

>> A month of remembering

# Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

## of Central New York

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APRIL 2020 | NISAN-IYAR 5780



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## Editor's Note



**Bette Siegel, Editor**

**Passover is my favorite holiday.** There are services in shul, but the highlight for me is our seder, which means "order." It is not just the order of the meal. It is the order of a ritual dating back thousands of years. It is also the order of what we do for the holiday – and the meal. In our house – as in most Jewish households – the holiday allows us to make this meal for our family and friends.

We first create the menu for the celebratory meal after the ceremony. We prepare from scratch gefilte fish and the soups – chicken – and vegetarian. The family joke is that I can only make heavy matzah balls, which we don't like. We prefer the lighter ones, so someone else makes them. I am unable to make them light – and yes, I've even tried the boxed mix!

After that, we prepare the seder plate: hard-boiled eggs, Sephardic and Ashkenazi charoset, boiled potatoes, greens, grated home-grown horseradish (to make us cry perhaps for loved ones who have died) and the old shank bone that we have boiled until there is no smell because we use it every year. Then, we prepare the seder meal – usually fish or turkey breast. Some of our foods differ from those of our parents – no schmaltz in sight and no heavy foods. We have special no-flour pastries and cakes that we make every year with no hametz – no flour at all or leavening – and lots of eggs. Our seder also doesn't last as long as the sederim of our parents and grandparents years ago.

The day of the first seder, we take out the three-tiered Israeli seder plate – a wedding gift from Donald's great-uncle – and all the Pesachdik stuff in the cabinet behind it. We find the afikomen bag I've had since I was a child. The family kiddush cup is polished – the old one – not the ones we've received as gifts during our adult lives – and Elijah's cup is also polished. Miriam's ceramic cup comes out and the haggadot are located and counted. Will there be enough of one kind for the guests – you know, family members and those special people who come annually and are our not-by-blood family?

Passover is when we try to have our nearest and dearest to celebrate with us. If our children are there, they sing songs they learned at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. As we get older, and the children move away, the adults sing those songs – and they're just as much fun as they were when our children were younger.

May your Pesach be one of love, laughs and a good meal!  
*Chag Pesach sameach!*

Your editor,

**Bette Siegel**

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or 315-445-2040 ext. 116

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## Letter to the Editor

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– **Steve Volinsky**

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Published by  
**Jewish Federation of Central New York**  
5655 Thompson Road  
DeWitt, NY 13214

phone: 315-445-2040 x116  
fax: 315-445-1599  
[jewishfederationcny.org](http://jewishfederationcny.org)



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The Jewish Federation of Central New York is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America.



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THE JEWISH OBSERVER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK (USPS 000939) (ISSN 1079-9842) Publications Periodical postage paid at Syracuse, NY and other offices. Published 12 times per year by the Jewish Federation of Central New York Inc., a non-profit corporation, 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY 13214. Subscriptions \$36/year; student \$10/year. POSTMASTER: Send address change to JEWISH OBSERVER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK, 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY 13214.

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## Ellen Weinstein

Board Chair



**When I first wrote this message back in February, it was written in anticipation that you would be reading this in the days after Spring's arrival and preparations for Passover were well underway - everyday life progressing in the "normal" progression of the seasons. But as we all know, "normal" is in flux. While I've made some edits, the message is still the same - one of hope and optimism for a better tomorrow. As you read this, I pray you and your loved ones are all safe and sound and weathering our new normal, whatever that may be.**

Passover and spring cleaning are synonymous: a time to clean the cupboards, dust away the cobwebs and take stock, literally and figuratively. Even in our new normal, that has not changed. Now, more than ever, as we anticipate the observance of Passover, in whatever form that may be, we must be mindful that social distancing does not, and cannot, mean social isolation. Despite the challenges we are each facing, Passover still offers us the opportunity to dream and visualize a better world, one of love, light, and liberty. We invite you to join Federation in actualizing this vision. We are in the process of creating new and exciting ways for you to join us as we maintain links and continue to raise funds for those in our community in need and in support of our local, national and overseas Jewish philanthropic agencies whose resources are being stretched to the limits by this pandemic.

"Next year in Jerusalem!" Jews throughout the world recite these words each year as we end our Passover seders and despite the turmoil around us, I am confident, we will find ways to continue our traditions, even if, paradoxically, non-traditionally. This aspirational invocation does not require a literal interpretation for it to resonate. With the conclusion of telling of the Exodus, as each of us reflects as though we ourselves personally journeyed from bondage to freedom, and songs still resound in our heads, I hope we can see

beyond the darkness and find joy and hope of a better tomorrow, and the promise of redemption. As a Federation, we will continue to advocate for the support and security of the State of Israel.

On a personal note, I'd like to share the additional significance the words "Next year in Jerusalem" had for our family. It was at last year's Passover table that plans were first made to travel to Israel. Anyone with a large family knows trying to find a time convenient is not easy. When all was said and done, it was decided that this past year's winter school break would work best. While Howard, our children and I have been to Israel several times before, this trip was in a class by itself. First of all, each day was perfectly planned by our daughter Danielle who works for CJP of Greater Boston (Boston's Jewish Federation). Secondly, it was the first time we would be in Israel at the end of December. Nothing special in and of itself; but this past year, being a leap year in the Jewish calendar (extra month of Adar), we would be celebrating all eight nights of Chanukah, and those leading up to it, in Israel.

What was so amazing and definitely not taken lightly nor for granted was the delightful experience of being greeted by, and having the joy of responding with, a hearty "chag sameach" everywhere we went. And then there was the feast for our eyes - chanukiyot everywhere - in the streets, shops, hotels, restaurants and windows of virtually every home. While the norm for Israelis, it was an unforgettable treat for us and one we will never forget. The crowning glory of our trip was the celebration of our granddaughter Tessa becoming a bat mitzvah. The service took place before the Western Wall. Howard and I were truly blessed as we passed the Torah to our children and they to their children, thereby symbolizing the passage of our heritage, beliefs and values, repeating a tradition started by my parents (albeit at Masada) a generation prior - literally, l'dor v'dor. Hopefully our new normal will not preclude future experiences such as this.

This pandemic has no regard for the calendar. It doesn't change the fact that April is a busy month, highlighted by many Jewish traditions and observances. We may not be able to observe and celebrate in the same ways as we've done in the past, but Federation is actively brainstorming on ways to virtually bring community together. Please check Community Happenings and our website for updated information. We will try and construct as many interactive opportunities as possible. Despite whatever adversities lie ahead, we will continue our efforts of philanthropy, engagement, education and advocacy to ensure a strong, thriving Jewish future in Central New York, Israel and worldwide. Our collective participation will connect us and make us stronger as a community and we will fulfill our Mission together.

Wishing everyone the very best in these challenging times as we pray everyone is safe and well. May we all see better days to come and may we all proudly proclaim "Next Year in Jerusalem." Shalom and chag sameach!

## Michael Balanoff

President/CEO



**Ma nishtana? How is it different? The youngest child traditionally asks this question at the seder and then we explain, often at great length. We ask Ma nishtana on the cover of this issue of the Jewish Observer, because we also want to explain how we are different.**

At the beginning of March, when writing this column for the second issue of the new *Jewish Observer*, there was no reason to believe that things would be so different, no expectation that I would be rewriting it a few short weeks later. But in that interim, our world turned upside down. Right now, many businesses, organizations and institutions are facing complex and high-stakes questions about how to protect their teams, serve their constituents, and withstand the potential impact on their long-term resilience and survival.

Federation stands ready to help. We will be working closely with the JCC, Menorah Park, Jewish Family Service, the synagogues and our educational institutions to understand the immediate needs of members of our community and the wider community most impacted by the situation surrounding the spread of COVID-19. Now more than ever, we need to come together as a community and work together to overcome these challenges and emerge into a brighter future. We have to—and we will—find forward-facing ways to accommodate to a new reality and remain vibrant and strong.

The Passover *haggadah* tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt under the exemplary leadership of Moses. What does exemplary leadership look like today? Experts tell us it involves creativity, ingenuity and a willingness to challenge the status quo in the interest of progress towards a larger goal. In our Central New York Jewish community today, we see signs of this rebirth in many areas. We are especially thrilled to see young people emerging in leadership roles. This issue of the *JO* highlights many of the accomplishments of our young leaders. We are proud of them for stepping up, helping out and showing us new ways of doing things and doing them better, even as they are embarking on new ways of learning outside of their regular classrooms.

Working together is joyful. We saw that when our community's rabbis, synagogues and agency presidents and executives came together to share ways of coping with the present situation for the benefit of all. We see it when the groups that plan (or now, cancel or postpone) community events include a broad spectrum of community members, and when we work with other faith leaders at InterFaith Works. Working in unison adds a special dimension to achievement, a reinforcement of the dictum that *kol yisrael aravim zeh ba zeh*, all Jews are responsible for one another.

