



# A Swedish political party says it will fight to ban circumcision



A newborn baby boy is blessed after a Rabbi performed a ceremonial circumcision on him.

## *In this week's Scroll*

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Swedish political party has voted to change its official stance in favor of banning circumcision.

The Swedish Center Party voted 314-166 at its annual



*Party leader, Annie Loof, voted against the ban and said she "regretted the result"*

meeting to work to fight the nonmedical circumcision of boys. Party chief Annie Loof was among the party leaders who criticized the vote.

The Center Party received approximately 8 percent of the votes in last year's national election, earning 31 seats in the 349-seat parliament. It broke with its center-right alliance earlier this year and now backs the left-wing ruling coalition, though it's not officially part of the bloc.

The vote Saturday drew fierce debate in the country between advocates, who say circumcision infringes on children's rights, and critics, who say a ban would threaten the country's Jewish and Muslim populations.

"A ban on circumcision would make Jewish life in Sweden impossible," Aron Verständig, chairman of The Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities, said Sunday in a statement.

According to Swedish law, circumcision can be performed only by medical practitioners or those licensed by the country's Health and Welfare Board. Sweden's Jewish community numbers about 20,000 and has faced a range of challenges in recent years — from the rise of anti-Semitism that at times has

***"If the proposal becomes reality, it will be completely impossible to live as a Jew or a Muslim in Sweden," Jewish Swedish leader, Aron Verständig***

turned violent to policy proposals that community members say make their lives difficult or impossible. There have been attempts to ban circumcision and the import of kosher meat, citing children's and animal's rights. A 1988 law banned the slaughter of poultry without stunning, which makes kosher slaughter impossible, though Jews were initially granted an exemption. A 1937 law had banned the kosher slaughter of cows and sheep. ✧

## **Congregation Ahavas Sholom**

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# Texas death row inmate Randy Halprin granted a stay of execution.



*Randy Halprin was led out of the Teller County Courthouse after an extradition hearing in 2001 in Cripple Creek, Colorado. He was 23.*

**T**exas death row inmate Randy Halprin's execution has been put on hold. The stay, granted by The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, was based on the trial judge's alleged anti-Semitism. According to Halprin's attorneys, Judge Vickers "Vic" Cunningham displayed blatant anti-Semitic tendencies during his trial. Cunningham has been accused of referring to

Halprin as "that (\*&^%) Jew. While Cunningham has vigorously denied the allegations, Halprin's attorneys argued the judge's "anti-Semitic views of Mr. Halprin created an unconstitutional risk of bias." In an interview with The Dallas Morning News, Cunningham called the charges fabrications and lies. While there is no evidence of the charges truthfulness, the court took the allegations

seriously enough to remand the case back to a Dallas County court for further review.

When contacted, Cunningham said he was aware of the ruling; but declined to comment. While there might not



*Judge Vickers Cunningham denied the allegations of anti-Semitism*

be any direct evidence of bias during the trial; there is ample evidence of Cunningham's staunch pro-white, pro-Christian, anti-LGBT stance. It was reported in 2018 that Cunningham had establish a living will that his children would only be able to access if they married a white Christian of the opposite sex. Cunningham is also estranged from his brother, Bill Cunningham, who is married to a black man. Those reports made Halprin's attorney, reconsider whether alleged bias had indeed affected Halprin's trial, and his eventual death sentence. Those around him have noted that he (Cunningham) doesn't like anyone not of this race religion or creed, and a family friend, Tammy McKinney stated in an affidavit that Cunningham once said, "Jews needed to be shut down because they controlled all the money." Amanda Tackett, a writer who worked for Cunningham during his 2005 campaign, said in court papers that he (Cunningham) referred to Halprin as a Jew on the campaign trail. In a separate brief, the Anti-Defamation League said, "It would be fair to question Judge Cunningham's objectivity about Jews if he made even one of the statements about them attributed to him by the Exhibits

Jewish groups applauded the review. "The appellate court has averted, at least for the moment, an act of injustice by reaffirming that hateful and prejudicial rhetoric cannot hide behind the robe," said American Jewish Committee (AJC) General Counsel Marc Stern. "Now the very serious and valid claims that Judge Vickers Cunningham was hopelessly biased against Jews can be fully examined in a court of law."

AJC submitted an [amicus brief](#), that didn't take a position on Halprin's ultimate innocence or guilt; it took direct aim at Cunningham's supposed bigotry. The brief argued, "The right to an impartial judge is not only a blackletter rule of constitutional law, but also integral to the functioning of the entire Texas judicial system." The brief was signed by AJC, over 100 Texas Jewish attorneys, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Men of Reform Judaism, and Union for Reform Judaism.

