New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

CRACOW

FRIENDSHIP



A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

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Commemoration of the Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto

Virtual Event March 14, 2021 Details will follow

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

President Simone Hilfstein Scheumann Editor Bernice Slutzman www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org Email: ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

EDITORIAL

Well, we made it. Another secular year is now in the history books, and what a year it was. I think it's safe to say that never have we spent so much time in our homes as in 2020.

We, in the United States, were kept unaware of the gravity of the situation surrounding Covid-19. (With new strains appearing, will we start with Covid-20, etc?) The last indoor event the Society was able to hold was the Commemoration which took place just days before the lockdown. [This year we are planning the Commemoration to be an online event. Further information will be forthcoming.) The tentative calendar created by the Board of Directors unfortunately became the non-existent calendar as far as gatherings were concerned. The last event of 2020 was the Yizkor held in September. We were able to see each other outside at Beth Moses Cemetery and could follow social distancing guidelines.

As survivors and their descendants we have been ingrained with the idea of looking forward. The next day may be better. I remember that once during a school talk my father, Roman Weingarten, of blessed memory, was asked by a student why he didn't take his own life when death was all around. His response was that suicide was final and offered no hope. To live another day was to still have hope that there would be a future.

To say that 2021 began with a bang is an understatement. While most of us were looking forward to a new administration, January 6, 2021 dawned. Angry, violent protestors stormed the Capitol. They had been spurred on by false rhetoric. Lives were lost and not only the nation, but the world was shaken. How could this happen in the United States? Coverage was world-wide which included pictures of members of the mob wearing shirts which proclaimed their hatred for us, the Jews. Prominently seen at the riot were shirts mocking Auschwitz: Camp Auschwitz...Work Brings Freedom, on the back of the shirt was the word Staff. Also on view was the 6MWE shirt. (It wasn't until after the riot that this apparel was removed by the online retailers. We must ask why were they sold in the first place? Once the image was seen, the damage was done. As they say, you can't unring a bell. Were anti-Semites the only rioters, no. I'm embarrassed to say that even some of our people, Jews, were there. All who were there came because at the time they held a common belief. In our entire lives could we imagine such a thing happening? Not since the War of 1812 had DC seen such a thing and that was by a foreign power with whom we were at war.

Some may argue that theses facts don't belong in our Newsletter and they are free to make their objections known with letters to the Editor. I am including part of the statement released by former GOP Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger following the riots.

In a video posted to social media on January 10, 2021 he said the following:

As an immigrant to this country, I would like to say a few words to my fellow Americans and to our friends around the world about the events of recent days.

Now, I grew up in Austria. I am very aware of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass. It was a night of rampage against the Jews carried out in 1938 by the Nazi equivalent of the Proud Boys.

Wednesday was the Day of Broken Glass right here in the United States. The broken glass was in the windows of the United States Capitol. But the mob did not just shatter the windows of the Capitol They shattered the ideas we took for granted. They did not just break down the doors of the building that housed American democracy. They trampled the very principles on which our country was founded.

Now, I grew up in the ruins of a country that suffered the loss of its democracy. I was born in 1947, two years after the Second World War. Growing up I was surrounded by broken men drinking away their guilt over their participation in the most evil regime in history. Not all of them were rabid anti-Semites or Nazis. Many just went along step-by-step down the road. They were the people next door.

Now, I've never shared this so publicly because it is a painful memory. But my father would come home drunk once or twice a week and he would scream and hit us and scare my mother. I did not hold him totally responsible because our neighbor was doing the same thing to his family, and so was the next neighbor over. I heard it with my own ears and saw it with my own eyes. They were in physical pain from the shrapnel in their bodies and in emotional pain from what they saw or did.

It all started with lies and lies and lies, and intolerance. So being From Europe, I've seen firsthand how things can spin out of control. I know there is fear in this country and all over the world that something like this could happen right here. Now, I do not believe it is, but I do believe that we must be aware of the dire consequences of selfishness and cynicism..........

