

Jewish Observer of Central New York

SYRACUSE, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONCNY.ORG

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In Jewish Central New York

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March 2020

Editor's Note

Welcome to the new and improved Jewish Observer!

After months of planning, it's

finally here. This inaugural

issue is just a harbinger of

what's to come. The new JO is

more informative. It's color-

ful. It's a paper for the times.

We have made the JO a more

readable publication that will

hopefully excite and inform



Bette Siegel, Editor

you. We want you, our readers, excited enough about it so that when it arrives at your doorstop sometime the first week of every month, you'll read it before you look at your cell phone.

The *JO* is the only vehicle in this region with news about Jews – our Jews. We will still carry news about the region's synagogues and local Jewish organizations. We will still spread the news about the accomplishments of our Jewish Federation here and abroad. We will still feature Jewish lifecycle events. We will honor those who have passed and laud the accomplishments of our younger generations. We will highlight Jews in the community and present information you cannot find elsewhere. We will print articles of interest – book reviews, restaurant reviews, recipes, upcoming attractions, letters to the editor and information about upcoming events and retrospectives of past events.

We hope you enjoy this 21st century *JO* and make it a part of your life. Welcome to a new world! Please contact me, and we'll chat.

Your editor, Bette Siegel

jewishobservercny@gmail.com or 315-445-2040 ext. 116

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Community Happenings.

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Letter to the **Editor** Proud to be Jewish

Shira Boschan

How can it be? How can this be happening? I am absolutely horrified by the anti-Semitism in our country. The deadly attack at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue just over a year ago, followed by the shooting at the Chabad of Poway and now Brooklyn, Jersey City, Monsey. In our own community, bomb threats at our JCC a few years ago and more recently, a swastika drawn in the snow on SU's campus. This is not supposed to be happening in America. This is supposed to be the country where Jews, and people of all religious backgrounds, don't have to be scared to practice what they believe in. Who would have thought, certainly not our grandparents or greatgrandparents who escaped Nazi Germany, that at the end of 2019 we would be hearing news of Jews being stabbed during a Hannukah celebration in Monsey, NY?

Who would have imagined that in 2019, 10% of Americans and over 1 billion people worldwide would harbor anti-Semitic views? These are the facts according to a study by the Anti-Defamation League. This is our reality.

So what do WE do? What are YOU doing?

In her book *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, *NY Times* staff writer and editor Bari Weiss says, "Tell your story. The proper, and ultimately only response to this moment, is to practice a Judaism of affirmation, not a Judaism of defensiveness."

We each have different Jewish practices, connections and even beliefs. We each connect to our religion in different ways. I respect the choices my friends, family and fellow Jews make in regard to their Judaism. That being said, I am compelled to share with those around me one of the most important ways that I have always connected and will continue to connect to my Judaism. My Jewish day school education, which I received from the Syracuse Hebrew Day School (SHDS graduating class of 1997), helped me build on the Jewish foundation my parents provided for me. I learned to read, write and speak Hebrew. I learned Jewish values. I learned ancient and modern Jewish history. I learned about our Jewish homeland, Israel. I learned religious Jewish traditions and practices. And possibly most importantly, I learned about all of the choices and various practices within Judaism. That is the beauty of a small Jewish community, being able to learn from others who may believe or practice differently from you. That is what the Syracuse Hebrew Day School provides: education and experiences that prepare children to live a Jewish life in whatever way each child may choose.

That is why my husband Jared and I have committed to sending our children to the Syracuse Hebrew Day School from Kindergarten through sixth grade. The school has so much to offer with its dual language curriculum, rigorous secular studies, range of extracurricular activities and absolutely incredible and devoted teaching staff. I hope I have piqued your interest. I encourage you to learn more about SHDS in order to decide if it is the right choice for your child and your family. Please reach out to SHDS directly for more information at (315) 446-1900 or email llavine@shds.org.

We each need to find our Jewish way. Be the best Jew we have ever been. Whatever that means to each of us. We owe it to our ancestors who fought time and time again for the future of the Jewish people. We owe it to our children and our children's children. We owe it to the future!

Jewish Observer

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Spring will be here in just a few short weeks. In keeping with nature's promise of new beginnings and endless possibilities, we hope you are as excited about our new *Jewish Observer* format as we are.

Knowing that looks aren't everything, our goal is to provide you with clear, concise information about what is happening in our local Jewish community and relevant happenings in the Jewish community at large. Knowledge and communication are the key essential elements in furthering this goal. Now more than ever, I can think of no better way for us to showcase our strength and unity as a thriving Jewish community than by highlighting the wonderful resources and opportunities available here in Central New York.

It is noteworthy that Purim falls this year on the heels of setting our clocks ahead one hour, effectively offering us the opportunity not only of celebrating the triumph of good over evil and the deliverance of our people from the likes of Haman, but quite literally, bringing us out of darkness.

As we bask in the ever-increasing afternoon light (and for those naysayers out there, the sun does shine in Syracuse), we can be proud of the individuals, agencies, synagogues, organizations and other groups that make up our Jewish community. This new format allows us to better showcase community activities, resources and events. Our goal is to make the *JO* informative and incentivizing – and by that, I mean inspiring you to actively engage in our community – a win/win for all. And since communication is critical to engagement, we also encourage you to visit us at our new and improved website at www.JewishFederationcny.org and on Facebook.

I personally thank all of you for your continued community support. Our inclusive, collective spirit, our passion, and our commitment to the Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world; *tzedakah*, charity and social justice; Torah, Jewish learning; and *l'dor v'dor*, identity and continuity from generation to generation, allow us to fulfill our mission of maintaining and enhancing a strong Jewish identity in Central New York, Israel and worldwide through philanthropy, engagement, education and advocacy.

Please enjoy our new look. And most importantly, please join us at the many happenings highlighted in this issue and those highlighted in issues to come.

Michael Balanoff President/CEO



In a recent article, sociologist Steven Windmueller wrote: "In an age of individualized expression and personal choice, how will the federated system appeal to the next generation of potential donors, while retaining their core supporters? At a moment in time where foundations and individual funders are often operating outside of federations or in competition with the existing communal order, what roles ought these central bodies play? In an age where institutions and leaders are experiencing a loss of trust, how do we ensure access, transparency, and accountability in connection with our umbrella organizations?"

The Jewish Federation of Central New York is committed to addressing and answering these questions, as well as sharing our thinking and conclusions with the community through our community newspaper, the *Jewish Observer*. The Federation is committed to moving our community smoothly and effectively into the second decade of the 21st century through the following actions:

- Helping explore and perhaps redefine the term "Jewish community" in a world in which there are many new ways to "be Jewish."
- **Supporting and promoting** lifelong Jewish learning opportunities, both formal and informal, for a wide range of learners.
- Assisting our community's synagogues, our partner agencies and other community organizations in planning their futures and increasing Jewish engagement.
- **Pushing back against threats** to the Jewish community, countering racism, antisemitism, anti-Zionism and other forms of hate, promoting coalition building, and advancing social justice.
- Working to ensure our community's safety.
- Marshaling resources to meet the needs of our vulnerable populations and an increasingly older Jewish community.
- **Creating new frameworks** for Diaspora-Israel engagement and promoting connections with global Jewry.
- **Growing foundation endowment funds** to assure the continuation of existing services and core programs, while supporting new initiatives.
- Using modern media as effective communications tools to enhance community engagement.

This inaugural issue of the *Jewish Observer* is a dramatic example of that last commitment. Our new website is, as requested by our Young Leadership group, more user-friendly, less wordy, and linked more effectively to our community's organizations and programming. The website is one example of how our community is changing and adapting to the 21st century. The new *JO* is another: it is now a monthly, full-color, bright, community-oriented news magazine.