Synergy is defined as increased effectiveness and achievement resulting from combined action or cooperation. Synergy requires not only cooperation but leadership and commitment. After we emerge from the current crisis, we will encounter additional synergies in our future. Again, young people are showing the way. The USY chapters of Temple Adath Yeshurun and Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas are merging, joining forces to strengthen their programming and the friendships that these inspirational youth groups influence so profoundly. Young leaders are increasingly involved in planning events, serving on committees and adding creative and original dimensions to what we do. Young people are the Jews in the News.

We are fortunate that the Central New York Jewish community is blessed with volunteers and professionals—both senior and emerging—whose boldness of vision is matched by the ingenuity of their ideas and the strength of their commitment. By wisely stewarding, supporting and sustaining Jewish life today, they and we are creating room for the emergence of a vital and dynamic Jewish future.



# Temple Concord News

by Diane Sacks

## Temple Concord Sisterhood Helps the Rescue Mission

Temple Concord's Sisterhood has been collecting toiletry items to put together personal toiletry kits for the women at the Rescue Mission. The 'Mitzvah Bags' were delivered to the Rescue Mission on February 21 by Ellyn Roloff, Eleanor Feitler and Eileen Blair. They had a tour of the new kitchen/serving/dining facility, which they said is set up beautifully for shelter residents and those in the community who need a good meal. The Mission staff were appreciative of the Sisterhood's efforts and reiterated how important it is to the women there to have their own personal toiletry kits.



## Morocco, Rabbi Fellman, and Temple Concord Family and Friends

Rabbi Daniel Fellman led an exciting ten-day trip to explore the Jewish history and culture of Morocco on February 29. The travelers visited Fez, Rabat, Marakesh and Casablanca, and took part in a Moroccan cooking workshop. Morocco is one of the few nations of the world where Jews and Muslims have lived in peace and harmony for centuries. More details and photos of their trip will appear in an upcoming *Jewish Observer*.



# Temple Adath Yeshurun News

by Sonali McIntyre

Rabbi Zehavi recently led an adult education series, entitled "How Did We Get Here? The Emergence of the Modern Jewish Movements." Nearly thirty congregants participated and considered the practice and ideology of different Jewish denominations and forms of identity, from the perspective of their historic development.



Summer is fast approaching and enrollment is open for Camp Rothschild and Summer Camp at RECC. Camp begins on Monday, June 29 and runs through Friday, August 28. Camp Rothschild offers weekly themes; daily activities in the areas of art, science, cooking, drama, swimming, archery, survival skills, and more. A short period of reading time has been set aside to help campers wind down and evade the "Summer Slide" that teachers warn about. Swimming lessons are offered by a Red Cross Certified swim instructor and lifeguard. A lifeguard is on duty when any camper is in the pool. Each week will end with a special program or field trip such as Bricks 4 Kidz or Big Don's Wild River Mini Golf. Kosher breakfast, lunch, and snack are included in the weekly rate, as well as a camp t-shirt, and the field trips.

For more information about Camp Rothschild or to register, please visit [www.camprothschild.org](http://www.camprothschild.org).



## Happy Passover!

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# Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas News

by *Melissa Harkavy*

Volunteering is in the DNA of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. Every year, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas asks its vice presidents, lay leaders, and staff members to compile a list of volunteers. The length of the list is always astounding. This year's list includes over 200 volunteers and is diverse in age, spanning from school-age children, to young professionals and seniors. Their talents and contributions are also diverse. CBS-CS volunteers are teachers, daveners, cooks, bakers, logistical masters, financial stewards, social action organizers, helping hands, engineers, building stewards, mentors for our youth, communicators, leaders, and supporters for our congregants in need.



Mitzvah Day 2020: CBS-CS partnered with We Rise Above the Streets for a meaningful day of tikkun olam.

Volunteering also extends out to the greater CNY community. CBS-CS members organize tikkun olam projects within the congregation and serve as active volunteers with our partner organizations including The Federation of Central NY, InterFaith Works, and

ACTS. Most recently, CBS-CS volunteers packed over 175 hygiene bags with We Rise Above the Streets and baked hundreds of delicious hamantaschen for CBS-CS members and Syracuse Jewish Family Service clients.

When asked about volunteerism



CBS-CS members bake hundreds of Hamantaschen!

at CBS-CS, co-founding member Ettarae Alpert stated, "Absolutely, volunteerism is part of our legacy at CBS-CS." She stressed that, early in the



Kadimaniks help bake hundreds of Hamantaschen!

synagogue's history, it was known amongst the community as the "Do it Yourself Shul." From volunteer Torah readers, to kitchen volunteers and landscaping volunteers, "we did it ourselves, not because we had to, but because we wanted to. It was a sense of pride in what we were accomplishing." The congregation has grown greatly since the twelve founding families developed this community deeply rooted in equality, but one tradition has remained strong: a tradition of volunteerism.

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# Legacy

David Reckess

Growing up with survivors, the Holocaust is ever present. It is our origin story, the central focal point around which all family narratives revolve. Stories from my grandparents, my Bubi and Zeidi, always start with “before the war,” “during the war,” or “after the war,” ensuring that all experience is placed in direct relation to the war, to how we survived, and how others didn’t.

Recently, I tried searching for family records on Ancestry.com. Nothing existed “before the war.” “Before the war” is not a time of historical documents; rather it is a loose collection of anecdotes and traditions. But what I did find on the app sent chills down my spine: a ship’s manifest from 1946, the Ile de France, sailing from France to Cuba by way of New York. My Bubi’s parents’ names are listed there, disembarking in Cuba and securing immigration papers to New York. Yet Bubi and Zeidi’s trail ends with the Ile de France’s stopover in NY Harbor. There it was in front of me, documentation confirming the story I’d always heard: Bubi and Zeidi, illegal immigrants, disappearing into the vast sea of New Yorkers, leveraging Zeidi’s war-born skills of forging paperwork and greasing connections to legitimize their stay here as permanent residents.

How did they find a place to live? Who gave them their first jobs? How did New Yorkers respond to their rough English, thick with Polish accents? What terrors haunted them as they tried to make their way in this new country? I know they leaned heavily on the networks of Jewish friends they had created, and used

family – a loosely-defined term in “after the war” – to ground themselves in forging a path forward. I know they cobbled together the semblance of a normal life, had three kids, went to synagogue, built a thriving business. But I also know they were haunted by their memories. I know that my Bubi, now 95, still battles nightmares, reliving horrendous moments and combating survivors’ guilt. For years, Bubi and Zeidi never spoke to their children about what they had seen, for fear of passing on the legacy of hurt, passing on the trauma. I wonder how they could carry on with all that inside.

The legacy of the Holocaust has shaped my own identity. The stories of the war have taught me about resilience, the will to survive, the meaning of family, and the importance of Judaism. Yet perhaps the true legacy is not so much in what happened “during the war,” but in how we are still trying to pick up the pieces. When I remember my father helping Russian Jewish families relocate to our hometown, or when a new restaurant pops up on Syracuse’s immigrant-rich North Side, or when the local Puerto Rican community opens its homes and hearts to those fleeing the after-effects of Hurricane Maria, I see Bubi and Zeidi slipping off that boat to seek out a distant cousin rumored to be in Brooklyn. I see the beginning of a new story, much like my own – a story of trying to make it in a new world, of grasping at whatever kindnesses or connections you can find to get through another day, of building from scratch a new definition of what life could be. Reflected in each of these immigrant stories, I see my own identity, my legacy, and my responsibility.

*This is an edited version of reflections David shared at the 2018 Syracuse Community Yom HaShoah observance. David’s Bubi, Sarah Tuller, passed away this January at age 97.*

## » Book Review

# INHERITANCE by Dani Shapiro

Reviewed by Jackie Miron

*“Our father had died in a car accident many years earlier.... Through him, we were part of a large Orthodox Jewish clan. It was a family history I was proud of and I loved. Our grandfather had been a founder of Lincoln Square synagogue, one of the country’s most respected Orthodox institutions. Our uncle had been president of the Orthodox Union. Our grandparents had been pillars of the observant Jewish community both in America and in Israel. Though as a grown woman I was not remotely religious, I had a powerful, nearly romantic sense of my family and its past.”*

Maybe you are one of the nearly 20 million people who bought an at-home DNA test kit, such as AncestryDNA or 23andMe. In the digital age, it is tempting to want to know more about who we are and who came before us. Are there unknown relatives to be found? Not all tests are equal, and not all information is useful or serves the purpose of the buyer.

And what if the result of a DNA test brings to light surprises, shocks, and even upends a past we thought was certain? This is the subject of a memoir by novelist and memoirist Dani Shapiro, entitled *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love*.

*Inheritance* is compelling in many ways. When Shapiro learned that her biological father was not the man who raised her and was married to her mother, she was thrown into confusion and turmoil. But there was also the resting of doubts she had had throughout her life, the years of not fitting in and looking so different from other relatives.

