

WOLFE



JEWISH HERALD-VOICE

JHV

GREATER HOUSTON'S JEWISH NEWS MEDIA SINCE 1908

July 2025 • \$5 per copy
Volume CXVIII • Number 16

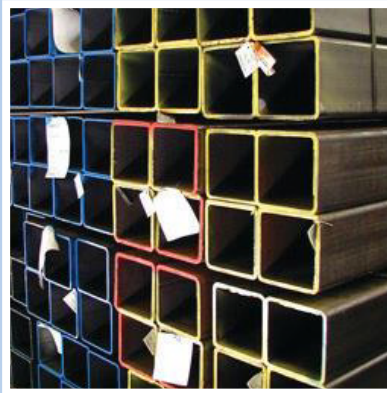
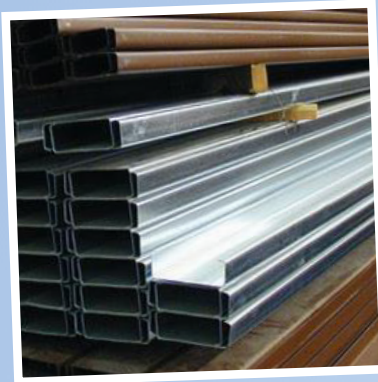


A HEALING JOURNEY

Rabbi overcomes
medical challenges,
returns to hospital
as beloved chaplain

TRIPLE-S STEEL

*We're not just a steel company,
we're family & part of the community*



From a small family retail operation started in Texas, our business has grown to sell over 600,000 tons of steel per year. Despite our growth, we maintain our original values and are proud to continue operating as a family business. We're a general line service center with special emphasis in the construction markets. Our roots are in Houston, but with facilities in San Antonio, and Fort Worth, we are your go-to source for steel in Texas.

Upon acquiring the Intsel divisions in Houston and San Antonio in 2002, Triple-S benefited from significant growth. Intsel, a metals distribution icon, assisted in transforming Triple-S into a diverse supplier of steel. The roots of Intsel draw on the strength of their purchasing clout with large inventories. The business focuses on wide flange beams, plates, tubing and other structural products serving large Texas steel fabricators. With the largest Temper Mill in the world being built at our Houston steel facility, we have lofty goals to offer even more to our customers.

Shirley & Bruce Stein Family

**Tracy & Gary Stein ... Ben, Ellie
Robin & Brad Stein ... Steven, Sarah
Andrea & David Stein ... Julie, Jonathan
Emily & Sam Stein ... Izzy**

sss-steel.com




**Jewish Federation
OF GREATER HOUSTON**
See Israel with the one you love!
honeymoon : israel™
It's about the journey



Solidarity with Israel: Future Community Travel

**Join our Houston cohort on an
unforgettable trip February 26-March 8, 2026!**

Honeymoon Israel, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, helps young couples with at least one Jewish partner bring Jewish life into their homes, and create a new community of friends while gaining their own perspective on the nuances and diversity of Israel.



**Know someone who would be a great fit for HMI?
Refer them today! Learn more at
houstonjewish.org/hmi or the scan the QR code.**



JHV

JEWISH HERALD-VOICE GREATER HOUSTON'S JEWISH NEWS MEDIA SINCE 1908

ISSN 0021-6488 USPS 0275-360

VOICES

Volume CXVIII – Number 16

FOUNDING PUBLISHERS

Edgar Goldberg 1908-1937
David H. White and Ida S. White 1938-1973
Joseph W. Samuels 1973-2011
Jeanne F. Samuels 1973-2023

EDITOR, PUBLISHER, PRESIDENT & CEO

Vicki Samuels Levy

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Matt Samuels

STAFF WRITERS

Judy Bluestein Levin • Aaron Howard

COLUMNISTS

Alice Adams • Holly Cin
Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs
Rabbi David Lyon • Rabbi David Rosen
Yael Trusch • Russell Weil • Teddy Weinberger

CONTRIBUTORS

Hagit Bibi • Daniel Bissonnet • Michael C. Duke
William Faour • Michael Murra
Cameron Samuels • S. Sara Tubbs

PRODUCTION

Production director | Aaron D. Poscovsky
Magazine designer | Matt Samuels
Proofreaders | Chaia Beckerman
Judy Bluestein Levin • William Faour • Jode Hestand

SUBSCRIPTION/DISTRIBUTION

Matt Samuels

ADVERTISING SALES

Advertising Manager | Vicki Samuels Levy

Ad account executives:

Dr. Danna Fertsch • Lew Sampson

Classified/Singles | Joseph Macias

ADMINISTRATION

Director of first impressions | Sharon Stoper Livitz

Accounts receivable | Huong Tonnu

News: articles@jhvonline.com
Subscriptions: subscribe@jhvonline.com
Advertising: advertising@jhvonline.com

Telephone: 713-630-0391 • Fax: 713-630-0404

Website: jhvonline.com
Digital edition: jhvonline.com/e-edition
Facebook: @JewishHeraldVoice
X: @jhvonline Instagram: @jewishherald

Located at 3403 Audley St., Houston, TX 77098-1923

WHAT'S INSIDE

5 A Healing Journey
Rabbi overcomes critical medical challenges and returns to hospital as beloved chaplain
By Matt Samuels

9 Ultimate Uplifters
Bormaster family a beautiful example of overcoming challenges and giving back
By Judy Bluestein Levin

12 Jewish-Owned Businesses Driven by Jewish Values
By JHV Staff

19 Preserving the Past
Through her work with Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives, Melissa Cohen-Nickels is Sharing the Rich History of Jewish Life in Texas
By S. Sara Tubbs

23 Not Your Average Guy
JCC Arts & Culture coordinator advocates for Israel, competes in IRONMAN races
By Michael Murra



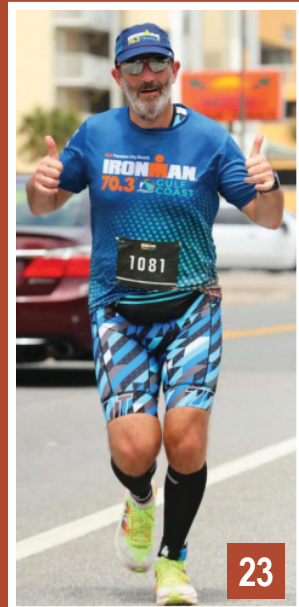
19



5



9



23

Published weekly – Plus Passover, Voices in Houston, Rosh Hashanah, Celebrations and Chanukah editions – by Herald Publishing Co., 3403 Audley St., Houston, TX 77098. ©2025, with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. Periodicals Postage Paid at Houston, Texas. Subscription rates: USA \$180 for 3 years; \$125 for 2 years; \$65 per year; 9 months for \$55. Foreign subscriptions upcharged with international first-class postage. Single newspaper copies by mail: PREPAID \$4. Back Issues: PREPAID \$6. Single VOICES magazine copies by mail: PREPAID \$8 each. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Jewish



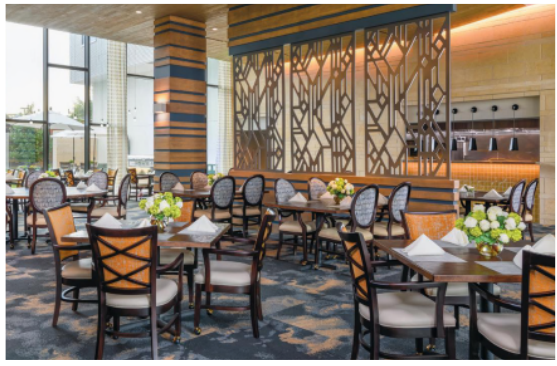
Kosher food in the hospital?
How about a Shabbos meal?

You have family in the
Texas Medical Center.



aishelhouse.org/meals

713-522-2004 • info@aishelhouse.org



We are Family

- All-day Dining with New Executive Chef
- Studio, One & Two-bedroom up to 1089sf
- Award-winning Design with Sky Terrace

Allow us to introduce you to the hallmarks of Morning Star, including Lavender Sky, our signature approach to dementia care

—CALL TO—
Tour Today
and let's do life together
832.261.9147



MorningStar

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE
at RIVER OAKS

ADA EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

2315 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77098 | MorningStarRiverOaks.com

ALF #110577

A Healing Journey

Rabbi overcomes critical medical challenges and returns to hospital as beloved chaplain

BY MATT SAMUELS | JHV

For five long days in 2012, Naftali Lazaroff was unresponsive in a coma inside a Detroit hospital.

