

THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

Monday, April 20, 2026 • PressofAtlanticCity.com

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

Serving Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & southern Ocean counties

MARGATE

COMMUNITY REMEMBERS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS



VERNON OGRADNEK PHOTOS, SARA AND SAM SCHOFFER HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER AT STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

TOP: Holocaust survivor Raymond Polak, of Cinnaminson, speaks at the Yom HaShoah program titled “Unto Every Person There is a Name,” which honored Holocaust survivors and remembered its 6 million Jewish victims on Monday at Beth El Synagogue in Margate.

LEFT: The event, sponsored by the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University, included a memorial service.

RIGHT: People reflect during a somber moment at the memorial.

South Jersey survivors also honored at memorial service hosted by Stockton

PRESS STAFF REPORTS

MARGATE — A community program Monday at Beth El Synagogue helped mark Yom HaShoah, drawing residents from across southern New Jersey for an evening of remembrance.

Titled “Unto Every Person There Is a Name,” the event honored Holocaust survivors in the region and included a memorial service for the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Organized by the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, the evening emphasized preserving survivor testimony and passing the lessons of the Shoah to future generations.

Holocaust survivor Raymond Polak, of Cinnaminson, Burlington County, delivered the keynote, recounting his family’s story during World War II. Born in 1943 in Limoges, France, Polak described his mother’s escape from the Les Milles internment camp and his father’s role in the French resistance. With forged documents, his parents evaded both the Gestapo and French police as deportations to Auschwitz intensified, he told the audience.

Polak said he did not learn he was Jewish

until he was a child and only later understood the full story of his family’s survival. Describing the roughly 1.5 million Jewish children who were killed during the Holocaust, he said he was among a small number who survived.

Community member Sandy Greenberg, the child of survivors, addressed younger generations, expressing hope that “the chain of memory will not be broken.”

Supporting organizations of the event included Beron Jewish Older Adult Services; the Board of Jewish Education of Atlantic and Cape May Counties; Chabad Stockton University; Office of the Dean of Students at Stockton; Garr Greenstein Friedenbergh Jewish War Veterans Post 39; Generations After the Shoah; Holocaust Survivors Committee; Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties; Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties; the Marjorie & Lewis Katz Jewish Community Center; MOSAIC; the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage; the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton; the South Jersey Board of Rabbis and Cantors; and Stockton University Hillel.

EHT COMMITTEE

Hodson, Pfrommer seeking reelection

DAN GROTE
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — Incumbent Republicans Mayor Laura Pfrommer and Paul Hodson are seeking reelection to the Township Committee and will face a challenge in the June 2 primary from former school board President Doris Dilley.

The two are running as a team. Pfrommer has been on the committee since 2011, Hodson since 2006. Pfrommer has been mayor since 2023. Hodson served as mayor from 2019 to 2022.

Pfrommer previously confirmed her and Hodson’s campaign status to The Press of Atlantic City, but they formally announced their reelection bid this week.

According to the Egg Harbor Township Democrats’ Facebook page, local school board members Juanita Hyman and Tamika Gilbert-Floyd will challenge the two Republican primary winners in the November general election. Gilbert-Floyd is the current school board president.

Please see REELECTION, Page A2

AC firefighter honored for 2024 rescue

DAN GROTE
Staff Writer

Atlantic City firefighter Joseph Reitzler was awarded a certificate of valor by the Atlantic County Firefighters Association for a 2024 rescue during the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards ceremony Wednesday at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township.

On July 11, 2024, firefighters from multiple towns responded to a five-alarm blaze at an aging four-story rooming house on South Georgia Avenue in Atlantic City. The building was engulfed, with multiple residents trapped inside, city officials said Friday in a news release. Several victims jumped from windows to escape the

Please see REITZLER, Page A2

Education chief: School funding formula needs change

NIKITA BIRYUKOV
newjerseymonitor.com

New Jersey’s school funding formula should be changed to be more predictable and transparent following years of steep aid swings that have spurred school closures in some districts, state Education Commissioner Lily Laux told the Assembly Budget Committee Wednesday.

Lawmakers should also consider a broader examination of how the formula determines funding levels for districts given the changes they’ve faced to their needs since New Jersey enacted the formula in 2008, she said.

“This question of how we are looking at what schools really need is one that I think requires all of us to look carefully to say, are there better ways to do it,” she

Please see FUNDING, Page A3