



The first two photos show the first reconstruction of Jane Doe, the murder victim whose body was discovered in Bedford in 1971. The second two photos show a 2006 reconstruction.

Who killed Jane Doe 1971?

Genealogist, Bedford officer won't give up on cold case

Melinde Lutz Byrne is a person who connects the dots. We found that out after first meeting her a couple of years ago when the 10th annual New England Regional Genealogical Conference came to Manchester.

The Bedford resident is highly respected in her field. She is one of the 50 living fellows of the American Society of Genealogists, an author and the director of the Genealogical Research Program at Boston University.

She can trace your family tree, starting from the roots or the top branch, by digging through records from libraries and courthouses, municipal documents, church registers, census records and published letters.

Her work has helped prove wills and aided doctors trying to understand the origins of hereditary issues in families.

Lutz, in many ways, is a storyteller. But those stories always start with a name.

That's why she is so intrigued by the Jane Doe case of 1971.

There was no name attached to the woman a hunter found in wooded area along near Kilton Road in Bedford on Oct. 6, 1971. Just her remains.

The area bustles with traffic now. But Kilton Road was a dead end back then and still a good place for hunters to track game during the fall season. One of them came across a pile of brush, the smell overpowering.

He stuck his gun into the pile and uncovered a skull. He ran off and called police. It was the lead story in the next day's edition of the Manchester Union Leader.

One of the headlines read: "Hunter Makes Gruesome Find; Probe Begun." But the investigation went nowhere.

It is almost 40 years since Jane Doe was found and the various officers who have taken their crack at solving the case have not been able to identify the body.

That's where Melinde Byrne comes in. A woman died less than five miles from her own home and no one knows who she is. Lutz doesn't think that is right. "I'm chal-

Jim Fennell

Just Checking In



THOMAS ROY/UNION LEADER

Genealogist Melinde Lutz Byrne of Bedford meets with Bedford Police Chief David Bailey at the spot "Jane Doe 1971" was found off Kilton Road in Bedford in October 1971. Lutz, who teaches a genealogical research certificate program at Boston University, holds photos made by an artist of what the woman may have looked like.

lenged by the fact that the skills I have as a genealogist can and have been used to solve cases like this," Lutz said.

She gave the students in her forensic research class at BU three similar cases to study. She said they were able to identify two fairly quickly, but not Jane Doe. She's had about 400 students over the past three years take a run at it. None have been successful.

She has worked with the Bedford Police Department and detectives for the Cold Case Unit of the New Hampshire Department of Justice. Her credentials have given her a credibility that has allowed her to form a relationship with the police.

"She's hasn't been pushy, she's not running around like she's a police officer," Bedford Police

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The Oct. 7, 1971, Manchester Union Leader shows the recovery of Jane Doe's body. The case has yet to be solved.



KATHY MARCHOKI/UNION LEADER

Ella Shpindler, 3, helps Rabbi Levi Krinsky of Chabad Lubavitch grind wheat into flour, which they used to make homemade matzah at the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester Sunday. Passover begins at sundown Monday.

Matzah lesson teaches kids about Passover

◆ **Holiday starts Monday: First Seder meal is at sundown.**

Staff Report

Jews preparing for the widely observed holiday of Passover have been cleaning their homes and clearing them of leavened products.

The eight-day holiday begins at sundown Monday with the first Seder meal.

Passover celebrates the flight of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and beginning of Jewish nationhood.

Matzah, or unleavened bread, is the food most associated with this holiday. The unleavened bread commemorates the Hebrews' flight from Egypt, which happened with such haste there was no time to let the dough they had prepared to rise, according to area rabbis.

Rabbi Levi Krinsky of

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COURTESY PHOTO

Rabbi Levi Krinsky of Chabad Lubavitch New Hampshire recently helped children make matzah in preparation of Passover. The children ground their own wheat, rolled out the dough and baked it at the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester.