A brain tumor led to a seizure that knocked the 15-year-old yeshiva student out and had doctors questioning whether he would survive.

Several brain surgeries followed, and the teen's immediate future was uncertain.

"It was a very difficult time for us, but we had faith in G-d that he could pull through," Naftali's father, Rabbi Lazer Lazaroff, told the JHV.

Now, more than a decade later, Naftali, 28, is back in the hospital again on a daily basis.

Only this time, he is the one providing the spiritual support and strength to help others overcome their medical challenges.

Now a rabbi, Naftali began working nine months ago as a chaplain in Houston's world-renowned Texas Medical Center. He offers patients emotional comfort from a unique perspective.

"After going through my own medical challenges, I can truly understand the journey people go through – the pain, the suffering, the happiness. There are a lot of different emotions that happen," Rabbi Naftali told the JHV.

"One of the hardest things in life is to be alone and to be confused. The hospital can sometimes feel like a prison, even though you didn't do anything wrong. What kept me together was G-d and family. I see people who don't have that, and it can be very hard.

"I want to help those people and make them feel more comfortable. Sometimes, they may just need someone to talk to. Sometimes, they may want to put on tefillin. Sometimes, they may just want you to sit there and be with them."

Being a chaplain was a natural calling for Rabbi Naftali, who grew up with his 10 siblings inside Houston's Aishel House, a sparkling gem in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. Aishel House provides comfort, housing, a synagogue and a kosher kitchen for medical patients and their families from all over the world.



JHV: MATT SAMUELS

Rabbi Naftali Lazaroff wraps tefillin with a patient at St. Luke's Hospital.

Aishel House directors Rabbi Lazer and Rochel Lazaroff welcomed Rabbi Naftali and his wife Sara back to Houston in September 2024. Rabbi Naftali had completed his rabbinical studies in New Jersey and worked for a few months as a chaplain at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn.

"Naftali, by nature, is very giving, very kind and very compassionate," Naftali's mom, Rochel, told the JHV. "Ever since he was a little boy, he has always brought so much joy to everyone around him.

"I never doubted that Naftali would be able to do the things he is doing. Even when he is not visiting with patients, he is in the Aishel House lobby talking with patients. Oftentimes,

people will come downstairs just to see Naftali. They need that positive energy. It's pretty cool."

Rabbi Naftali's life journey wasn't easy, but it's one that made him stronger.

"There were ups and downs medically for sure," Rabbi Naftali said. "There were several years of going to doctors trying to figure out exactly what was going on.

"People – especially children – often think they are infallible and can get through anything. I really believe G-d gave me something to push me through.

"Thank G-d, it's been almost 10 years, and I'm hopefully clear. I still have yearly MRIs, check-ups and take medication. But as you



PARADIGM
HEALTHCARE

EXEMPLARY CARE *by* EXEMPLARY PEOPLE



Offering Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy,
Speech Therapy, Complex Wound Care, Short term and Long Term Care

Paradigm at Stevens
204 Walter Street
Yoakum, TX 77995
361-293-3544

Paradigm at Bay City
1800 13th Street
Bay City, TX 77414
979-245-6327

Paradigm at Westbury
5201 S. Willow Drive
Houston, TX 77035
713-721-0297

Paradigm at
Faith Memorial
811 Garner Road
Pasadena, TX 77502
713-473-8573

Nazerath Living Care Center
1475 Reynolds Street
El Paso, TX 79903
915-565-4677

Paradigm at The Oak
507 West Avenue
Schulenburg, TX 77895
979-743-4159

Paradigm at Sweeny
109 McKinney Street
Sweeny, TX 77480
979-548-3383

Paradigm at
Woodwind Lakes
7215 Windfern Road
Houston, TX 77040
713-466-8933

Paradigm at Kountze
604 FM-1293 Road
Kountze, TX 77625
409-246-3418

Creekside Care Center
167 North Stygler Road
Gahanna, OH 43230
614-475-8778

Paradigm at The Prairies
106 Del Norte Drive
El Campo, TX 77437
979-543-6762

Paradigm at the Brazos
2127 Preston Road
Richmond, TX 77469
281-342-2801

Paradigm Northwest
17600 Cali Drive
Houston, TX 77090
281-440-9000

Paradigm at the Pines
705 Highway 418 West
Silsbee, TX 77656
409-385-0033

Blossom Care Center
300 East Bath Road
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
330-929-6272

Paradigm at The Creek
1405 Valhalla Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
979-532-1244

Paradigm at First Colony
4710 Lexington Boulevard
Missouri City, TX 77459
281-499-4710

Paradigm Katy
1480 Katy Flewellen Road
Katy, TX 77494
281-394-0088

MEDICARE, MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS, VA, MEDICAID
www.paradigmhcs.com • Jewish owned and operated

can see, I'm standing here right now, happy and healthy."

A strong guiding light in Naftali's journey has been his wife, Sara. The two met in New York; Rabbi Naftali's sister Raizel was the matchmaker. Sara serves as the volunteer coordinator at Aishel House, a similar position she held with The Friendship Circle in Brooklyn.

The couple – now with a newborn daughter, Mushka – have worked together to fill many needs and new care programs at Aishel House.

"Naftali and I both knew we wanted to be givers. With Aishel House, it really all came together, and we now have this beautiful life together," Sara told the JHV.

"I fell in love with everything Aishel House does. I love working with volunteers and I am inspired to be a part of their journey."

The couple helps oversee weekly programs for residents and helps coordinate Aishel House's twice-a-day kosher meal delivery to patients throughout the Medical Center. They have helped grow the volunteer base from 60 to 100 volunteers.

"We want to provide as much support as we can for people who are staying here or who are in the hospital," Sara said. "The goal is to make people comfortable and supported and feel a little bit more like [they're] home."

Sara manages a large base of volunteers who pick up lunches and dinners from the Aishel House kitchen. School groups volunteer by helping cook, and they decorate bags that are packed with the meals for delivery. Sara also created a new program, The Kindness Crew, which features teen volunteers who come once a week to hang out with children who are staying with family at Aishel House.

"If it is hard for adults, it's also tough for the children," Sara said. "Everyone staying here is going through similar things, so we just create the space for them to talk to each other, and they have a built-in support group by staying here."

Caring for patients and families also is an around-the-clock labor of love.

"For us, it's not a job. It's our life. It just doesn't stop at a certain time of day," Sara said. "When you care about people, you are always thinking about them. It doesn't always end when someone, G-d forbid, passes away or when someone goes home and a miracle happens."

Rabbi Naftali agrees and is right in the middle of all the positive vibes.

"The work of chaplaincy is the human

"The work of chaplaincy is the human connection, happening every day at Aishel House."
– Rabbi Naftali Lazaroff



JHV: MATT SAMUELS

Rabbi Naftali and Sara Lazaroff take care of medical patients and their families at Aishel House and in the Texas Medical Center.

connection, happening every day at Aishel House," Rabbi Naftali said.

"I have a badge of honor to call myself chaplain – I get the name tag – but everyone here at Aishel House does that. You don't have to have the job title to make people feel good.

"Just be kind to people because you never know what people have going on in their lives. Sometimes, people don't see other people's struggles.

"Being there for people is the key. One thing I learned at Maimonides [Hospital] was those moments when you think you aren't making a difference, you are still making a difference."

Rabbi Lazer, who has been performing chaplaincy work for more than three decades, is humbled to see his son follow in his footsteps.

"Naftali has a natural positive disposition. We joke that he was born with a smile on his face," Rabbi Lazer said. "It is beautiful to see how naturally it comes to Naftali to do the work he is doing. And we are so thrilled that he found a wife that is his equal and his partner and [they are] just making a sunny environment wherever they go.

"We have 11 children. In all the work we've done at Aishel House, we've always included our children in that work," said

Rabbi Lazer. "I believe we've raised our children to be compassionate, empathetic and to feel another person's pain. For our children, it comes naturally to want to be there for others in their dark spaces of life. They have been there through the thick and thin."

When Rabbi Naftali wrapped tefillin with a patient – who was recovering in March from major aortic surgery in St. Luke's Hospital's ICU – he was filled with memories of when he was in the same hospital facing his own uncertain future.

"From the depth of his experiences, he was able to come back and really make a difference in patients' lives," Rabbi Lazer said.

"Naftali has really been able to use that experience as a springboard and a catalyst for making the lives of others better."

