

## OBITUARIES

## Samuel R. Schnydmann

Retired financial adviser and insurance agent had a sense of adventure, traveled world by 'land, sea and air' with his wife

By Jacques Kelly

Samuel Rosenberg "Sam" Schnydmann, a retired financial adviser and insurance agent, died of Parkinson's disease complications May 8 at St. Agnes Hospital. The Locust Point resident was 81.

Born in Baltimore and raised on Vickers Road in Ashburton, he was the son of Rubie Schnydmann, a Little Potts furniture company vice president, and his wife, Florine "Flo" Rosenberg, a homemaker. He was a 1958 Baltimore City College graduate and loved sports, including lacrosse and soccer. He earned a degree at what is now known as the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Schnydmann went into the insurance field and in 1966 joined the Milton Young Agency of Connecticut Mutual. He later earned his designation as a financial consultant, special needs planner and chartered life underwriter. He also gave classes about the insurance industry and mentored others in his line of work.

As the industry changed, Mr. Schnydmann adopted new techniques. He embraced technology and abandoned printed materials to work with software and computers.

"He was always on the computers while other guys were hauling rate books around in the 1980s," said his business collaborator, Charles J. O'Connell.

Mr. Schnydmann encouraged his colleagues to include wealth management in their insurance practices. He reminded younger agents that they should look to their fellow agents as their best prospects and welcome collaborations.

"He was always willing to do joint work with someone," said Mr. O'Connell, a Massachusetts Mutual financial adviser.

"He loved to sit down with families and talk about their needs and goals," said Mr. O'Connell. "Sam was a gracious person. He loved to meet people and to talk with them. He was a social marketer. He did not put ads in the paper. And throughout his life he got many referrals. It was always word of mouth."

He had offices in downtown Baltimore and Towson.

Mr. Schnydmann described his profession as a "commissioned salesman." He often spoke of the "joy and oye" of the financial business, meaning there were good times and not so good times.

"He loved being able to deliver death

benefits and disability benefits to keep his clients living in dignity and avoiding poverty," said Mr. O'Connell. "He had a long career and there are still people living who will benefit from the work they did together with Sam."

He had a strong work ethic. "Everything was urgent to Sam," said Mr. O'Connell. "If he told someone he was going to follow up, that's what he did. He knew his families and remembered their birthdays and anniversaries. He attended their funerals."

Friends said Mr. Schnydmann was dedicated to his church.

"I met Sam in 1993 and we became friends," said the Rev. Fr. William J. Watters, former pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Mount Vernon. "He read spiritual books. The Bible was of course his favorite, but he kept the works of the medievalist, Thomas à Kempis at his bedside and read it every night. Sam loved his service in the church's sanctuary and was a great storyteller."

Father Watters also said, "He helped people during his working years and had his private charities, bringing people food or money and giving them his time."

Friends said Mr. Schnydmann awaited Baltimore's professional baseball and football seasons.

He met his future wife, Theresa "Thea" Blanche-Koelensmid, at his insurance office in the old First National Bank Building where she was working for another agent.

Mr. Schnydmann discovered a love of good food, especially his wife's Indonesian-style fried rice and other dishes she prepared.

"With a sense of adventure, they traveled the world together, by land, sea, and air, where Sam shared his infectious warmth and sense of humor with everyone he met, even if he didn't speak the language," said his business partner, Mr. O'Connell.

Mr. Schnydmann is survived by his wife of 42 years, Theresa "Thea" Blanche-Koelensmid, a retired Catholic Charities resource coordinator; a daughter, Jennifer Schnydmann of Ellicott City; a sister, Hobbie Bruckner of Longmont, Colorado; a stepson, Greg Pesik of Provincetown, Massachusetts; a stepdaughter, Nicki Pesik of Atlanta; and a grandson.

A life celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. May 21 at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, 740 N. Calvert St., where he was a member. A family visitation begins at 9:30 a.m.



Samuel R. Schnydmann was a member of St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church.

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## Hats

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me, it was always a question about your hat, like, 'What kind of hat are you wearing?'"

And that's where Ashley Clark comes to the rescue. Clark is the founder, designer and CEO of Soigné Luxury Accessories, headquartered in Fells Point.

"A lot of the time I make hats that I can't find out there," the 34-year-old entrepreneur said. "I always say I design for the extraordinary, not the ordinary. There are no plain bagels in my client roster."

Soigné began as a vivid dream that felt so real it led Clark to drop out of law school. She traveled to France to study the craft, took millinery courses from Hat Academy, and began making hats for friends around 2016.

In 2018, Clark officially launched Soigné and began the business' transformation from a dream to an award-winning brand that has loyal clients and a reputation for jaw-dropping designs.

"I've been lucky my designs have won best hat at all three races (Triple Crown) and I made history in 2019, being the first ever small business-owned, small designer, to win best hat."

For last year's Preakness she created a hat for Moses-Allen that featured remote-controlled feather butterflies. The design not only won, but made headlines.

"Morgan's hat was on the cover of USA Today," Clark said, describing how she hand-painted feathers to craft the hat and butterflies. "They fluttered on her head."

The pandemic forced Clark to explore other accessories such as headbands, earmuffs, jewelry and more.

"Hats are the love of my life, honestly," she said. "All of the other products came about because of COVID. I didn't want to fire my staff and we had a bunch of fabric and stuff lying around, and we just pivoted. It was like: 'how can you look good from the neck up in pajamas on a Zoom call during COVID?'"

Clark opened a brick and mortar in Boston in November 2020, but she quickly "outgrew" that location. She previously lived in Baltimore for nine years, where she participated in pageants, worked as an NFL cheerleader and studied in graduate school. When it was time to expand, the CEO knew the area would be an affordable option to grow her business.

"Baltimore plays such a big role in this journey because of the affordability and then there's horse racing and that niche market," Clark said. "But people don't realize that Baltimore has a kaleidoscope of fashion that also inspires me on a daily basis."

A long-standing Baltimore battle of local aesthetic also influences Clark's designs.

BALTIMORE CITY  
NOTICE OF A PROPOSED  
REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of Baltimore City proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2022, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 0.41% from \$40,636,803,462 to \$40,805,128,218.

2. If Baltimore City maintains the current tax rate of \$2.248 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 0.41% resulting in \$3,783,941 of new real property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$2.2387, the constant yield tax rate.

4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$2.248 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 0.41% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$3,783,941 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 26, 2022, in the Hyman Pressman Board Room, Baltimore City Hall, 100 Holliday Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Participants will also have the option to join the hearing remotely via video and audio teleconference. For information on how to view the video conference or listen via audio, or to provide testimony into the conference, please visit the City Council's web page at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com) or use the following link: <https://bit.ly/BaltimoreBudget>. This page also contains information on registering for public comment.

All speakers will be allowed to address the Council for two (2) minutes. Public comment may also be made by visiting <https://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/testify> or emailing [testimony@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:testimony@baltimorecity.gov).

All electronic comments must be submitted by 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Comments received will be read by Baltimore City Council staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call the Office of Council Services at 443-984-3485 or visit the Council's web page at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com), for further information.

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