Rabbis seek to 'rebrand' movement

◆ **Vegas convention:** Message is that declining Conservative denomination is changing.

By MITCHELL LANDSBERG
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — Three hundred rabbis walk into a Las Vegas martini lounge. Bartenders scramble to handle the crowd — the rabbis are thirsty. Suddenly, an Elvis impersonator takes the stage.

We are faced with two possibilities.

One, this is the beginning of a joke.

Two, they don't make rabbis the way they used to.

The Rabbinical Assembly, the clerical arm of Conservative Judaism, would have you believe the second message, or something like it. That's why it launched its 2011 convention with a martini reception at a Las Vegas synagogue. The gathering was billed as an attempt to "rebrand" the Conservative movement, which has seen alarming declines in membership in recent years.

"We are in deep trouble," Rabbi Edward Feinstein of congregation Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, Calif., told the convention the next day. "There isn't a single demographic that is encouraging for the future of Conservative Judaism. Not one."

Those words could apply equally to a number of U.S. religious denominations, especially liberal Protestant and Jewish faiths. Membership is falling; churches and synagogues are struggling financially; and surveys show robust growth among the ranks of those who declare no religious affiliation.

The situation may be especially alarming to the Conser-



GLENN KOENIG/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Jerry Greenfield, left, of Ben and Jerry's, and Rabbi David Wolpe have a discussion at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, California. Conservative Jewish rabbis met recently in Las Vegas to talk about a plan to "rebrand" the Conservative movement, which has seen alarming declines in membership in recent years.

vative movement because it was, for many years, the largest denomination in American Judaism. It was the solid center, more traditional than Reform, more open to change than Orthodoxy.

A decade ago, roughly one of every three American Jews identified as Conservative. Since then, Conservative synagogue membership has declined by 14 percent — and by 30 percent in the Northeast, the traditional stronghold of American Judaism.

By 2010, only about one in five Jews in the U.S. identified as Conservative, according to the American Jewish Congress.

The Reform and Orthodox movements also saw declines, although not nearly as steep. Reform Judaism for a time claimed the most adherents, but today that distinction goes to people who identify themselves as "just Jewish," meaning they don't associate with any of the traditional denominations. Many are entirely secular.

"We're all in trouble," said Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly and one of those trying to save the Conservative movement. Correcting herself, she said, "We're

not in trouble, but we're in urgent need of rethinking the institutions of Jewish life."

Conservative Judaism has many strengths. It includes some of the most vibrant congregations in American religious life and some of the most prominent rabbis, among them David Wolpe of Los Angeles' Sinai Temple, Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, also in L.A., and Harold Kushner of Natick, Mass., author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People."

But as the rabbis gathered at a Las Vegas resort much of the talk was about the urgent need for change.

The movement's problems, many agree, begin with its name, which has nothing to do with political conservatism and doesn't accurately describe a denomination that accepts openly gay and lesbian rabbis and believes the Bible is open to interpretation. But that's just for starters.

Deep dissatisfaction with the organizations that lead Conservative Judaism prompted a number of influential rabbis in 2009 to demand urgent change, warning, "Time is not on our side." The group won promises of substantial change

from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which represents Conservative congregations, and helped prompt reforms in the institutions that train and represent rabbis.

A similar revolt by prominent Reform rabbis preceded that denomination's continuing effort to reinvent itself, a project launched at L.A.'s Hebrew Union College last November.

So what does it mean for a religious movement to reinvent or rebrand itself?

"It's one thing for a corporation to say 'We're going to reinvent ourselves,'" said David Roozen, director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "Sometimes they get into another business. A religion ... can evolve, it can be reinterpreted, you can express it in a slightly different style, but you can't just be doing Judaism one day and say 'I'm going to sell cars' the next."

The Conservative rabbis won't become car salesmen, but they batted around some fairly radical ideas and predictably stirred up opposition.