The new JO will contain the features that most appeal to our readership, as revealed in an extensive study conducted in 2018 by the R/E/D Group and based upon a survey sent to 1642 email addresses of members of the Central New York Jewish community: front page stories, local news, community news, congregational news, obituaries and calendar. It will also contain features that are most often read, discussed and shared: profiles of those doing well and those doing good. It will feature a page called *B'tay* avon, highlighting cooks and restaurants in our area and a feature titled "Reflections," which will incorporate words of Jewish wisdom from our local clergy and other knowledgeable people in our community.

Why change? Our community today is not the way it was in the 20th century. Organizations, associations, demographics, institutions, interests and the way we live, work and communicate are all very different. But Federation and its partner agencies are still committed to Jewish community, whatever forms it takes. In the 21st century, Federations build community by focusing on quality, not quantity, and on relationships and impact, instead of headcounts. Our goal is to offer people an accessible and welcoming form of Jewish life that places the person—not the organization or the event—at the center of the experience.

Relationship-based Jewish engagement is how Federations reweave Jewish community. The new *JO* will be a Jewish community newspaper, devoted to community news and community people in an accessible and welcoming format. We hope you will read through our first issue and learn more about the Central New York Jewish community. We invite you to send us your thoughts and comments, not only about the issue, but about our community – past, present and future. Through our shared experiences, shared communication and shared commitment, Jewish Central New York will continue to be strong, vital and wonderful.

JCC To Hold Senior Safety JCC Purim Carnival **Program March 18**

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center will hold a "Senior Safety" Lunch and Learn program on Wednesday, March 18 from noon to 1:30 pm at the JCC of Syracuse, 5655 Thompson Rd. in DeWitt. A deputy from the **Onondaga County Sheriff's Office will** give the presentation on safety issues facing seniors - including preventing and reporting abuse.

The program will begin with a hot kosher lunch, followed by the Senior Safety presentation. There is a \$4.25 suggested contribution for the lunch portion. There is no cost to attend only the guest speaker's portion of the program, which will start at 12:30 pm. Registration is required by calling 315-445-2360 by noon on March 17.

The JCC's Dr. Morton and Mrs. Libby Maloff Senior Lunch and Learn series offers useful and timely information on a range of issues affecting seniors. The free meetings feature local professionals covering topics on health, wellness, finances, legal matters, caregiving and more. This JCC program is funded by a grant from the Green Family Foundation.

The Dr. Morton and Mrs. Libby Maloff Senior Lunch and Learns are an added once-a-month component to the JCC's successful Bobbi Epstein Lewis Senior Adult Dining Program, which offers seniors, age 60 and over, a nutritious and well-balanced kosher meal weekdays at noon for a \$4.25 suggested contribution. It's the only senior nutrition program available outside of New York City serving kosher meals five days per week. The program is funded in part by the Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the Jewish Federation of Central New York. For more information, and to make a lunch reservation, call 315-445-2360.



Barry & Debrah Shulman

KOVOD GADOL AWARD Jeffrey & Abby Scheer

KOVOD AWARD Judith Stander

7 📵 💟



Coming March 8

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse will once again put on a fun-filled day of games, activities, food and more during its upcoming Purim Carnival. This annual family-oriented event will be held on Sunday, March 8 from noon to 4 pm at the JCC, 5655 Thompson Rd., DeWitt.



Children eagerly scope out the many prizes available before redeeming the prize tickets that they won playing carnival games throughout the day.

Plenty of interactive and entertaining activities for preschool and school-age children and their families will be available, including many new and improved games, attractions and entertainment that debuted last year. Admission is free and open to the public.

"It's a wonderful thing to open our doors to the community for an afternoon that's all about families having fun," said Marci Erlebacher, JCC of Syracuse executive director. "Purim is a lively, joy-filled holiday, and what better way to celebrate than with a carnival for our members, neighbors and the whole community."

The JCC Purim Carnival is the center's largest indoor community event held each year. It has been a JCC tradition to hold the celebration as a way of giving back to the community so that families can come together for an afternoon of good quality time. Children are encouraged to dress in costumes, which is a Purim holiday custom. Kids dressed in costumes will receive a prize ticket at the door.

One of the carnival's main attractions is Esther's Café, which will open for lunch at 11:30 am in the JCC's Anne and Hy Miller Family Auditorium. A variety of home-cooked, Va'ad-supervised gourmet kosher food prepared by the JCC's chef, Donna Carullo, will be available. Menu items will include corned beef and turkey sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, knishes and desserts featuring the ever popular hamantashen.

The JCC Neulander Family Sports & Fitness Center's Schayes Family Gymnasium

will be transformed into a mini-indoor midway of sorts and feature kid's carnival games, large inflatable bounce toys and slides, caricature drawings, face painting, balloon animals and more. Other event attractions will include entertainment, a toddler/preschool bounce house, child safe ID fingerprinting and car seat safety checks, a PJ Library activity, and a used book sale.

A special attraction this year will be comedian Marc Weiner who will help run a special craft with the children. Weiner's credits include Saturday Night Live, his own show on Nickelodeon called Weinerville and the voices of the Map and Swiper the Fox on *Dora the Explorer*. The Jessica Shore Children's Fund of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse is proud to bring Weiner to Syracuse.

The JCC of Syracuse is delighted to hold its Purim Carnival each year thanks to the support of a small "army" of volunteers. Some of the many crucial tasks volunteers perform include running games, serving food and helping in the prize room. For students seeking to fulfill community service requirements, volunteering is a great way to earn credit hours, help out the JCC and have some fun! Volunteer shifts are available from 11:45 am to 2 pm and from 1:45 pm to 4 pm.

For more information about the JCC's Purim Carnival, including volunteer opportunities and donating gently used books for the sale, contact the JCC of Syracuse at 315-445-2360 or visit www. jccsyr.org.

JCC Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Although the weather may still be cold, the JCC is looking forward to summer! Registration for the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's 2020 Camp Joe & Lynne Romano is happening now. The JCC's summer day camp for children and teens will run weekdays for eight weeks from June 29 through August 21. Camp Romano will once again offer a variety of adventurous and enriching programs so campers can establish lasting friendships, gain experience "by doing" and have loads of fun all summer long.

Last year, the JCC had another very successful summer camp season. Hundreds of campers ranging in age from infants to school-age children to teens had a blast making friends and memories to last a lifetime.

Camp enrollment is broken out into three different age groups. The early childhood camp is for children 6-weeks old through entering kindergarten,



Pictured are some school-age Dance Camp participants along with their camp counselor (holding the sign) awaiting the start of opening circle on the first day of camp last year. This year's JCC Camp Romano season will run from June 29 through August 21.

school-age camp is open to children entering grades 1–6 and the SyraCruisin' teen travel camp is for young teens entering grades 7–10. All of the JCC's camps are held at the JCC in DeWitt, except for scheduled off-site field trips, overnights and certain off-site specialty camps. In all cases, though, the camp day will begin and end at the JCC. Early and late care options are available for all campers. Once again this summer, the JCC is looking forward to offering its Yachad (meaning "all together" in Hebrew) inclusion program for school-age children with special needs. The program creates a sense of community among participants of all abilities by utilizing additional support staff and making necessary accommodations. There will be no additional cost to enroll qualified children in the Yachad program provided the JCC's grant funding is approved again this year.

Current JCC membership or program enrollment is not necessary for a child to attend Camp Romano. Early registration is recommended as many sessions closeout quickly. A discount for siblings is available and a limited number of scholarships in the form of financial aid are also available. The scholarship application deadline is May 22.

