

The Jewish Community News

A publication of the Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue, Lorain, Ohio
Edition 2 5786 -- January 2026



ABI President Arnie Milner Honored for Holocaust Education Efforts

September 28, 2025 was the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and is typically when we go to the cemetery to say prayers and remember our loved ones.

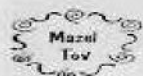
This year Kol Israel honored Arnie Milner by having him light a candle at their Annual Fall Memorial in tribute to his work with the Yom Hashoah program here in Lorain county. Several ABI congregants joined to watch Arnie receive this honor.



And there's more...

The Cleveland Jewish News honored the 2025 class of CJN 18 Difference Makers on Dec. 11, celebrating the event's 10th anniversary with more than 475 attendees at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights. This event recognized individuals who have made a meaningful impact on the community and ABI's Arnie Milner was one of the 18 men and women who were honored.

For more than 10 years, Arnie has spent untold hours organizing Holocaust Remembrance Day programs in Lorain County. He considers this his most important volunteer effort and over the years has educated tens of thousands of people about the horrors of the Holocaust. When asked about what motivated him to devote his time and efforts to the event, Arnie credited G-d, his first wife Barbara Friedman who passed away in 2004 and his close relationship with the late Erwin Froman.



(Editor's note: To read Arnie's interview in the CJN, go to ClevelandJewishNews.com and search for 2025 Difference Makers.

Day of Atonement Message by Mark Jaffee, Ritual Director



(Editor's note: Below is the message Mark filmed which was shown at the Day of Atonement Program sponsored by the Lorain Intrafaith Ministries and the Lorain Interfaith Association on October 18, 2025.

Good afternoon. My name is Mark Jaffee, and I am the Religious Director at the Jewish synagogue in Lorain.

dar. It was a fascinating read. It occurred to me that since the theme of this year's program is "Reconciliation and Responsibility", basing my remarks on this book would be very appropriate. For a number of years, I have been friends with Imam Paul Hasan who is the head of the Lorain Intrafaith Ministries and the Lorain Interfaith Association, the two organizations which are sponsoring today's program. Bob Gary, who no longer lives in Lorain, but is an associate member of our Jewish congregation has been friends with Imam Subedar for several years. Bob's original premise in the book was that the teachings of Islam are not consistent and, in fact, dangerous to our culture. This was based on his reading of the Quran. Imam Subedar countered in the chapters he wrote by claiming that many of the verses Bob quoted were taken out of context and that the scripture can only be understood properly in Arabic and, after many years of study. However, he went on to say that many Muslims who have not studied or have been properly trained, misunderstand what the Quran says, become radicalized, and some become members of ISIS, Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, Hamas, etc. This seemed to me to support a lot of the concerns that Bob Gary expressed. Nonetheless, I was impressed by the Imam's explanation of what the Quran is really saying and in the final pages of the book is a proposed blueprint for civility, which is certainly one that everyone should adopt.

So, Mr. Gary and Imam Subedar were able to reconcile their differences, not necessarily by agreeing with each other on many issues, but by recognizing that what followers of the teachings of the Quran that Imam Subedar described, worked for Muslims and the lifestyle of the non-Muslim community worked for them. The Imam emphasized that the teachings of the Quran required Muslims to adhere to the civil laws of the country in which they lived. So, even though

(Mark Jaffee's message continues on page 3, bottom of column 2)



Going forward, there will be some changes to the Community News. Please read "Notes from Sue" on page 2 for more details.

