



Temple Judea of Bucks County is reinventing itself

Just months after informing its congregation that it might have to sell its 10-year-old building due to declining membership numbers and increased financial pressures, Temple Judea of Bucks County's future is looking brighter.

According to Temple President Len Saffren, new developments have made it possible for the temple to remain in its Rogers Road, Furlong, location at least through 2025. Among them has been an outpouring of support from past and present congregants.

Moreover, Saffren pointed out, Small Wonders, which provides preschool and kindergarten classes and summer camp for children, has extended its management agreement to continue at the temple through at least June 2025.

The preschool has 158 students enrolled for next year with some openings remaining in its kindergarten and p.m. kindergarten enrichment programs. Eighty-six children have been enrolled in Summer Camp, with some limited openings remaining.

The synagogue is using its current circumstances as a spur for rebooting itself in a way that will meet its challenges, provide meaningful support to its member families and ultimately make the synagogue better than ever.

In addition, new clergy will begin serving the congregation's needs starting this fall and a greater



RABBI DAVID LEVIN

emphasis is being placed on creating fun ways to socialize with fellow members under the Club Judea umbrella.

Rabbi David Levin will lead High Holidays and Shabbat services throughout the year and provide pastoral care to congregants. Rabbi Andy Sklarz will work with B'nai Mitzvah students and officiate at B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies.

Levin is a Reform rabbi ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is the founder and managing director of Jewish Relationships Initiative, which focuses on creative and meaningful engagement with the unaffiliated using Jewish wisdom. He is a member of Rabbits Without Borders.

Sklarz is a Reform rabbi and therapist with years of experience working with adolescents, adults, couples and families. He has exten-



RABBI ANDY SKLARZ

sive experience with interfaith organizations and with the LGBTQ+ community.

Throughout the year, Club Judea will offer social experiences that will bring members of the Central Bucks Jewish community together to have fun and get to know each other better, as well as present opportunities to participate in community service projects. Upcoming events include a wine and cheese tasting, family barbecue night, Parents' Night Out and Jewish cooking lessons.

To learn more about membership or religious school, visit templejudea.org or contact Len Saffren, Temple Judea president, at 215-630-6068 or lsaffren45@gmail.com.

To learn more about Small Wonders, contact Sheryl Milstein, director, at 215-348-5022 or sherylm@templejudea.org.



BERNIE ROSEMAN

Professor talks to JRC

The Jewish Residents Council at Ann's Choice was host to professor Peter Koelle, who discussed the evolution of the Judeo-Spanish language spoken by Sephardic Jews in the Balkan Peninsula. Dr. Koelle was a professor at Bryn Mawr College in the Department of Spanish Language and Literature. Pictured are Dr. Koelle; Phyllis Halperin, president JRC; and Amiram Amit, education chair JRC.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church hosts annual Service of Justice

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 10 Chapel Road, New Hope (Solebury Township), will once again host the annual Service for Justice during New Hope Pride at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, to help ground the week in its origins.

While many see strides in LGBTQ+ rights on national levels regarding marriage equality, the real challenge has now become local with regard to student rights in schools, parents' roles, school board policy, and community responses, the church said. Bucks County has been the center of this debate with several high-profile news stories and has in many ways become the epicenter of the debate.

St. Philip's hopes this event will be one that will explore the facts around these issues and how it is affecting local schools, teachers, and communities. This year all of the service speakers will be "courageous students" who will speak about the realities of their lives. St. Philip's hopes this will be a time of learning and sharing to help attendees understand the lives of students directly affected by such decisions and policies.

The "Voices from the Classroom: LGBT+Rights in Schools" event is free, and the public is welcome. For information, call 267-897-3050 or visit www.st-philipsnewhope.org.



"Manchester Valley"

During a walking tour given to more than a dozen members of Kehilat HaNahar (KHN) Sunday, Abrey Light, a member of both KHN and the board of directors of the New Hope Historical Society (NHHS), points to a reproduction of Joseph Pickett's 1914 masterpiece, "Manchester Valley," which is part of the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. The painting, on a Ferry Street home, features a schoolhouse on top of a hill — and that same schoolhouse is the current home of KHN, located at 85 W. Mechanics St., New Hope.

Lehigh Valley author, hospice nurse shares perspective in new book

Lehigh Valley author Linda J. Mancinelli's new book "Before You Go," dedicated to a subject that none of us can avoid as living beings on this planet — death and dying — is set to be released on May 20.

Published by Blue Heron Bookworks LLC, "Before You Go" is not a "how-to" guide, but simply, stories shared, real-life situations, grief perspectives and coping mechanisms detailed to help dying individuals and those who love them from the perspective of a seasoned hospice registered nurse. Debunking some of the hospice myths, as well as guiding the reader through at times, the daunting

hospice journey, the author lays out valuable ideas with practical, no-nonsense knowledge.

Mancinelli actually chose to become a hospice nurse to help give her calming, understanding, compassionate and skillful expertise to the person who is passing, as well as the family and friends navigating a difficult transition.

"Many people would not choose to be a hospice nurse, but I felt as if it were a profession where I could give my whole heart to helping those through the final transition with dignity and grace as well as helping their loved ones cope with each different situation," Mancinelli said.

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