For more information about the JCC's Camp Romano summer day camp, and to request the camp program guide, call 315-445-2360 or visit www.jccsyr.org.

FREE SCREENING EVENT

Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Auschwitz Liberation

MARCH 29 AT 2:30 P.M.

WCNY's Robert J. Daino Broadcast and Education Center 415 W. Fayette St., Syracuse, NY 13204



'Secrets of the Dead-Bombing Auschwitz'

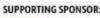
Join historians, survivors, and experts as they consider one of the great moral dilemmas of the 20th century: Should the Allies have risked killing Auschwitz prisoners and bombed the camp to stop future atrocities?

FRONTLINE

'FRONTLINE: Documenting Hate-New American Nazis'

Follow the investigation of white supremacist groups that are actively recruiting in the U.S. military, and learn how civilian and military authorities are responding to the growth of these terrorist groups in the wake of events like the 2017 Charlottesville rally.









LEARN MORE

AND RSVP AT

WCNY.ORG/EVENTS.

» Book Review

The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 Years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company

Reviewed by Dawn Marmor, Interim Executive Director, Onondaga County Public Library

Last month, the entertainment industry excitedly welcomed the new **Disney+ streaming service. Ten million** Americans subscribed to the new platform on opening day, and the business community now ponders what effect it will have on the preexisting streaming services. However, the real Disney blockbuster to come to market at the close of this year is far less known. The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 Years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company, by Disney CEO Robert Iger is more than a successful Jewish American's autobiography. Rather, it is a tribute to the powers of patience and cooperation at a time when the world seemingly favors brashness and brutishness.

Iger's book begins with a fascinating and extremely personal prologue that recounts the opening of Shanghai Disneyland Park in 2016. While in China for the opening, Iger received two devastating pieces of news: the Orlando massacre,



Dawn Marmor

and the tragic death of a two-year-old at a Disney resort in Florida. During the brief, yet fast-paced opening, Iger describes struggling to cope with his own deep sadness while making sure that the new theme park opened smoothly. At first glance this dichotomy might seem cliché, but Iger makes it riveting by explaining how difficult it was to open a Disney property in China. Indeed, it took him the better portion of two decades and dozens of flights back and forth between the United States and China.

Iger describes his journey from Ithaca College student to CEO of Disney. He doesn't spend much time detailing his early life, but he recounts his father's struggles with clinically diagnosed depression, a bold disclosure for a CEO to make. He explains how he started out as a gofer at ABC, but through his work ethic and ability to deal with difficult personalities was able to achieve a series of promotions. When Disney acquired ABC in the mid-90s, he stayed with the company and eventually became involved with the Disney side. Iger's description of his earliest days at ABC are predictable, but his prose is engaging enough to sustain the reader on the journey to the best part of the book: his time at Disnev.

Iger reserves his most vivid writing for describing the Disney CEO search process. He details the endless interviews he had with the Board of Directors, and the tremendous toll that it took on him. Without doubt, the most courageous disclosure Iger makes in the book is his description of the panic attack he had during the search process. It's a short episode, yet Iger deserves praise for his willingness to talk about personal wellness and how important it is for everyone to be mindful of their mental health.

Iger's narrative of his tenure as CEO revolves around the major Disney acquisitions of the last fifteen years: Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm and Fox. He describes the sensitivity that he had to use to persuade the owners of the targeted companies that acquisition was in their interests, and notes that had he been more forceful, he might not have been successful with the deals. Readers will find this attitude refreshing; all too often our paragons of success today portray themselves as hyper-aggressive. Iger attributes his triumphs to a willingness to listen to the concerns of others and address them appropriately.

It's doubtful that Iger's literary venture will be as popular as *Frozen II*. However, he certainly provides readers with a delightful new book that speaks to anyone who is frustrated with the archetype of the loud-mouthed business person. He truly is a mensch, and he offers a wonderful read to anyone looking to gain a different perspective on what it means to be successful.

Big City, Small (Jewish) World

By Jo Frances (Meltzer) Brown

What are the odds that the mohel preforming our cousin's grandson's bris in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn was born and raised in Syracuse, NY? And, what are the chances that his grandfather, Reverend Isadore Jacobs, the rabbi of Chevra Shas, a cantor and the community's shohet and my zayde, Hyman Meltzer, were best friends and fellow congregants at Chevra Shas, their tiny Orthodox shul on Irving Avenue in Syracuse. As Cantor Sherman prepared to leave our thrilled family, having performed the bris of little Teddy, the eight-day-old first child of our Philadelphia cousins, we chatted, disbelieving the myriad connections we quickly discovered.

A little background: Cantor Phil Sherman is the former cantor of New York's fabled Spanish Portuguese Synagogue and the "go-to" mohel in the New York metropolitan area, who made a life cycle event so meaningful and rich that we couldn't stop talking about it with friends at our co-op's holiday party that night. They not only were familiar with Cantor Sherman's reputation, but their own grandchildren had had "close encounters" with this man!

"Call me Phil," and so we did. Turns out that Phil and I have many friends and places in common. As a graduate of the Columbia University/Jewish Theological Seminary Joint Program, he knew my good friend Rabbi Carl Wolkin, a Syracusan, who is emeritus rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in North-

brook, Illinois; Rabbi Paul Drazen, the late emeritus rabbi of Temple Adath Yeshurun: Rabbi Peter Rubenstein, a colleague at the 92nd Street Y and rabbi emeritus of Central Synagogue; and Rabbi Scott Perlo, associate director of the Bronfman Center of 92Y and on and on...Oh, and did I mention that Phil, along with his high school choir, sang with Cantor Harold Lerner in the world premiere of "Haggadah" and was a good friend? Yes, he was the very same Cantor Lerner who had prepared me for my bat mitzvah in 1963 and officiated at my marriage ceremony at Temple Adath in 1985. Phil's mom, Malvina, taught Hebrew school at Temple Adath. Finally, Cantor Phil was also a close friend of my late cousin, Joel Renert, both having attended Jamesville-DeWitt High School, where Phil's mom, Malvina, also

taught. Cantor Phil and Joel's sisters, Marcia and Dana Renert, continue a decades long friendship with Phil.

So, what does all of this add up to? Living in a city of eight million people sometimes feels strange and even overwhelming, even after 48 years. There are people everywhere and crowded sidewalks and subway platforms are the norm. Sometimes, I don't run into a single soul I know all day long until I reach my apartment building. Yet, here was Cantor Sherman, initially a total stranger, now morphing into a friend with whom I have so much in common. New York-huge and often impersonalsuddenly became our own little shtetl as we discovered these generational connections. Two miracles happened yesterday in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn: first, the big miracle of welcoming a new life and second, the little miracle of making a new and fascinating friend with a shared past. I wonder where the story will go from here.

Upcoming Programming At Temple Adath Yeshurun

All are invited to join with Temple Adath Yeshurun in celebration of the zany holiday of Purim, with multigenerational programming in two blocks. In the first block, there will be a family dinner at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be \$8 per person, free for children 3 and younger. At 6:00 pm, the Purim celebration will include reading selections from the Megillah, a Purim skit by religious school students, and a costume contest. The second block will feature a dinner with the delights of Persian cuisine. The dinner is \$18 per person. "The Uncensored Story of Purim" follows dinner. Teens and adults are invited to a participatory and entirely English reading of the Book of Esther, with all the adult content left intact. For those who wish to partake, there will be adult beverages available. To RSVP for the festivities, please visit www.adath.org or contact the Temple office at 315-445-0002 or info@adath.org.