The Jewish Community News

A publication of the
Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue
1715 Meister Road
Lorain, OH 44053

E-mail.....abicomunitynews@gmail.com

Agudath B'nai Israel Staff

Synagogue Office: 440-282-3307

A.B.I. Fax: 440-282-1300

A.B.I. Web Site www.abitemplelorain.com

Mark Jaffee.....Ritual Director

Sheila Evenchik.....Office Manager

Mary Szekely.....Office Computer Support

Executive Board

President.....Arnold Milner

1st Vice President.....Sheila Evenchik

2nd Vice President.....John Wiseman

Secretary.....Mark Jaffee

Please email news items to the Community News at abicomunitynews@gmail.com or mail to:

ABI Synagogue

Attn: Community News

1715 Meister Rd.

Lorain, OH 44053

"Thank you notes" printed in the newsletter require a \$10 contribution. Please make your check out to "Community News" and mail to the synagogue, Attn: Community News.

Important!

Please call the A.B.I. office or email Mary Szekely at mszekely5@yahoo.com with any changes to your address, email or phone number.



Thank you!



We have moved!
Look for us at our new address:

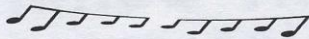
Ashley (Levit) and Jay Naugle and Naomi
3121 E Greenway St.
Mesa, AZ 85213

(and a greeting that arrived after the High Holiday issue went to press)

Sharon Goldberg
21706 SE 5th Pl,
Sammamish, WA 98074



NOTES FROM SUE...



Do you remember what was happening 23 years ago in December of 2002? Here's a hint:

George W. Bush was president and tensions were high as the U.S. prepared for war in Iraq

In Venezuela, a major oil strike occurred aimed at ousting President Hugo Chávez

LinkedIn was launched

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, Catch Me If You Can, and Maid in Manhattan dominated the box office

And one other thing happened -- Randi Goodman gave me several boxes and wished me luck as I assumed the editorship of the ABI Community News.

In some ways, it feels as if it were the blink of an eye, and yet, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids I featured back then are married now with kids of their own. A lot has changed in my life since then, and while I still maintain a home in northern Ohio, with my parents and brother gone and Terry and I both retired and enjoying the nomadic RV life, we are away for over half of the year. It has been getting harder for me -- for the past several years I've flown home from Florida in winter for several days solely to publish the newsletter and Terry will tell you that I'm not fit to live with prior to the publication of the High Holiday issue!

This is a long and roundabout way of letting you all know that I've tendered my resignation as editor to the powers that be at ABI. I had originally planned on waiting to put out my final issue in April when we returned from our months-long trip to the southwest, but with a heartbreaking number of obituaries since the last issue, I wanted to get something out to you sooner. Since I'm only in town for 3 days, this is a more abbreviated issue than you normally receive.

Discussions at ABI are ongoing as to what form the Community News will take and who will assume the responsibility for its publication (hint, hint to anyone interested!) and I'm sure decisions will be made prior to the spring issue.

It has been an awesome responsibility to be the chronicler of the Jewish presence in Lorain and I appreciate your kind words and support over the past 23 years.

I'll close by thanking the folks who so ably helped me over the years: Sheila Evenchik and Mary Szekely in the ABI office, without whom there would be no publication; Phil Goldberg, who stepped up to take over the "Sisterhood and All the News" column from his mother Helen and attends every event at ABI with his notebook in hand; Mark Jaffee and Arnie Milner who never once missed a deadline in providing their words of wisdom; Ron Alpern, who's been the point person on our ongoing project with the Western Reserve Historical Society; Alan and Debbie McCartney at SQP Print Center, who've given the Community News and ABI such wonderful, reliable, quick service; our valued advertisers; and lastly you, our readership, some of whom haven't lived in Ohio for decades, who still often write or call to let me know how much they enjoy hearing about what's going on in Lorain at ABI. Thank you all so very, very much!

Oooops, I goofed!



In the last issue, Scott Wyman and family should have been listed in bold print for the High Holidays. Sorry for the error!



Torah study is on Wednesday

at 4 PM. Contact John Wiseman or the

ABI office for information on how to join us on zoom.



ABI's policy about Covid, RSV and influenza:
To help keep our community healthy, please stay at home if you are feeling unwell!