Recalling years past, Rochel remembers one of her son's toughest days.

"At one point, when he realized that this was getting to be a little more than he asked for, he said, 'So basically, I'm going to die.'

"That was very tough to hear, but my husband looked at him and said, 'Naftali, everyone dies. The question is, how many people live? And you can choose to live.

"And Naftali is doing that right now. He is completely living and helping others at a time when they need it most." ☆

HOUSTON CATERING CONCEPTS



houstoncatering.com • 713-257-9898



We love our work. From the lively buzz of New York Deli & Coffee Shop to the joyous gatherings with Houston Catering Concepts, every moment is a labor of love.

Our deepest joy comes from serving you, our community, with heart and dedication. Whether it's hosting an event or simply pouring a hot cup of coffee, every act of service is our way of building connections.

We don't just create delicious food and drink; we create a sense of belonging. Smile by smile, bagel by bagel, we're building a community. Thank you for being a part of it.



houstoncatering.com • 713-257-9898 • nybagelsandcoffee.com • 713-NY-BAGEL • 9724 Hillcroft St.

THE SHLENKER SCHOOL

Congregation Beth Israel

Serving students from 6-weeks old through Fifth Grade!

- Academic Excellence
- Jewish Values
- Building Future Leaders
- Warm & Welcoming Community



Ignite the spark that will last a lifetime

For more information, contact Tara Gassett, Director of Admissions and Development, at tgassett@shlenker.org or 713.270.6127.



The Shlenker School | 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd. Houston, TX 77096 | 713.270.6127 | www.theshlenkerschool.org

Ultimate Uplifters

Bormaster family a beautiful example of overcoming challenges and giving back



The Bormaster/Feinstein family: (front) Jeffrey Feinstein, Alli Feinstein, George Feinstein, Blake Bormaster, Eli Masel, Joshua Feinstein, Kim Bormaster; (back) Brian Bormaster, Brian Masel, Kelly Bormaster Masel, Leslie Bormaster, Jordan Masel, Julia Feinstein, Claire Bormaster, Jack Bormaster, Scott Bormaster and Benji Masel.

BY JUDY BLUESTEIN LEVIN | JHV

Leslie and Scott Bormaster grew up – and fell in love – within the walls of Congregation Emanu El. Together, they have faced adversity; yet, they haven’t allowed themselves to be consumed by hardship. Instead, the two have transformed their struggles into acts of kindness – tangible lessons their four grown children and their spouses are carrying forward.

Life for their young family was smooth sailing – until two weeks before Leslie was due to give birth to their third child. That’s when they were surprised and shocked to learn they were having twins.

At first, all seemed well. Twin Kelly was meeting all her developmental benchmarks, but Leslie noticed twin Kimberly (Kimmy) was not.

“I was a special ed teacher,” Leslie told the JHV. “That was my background, and I was

in tune to children with special needs. I told my family from the very beginning: We don’t know what we have; we don’t know what we’re dealing with, but she’s our family and we’re going to treat Kim just like each one of you. And we’re going to love her and care for her and be there for her no matter what.

“And Kim changed our lives from the beginning – shaping and making our family what it is, as we all learned from her.”

Kimberly Bormaster

Life with Kim has been both challenging and deeply joyful. Her special needs have never held her back. She maintains a busy schedule with several organizations and even holds down two part-time jobs.

Special Olympics has become her social outlet, where she plays both volleyball and tennis – especially excelling in volleyball. In 2011, Kim and her Hot Shots volleyball team were chosen to represent the U.S. at the World

Games in Athens, Greece, where she not only played exceptionally well, she medaled.

“I came home with the gold!” Kim proudly told the JHV.

When Kim became involved with Special Olympics, the entire family jumped in. To this day, they continue to volunteer with anything Kim is involved in.

With a smile that lights up any room, Kim has been chosen for several remarkable roles. She served as a Global Messenger for the Special Olympics in Washington, D.C., lobbying lawmakers for support. She was the first-ever Maccabi Access Games ambassador in Houston in 2024, and she was the first Special Olympian to be inducted into the Ronnie Arrow Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC. Today, she sits on the Hall of Fame board.

One of many proud moments came recently when she and her mom were invited to join the 2025 board of the Joan and Stanford Alexander JFS Disability Services committee.

Brian and Claire Bormaster

The oldest of the four Bormaster children, Brian, along with his wife Claire, are devoted parents to their two sons. In addition to coaching their Little League teams, Brian serves as a commissioner and Claire on the auxiliary team of the Challenger Division of West University Little League. Challenger is a citywide baseball program for children with physical and developmental differences.

The best part is “seeing the joy,” Brian told the JHV. “I got to witness some of that with my sister and the involvement she had with the Special Olympics. These kids – they will light up for anything – and it’s how happy they get coming out every Sunday to play baseball. It’s spectacular to watch and be a part of.”

One night a number of years ago, Scott came home to find Leslie in tears. Tulane University had published an article about son Brian, who was a senior captain of the baseball team. The first paragraph highlighted his athletic career at Tulane. The second focused on what he learned from his sister Kimberly and how those lessons made him successful in baseball.

“I turned to Leslie,” said Scott, “and I said, ‘We’re doing something right. All our kids get it.’”

Allison and Jeffrey Feinstein

Two years older than the twins, and following in her mother’s footsteps, Allison (Alli)



Leslie and Scott Bormaster with their grandchildren, Jordan Masel, Julia Feinstein, Jack Bormaster, Eli Masel, Joshua Feinstein, George Feinstein, Benji Masel and Blake Bormaster.

Feinstein became a special education teacher and dyslexia therapist. Married to Jeffrey Feinstein, she and her husband are the loving parents of twin boys and one girl. In 2018, their world was life turned upside down when Jeffrey suffered a spinal cord injury while on a family vacation in Mexico.

Most people would cocoon themselves in grief, but not the Feinsteins. After Jeff’s surgery and rehab, they wanted to mark the one-year anniversary of his injury in a meaningful way. “Instead of it being a downer, we wanted it to become a day of celebration of all he has accomplished,” Alli told the JHV.

“We were so fortunate to have a com-

munity, friends and family that helped us get through such a difficult time. We knew how lucky we were, and still are, and wanted to be able to pave the way forward.”

While in rehab at TIRR Memorial Hermann, Jeff noticed that many patients couldn’t afford the tools that had helped him regain his independence – assistive devices like gloves and grabbers.

Together with friends, they began brainstorming ways to help. That’s how the idea for a family-friendly fundraiser was born: Walk & Roll for SCI (spinal cord injuries). In its very first year, Rock & Roll raised more than \$100,000, and it’s been growing ever since.



417 TRAVIS ST
713-225-5656 • FRANKSPIZZA.COM

In 2025, Alli and Jeff were honored to chair the ReelAbilities Houston Film and Arts Festival, organized by the JFS Houston Alexander Institute for Inclusion. The citywide event showcases talents in the disabilities community, such as art, music and film. Jeff also now serves on the JFS board.

"I believe all four of us have made our mark giving back, and what is cool is that it is all in different ways," said Alli. "For Jeff and me, we've always been ones to care about others. But once his accident happened, it was apparent what we needed to do. Through Walk & Roll for SCI or ReelAbilities, we believe so strongly in helping others, but also bringing awareness to the disabilities so that we can educate others on our lives and many others."

Kelly and Brian Masel

Being a twin, Kelly Bormaster Masel was particularly attentive to Kimmy when they were growing up. Whether it was at a sleepover or frolicking on the school playground, she made sure Kim was in the thick of things. Her parents' teachings even spilled over to her friends.

"Kimmy's a ray of sunshine and never a bother to be around, so my friends were all very compassionate," Kelly told the JHV. "It's hard not to smile when you're in Kim's presence."

Kelly is married to Brian Masel of Galveston and now the proud mom to three boys, ages 2, 5 and 7. Kelly is demonstrating for them what she's learned about giving back.

She has been on the board of Congregation B'nai Israel in Galveston, volunteering countless hours at her sons' school, sitting on the board of her neighborhood association and volunteering with the charities her family supports.

"That's just what our parents taught us," said Kelly, "With that support, we feel we can do anything. And I think Kimmy knows she has that support, too, as we all do. There's nothing to be afraid of because we know we have that net to fall into with our family."