The Rothschild Early Childhood Center at Temple Adath Yeshurun will open enrollment on March 2 for Summer Camp 2020 and the 2020-21 school year. The RECC provides year-round care and edu-



Larry Young is one of nearly thirty people participating in Rabbi Zehavi's adult education, "How Did We Get Here? The Emergence in the Modern Jewish Movements."

cation for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years old, weekdays from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm. RECC also offers a Universal PreK program for 3- and 4-year-olds who live in the Syracuse City School District. For school-age children, RECC serves 5 to 12-year-olds in the Syracuse City and Jamesville-DeWitt districts, with care before school, after school, and during school breaks, as well as a summer camp for 5-12- year-olds in any district. *Enrollment applications can be found at www.rothschildearlychildhoodcenter. org and www.camprothschild.org.*

Purim At Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas - More Than Making Noise

This year's Megillah reading at CBS-CS will be grogger-free. Anyone who has been to a reading of Megillat Esther probably heard the room erupt into a cacophony of noise when Haman's name was mentioned. This is challenging for many, and intolerable for some. Groggers also obscure the reason we make noise at all.

We make noise to judge Haman's evil actions. We also make noise to blot out Haman's name. Blotting out Haman's name goes back to his roots. Haman is the Agagite, linked to Agag, the Amalekite king from the days of King Saul. The Amalekites attacked the fleeing Israelites, preying on the weak, and are seen as unethical and immoral. God decreed that Amalek was to be destroyed: "I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven!" (Exodus 17:14) Groggers are the most familiar way to blot out Haman's name, but there have been other methods, such as shouting curses, stomping feet, clapping hands, or smashing a rock with Haman's name. They all speak to the idea of standing up to evil and removing it from the world.

Instead of groggers, CBS-CS will have a DIY craft event to create name-blotting artifacts such as candles shaped like Haman and Zeresh's names, which will melt during the Megillah reading, and decorative white boards, to write and erase Haman's name.

The DIY Purim Crafts will begin on March 9 at 5:45 pm, followed by an everyone-friendly full Megillah reading at 6:30 pm, and a Pub Trivia Night at 7:30 pm, including beer, wine, soft drinks and delicious pub food. To RSVP for the Purim crafts and/or the Pub Trivia Night, contact the CBS-CS office at manager@ cbscs.org or call (315) 446-9570. There will be a \$10 cover charge per person for the Pub Trivia Night. Everyone is invited to celebrate Purim groggerlessly to stand up to evil together.

March-ing At Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation Of Syracuse

With Purim on the way, people are reminded of Esther's courage; but was she born so brave? Rabbi Evan Shore's class, "Profile in Courage: The Evolution of Esther," will address that question on Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 pm.

On Sunday, March 8, Marc Weiner, the voice of Swiper and Map in "Dora the Explorer," will come to Central New York to teach children to make sock puppets with Purim themes at the JCC Purim Carnival, thanks to the Jessica Shore Youth Programming Fund of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse.

STOCS' Kosher Cajun Purim dinner, featuring dishes such as Louisiana Barbecue and Jewish Jambalaya, will be served on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 pm, followed by "Zaydee's Zydeco" – a homegrown Southern shpiel. Paid reservations are due by March 4: adults \$18, children under twelve \$8, family maximum \$54.

Rabbi Shore's class, "Parsing Perplexing Parts of the Haggadah and Learning about the Personalities in It" will begin the Passover cycle on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 pm. People have read Rabbi Eliezer's name for years, but what is known about him?

A different take on the early rabbis will be the STOCS Book Club discussion of Yochi Brandes' novel, *The Orchard*, on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:45 pm. This book was a chart-topping best seller in Israel and was recently translated into English.

March winds up with Rabbi Shore's "Wegmans Walk-Through" on Sunday, March 29 at noon. The rabbi will point out items on the regular aisles that are kosher for Passover and items on the Passover aisles that may not be.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit the STOCS website, www.stocsyracuse.org, e-mail info@stocsyracuse.org or call 315-446-6194. Many other classes, from basic Hebrew to advanced Talmud, are not listed in this article.

Making The Most Of March At Temple Concord

Parents and preschoolers are invited to learn about Purim and Pesach through Jewish-themed crafts, stories, music and art at Gan Preschool programs on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, March 22 from 10:30-noon.

Cinemagogue will present *Marathon Man* on Saturday, March 15, at 7:30 pm. The suspense thriller stars Dustin Hoffman as "Babe" Levy, a graduate student who becomes embroiled in a plot by Nazi war criminal Christian Szell to retrieve stolen diamonds. Laurence Oliver won an Academy Award for his portrayal of Szell. A concession stand will provide a real cinema experience.



Purim fun happens on March 9. At 6 pm, there will be a delicious pizza dinner before the Megillah reading at 6:45. The Purim story will be read by the original Concord "cast" of *Fiddler on the Roof.* It will be an interactive evening, with everyone taking part. There will be costume parades and lots (pun intended) of hamentashen. We will hear the noise of the graggers at the mention of Haman. Everyone is asked to bring a box of macaroni or rice to shake as a gragger and then donate to the food pantry. The dinner is \$5 per person (ages 6 and over).

Yousef Bashir will discuss his memoir, *The Words of My Father*, on Sunday, March 22, at 11 am as part of the Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series. Bashir was fifteen when an Israeli soldier shot him outside his home in Gaza. In the months after the attack, he would come to see a different side of his occupiers, as a team of Israeli doctors helped him learn to walk again. Bashir has become an advocate for peace in the face of devastating brutality.

For more information, or to register for any of these programs, which are open to all,contact Temple Concord at (315) 475-9952, office@templeconcord. org or www.templeconcord.org.

Epstein Teen Taste Of Israel Seeks Supporters

"We send students to Israel to strengthen their connections - to the land, people, and state of Israel, and to each other," says Cantor Paula Pepperstone, director of the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish studies. She adds, "I was initially surprised at the bonds that were formed in a trip as short as this; now I'm just delighted." Three cohorts of local teens have experienced "A Teen Taste of Israel," thanks to an Epstein program which every two years allows qualified 9th and 10th graders to travel together during their February school vacation to learn about the history of Israel, experience its culture, and develop a strong commitment to their Jewish heritage.



"Being in Israel felt like meeting all the family you never knew you had," declared one teen. Another added, "This taste of Israel left me hungry for more - more opportunities and chances to explore what it means to be a Jewish adult. When people say that phrase, 'a trip of a lifetime,' I now know what that means." A third chimed in, "Being in Israel means considering the past by visiting Yad Vashem and the Rabin Museum in order to determine where we, the Jewish people, stand today and where we hope to be in the future."

Parent Jeff Scheer served as a chap-



erone on the most recent trip and was equally enthusiastic: "It was an amazing trip. I loved every part of it. I just feel more connected to Israel and the land. It's no longer across the world. It's so much more, and I can't wait to go back." Cantor Pepperstone noted that "the students experience a whole country living on a Jewish calendar, even as individuals engage with that calendar and clock differently."

The Teen Taste of Israel requires significant community subsidy and generous benefactors have established a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York to help support it. An anonymous donor has now stepped up to offer up to \$10,000 in matching funds for new sponsors.

If you would be willing to help support the trip, please contact Michael Balanoff at mbalanoff@jewishfoundationcny.org or call him at 315-445-2040 extension 130. Perhaps you can help give more Jewish teens a Jewish experience they will never forget.

» Day School Alumni Profiles Michale Schueler, SHDS '12

Michale "Calle" Schueler, SHDS '12, is currently a student in the Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies Joint Program between Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She is pursuing two bachelor's degrees – one in Talmud and Rabbinics and a second one in political science.