We are a survivor organization but our purpose was not and is not just to remember the days gone by and the tragedies of our parents and grandparents. We must, or course, remember but also educate others to be vigilant when smooth talkers come on the scene spouting ideas shrouded in innuendo which spur others into action.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our society is now actively planning additional virtual events for the next few months. As we develop more programs, we will post information on our website's calendar page www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org in addition to using email and phone communications. The best way for us to contact members in a timely fashion these days is by email. To this end, please send your current email address to ncfs.org@gmail.com. You can expect to receive program notification through our new address: ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org Save these addresses in your contact list so our notices do not go into your spam folder.

The assault on our democratic process and on the Capitol building was shocking for many of us. The actions of extremists and the anti-Semitic displays were difficult to watch. Our voices must be heard. Therefore, we are continuing to unite with like minded societies and individuals here and around the world. I have heard from many of our members on this topic and am interested to hear from you as well.

Our new publication the NCFS Bulletin [Not to be confused with the Newsletter] helps direct you to current news and provides you with links to be part of the conversation. The third Bulletin will go out by April. Let us know if you did not receive the October issue. You can find Bulletins as well as the Newsletter posted on our website.

Sadly we will not gather to celebrate together for at least the next six months as safety must be our priority. On March 14, 2021 our yearly Commemoration of the Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto will be virtual this year. More details will be sent in the near future. I'm hopeful that vaccinations for Covid-19 will become more readily available in the coming months and the pandemic will loosen its grip on us all.

I hope that you and your families are doing well. My deepest condolences go out to those who have lost a loved one in the past months. May their memory be a blessing.

Consider making a charitable donation so our society to support survivors in need wherever they reside, and support Holocaust educational initiative in the USA, Israel and Poland. More details can be found in committee reports throughout this newsletter.

As a reminder please keep your membership current, provide us with address changes, and send us your email address and mobile number to ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org. Be assured we do not share your information.

Stay well and keep in touch.

Respectfully, Simone

We are currently looking for individuals that can update and maintain our Facebook page and the phone calling service. Contact use at ncfs.org@gmail.com

LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemetery
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Teacherspet130@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Among the many challenges in our lives this past year, the topic on everyone's mind has definitely been Covid-19... How do we avoid it? How do we fight it? How do we overcome it? And how do we stop it? Life has come to be very different from what we have ever known as global isolation was instituted and our wide range of personal interactions continued to diminish considerably due to sheltering in place policies. For some people living alone, socialization pretty much ceased. I sincerely hope you have been coping well during these trying times and found new ways to be resilient and navigate through this stressful pandemic. I also hope you learned that you/we can adjust, adapt and accept a new normal until the change we're waiting for arrives and we can then return to a

enjoyed. Looking forward $\rightarrow \rightarrow$.

How do we move ahead with our New Cracow Friendship Society programs and activities and keep the Society growing, connected and vibrant? One of the positive things to come out of this pandemic crisis was seeing how resilient and creative we really are. In light of the social unrest and political discord we were faced with last year, our Board members chose to be pro-active on a platform against anti-Semitism, bias, racism and prejudice. In October, our Society members were invited to tune in to a virtual panel discussion on racism, "The Power of our Stories", from WEDU Holocaust On a following virtual Zoom program Education. sponsored by 3Gnyc, our 3rd generation Board member, Anna Scheumann Gallegos, presented a glowing tribute to her grandfather, Max Hilfstein, zlv, a founding member and lifetime supporter of our New Cracow Friendship Society. Our Board is presently moving forward to explore more topics for virtual discussion, one of which will hopefully be on trans-generational trauma, a relevant issue during these troubled times. We hope you will participate in all our future programs. If you have any topics or programs you feel are relevant to our multigeneration membership, please do let us know.

2021 Membership dues responses have been very forthcoming this year. I guess that happens when one is home alot! We thank you for all your generous

reasonable semblance of the freedoms we have always contributions in addition to the yearly dues. Your continued commitment and support will make a huge difference in our future endeavors. And when the gates open up to meet again in person, we will be happy to celebrate that time together.