Scott and Leslie Bormaster

"We're blessed that we've taken these life-changing events, learned from them and turned everything into an inspiration for everybody around us," Scott told the JHV. "Leslie is a special ed teacher by trade, and we have a daughter with special needs. Kelly married into a family of neurologists, and I have MS [multiple sclerosis], and that same family – my daughter's father-in-law in Galveston – is a brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation neurologist.

"And here's Jeffrey, our son-in-law, who suffered a spinal cord injury. G-d does things in pretty funny ways, but He never gives you more than you can handle. You can let it take you down or you can get up and go – and that's just what our family does."

Emanu El Emeritus Rabbi Roy Walter has been a constant presence in the couple's lives, guiding them from childhood through adulthood.

"The lovely thing is," Rabbi Walter told the JHV, "if you had asked me, did Scott and Leslie sit down their kids and say, 'This is how you're supposed to live [your] life,' I'd say, I have no idea. But if you grew up in a home like that and see your parents behave like that, how could you not come out a kid like that?"

"That's who they are. They are a beautiful reflection of their parents' attitude," said Rabbi Walter.

On April 22, Scott was honored by his synagogue for more than 40 years of dedicated service.

"[He] was named Emanu El's Congregant of the Year because of his generous spirit, his magnetic warmth and his commitment to *tikkun olam*," Senior Rabbi Oren Hayon told the JHV.

Reflecting on that moment, Scott summed up his and Leslie's emotions: "We are the most blessed parents and family on the face of this earth." ✨

Jewish-Owned Businesses Drive

Jewish entrepreneurs continue to enhance the Greater Houston community, boosting the economy as they infuse more than just expertise and quality into their products and services.

Often, what sets these business owners apart are the Jewish values that drive them in their dedication and decisions to serve their customers and the community.

The JHV asked a number of Jewish business owners about the values that shape their business practices. Their responses follow on the next several pages.

TRIPLE-S STEEL

Owners: Founder Bruce Stein, Gary, Brad and David Stein

Triple-S Steel was founded in 1960 by patriarch Bruce Stein, and it has grown to more than 50 locations and 2,300 employees worldwide.

“Throughout the entire history of Triple-S Steel Co., we always grew because if you do right, you live right, and you’re getting paid back a kazillion blessings,” said Stein.

“We all know that our mission is to help those that cannot help themselves. And through our work and our beliefs, and our strong moral ethics, we do G-d’s work, and we take care of those that need us that cannot take care of themselves.”

Triple-S is known for its vast inventory of products and taking care of customers of all shapes from do it yourselfers to builders of stadiums and everything in between – with plants working around the clock.

The Stein family believes in having fair dealings and integrity with everything they do – for their colleagues and community.

For more information, see sss-steel.com.



DESSERT GALLERY BAKERY & CAFÉ

Owner: Sara Brook

A sweet Houston tradition, Dessert Gallery Bakery & Café opened in 1995 and will turn 30 in September.

“When I started Dessert Gallery, I set out to build something that fueled my passion for baking and let me be there for my then-5-year-old daughter, Jen,” said Sara Brook. “Since then, every step has been about creating a place where people can celebrate life’s sweetest moments and find a little joy in their everyday.”

“Customers come for our delicious, handcrafted desserts and stay for community. Whether they call customer service or plan their weekend around a café visit, they know they’ll be treated like family. We believe in making people feel seen, celebrated and, above all, full of joy (and dessert!).”

Dessert Gallery staff is guided by the mitzvah of *chesed*, leading with kindness in all they do.

“Whether it’s welcoming culinary students into our kitchen, supporting refugee families or saying ‘yes’ to just one more cookie donation, we believe sweet gestures can make a big difference in the world,” said Brook.

Whether dining in, taking out or shipping sweet treats around the country, be dazzled at dessertgallery.com.



HOUSTON JEWISH FUNERALS

Managing partners: Andy Starr and Zane Belyea



Houston Jewish Funerals was established in 2007 and is now owned and managed by Andy Starr and Zane Belyea. They are joined by a group of respected leaders and philanthropists in the Houston Jewish community, including Robert Caplan, Les Fox, Alan Fox, Judy and Ronnie Yambra, Cheryl and Richard Rosenfeld, and Lewis Wilkenfeld.

Houston Jewish Funerals was born from a desire to create a locally owned, Jewish funeral home in Houston and to acquire other corporate buyouts. The founders were committed to providing a community-centered service that understands and respects the traditions of the Jewish faith.

Families continually return to Houston Jewish Funerals because of the trust it’s earned through compassionate care and relationships with local cemeteries, temples and organizations. The company’s reputation for excellence – as reflected in its 5.0 star rating with more than 130 reviews.

What sets HJF apart is its sincere dedication to every family and its mission to support families during their most difficult time.

At the heart of their work is the Jewish value of *kavod*, which is interpreted as the glory of G-d that shines in each one of us. By this principle, they strive to honor each individual with the utmost respect, treating them – and every member of their team – as the most important people in the world.

For more information, go to houstonjewishfunerals.com.

IMG FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Owner: Jeff Applebaum

IMG Financial Group has been serving the Greater Houston community for 44 years.

“I grew up watching my dad make a meaningful impact through his work,” said Jeff Applebaum. “He built the firm while helping clients achieve their goals, and I was inspired to follow in his footsteps.”

Applebaum believes that “people join people.” He said, “Clients do business with us because they like and trust us, and we work hard to maintain that trust and build confidence.”

A commitment to doing what’s right drives his business.

“Honesty, integrity and transparency guide every decision I make,” said Applebaum. “These values are deeply rooted in my upbringing and shape how I serve clients. It’s all about a commitment to doing what’s right.”

For more on IMG, go to imgfinancialgroup.com.

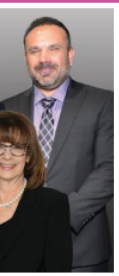


en by Jewish Values



and sizes –
nd the clock.
customers,

S
rea



l and is man-
ed by a group
ouston Jewish
an Eisenman,
osenberg and

to preserve a
mid increasing
o maintaining
nd honors the

erals because
e, deep-rooted
clergy, and its
Google rating

ery detail and
ult moments.

od, which they
of us. Guided
ual and family
ry member of
world.

.com.

KENNY & ZIGGY'S NEW YORK DELICATESSEN RESTAURANT & BAKERY

Owner: Ziggy Gruber

The year was 1999, when Kenny & Ziggy's opened its New York deli concept in the Galleria area and began endearing customers with its deli opulence. With even grander ideas to serve its fans, K&Z's moved to 1743 Post Oak Blvd., in 2022.



Ziggy Gruber was born into the deli business.

His grandfather and his brother-in-law opened the first deli on Broadway in New York City in 1927. As the third generation of the Grubers to own a deli, Gruber has operated three very successful delis, keeping traditional Jewish cuisine alive on three U.S. coasts.

Kenny & Ziggy's has become a home away from home and is a center/meeting place for the community. This is something Gruber is very proud of, and he says it is his honor to keep Jewish traditions alive through his food. Many of the menu items bring back food memories of mothers, aunts, grandmothers and beyond. One of the greatest Jewish values that drives his business decisions is making people happy.

Learn more at kennyandziggys.com.

DUBIN'S FINE JEWELRY

Owners: Lenny Dubin and Jordan Dubin

Dubin's Fine Jewelry was founded more than 35 years ago on the belief that love is radiant. In a full-service, boutique shopping experience, Dubin's relieves the stress from making memorable jewelry purchases in the showroom or through custom designed pieces.

Dubin's Fine Jewelry offer clients a different kind of experience – one focused on exceptional craftsmanship, transparency and true personal connection. Their own goal has always been to help people celebrate their milestones with jewelry that's as meaningful as it is beautiful.

Customers value Dubin's honesty, expertise and personal touch. They trust the Dubins to guide them with clarity and care, which keeps them coming back and referring others. That trust is reflected in Dubin's perfect 5.0-star rating across all its Google reviews and four times being named the Best Jewelry Store in Houston.

Chesed – loving-kindness – is reflected at Dubin's. Whether a customer brings in a small repair or orders a custom-designed engagement ring, the Dubins want them to feel cared for and supported. That commitment to compassion shapes how they treat their clients, employees, vendors and everyone who walks through the door.

Learn more at dubinsfinejewelry.com.



BAGEL SHOP BAKERY NEW YORK DELI AND BAGELS HOUSTON CATERING CONCEPTS

Owners: Michael Saghian, Sion Saghian, Riana Sherman



New York Deli and Bagels, formerly known as New York Bagels and Coffee Shop, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in October. Houston Catering Concepts was established in 2013, and Bagel Shop Bakery opened in 2019.

