

Charlottesville Neo-Nazi, who killed protester with his car blames his Jewish grandfather for his plight

ames Alex Fields Jr., the white supremacists who plowed his car into a group of counter-protesters, killing one and injuring 35 others, petitioned the court for leniency in his sentencing. Fields, who avoided the death penalty by pleading guilty to 29 of 30 federal hate crime charges in March, evidently chose to plead his case for a lighter hate crime sentence by putting his hateful anti-Semitism on full display. Through his lawyers, Fields blamed his actions on the trauma of knowing his grandfather, a Jew, killed his grandmother before committing suicide. Fields' lawyers also cited a difficult



Unsuspecting counter-protesters are purposely rundown killing one, Heather Heyer and injuring 35 others



Heather Heyer spent most of her life, fighting the good fight against injustice.

childhood and mental illness as reasons why he should not face a lifetime in prison. However, prosecutors noted Fields was fascinated with Hitler. They pointed out, when on a school trip to the Dachau concentration camp; Fields was openly giddy and remarked, 'This is where the magic happened." They also cited his lack of remorse for his crimes as to why he is undeserving of leniency. The Judge agreed, and sentenced Fields to life in prison. Though to avoid the death penalty, Fields pled guilty to the Federal charges, he pled not guilty to the state's charges against him. The case went to trial, where he was convicted of first -degree murder, five counts of aggravated malicious wounding, three counts of malicious wounding, and one count of hit and run. Upon his conviction the Jury recommended that Fields' serve a life

A video played during the trial showed Fields backing up to give himself room before barreling into the group of counter-protesters, Killing Heather Heyer and injuring 35 others.

sentence, plus 419 years. Fields will be sentenced next week, July 15. On August 12, 2017, James Alex Fields Jr. of Maumee, Ohio, an avowed white supremacist, plowed his car through a crowd of counter-protesters during a "Unite the Right" rally, sending protesters flying through the air and fatally injuring Heather Heyer, 32, a Paralegal and Charlottesville, Virginia, native. The "Unite the Right" rally had attracted hundreds of white supremacist, white nationalists, and neo-Nazis determined to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is yet another example of the rising tide of neo-Nazi, white supremacist violence that has marred the country over the last few years. 📩

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Archive Smuggled from Nazi-Era Germany Is Acquired by the Science the History Institute

The Science History Institute has acquired a collection of correspondence, books, photographs, and scientific notes belonging to Jewish German chemist Georg Bredig. The collection spans decades, from the late 19th century, just as the field of physical chemistry was emerging, to the 1930s and the horrors faced by the Jewish community as the Nazis rose to power. This archive, which has never before been made public, was made possible by the generous support of the Walder Foundation. "Bringing this collection to the Science History Institute fulfills Georg Bredig's wish that these documents be preserved so that future generations can study them," said Robert Anderson, the Science History Institute's president and CEO. "They are significant not only to scholars of the history of science but to Holocaust scholars as well."

Bredig introduced the model reaction methodology to catalytic research, discovered and explored new catalytic phenomena, and discovered and investigated asymmetric catalysis. The earliest documents in the archive—from the late 19th century—provide a snapshot of the field of physical chemistry in its early years. There is extensive correspondence with the founding fathers of the field, including many early Nobel laureates in chemistry, such as Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff, Svante Arrhenius, Fritz Haber, and Wilhelm Ostwald. The post-1933 collection items document a very different story. Bredig, along with his family and Jewish colleagues, struggled to survive under the increasingly oppressive Nazi regime. Some managed to flee to other countries, while others were not so lucky. Their stories unfold through the letters describing their situations in detail, from requests for food and clothing for detainees to the desire to resume their work and their normal routines. Many of the letters and documents relate to Bredig's attempts to leave Nazi-occupied Europe. Included in the collections are his German identification papers and passport, both marked with a "J."