> Please remit your 2021 membership dues and any outstanding dues you may owe by check to NCFS and mail to the address below. You can also pay online through PayPal. For PayPal information, please visit our website:

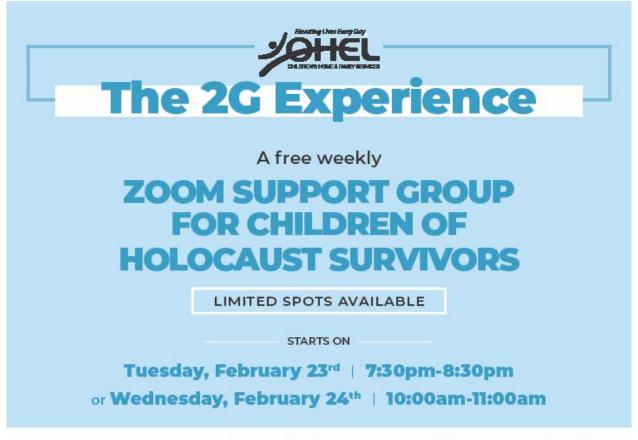
> www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org. Dues are \$25 for single memberships, \$40 for couples/family. 3G's over 18 years of age must apply. Any additional contributions are always appreciated.

> Our sincerest condolences are extended to family members of our dearly departed.

> We welcome our newest 2G members: Ruth Kandel, daughter of Max (zlv) and Ann Kandel (zlv). Betty Ehrenberg, daughter of Naftali Ehrenberg, Auschwitz survivor from Cracow.

Stay safe. Be well. Stay positive. See you soon.

Best regards, Ida Lewis Membership Committee Chairperson 147-17 78th Road Flushing NY 11367 (718)380-3574; email- idale747@gmail.com



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY January 27, 2021

On that day we were invited to join the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue on a virtual tour of Plaszow Concentration Camp. It was beautifully done and very informational, especially for those, like myself, who have never been able to see it in person. It was moderated by our member Elizabeth Szancer who told the story of her parents' experiences during the Shoah. The tour was supervised by Adam Shorn.

I was happy to see many members of our Society during this tour and thank Steven Morris who helped plan and execute this presentation and for the shoutout by their their rabbi aknowledging our organization to all the participants. At the end of the presentation there was discussion as to what should be done on the site of the former camp as to whether there should be a brick and mortar musuem or an open area with monuments. Arthur Spielman was a participant in the discussion as well as Peter Berkowsky. The feedback that was observed through the chat, while the presentation was in progress, was exceptional, and I hope for many more such presentations in the future.

Steven Radwan

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We of the New Cracow Friendship Society Board felt it was extremely important to share our thoughts regarding the horrible events witnessed this past week the riots at the Capitol, the visible presence of hate language symbols, Holocaust-denying neo-Nazis terrorists wearing anti-Semitic slogans and outright disrespect for our sacred democracy. We also include the vandalizing of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, in New York City, with the Confederate flag, a symbol of hate, tied to the front of the museum. As stated by Jack Kliger, President and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, this was an "atrocious attack" on our community.

At our core, NCFS supports democracy and the basic tenet of peaceful protest. What happened this past Wednesday [January 6] at the Capitol was not a protest. It was an abhorrent attack on the house of the people of the United States of America—the first attack on our nation's Capital since 1814.

We are living in extremely stressful days. These times also serve as a reminder of the importance of our mission – we stand against bigotry and anti-Semitism

here in the US and globally, and denounce any movement or individual that contradicts any aspect of our mission started by our parents and grandparents.

You may be asking – what can I do, what can we do as a community and how do we take action? We encourage you to refer to the ADL website for ideas on joining in on fighting hate for good. https://www.adl.org/take-action

Please feel free to reach out to any of the board members if you have any concerns and/or you simply want to connect. We are here and available to support you during these challenging times.

PROPERTY CLAIM

Kraków dn. 02/10/2020 Syg. Akt. I Ns 750/19/S

w odpowiedzi należy podać datę i sygnaturę akt

Mew Cracow Friendship Society, Inc

Sąd Rejonowy dla Krakowa - Śródmieścia w Krakowie I Wydział Cywilny w sprawie

z wniosku: Magdy Leuchter

zwraca się o podanie wszelkich informacji dotyczących Oskara Raps ur. dnia 20 listopada 1902 roku w Krakowie, syna Zacharyasza Leiba Rapsa i Feigel Lei z domu Manne, męża Jadwigi Manne i ojca Jerzego Ryszarda, ostatnio zamieszkałego w Krakowie przy ul. Starowiślnej 43, które pozwolą ustalić, czy przeżył II Wojnę Światową, czy znane są jego losy w czasie II Wojny Światowej, gdzie i kiedy został pochowany, czy toczyło się postępowanie spadkowe po nim, czy został uznany za zmarłego, czy zostały sporządzone akty zgonu ewentualnie inne formy rejestracji faktu śmierci.