"We saw a niche for corporate catering which drove the inception of Houston Catering," said Michael Saghian. "Purchasing the New York Deli and Bagel has allowed us to become more community-focused, which is how we thrive and the part of the job we enjoy the most.

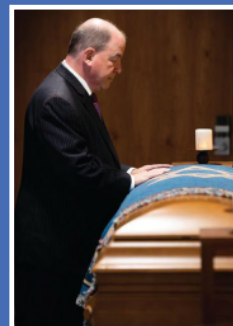
"We are a family-owned business where you can walk in on any given day and see multi-generations of one family enjoying a meal together. We take pride in knowing our customers and meeting their unique needs and requests. We care and we love all of our customers and enjoy being with them in times of sadness and times of joy."

Chesed, acts of loving-kindness, underlines all their food-centric actions and transactions. "We live each day putting everyone before ourselves while treating every situation with kindness and respect," said Saghian.

For locations and ordering information, go to houstoncatering.com.

WALDMAN FUNERAL CARE, LLC

Owner: Syd Waldman, CFSP



Syd Waldman, CFSP, established Waldman Funeral Care LLC in April 2013 in order to serve Jewish families from his heart.

"My tag line is 'Extraordinary Service-Compassionate Care,'" said Waldman. "Anyone who needs a Jewish burial/cremation should get

one, regardless of financial circumstances.

"People love my personal service. You are a family with a loved one in our care – never a case number or an account."

Kavod – sacred care – is what drives Waldman to care for families every day.

To learn more, prior to or at your time of need, go to waldmanfuneralcare.com.

The Medallion
Jewish Assisted Living Residence



BOOK A TOUR TODAY

FEATURES


- ✓ 24-Hour Care
- ✓ Spacious Apartments
- ✓ Elegant Dining
- ✓ Beauty Salon
- ✓ Fitness Center
- ✓ Tight-Knit Community
- ✓ Robust Activity Program & More

Discover the comfort and care at The Medallion. Book a tour and see why it's the perfect fit for your lifestyle.

For more information please call Loren Gordon at 713-778-5702 or email lgordon@themedallion

 [themedallionjewish](https://www.facebook.com/themedallionjewish)
 [themedallion](https://www.instagram.com/themedallion)

www.themedallion.org




ILAN RAMON

A LIFE AND LEGACY

ON VIEW THROUGH AUGUST 3, 2025

Discover the incredible story of Ilan Ramon, from his family's experience in Auschwitz to his soaring achievements in air and space.

hmh.org/ilanramon




 **SEVEN ACRES**
JEWISH SENIOR CARE SERVICES
Honor and Nurture, Together

THE Experts

IN SKILLED NURSING SERVICES AND LONG TERM CARE

OUR SERVICES:

- ✓ Physical Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Speech Therapy
- ✓ Outpatient Therapy
- ✓ Private Accommodations
- ✓ I.V. Therapy
- ✓ On-site Board Certified Physicians



CONTACT US:

 713-778-5700
 @sevenacreshouston
 @sevenacreshouston

www.sevenacres.org




Before selecting an organization to support, ask yourself:

Does this charity align with my core values and passions?



Ann Baker Ronn, CLU®, ChFC®, LUTCF®
713.626.9820
ann@afpgroup.com

When it comes to charitable giving, aligning your donations with causes you deeply care about can make a lasting impact. Consider what matters most to you – whether it's supporting treatment initiatives, funding research, or providing emotional and mental health support. Giving with purpose can help your contributions go further.

STACY SKOLNIK STUDIO

Owner: Stacy Skolnik

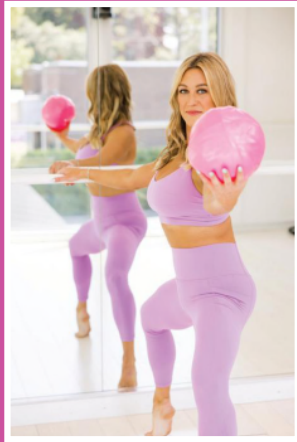
Inspired to start her own fitness business one year ago, Stacy Skolnik has a deep passion for movement, a love for helping others feel strong and confident and a desire to create a space where energy, empowerment and community thrive. In short, she wanted to build something that fused her experience, creativity and heart into every class.

Skolnik relates to the Jewish value of *bikkur cholim* (visiting and caring for the sick), which emphasizes health, compassion and community support.

"In my fitness business, this translates to genuinely caring for my clients' well-being – helping them stay strong, prevent illness and feel supported on their wellness journey," she said. "It reflects a deeper purpose: not just building bodies, but nurturing lives."

Skolnik's fitness clients are pleased with the results. "My clients keep coming back because of my expert guidance, personalized approach and the motivating results they achieve with me."

For more information, go to StacySkolnikStudio.com.



SLEEPRESTFULLY.COM

Owner: Adam Burck

SleepRestfully.com has been in business for more than 20 years.

"I was inspired to start my business by a passion for helping others," said Adam Burck. "I saw it as a way to make a real difference – supporting people, solving problems and creating a real value in their lives. Owning the business allows me to serve my community with purpose, compassion and meaningful impact."

Burck said his customers describe SleepRestfully.com as reliable, honest and they love the dependable service. "They appreciate our competitive pricing, and that we go the extra mile, building trust and treating every customer with care and respect," said Burck.

"Many return because they feel valued and know they're getting the highest-quality products at the best prices. They know they're getting all of this online or in person."

"A Jewish value that guides my business is *chesed* – loving-kindness," said Burck. "It shapes how I treat customers, employees and partners, fostering compassion, generosity and respect in every interaction. *Chesed* reminds me that business isn't just about profit, but about building meaningful relationships and supporting others with empathy and care."



WISDOM SENIOR HEALTH PLANS

Owner: Howard Block

Howard Block has been in health insurance since 1994 and formed Wisdom Senior Health Plans in 2023.

"Medicare is confusing and tricky," Block said. "You need to know and understand your options and you need to know and understand that choices you make, initially, will have an impact on future choices and desires. I enjoy helping people and helping them navigate the confusing world of Medicare."

Block applies his knowledge and experience in helping people understand health insurance and, specifically, Medicare. "There are no fees for my service, so it takes the stress and pressure off of clients and prospects," he said.

Helping others is one of the Jewish values that drives Block. "In what I do, I feel like I make a difference and sincerely help [my clients] along the way."

To learn more, go to wisdomseniorhealth.com.



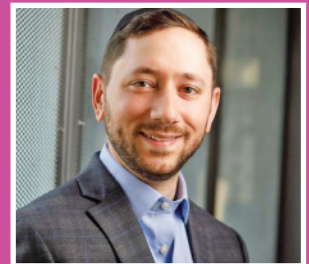
PARADIGM HEALTHCARE

Owner: Archie Shkop

Archie Shkop opened Paradigm Healthcare seven years ago. "I wanted to build a company where human dignity is the foundation – starting with how we invest in our staff, so they can give our residents the elevated care they deserve," said Shkop.

Paradigm is known for compassionate, attentive care – and for having staff who treat residents like family. "We believe that when we care for our employees, they're empowered to care deeply for others," Shkop said.

Guiding Paradigm to care passionately for its residents is *kavod habriyos* – honoring each person's dignity. That includes prioritizing staff well-being so they can uplift residents with presence, patience and respect, befitting someone created *b'tzelem Elokim*, in G-d's image. For more information, go to paradigmhcs.com.



SUGAR CREEK DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Owner: Dr. Mark A. Littman

Opened in 1980, Sugar Creek Dental Associates has been serving the community for 45 years.

"My mother, Shirley Littman, inspired me to be a dentist," said Dr. Mark A. Littman. "I always enjoyed working with my hands, and she told me I would be an excellent dentist because I excel at everything I do. She told me I was G-d's masterpiece and instilled self confidence in me as a child."

Fifty years ago, Dr. Littman began his dental school education. Still, he wakes up every morning, delighted to be a dentist.

"Taking care of people brings great joy and happiness to my life," he said. "Patients feel my commitment to excellence and feel like family in our office. I never waiver in my commitment to excellence."

Guided by many Jewish values, Dr. Littman said, "My business decisions are driven by honesty, sincerity and commitment to excellence."