WE GET LETTERS:



(Editor's note: The following note was received by Mark Jaffee shortly after the horrific terrorist mass shooting attack in Bondi Beach, Australia during Hanukkah.

Good afternoon, Mark ~

You and your community have been on my mind this week. Sending you all prayers for a beautiful Festival of Lights. Peace and hope and healing to you all during Hanukkah!
Shari

Pastor Shari Ayers

First Lutheran Church, Lorain

If you want to join us on ZOOM contact Mark at 440-574-1462 or markjaffee@oberlin.net

Sisterhood Update...



...and **SOME** of the news...

by **Phil Goldberg**

with thoughts of Helen

Not the normal column this issue. Editor Sue Lang is in Lorain for only 3 days -- she often spends her winters elsewhere.

What kind of Community News can she put together so quickly? Sadly, it's an issue primarily comprised of obituaries.

Which means, Dear Reader, you'll wait till next issue for details of the High Holidays, the Sukkot Supper, the annual congregation meeting, the Hanukkah party, and more.

When the synagogue gets visitors, I try my best to show our guests the Yahrzeit plaques and to explain their significance. We remember the dead at Yizkor and when we recite Kaddish. But the dead live on in other ways as well. We are reminded of Steve Slutzker's grin when his non-Jewish friends Janet Kleve, Andrea Stewart, and Louise Anthony continue to come to ABI at Hanukkah or for the Bagel Brunch. Erwin Froman lives on because Erv's words still inspire Arnie Milner whenever Arnie learns a new haftorah. We see Sheila Evenchik at ABI, and we are certain Alan still talks to her.

From the east side of Cleveland, the relatives of Evelyn Hemple come to Salem Cemetery to visit the gravesite of Evelyn. Evelyn Hemple: one of the two Jewish girls killed by the Lorain-Sandusky tornado of June 28, 1924. And the remaining Hemples find there are newly placed pebbles on the grave. Placed by non-Hemples...who remember.

Then there's this column. Which wouldn't exist without my mother's history of having written it for decades. And Mom's reporting was built upon the legacy of ABI-ers who came before her.

When you read the obituaries in this issue, think of the lives of those individuals. But also how their influence survives and, hopefully, flourishes.

PRINTING

SQP

Quality Printing and
Reliable Service Since 1974

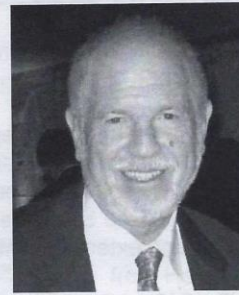
PRINT CENTER

www.SQPcenter.com



**UNION LABEL
PRINTER**

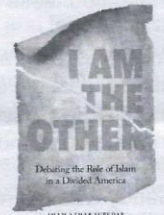
721 Broadway
Lorain, Ohio 44052
(440) 244-0330
Fax (440) 245-2721



Longtime ABI member Bob Gary co-authors "I am the Other" with Muslim Imam Azhar Subedar

Bob has an extensive background in criminal justice. He has an LLM in Criminal Justice from the NYU School

of Law. He served as a prosecutor in the Organized Crime Section of the United States Department of Justice, Acting Chief of the Cleveland Organized Crime Strike Force, Special Assistant United States Attorney, Director of the Ohio Organized Crime Council, and Special Assistant to the Governor of Ohio for criminal justice, as well as Assistant County Prosecutor. From Amazon... "He utilizes his prosecutorial expertise to engage with his co-author, Imam Subedar, and, more importantly, to explore the text of the Quran. Amidst ongoing conflicts between Muslims and Jews and a global resurgence of authoritarianism, the authors engage in critical discussions about war, political ideology, and the potential for coexistence. Drawing from their vastly different life experiences, they aim to inform and empower readers to form opinions based on facts rather than emotions. Their unique relationship has endured through more than five years of co-authoring "I Am The Other," the conflict in Gaza, and the deep divisions created by the shift to the right in American politics."