Na zarzadzenie Sędziego

Z upoważnienia Kierownika Sekretariatu protokolant sądowy Gabriela Kubowicz

UWAGA

INFORMACJI w sprawach udziela BIURO OBSŁUGI INTERESANTÓW

poniedziałek 7:30-18:00

wtorek - piątek 7.30 - 16:00

telefon 12 286 32 83, 0801 800 122

WGLĄD - do akt sprawy odbywa się w CZYTELNI pokój B-28

poniedziałek 8.30 - 18.00 / wtorek - piątek 8.30 - 14.30 po wcześniejszym telefonicznym uzgodnieniu w sekretariacie 12 619-56-22 najpóźniej 3 dni przed terminem rozprawy.

District Court for Kraków-Śródmieście in Kraków 1st Civil Division ul. At Roundabout 7 31-547 Krakow

Krakow on 02/10/2020

Signal Act. I Ns 750/19 / S

the response should include the date and reference number New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc

District Court for Kraków-Śródmieście in Kraków, 1st Civil Division in the case from the conclusion: Magdy Leuchter asks for any information regarding Oskar Raps born. on November 20, 1902 in Krakow, son of Zacharyasz Leib Raps and Feigel Lei née Manne, husband of Jadwiga Manne and father of Jerzy Ryszard, recently residing in Krakow at ul. Starowiślna 43, which will make it possible to determine whether he survived the Second World War, whether his fate during the Second World War is known, where and when he was buried, whether inheritance proceedings followed, whether he was pronounced dead, whether death certificates were drawn up or other forms of registering the fact of death.

On the order of the judge

On behalf of the Head of Secretariat

court clerk Gabriela Kubowicz

ATTENTION

INFORMATION on matters is provided STAKEHOLDER SERVICE OFFICE

Monday 7: 30-18: 00

Tuesday - Friday 7.30am - 4pm

phone 12 286 32 83, 0801 800 122

INSIGHT - the case files are entered in the READING at the end of the tunnel.

ROOM, room B-28

2.30pm

by prior telephone arrangement at the secretariat 12 619-56-22 at the latest 3 days before the date of the hearing

Simone Hilfstein Scheumann President www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org ncfs.org@gmail.com

THE DARK BEFORE THE DAWN

One of my favorite all time bands, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young (CSNY), had a great song called Long Time. It was written during the Vietnam War when life was bleak in America. The chorus lyrics went – *It appears* to be a long time, before the dawn... Another well known phrase with similar meaning, is that it is always darkest before the dawn.

It is both a true statement and a symbolic one. And anyone, or any people, who have lived through tough or terrible times, know it to be true. And that is also a true statement, probably for no one more than many readers of this newsletter, who survived the Shoah.

While there is no comparison to the singular evil of that period and the unbearable times that required such

faith and perseverance to even imagine the light at the end of the tunnel, there have been other countless periods in history that have been difficult to live through. And the one we are all living through now, certainly counts as one of those periods.

A lot has been written and said about the COVID-19 pandemic. But I believe its uniqueness lies in the same experience that everyone on the planet is sharing at the same time. It isn't us vs. them. It isn't the bad guys vs. the good guys. It isn't a local war in the Middle East. It isn't right wing vs. left wing, or Republican vs. Democrat or any other combination of groupings you can come up with. Its everyone. The virus doesn't differentiate between people or countries. All of mankind is going through this terrible period at the same time.

And it isn't only the fact that it has changed all of our lives, which in many ways have come to a grinding halt in the past year. It is the numbers that people are getting used to and the faces that are becoming invisible. As of this writing – more than 400,000 people have died in the United States, more than all the US soldiers killed the in World War II. Almost 4,500 Israeli have died (way more than those who died in the Yom Kippur War, considered to this point, the country's worse trauma). And these numbers will go up. Because we are not out of this yet. Despite the beginning of the light that we can see

My focus, as usual, is on Israel, but these Monday 8.30am - 6.00pm / Tuesday - Friday 8.30am - numbers, this tragedy, can be repeated for every country in the world... Some are better than others. Some are worse. All have been badly hit.