Shapiro had been entrusted with digitizing a collection of photographs of family from multiple generations. Marking journeys from old countries to new countries, she describes the “jagged-edged photographs [that] traced an evolution



from the dusty *shtetl* to prosperous turn-of-the-century America.” She could name relatives through multiple generations and their relationships to one another. “These ancestors are the foundation upon which I have built my life . . . they are the tangled roots – thick, rich, and dark – that bind me to the turning earth . . . I used them as my inner compass.” Suddenly, they were no longer her family.

She learns of the unusual methods couples used during the infertility process during the 1960’s. Though she felt sorry for what her parents had endured, it did not lay to rest the anger she felt for getting incorrect medical information and remembering that the air in her childhood home “was thick with the unsaid.” Rather than turning inward in resentment, Shapiro uses her memoir to present many profound statements that seem obvious, but which you may never have considered if something like this hasn’t happened to you. What about the right to be born, coupled with the right to know your true origin? And the emotional confusion created if or when secrets are revealed or truths are told? Is there a better time in life to be shocked with the facts? The collision of science and technology with humanity and feelings can be a relief for some, and a tragedy for others. What is the correct path for each person involved? How much information is too much information?

After reading this book, you may be intrigued enough to explore the ever-popular DNA kit dilemma. You spend your life learning, who am I? What do you do when the “who I am” is no longer what you thought?



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# JCC's 2020-2021 Preschool Enrollment Almost Full

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Jerome and Phyllis Charney Early Childhood Development Program has had a very successful registration drive for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Many classrooms are already full. Parents are encouraged to inquire now about registering their child, as the several spots that are left should go very quickly. Pictured is a very excited Charlotte Lefort as she begins to crawl up her classroom's practice stairs recently. For more information about the JCC's Early Childhood Development Program and to schedule a tour, call 315-445-2040, ext. 120.



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# Epstein Student Wins Special Mention At International Jewish Photo Competition

Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies student Samuel Allen's photograph, "Menorah from Heaven" has been selected to receive special mention at The Jewish Lens 2020 International Competition in Tel Aviv. His photo was displayed at the Jewish Lens gallery opening Sunday, March 22, and will be on view to the thousands of people visiting the museum. Each year, the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot sponsors an international competition that invites Jewish teens worldwide to submit a photograph with an accompanying text that captures the theme of "my connection to the Jewish people." A committee in Israel directed by renowned photographer, Zion Ozeri selected outstanding works to be exhibited.

Allen's work was one of three submitted by the Epstein School to the competition. The photos were taken in conjunction with a course taught at the school by Ora Jezer in spring 2019, with photography assistance provided by Rosalie Spitzer. Students explored Jewish values and community by studying and taking pictures and examining the relationship between image and text to discover what it means to look through a "Jewish lens."

The students' photographs were displayed at the Epstein School *siyyum* and graduation in May 2019, and students and the adults who attended the school's Chanukah party in December voted on



which three should be sent to the Beit Hatfutsot competition. According to Allen, "Menorah from Heaven" expresses a part of his Jewish story "by showing how beautiful Judaism is." Abigail Hinshaw's picture, "Tradition," shows the seder plate used at her grandparents' house every Passover. Hinshaw wrote, "This photo represents the relevance of *L'dor v'dor*. The physical object helps us understand the importance of tradition. Someday, I hope to have this seder plate and will be able to hand it down to my children." Cassidy Hirsh's photograph, titled "Am Israel Chai," depicts a human Magen David. Hirsh explained that "This photo shows us working together (*shutfut*), which emphasizes the importance of community (*kehilla*) in Jewish life. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more."

# Making Music At SHDS

Jews have always made music out of an awareness of their Jewishness. "It doesn't matter which you heard," sang Leonard Cohen, "the holy, or the broken." Music is a part of us as Jews.

That is the reason that Syracuse Hebrew Day School Head of School Laura Lavine is offering instrumental music lessons to her students. "Research tells us that music holds great value in cultivating a range of good outcomes in students, from self-discipline to fine motor skills to superior mathematical aptitude," says Lavine. "Most people believe that music is inherently valuable and should be taught as a subject in its own right. From the earliest age, children are drawn to music. Schools should cultivate this innate musicality. The level of music education is a prime indicator of a day school's Jewish and educational quality."

Thanks in part to a grant from the Federation's Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund, SHDS now offers, in addition to its general and Jewish music classes, chorus, and a large-scale musical production (the only elementary school musical in Central New York), individual lessons in the instrument of a child's choice. The school is committed to this not only out of a love for general and Jewish music but in the strong belief that there is a clear correlation between



music education and increased academic achievement and social/emotional well-being.

"We want the Day School to be the best little school in Central New York," says SHDS board chair Jay Sinclair, "not only for its students and their families, but for our community's future as well. Having a strong, dynamic and curriculum-rich day school allows our community to attract and retain families from all backgrounds who want their children to have a strong and enriched Jewish education." "The Day School has always believed in searching for that aspect of every child which is a strength then capitalizing on that strength to allow the child to grow in all areas," adds Lavine. "In many cases, the strength is musical. A child who may not be athletic, academic or artistic may nonetheless blow a mean trumpet or play the flute to beat the band. The proposed music program will allow students, and through them their families, to experience Judaism in active, positive ways which strengthen their core identities as Jews."

## » SDHS Alumni Profiles

# Max Greenky, M.D.

For the past three years, Dr. Max Greenky, SHDS '99, has travelled to Ghana as a participant in Operation Walk Syracuse, a non-profit organization that allows severely arthritic patients in countries with underdeveloped health care systems to receive total-joint replacements at no cost. Max goes with his father and uncle, both orthopedic surgeons. Max is also an orthopedic sur-



geon, just completing his residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. He will be doing a fellowship in joint replacement surgery next year at Duke.

Max got his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.D. from the Sidney Kimmel Medical College. Married to Samantha, an attorney, and the father of Aviva, 5, and Ari, 15 months, Max says that his great accomplishment (both personally and professionally) is "surviving residency with two children." Max is a dedicated and accomplished physician. "Growing up, I always noticed how much my dad and uncle loved their jobs. During medical school I learned more about the field from observing surgeons in the operating room and grew to appreciate that patients had an improved quality of

life following their surgeries." This led him inexorably to the operating theater. "I love being in the operating room," he says, "and acting on my feet all day. I'm not cut out for a desk job. I enjoy meeting patients and their families and following up with them after their surgeries to see the progress they have made."

Max has very positive feelings about his years at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. "The Day School laid the foundation for my intellectual curiosity and my moral compass," he points out. "It's a wonderful place where the teachers care about the kids and set them up for success for the rest of their lives."



# Leah Goldberg

**The Young Leadership Cabinet is the Jewish Federations of North America's elite leadership-training program for people ages 30-45. It attracts the best and brightest, savvy and sophisticated, young, successful, philanthropic-minded Jewish individuals who seek to enrich their lives and the Jewish community by becoming leaders within a global philanthropic movement - because the world doesn't repair itself - it takes leadership.**

Central New York's Leah Goldberg is a member of this distinguished group. Leah was born in Los Angeles and raised in Omaha. She graduated from the University of Kansas and worked in public relations in Los Angeles and New York City. In 2011, she joined JDate and met Syracuse native, Seth Goldberg. They connected immediately, sharing strong values around family, Judaism, and community. Leah quickly recognized that if they wanted a future together, it would be in Syracuse. They were married at Temple Adath Yeshurun a year after they met.

Leah has a strong Jewish identity,



passed down through generations of her family. "My maternal grandparents were raised with strong Jewish traditions," Leah says, "and my paternal grandparents have an amazing story of post-war romance. My grandmother was recovering from a concentration camp internment when she met an American soldier. After two years of letter-writing, he invited her to come to the U.S. to get married. She agreed, and was soon on a boat to New York, where they were wed and blessed with 71 years of marriage."

When she moved to Syracuse, Leah wanted to become an active leader in the local Jewish community. She joined the Temple Adath Yeshurun Rabbinical Search Committee and the Early Childhood Parent Committee, but she aspired to do more. She and Seth joined the Federation's Young Leadership program, which she subsequently chaired for two years with Rebecca Raphael. They planned learning sessions about the Jewish community, supported local philanthropy, and held fun social events. Leah is proud of the many Young Leadership participants who now sit on Jewish organizational boards or hold leadership roles throughout the community. She herself sits on the Federation Board of Directors.

"The challenges we face in our local Jewish community are similar to those of Omaha, L.A. or even New York City," Leah declares. "Unfortunately, there is a lot of apathy amongst millennials. My generation is becoming less affiliated and committed; they are busy, and many are not sure how to get involved." The solution? "We need to build a strong foundation of young community leaders now, so we can ensure the future vitality of our Jewish communities."

Leah was intrigued by the National Young Leadership Cabinet. The Cabinet is a five-year program which strengthens participants' leadership skills and provides a thorough education on the federations' work to help the Jewish world. Leah is enthusiastic about learning creative ways to further support our local community. At her first conference in Toronto, she met with seventy other young Jewish leaders. They quickly bonded over their passion and commitment to their local Jewish communities. Leah notes, "Besides meeting an incredible network, the National Young Leadership Cabinet raised over \$2.6 million for the Jewish Federations of North America." As the first-ever participant from Central New York, Leah is hopeful that her involvement will motivate others to join in.