(Mark Jaffee's Day of Atonement message continued from the front page)

So, what are our responsibilities? In the last chapter of the book the authors presented seventeen specific actions that we could take. Among those are "Do not assign collective guilt to a whole group because of the actions of a few. Do not personalize disagreements whether they arise from politics, policy, or tribal loyalties. Take the time to learn the history behind any conflict. Throw out your past assumptions when you're approaching new situations and groups. Read a variety of news sources, not just those that provide support for your views. Develop personal relationships with people who hold opposing views and endeavor to have some honest conversations with them. Treat the values of the other with respect, and demonstrate appreciation, even if you don't share those values, it doesn't mean that they are wrong, and you are right. Remind yourself that shades of grey exist, and in that area of ambiguity there lies the solution for a compromise.

These are things we can do. I have high school classmates, former students, and family members who have drastically opposite political views than I have. Nonetheless, they are willing to talk to me with respect, listen to my perspectives, explain their point of view, all in a respectful, civil manner. I try to do the same. Our world would be a lot better if we all did.

SANFORD EVENCHIK

OBITUARIES

Sanford N. Evenchik, of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away on September 21, 2025, surrounded by his loving wife and cherished children.

Beloved husband of over 54 years to Karen (née Schneps), devoted father to Aaron (Courtney) Evenchik and Vicki (Mordechai) Lichtenstein. Adoring "Papa Sandy" to Rabbi Betzael (Hindy), Shayna, Zacharia, Max, Eitan, Sara, and Rachel. Dear brother to Lenny Evenchik and Edie Schneider. He is also mourned by his cherished Aunt Sheila Evenchik and extended family.

Sandy was born in Lorain, Ohio in 1949 to Bill and Bleema Evenchik. Surrounded by a large and loving extended family, he grew up in a warm, close-knit community. In his youth, Sandy was an accomplished drummer, playing in both his school marching band and local rock 'n' roll groups.

He graduated from Lorain High School and went on to attend the University of Michigan, earning a degree in industrial engineering. It was there that he met the love of his life, Karen. After marrying, the couple briefly returned to Lorain before settling in Cleveland. Sandy later earned an MBA from John Carroll University.

Professionally, Sandy worked as an industrial engineer for various companies, but his greatest commitment was always to his family. He never missed a performance, event, or milestone—always present, video camera in hand—capturing countless memories that his family now treasures.

A lifelong lover of music, Sandy continued to play piano and drums throughout his life, passing on his musical passion and talent to his children and grandchildren. He was also a proud and active member of the Shul Boy Motorcycle Club, forming deep friendships through shared rides and community.

Sandy was the model of devotion—not only to his wife and children but also to his parents. When his mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Sandy regularly traveled to Lorain, often nightly after work, to care for her—putting many miles on his beloved convertible. Later, he brought his aging father to Cleveland so he could be close to family and surrounded by love.

In retirement, Sandy and Karen continued their tradition of visiting their children every Shabbos dinner. He also looked forward to reading the Cleveland Jewish News each week. His presence, warmth, and unwavering dedication to family will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were held September 22 at Berkowitz - Kumin - Bookatz Memorial Chapels in Cleveland Heights followed by interment at Mount Olive Cemetery in Solon. Shiva followed at 2526 Lafayette Drive, University Heights, Ohio, 44118.

Donations can be made to the Cleveland Jewish News Foundation.

Amherst Memorial Studio

MANUFACTURERS OF FINE MONUMENTS AND MARKERS SINCE 1930



info@amherstmemorial.com

www.amherstmemorial.com

180 JACKSON ST. - AMHERST, OH 44001

PHONE (440) 988-8500 Find us on

FAX (440) 988-9042 facebook

SHEILA JACOBY

Sheila Mae Jacoby, age 65, passed away Saturday, October 11, 2025 at her residence.