A Traditional JEWISH SHIVA deserves traditional JEWISH FOODS

We coordinate with a family member or person representing the family to set up an account to take donations. We offer full-service catering/staff to make this time of grief less stressful for you and your family. If your home is unavailable for accommodating family and friends for shiva minyans, The Schmooze Room at Kenny and Ziggy's can be another option to host a minyan.

Call our Catering Department
at 713-871-8883



1743 Post Oak Blvd Houston, TX 77056
Open every day 8:00 am to 9:00 pm.
kennyandziggys.com



Joan and Stanford Alexander
Celebration Company
A program of JFS Houston

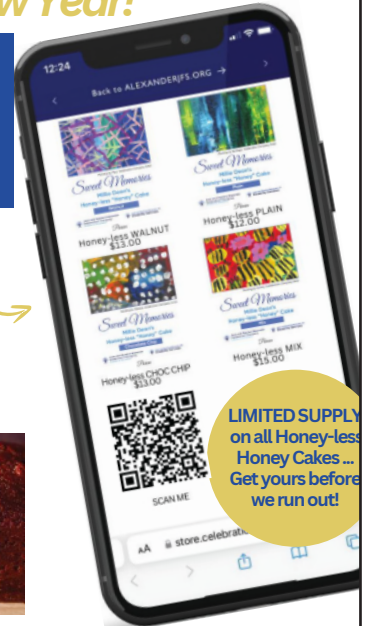
Have a Sweet New Year!

Order Your
Honey-less
Honey Cakes
Today!

Pre-Made Cakes & Cake Mix
Available!

Celebration Company

Order online at
store.celebrationcompany.org
or come in person to our
Art Gallery/Retail store!



4131 S. BRAESWOOD BLVD. HOUSTON TX 77025
MON-THURS 9-5 • FRIDAY 9-4 • (713) 986-7860

M • PENNER
WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

Uptown Park 713.527.8200 mpenner.com

our roots are deep -
four generations strong...

SINCE 1935
Simon
PARTNERS • IN • PRINT

M PENNER

Owners: Murry and Karen Penner

Honesty, integrity, respect and philanthropy have guided M PENNER for 50 years.

Murry Penner's dad, Morris Penner, opened M PENNER when the children were in high school. His talent, passion and vision were both palpable and inspiring.



The store was like another member of the family and, after studying at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) and learning the ropes of retail at Macy's in Herald Square, Murry returned to follow in his father's footsteps and carry on the family business.

M PENNER's customers say they're like a big family. When they come to the store, it's just like they are coming to the Penner home. The store's famed "Penner brownies" are baked from scratch every Saturday morning, and customers often stop in just to say hello and grab a brownie. It's common for friends to run into each other when they are shopping, and the Penners consider their shop to be an extended part of the community.

For the latest in menswear – luxury labels, on-site tailoring and superlative customer service – go to mpenner.com.

SIMON PRINTING COMPANY

Owners: Cheri and Bradley Simon

Proudly serving Greater Houston and beyond for 90 years, Simon Printing Company is known for its quality printing and superior customer service.



"I joined Simon Printing to continue the legacy my family started in 1935," said third-generation owner Bradley Simon. "Each generation has added something new, and I'm proud to build on that foundation – bringing modern technology to a company still rooted in craftsmanship, care and real relationships."

"Our clients describe us as dependable, detail-driven and easy to work with," said Simon. "We offer high-end custom print solutions with the flexibility and care of a family-run business. Whether it's commercial, wide format or direct mail, customers trust us to make them look their best in print."

L'dor v'dor – from generation to generation – drives Simon Printing. "It reminds us to honor where we came from while building something strong for the future. That belief drives how we lead, serve and invest in long-term relationships with our team, clients and community."

For more information, see simonprinting.com.



**Changing jobs?
Switching employers?
Retiring?**

**Don't leave your
401(k) or 403(b) unattended.**

IMG Financial Group, Inc.

imgfinancialgroup.com
4550 Post Oak Place, Suite 125
Houston, TX 77027
(713) 622-1150



Connect with us!

Securities offered through Cetera Advisor Networks LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC, a registered investment adviser. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity. IMG is independently owned and operated. Before deciding whether to retain assets in a 401(k) or roll over to an IRA, an investor should consider various factors including, but not limited to, investment options, fees and expenses, services, withdrawal penalties, protection from creditors and legal judgments, required minimum distributions and possession of employer stock. Please view the Investor Alerts section of the FINRA website for additional information.

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A
STRONG JEWISH
FOUNDATION.
START *inspiring* HERE.**



Come see why our families choose to "START HERE."

- INDIVIDUALIZED APPROACH
- INNOVATIVE JEWISH EDUCATION
- PURPOSEFUL PLAY
- FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES
- COMPETITIVE ACADEMICS
- SHARED COMMUNITY VALUES



INFANTS - 5TH GRADE | WWW.SEGALACADEMY.ORG
BOOK YOUR TOUR 713.666.1884 | ADMISSIONS@SEGALACADEMY.ORG



MOVE WITH ME!

Stacy Skolnik Studio

With a decade of experience in group fitness, Stacy has transformed countless lives through her innovative approach to health and wellness. Stacy works with all ages and is available for small group or private fitness classes.



Private Pilates/Fitness Instructor

Stott/Ace certified
Increase Mobility, Strength,
Flexibility and Balance

Will travel to you in the Houston area
Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just beginning your fitness journey, Stacy's expertise and dedication ensure that you'll find the guidance and motivation you need to succeed.

STACYSKOLNIKSTUDIO.COM
STACYSKOLNIKSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM

Your Connection to Jewish Learning at Rice

Program in Jewish Studies



Exploring the diversity of Judaism

Crossing disciplinary boundaries

Creating a bridge to the community

Joan & Stanford Alexander
South Texas Jewish
Archives



Preserving
Our Past

RICE HUMANITIES
Jewish Studies

<http://jewishstudies.rice.edu>
jewishstudies@rice.edu

WALDMAN FUNERAL CARE, LLC CERTIFIED AS
A GREEN / NATURAL BURIAL FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT

Certificate of Approval



WALDMAN FUNERAL CARE

meets or exceeds all standards set by the Green Burial Council
as of: August 8th, 2024

Darren Crouch

DARREN CROUCH
President, Green Burial Council Inc.

Emily Miller

EMILY MILLER
Funeral Home Compliance Specialist



WALDMAN FUNERAL CARE
Extraordinary Service. Compassionate Care.

www.WaldmanFuneralCare.com
713-875-4811
WaldmanFuneralCare@gmail.com

CHEVRA KADISHA OF HOUSTON AND GREEN BURIAL COUNCIL APPROVED
Texas Funeral Establishment License #4622



WISDOM SENIOR HEALTH PLANS

Your Senior Healthcare Plan Experts



HOWARD BLOCK

Owner - Licensed
Insurance Agent

832-689-0788 • hblock@wisdomseniorhealth.com
WISDOMSENIORHEALTH.COM

Preserving the Past



Melissa Cohen-Nickels examines yearbooks and scrapbooks in the Jewish Archives at Rice University.

JHV: S. SARA TUBBS

Through her work with Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives, Melissa Cohen-Nickels is Sharing the Rich History of Jewish Life in Texas

BY S. SARA TUBBS | JHV



Melissa Cohen-Nickels wants people to get excited about Jewish history – not just in Houston, but also throughout Texas. As curator of Rice University's Joan and Stanford Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives (STJA), she has become a vital steward of Jewish memory in the region. Through her work, she's ensuring the stories of Jewish Texans – past and present – are preserved, honored and accessible for years to come.

Since joining STJA nearly two years ago, Cohen-Nickels has helped catalog, preserve and digitize an unprecedented number of collections. She also has strengthened relationships with individuals and institutions across the state, bringing a wealth of invaluable materials that enriches the archive's depth and diversity.

STJA houses an extraordinary range of Texas history – a treasure trove of stories that have shaped Jewish life in the Lone Star State. Among many notables are the Rabbi Henry Cohen papers, which document his humanitarian efforts in helping Jewish immigrants arrive in the United States through Galveston in the early 1900s.

There also are boxes of documents from attorney Will Nathan, detailing the founding of Congregation Emanu El in the 1940s after it split from Congregation Beth Israel over disagreements about Zionism.

The archive also holds dozens of oral histories that help bring these and other stories to life, preserving the voices and experiences of Jewish Houstonians across generations.