Halprin is one of two surviving members of the infamous Texas Seven who escaped from a Kenedy Texas prison and went on a robbing spree, culminating in the Christmas Eve 2000, murder of Irvington Police officer, Aubrey Hawkins. While burglarizing an Oshman's Sporting Goods store, the group shot officer Hawkins 11 times. Hawkins had just finished Christmas Eve dinner with his family when he got the call; he left home never to return.

Halprin admitted to being present; but, insisted he had nothing to do with the murder and wasn't even carrying a gun. He was convicted under Texas' controversial "law of parties," which allows defendants to be sentenced to death based upon the actions and intent of others, if the defendant played even a small role in a crime that resulted in someone's death.

Halprin was set to be executed on October 10, 2019. The only other surviving member, Patrick Murphy Jr. is scheduled to be executed next month. ✨

*The Jewish Museum of New Jersey*

# ED BERGER: JAZZ PHOTOGRAPHER

November 3, 2019 to January 12, 2020

Co-sponsored by



Ed Berger was a world-class scholar, researcher, photographer, producer, author, administrator, and tireless jazz detective. But all of this is surpassed by his qualities as a person. *In his work as an author and photographer, he seemed to gravitate toward subjects who were, like him, quiet giants who shared Ed's passion for the music and the life* - David Demsey

**Special Opening for the Newark Arts Festival  
Sunday, October 13th, 1-5 pm**

Jewish Museum of New Jersey, 145 Broadway in Newark  
Free off-site parking / donations welcomed / [jewishmuseumnj.org](http://jewishmuseumnj.org)



## *Dear Community and Friends:*

Linda Bloom and Elena Smith have informed us of the passing of Elena's sister, Sylvia Hyman.

Sylvia was a loving wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 11th at 1:00 pm at Gutterman's Funeral Home, 175 North Long Beach