Formerly of Lorain, she currently resided in Westlake, Ohio.

Sheila was a 1978 graduate of Admiral King High School and was a congregant of Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue, Lorain.

She is survived by her brother, Howard (Diane) Jacoby; nephew, Nathan Jacoby and niece, Erin Brock.

Sheila was preceded in death by parents, Bernard and Kate (nee Reich) Jacoby.

Funeral services were October 15, 2025 in Salem Cemetery.



ABI extends
condolences to
the family of

SUSAN COOPER

Susan, nee Kaplansky, grew up in Lorain and currently lived in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

She passed away unexpectedly in early October.

She is survived by her husband Lee; daughter Katio; sister Jan Beaves; and brother Paul (Karen) Kaplansky.

She was preceded in death by her parents Philip and Carolyn (Kelly) Kaplansky and her sister Karen Kaplansky.



Tree
Certificates
are now
\$18.

To purchase, call Sheila Evenchik
at 440-282-3307.

Commemorate an occasion,
honor a special person,
or remember a loved one by
planting a tree in Israel.

GERALDINE ECKER

Gerry (Geraldine Radlow Ecker) Ecker, 97, passed away on October 11, 2025 in Palm Desert, CA, following a brief illness, but a very long life.

She was surrounded by her loving family, Karen (Stuart) Yasgoor of Indian Wells, CA, and loving grandson, Justin David Yasgoor of Vista, CA. Also surviving Gerry are her two nieces, Laurie Ecker ("Rocky" Rothman), Tucson, AZ, and Marsha Sacks (Richard Sacks), Scottsdale, AZ, and nephew Jack Ecker, Wakeman, OH. Special "step" children to Gerry were Paul Brooker (New Jersey) and Kathy Hodrosky (Wakeman, OH). Additionally, she was surrounded by her loving friends and care team from Atria Hacienda, a senior community in Palm Desert, CA, where she lived for the past 5 years. At the end of her life, Gerry was lovingly taken care of by her hospice team, Family Care of the Desert.

Pre-deceased family include husband, Gerald Ecker, to whom Gerry was married for 57 years; daughter, Ellen Ecker Benjamin; parents, Joseph and Ruth Radlow; brother, Marvin Radlow; brother-in-law Ted Ecker; sisters-in-law, Mildred Radlow and Rosita Ecker; and nephew Michael Ecker.

Geraldine "Gerry" was born and raised in Lorain, OH where she graduated from Lorain High School, Class of 1947A. She met her husband, Gerald Ecker, and they were married in 1948. She was a member of Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue during her residence living in Lorain. She was a long-time life member of Hadassah and Women's League, serving many offices in both organizations. Gerry played golf and was a member of Oak Hills Country Club. She was an avid bowler in Lorain and Arizona where she served as President of the Fun Bunch bowling league for over 20 years. She loved all of the table games, Mahjong, Canasta, Train and carried an electronic tablet with her so she could play more games online or read on her Kindle. Her favorite game was Mahjong which she played for 77 years. Her intellect was keen and her thirst for knowledge and reading were never-ending. Gerry read well beyond 1,000 books during her lifetime. When she wasn't reading, she watched the latest movies on Netflix. Gerry found solace in listening to Jewish music and dancing. Listening to music made her feel better.

Gerry's first paying job was Woolworth Dime Store in downtown Lorain. At Admiral King High School, she was the College Registrar and served as assistant to the guidance counselors for many years. She was a banker at Lorain Central Bank, and a Real Estate Agent. She also held Civil Service positions serving the State of OH in Lorain County. One of Gerry's many strong beliefs was to educate her daughters to be leaders in the community. Gerry held positions in banking, administration, and volunteer positions in many organizations ranging from Hadassah (life member), Sisterhood, Candy Striper at St. Joseph Hospital, and bookkeeper and accountant for her family's window and aluminum siding businesses.