There was talk of eliminating membership dues for synagogues or switching to a la carte "fee-for-service" plans — so that a parent who wants only to send his or her child to religious school won't also be paying to support the congregation's other programs. But some said dues give congregants a sense of ownership.

Wolpe, the Sinai Temple rabbi, said the movement needs a slogan, one that's short enough to fit on a bumper sticker. He suggested "A Judaism of Relationships."

"We don't have a coherent ideology," he told his fellow rabbis. "If you ask everybody in this room 'What does Conservative Judaism stand for?' my guess is that you'd get 100 different answers."



JEFF Siner/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Joshua Crawford with son, Jackson and daughter Madison, Joslyn 2 years, mother Miranda with son, James and daughter Mia. Joshua and Miranda Crawford of Charlotte, N.C., recently had quadruplets because they had IVF and the two embryos that were implanted both split, resulting in two sets of identical twins. Doctors say this is very unusual.

Twin twins: Couple has rare quad set

◆ **Identical:** IVF results in two sets of identical twins.

By KAREN GARLOCH
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Miranda and Josh Crawford just wanted another baby.

How they ended up with four is a story of science and serendipity.

They met as nursing students in Conway, S.C., and got married in Las Vegas in 2007.

After trying unsuccessfully to get pregnant, the Crawfords sought help from Reproductive Endocrinology Associates of Charlotte.

The couple tried in vitro fertilization, the common practice of fertilizing human eggs with sperm in the laboratory.

Four embryos developed, and Dr. Seth Katz transferred two of them into Miranda Crawford's uterus.

Only one survived, and the Crawfords' daughter, Joslyn, was born March 17, 2009.

They wanted more than one child, so 10 months later, they tried again, using two frozen embryos left from the initial IVF procedure. The embryos implanted, but a miscarriage followed nine weeks later.

Miranda, 34, a nurse at Presbyterian Hospital, and Josh, 28, a nurse at Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy, didn't have any embryos left. Their insurance covered most of the cost of IVF, about \$10,000 per attempt, so they decided to try it again.

Last June, they got six healthy embryos. Four were frozen, and Katz again transferred two embryos into Miranda Crawford's uterus.

That's when something extraordinary happened.

Both embryos split. Instead of one or two babies, the Crawfords suddenly were expecting four.

There they were, on the ultrasound image, in July.

"I said, 'There's quads,'" Katz recalled. "And she was like, 'You're kidding.' And I said, 'I don't kid about this.' Then I showed her the heartbeats. She was just overwhelmed."

'My heart sank'

Privately, Katz said, "My heart kind of sank a little bit. I knew how high-risk that was."

These weren't just any quads. They were two sets of identical twins. Two boys in one placenta, two girls in the other.

Only 2 percent of pregnancies result in one set of identical twins. Doctors won't even guess how rare it is to have two.

"About twice a year, we'll see one (embryo) split," Katz said. "To have both implant and both split is very unusual ... I'll go my whole career without seeing this happen again."

Because of the risks, Dr. Dan Shaver, a maternal-fetal specialist with Charlotte's Presbyterian Hospital, told the Crawfords that one option was to have a "reduction," the medical term for aborting some of the fetuses for the safety of the others and the

mother. Miranda Crawford said, "It was never an option."

Neither did she agree to amniocentesis, a test used to detect birth defects in high-risk pregnancies.

"We put it in God's hands," she said.

As nurses, both Miranda and Josh Crawford knew their pregnancy would be perilous.

Even single sets of twins are at a higher risk for prematurity, birth defects and death.

Early labor can lead to premature birth and complications from incomplete development. Umbilical cords can get wrapped around babies' necks.

Also, twins who share a placenta have a 15 percent chance of developing twin-twin transfusion syndrome, a potentially fatal condition in which they don't share equally in the placenta's blood supply.

Complications

Miranda did have a few complications. She developed gestational diabetes, a temporary condition in pregnancy, that she controlled by restricting her diet.

