counseling and was ordained in 1962. That same year he became the Rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom in Smithtown, NY (Long Island), where he spent his entire career until his retirement in 2000 when he was named rabbi emeritus. A preeminent pastor with great compassion, he brought comfort to his congregants in times of adversity, and with his joy and vitality he enhanced their festive *smakbot*. Beloved by his congregants, he regarded his service as their rabbi to be his greatest privilege.

What motivated him in every dimension of his life was his devotion to Torah. He loved teaching Torah from the bimah, in a classroom, and by example to his family and congregants. All who encountered him, even those with different views of what constituted Jewish tradition, had no doubts about the depth of his Jewish commitment. His desire to contribute to the betterment of his community and to help meet the challenges in society all around him, reflected the aspirations for human life learned from the Torah he lived and taught.

With dynamism and innovation, he energized his congregation in Smithtown, growing its membership and building a loving and supportive community for all of its members. Even though he saw himself as a liberal Conservative rabbi, Rabbi Spar cherished Jewish tradition and that tradition was

sustained at Temple Beth Shalom. He had a deep and abiding faith. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1988.

Toward the end of his life, he wrote a book about his rabbinate entitled *The Rebel Rabbi*, but he was much more than a rebel. A visionary and a thoughtfully innovative rabbi, he inspired many to form a deeper commitment to Jewish life and the Jewish people. He succeeded because of his willingness to try new ideas, and his ability to withstand the criticism that his creativity sometimes generated. He was among the early supporters of welcoming women to the Conservative rabbinate and of affirming same-sex relationships. He played the part of the rabbi in the film, *Torch Song Trilogy*. An avid Zionist, he owned an apartment in Netanya and brought many groups to Israel. His passions for his family, his community, Israel, and the Jewish people did not diminish. He lived a life distinguished by qualities that made him the loving husband, father, grandfather, and authentic rabbi he wanted to be.

He is survived by his second wife, Sandy (he always said he was so blessed with his two Sandys); Elliott and Sondra's children, Elon (Annie), Shera (Douglas) Dubitsky, and Ari (Susan); step-children, Jason (Wendy) and Adam (Sonia); and 13 grandchildren. He was blessed with the strength to live his life with integrity by maintaining his beliefs and pursuing his vision. **יהי זכרו ברוך**

This biography of Rabbi Spar was prepared by our colleague, Rabbi William Lebean, vice-chancellor emeritus of JTS and recently retired senior consultant for rabbinic and institutional leadership, Rabbinical Assembly.

רב שלמה זאב בן מרדכי ואסתר, ז"ל **Rabbi Sheldon W. Switkin, ז"ל**

Born: March 3, 1937; Chicago, IL

Died: October 4, 2022/ג' תשרי תשפ"ג; Columbus, OH

Rabbi Sheldon W. Switkin, or “Switty” as he was known to those who knew and loved him, came from a family that embodied three cherished principles: Judaism, patriotism, and family.

From early on, he attended Shabbat services regularly and went to Hebrew School, which met Sunday through Thursday. At the age of ten, he brought home notice of a new Hebrew-speaking camp located in northern Wisconsin. He appealed to his parents to send him there, to Camp Ramah, for the summer. Indeed, Shelly often considered himself to be a founding attendee and inaugural witness, later supporter, and leader, of one of the most significant and influential institutions of the Conservative Movement. He remained a camper for six years and became a staff member for four more years. During that time, he also joined LTF and USY. These institutions and his family were the roots of his love of everything Jewish.

After graduating from the University of Illinois with a BA in sociology and a minor in social work, Shelly pursued his interest in Jewish studies, moving to New York to prepare for rabbinical school even as he was receiving an MA in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. While he was studying at JTS, he also directed a Jewish day camp back in Chicago and served as principal of the religious school at Temple B'nai Zion in Bloomfield, NJ. In 1963, he received an MHL from JTS and ordination in 1965. He spent two years as a chaplain and was assigned to Chanut Air Force Base, IL, with special rabbinic duties in Bermuda and the Azores.