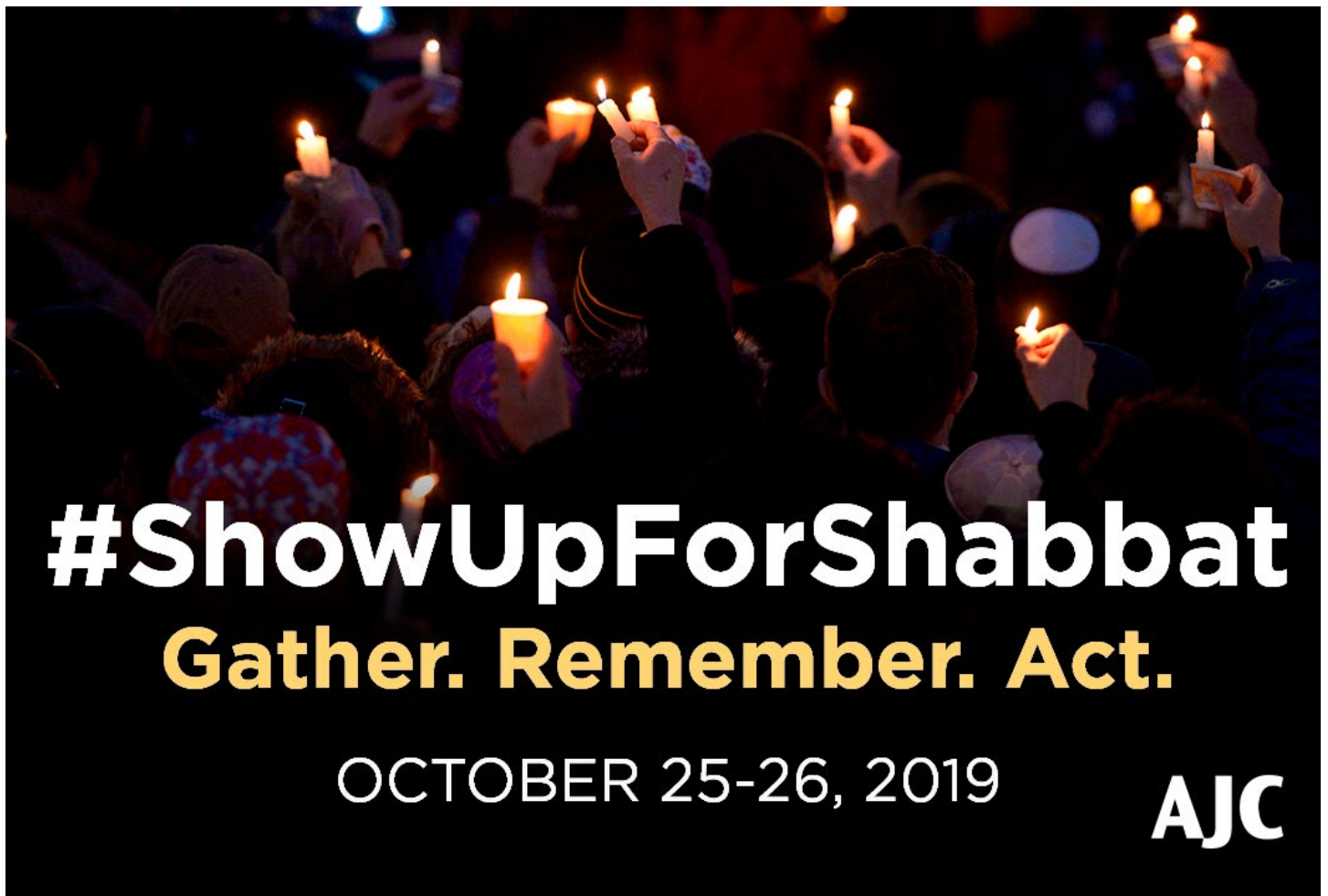
Road, Rockville Centre, New York 11570

Interment to follow at Beth David Cemetery, 300 Elmont Road, Elmont, New York 11003.

Shiva will be on Friday after the funeral and Saturday from Noon to 6:00 pm at 49 Dawes Avenue, Lynbrook, New York 11563

If you have any questions, please call me at 973-207-3095

Jeffrey Haveson  
973-207-3095 or jeffhaveson@yahoo.com



**#ShowUpForShabbat**  
**Gather. Remember. Act.**

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

**AJC**

# SIMON

# SAYS

## Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



*Rabbi Simon Rosenbach*

**T**he first part of this week's Torah portion, Ha-azinu, is a poem that is laid out in two columns separated by white space. We are all probably more familiar with the Song at the Sea, which is also laid out in peculiar fashion, having lines that are separated with white space. (If you  
*CAS Scroll October 11, 2019*

attended the seventh day of Pesach, you noticed that the last line of the Song at the Sea, which reads in Hebrew, "ha-yam u-v'nai yisrael halchu vayabashah b'toch ha-yam," which literally means, "the sea and the Children of Israel went on dry land between the sea." So the way the last line is laid out physically depicts the Children of Israel between the split sea.) I don't know why Ha-azinu is laid out in two columns, but Robert Alter opines that the poem is older than the Book of Deuteronomy, and it could be as old as the period of the Judges, that is, the eleventh century B.C.E. Alter says of the opening lines, that they are a stylistic convention and are analogous to the invocation of the muse in the Homeric epics.

"Give hear, O heavens, that I may speak." This invocation to me doesn't sound like Moses, who is depicted in the Torah as blunt, not given to flowery oratory. (Moses' plea to God that God heal Miriam is five words, four of them one syllable and two letters each.) But this is the penultimate public pronouncement by Moses before he ascends Mount Nebo and dies. My son-law is a junior rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills in California (a really big Reform congregation), where the senior rabbi, Janet Marder, is retiring next year. She

has been the senior rabbi for 20 years, and in her Yom Kippur sermon, her last High Holy sermon, she spoke for 42 minutes and received a standing ovation. (If I spoke for 42 minutes I would be shot.) Ha-azinu is Moses' last spiritual sermon (the next Parashah, V-zot ha-barachah, contains Moses' blessings over the tribes), so I guess we can forgive Moses his flourishes. ✡

*The Weequahic High School  
Alumni Association*

**ALUMNI  
W  
ASSOCIATION**

*cordially invites you to join us for  
our 22nd Anniversary and Hall of  
Distinction Induction Ceremony*

**Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6 pm**

Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel  
1000 Spring Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey

**Tickets: \$100**

*Proceeds to be used for  
scholarships and student activities*

WHS Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 923-3133 / weequahicalumni@gmail.com



## 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!**



# The Weequahic High School Alumni Association **HALL OF DISTINCTION INDUCTEES**

**Warren Grover, 1955** - Author, historian, and co-founder of the Newark History Society.

**Stanley Markowitz, 1955** - Educator, professor, activist for peace and social justice.

**Eli Hoffman, 1956** - President of the Jaqua Foundation in NJ.

**Paul Tractenberg, 1956** - Founder of Education Law Center and Institute on Education Law and Policy.

**Jacob Toporek, 1963** - Executive Director NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, WHS Note newsletter.