Gerry was a devoted mother to both of her daughters and husband when her husband struggled with illness during the entirety of their marriage. Gerry wanted her daughters to be able to take care of themselves under such difficult circumstances. She championed women's rights, believed in Oprah's mantra that "education is power," championed the Obama's, Kamala Harris, and was a huge supporter of Israel. Being Jewish, and the daughter of a Kohan, Gerry was very proud to be Jewish. She always wore a Star of David. She believed that women had just as many rights as a man. She raised and influenced her daughters to become educated and proud of their Jewish heritage.

(Gerry Ecker's obituary continues on page 7, column 1)

NINA ROTHMAN

Nina Hassia Rothman (nee Taslitt, formerly Liston) died October 22, 2025. She was 86 years old.

Born in Cleveland on November 6, 1938 to Israel and Rena Taslitt, Nina grew up in New Rochelle, NY before returning to Cleveland with her family as an adolescent. She graduated from Heights High School at 16 years old and studied at Flora Stone Mather College at Western Reserve University. Nina worked in public relations at the JCC in the 1970s and served as a reporter for the Cleveland Jewish News from 1970-1985 and as city editor from 1989-1993. Nina was supportive of many Democratic political causes and volunteered with Ohio congressman Charles Vanik for 18 years.

Nina married Irving Rothman on April 23, 1982 and they were happily married until his death in 2015. They spent two stints living in Las Cruces, NM where they owned the Las Cruces Lighting Center. They also supported Temple Beth El in Las Cruces and volunteered at the local soup kitchen. Nina and Irv owned a succession of RVs which they used as a home on wheels to return to Cleveland visiting family, as well as during their travels across the country to visit friends and work as furniture liquidators. When they returned to Cleveland for good, they purchased a condo at Acacia on the Green where Nina served on the Board and as Board President from 2020-2024. She was a member of Temple Emanu El, NA'AMAT and B'nai Brith Women of Cleveland and was also involved with Jewish War Veterans and Auxiliary Post 44 and the 95th Bomb Group.

Nina was the loving mother of Steven (Amy) Liston, the late Gary (Susi, surviving) Liston and Sara Schrode (Mark Roach). She will be forever remembered by her grandchildren, Abby (Daryl) Royer, Betsi (Brian) Knis, Dylan (Heather) Schrode, Sam Liston, Evan (Yarden) Schrode, and Jason Schrode. She is also loved by her great-grandchildren, Maggie, Howie, Brycen, Mabel, Luca and Mila, and many cousins.

A graveside funeral service was held at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Solon on October 28, 2025. The family received friends immediately following interment at Cleveland Racquet Club in Pepper Pike.

Contributions are suggested to Temple Emanu El or a charity of your choice.

(More obituaries on the next page)

OBITUARIES

NATALEE BERGER

Natalee Berger, born March 7, 1939, in Lorain, Ohio, passed away on November 14, 2025, surrounded by love and memories of a life well lived. She was the beloved daughter of the late Florence Gertrude (Kyman) and Harry Leonard Berger.

A devoted and lifelong member of Agudath B'nai Israel in Lorain, Natalee served her community faithfully offering kindness, guidance and steadfast commitment.

Natalee spent many years running the Vending Department at the U.S. Steel Mill, where she was known for her strong work ethic, warm personality, and dedication to her coworkers. Outside of work, she found joy in gardening and tending to her yard, sharing lunches with her cherished girlfriends, and cheering for her beloved Cleveland Indians.

Natalee is survived by her son, Eric, and his wife, Theresa Nicassio Mazzi, of Vancouver, British Columbia; her granddaughters, Marie Nicassio and Alex Nicassio; and her cousins Larry, and his wife, Cathy Kyman and Donna Jackson. She will be deeply missed by her dear friend Barb Cantrell and all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her cousin, Bob Jackson. Graveside services were held at Salem Cemetery on November 18th, with Mark Jaffee officiating.