The third pillar of Shelly's life was the establishment of his own family. While in rabbinical school, Shelly met the love of his life, Linda. Linda was born in Montreal and shared with Shelly his love of Jewish life. She became the

cornerstone of his life, his muse, and together they established a home. They have three daughters, Marni, Lisa, and Abby, all highly accomplished women drawing wisdom and strength from their father and mother.

All three strands of Shelly's life—Judaism, patriotism, and family—were bound together as Shelly began his career as a rabbi. He was associate rabbi at B'nai Amoona Synagogue in St. Louis, MO, (1967-1973); rabbi at Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre in New York (1974-1976); rabbi at Tifereth Israel Congregation in Columbus, Ohio (1976-1979). He served as interim rabbi at the Reconstructionist synagogue Beth Am in Columbus, OH and then as rabbi at Congregation Israel in Danville, IL, spanning nearly 60 years of service, devotion, and education. During part of that time, he invited his daughter Marni, who joined with him in serving the needs of the congregation. Marni worked with her father from 1997-2012.

There were so many ways through which Shelly served many Jewish communities as well as the general community, and in more than one capacity. From 1980-82, Shelly continued his studies at Ohio State University and received a Masters in social work. With that degree, he began work as executive director of the Dayton Jewish Family Services (1982-2002), taught as an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work at Ohio State (2003-2017), and was a member of many professional organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Jewish Vocational Service Agencies. In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1994.

Shelly was skilled in other areas, as well. He was adept with the Jewish calendar and how it was integrated into the Gregorian system. He knew dates, times, and when Jewish holidays would fall on what days and in what years. The relationship between the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars is complicated and he was a master of both. He remembered his congregants' *yahrzeit* and *bar mitzvah* dates all by memory!

Another of Shelly's many gifts was his enduring friendships with people which spanned as long as fifty years. When he taught Hebrew school as a young man, he not only taught the sacred texts but he expanded his students' lives by taking them to hockey games. Those occasions, which combined learning and experiences, forged close relationships that crossed over many decades. The marriages he performed almost never became solo events. The families he created remained in contact with him. As one of his best friends wrote, "I now realize that the passing of Shelly represents the end of an era for me. He is not only the closest of my Chicago friends but also the last surviving. He knew both of my parents as I knew his." Shelly really got to know people and they knew him. That bond remained unbroken for many, many years.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughters, Marni (Dan), Lisa (Elijah), and Abby (Sarah); and grandchildren, Elia, Ari, twins Miriam and Nava, and Jarah and Zev.

This biography of Rabbi Switkin was prepared by our colleague, his brother-in-law, Rabbi Azriel Fellner. Presently, Rabbi Fellner does commercial voice overs, lectures on film and is in the process of writing a book for a publisher. He is semi-retired from the rabbinate and occasionally takes part-time pulpits.

רבני קנעט מ. טארלױ, ז״ל **הרב חיים צבי בן יחזקאל מאיר וסאסיל, ז״ל**

Born: October 29, 1942; Cambridge, MA

Died: October 16, 2022/ג' תשרי תשפ"ג; W. Orange, NJ

A graduate of the Joint Program (JTS/Columbia), he earned a BS with honors, Phi Beta Kappa, in sociology in 1965 and a BHL in 1966. He was ordained from JTS in 1970 and became the assistant rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Philadelphia, PA, after which he was co-rabbi of Beth El Synagogue in Omaha, NE. In 1973, he moved to Congregation Beth Ahm in Toronto. From 1974-76, he served as the Ontario Region president of the RA. In 1977, he assumed the position of regional director for the Seaboard Region of United Synagogue, based in the Washington, DC area. During that time, he became the founding rabbi of two synagogues, Congregation Kol Ami (now Kol Shalom) in Annapolis, MD (1977-79) and Congregation Beth Emeth in Herndon, VA (1979-81) both on a part-time basis.