Leah and Seth have made a commitment to help the local Syracuse Jewish community thrive for many years to come, just as their parents and grandparents did here and in Omaha. They are committed to raising their family in Central New York and want their sons Abe, Harry, and Jack, to have the same strong connections with Judaism and the local Jewish community as they had as children.

## More Super Sunday 2020 Photos





# Alethea Shirilan-Howlett

ALETHEA SHIRILAN-HOWLETT enjoys pushing boundaries. She is the managing editor of *Yampage*, the satirical newspaper that riffs off the Jamesville-DeWitt High School newspaper, *Rampage*. *Yampage* declares itself to be “the high-water mark for 21st-century student journalism, not only in the greater Jamesville-DeWitt metropolitan area, but also across the entire continent of North America and even the two French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon off the eastern coast of Canada (Bonjour! Comment allez vous?).” This is no ordinary publication, and there is nothing ordinary about Alethea.

A graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Alethea was a winner of Syracuse Stage’s 2019 Young Playwrights Festival. Her career in the performing arts began early. At the age of 8, she was reviewing films for Metro.us. At the Day School, she played the role of the White Queen in the school’s production of “Alice in Wonderland” and performed an original performance piece at the school’s annual talent show.

Alethea is currently directing “No Exodus,” a play she wrote that will be performed at J-D High School in May. It’s about a mother and daughter working through their relationship and history in two seders that take place about 20 years apart.

“‘No Exodus’ examines the personal and cultural stakes of holding onto and letting go of the past and the stories we tell about it,” she says. The play takes place in 1995. Alethea describes the action: “There’s a horrible thunderstorm outside and Wendy Symmonds and her daughter, Ruth, are having a dysfunc-



tional Passover seder at their home in Syracuse, New York. In attendance is Ruth’s visionary and slightly eccentric friend from camp, Oscar, her overworked, almost-graduated best friend Paige, and Wendy’s best friend, Carmen. The story consistently flashes back to the past, where we learn that Wendy was a member of a one-hit-wonder ‘70s band and encountered her own personal struggle trying to make a living off of what she loved. As the order of the seder progresses, tensions increase between Ruth and her mother. Paige gets drunk on Manischewitz wine, and Wendy’s flashbacks become more and more difficult to differentiate from reality. When the storm reaches its peak, it brings a sudden power outage before leaving a guest from Wendy’s past in the doorway.”

The play will be performed May 21 and 22 at Jamesville-Dewitt High School, in the Osborn Auditorium. **Tickets can be purchased at [jddrama.ticketleap.com](http://jddrama.ticketleap.com).** The proceeds of this show’s ticket sales will go to an organization that gives scholarships to kids for art programs, classes, and camps.

# Gabe Bagatell

The “Beautification through Interfaith Dialogue Project” brings together teens from different Central New York faith communities to engage in interfaith conversations, visit their places of worship, and work together to beautify their spaces in ways respectful of their traditions and needs. Recently, Gabe Bagatell participated in the program.



During a whirlwind one-day tour, the teens visited seven faith locations, including Temple Concord, the Islamic Society of Central New York’s Syracuse mosque, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas, the Syracuse South Asian Fellowship, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, and Masjid Isa Ibn Maryam. At each site, they toured the faith spaces together and had opportunities to ask questions. Some of the participants also experienced actual worship services. “Together we identified and planned beautification improvements to the external structure and landscape of each building,” said Bagatell. “Then we were in an interfaith dialogue with each other for twenty

hours, and then we worked to beautify the faith institutions and celebrate their actions.”

Over several months, Gabe and his peers engaged in facilitated interfaith dialogue circles, during which they talked about diverse, and sometimes uncomfortable, topics. They took a “privilege walk,” and responded to questions regarding their various faiths. Gabe currently identifies as an agnostic, and he felt comfortable sharing with this large group of diverse teens. On Memorial Day, the teens worked with adults who were gardeners, landscapers and contractors to build large planters and fill them with flowers for each faith space. Gabe enjoyed working with his hands and working with others to create a lasting and meaningful object. When the work was done, he said, “We had a shared celebration about our achievements.”

InterFaith Works of Central New York was founded in 1976. It developed from the Inter-Religious Council, which Federation played a large role in establishing, to build bridges of understanding among people of different religions and across racial divides. It worked first among Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, and then expanded to include Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Mormons, Baha’is and other faith groups.

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# Sarah L. Young

*“Junior year is hard for everyone, but especially for Lexi—and in about nine months, it’s going to get a lot harder. She doesn’t know what to do, how to do it, or who the father is. Lost and afraid, she calls the only person she can think of for support: her ex-girlfriend Emily, who recently dumped her. But if Emily isn’t willing to help, then Lexi is afraid she’ll be facing this all alone...”* This startling description accompanies Sarah L. Young’s second book, *Plus One*. Told from the alternating perspective of two young women, it does not advocate a position, but examines the issue of teen pregnancy openly.



Sarah Young is a native Central New Yorker. Her first book, *Nice Jewish Boys*, was published when she was only fifteen. Sarah writes LGBTQ and Jewish young adult fiction, poems and short stories. She is a senior at Wellesley College, majoring in Spanish and religion. After graduation, she plans to apply to graduate school to study writing and to find work as a paralegal. Sarah has another book coming out this spring entitled *Happy Camper* and also a Jewish children’s book, *Miriam’s First Shabbat*, co-authored with Annabel Thompson.

Following is one of Sarah’s poems:

## One Year Ago In Pittsburgh

One year ago  
They tried to silence us.

They told us to bow down,  
But like Mordechai  
We stood fast.

We only bow to G-d.

One year ago  
They threatened us:  
Our JCCs,  
Our shuls,  
Our schools and even  
Our homes.

But we were unafraid.

We kept going to shul  
And school  
And community events.

We kept living our lives.

One year ago  
They killed 11 of us,  
But the rest of us stayed alive.

We just kept breathing  
In and out.  
We just kept walking  
One foot  
In front of the other.

We just kept singing.  
A note and a word,  
Then the next  
And the next.

One year ago  
They expected us to fall down.

But we kept standing up for ourselves,  
Our friends,  
Our neighbors,  
And our black and Muslim and immigrant  
Brothers and sisters  
Who are also targets.

One year ago  
They attacked us.

We defended ourselves in our classrooms,  
Our town halls,  
Our state houses,  
And the halls of Congress.

We will never stop  
Just because they told us to.

One year ago  
They expected us to be silenced,  
But now we are louder than ever.

# Henia Zames



**Henia Zames knows what Parkinson’s Disease is like – it struck both of her grandfathers. And she wants to do what she can to help find a cure. That’s why she’s captaining a team for the local Parkinson’s Foundation Moving Day Walk, the first nationwide grassroots campaign that spotlights the disease on a national**

level and offers a chance to raise awareness and funds in our own community. “Fifty to sixty thousand new cases of Parkinson’s disease are diagnosed each year in the United States,” explains Henia, “adding to the one million people who currently have PD.”

Her goal is to raise \$5000 and she’s about 20% of the way there. “I’m doing this for my Grandpa Leslie because he was a super amazing grandpa, and I believe that everyone living with Parkinson’s Disease deserves to have the support and love that he did from the minute he was diagnosed.” The walk will take place on Sunday, June 7, at Onondaga Lake Park. “Anyone can join my team, ‘Grandpa Leslie’s Grand Legacies’ by visiting the website: <https://moving-daywalk.org/event/moving-day-central-ny/register-type/>,” Henia says. “My goal is to raise awareness for Parkinson’s Disease because it is a hard thing to deal with and people need support when going through these hard times.”

## Passover Seder To Go

Wednesday, April 8th & Thursday, April 9th, 2020

### Entrée Choices Include (but not limited to):

- Cranberry Braised Brisket with Mushroom Farfel Stuffing
- Honey Glazed Cornish Hen with a Baked Sweet Potato
- Baked Salmon served with a Baked Sweet Potato
- Baked Chicken with a Baked Potato

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» Reflections

# Passover Teaches Us to Look at the World Through the Lens of Hope

I think that growing up, Passover was always my favorite holiday on the Jewish calendar and in many ways it still is. I may be one of the few Jewish persons in this area who actually likes to eat matzah, who doesn't mind eating Passover food or who doesn't eagerly watch the clock on the last day of Passover, counting the minutes until the holiday ends so that they can rush out and get pizza. Passover to me is a lot more than just the rules, regulations and *halacha* that come in the yearly *Passover Supplement*.

I read an interesting article by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, a professor at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Blech stated that Passover conveys five major concepts – memory, optimism, faith, family and responsibility. As I read his article, it coalesced in my mind why Passover has always been, and continues to be, so special to me personally. It embodies in these five concepts things that are so important to who I am as a person and, more importantly, as a Jew.