> Here in Israel, it's a mixed bag, and the phrases I started with, have never been more true. We are currently at the peak, of the worst of the three waves to have hit Israel thus far. Almost 1,000 of the deaths I noted above are since the beginning of the year. We hit over 10,000 new confirmed cases last week, an all time high. When you start putting these numbers into per capita figures for a population of 9.5 million, you begin to understand how huge this has hit Israel. I'm not even referring to businesses that I personally don't see how any of them survive. Just in the latest lockdown, they have been closed for over a month and have another 2 weeks to go.

> There is plenty of criticism against a dysfunctional government, that was needed the most in this time of crisis but failed miserably. From the beginning the wrong people were handling the logistics. It took months to get things in order regarding the amount of tests a day, to the amount of shots. Enforcement has been selective and certainly not effective, with the glaring examples being large segments of the ultra-orthodox sectors who keep schools open against the law (when the entire education in the country is shut down), to having secret large weddings of hundreds if not thousands of people dancing without social distancing and the majority

without masks, again against the law. There are other parts of society that also have disregarded the law over the course of the last year, including weddings in Arab towns, people not going into quarantine after returning from abroad, and people out in about in Tel Aviv, on the beach and boardwalk against the rules as well. But no where has received as much attention as what is happening in those ultra-orthodox, or Haredi communities, and it seems it is reaching a boiling point. The reason is because most people in the country, believe that many or most of the decisions being taken in relation to the pandemic, whether they be about the timing and length of the lockdowns and the intensity of the enforcement, are politically motivated. Israeli media showed this week that while the rate of infection in the Haredi cities was dramatically higher there than in the general public, the amount of tickets given out by the police to those not keeping the rules were exponentially less in those same communities. Never if ever, do you hear the Haredi representatives in the Knesset calling out their people, though you do see them preventing passage of laws that would increase the fines given out to both individuals who flaunt the law and institutions, such as schools, that remain open against the law. What you do see, nightly, and especially this past week, when the police – from the look of it are taking to heart the media and public outcry to their lack of enforcement are making an effort to change the equation – are rock throwing, diaper throwing, crowds of indignant Haredi protesters calling the police Nazis, because they dared to try and stop them from breaking the law and spreading the virus, which first and foremost is decimating their ranks.

The common thinking is that our Prime Minister, literally fighting for his political life, cannot afford to alienate perhaps the only remaining group of supporters (beyond the Likud) that he has in the once famous right wing block. The feeling is that the lack of police enforcement this past year in those communities is not a coincidence. And frankly, the public is sick of it. One article by a premier journalist in Yediot Achronot, even put this situation into a far more dangerous perspective. This isn't even about the pandemic anymore. This is about sovereignty. It is nothing less than a rebellion against the state which can't afford to allow any group the autonomy to flaunt the law and do what it wants, when it wants. That is the beginning of anarchy and the end of democracy. These are harsh words. But they are resonating. Even in the Haredi community, where more and more rank and file people are making their voices known that they too are sick of having the margins stigmatize them all, get them sick, and cause a backlash of public opinion against them. The results of that public mood may very well be reflected in the coming election.

But its not just the enforcement. Any reasonable person has to give credit to the prime minister for his

personal heroic efforts to bring the vaccines to Israel. It is no secret that Israel leads the world in vaccines per capita and is well on its way to being the first country in the world to vaccinate its entire population. Netanyahu, to his credit, was able to sell the argument to Pfizer and Moderna, that Israel is the perfect testing ground to see the effects of the vaccine on the population and in exchange for us sharing that information, more and more vaccines were sent to Israel which due to its size, and its health system of Kupat Cholim medical clinics is well organized (now, finally, after all these months) for the vaccination operation which one must admit is working like a clock. But while those efforts are to be admired. they come hand in hand with the not so secret campaign that these shots are what will save him in the March 23 elections. When and for how long to have a lockdown, when to open up businesses, these are all questions that fall into the campaign concerns and its hard to escape the feeling that these decisions, while in many cases are in the interest of the public, in some cases are not and that they are politically tainted.