Bredig recognized the Nazis would likely destroy his personal library and archive, and his efforts to ensure its survival nearly cost him his life. In a letter to his son, Max, in 1939, Bredig wrote, "Yesterday I sent as a package to you the three green volumes I–III of my opera omnia. The rest IV–VII in green volumes will follow in the next week or so. . . . It is very dear to me that after my death the one and the other will end up in good hands (for an obituary and also for reference). In case you don't want to keep it, give it to a university library, preferably one abroad, or to a good friend. Under no circumstances do I want it to be wasted/lost, given away or tossed! It should give witness over my life's work." The collection was smuggled out of Nazi Germany to the van't Hoff laboratory in the Netherlands, where it remained for the duration of the war. In 1946 it was shipped to the Bredig family in the United States.

Georg Bredig had a distinguished career in chemistry and as a professor. He held teaching positions at universities throughout northern Europe before being appointed professor for physical chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1911. In 1933 the Nazis forbade Jews to hold professional positions. Bredig's credentials as a scientist were revoked, and he was forced into retirement. In 1938, during Kristallnacht, he was arrested but later released. Bredig fled Germany in 1939 with the assistance of a fellow Jewish chemist, Ernst Cohen. Many of Bredig's colleagues, friends, and family members were not so lucky. Cohen perished in the gas chambers at Auschwitz. Alfred Schnell, a chemist and colleague of Bredig's son was executed, along with his wife, by Dutch soldiers loyal to the Nazis. They had been in hiding in the Netherlands for years, and their story is now well known. But the fact they were writing letters while in hiding was completely unknown until this collection

surfaced.

Max Bredig left Germany two years before his father and immediately set to work getting the rest of his family out of Europe as well as helping others do the same. Bredig's daughter, Marianna, along with her husband, Viktor, spent more than a year in detention camps before finally making it to the U.S. in 1941. After Bredig received a letter with an offer of a position from the president of Princeton University in November 1939, Max was finally able to obtain a visa for his father. Georg Bredig came to the United States in 1940. In poor health, he stayed with his son in New York City until his death on April 24, 1944. *✿*

Or fellow congregant, and friend, Herb Oppenheimer is still feeling under the weather. Please pay him a visit or give him a call. His phone number is 973-634-1902. It is a mitzvah to visit the sick, even by telephone. Simon

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Simon Says Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

This week's Parashah, Hukat, contains the law of the red heifer. God commands Moses to take outside the camp an unblemished, red heifer that has been never under a yoke (the word for the animal in Hebrew is "parah," meaning "cow," but everybody assumes it a young calf because the Biblical condition is "never under the yoke") and slaughter it in the presence of Aaron's son Eleazar. Then the calf was to be burned together with the "cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson stuff [whatever that was]" and the calf, along with the other things, was to be reduced to ashes. The ashes were to be added to water for purifying people who touched a corpse or who entered the tent of dead person. The Torah describes a ritual of purification using the water and the ashes of the red heifer, but the most interesting thing about this process is that everybody involved in reducing the red heifer to ashes becomes unclean until the evening of that day. (The Torah describes a ritual of purification that makes these people clean.)

For years (centuries, millennia) sages have been puzzled. Why should the process that produces a means of purification make everybody in involved in the process unclean? I don't pretend to be a sage, and I don't pretend to be an anthropologist, but I will make a stab at it.

To be glib, you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs. To be more serious, there are worthwhile things that are costly.

We send young people to die to defend our freedoms of free speech, religious practices, and our political system.

We send young people to die to defend our territorial borders. Sometimes the cost of purity is costly. Now, you may say that the costs involved in the process of reducing a red heifer to ashes are not as expensive as the process of defending our way or life or our territory. But that it is not true. If unclean Israelites did not undergo the ritual purification process, the Torah says that they would be cut off, meaning that they would no longer be a member of the tribe. They would be spiritually dead, and physically dead in a very short time.

Our ancestors valued purity highly, probably higher than any other value. The men who prepared the ashes were sent into battle, and the cost of that battle was that they were spiritually dead until the day ended. Moreover, by experiencing spiritual death for a day, they knew how important it was to reduce the red heifer to ashes. They spiritually died for a day so that other people could be spiritually pure. \clubsuit

We at Ahavas Sholom give a sincere thank you to Doris and Jeff Spector for their extremely generous act of Tzedkah. With absolutely no urging from us, they took it upon themselves to purchase& donate 11 brand new tallisim to the congregation.Jeff, Doris; we cannot thank you enough. **Yasher Koach to you both.**



Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60, 000 to properly renovate out kitchen.