In December, she was admitted to the hospital twice, briefly, when doctors wanted to make sure she wasn't going into pre-term labor.

A natural delivery would have been dangerous. So a cesarean section was scheduled for Feb. 4, six weeks ahead of the due date.

By that time, Miranda Crawford's waist had grown to more than 5 feet around, and she had gained 60 pounds. It was as if she was more than 50 weeks pregnant instead of 34.

With the quads fighting for space, Miranda could barely walk.

That afternoon, all four babies arrived, all healthy. More than 20 doctors and nurses, led by Dr. Mark Bland, Miranda's obstetrician, participated in the delivery — a team for each baby and one for Miranda.

Mia came first, at 5 pounds, 2 ounces.

Then Madison, the smallest, 4 pounds, 2 ounces.

James was the biggest, 5 pounds, 10 ounces.

Then Jackson, 4 pounds, 15 ounces.

As is the custom at Presbyterian, Brahms' "Lullaby" played four times — once for each birth — on the speaker system that is heard throughout the hospital.

The babies stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit for several weeks to make sure they could tolerate feedings. Only Madison left the hospital with a heart monitor, mostly as a precaution.

By Feb. 28, all four babies went home to the Crawfords' subdivision in Steele Creek.

The family of three had ballooned to seven.

"I really can't imagine it," said their doctor, Katz, who has three children.

"They're not rich people ... But she has a lot of faith and believes everything happens for a reason. Ultimately, all kids really need is food and a roof over their heads and a lot of love."

Passover

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Chabad Lubavitch New Hampshire recently helped children make matzah in preparation for Passover. They ground their own wheat, rolled out the dough and baked it at the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester last Sunday.

The Seder meal is replete with symbolic reminders of the holiday's historical and agricultural roots, Krinsky said.

Passover observances include many other symbolic reminders of the holiday's historical and agricultural connections, area rabbis say. Horseradish, for instance, is a reminder of the bitterness of slavery, while eggs are symbols of the cycle of life and rebirth in the spring.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rabbi Levi Krinsky of Chabad Lubavitch New Hampshire recently helped children make matzah in preparation for Passover. The children ground their own wheat, rolled out the dough and baked it at the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester.

Cold Case

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Chief David Bailey said.

Bailey was a rookie officer in 1971, six months on the job, when he was assigned to secure the area where Jane Doe was discovered. He thinks of the case every day he drives by the scene.

Bailey is about to retire and says finding the identity of Jane Doe is on his bucket list.

"It boggles my mind that somebody dies and no one steps forward (to identify her)," he said.

Will Delker, the senior assistant attorney general who heads the unit, said the unit has 125 cases. Manpower and money is limited, so Delker said the unit prioritizes cases by their solvability.

Solvable cases need suspects, forensic evidence and witnesses; the Jane Doe case has none of that.

The way crime scene evidence was handled in 1971 is far different than today, mainly because technology has changed. Much of the evidence from Jane Doe, including her remains, was handled by people who weren't wearing gloves, which has made finding DNA evidence difficult.

They know the woman was in her late 20s, maybe early



THOMAS ROY/UNION LEADER

Genealogist Melinde Lutz Byrne, holds photos made by an artist of what "Jane Doe 1971" may have looked like as she meets with Bedford Police Chief David Bailey. The two are at the spot Jane Doe's body was found in October, 1971. The case has never been solved.

30s. But that is about it.

"We don't even know how the woman died," said Bob Frietas, a cold case investigator who is a retired Manchester police detective.

"We don't know who this woman is and until you find

that out, there is not much you can do.

"What is astounding to me is technology is so advanced now, it's so easy to find somebody." Lutz believes the case can be solved and hopes further DNA testing will help.

In the meantime, she and her students peck away.

"I don't want to solve a murder," Lutz said. "I want to solve an identity; I want to give this woman her name back."

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