Be that as it may, the point is – we have reached the point that almost anything that happens is considered to be politically tainted. The government hardly functions since it was dispersed on Dec 23 and elections called. Benny Gantz's Blue and White party, which once had over 30 seats has watched almost all of its members defect to other parties and now it is clear that if what is left of it doesn't merge with someone else (if someone else will even take them) the party will not pass the minimum electoral threshold to enter the Knesset and will disappear. But in the meanwhile, they still hold the balance in any government decision and its hard to exaggerate the enmity between Gantz and Netanyahu in the background of decisions they still need to work together on for the public good. And it doesn't go smoothly, to say the least.

The disgust for the government in large parts of Israeli society, and particularly for the divisiveness sown over the years by Netanyahu and many of his party hacks and the verbal attacks on the police, ministry of Justice, the courts and the Attorney General in the context of the Prime Minister's upcoming trial, manifests itself in countless articles and discussions in the media if whether or not what we saw happen on January 6th at the US Capitol, can happen in Israel. These events, too, are part of the dark public discourse these days in Israel, and may very well have an impact on the upcoming election.

The perfect storm of the pandemic and the worst political and economic crises in the country's history, are putting a lot of pressure on the outcome of that March 23 election. Change is in the air. Today, as the polls are showing, large swaths of the center left are willing to support Saar or Bennet, other right wing politicians who want to bring an end to the Netanyahu era. Whether that

will happen in the end, or Netanyahu can pull off another dazzling victory remains to be seen, but it is an increasingly likely scenario.

The vaccinations have brought hope and all spokespeople, not just government spokespeople, and not just in Israel, are speaking as if this is what will finally bring an end to the pandemic and give us back our lives. In other words, the light at the end of the tunnel. Or to put it another way, we are currently in perhaps the darkest period of this pandemic/political/economic storm, clearly, the worst global crisis since World War II and the Shoah, and certainly in the lifetime of this author – who by the way, is writing this from Quarantine – one that I am scheduled to exit in several days, the same day my second vaccination comes into effect (one week after I took it). But as they say, it is always darkest before dawn, when the light (that same light at the end of the tunnel) is appearing. There indeed is room for hope and optimism. And there is also room for prayer that the light we are seeing isn't just another oncoming train.

Barry Spielman Oranit, Israel January 22, 2021

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

HAPPY EVENTS ANNIVERSARIES: January

Joseph and Yolanda Chaikel 51 Allan and Shelly Spielman 24 Jack and Faye Gingold 36

DONATIONS

From Marsha Edell in memory of the 1st yahrzeit of her mother, our life-long member and dear friend, Dola Polland. (z'lv)- \$36.00

In honor of newborns Noam Halpern (grandson) & Elan Harel (great nephew) and marriage of daughter Danielle. Mazal tov! Mazal tov! Mazal tov! Betty & William Nusblat -\$100.

Wishing everyone optimal health in the year 2021. Waiting to hear good news.

Sunshine Committee Chairwomen Ida Lewis- (718) 380-3574. Email- <u>idale747@gmail.com</u> Eva Pfau - (718) 464-0932

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Everything you need in your hour of need.

Elegant and spacious sanctuaries located adjacent to New Montefiore, Beth Moses, Wellwood, Mt. Ararat and Pinelawn Memorial Park.



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ANDREW NOVAK KEVIN GRAY LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

1236 Wellwood Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704 www.starofdavidmemorialchapels.com AS MOST OF OUR MEMBERS NOW FALL INTO THE CATEGORY PF PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COVID VACCINE, WE URGE ALL OF YOU OVER THE AGE OF 65 TO GET APPOINTMENTS FOR THE SHOTS.

THOSE IN NEW YORK CAN CALL 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)
YOU CAN ALSO GO ONLINE TO COVID-19VACCINE.HEALTH.NY.GOV
YOU CAN ALSO TRY HTTPS://WWW.MYCONNECTNYC.ORG

IN NEW JERSEY THE WEBSITE IS COVIDVACCINE.NJ.GOV