It starts with memory. One of the fondest memories I have growing up is the Passover *seders* we had every year at my parents' house with my grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. The memory of these past *seders*, and later Passover *seders* with my in-laws and my parents after I was married, has stayed with me these many years. And that's the point – it's the memories we create in celebrating Passover that makes Passover so special and connects us with our past so that we never forget who we were and where we came from.

I can relate to Rabbi Blech's optimism so well because I am just a "glass half-full" person. I just tend to see things that way.

I am a huge Beatlemania, and my favorite Beatle song is "Let It Be." There can't be a more optimistic song ever written. Passover teaches us to look at the world through the lens of hope, not despair. That is how I have always looked at things. I hope I will always continue to look at life that way.

Along with optimism of course comes faith, and faith is at the heart of Passover. I have always had faith in *Hashem* and try to make it a part of my everyday life. I think that it is not just a Passover lesson but a life lesson that we all have to learn. There is no problem that is truly insurmountable if we have both optimism and faith in *Hashem*.

Next is family. Family is truly what Passover is all about to me. Having my wife, children and grandchildren sitting around the table participating in the *seder*, or watching my grandchildren trying to find the *afikomen*, is what brings the real joy to Passover and to life. As I have gotten older, I have finally realized that family is everything and everything else is just noise. Passover teaches us that.

Finally, there is responsibility to others. The Passover story is based on the fact that we were slaves in Egypt and *Hashem* freed us. Because we were slaves, we must have empathy for downtrodden and oppressed people everywhere, because at one time "they were us." I realize now that I can't just sit on the sidelines anymore. I have to devote myself now to *tikkun olam* in the spirit of Passover to help others in some meaningful way.

All of this together to me is the true meaning of Passover.

[Alan Sukert is a retired engineer from Xerox Corp. and a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun]

# What I Love About Passover



**TAMARA DAVID**  
"Freedom, family, spring."



**SHAYNAH SIKORA**  
"The SHDS haroset."



**CANTOR ROBERT LIEBERMAN**  
"Creative application of contemporary songs to illuminate our stories and sharing them with family and friends."



**MARC BECKMAN**  
"Mostly the reflective conversations around the seder table. I also really enjoy thoroughly extreme-cleaning my kitchen."



**LEORA ZAMES**  
"I like teaching my friends about the seder."



**BENJAMIN BLOOM**  
"I like that the afikomen is hidden and I like to find it. I like to find it at home but I really like finding it at school!"



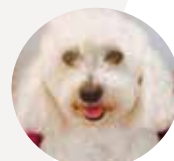
**ROBERT SMITH**  
"Family all together."



**ROSE SCHEER**  
"I like singing *Ma Nishtana* and *Who Knows One*. I like to eat my dad's homemade flourless chocolate cake."



**JESSIE KERR-WHITT**  
"Family (including friends who are now family), Passover food (even matzah!), singing ALL the songs, beginning to count the Omer, the stories, the deep discussions... I love Passover!"



**SIR CHARLES THE DICKENS**  
"Matzo balls"

*Chag Kasher V'Sameach!*

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# Jewish Cook of the Month

Joshua Werksman

"Food brings people together, and that brings me joy," says Chef Joshua Werksman, sous-chef at the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay, California. His parents, Ann and Jack, had lived on Kibbutz Ma'agan in Israel, but Josh was raised in Syracuse. "My mother is the reason why I decided to take on culinary arts as my profession," he says. "My mom made a home-cooked meal every night of the week and I truly enjoyed taking a step back and noticing that it brought my entire family together. I always knew that no matter what type of day I had, I would always go home to my mother's home-cooked supper."

Josh got a degree in culinary arts and service management at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks. His passion for cooking and for the woods, mountains, and forests, made him a chef who consistently uses fresh seasonal ingredients. He worked with and

learned from some of the world's most famous chefs and traveled to Italy, Israel, and throughout the United States to improve his knowledge and creativity in the kitchen. His mission is "to make others happy through food."

This year's celebration of Yom



Ha'atzmaut is made special by having a recipe from this local boy who made good in the kitchen. The recipe he is sharing, Josh says, "is my favorite thing to make and enjoy when I'm in Israel in the summer time, due to the heat and the refreshing taste of a lovely salad during that time of the year."

## Mediterranean Cucumber and Tomato Salad

10 Persian cucumbers, peeled and medium diced  
8 heirloom cherry tomatoes, cut in half  
1 bunch parsley, finely chopped  
4 sprigs mint, chiffonaded  
1 red onion, julienned  
4 lemons, juiced (remove seeds)  
2 T. extra virgin olive oil  
½ cup feta cheese, crumbled  
salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl, mix the first five ingredients. Add lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper at the end, once everything is incorporated. Place into a nice serving dish and garnish with the crumbled feta cheese. Enjoy!

## Kosher l'Pesach

This month, we celebrate the holiday of Passover, a major focus of which is what we eat – and don't eat. Passover food takes a great deal of time and work to prepare, and the conditions under which it is cooked are also stringent. Most people, Jews included, are unaware of what goes into making something "kosher." Our non-Jewish neighbors often think kosher food must be "blessed" by a rabbi. Other people think that kosher is a style of cooking, like Cajun or Mediterranean. Some people know that there is something called "supervision" involved, but don't know what that entails. And, like almost everything else in Judaism, there are a variety of ways of defining and observing kashrut, especially at Passover. Our community's rabbis were asked why food is such a focus of this holiday and why it matters. Recalling the haste in which the Jews fled Egypt, they were challenged to answer in only 85 words.

**Rabbi Daniel Jezer:** We experience a holiday more strongly when we involve our different senses. On *Rosh Hashanah* we hear the *shofar*, on *Sukkot* we sit in the *sukkah* and on Passover we eat certain foods and abstain from others. These actions are physical and complement our cerebral understanding of the holiday. Eating is perhaps the most primal instinct we have. Passover's focus on food deepens our experience. This impresses on us the message of Passover, from "slavery to freedom," as this is the fundamental message of Judaism.

**Rabbi Evan Shore:** In the absence of the Holy Temple, the only Biblical food we eat today at the Seder is *matzah*. The preparation and *kashrut* are inseparable in the fulfillment of this *mitzvah*. The time constraint of its preparation is symbolic of the haste in which the Hebrews departed from the Land of Egypt. For this reason, once flour is mixed with water,



the mixture must be baked within 18 minutes. And that is why the customary greeting for Passover is "Have a Happy and Kosher Pesach!"

**Rabbi Daniel Fellman:** Torah describes two separate holidays— a one-day holiday recalling the paschal sacrifice the night of the tenth plague, and

a seven-day feast of unleavened bread. Both include food, but after the destruction of the second temple, food became an even greater focus. The two holidays became combined into the Passover we know. Rabbis imagined the Seder meal as a combination of Torah holidays and the Greek symposium and Roman feast. Food became a means of teaching and remembering, and remains a central part of Passover.

**Rabbi Yaacov Rapoport:** Passover is the second *mitzvah* the Jewish people received before leaving Egypt. It focuses on eating *matzah* and not *chometz*. What's the big deal? *Chometz*, *matzah*. Who cares? Both are made with flour and water. One is blown up. One is flat. *Chometz* represents haughtiness, an inflated sense of self-importance. *Matzah* represents humility. It is a yearly reminder. Not only can we not eat *chometz*, we can't even own it. The reason Passover *kashrus* is so important is that it represents the birth of the Jewish People. *Matzah* is the real Soul Food.

**Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone:** Food and *kashrut* on Passover matter because who we are comes in part from what we eat and what we do not eat. Eating *matzah* affirms our belonging to the Jewish people, going back to that first Passover in Egypt. Avoiding *chametz* affirms our rejection of enslavement and oppression. The foods on the *seder* plate help us experience our master story in ways that we literally and figuratively internalize. The traditional dishes we eat tell the more recent story of our families and their histories.

**Rabbi Irvin Beigel:** Eating is a means to experiencing the holy. *Shabbat*, a day of delight, requires us to eat three meals. *Yom Tov*, day of joy, require us to eat two meals each day. *Pesach* is no exception. The prohibition of *hametz* (fermented wheat, rye, barley, oats, or spelt) helps us to identify with the Jewish people and with our roots. This restriction, with all its details, encourages us to reflect in our history and ponder the meaning of enslavement and freedom in ancient times and now.

**Rabbi Yehoshua Zehavi:** Food represents so much of who we are - sustenance, culture, family, and, hopefully, values. Still in Egypt, our ancestors were given foods that set them apart from the Egyptians - roasted meat, bitter herbs, and flatbread. As they wandered in the wilderness, their ongoing impulse was to return to Egypt... and its foods. On Passover, we clear our kitchens and reset our palettes. By doing so, with God's help, we make space for a whole new way to experience the physical world, ourselves, and our mission.

**Rabbi Joel Goldstein:** Though separated into families for the original Passover meal, every Israelite shared the same process of preparation and ate the same food in the same state of readiness to leave Egypt. In this service of God, they created a nation. Today, Jews who keep the dietary laws of Passover share the same crazy house preparations and the same week-plus limitations of their diet. Like our ancestors, this allows us to recreate the creation of us, a people in service of God, on an annual basis.