Upon graduation, she intends to go to law school. She is a newly-published writer, debuting work in two different media. Her poem, "The Namer," was published in *The Jewish Literary Journal*, and her op-ed (co-authored with Romy Ronen) in opposition to Columbia University's invitation to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, a noted antisemite, was picked up by *The Times of Israel*, the Jewish News Syndicate, *The Jerusalem Post*, and the *Jewish Observer*.

Michale enrolled at List because she didn't want to choose between a secular and a Jewish education. This program allowed her to pursue both. She has been interested in law since she was young. Her mother was a town judge for over twenty years and is still a practicing attorney. Her mother's work has always struck Michale as interesting and important, and she thinks that what really inspires her about a legal career is how her "Jewish values inform her choice to pursue a career in law." She points out that "Jews have had a complex and often bloody history-we know what it is like to be the 'little guy.' I am privileged to live the life I do, and I think it is my responsibility as a Jew to look out for the 'little guy' and ensure that all people are afforded the same justice under the law. Right now, I am leaning towards becoming an immigration lawyer, not only because of the concerning recent events surrounding immigrants and refugees around the world, but because the Jewish story is a story of immigration, both forced and otherwise. I see law school as the next logical step in my Jewish education and am excited for the future."

Asked what she would say to families considering SHDS for their children, Michale said, "Sending me to SHDS was the best parenting decision my mom and dad ever made, and I am so glad that I was able to attend such a wonderful



institution. SHDS gave me space to learn and grow and made me the person I am today. There is no better place to send your child if you want them to:

Receive an unparalleled Jewish education that includes immersive language learning and meaningful experiential moments of ritual and community.

Receive a rigorous and rewarding secular education that will give them a leg up once they enter the public-school system.

Create lasting friendships that will follow them to adulthood.

Be taught by teachers who really care about their students and their success.

Be a part of an ambitious, supportive, and all-around beautiful community of alumni long after graduation."

She highlights Rabbi Evan Shore's class as having the largest impact on her life. "In his class, we were encouraged to really grapple with the texts we studied and to make them our own. I learned so much about Jewish ritual, theology, and liturgy in his classroom, and that knowledge base has allowed me to succeed in some of the more challenging courses at JTS. The most important thing I learned from Rabbi Shore, however, has nothing to do with my major, but everything to do with who I am today. The greatest lesson that Rabbi Shore taught was the necessity of being compassionate in a world largely bereft of compassion. He didn't just tell us this though-he modelled it in his actions towards students, teachers, and parents alike. Rabbi Shore taught us how to be good people."

The Day School Goes Google

"A student's primary school experience has a profound impact on their future," says Laura Lavine, head of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the only Jewish day school in Central New York. "At SHDS, we want to harness the power of technology to enhance the experience of our students to prepare them well not only for their future education, but to be productive and qualified citizens of the 21st century." That's why the day school has become a "Google School," combining G Suite for Education with Chromebooks to offer students an effective and innovative learning system that supports the school's personalized learning environment.



G Suite is a suite of free Google apps tailored specifically for schools and including built-in, multi-layer security, and 24/7 support. Teachers provide instant feedback and track students' progress to improve their performance. With tools like Classroom, they manage curriculum, assignments, and grading all in one place. Chromebooks are simple, secure, and shareable devices that teachers and students use to create and collaborate. Chromebooks integrate fully with View-Sonic interactive boards, portable and shareable technology with interactive capabilities, touch accuracy, and freedom from cords, allowing them to be a flexible resource throughout the school.



The acquisition of this engaging technology was facilitated by a generous grant from M&T bank, procured by the Jewish Federation of Central New York. Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff visited SHDS recently with M&T's Michelle Corapi. Corapi noted that "the technology in use at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will prepare the students for successful learning as they grow." Student reaction to the new equipment has been overwhelmingly positive. Student Council president Ben Resig said, "I like the Viewsonics because they allow the teachers to quickly show what they want to teach. The new technology enhances my learning and motivates me to become a better writer which is something that I like to do."

Abby Scheer noted that "As a parent, I'm thrilled that SHDS has recently acquired digital whiteboards and new laptops. These tools enhance the high-quality instruction already offered at SHDS, allowing teachers to provide new types of engaging learning experiences and students to have increased opportunities for online research and writing." She believes that "with this state-of-the-art technology, they will be that much more prepared for the types of tools and skills they will encounter in middle school and beyond." Scheer's daughter Rose, a fifth grader, was equally enthusiastic: "I like to learn on the ViewSonic. Rabbi Shore shows us pictures and videos. We use it during library, and it's fun. Mrs. Silverman shows us how to cite our sources in NoodleTools."

Even the youngest learners love this way of learning. Kindergartener Eliana said, "When I'm learning in the ViewSonic, I never want to stop." Abe added, "We get to make reading monsters and it's interesting," and Isabel chimed in, "We learn about letters and words from ABC Mouse." Summing up the new learning experience, Danya declared, "I like the ViewSonic so much, because it makes this school the best."

"Rainbow Fish" Matinee Free For Preschoolers



"The Rainbow Fish," a delightful musical for young children about a beautiful fish who learns to make friends by sharing his most prized possessions, will be presented by the Day School Players on Friday, March 20th at 2 pm. The matinee performance is free for preschoolers and their parents. Based upon the much-loved book by Marcus Pfister, the actors will bring the magical, colorful world of the deep blue sea to life, as a variety of charming school of sea creatures helps the Rainbow Fish learn that it's better to be admired for being kind than for being good-looking. *To reserve free tickets, call 315-446-1900 or email shds@twcny.rr.com.*

2020 Jewish Summer Camperships

The Jewish Federation of Central New York believes in the value of a Jewish overnight summer camp experience, which serves the mission of our Federation by helping to strengthen Jewish identity and by building a strong and thriving Jewish community for our future. Federation partners with the One Happy Camper Program to help provide an incentive towards a first-time overnight camping experience. Additionally, Federation offers locally funded scholarships where there is financial need. Campers must be enrolled in a Jewish overnight summer camp prior to applying for camperships. Approved camps include those sponsored by Conservative, Reform, Orthodox and Reconstructionist movements as well as those sponsored by Jewish organizations such as the JCCA, BBYO, NFTY, USY, Young Judea/Hadassah, and more. The deadline for applying for camperships is Wednesday, April 8th at noon. *For more information and forms, please contact bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org.*



Jewish Coof of the Month

Jay Sinclair works with protontherapy technology and is originally from London, UK. He's been living in Syracuse for five years now, with his wife, three sons and their beloved pooch, Maggie May.

Where did you learn to cook?

I learnt to cook at school originally and had restaurant jobs during college. Later, I opened a kosher fine-dining restaurant in the heart of London. That taught me a lot about the food industry!

Why do you like to cook?

Cooking, for me, has always signified a potential period of calm in an otherwise busy day. I enjoy planning a meal for family and friends and executing, it brings me joy. My latest experiments have been with my BBQ smoker outside. My kids and I have stayed up all night to smoke our own brisket, among other



pieces of meat. It becomes a bonding experience, which is what cooking should be all about.

What is your favorite cooking secret/trick/hack/shortcut?

My favorite kitchen hack is the Steak "Doneness" Test: Gently press your thumb and index finger together. Touch the fleshy part of your palm, under your thumb. That should feel the same to the touch as your rare steak. Press the steak with your finger to compare. When you press your thumb to your middle finger, it will feel like a mediumrare steak. And so on, thumb and ring finger is medium steak and the thumb and pinkie finger should resemble a very well-done piece of meat.

Could you please share a favorite kosher recipe that isn't terribly complicated?

The following is a great autumnal recipe for a family Sunday lunch. Serve with greens or a fresh salad and a cold glass of beer.