“The Jews in Houston never isolated themselves and set themselves apart from the rest of everyone else,” Cohen-Nickels told the JHV. “They were always a part of building Houston – through commerce, through education and through service in the medical field. Houston Jews were integrated into the Houston community while still maintaining their Jewish identity.”

Dr. Joshua Furman, then a post-doctoral fellow in the Program in Jewish Studies at Rice University, founded the STJA in 2018, initially as a means to safeguard Jewish historical materials threatened by Hurricane Harvey. Since then, a broader mission has evolved: preserving the legacy of Jews across South Texas.

The archive is a collaboration between Rice’s Program in Jewish Studies and the Woodson Research Center in the Fondren Library. Its work has expanded to include not just the protection of historical materials, but also public education, student engagement and digital accessibility.

Making memories searchable and accessible

Under Cohen-Nickels’ curation, STJA has become more accessible. Partnering with the University of North Texas Portal to Texas History, the archive has digitized thousands of documents. Materials once tucked away in handwritten ledgers now can be searched by keyword.

This advancement is a powerful research tool for genealogists, students and researchers alike.

But for Cohen-Nickels, archiving is more than just preserving the past.

“I see the archive as a living, breathing organism. It’s about curating memory, fostering identity and offering a space where Jewish Texans – past and present – can see their stories preserved with care and integrity.”

Challenges of digital preservation

Digital preservation presents its own set of challenges, Cohen-Nickels notes. Digital files degrade faster than paper and are more vulnerable to obsolescence due to changing technologies.

“One of the misconceptions is that archive means ‘old.’ That’s not true. Documents related to this year and last year are also at some point going to feel old. If we don’t collect them now, they are going to get lost, especially in today’s digital world,” she said.

“We’re producing more material than ever, but much of it is ephemeral. It’s important to teach people not just to save files, but to save them in ways that last.”

With that said, she advises individuals and organizations to think proactively about saving digital content in open, stable formats and to remember today’s materials are just as valuable as those from a century ago.

Educating the next generation

Looking ahead, Cohen-Nickels is especially excited about broadening educational outreach. She’s working closely with Rice’s History Department to bring more students into the archives and teach them how to engage with primary sources.

“I want students to know the archive is here, and it’s theirs to explore,” she said.

She also has launched a new summer program for high school students who want hands-on experience in Jewish history and archival work. Participants learn how collections are processed, and they also contribute to preserving a collection.

STJA continues to grow, collecting materials from families, synagogues and communities across South Texas. Cohen-Nickels sees this not just as preservation but as a bridge between generations, technologies and traditions.

“The stories we collect are deeply personal, but together they tell the larger story of Jewish life in Houston and across Texas,” she said. “Our job is to make sure those stories are not just remembered, but revitalized.”

The archive is actively collecting new and historical material. Anyone interested in creating a family collection or donating materials can reach Cohen-Nickels at mc220@rice.edu. ☆

Now offering indoor or outdoor service!
Email - iwantdippindots@yahoo.com
 All flavors are Kosher Dairy or Kosher Parve

It's time to party!

Choose us for your next event:

- Bat/Bar Mitzvahs • Graduations
- Wedding Receptions • Parties
- Group Meetings • Corporate Events
- or any other special occasion!

Contact us: 713-907-0733

smiles are in the bag

- popcorn bags • favor bags • themed packaging
- fresh-popped onsite • variety of flavors available

denise@docpopcorn.com • 713-907-0733

HFLA

Hebrew Free Loan Association
of
HOUSTON

"a hand up, not a hand out"



INTEREST-FREE LOANS

- EMERGENCY FUNDS
- BUSINESS LOANS
- EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
- MEDICAL BILLS & IVF
- WHATEVER LIFE THROWS AT YOU

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.HFLA.NET

Zero Interest | Confidential | Since 1932

HFLA of Houston is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization

dubin's | fine jewelry

Designed Just For You!

Natural Diamonds • Lab Grown Diamonds



Discover Houston's premier destination for custom fine jewelry.
Experience the difference of personal, expert service.



5444 Westheimer Rd Ste 1428 713-840-0162 DubinsFineJewelry.com



Sleep Comfortably.
Sleep Peacefully.
Sleep Restfully.

1-866-923-2727

Family Owned & Operated



CPAP/BIPAP Machines



Travel CPAP Machines



CPAP Supplies



Portable Oxygen Concentrators



Stationary Oxygen Concentrator



Cleaning Supplies

SleepRestfully.com is a leading distributor of top quality sleep therapy and oxygen therapy devices and accessories on both national and international markets. We provide medical equipment and accessories which have been developed for the treatment of health conditions such as OSA- Obstructive Sleep Apnea, emphysema or COPD- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease.



Why shopping with us is different?

We provide free ground shipping on orders \$99.99+ in Continental US

We serve international clients through worldwide shipping

We accept a wide range of payment methods - Affirm, PayPal, American Express, Visa, Discover Card or MasterCard

We offer Next Day shipping with UPS within the continental US - available for orders that are placed before 3:00PM CST

SleepRestfully.com (281) 840-4504 3100 Wesleyan Street, Suite 373 - Houston, TX 77027



HOUSTON JEWISH FUNERALS

Jewish Heritage... Jewish Traditions... Jewish-owned and Operated since 2001



TRUST US WITH YOUR PRE-PLANNING NEEDS

- Pre-arrangement is perhaps one of the most meaningful gifts of love you can provide for your family
- Ease the burden on your family at an emotional time
- Ensure your final wishes are followed
- Transfer pre-need policies from any funeral home
- Learn more about VA benefits, what the government provides to the Veteran and spouse
- Receive a list of the 25 documents you need before you pass away

713.666.0257 | HoustonJewishFunerals.com



Caring Transitions®

• Senior Relocation • Downsizing • Estate Sales •



CARING TRANSITIONS OF HOUSTON METRO & SUGAR LAND

We're your total solution for senior relocation, downsizing and liquidation needs.

We give families peace of mind by creating a customized plan that manages all aspects of a transition.



CARINGTRANSITIONSOFHOUSTONMETRO.COM
Call us today - 713-966-6767



BILL WALKER
CLOTHIER®



1737 POST OAK BLVD.
HOUSTON TEXAS 77056
WWW.BILLWALKERCLOTHIER.COM
713-871-9811

Natural Expressions

4106 Bellaire Blvd Houston TX 77025 713-665-7140
www.naturalexpressionshouston.com

Family Portraits, Graduating Seniors, Newborn and Maternity, Weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, and other events



RUSSELL W. HALL, J.D., LL.M. (TAX)



ATTORNEY AT LAW.

BOARD CERTIFIED ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE LAW TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

REMEMBER US FOR ESTATE PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

We offer no-obligation initial interviews in these areas, so it costs nothing to explain your family, your assets, and your goals, and to hear specific recommendations that suit your needs. Foreign nationals and international families welcome.



📍 6750 West Loop So. Ste. 920
Bellaire, Texas 77401

☎ 713.662.3853

🌐 bellaireprobate.com/blog

bellaireprobate.com

Not Your Average Guy

JCC Arts & Culture coordinator advocates for Israel, competes in IRONMAN races

BY MICHAEL MURRA | JHV

When Guy Cohen first competed in marathons or IRONMAN competitions, he passively listened to the “The Star-Spangled Banner” being sung before a race. The song was nothing more to him than a formality at an athletic event.

That all changed earlier this year when the 50-year-old Israeli became a United States citizen.

“I used to stand there and think, ‘OK, it’s not my anthem. It’s fine,’” Cohen said. “The last [competition] I participated in, suddenly, it was also my anthem. I was thinking to myself, this is the first time I hear the anthem play for me with a meaning, where I feel like I belong.”

Cohen’s family didn’t originally plan to make the U.S. their home, but they’re happy to be here.

“We never left Israel out of any need to leave or political statement,” Cohen said. “With time, we became citizens of the United States.”

“People ask me which country I like better. You cannot ask someone, ‘Who do you love more, your father or your mother?’ I love both

countries. I have criticisms of parts of both countries and admiration for both countries. The ability to have dual citizenship on paper is also dual citizenship in your heart.”

Cohen, who grew up in Rehovot, Israel, is currently the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center’s Arts and Culture program coordinator. He moved to Houston in 2012 with his wife, Ronit, and their young children. Now, the oldest is in college.

“My wife finished her internship in pediatrics and wanted to do a fellowship in genetics,” Cohen said. “She said, ‘You pick the country, and I’ll pick the city.’ That was the agreement.”

“I said, ‘How about London, England?’