## Message From The Federation Campaign Chair, Neil Rube

At the time of this writing, we in Central New York are at the front end of our encounter with the coronavirus. We want you to know we have made the decision to suspend our formal campaign for now.



Neil Rube, Campaign Chair

Everyone—from the Federation president, board, and campaign cabinet—agrees that now is not the time to call and ask for money, when all in our community are focused on the evolving threat to our collective health and well-being, and when many among us are in need themselves. While the role of Campaign Chair calls for a certain degree of optimism, it will likely take a miracle to near our campaign goal in light of both the pandemic and plummeting economy.

Still, as it must be, Federation is open and fulfilling its mission, seeking ways to assist those who need us. This could not happen without the generosity of those who have been so generous with their financial support. We thank those who have contributed to the campaign thus far and those who may yet choose to do so without direct solicitation.

As we navigate through these difficult times, I and the entire Federation Board wish you and all your loved ones good health, safety and peace. Thank you.

## Federation Mission, Vision And Values Statements

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Central New York, meeting on March 12, unanimously passed updated mission, vision and values statements, based upon work begun at the Board's retreat in the fall and further refined by an ad hoc committee chaired by Neil Rosenbaum.

### Our Mission

Guided by Jewish values, the Jewish Federation of Central New York works to build a strong Jewish future in Central New York and Israel and worldwide through philanthropy, engagement, education, and advocacy.

### Our Vision

The Jewish Federation of Central New York serves the interests and well-being of our Jewish community ensuring that the vision of Jewish identity and continuity is realized by:

**BUILDING** a thriving Jewish community through planning, coordination, and leadership development and enriching the educational, cultural, and social life of our Jewish community;

**CREATING AND MAINTAINING** connections with and raising funds for the support of local, national, and overseas Jewish philanthropic agencies;

**ADVOCATING** for the support and security of the State of Israel;

**SAFEGUARDING, DEFENDING, AND ADVOCATING** for the civil, economic, and religious rights of the Jewish people;

**REPRESENTING** the interests of our Jewish community in inter-faith matters.

### Our Values

The mission and vision of the Jewish Federation of Central New York are grounded in and guided by the Jewish values of **TORAH** (Jewish learning), **TZEDAKAH** (charity, respect, and social justice), **TIKKUN OLAM** (repairing the world), and **L'DOR V'DOR** (identity and continuity from generation to generation).

## JCC Looks To The Future

Managing change while maintaining core values is the challenge faced by many Jewish organizations, not least the 150-year-old Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center. How can the JCC balance the traditions and programs that have sustained the Jewish community for generations with the very real need to accommodate to the changing realities of the 21st century?

"The JCC provides a range of outstanding services—from childcare to camps to early childhood education to services for seniors—which people see as active and primary connectors to Jewish life," says JCC Executive Director Marci Erlebacher. "Because we offer so much, we're seen as an entry point and ongoing connection point to Jewish life in Central New York."

But in an era of competition from other providers in the general community—from health clubs, to early childhood programs, to camps—what really sets JCC apart? "All of our programs are vehicles for bringing Jewish values to life. We don't just offer activities, but also help participants understand that being a Jew can be experienced

in everything they do," says Steve Sisskind, the Center's president.

Change, however, is coming to the JCC in a very positive way. "Our 67-year-old building is old and a bit tired," notes Erlebacher, "but what we are offering is far from old and tired. We are advanced on so many fronts and have so much to offer the community, both Jewish and general." To showcase its internal excellence, the JCC is embarking upon a project to enhance the exterior of the building "We have created a committee of Board members who are working with an architect to renovate our front entrances and the children's locker area," Erlebacher explains. "We want a modern, more welcoming look, greater accessibility and enhanced security." The project is in its initial stages but the JCC Board and membership is excited about the improvements.

"The JCC is truly the center of our community and its core values—fostering Jewish continuity, creating Jewish community, meeting local needs—continue to resonate," added Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff.

## Countering "Zionophobia"

**Alums for Campus Fairness (ACF) is an organization that brings alumni together to counter antisemitism, the demonization of Israel, bigotry, and anti-Israel political activity on American college campuses, while promoting open and fair dialogue regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. ACF mobilizes alumni to press their alma maters to provide a safe and welcoming environment for students and faculty who feel a connection to Israel.**

Richard Wilkins, head of the Syracuse University ACF chapter, recently attended the inaugural national meeting of Alums for Campus Fairness. "The meeting was jam-packed with comprehensive coverage of the full range of campus concerns," Wilkins reported. Speakers included Bari Weiss, author of *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, and UCLA professor Judea Pearl, father of murdered journalist, Daniel Pearl.

Among important takeaways from the conference was Weiss' view, that, instead of reacting defensively to insults, Jews should positively embrace their ethnicity, faith and history. Pearl noted that anti-Zionism was inseparable from antisemitism. He proposed a neologism, "zionophobia," defined as the irrational fear of a homeland for the Jewish people, and argued that

"Israel's existence is a moral imperative; resistance to that is morally wrong, and should be so called out."

Wilkins further reported that Students for Justice in Palestine, with 170 chapters, focuses strategically on capturing control of student governments, where student activity fees are allocated, and BDS resolutions originate. He noted that, while these resolutions generally fail, "just arguing about whether Israel should exist, while propagating slander against it, effectively poisons the campus climate." Wilkins says that as the number of BDS-supporting faculty grows, campus antisemitism surges. "Syracuse University provides an example of the 'silent boycott' tactic. Disinviting an Israeli filmmaker from a film festival, the coordinator wrote: 'My SU colleagues have warned me that the BDS faction on campus will make matters very unpleasant for you and me if you came.'" In Wilkins' opinion, "the University administration's response to such blatant violation of its academic norms and stated rules has been most disappointing." He called for "pressure on administrators to enforce their own rules. There must be costs for those wielding the 'hecklers' veto.' Shouting down speakers, intimidating and harassing others, is not 'free speech.'"





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# Holocaust Survivors in Central New York

There are Holocaust survivors and their descendants living today in Central New York.  
The *Jewish Observer* is honored to tell the stories of three survivors.

## MIREILLE GOODISMAN



Mireille Goodisman's Family

Mireille Goodisman's father was born in Rumania and came to France to study medicine. While there, he married, became a French citizen and was serving in the French army in Nantes at the beginning of the war. The rest of the family moved to join him, because Jews were not allowed to stay in the east of France anymore. He was taken hostage by the French police and sent to jail when a German administrator was assassinated. Mireille's mother, children and parents then moved to Free France. Mireille and her sisters were hidden in a Catholic orphanage and her brother was sheltered by a French couple. After the war, Mireille's mother reunited the family and moved to Paris. She learned that her husband had been sent to Auschwitz, where he perished. Mireille met her husband Jerry, an American, while traveling in Italy. They married and settled in the United States, raising their family in Syracuse.

## HARRY (HERSCH) WOLF BORNSTEIN



Harry Wolf Bornstein was born in Cologne, Germany in 1933. In 1938, his father and grandfather were deported to the Warsaw ghetto, where they later perished. Harry's mother was left to care for her four children. When the family needed to separate in order to survive, Harry was sent to a Catholic orphanage. He left the orphanage when he felt it unsafe and, throughout the war, wandered alone, hiding on farms and in the forest. His two sisters, Anna and Ella, were sent to Auschwitz, where they died at the hands of the Nazis. The experience of living through the *Shoah* as a child only strengthened Harry's faith in God and Judaism. After the war, he was given a Jewish education and came to the United States in 1949. He now resides in Rochester, visited regularly by his family from Syracuse, Liza, Eric, Rachel and Adena Rochelson.

## MONICA DRESNER ZINGARO



Monica Dresner Zingaro and her mother

Monica Dresner Zingaro's father, Ignaz Dresner, was a furrier in Leipzig, Germany when Hitler destroyed all the Jewish businesses and homes. Monica, a one-year-old, and her father were deported to the ghetto in Nowy Sacz, Poland; her mother, Irmgard, escaped from the train station while they were being deported. Ignaz realized that if there was any chance at all to survive, they would need to escape right then. Irmgard worked from the outside, using false papers, to try to rescue them. Monica was smuggled out of the ghetto by a Polish soldier but her father remained behind rather than cause the death of fifty innocent Jews should his escape be detected. Shortly after Monica's rescue, all 16,000 Jews in the ghetto were killed. Monica spent the remaining years of World War II in hiding with a German woman who was a complete stranger to her. Monica knew she had to keep her Jewish identity a secret, since knowledge of this would have resulted in the immediate deaths of both Frau Friederich and herself.