In 1981, he was appointed director of finance and management at USCJ, which he held until 1998. He created and implemented a computerized accounting system for a multi-million-dollar budget and was able to present clear reports to the lay leadership – a major breakthrough for organizational transparency. He also instituted training workshops for USCJ staff and affiliated synagogue boards on topics including board operations, volunteer management, and strategic planning. In 1988, he was appointed director of the New Jersey Region of USCJ. During that time, he became a lay leader at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Union and Essex (now Golda Och Academy), chairing its Budget Committee for several years and serving on its board of directors.

After over two decades of service to USCJ, he transitioned from being a lay leader to becoming the COO/CFO of the Solomon Schechter Day School, retiring from that position in 2005. He remained active in retirement, including serving as rabbi of Congregation Beth Torah in Florham Park, NJ. In

recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in 1997.

Rabbi Tarlow is survived by his wife, Leah Seltzer Tarlow; daughters, Elisha (Aron) Friedman and Rachel Tarlow (Eric) Gul; and grandchildren, Michael Gul (Abigail Huebner), Emily Gul, Devira Friedman, and Avital Friedman.

Rabbi David S. Winston, ז"ל
הרב דוד שלמה בן אברהם ושרה, ז"ל

Born: September 3, 1927; New York, NY

Died: December 13, 2022/ג"ט כסלו תשפ"ג; Berkeley, CA

A graduate of Yeshiva University with a degree in English, Rabbi Winston was ordained in 1955 from JTS and earned a PhD in Greek and Latin from Columbia University. In those days, JTS required its newly ordained rabbis to enter the military chaplaincy; Rabbi Winston was granted a deferment to complete his graduate work at Columbia. Upon earning a PhD, he served as a chaplain in the US Army. He was first stationed in Ft. Bliss, TX, and then in Furth, Germany, with the chapel in Nuremberg and its Court of Justice where the Nuremberg trials took place. He attended services in the town's only surviving synagogue, where he read Torah every week and studied with the synagogue's rabbi, an Auschwitz survivor. Following his service, he began teaching at Columbia in 1958. In 1960, he became associate professor of Rabbinic and Hellenistic Literature at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles (now AJU). During that time, he was engaged as the part-time rabbi of a new synagogue, Temple Etz Chaim, in Thousand Oaks (in those days an exurb of Los Angeles).

In 1966, he began what would become his lifelong career at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, as a professor of Hellenistic and Judaic Studies. In 1968, he co-founded GTU's Center for Jewish Studies (CJS), where he was its inaugural professor. He later became the director of CJS, a position in which he served until his retirement in 1995. The tribute from GTU in his memory states, "[Rabbi] Winston was quoted as saying that it is important for GTU seminarians to have 'live contact with Jewish scholarship,'" which was a mission he pursued throughout his career. In his eulogy for Rabbi Winston, Dr. Daniel Matt calls him the world's foremost authority on Philo.

He was a visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from 1970 to 1971 and was a research fellow at its Institute for Advanced Studies on Mt. Scopus in 1976, as well as at the American Academy for Jewish Research in 1976. He was twice awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship, in 1978 and again in 1986. He served as a member and a trustee of the Philo Institute and was the director of the Philo Project, a joint initiative between the University of California-Berkeley and GTU, from 1976 to 1978. He also served as president of the Pacific Coast section of the Society for Biblical Literature (*Shalom Berger. Passing of Prof. David Winston. H-Judaic. 12-17-2022*). In recognition of his years of service, The Jewish Theological Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*, in 1987.

Rabbi Winston authored numerous publications, including *The Wisdom of Solomon*; *Philo of Alexandria: The Contemplative Life*, *The Giants*, and *Selections*; and *Logos and Mystical Theology in Philo of Alexandria*. In 2001 a volume was published in his honor and was entitled *The Ancestral Philosophy: Hellenistic Philosophy in Second Temple Judaism. Essays of David Winston* (edited by Greg Sterling; Brown Judaic Studies 331).

Throughout his life, he continued to study in *chavrutot*, which included Rabbi Jacob Milgrom, Rabbi Stuart and Vicky Kelman, and Dr. Daniel Matt. This group, though the participants have changed, continues today. Rabbi Winston (and Irene) were early founders of Tehiyah Day School and Congregation Netivot Shalom, where he would frequently read Torah, enabling the congregation, in the early days, to have a Torah reading each Shabbat.