The family kindly requests that donations go to the ABI Synagogue. May Natalee's memory be a blessing to all who were touched by her grace, spirit and laughter.

LESLIE SHURE

Leslie Shure, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on December 3, 2025, at Cleveland Clinic - Avon Hospital with his loving wife and children by his side. He was 84 years old.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 20, 1941, Leslie was the cherished son of the late Eva (Altman) Shure and Max Shure. A proud graduate of Chicago Teachers College (now Chicago State University), he began his career in education with extraordinary promise—earning the "Best New Teacher" award in his very first year in the Chicago School System. His dedication to learning, people, and community would remain a defining thread throughout his life.

Leslie later served as Vice President at First Investment Company, bringing integrity, warmth, and steady leadership to his work. After settling in Lorain, Ohio, he became an active and devoted member of Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue, where he also served as Assistant Treasurer. His commitment to community extended far beyond the walls of the temple—Leslie lent his time and talents to the Lorain Elks Club, the Kiwanis Club, and Second Harvest Food Bank, and he was a steadfast advocate for affordable housing in Lorain County.

Those who knew Leslie will remember his deep love for the places that shaped him. He found joy in the simple act of walking down Broadway Avenue, in the calming presence of the lake, in the energy and memories of Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, and in the freedom of swimming—pastimes that brought him both peace and delight.

Above all, Leslie held his family closest to his heart. He is survived by his loving wife Suzanne (nee Deitch) Shure of 59 1/2 years. His loving children: his daughter, Hillary Shure, and her significant other, Mike Haight, of Lorain; his sons, Larry Shure and wife Angela Forfia, of Chicago; and Martin Shure, of Cleveland. He also leaves behind his brothers Richard Shure and wife Alma, and Leon Shure and wife Marianne, all of Chicago.

Leslie's legacy continues through his adored grandchildren—Matthew, Kayla, Felix, Theo, Evelina, and Nick—and his great-grandchildren, Zane and Zeke, who brought him immense pride and joy.

Graveside services were held on December 7, 2025, at Salem Cemetery with Mark Jaffee officiating.

The family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to ABI Synagogue, or to Second Harvest Food Bank, 5510 Baumhart Road, Lorain, Ohio 44053. May Leslie's memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

JUNE ONDO

June Ethel Ondo, age 93, passed away on December 22nd.

June leaves behind her beloved daughter, Ellen Leidner, son-in-law Rich Goldberg, grandsons Matt (Marielle) and Sam Goldberg, great-grandson Guy Goldberg, niece Bonnie Datt (Chris Lowe), stepchildren, Deb, Rick, and Jeff (Monica) Ondo, grandson Jeffrey (Daniela) Ondo, granddaughter Skylar Ondo, and a multitude of lifelong friends.

She was predeceased in 2006 by her second husband, Anthony Ondo, to whom she was very happily married for more than twenty years.

Born in Cleveland to Leo and Lucille Schwartz, June grew up in University Heights, graduated from Heights High School, and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Western Reserve University in 1954. June completed a master's degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1992. She lived in Lorain and Elyria for more than 50 years and joyfully taught elementary school students in Amherst for over 40 years. She was an iconic and passionate social studies teacher who loved her students and making history come to life.

June was a talented piano player and artist, an avid reader and traveler, an amazing water skier, and a dedicated watcher of Perry Mason. Every day she practiced small acts of kindness and shared her endearing and delightful sense of humor.

Funeral services were December 26, 2025, at the Laubenthal Mercado Funeral Home in Elyria with Mark Jaffee officiating. Burial followed at Brookdale Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to local libraries or schools. Online condolences to the family may be made @www.laubenthalmercado.com or you may share your memories of June at junemoon4816@gmail.com.