» Restaurant Review



Défi defines itself as "a dining experience, not just going out to dinner," and it definitely delivers on its promise "to provide you with a first-class gastronomic destination in the heart of Syracuse." Open only four evenings a week, and taking only the number of diners it can serve with complete attention, it is a unique and memorable experience.

"We want to develop relationships with our guests and chefs," declares Défi's menu. "We want our guests to know where their food is coming from and why it was chosen, we want our guests to taste the difference in fresh, local, amazing food, and food that was shipped from around the world." Before you begin to order, you are challenged: "Are you ready to change the way you look at food?"

Then the culinary fun begins. Défi means "challenge" in French and the restaurant's chef's tasting menus will challenge not only your taste buds but your eating capacity. There are four options, ranging from 3 courses (\$45) to 10 courses (\$115). The offerings are customized. You can ask to have only vegetarian dishes, or to eliminate pork or shellfish, or indulge your aversion to meat, vegetables or fish. You can even have a pre-dinner cocktail customized to your taste in alcohol and your personality. Each dish will then be personally presented to you by the chef,

Chicken, Leek & Cider Pie

- 1/4 cup unsalted parve margarine
 1/2 cup plain flour
 1/4 cup dry cider
 1/4 cup almond milk
 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
 Juice of a lemon
 2 tbsp pareve sour cream
 3 medium leeks, sliced into rings
- 1 large apple, peeled, cored and sliced
- 4 cups cooked chicken, shredded into chunk pieces
- A regular package of puff pastry
- 2 egg yolks, beaten with 2 tsp
- almond milk (to make an egg wash)

Melt 3 Tbsp of margarine in a saucepan and add the flour. Stir over a medium-low heat for 1 minute to make a roux. Remove from heat and start adding the cider a little at a time. Mix well to ensure there are no lumps. Keep stirring until all the cider has been added and pour in the almond milk in the same way. Season and return pan to the heat, stirring until it comes to a boil. Then reduce the heat and simmer for about 3 minutes. Stir in mustard, lemon juice and pareve sour cream.

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Melt the rest of the margarine in a frying pan and gently fry the leeks and the apples for 5 mins. Add 2 tbsp of water, season, cover and cook over a low heat for 8-10 mins until tender. If there are lots of juices, increase the heat to reduce them.

Add the chicken to the sauce, then bring to the boil. Immediately reduce the heat and heat the chicken through. Gently stir in the leeks and apples and taste – you may want to add more mustard or lemon juice.

Put the mixture into a large pie dish; individual ramekins look good too. Heat oven to 325F.

On a lightly floured surface, roll the pastry out and cut off a strip the same width as the lip of the pie dish. Wet the lip and press this strip onto it. Brush the strip with water and lay the rest of the pastry on top. Press the pastry lid onto the pastry strip, then cut off the excess. Crimp the edges and use the remaining pastry to decorate the top of the pie. Make three small slits in the pastry near the middle to let the steam escape.

Brush the top with the egg mixture and bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes, until the pastry is a deep golden color and puffed up. Serve immediately.

who will explain its ingredients, their origin and their preparation.

The food here is outstanding. Much like in the tradition of the French Laundry, Chef Thomas Keller's famous restaurant. the dishes are expertly crafted although in small quantities, and unfortunately pricey. But don't let the cost keep you away because the cost reflects the quality quite accurately. Each dish was outstanding and creative well beyond a gourmet's imagination. One of the subtleties noticed was the chef's attention to temperature. Each dish was constructed and each ingredient had its own temperature. The green bean dish had the beans chilled, but the rest of the dish was warm. Each forkful was a delight and a chimeric thermal taste experience.

Because the menu is derived from the availability of ingredients and the creativity of the chefs, it varies from week to week. Some of the delicacies on recent menus, which may not appear when you go there, include smoked pear salad, candy roasted fritter, Long Island monk fish with beet risotto, baby kale, and remoulade; grain & vegetable pilaf with local grains, caramelized fennel, kale, heirloom tomatoes, and asiago and a sweet potato raviollo with cardamom cream, crispy shallots and orange zest. The dessert menu featured a whole apple fritter with spiked spiced cider, salted caramel, and whiskey glaze. Truffle popcorn with burgundy truffle, butter and Syracuse Salt Co. salt was hard to resist.

At Défi, you have to experience the food and simply trust that the chefs know exactly what they're doing. If you try to anticipate what you'll be tasting and make your decisions based on that, you'll be making a mistake. Eating here is, in their words, "a craft dining experience." Défi's chefs' favorite quote comes from P.T. Barnum: "The noblest art is that of making others happy." This unique year-old addition to the Central New York dining scene is fulfilling that artistic vision.

Susan Case DeMari Sworn In As Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Chief Civil Deputy



Onondaga County Sheriff Eugene J. Conway administered the oath of office to Susan Case DeMari at the Town of Onondaga Town Hall. In her position as Chief Civil Deputy of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, DeMari will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the Civil Department of the Sheriff's Office. Chief DeMari serves as the security liaison for the Jewish Federation of Central New York and the Buffalo Jewish Federation and has developed an extensive partnership working on behalf of the Jewish community with law enforcement in both communities.

Teens Take On USY Leadership Roles



The United Synagogue Youth International Convention is the largest gathering of Conservative Jewish teens in America. The annual convention brings hundreds of Jewish teens together for five days of celebration, friendship, Jewish learning, and giving back to the local community. Four local teens went to this year's convention in Southern California. All of them are active members of their local and regional USY chapters: Sophie Scheer is vice president of communications for *Tzafon* Region; Peri Lowenstein sits on the regional board; Elise Beckman is the religious education vice president of the *Achla* chapter; and Rachel Scheer is on the *Tzafon* Regional General Board for Israeli Affairs.

Local Authors Publish Unique Book



Local authors Yolanda Febles and Arel Moodie's new book. The Peculiar Purple Penguin, is not your average children's book. It tells the story of the search for the Peculiar Purple Penguin, who is hard to find but does leave behind clues. It also introduces a powerful technique parents can use during a child's meltdown to help them regain control of their emotions and be available to process their feelings. Another thing that Febles and Moodie noticed was that many children's books don't have mixed families represented, unless the book is specifically about being mixed or accepting that folks can be different. They wanted the characters in their book to represent a multicultural family without the fact that they are multicultural being the main point. They wanted to make it about the story, with backdrop of the normalcy of a mixed family. Moodie said, "Growing up, being ethnically mixed, was a huge part of me finding my identity. For my children, who are Jamaican, Korean, Puerto Rican, Russian/European Jews, I wanted them to see a family that is mixed represented in a children's book. I also hope people from other mixed families see the awesomeness of this and can relate. And frankly, we wanted all families, regardless of their makeup, to see the normalcy of this today. If this book creates a conversation with a young child on why the daddy and mommy look the way they do, I hope it becomes a great teaching moment about the beauty of this world and how love and family can come in all different forms." More about the Peculiar Purple Penguin can be found at www.PurplePenguinbook.com.