## "Because It Happened"

Many people today question why we remember the Holocaust. Others don't even ask why, they just don't. Michael Berenbaum, professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University, confronts this issue, asking, "Why should the world remember the Holocaust, which began more than 75 years ago and enveloped almost all of Europe?" And answers, "Because it happened," adding that "We must understand the evil, the systematic evil, the state-sponsored evil, industrialized killing, mass murders that were the essence of the Holocaust. We must understand its emblematic invention, the death camp, and the people who served in these camps.... Some were sadists and criminals—people unlike us—but many more were ordinary men trying to do their best, to fulfill their obligations. Some were even professionals, lawyers and doctors, ministers and economists who used the skills they had learned to become more efficient killers."

Because it happened. The Federation's Community Holocaust Commemoration program planned for this year had to be cancelled due to the restrictions on gatherings caused by the corona virus outbreak. The Federation is working to develop an alternative Holocaust memorial. Information about the programming will be disseminated as soon as plans are finalized.

Because it happened. We will never forget. So it will never happen again.

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# Yizkor

By Liza Rochelson

My father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a disease in which an individual loses their memory and eventually regresses back to their childhood. Some people have had great childhoods, so regressing will bring alive happy memories. However, if you grew up with the Nazis chasing you, and hunger so deep you had to teach yourself to hunt small prey, kill it, and eat it, then it could be the most devastating of diagnoses. And it was.

I had finally come to terms with my family's experience of the Holocaust and its negative effects. I had made room for my husband and children, so we could experience life as normal, without the cloud of Nazi Germany hovering over our new generation of blessings. Other people try so hard to experience the *Shoah*. They go to the museums, watch movies, read Elie Wiesel. Not me. I have lived it with my Dad. And now Papa is sentenced to live through it again, in his very own mind. How cruel. And so, I visit him as often as I can. He loves to go for ice cream, watch children and babies, and enjoy one of his favorite treats.

One particular summer day, I picked Papa up for our usual jaunt to the dairy for ice cream. As I turned onto the main road, Papa looked ahead in the distance.

He said, "See this road?"

"Yes, Dad." I dutifully replied.

"It was built by Nazis."

I couldn't quite believe what I was hearing. Did he really think that Hitler had designed a four-lane thoroughfare in Rochester, New York?

Then I realized Papa was in a moment of regression, and before I could even think any more, these words came out of my mouth, "Yes, I know, Dad. But we're safe, and we're going for ice cream. O.K.?"

He said, "O.K."

We continued with our plans. Two soft vanillas in cups, topped with mixed nuts.

On the way back home to Syracuse that afternoon, it dawned on me. G-d had given me the opportunity to be present while my Father experienced the Holocaust for a second time. The true essence of this gift was the ability to comfort my Dad, and to let him know that he is safe now. This experience was monumentally healing, and replaced the anger I had held with deep and authentic gratitude. I am a catalyst, a filter, a child of a Holocaust survivor. Not separate.

# The Second Generation

by Barrie Gewanter

In 1938, my maternal grandfather left Czechoslovakia to establish business in the United States, after which he planned to return to get my grandmother and my mother, who was only 1 year old at the time. In the interim, Hitler invaded, and my mother and grandmother were trapped.

I knew the story of how my grandfather crossed back over the sea to rescue them, but could get no farther than England. I was told how my grandfather convinced a British official to assist him in getting his family to safety. My grandmother was told to get on a train with my mother, heading to Holland where my grandfather was waiting, but that train had to go through Germany first. I was told how German soldiers stopped the train at the border and ordered all the Jews off. My grandmother heard, "Alle Juden Raus," but she kept her seat and held my mother tight until a German officer walked through the train and found them. My grandmother began to stand up, but he told her, "You with the child— sit down!" and the train moved on.

Why did that German officer let them stay on the train? The papers she carried? The absence of luggage? She had with her only a basket of bottles and diapers and my mother. I'll never know. My grandmother was the only member of her large extended family who escaped. I am told that at the end of her life, my grandmother finally revealed that she saw the Germans shoot the other Jews at the side of the railroad tracks as the train pulled away. Although we remained incredibly close until she died at 81, she never could share that memory with me.

Why did my mother and grandmother

survive, and what does that mean for me? I've asked myself that question many times, only to realize that I can never know. There will never be an answer. The only answer I've come to is through the work I do. I labor to help others. I strive to recognize their dignity. I fight for human rights. I stand against all bigotry and oppression. I can't make up for all the members of my mother's family massacred by Nazi evil. I can't go back in time and fight them. Instead, I go forward. I try to lead and I act, every day, in a manner aimed to ensure that this never happens again - to anyone.

A friend of mine who is a civil rights attorney, was once asked why she does the work that she does. She gave the reporter a two-word answer that made total sense to her, as it does to me. She said "I'm Jewish." Until recently, I have never really involved myself in Jewish life, although I went each year to KlezFest. But I've always known that the source of what I do in my life, and how I choose to do it, are deeply Jewish - deeply motivated by our history of oppression, resistance, and survival. For me the concept of *tikkun olam* is an essential part of who I am. Although my father's family immigrated from Galicia long before WWII, *tikkun olam* is a legacy from both sides of my family. I try to live it every day, to heal the world, one person at a time. I have never felt that I had to do that in a synagogue or with a prayer on my lips. But I do it because I am Jewish, and the music and the history of the Jewish people sings within me. It always has. The human and civil rights work that has become my life is an expression of that song, and of my family's history.

Barrie Gewanter is the Onondaga County Director of Human Rights.

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## Federation Grants For Israel Travel

The Jewish Federation of Central New York places a high value on first-hand experience of Israel, and distributes funds to assist qualifying students to participate in summer trips there.

Israel Experience 2020 grants, funded by the Helan Millstein estate, provide subventions to high school students who reside in Central New York and whose families have made a pledge to Federation's Campaign 2020. Students must be completing or have completed the 10th grade of a Jewish educational program, through the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies, or a synagogue religious school or confirmation class and must register for an organized Jewish youth trip run by a recognized Jewish organization. This must be the first time the student has participated in such a trip. Grant-winners will share their experiences in an article for the Jewish Observer.

The Federation's Isaiah & Rosalind Wolfson Scholarships provide stipends for students with financial need, preferably travelling to Israel for the first time. Applicants must submit a written statement detailing why they wish to go to Israel, how



they will benefit from the trip, and how the trip can help the Central New York Jewish community. They must detail the costs of their trip and their plan for paying for it. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, principal or rabbi is also required.

**Letters of application for either or both grants should be emailed to [bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org](mailto:bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org) no later than 4 pm on April 17. A personal interview may be required.**

## Israel Independence Day Celebration Cancelled

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, is the biggest national festival in Israel. Restaurants, clubs, bars, and people everywhere hold Yom Ha'atzmaut picnics and parties. The streets are filled with live shows, cotton candy and popcorn stands, spray paint and flicker stands, and fireworks in every city. In Syracuse also, a big celebration had been planned, including savory and colorful Israeli cuisine, balloon twisting, caricature drawing, face-painting, Israeli cuisine games, Israeli dancing and lively musical entertainment. The menu was to have included vegetarian kibbeh, vegetarian Moroccan cigars, baklava, pita with zaatar, homemade dates with marzipan and orange peel jam, halvah, dukkah, and homemade couscous salad, accompanied by Israeli wine tasting.

Sadly, Yom Ha'atzmaut 2020 is yet another victim of the corona virus pandemic and will not be held as scheduled, either in Israel or in Central New York. Though disappointed, the festivi-



ties' organizers, Orit Antosh and Linda Chait-Davis, wanted to send "a special thank you to our community for your support of the Israel Independence Day Celebration throughout the years. Our community is the heart of what we plan and do. We are wishing all good health and looking forward to join together and celebrate Israel next year. Stay safe and be well."

## Good News from Israel

Although Israel has closed its international borders to counter the coronavirus, Israelis continue with their life-enhancing activities and innovative developments. These include medical breakthroughs, relief for coronavirus patients, top achieving women, global humanitarian aid, saving wildlife, international awards, water innovations, international partnerships, sporting success and bringing happiness to children.

### Coronavirus vaccine news.

Latest progress on the vaccine being developed by Israeli scientists at the Migal Research Institute in Kiryat Shmona on the border with Lebanon. Also, an article on how the vaccine works.

[www.nocamels.com/2020/03/israeli-scientists-avian-vaccine-adapt-coronavirus/](http://www.nocamels.com/2020/03/israeli-scientists-avian-vaccine-adapt-coronavirus/)

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/coronavirus-outbreak-israeli-scientists-confident-of-breakthrough-in-developing-vaccine-for-covid-19/1886367/>

### Helping coronavirus patients breathe.

Doctors at Jerusalem's Alyn hospital developed Coughsync some 10 years ago to help relieve lung congestion in physically challenged and disabled children. Now it is being mass-produced to help clear secretions from the lungs of Chinese coronavirus patients on ventilators.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyW027huElc>

### Repairing the homes of the poor.

Volunteers from Israeli charity Livnot U'Lehabanot repair thousands of houses for the less fortunate of Israeli society. Another program, Quality of Life, has a team of eight full time handymen who have renovated over 10,000 homes since 2016.