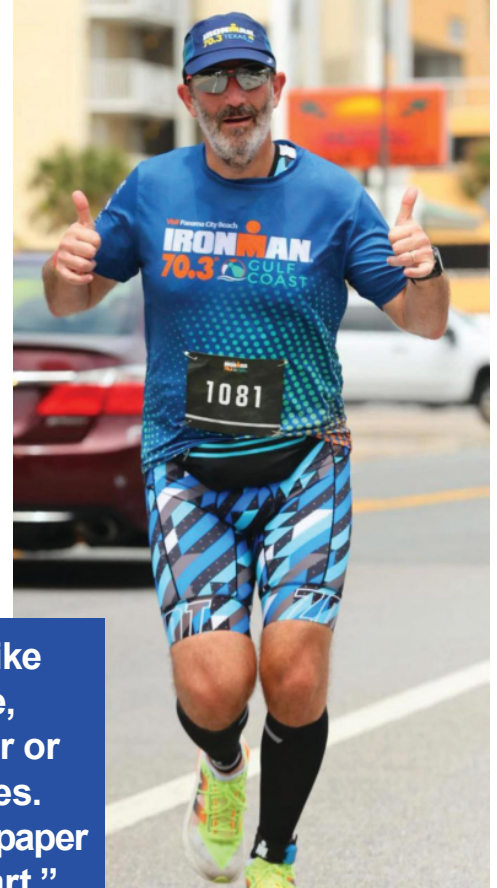
“She said, ‘No, it’s going to be Houston, Texas.’”

Cohen is glad his wife chose Space City.

When he arrived in Houston, Cohen – who



Guy Cohen is a regular at Houston’s Run for Their Lives, supporting Israel’s hostages in Gaza.



Guy Cohen is an IRONMAN finisher.

“People ask me which country I like better. You cannot ask someone, ‘Who do you love more, your father or your mother?’ I love both countries. The ability to have dual citizenship on paper is also dual citizenship in your heart.”

served as a lieutenant in the Israeli Navy – became the director of Cultural Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest.

It was there that he met a colleague who was interested in running marathons. Cohen admits he was never an athletic person, but after some encouragement, he attended the Houston Marathon to support his very athletic friend.

“At the Houston Marathon, I saw people who were old, young, tall, short, overweight, not overweight – the full range of the community,” Cohen said. “Some were running, and some were walking. I thought everyone would be like a tiger. My colleague said, ‘You don’t understand; running is for everyone.’”

That experience inspired Cohen to begin walking three times per week. Walking turned to jogging and, in 2014 – at age 39 – he com-

pleted his first 5k race. By 40, he completed his first half-marathon.

“I started to run marathons. I’ve now run five of them with a sixth coming up in January,” Cohen said. “Last year, I thought to myself, I’ve done several marathons, maybe add some biking and swimming to make the whole body move, not only the legs. I started with the Sprint Triathlon. I did the running, but the swimming got rained out.”

The same thing happened at a half-IRONMAN event in Florida. So, when Cohen competes at an IRONMAN this fall, he’ll do 1.2 miles of swimming, 51 miles of biking and 13.2 miles of running.

“I think the magic is to have fun,” he said. “I was not a good swimmer, but I watched some videos on YouTube and improved tremendously. My goal is to finish.”

“The fact that I’m out there moving my body and trying to live longer is enough. Of course, you want to run, bike and swim a little faster. You can’t compete with other people. I’m not podium material. I go at my own pace.”

Cohen has a Master of Fine Arts in theater directing from Tel Aviv University. One of his main responsibilities at the JCC is running the Houston Jewish Film Festival. Previously, he had been a film festival volunteer.

“At the JCC, I also produce a little bit of theater – something I like very much,” Cohen said.

Prior to working at the J, Cohen served as the first director of the Houston chapter of the Israeli-American Council (IAC). He also worked in Development for American Friends of Sheba Medical Center.

Reflecting on the current climate in Israel, Cohen said it was very difficult to be in Houston – thousands of miles away from friends and family – on Oct. 7, 2023. He also made it clear that any of his personal or political opinions may not reflect those of his current or former employers.

“I think for every American, they will tell you where they were, what they did and how they heard the news on Sept. 11 [2001]. That’s similar with us for Oct. 7,” Cohen said. “It’s a trauma. It will stay with us forever. It’s a national disaster.

“The Palestinian side is also experiencing the worst time they have ever had. It’s a situ-



Guy Cohen at one of this year’s IRONMAN events.

ation that has to stop. It has to finish. We’ve had enough.”

Cohen believes that peace, in the form of a two-state solution, will be the resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But, he said it could be “many years away” and after Gaza has a different government in place.

Since Oct. 7, Cohen has been involved in Run for Their Lives in Houston. Part of the global initiative, Run for Their Lives holds events for community members to show their support for the hostages in Gaza.

“We came out with a public voice to ask people to join these rallies, and we in Houston took it like a mission,” Cohen said. “I’ve been participating in the weekly marches for almost two years.

“We hold signs. It’s a nonpolitical, peaceful reminder to try and keep [awareness] for the hostages and to call for their release. It’s for something that matters to us.”

Run for Their Lives was put in the spotlight internationally – and tragically – on June 1, when a hate crime erupted in Boulder, Colo. A man with a flamethrower attacked the peaceful demonstrators in that chapter of Run for Their Lives.

Cohen said the Colorado assault emphasized the regrettable, yet necessary, need for security at these events. Marches in Houston have had security at its weekly events since they began.

“It’s sad that we need that kind of protection when we’re showing support for hostages underground, with no access to the Red Cross, and nobody knows how many of them are really alive,” Cohen said.

In addition to Run for Their Lives, Cohen reaches out to local schools where antisemitic incidents have occurred.

“I advocate and communicate with the administration to prevent antisemitic events,” Cohen said. “You have to react every time something [even] small is happening.” ☆

Sugar Creek Dental

We Love New Patients!

“Dr. Littman genuinely cares about his patients, has a great attitude and energy everyday”



DR. MARK LITTMAN

14015 Southwest Fwy Ste 7
Sugar Land, TX 77478
(281) 242-4040

ADL
SOUTHWEST

Our mission: “To stop the defamation of the Jewish people, and to secure justice and fair treatment for all”

Contact us at southwest@adl.org.



Supporting the needs of the Jewish Community



CHEVRA KADISHA OF HOUSTON

JEWISH BURIAL SOCIETY

Continuing the sacred tradition of preparing the deceased for burial with care and respect
The Chevra Kadisha is available to speak to your group or organization

(713) 776-2438



MEYERLAND MARKET

Proudly serving Meyerland
FOR OVER 30 YEARS



STORE OPEN DAILY 6AM - 11PM • 4955 BEECHNUT ST. HOUSTON, TX 77096

YOUR ONE-STOP KOSHER SHOP

We have certified Kosher items produced in-store at your Meyerland Market H-E-B and approved by our full-time mashgiach. Choose from our Kosher coffee & sandwich bar, Kosher sushi selections, Kosher custom cuts from our meat market and our Kosher bakery featuring a selection of Kosher cakes, bread, bagels and tortillas. Plus, so much more! It's all easy to find - just look for the Kosher signs!



KOSHER MARKET

Fresh cuts of beef and lamb all prepared in-store at our Kosher Market Prep Room by our Kosher trained H-E-B Certified Meat Cutters.



KOSHER FRESH-SQUEEZED JUICE

H-E-B Fresh Juices are squeezed in-store in our Kosher Produce Prep Room and available every day!



SUSHIYA
SUSHI HOUSE

FRESH! THAT'S HOW WE ROLL

Every Kosher sushi roll is rolled fresh every day with the highest quality sustainable seafood ingredients. Quality meets freshness with H-E-B Sushiya®.



KOSHER BAKERY

We are baking Kosher every day! All of our Artisan breads, warm tortillas and bagels come fresh out of our Kosher Bakery. Custom-ordered cakes also available. Just ask!






Results That Move *You*.

Partner with your local specialists supported by the global power of Sotheby's International Realty.



Terry Cominsky
713.443.1610



Judy Levin
713.204.8807



Debbie Levine
713.870.4645



Ina Perlman
832.282.0211



Linda Pulaski
713.504.0956



Betty Shindler
713.392.8422

**Martha
Turner**

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Lets work *together!*

713.520.1981 | [SOTHEBYSREALTY.COM/HOUSTON](https://www.sothebysrealty.com/houston)