April Modlinger, who has always been a pillar at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, has generously pledged \$10, 000 to making this happen.

We have recently received another pledge for \$2,200, bringing the total to 12, 200.

With you help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

Make your pledge today!

CAS Tzedakah Honor Roll

We would like to thank and recognize those who gave so generously to support Congregation Ahavas Sholom in its various efforts to foster Tikun Olam

> The Ronald and Joan David Foundation **Rabbi Simon and Gavle Rosenbach** Irene Cooper-Busch-Namutumba Famine Relief Fund Linda Bloom and Elena Smith **Dubra Shenker** Linda Bloom and Elena Smith-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Phil Yourish-Namutuma Famine Relief Fund **Dubra Shenker-Namutuma Famine Relief Fund** Anne Weisholtz-Namutuma Famine Relief Fund **Mona Wachtel-Namutuma Famine Relief Fund** Wendy Wilcox-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund **April Modlinger-Kiddush Fund Isabell Adler-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund** Herman Friedman in memory of father **Bonnie Nutkis-Building Fund** Linda Bloom and Elena Smith-Russell Mov Scholarship Fund Susan Freedman-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Eric and Isabella Freedman-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Fred and Linda Grabiner-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Amy and Matthew Boxer-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Wendy and Stephen Renov-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Analicia Culp-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Kathy Wackowski-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Karen Hruska-Russell Moy Scholarship Fund Susan Hershkowitz-Russell Mov Scholarship Fund April Modlinger-Namutuma Famine Relief Fund **Doris Spector** Some entries may be duplications, if so I apologize.

American Red Cross Issues Emergency Need for blood donors

The American Red Cross issued an emergency need for eligible individuals of all blood types to give now and help save patient lives following a busy Independence Day week. Currently blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in-blood donors are needed to help avoid delays in lifesaving medical care. Schedule your blood donation appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Fewer blood donors and blood drives last week have escalated the Red Cross call for all blood and platelet donors to help ensure hospital needs are met. More than 450 fewer blood drives were held than during a typical week the week of July 4 which may have led to as many as 17,000 fewer blood donations. AAA reported that nearly 49 million Americans—the highest recorded number—took trips would take trips to celebrate the Independence Day holiday, potentially making donors less available to give during the busy holiday week.

"Blood transfusions are one of the most common hospital procedures and blood donors play a critical role in ensuring there are enough products on the shelves to help patients in need," said Dr. Pampee Young, chief medical officer, American Red Cross. "Each day, kids battling cancer, accident victims being raced to the emergency room and mothers experiencing complicated childbirths rely on lifesaving blood. We need the public's help today to ensure we have enough blood to meet these dire needs."

Every two seconds, someone needs blood and every 30 seconds, someone needs platelets in the U.S. This is why Barbara, a dedicated blood and platelet donor, from Chelmsford, MA is committed to giving no matter where she is in the U.S. Since retiring from her career, she has traveled to numerous states to visit family and friends but she always makes time to donate. To date, she has successfully donated platelets in St. Cloud, Minn., Orem, Utah, Mobile, Ala. and Nashville, Tenn. in addition to giving at her home blood donor center in Dansford, Mass.

"I became a blood donor because it's important, I'm able to do it and people need it, said Barbara. "I do it because I can."

Eligible individuals can find a blood drive near them this summer by using the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Individuals can also open the Red Cross Blood skill on an Alexa-enabled device with a selection of prompts such as, "Alexa, open Red Cross Blood Skill" and ask, for example, "Alexa, find a blood drive."

Kiddush Sponsorship

ponsoring Kiddush is \$150, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Alla Eicheldinger at Alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help us by shopping, which doesn't cost any money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you.

Our Sister Synagogue in Uganda Needs Our Help

Ravaged by famine and drought, the Namutumba Synagogue is reaching out to us; let's not disappoint them.

The Namutumba Famine Relief Fund to lean more Click here



Shabbat Services

Join us this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors, friends, old and new; our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom services starts at 9:00AM. Our congregation is open and welcoming, so feel free to pay us a visit.



We will have a choir rehearsal this Shabbat, July 13, during the Kiddush. We will mainly go over Etz Chayim Fred Grabiner