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Community Events

Open to All - please contact the sponsor for detailed information

Sunday, March 1

CALENDAR

10:30 am GAN Purim program at Temple Concord **10:45 am** Foundations for Jewish Life at Temple Adath Yeshurun

Thursday, March 5

7 pm Emergence of the Modern Jewish Movements at Temple Adath Yeshurun **7:30 pm** Purim class at Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse

Sunday, March 8

10:45 am Foundations for Jewish Life at Temple Adath Yeshurun **12-4 pm** Community Purim Carnival at the JCC

Monday, March 9 TA'ANIT ESTHER 6 pm Purim Dinner at Temple Concord

Tuesday, March 10 PURIM 6 pm

Purim Seudah at Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse

Sunday, March 15

10:45 am Foundations for Jewish Life at Temple Adath Yeshurun 11 am Introduction to Judaism at Temple Concord

Wednesday, March 18 7:30 pm

"Perplexing Parts of the Haggadah" at Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse

Thursday, March 19

7 pm Emergence of the Modern Jewish Movements at Temple Adath Yeshurun

Saturday, March 21

7:30 pm Movie Nite at Temple Concord: "Marathon Man"

Sunday, March 22

10:45 am Foundations for Jewish Life at Temple Adath Yeshurun 11 am "The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine" at Temple Concord

Thursday, March 26

7 pm Emergence of the Modern Jewish Movements at Temple Adath Yeshurun

Sunday, March 29

10:45 am Foundations for Jewish Life at Temple Adath Yeshurun 11 am Introduction to Judaism at Temple Concord 12 pm "Shopping with Shore" Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse *Passover shopping at Wegmans* 2 pm Hazak at Temple Adath Yeshurun: "A Grand Night for Singing" at Syracuse Stage

Monday, March 30 6:30 pm

Jewish Cuba Diaspora Dinner by Temple Concord at La Patria on Hawley Green

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Laurence Segal

Every year, one in eight women and one in 1,000 men in the United States develop breast cancer; forty thousand will die from the disease. Working tirelessly to combat this scourge, as he has each year for the past fifteen years, is DeWitt native Laurence Segal.



"I think that, as a Jewish person, it's important to be a mensch and to give back and to do what's right," says Segal. That is why, several years ago, Segal set himself a goal of cashing in one million returnable bottles and cans to fight cancer in Central New York. "I believe that if we focus on supporting a cause that affects so many of us, cancer, especially breast cancer, together we can make a difference," he explains.

"Passionate" is the best word to describe Segal and raising money to fight cancer is his passion. He was first exposed to the disease when his mother was diagnosed with it in 1987; his 91-year-old grandmother had also survived cancer, twice. After graduating from Ithaca College with a degree in television production, Segal landed an internship with "The Price is Right" in Los Angeles. He worked for Rod Roddy, the show's announcer, who battled colon and breast cancer before dying in 2003. These experiences motivated Segal to do his part to find a cure. "It upsets me when anybody dies of cancer," Segal says. "I think about it and that keeps me motivated. Every penny matters. Throwing bottles and cans in the garbage is stupid when these organizations are begging for donations."

With redemption centers offering six cents per container, a million returnables were worth \$60,000. Segal worked indefatigably to achieve his goal, collecting bottles and cans from many sources, including the State Fair, NBT Bank Stadium and St. Joseph's Health Amphitheater. With a team of Cans for Cancer volunteers, Segal wheeled bright pink 96-gallon collection bins around town, dove into dumpsters, and carried big plastic bags filled with cans to redemption centers. He achieved his goal and then set another, and another.

Raw emotion comes through as Segal describes how \$105,000,000 in bottles and cans are not redeemed in New York State. He has been trying to work with Governor Cuomo and the legislature to turn that deposit money over to SUNY Upstate Medical University for cancer research. It has been an uphill battle, but Segal is not the kind of person who quits. He plans to keep up the fight, just as he continues to advocate for screening, early detection, quitting smoking and vaping, and donating bottles and cans to support the research that will someday cure this deadly disease. "Bottles and cans don't belong in the garbage when they can help people going through cancer," Segal declares.

Segal recommends Express Bottle Return at 2312 Erie Boulevard East and Bodow Recycling at 1925 Park Street. "When you don't redeem; money goes in the garbage," he exclaims. But his exhortations don't stop there. "Bottles and cans are just a representation," he notes, "If you really want to donate, pitch in and help out. Pick something good and help somebody else who's less fortunate. Give blood if you're eligible. Blood can't be made; you have to donate it."

"I have two wonderful parents who brought us up to care about other people," Segal says. "My grandfather was a doctor, and he always said, 'Income doesn't matter; outcomes do.' I believe in that motto." His life is a testament to that belief. Since 1934, our mission statement remains the same... Committment to Family, with Compassion, Integrity & Honesty

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Taste it.

Certain Jewish foods have magical powers. For some, it's a piece of egg challah. For others, some flaky rugelach, sweet hamantaschen, or a savory brisket. Magical foods might taste good, but they get their power from the memories they bring us - memories of home, community, heritage, and love. When you leave a Jewish legacy, you're setting a table for the future, ensuring that what you cherish about Jewish life continues to sustain, nurture, and delight the generations to come. To learn more about leaving a legacy and to arrange a personal and confidential consultation, contact Michael Balanoff, Executive Director at (315) 445-2040 x130 or email mbalanoff@JewishFoundationCNY.org

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Super Sunday 2020 was a S[o]uper Success

"A gift to Federation's 2020 campaign says, 'I care about my community and the Jewish people, and I know it's my responsibility to help,' said Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff. "This year we had more volunteers, an increase in new gifts, and increased gifts from donors. We raised more money than last year and had a great time doing it. On behalf of all those who will benefit from these gifts, I thank our campaign and Super Sunday chairs and committee members, our volunteers, Federation staff and our donors."

The day's theme was "Soup" and volunteers who came in on an icy, cold Sunday were treated to delicious warm soups for nourishment as they worked. Cans of soup collected by students at area synagogues, Menorah Park, and the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, were turned into temporary centerpieces, and then donated to the food banks of Temple Concord and InterFaith Works, along with jars of Rainbow Vegetable Soup ingredients made by PJ Library© kids and parents. "There was so much positive energy this year at Super Sunday. The many volunteers of all ages came together like a well-oiled machine. Our donors were happy to take our calls, aware of the good Federation does, and very positive about the need —and their duty-to fund Federation," said campaign chair Neil Rube. (More photos from Super Sunday will appear in the April issue of the *Jewish Observer* and on the Federation's website and Facebook page.)



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Balanoff Addresses InterFaith Works

Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff was asked to open the session of the InterFaith Works Round Table of Faith Leaders by addressing the issue of antisemitism. The Round Table is made up of representatives of the judicatories, congregations and organizations of many faith traditions in Central New York. The Round Table works to build cross-faith bridges of understanding, raising issues of conscience for consideration by the whole group.

Antisemitism is the world's oldest hate. At the same time, antisemitism is a reliable bellwether of the moral health of a nation. When antisemitism appears and spreads, it signals that something is very wrong. Currently, in the United States of America, according to the Anti-Defamation League, assault, harassment and vandalism against Jews are at near-historic levels.

The danger of antisemitism, for those who are not Jews, is that it endangers everyone. The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews. Hitler killed six million Jews, but he also killed six million other people: Catholics, Roma, the disabled, Slavs, Ukrainians, Russians, Afro-Germans, Freemasons; the list goes on and on.

German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller, who initially supported Hitler, turned against him when he experienced the Nazification of German Protestant churches. He captured the dangers of not opposing antisemitism in a confessional prose poem:

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a trade unionist.



Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

This is why we need to stand together, speak out together, fight hatred together. Jews cannot fight antisemitism alone. The victim cannot cure the crime. We need and appreciate friends who will stand with us and help lead the fight.

As the faith leaders of our community, it is essential that you affirm the belief that all humankind is made in God's

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image.We may have different theological positions, different metaphysical views, different understandings of the pathways to enlightenment, but we all share basic ethical commitments, including compassion and concern for and connection with other people. Thus, our faiths compel us to speak up, to defend truth, to celebrate both our diversity and our common humanity, to be a voice for those in need and to seek the common good.

All major world religions share a belief in community, because community provides group cohesion and identity, as well as a way for rituals and traditions to be passed down from generation to generation. Today, in our Central New York community, whatever our faith tradition, we must act to preserve the ability of all people to live in freedom in their communities, to maintain their identity, to observe their faith, and to be safe and secure in their homes, schools, places of work and places of worship whatever their beliefs.