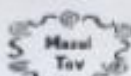
GERRY ECKER (continued)

While Gerry did not have the opportunity to attend college, she took time to educate herself by learning skills that challenged her mind. She was extremely bright, argumentative, informed, and knowledgeable of world events, technology, and gamesmanship. Her friends at Abria Hacienda adored her and relied on her expertise.

In 1981, she and her husband moved to Scottsdale, AZ. Jerry (husband) passed away in 2005 but she stayed in AZ to lead an active life. Many years later, she was briefly married to Hal Linden until his death in 2016. Eventually, Gerry left AZ in 2020 during Covid to join her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Stuart, in CA.

Gerry was compassionate, kind, and endured many ups and downs during her life. The saddest moment in her life occurred following her daughter Ellen's passing. She tried to make sense of it, however, her sorrow remained with her until her death.

Gerry passed away during the Sabbath on October 11, 2025. Traditionally, it is believed that a soul that passes on the Sabbath is a special soul in G-d's eyes. The spiritual elevation of Shabbat is believed to assist the soul in its transition to the afterlife, ensuring its final state of purity and peace. While some argue that G-d chooses, it is her daughter's belief that Gerry chose her time.



Hoping the milestone day is filled with friends and family, laughter, love and joy!



ABI sends Happy Birthday wishes to Esther Givner as she turns



on January 20th



R of **MLS**
ECKER
 REAL ESTATE CO.

Phone: 440-654-2568 1606 Cooper Foster Pl. Rd.
 Cell: 440-320-5660 Lorain, OH 44053

Julia B. Ecker

Life Begins Today
 Julia B. Ecker
 1606 Cooper Foster Pl. Rd.
 Lorain, OH 44053

www.kitelyghenewar.com
realestate.kitelyghenewar.com
 phone/fax 440-262-1443

Serving the needs of the
 Lorain Jewish Community since 1931.



Schwartz - Speece
BOYER & COOL
 HOME FOR FUNERALS
 114 Fifth Street Lorain, Ohio 44053
www.boyercool.com

THOMAS H. BOYER Director ROBERT C. COOL, JR. Director
 ROBERT C. COOL, III Director
 KRISTIE P. EDMISTER Manager

Phone: 440-244-5288

Pullin CPA & Associates Inc.

TAX RETURNS FOR
 Individuals - Partnerships
 Limited Liability Companies
 Corporations - Estates - Non Profits
 America Counts on CPAs



TAX SEASON BUSINESS HOURS:
 Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. to noon
 Evenings by Appointment

1610 Cooper Foster Park Road
 Lorain, OH 44053

440-960-2277

Email: info@pullincpaohio.com

Visit us on the web at www.pullincpaohio.com

Levit Jewelers, Inc.
 By Appointment Across the U.S.A.
www.levitjewelers.com

Custom Designs
 Corporate Gifts
 Estate Appraisals
 Insurance Requirements

Rob M. Levit
 6274 Cleveland Ave.
 Lorain, Ohio 44053
 440.360.1667
 440.360.1669
rob@levitjewelers.com

Advisor Financial Investments, Inc.

Julia B. Ecker, CPA/PFS
eckercpa@gmail.com

1606 Cooper Foster Park Road
 Lorain, Ohio 44053

Phone: (440) 654-2568
 Fax: (440) 654-2569

Agudath B'nai Israel
Community News
1715 Meister Road
Lorain, OH 44053



EXPLORING JEWISH THOUGHT

An adult education
opportunity sponsored
by ABI Synagogue



*The Sessions will be at Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue and on Zoom
Tuesday evenings from February 10, 2026 – March 24, 2026 from 7-8:00 PM
All sessions are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.*

Contact the ABI office 440-282-3307 to reserve a place at any of the sessions and the Zoom link.

Topics are designed for the general community.



Come hear a Holocaust Survivor
speak as well as Jeff Schoep speaking
on "How I Came Out of the Darkness
into the Light."

May 7, 2026

at 7:00 pm

Lorain Palace Theatre

Watch your mail for further details on both of these programs.