**Steven Dinetz, 1965** - CEO of Next Media, President of the Chancellor Foundation.

**Wilfredo Nieves, 1966** - Educator, President of Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut.

**Carrie Jackson, 1968** - Jazz vocalist, producer/arranger, recording artist, CEO of C-Jay Records.

**Honorable Sheila Oliver, 1970** - NJ Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the NJ State Assembly.

**Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970** - Chief Education Officer for the City of Newark.

**Hisani Dubose, 1971** - Film producer, screenwriter, director and founder of NJ Movie Maker's Network.

**Dr. Frederick Tyson, 1972** - Scientific Program Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Services.

## **Deceased**

**Dr. Nathan Weiss, 1940** - Longtime President of Kean University, graduate school named after him, and author.

**David Schechner, 1946** - Attorney, leader in Jewish community, synagogue historian, WHS Alumni trustee.

**Hal Braff, 1952** - Attorney, civil rights activist, co founder of the WHS Alumni Association and avid Mets fan.

**Dr. Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959** - Social and consumer justice advocate who worked with Ralph Nader.

**Dr. James Oliver Horton, 1961** - Professor Emeritus, scholar of African American history, and author.

**Sadie Rous, Faculty, 1935-1968** - Popular and well-respected Social Studies teacher for 33 years.

**Coach Burney Adams, Faculty, 1968-2002** - Legendary football coach and mentor for 34 years.

## Lime rice recipe

Regardless of how you might feel about actually patronizing Chipotle's these days, and notwithstanding it isn't exactly a kosher restaurant, the chain has a slew of light, healthy, and tasty dishes on its menu. Most important, many of their dishes are quick and easy to make. This week we'll look at Lemon rice, a quick flavorful spin on standard white rice.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup extra long grain rice or basmati rice
- 1/2 lime, juice of
- 2 cups water
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp fresh chopped cilantro
- 3 tsp vegetable oil



*Quick delicious Lemon infused rice*

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a small heavy pot, add rice, water, 1 tsp oil and salt.
2. Boil on high until most of the water evaporates. When the water just skims the top of the rice, reduce to low and cover about 20 minutes.
3. Shut off flame and keep covered an additional 5 minute.
4. In a medium bowl, combine chopped cilantro, lime juice, rice and remaining oil and toss until completely mixed.

To add some extra body and crunch feel free to toss in a pinch of cashews or walnuts. To really pump up the flavor pan roast them for about a minute prior to adding them to the mix.

If you prefer, you can substitute the white rice with brown rice. Either way lime rice is light slightly acidic and delicious and goes perfectly with lemon chicken; but more on that next week.

## Author Coming to NYC to Share Little-Known Tale of Interfaith Courage That Still Resonates Today



*Author Marty Brounstein*

Many people have heard of Oskar Schindler thanks to director Steven Spielberg's 1993 movie *Schindler's List*. But few have heard of Frans and Mien Wijnakker, who like Schindler, were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. They were Christians who risked their lives and that of their children to save at least two dozen Jews in southern Holland during World War II—even performing a miracle to get a baby safely born. At a time when acts of hate and intolerance are rearing their ugly heads once again in the U.S. and abroad, Marty Brounstein is making it his mission to tell the Wijnakkers' story. For without their help that miracle baby would not be here today. She happens to be his wife, Leah Baars.

Brounstein, a storyteller and author, has been criss-crossing the country for nine years to give more than 700 talks about the Wijnakkers' extraordinary courage and compassion. He has also made them the subject of his 2017 book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, and has traveled to Holland to meet the Wijnakker children.

On Oct. 27, the San Mateo, Calif., native will give the first of four talks in the New York City metro area, at Carlstadt First Presbyterian Church in Carlstadt, N.J. The talk will take place at 10 a.m. in the church located at 457 Division Ave.

That talk will be followed by one on Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. The museum is located at Edmond J. Safra Plaza, 36 Battery Pl., in New York City. In November, Brounstein will be speaking at Congregation Beth Ohr on Long Island, 2550 South Centre Ave., in Bellmore, at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 3 and at Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st in New York, on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. The Sutton Place talk is being co-sponsored by Christ Church New York and St. James Episcopal Church.

Brounstein has appeared on NBC, CBS and FOX affiliates in San Francisco, Catholic TV in Boston and WGN-TV and WGN Radio in Chicago and been featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ✨



# Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, 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 Allah Eicheldinger at [alla7815@yahoo.com](mailto:alla7815@yahoo.com). You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

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



*Join us at Congregation  
Ahavas Sholom this  
Shabbat and help us  
make minyon*