He is survived by his son, Dani (Marla); and granddaughter, Naomi Winston. He was predeceased by his wife, Irene, in 2013.

Rabbinic Spouses

Beverly Beiman, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi David Zisenwine
שושנה בת אלידה ושלמה, ז"ל

David Berman, ז"ל
Husband of Rabbi Sara Davidson Berman
דוד בן גילה ושלמה הכהן, ז"ל

Hedva Campeas-Cohen, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Kenneth S. Cohen, ז"ל, and mother of Rabbi Michael Cohen
חדוה שפרה בת חיים יוסף ושושנה, ז"ל

Ruth Rapp Dresner, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Samuel Dresner, ז"ל
רות גנענדל בת משה הלוי וחווה, ז"ל

Rachel Friedman, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi Shamma Friedman
רחל בת חיים זיסמן וחנה, ז"ל

Leypsa Groner, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Irwin Groner, ז"ל (RA President, 1990-1992)
לפשא בת זאב ועלועל ומרים, ז"ל

Jean Loeb Lettofsky, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi Alan Lettofsky
יעל בת אהרון ובריינדל, ז"ל

Betty Lukinsky, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Joseph Lukinsky, ז"ל
לאה בת אברם ורייזל, ז"ל

Carol Bauman Paskow, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi Shimon Paskow, ז"ל
מלכה כלה בת עמנואל ומרים, ז"ל

Sheila Mirsky Rosenblum, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi Herbert Rosenblum, ז"ל, aunt of Rabbis Judah and Avram
Kogen, and sister-in-law of Rabbi David (Dina, ז"ל) Kogen
חנה שרה בת יצחק הלוי וחיה וויטל, ז"ל

Dr. Barbara Lee Rosoff, ז"ל
Wife of Rabbi Jack Rosoff
ברכה ליבא בת בן-ציון ורות, ז"ל

Judith Edidin Scolnic, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Samuel Scolnic, ז"ל, and mother of Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic
יהודית מלכה בת בנימין משה ודבורה, ז"ל

Charlotte Shapiro Shanblatt, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Sanford Shanblatt, ז"ל
חשה בת אליהו ואסתר, ז"ל

Rita Shtull, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Jacob Shtull
שושנה בת נחום ופרומה, ז"ל

Temma Leyton Silberman, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Herbert Silberman, ז"ל, and mother of Rabbi Steven Silberman
טיממע בת שאלתיאל אייזק ודינה, ז"ל

Roberta "Bobbie" Silverman, ז"ל
Widow of Rabbi Hillel Silverman, ז"ל
שרה רבקה עדינה בת עמנואל, ז"ל

Colleagues Not Included in this Year's Book

Please note that several of our colleagues passed away after the Rabbinical Assembly's publication deadline for this year's Memorial Book. Their biographies will be included in a future Memorial Book.

Rabbi Emanuel S. Goldsmith, ז"ל

הרב מנחם מענדל בן חיים ורייזא, ז"ל

Born: August 15, 1935; New York, NY

Died: January 5, 2024/כ"ד טבת תשפ"ד; Rockville, MD

Rabbi Jordan Samuel Ofseyer, ז"ל

הרב ירדן שמואל בן אריה ואורה, ז"ל

Born: November 17, 1935; Brooklyn, NY

Died: January 6, 2024/כ"ה טבת תשפ"ד; Palm Springs, CA

Rabbi Gerry J. Rosenberg, ז"ל

הרב גרשון בן בנימין, ז"ל

Born: April 1, 1938; Chicago, IL

Died: December 21, 2023/ט' טבת תשפ"ד; Chicago, IL

Rabbi Erwin Schild, ז"ל

הרב ברוך אריה בן נפתלי והעטל, ז"ל

Born: March 9, 1920; Cologne, Germany

Died: January 6, 2024/כ"ה טבת תשפ"ד; Toronto, Ontario, Canada