People of faith must act together to promote religious and cultural understanding and eliminate religious and racial prejudice through education, dialogue, and social action. I appreciate your asking me to speak before you this morning, and I urge you with the utmost passion and urgency to help put an end to the hatred of "the other."

People look to their faith leaders to provide moral guidance. This is perhaps your most unique and critical role. As the faith leaders of our community, it falls to you to inspire people unequivocally and conspicuously to act to eradicate antisemitism from society, along with all other forms of religious, ethnic and racial hatred.

I therefore call upon you—our faith leaders, people of God, exemplars of morality, of values and ethics—to remember, there is no "them." There is only "us."

Let us teach what is right, condemn what is wrong, and speak out for justice and decency. Thank you.

Elaine Rubenstein To Be Honored At Democracy In Action Leadership Dinner

Elaine Rubenstein will be honored at the InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner at Onondaga Community College on April 1, 2020. The dinner celebrates Democracy in Action and honorees who have devoted themselves to advancing democratic freedoms and basic human rights, to help ensure the health of American democracy-a democracy that affirms the dignity of all people. Rubenstein has served as a board member of the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), the Syracuse Area Middle East Dialogue (SAMED) and is a past president of American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace). Other honorees include Channel 9 news anchor Dan Cummings; Mohammed ElFiki, Imam, Islamic Society of Central New York; Daren Jaime, Pas-



tor, People's AME Zion Church; Van Robinson, former President, Syracuse Common Council and NAACP Syracuse and Onondaga County; Linda Brown-Robinson, President, NAACP Syracuse and Onondaga County; and Mayor Ben Walsh. *For more information, please contact Denise Robertson at InterFaith Works at drobertson@ifwcny.org.*

Syracuse Jewish Family Service -Community Experts in Aging Well

by Nancy Bloeser

"Aging well starts earlier than you think!" asserts Syracuse Jewish Family Service Director Judith Huober. She wishes people didn't wait until problems start or they have a crisis before consulting experts to identify resources, values and priorities for their later years, and start making realistic, orderly plans for realizing them.

Enter Jewish Family Service's AgeWise Planning Advisors (AWPA), modeled after people's relationships with a financial advisor. "We consider ourselves our community's experts in aging well," says Huober, explaining that SJFS's credentialed Aging Life Care specialists begin by establishing a strong relationship and performing a comprehensive bio-psychosocial-spiritual assessment of an individual's or couple's current status and short- and long-term goals.

"AWPA crafted a customized action plan for us and our family, spelling out specific steps like Medicare/Social Security sign-ups, and they also helped us rethink some of what we thought were absolutes, like staying in our home no matter what comes down the pike," commented Jane Bluestein (not her real name), one client of the service. "We came away feeling like AWPA can help us find ways to stay in control of the things that matter most to us, even if we don't get all the choices we'd prefer."

The plan is a living document, said Huober, which evolves to incorporate developments in the client's life and needs as identified through a regular, annual "check-up." The AWPA fee structure covers the initial work-up and allows for different levels of interim consultations and problem-solving between annual updates.

"Hopefully, we're a long ways from needing hands-on assistance," said Bluestein. "But AWPA gave us a lot of comfort and confidence with some pretty sensitive issues, like facilitating "The Talk" (end-of-life preferences) with our very reluctant children, and I think we'll know where to turn, if and when the time comes."

For more information about AgeWise Planning Advisors, contact Judith Huober at HuoberJ@sjfs.org or call 315-446-9111, x236.

Helping People Help Themselves

Federation's Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program



No cost, no interest...changing lives one loan at a time!

In the late 19th century, members of small but established Jewish communities throughout the country came together to develop plans to help newly arrived Jews to build new lives. Guided by the interest-free lending mandate in the Torah, interest-free loans were made. These funds were known as Hebrew Free Loan programs. Over the years, they provided financial assistance to waves of Jews who came to the United States both as immigrants and as refugees.

Today's financial needs are different, but Federation's Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program can still help, lending money interest free to any Jewish person from Central New York who is in need of temporary financial assistance. Zero interest personal loans, up to \$4,000, can be obtained for many purposes, including medical and dental bills, debt consolidation, small business loans, lifecycle events, family emergencies, car and home repair, camp fees, school tuition and fees, adoption and fertility services.

Monthly payments begin one month after the loan funds are disbursed until the loan is paid in full. Terms and payments are determined for each loan by the Loan Committee in consultation with the borrower. All information is kept in the strictest confidence. As loans are repaid, funds are recycled to make new loans.

For more information about the Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program, contact Federation CFO Don Cronin at 315-445-2040 x118 or dcronin@jewishfederationcny.org.

Remembering Victims Of The Holocaust

For many Jews, to forget would be impossible. But the memory of the Holocaust grows more distant for each new generation. Only by remembering can the repetition of history be prevented.

On Sunday, April 19, at Temple Adath Yeshurun, hundreds of names will be read and remembered during the Annual Yom Hashoah Memorial Observance.

The pages of the Federation's Community Book of Remembrance hold the names of those who were lost during the Shoah, submitted by their families and friends in Central New York. These names will be read by our community's rabbis during the program.

If anyone in the Central New York community wishes to record the names of family members who were lost during the Holocaust in the Community Book of Remembrance and remembered



each year at the annual Yom Hashoah memorial observance, *please send them to bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org as soon as possible.* They will be read at the community commemoration on April 19 from 2 to 4 pm at Temple Adath Yeshurun.

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» Reflections Upside Down World

by Rabbi Daniel Fellman, Temple Concord

The Purim story challenges us to live with craziness, zaniness, silliness, seriousness and more—all in one holiday. On Purim our tradition flips everything upside down—good is bad, bad is good, truth is fiction, fiction is truth, right is wrong and wrong is right.



In the beginning the king, listening to an evil advisor, seems willing to eliminate the Jews. Then a stroke of luck, a queen is pushed aside, and the crafty Jews find a way to have one of their own compete for the vacant job of queen. Esther, our new hero, succeeds, and not only becomes the queen but convinces the king to save the Jews and oust the evil advisor.

The story twists and turns, and we who read the Book of Esther are left spinning, trying to follow all of the details. Our tradition recognizes the challenges of the story, and customs develop which help us make our celebration feel just as topsy-turvy as the story itself. We are commanded to dress in costume, celebrate, eat and drink to excess—so much that we cannot tell the difference between Mordechai and Haman.

Purim creates an upside-down world. At one moment all seems lost and evil is in charge, and seemingly overnight the good people triumph, all survive and all is well. First one side seems to have things their way, then the other side gets their way. And we, their descendants, are left with our heads spinning, trying to figure which way is up. In so many ways, Purim reflects our own realities. Flip on the news and everything from alternative facts to head-spinning statements swirl about. On some level we have been living in a Purim world for some time, not entirely clear of which way is up!

The power of Purim and all of its confusion rests in our ability to recognize the wackiness of it all and revel in the celebration of confusion. When we celebrate fully and allow ourselves to dress up and inhabit an alternative reality, we help make more sense of the regular world. A day filled with silliness can help us refocus on the truly important parts of our lives.

Most of us picture Purim as a holiday of play—a time to dress in costume, eat yummy cookies, laugh and revel in a backwards day. In times when our regular lives are filled with days and weeks and months of such craziness, a special day to celebrate and go completely wild can bring us back to lives of more order. So, celebrate Purim wildly this year, and then together we can begin to craft more order for ourselves, our community, our society and more.

The Passover Center Maps

Find everything you need for a Zissen Pesach, all strictly Kosher for Passover.

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