<https://www.aish.com/jw/id/Fixing-Homes-of-the-Poor-in-Israel.html>

### After-school programs for minorities.

Israel's Innovation Authority and Ministry of Education have selected Israeli non-profit Unistream to run its 5-year Young Entrepreneurs after-school programs for Druze, Bedouin, and Haredi students, which aim to give entrepreneurship and leadership skills to underprivileged teens.

<https://www.calcalistech.com/ctech/articles/0,7340,L-3778670,00.html>

<https://unistream.co.il/about-us>

## Israel Baseball Team Going To Olympic Games For The First Time

A sports team will represent Israel at the summer Olympics for the first time in 44 years – in baseball, a sport that hardly exists in the country. Team Israel consists of twenty Americans who became Israeli citizens during the last 18 months. The Jerusalem Post describes the team as "young American Jews who have suddenly gotten in touch with their inner Jew since joining the Israeli National Team." But it's backing them all the way, calling them "the most successful and potentially greatest Jewish baseball team ever assembled" and claiming they have a good chance to win a medal, "maybe even gold." Eligibility to play for any country is based on citizenship requirements. For Israel that means conforming to the Law of Return by having at least one Jewish grandparent or being married to a Jew. Thus each player on Team Israel is Jewish, in one of a variety of ways: full Jews, half-Jews, quarter-Jews. They are proud to represent Israel and Jews around the world.



**DOROTHY "DOTTIE" GOLDBERG**

March 5, 2020

Dorothy "Dottie" Goldberg, 80, died on March 5, 2020 at Crouse Hospital. Born in Norwich, CT, she had been a resident of Syracuse since 1967. She was a phlebotomist for St. Joseph's hospital until retiring.

She was a lifetime member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas, a past president of the Sisterhood, established the Sisterhood's catering, and was a past trustee of the congregation.

Her family includes her husband Alan of 57 years, their children Lisa (David) Willsey, Cindi Goldberg, and Adam Goldberg; grandchildren Jeffrey, Daniel, and Mitchell; and her brothers Jerry (Alice) Jacobson, and Fred (Sandy) Jacobson.

Contributions in Dottie's memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas.

**MELVYN SHINDLER**

March 8, 2020

Melvyn Shindler, 82, died Sunday afternoon at Menorah Park. Born on May 5, 1937 to Morris and Fay Kalatsky Shindler, he was a life-long resident of Syracuse. Mel was a 1955 graduate of Nottingham High School, and a 1959 graduate of the Albany College of Pharmacy. He was a proud member of Rho Pi Phi - International Pharmaceutical Fraternity.

In the early years of his career Mel owned Liggett Rexall Pharmacy, and also worked as a pharmacist for Kinney, Rite Aid, Crouse Hospital and other area pharmacies.

A former member of Temple Concord where he was an active member of the social action committee, he then became a founding member of Bet Havarim of Syracuse. He served in the Coast Guard as a hospital corpsman from 1954-1962.

His family includes his daughters Illyse (Stephen) Habbe, and Marla (Stephen) Liscinsky; grandchildren Ashley, Joshua, Julia, Noah, Jacob & Justin; and great-grandchildren Brooklyn, and Delaney.

**MARC-DAVID ROTH SHULMAN**

March 1, 2020

Marc-David Roth Shulman passed away suddenly on March 1, in the comfort of his home in Denville, NJ. Marc was a loving father, husband, brother, son, nephew, cousin and friend. He was also a devoted Phish head. He had shared 52 years of unconditional love, laughter, and priceless memories with family and friends.

As a child, Marc was the oldest of all the cousins and led the pack when they were all together. As time went on, he became the lead in so many things including his fraternity, ZBT. In addition, he was the "fun uncle" to his many nieces, nephews and cousins at family gatherings.

He was a devoted father to his son Zac, never missing any games, recitals or practices. There were no stars brighter than the relationship he had with both Zac and Jen. He would drop his whole world to take care of his family, even if it was an evening stop at Denville Dairy in the middle of winter. His thirst for life always kept the weekends filled with

amazing adventures including outings with Zac and going to concerts with Jen and their friends. His chili was beyond compare and will be near impossible to replicate.

Marc is survived by his loving and loved wife Jenifer, an adoring and adored son Zac, and devoted parents Debbie and Barry Shulman. He will be deeply missed by his in-laws Madeline and Richard Zaccardo. He was much loved by his sister Jennifer Shulman and treasured by his sister and brother-in-law Allison & Larry Schwartz. He also was a pivotal figure in his niece Cecilia and nephew's Evan lives. He will be also be missed by his many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.

There is a college fund setup for Zac. Please look to Marc's Facebook page (<https://accounts.franklintempleton.com/investor/college/-cbNQ>) for details.

*"A Dream It's True but I'd See it Through If I Could be Wasting Time with You." - Phish*

**DR. HERBERT BAUER**

March 11, 2020

Dr. Herbert Bauer, 92, died at his home in Sarasota, FL on March 11. Born in Germany, Dr. Bauer had been a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist in Syracuse for more than 35 years until retiring to Florida. He was a Holocaust survivor who came to the United States when he was 11 years old. He was a graduate of Syracuse University and medical college in Switzerland. In 1954 he began an internship in Syracuse where he met his late wife Onnely Cohen. They married in 1957. He was predeceased by his wife Onnely in 2004, and his sister Marion Samuels in 2016.

His family includes his daughters Miriam (Steven Schwartz) Bauer, and Diane Bauer; granddaughter Madeleine and her fiancé Joel Wyatt, and his partner of fifteen years, Mickie Rumaner.

Contributions in Herbert's memory may be made the United State Holocaust Museum: [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

**SEYMOUR VOLINSKY**

February 20, 2020

Seymour Volinsky, 98, died in Boynton Beach on February 20, 2020. He was born on May 26, 1921 in Syracuse to Morris and Anna Kaplan Volinsky. Seymour was a life resident of Syracuse until retiring to Florida fifteen years ago. He was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun. During his professional career Seymour was an independent sales representative of furniture.

Seymour was predeceased by his wife Ruth in 2000, and his second wife Shirley in 2012. He is survived by his children Lynn (Steven) Bronstein, and Alan (Sherry) Volinsky; grandchildren Michael (Alison) Bronstein, Melissa (Andrew) Epstein, Joshua (Allison) Volinsky, Peter (Marisa) Volinsky and Jason (Tori) Volinsky and his great grandchildren Elizabeth, Zoe, Rachel, Samantha, Joshua, Zachary, Matthew and Madelyn.

Contributions in Seymour's memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun.



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 <p><b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Manischewitz Egg Matzos</b> 12 oz. pkg., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Manischewitz Gefilte Fish</b> 24 oz. jar, Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Lasco Wild Caught Nova Salmon</b> Certified Kosher, Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>3 Lb. Bag Sweet Potatoes</b> Great Source of Vitamin A, Beta-Carotene, and Potassium</p>
 <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Manischewitz 5 Pack Matzos</b> 5 lb. pkg., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>2 for \$4</b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Streit's Matzo Ball &amp; Soup Mix</b> 4.5 oz. box, Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Season Sardines</b> 4.375 oz., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>5 Lb. Bag Fresh Whole Carrots</b> Excellent Source of Vitamins A and K</p>
 <p><b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Manischewitz Macaroons</b> 10 oz. pkg., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$2<sup>59</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Tabatchnick Soups</b> 15 oz. pkg., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>2 for \$6</b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Savion Fruit Slices</b> 6 oz. pkg.</p>	 <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Fresh Bagged Lemons</b> 2 lb. bag, Excludes Organic</p>
 <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Fox's U-Bet Syrup</b> 18-22 fl. oz. btl., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Dr. Brown's Soda</b> 6 pack, 12 fl. oz., Selected Varieties, Plus Deposit Where Applicable</p>	 <p><b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Kedem Apple Juice</b> 64 fl. oz. btl., Selected Varieties</p>	 <p><b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Kedem Concord Grape Juice</b> 64 fl. oz. btl., Selected Varieties</p>
 <p><b>89¢</b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Yehuda Memorial Candle</b> .3 oz.</p>	 <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>SAVE WITH CARD</p> <p><b>Kedem Sparkling Grape Juice</b> 25.4 fl. oz. btl.</p> <p>Plus even more savings with coupon!</p>	<p>MANUFACTURER'S COUPON • DO NOT DOUBLE • EXPIRES 5/31/20</p> <p><b>SAVE \$1.00 ON SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE</b></p> <p>Save <b>\$1.00</b> when you buy 2 bottles of <b>KEDEM</b> SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE (25.4 OZ.)</p> <p>0073490 - 123257</p>  <p><small>Void if sold or transferred. Consumer pays C/PY and sales tax. Misuse constitutes fraud. Retailer: We will reimburse the face value plus \$.08 handling provided you comply with our coupon redemption policy, available upon request. Submission of coupons signifies compliance. Send to: KARCO Foods P.O. Box 407 MPS, Dept. 999 Cresskill, N.J. 08077</small></p>	